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PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

P. O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

Electronic Message Hotline: (215) 934-3639 (24 hours a day)

Vol. 67-5

## Our 81st Year

January, 1995

### JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1995

WILLIAMSON'S GSB Building • City Line Ave. • Philadelphia, PA (See Location Map Below)  
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION FUNDING IN THE DELAWARE VALLEY UNDER I.S.T.E.A.**

**SPEAKERS:** **Louis J. Gambaccini** – General Manager, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA); **Stephen B. Lester** – Former District Engineer of District 6 for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PADOT); **John Coscia** – Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

**MODERATOR: Edward M. D'Alba, P.E.**, President of Urban Engineers, Inc.

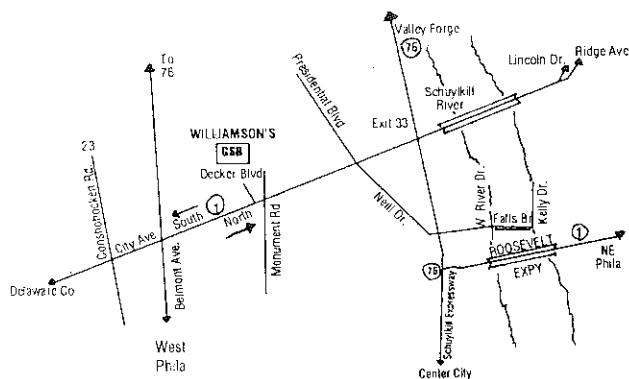
The Philadelphia Section, ASCE, will host a panel discussion by the above notable transportation experts in the Philadelphia region. The panel discussion will present the views of the Transit, Highway, and Planning aspects of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (I.S.T.E.A.) and how it affects funding for transportation projects in the Delaware Valley. The discussion should prove enlightening given the interests of each of these gentlemen and how I.S.T.E.A. has affected planning, programming and capital improvements within the individual transportation areas. The following is a brief description of the backgrounds of our expert panel:

**Louis Gambaccini** – General Manager, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, former Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PATH). Mr. Gambaccini has also served as the chairman of APTA and in doing so spoke as the leading transit advocate for the industry nationally.

**Stephen B. Lester, PE** – Former District Engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 6, encompassing the entire Philadelphia Region for seven years. Former national President of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE); responsible for major new highway expansion programs on the Blue Route, Schuylkill Expressway and the Vine Street Expressway.

**John Coscia** – Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for many years, developing plans for Highway and Transit expansion programs throughout the Dela-

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**LOCATION MAP**  
for  
**Williamson's  
GSB Building,  
City Line Ave.,  
Philadelphia**

### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### Construction Group

##### January Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, January 24, 1995**; Cocktails–5:30 pm; Dinner–6:00 pm; Talk–6:30 pm

Location: Williamson's Restaurant, Belmont & City Line Aves., Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004; (215) 839-7946

**SUBJECT: The Demolition of the Sears Building – How and Why Did They Accomplish It?**

**SPEAKER: Eric Kelly**, of Engineered Demolition, Inc., Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Mr. Kelly will discuss the demolition of the Sears Building in Northeast Philadelphia. Mr. Kelly will discuss the planning, rigging, and implosion of the building and show a short tape of the event. It will be a very interesting talk and all are urged to attend.

For further information and reservations, please contact **Brian Stover**, Chairman, Construction Group, at Urban Engineers, Inc., (610) 524-6530 or (215) 923-5077 – ask for Brian or his secretary, **Evelyn**.

#### Engineering Management

##### January Luncheon Meeting

Date: **Thursday, January 19, 1995, 12:00 Noon**

Location: Strawbridge & Clothier, Private Dining Room, 6th Floor, 8th & Market Sts., Phila., PA

**SUBJECT: 1994 Philadelphia Section ASCE Salary & Benefits Survey**

**SPEAKERS: Sandra May and Dennis MacBride**  
Cost: \$15.00 per person

Sandra May, Chair of the Section's Salary & Benefits Committee, and Dennis MacBride, Chair of the Section's Professional Salary & Benefits Committee, conducted the bi-annual Salary & Benefits Survey. Sandra and Dennis will discuss the results of the Survey including: trends in Civil Engineering employment, comparisons to other salary surveys, and survey respondents' suggestions to improve the profession. It promises to be

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Year of 1995 is upon us. That was quick! Our 1994-1995 program has gone very well so far. The meetings regarding Spectrum II, the C&D Canal and Cable Stayed Bridge, as well as the recent Phila. Criminal Justice Center Tour, have been large successes. In addition, we have celebrated the "Railworks" Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award of Merit and the receipt of Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year honors by ASCE nominee **Harry Perks**. We are sure he will represent us well. We have instituted professional development hours (PDH's) to lead the way for Engineering Societies throughout Pennsylvania, and as an effort to emphasize continuing education in our profession. Much

of the planning that has been done during the past six months will be executed in the remainder of 1995.

The coming year should be an exciting one. We are still looking for continued emphasis on participation by our Section members, and look forward to all of you coming out to the monthly Section meetings, or other Technical Group meetings which may be of interest to you. We also have slated several joint meetings with other societies, as well as a golf outing, a family event and our Spring Social, all of which should prove to be extremely enjoyable.

To kick off the new year, we have an outstanding January Section meeting planned. A panel of nationally recognized experts, moderated by **Edward M. D'Alba, P.E.**, President of Urban Engineers, Incorporated, will meet to discuss the impact of funding for transportation projects in the Delaware Valley and the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (I.S.T.E.A.). The panel will include Louis J. Gambaccini, General Manager for SEPTA; Stephen Lester, Former District Engineer, District 6 for PADOT; John Coscia, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The group of experts will thoroughly review where we have come from and where we are headed.

We were saddened by the passing of a former President of our Section, **Bill Padlasky**, an active member for many years. We will also have to fill certain changes in officer vacancy positions as a result of movement and job changes. We thank **George Stanley** and **Mike Carragher** for the tremendous amount of work that they have done over the years for the Section. The 1995 year should prove to be a good year for Civil Engineers and the Philadelphia Section, ASCE. We look forward to seeing all of you and wish the best of luck to you and your families throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,  
William T. Thomsen, P.E.  
President, Phila. Section, ASCE

## January Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

ware Valley Region through planning studies at DVRPC and associated involvement with both SEPTA and PADOT.

**Edward M. D'Alba, PE** – President of Urban Engineers, Inc., also serves as the Chairman of the Penjerdel Transportation Committee and has been active in developing programs that allow the business community to interface with government agencies like SEPTA and PADOT to enhance mobility throughout the region.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.** Send your check for the number of attendees @ \$25 per member or guest; \$13 ASCE Student members, payable to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19102-8186; or call the Electronic Message Center, (215) 934-3639 (open 24 hours/day), Deadline for reservations is **Friday, January 6, 1995.**

## PENNONI NEW DREXEL PRESIDENT

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE, is proud to announce that **C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni**, Section Past President (1978-1979) and ASCE National President (1992-1992) has been elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Drexel University. Mr. Pennoni, a Trustee of the University, is Chairman of Pennoni Associates, Consulting Engineers. He holds a B.S. and M.S. in Civil Engineering from Drexel, and in 1992 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree from the University. Chuck has continued active participation in Philadelphia Section affairs for several decades. We congratulate him on his latest prestigious achievement.

## ENGINEERING ISSUES CALL FOR PAPERS

You are cordially invited to submit an article or paper to the Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice American Society of Civil Engineers

The Journal seeks papers on issues that affect practice of Civil Engineering, including: Engineering Ethics • Certification • Registration • Professional Development • Liability • Professionalism • Social Responsibility • Projects

It is published four times a year. Papers discuss issues affecting civil engineering practice. Practicing engineers are encouraged to write about their work. Recent papers:

• "Americans with Disabilities Act and Employment Practices in Construction" (Continued on page 4)

## Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

an interesting and informative presentation for all Civil Engineers.

For further information and reservations, please contact **Al Zion** at (215) 937-5582 or **Chris Rood** at (215) 580-7586. Reservations will be required for the luncheon and should be made by **Friday, January 13, 1995.**

## Geotechnical and Environmental/ Water Resources Groups

Program activities will begin by February, 1995.

### PHILA. SECTION, ASCE

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JANUARY 9, 1995**

## DECEMBER TOUR AND LUNCHEON

December 8, 1994

Center City, Philadelphia, PA

### *The New Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center*

It comes as a surprise to no one that Section Past President **Bob Wright** has accomplished yet another spectacular success. It is manifest in his arrangements for and execution of the splendid Field Tour of the new **Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center** now nearing completion at Juniper and Filbert Streets in Center City. The Tour was followed by a delectable "Dim Sun" Luncheon feast at the popular Tsin Lau Restaurant in Chinatown. The advertised Tour limit of 50 persons was oversubscribed by enthusiastic members and guests who wished to attend. (The excess was graciously accommodated by the hosts of the Tour).

#### *University of Pennsylvania Day*

The December meeting honored the ASCE Student Chapter and the Civil Engineering Systems Program of the University of Pennsylvania. The oldest engineering program at Penn, Civil Engineering Systems is a four-year ABET-accredited B.S. in Engineering degree program, administered through the Department of Systems Engineering formed in the 1986 merger of the Civil Engineering and Systems Departments.

#### *Student Chapter President Mays*

Braving competition of the clatter of plates, waiters' nosy shuffling about, and diners' normal dining chatter at Luncheon, Penn's 1994 ASCE Student Chapter President **David Mays** capsuled the energetic agenda of the small but dynamic group. He thanked the Section for its courtesies and acknowledged the Chapter officers and student delegation in attendance. The 1994 Officers, in addition to Mr. Mays, are: Vice President, **Jim DeNave**; Secretary, **Vicky Choy**; Treasurer, **Andrew Kluter**; and Faculty Advisor, **Dr. Wen Shieh**. The 1995 Officers, who will assume office on January 1, 1995, are: President, **Scott Ribble**; Vice President, **Mehdi Malaki**; Treasurer, **Glenn Standifer**; and Secretary, **John Povalac**.

President Mays depicted the Student Chapter "... a bridge to the culture of professional engineering, supporting underclassmen through registration and social as well as instructional mingling with their professors..." In 1994, the University's ASCE Student Chapter hosted prominent speakers on topics of particular interest: sent representatives to a Washington, D.C. conference, promoted ASCE Student Scholarships, and even invited a major construction firm for on-campus recruiting. In past years, the Chapter has placed nationally in the Concrete Canoe Race Competitions. It is currently involved in a design and construction project in West Philadelphia, "... an endeavor which speaks to the social relevance to engineering..."

#### *The Criminal Justice Center Tour*

The well-arranged Tour began with a briefing in a Meeting Room of the nearby new Pennsylvania Convention Center, by the Head Guide,

**Maurice Bouten**, Senior Project Manager for Keating-Wright, Construction Managers for the City of Philadelphia; assisted by the General Contractor's (R.M. Shoemaker Construction Co.) job Superintendent and Construction Manager.

Mr. Bouten explained that in addition to the General Contractor, there are sixteen separate construction contracts, encompassing mechanical, fluidics, air conditioning, heating, and plumbing, etc. caisson foundations, etc. He described the exterior and interior structural characteristics of the 16-story (two floors of which will be rentable commercial space) building, for which a \$127 million bond issue was established, \$95 million of which covers actual construction cost. The balance will be used for ancillary expenditures such as administrative, legal, furniture, financing fees, etc.

Construction is primarily reinforced concrete and structural steel composite. The exterior first four stories is faced with limestone, with precast composition panels above. Mr. Bouten described the many intricacies of complex design requirements for such a structure, entailing special elevators, security provisions and delivery methods, basement and sub-basement holding-cell areas facilities for inmates and prisoners being held for trial (prisoners will not be housed for terms in the facility, but will be held for short periods for trial appearances). Private accommodations for the 63+ judges and their staffs' chambers, courtrooms, consultation rooms, etc. are also important design and space elements.

#### *The Tour Groups*

Interior floor, wall and ceiling finishing, soundproofing and general construction – all of which were described by Mr. Bouten in his briefing, were inspected by the three separate groups of the Tour, guided by Mr. Bouten and his very capable assistants. It was a rewarding learning experience for all who attended. Preconstruction planning and design of the facility was begun in May, 1992; major excavation was completed in December, 1992. Construction completion is anticipated by July, 1995.

#### *The Luncheon Feast!*

Following the Tour, the group enjoyed a delicious "Dim Sun" Feast at the Tsin Lau Restaurant in Chinatown, the same establishment where the Luncheon was held following a Philadelphia Section Tour of the construction of the new Pennsylvania Convention Center last year.

As usual, the Section yet again owes Past President Bob Wright a tremendous vote of thanks for his continued dedication to the creative pursuits of our organization. We are also profoundly grateful to all of the construction companies and job officials – particularly to Mr. Bouten and his assistants – for their competence in conducting this outstanding briefing and tour of this great Philadelphia edifice.

## WEST RIVER DRIVE PROJECT HONORED

By Joe Synchronick, Staff Writer

Following presentation for four candidate projects, the **West River Drive Improvement Project** of the Phila. Department of Streets, was selected as a 1994 Notable Engineering Achievement by the Engineers Week Council of the Pa. Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) at their Annual Achievement Awards Dinner Meeting at Williamson's City Line on Thursday, Dec. 1, 1994.

This \$6 million project was designed for the Phila. Department of Streets by Urban Engineers, Inc. The project involved roadway rehabilitation traffic signalization, street lighting, recreational trails, landscaping and Direction Philadelphia signing. Besides West River Drive, the project also addressed Neill Drive, Kelly Drive, Black Road, Lansdowne Drive and Montgomery Drive.

The judges recognized that Urban Engineers was able to provide the correct solution to the Department's problems and that in so doing, generated significant benefits for a wide array of stakeholders.

**Edward D'Alba**, President of Urban Engineers, who with **Mark Kinnee**, made the presentation, paraphrased the words of Inquirer columnist Art Carey who began his November 14th column;

"Fantastic! Wonderful! Magnificent! These are just some of the words that passed through my mind... as I pedaled my bike to work, reveling in autumn's beauty, watching the sun dance on the river, threading through grazing geese.

Fantastic, Wonderful, Magnificent. Not the kids of words usually applied to the deeds of public officials or the work of government agencies these days. But such adjectives, and better, are richly deserved by the folks responsible for the continuing transformation of Fairmount Park along the Schuylkill into one of the premiere urban recreational areas in America."

Carey's words echo what many Philadelphians have been saying about the improvement work along West River Drive. **The Notable Engineering Achievement Award** recognizes this project as something special. Urban Engineers, the Streets Department, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and the Fairmount Park Commission can be proud of a job well done.

The Award will be formally presented to the Department of Streets in a special ceremony during the Engineers' Week Celebration in February, 1995.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Streets Department Chief Engineer and surveyor Synchronick is justly proud of the honor the Department has achieved. He could not restrain his excitement –prefacing the fax transmission of his article to me with the exclamation: "Hurrah for us!" (Joe is also President of the Board of Surveyors and a member of the Fairmount Park Commission. He is a Past President of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, 1980-1981).

## JOIN THE SECTION'S TECHNICAL GROUPS

### Architectural Engineering

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### Younger Member Forum

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### Water Resources & Environmental Engineering

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## ENGINEERING ISSUES

(Continued from Page 2)

- "Engineering Jargon and Civil Liability"
- "The Importance of Being Historical: Civil Engineers and Their History"
- "On the Shoulders of Giants"
- "Sustainable Development Issues: Industry, Environment, Regulations and Competition"
- "Ethics and Quality in the Constructed Project"

## IMPORTANT! 1994-1995 MEETING NOTICES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the dates of the remaining Philadelphia Section, ASCE monthly meetings and social functions, as follows: (Check each issue of coming editions of THE NEWS for details, possible date and topic changes.) THIS IS A TENTATIVE LIST.

**ALL DINNER MEETINGS** (Except as noted for Luncheon Meetings)

Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. Dinner – 6:30 p.m. Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

**STUDENTS:** All dinner and/or luncheon charges one-half price. If you prefer, you are welcome to attend all meetings after dinner or luncheon, at no charge.

**Thursday, February 9, 1995** – Harbour League Club, Camden, NJ  
Joint Dinner Meeting with South Jersey Branch, New Jersey Section, ASCE  
"New Jersey Infrastructure Program" (Arr. by South Jersey Branch & Construction Group).  
Drexel University Night.

**Thursday, March 9, 1995** – Dinner Meeting, Williamson's City Line  
"Sun Oil Co. Middle Creek Project" (Arr. by Environmental Group)  
Villanova University Night.

**Thursday, April 13, 1995** – Dinner Meeting, Williamson's City Line  
Joint Meeting with Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E.)  
"Philadelphia International Airport" (Arr. by Engineering Management Group)  
Temple University Night.

**Friday Evening, May 5, 1995** – Annual Spring Dinner Dance  
Sugarloaf Conference Center, 9230 Germantown Ave., Phila., PA 19118

### Information for Authors:

Submit five double spaced copies. Maximum length is 10,000 words for papers, 2500 words for notes, and 1250 words for discussions of previously published papers. A guide is available describing format: ASCE Author's Guide to Journals, Books and Reference Publications. Any questions about potential submittals can be directed to: Brian Brenner, Bechtel/Parsons Brinckerhoff, 1 South Station, Boston, MA 02110; (617) 951-6276; Fax (617) 951-0897.

Mail articles to: Editor, Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice, ASCE, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017-2398.

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