

# the news



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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. 71-4

## Our 85th Year

February, 1999

### FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers  
South Jersey Branch, New Jersey Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1999

HARBOR LEAGUE CLUB • Hudson Square • Camden, NJ • See Location Map Below  
Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. • Dinner - 6:30 p.m. • Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** "Update on the Philadelphia Naval Business Center"

**SPEAKER:** Julie Van Nostern, Senior Vice President, The Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation

#### SPECIAL FEATURE: WIDENER UNIVERSITY & TEMPLE UNIVERSITY NIGHT

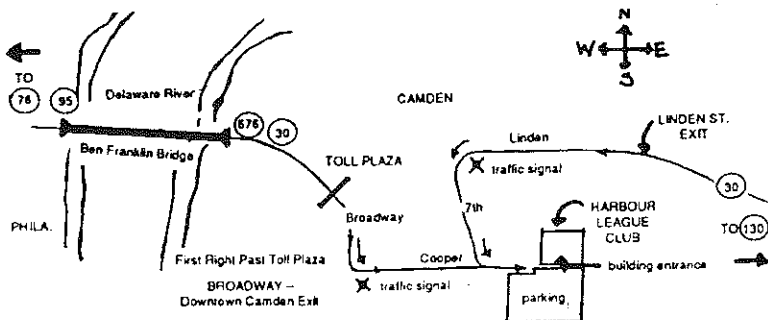
The ASCE Student Chapters, Alumni and Faculties of the Civil Engineering Departments of Widener University and Temple University will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1999.** Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$26 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).

Julie Van Nostern will discuss the latest developments at The Philadelphia Naval Business Center (PNBC). The PNBC contains four districts, the Commerce Center, Distribution Center, Industrial Park and the Kvaerner Philadelphia Shipyard. The four districts total 1,150 acres and 5 million SF of existing space.

Julie Van Nostern is a Senior Vice President of Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, which is the primary economic development agency for the City of Philadelphia. Since May 1998, Ms. Van Nostern has served as the Director of the Office of Defense Conversion and is responsible for the redevelopment of the Philadelphia Naval Business Center, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, and the Naval Hospital. The Office of Defense Conversion has an annual budget of \$8 million and manages a \$50 million loan fund for PNBC. PNBC is the largest economic development project in Philadelphia today.

(Continued on Page 2)



LOCATION MAP for the Harbor League Club, Camden, NJ

### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### Geotechnical and Environmental/ Water Resources Group

(Combined Program for 1998-99)

**LOCATION:** Drexel University  
Hill Conference Room,  
LeBow Engineering Center  
31st & Market Sts., Philadelphia  
6:30 - 9:00 pm

**CONTACTS:** Dr. J.P. Martin, (215) 895-2363  
Dr. S.C. Cheng, (215) 895-2996

**Program:** For the program, the committee is presenting a series of speakers on the range of geotechnical and geoenvironmental practice, including professional issues as well as technical projects.

#### February 16, 1999

*Exploration and Earthwork Design, Nooristown PA Turnpike Widening;* Bashar Qubain, Valley Forge Laboratories

#### March 2, 1999

*Geosynthetics in Transportation/Geotechnical Applications;* Dr. Robert Koerner, Drexel University

### Transportation Group

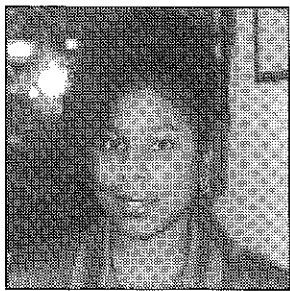
#### February Luncheon Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 1999, 12:00 Noon  
**LOCATION:** Conference Room C, 16th Floor of the Municipal Services Building, Phila., PA  
**SUBJECT:** "Amtrak High Speed Rail Project"  
**SPEAKER:** Mr. Dave Warner, Senior Test Engineer, Corporate Equipment Engineering and Mechanical Department of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK)  
**PRICE:** \$10.00; students half price

Mr. Warner will present an overview of Amtrak's New Haven to Boston High Speed Rail Project discussing many of the infrastructure upgrades and will also give a brief overview of the new passenger equipment being utilized on the Washington to Boston Corridor.

A buffet lunch will be served at 12:00 noon with the presentation at 12:30 p.m. **Reservations are required. Seating is limited to 50.** Please contact either **Chris Rood, P.E.**, Transportation Group Chairman at (215) 580-7586 or **Steve Buckley**, Younger Member Forum Contact at (215) 790-2310 for reservations and questions.

(Continued on Page 2)



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

During the winter there are many raging storms. The types of storms are not limited to the elements but also represent the monumental brainstorming that the Phila. Section Board of Directors is doing in its efforts to develop new programs — and there are many. Therefore, we are in need of your assistance in carrying out the goals of these programs. Allow me to highlight them:

### Government Relations Programs

- *Social with Senator Vincent Hughes* – Host a social event with Senator Hughes and elected officials and candidates. Invite ASCE members to

meet and greet these individuals to discuss legislation and/or other issues which would affect Civil Engineers.

- *Meet the Legislators* – a bus will be chartered to take our members (first come, first serve) to meet legislative officials at the Harrisburg Capitol.

- *International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)* – Students Visit Harrisburg – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Lamberton Middle School will journey to Harrisburg to tour the Capitol building. This trip will help to influence them in areas of environmental concerns and public policy making. These same students will also participate in a pen pal program, ISEP, with students in Ghana, West Africa, where the focus will be on Ghanaian environmental problems which the Lamberton students will attempt to solve with the assistance of ASCE mentors.

### Engineers Week Events

- *Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers* – The Philadelphia Section will join with the Engineers Club to host the third Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers Seminar. **Larry Moy, P.E.**, the 1999 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, will be the keynote speaker.

- *Mall Exhibit* – Several Future City Competition models as well as 12 of Drexel University's K'Nex bridges, compliments of **Dr. Richard Woodring, P.E.**, Drexel University, will be displayed at a local mall.

- *Educational Outreach* – ASCE members will speak to 500 students. This is in celebration of Engineers Week but the talks do not have to take place in the month of February and the schools do not have to be located in the Delaware Valley. (I truly think we can hit the 1000 mark on this one!)

Come on ASCE! Call the Hotline at (215) 934-3639 and leave your name and telephone number along with your Committee of choice.

Sincerely, Sandra J. May  
President, Phila. Section, ASCE

## Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

### Engineering Management Group

#### March Luncheon Meeting

DATE: **Wednesday, March 10, 1999**, 12:00 noon  
LOCATION: Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Conference Room 16C, Philadelphia, PA

SUBJECT: **"Deconstructing One Meridian"**

SPEAKER: **Richard F. ("Dick") Rowe, P.E., A.I.A.**, Principal/Chief Engineer, Kling Lindquist  
PRICE: \$10 (Students & Retired Persons \$5)

Mr. Rowe will discuss the events that led to the Meridian Building's deconstruction which is currently underway. It should be an interesting update on one of Philadelphia's major disasters and the technical and legal challenges faced by all involved.

A buffet lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and Mr. Rowe's presentation will begin at 12:30 PM. Seating is limited. For reservations, contact **Dennis MacBride**, Chairman at (215) 580-7084, no later than **Wednesday, March 3, 1999**.

### February Joint Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Before coming to Philadelphia, Ms. Van Nostern served as the General Counsel to the San Francisco Port Commission, acting as in-house legal counsel and business advisor to the Commission and the Executive Director of the Port.

## 1999 DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS

The Phila. Section, ASCE, will again be participating in the annual Delaware Valley Science Fairs. This year's Fairs' judging day will be **Wednesday, March 31, 1999** at the Fort Washington Expo Center. As in the past the Section will be judging and subsequently presenting special awards. Our Section is looking for eight judges to participate in our judging, with the Science Fairs needing approximately 500 judges.

Additionally, the **50th International Science and Engineering Fair** will be held in Philadelphia in May 1999. Judges and volunteers are needed for this event. Further information on this important event will be published in upcoming issues of THE NEWS.

For further information and/or to volunteer as a judge, please contact Phila. Section Director **Chris L. Rood, P.E.**, Chairman of the Section's Transportation Technical Group, at (215) 580-7586.

Ms. Van Nostern represented the Port in its lease negotiations between the City, the Port and the San Francisco Giants for its new Ballpark Stadium.

Ms. Van Nostern is a graduate of California State University and received her Juris Doctorate from Western State University College of Law.

**RESOLVE TO ATTEND ALL  
MONTHLY SECTION MEETINGS  
AND FUNCTIONS...  
AND INVITE YOUR CLIENTS,  
ASSOCIATES AND COLLEAGUES  
TO COME ALONG WITH YOU!**

### PHILA. SECTION, ASCE OFFICERS 1998-1999

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MARCH 1999 ISSUE:  
FEBRUARY 11, 1999**

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Christopher Menna, Forum Editor

The Younger Member Forum (YMF) current membership includes college students, recent graduates, and young Registered Professional Engineers who are 35 years of age and under. The objectives of this group are: 1) To provide networking opportunities, 2) To interact with schools and the general public to promote Civil Engineering, and 3) To enhance career development.

Young engineers or college students who would like to become part of the YMF please contact **Carol Martsoff**, Parsons Brinkerhoff at (215) 790-2319.

### Upcoming Events

The 1999 Northeast Regional Younger Member Council (NERYMC) will take place on **February 26-28, 1999** in Providence, Rhode Island. The NERYMC Conference provides younger members from each Zone I Section and Branch, which spans from Washington D.C. to Maine, with the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas as well as discuss issues that are close to the hearts of young engineers and ASCE as a whole. Scheduling NERYMC in conjunction with the Zone I Management and Leadership Conference (ZMLC) enables younger members to have a direct voice to the ASCE National leaders and interact with those who are making the decisions about ASCE's future. Our YMF will be sending a group to this Conference. Interested YMF members could contact **John Zarsky**, President of YMF, Parsons Brinkerhoff, at (215) 790-2309 for more information.

### Past Accomplishments

Several YMF officers and members attended the Joint ASCE/ASHE **January 13, 1999** meeting held in King of Prussia. The YMF put on display some of its promotional posters and gave out flyers before the dinner meeting. At the exhibit, YMF officers were on hand to explain the posters and to recruit new members.

On **January 20, 1999**, a YMF meeting was held on the 16th floor of the Municipal Services Building. The featured speaker was **Robert M. Wright, P.E.**, Phila. Section Past President (1993-1994). He is the Manager of the Transportation Engineering and Planning Section of the Bureau of Surveys and Design, within the Philadelphia Streets Department. Bob shared with us some of the upcoming Streets Department projects as well as his thoughts on ASCE and ASCE membership. A special thanks goes to Bob for taking some time out to be with us. We also thank **Carol Martsoff** and **Jody DeMarco**, Streets Department for taking care of all of the meeting arrangements.

### Member Spotlight

The purpose of the member spotlight is to introduce a fellow YMF member to the Delaware Valley Engineering Community.

**Christopher J. Menna, E.I.T.**, is a Bridge Engineer employed by the City of Philadelphia, Department of Streets, Bridge Section. In this position, Chris is involved with all aspects of bridge

## JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

January 13, 1999

Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA

### In Search of Excellence

By Bob Wright, Staff Writer

The annual and — as usual — well attended Joint Dinner Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE; the Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE); and the Reading Branch, Philadelphia Section, ASCE, enjoyed an enlightening presentation on the significant subject of "*PennDOT — In Search of Excellence*." Principal Speaker was **Elizabeth S. Voras**, Deputy Secretary for Aviation, Rail and Ports, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Able Co-Chairs for the event were **Sandra J. May, P.E.**, President, Phila. Section, ASCE; and **John Peirce, P.E.**, Vice President, Delaware Valley Section, ASHE, substituting for ASHE President **Herman Lloyd, P.E.**, who was unable to attend the meeting because of prior commitments. Each Co-Chair presented preliminary remarks of interest to her and his organization.

### Thomsen and May Introduce Speaker

Phila. Section Past President **William T. Thomsen, P.E.** (1994-1995), who arranged the details of the meeting, and President **May introduced Elizabeth S. Voras**, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and Rail Safety for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Voras explained the current the current PaDOT efforts to pursue the Baldrige Medal for Excellence in Service and Quality. Although public agencies have generally not been considered in the Baldrige competition, PaDOT believes that it would like to follow the guidelines and requirements of the program in order to enhance its service delivery to customers and to provide a quality product, whether it is a driver's license, automobile registration, or highway improvements.

### History and Problems

Mrs. Voras referenced recent history and dif-

design, bridge ratings, hauling permits, and some fieldwork. For the past year and a half, Chris has been a team member for final design of the reconstruction of the 42nd Street Bridge over Amtrak in West Philadelphia. This bridge is the only one of its kind in our region, being a three-span thru-deck, concrete-filled, steel arch bridge. Spanning over Conrail, Septa, and Amtrak at over 250 feet, this historic bridge features four massive thrustblocks, two transitioning, ribbed arch boxes, and a complex system of bracing. Special analyses, three-dimensional modeling, and historic rehabilitation considerations were incorporated into this bridge project. In addition, Chris is in his final year at Villanova University's Graduate Engineering Program and plans to graduate in 2000. He is no stranger to the YMF, being involved for over three years as Editor and now also as Vice-President. He also participates in Engineers Week and in several other community organizations.

iculties faced by PaDOT since the late 1970's. Prior to the appointment of former Secretary of Transportation Thomas Larson in 1980, PaDOT had become a bureaucracy bloated with unnecessary personnel which was legendary in its non-responsiveness to its constituents. For these reasons alone, the State Legislature had considered eleven separate bills which intended to dismember and destroy PaDOT. Larson began his program to turn things around, using the viewpoint of an "outsider" so as not to be prejudiced by past practices, policies, etc. Fiscal restraints were imposed, personnel cuts were made where needed, and PaDOT emerged as a better organization.

### Mr. Mallory's Contributions

The Department's current efforts, spearheaded by Secretary of Transportation Bradley Mallory, have continued this concentration, with the addition of aspects pinpointed toward customer response. Mrs. Voras noted that this was necessary, comparing it to those who looked at a plate of food and who tried to guess how to change the entree, the side dishes, the garnish, or the presentation, when the real issue was to look at the plate itself. Much of the public perception of PaDOT comes from face-to-face contact when driver's license renewals and new photographs are needed, and considerable efforts have been directed to this area. Photographers now ask if the photo is acceptable and offer to re-shoot if the customer is not satisfied with the results.

### Organizational Review and Efforts

Organizational changes are also being reviewed. PaDOT, knowing that it will not grow by large numbers personnel-wise in the future, must assess its data needs. Mrs. Voras noted that computer capability has contributed to the increase in the amount of data retained and filed, but this data still must be managed. The new view is to keep only that data which is absolutely needed and which can be managed within existing personnel constraints, with extraneous information literally being thrown away when possible.

The efforts in excellence have spread to all outposts of the PaDOT organization, and this trend will continue as PaDOT marches further into the Baldrige criteria. Mrs. Voras believes that the net result will be a leaner, stronger Department of Transportation.

### Question and Answer Period

Several comments and questions from members of the audience were addressed forthrightly and thoroughly by our competent speaker.

ASHE Vice President Peirce presented Mrs. Voras certificates and tokens of appreciation on behalf of his Society for her excellent talk. ASCE President May did the same on behalf of the Phila. Section, ASCE.

## PHILA. SECTION ASCE HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Phila. Section, ASCE, is pleased to announce the availability of its 1999 scholarships. It is anticipated that up to three scholarships, each worth \$5000, will be awarded at our Annual Spring Dinner Dance, on **Friday, May 7, 1999** at the Sugarloaf Conference Center, Chestnut Hill, PA. The number and amount of the actual awards remains at the discretion of both the Section's Scholarship Committee and the Section's Board of Directors.

### Type of Award:

We recognize that different colleges have different regulations as to scholarships, stipends, and awards. It is the Phila. Section's intent to provide these awards to give the maximum financial support to the individual engineering student, within his/her college's rules. Therefore the form of award will be that most beneficial to the student consistent with his/her college regulations. Unless indicated otherwise by the student, a check in the name of the award recipient will be presented.

### Eligibility Requirements:

1. The student must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program in one of the six colleges in the Phila. Section region (Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, and Widener University).
2. The student must be an active member of the ASCE Student Chapter.
3. Students in their Sophomore and Junior year (and Pre-Juniors at Drexel) are eligible to submit.

### Submission:

The candidate must submit the following to his/her Faculty Advisor:

- An essay, limited to 1000 words, on "*How can Civil Engineers enhance their profession?*" is required.

- The candidate's name, GPA and/or class rank, and an address/telephone where they can be reached must be included. Additional information for consideration is allowed. A letter and/or resume is an acceptable means to provide this information.

### Faculty Advisor Evaluation:

Each Chapter's advisor will evaluate all their candidates and select two for submission to the Phila. Section's Scholarship Committee (address under "Deadline" below). The GPA and/or class rank should be verified as they may be used by the Scholarship Committee in their evaluation. If the university does not release class rank the advisor should provide some indication as to the candidate's standing. The advisor will formally nominate these candidates by including a letter of endorsement from a member of the faculty along with the submission.

### Section Evaluation:

The Section Scholarship Committee will

## TEMPLE UNIVERSITY - CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering at Temple University offers three ABET-accredited four-year undergraduate programs in Civil Engineering, Civil and Construction Engineering Technology, and Environmental Engineering Technology. An interdisciplinary program in Environmental Science is also housed in the Department. The Department offers versatile courses of graduate study in two master's degree programs and a doctoral degree program. The M.S.C.E. program requires 30 credit hours of graduate study, including six hours of optional thesis or additional course work. Courses are offered in Construction Management, Environmental Engineering, Structural Engineering, and Transportation Engineering areas. The M.S. in Environmental Health program offers curricula in Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Technology. The M.S.E.H. program requires 34 credit hours. The Ph.D. in engineering program offers students with graduate-level education in engineering or the sciences the opportunity to pursue doctoral research in engineering. Individual curricula are designed around the student's research focus and draw on the resources of the College and the University. The program requires 60 credit hours of graduate study, including a dissertation, with 30 credit hours granted for an M.S. degree. All graduate courses are offered in the evening. For more information and application: call **Philip Udo-Inyang, Ph.D., P.E.**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering, Temple University, (215) 204-7814, Fax (215) 204-6936, E-mail: [udoinyan@astro.ocis.temple.edu](mailto:udoinyan@astro.ocis.temple.edu), or <http://www.eng.temple.edu>.

*A Yogi Berra-ism*  
*Advice to students receiving*  
*honorary doctorates:*  
*"Remember, always, when you*  
*come to a fork in the road -*  
*Take It!"*

evaluate all nominations and select award recipients for scholarships or other form of stipend. These award recipients will be invited guests at our Annual Spring Dinner Dance on **May 7, 1999**, to receive their awards.

### Submission Deadline:

Submissions must be made to the faculty advisor by **Monday, March 22, 1999**. Faculty Advisors must submit their nominations to **Dr. Faruq Siddiqui**, President-Elect of the Phila. Section at Department of Engineering, Swarthmore College, 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081 by **Wednesday, March 31, 1999**. The President-Elect will forward submissions to the Scholarship Committee.

## THE YOUNG ENGINEERS' FORUM

### Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers

Third Annual Networking Seminar

Sponsored by:

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia &  
The American Society of Civil Engineers

**Tuesday, February 23, 1999**

**6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**PECO-Energy Hall**

2301 Market Street

No registration fee.

Free food (meatballs, chicken wings,  
crudite, chips, pretzels, and punch)

Featuring Honored Speaker **Larry Moy**  
Streets Commissioner for the  
City of Philadelphia

Come join us for discussions concerning the upcoming issues facing younger engineers. Topics include the industry trends in civil engineering, such as salary and work conditions, where the profession is heading in the year 2000; what younger engineers can expect; and how they should prepare.

Reservations are required! Call **John Zarsky**, ASCE/YMF President, at (215) 790-2309 by **Friday, February 19, 1999** or e-mail him at [zarsky@pbworld.com](mailto:zarsky@pbworld.com). Please specify any issues you would like discussed during the open forum.

## SECTION PARTICIPATION IN THE "MATHCOUNTS" PROGRAM REQUESTED

Phila. Section, ASCE participation in the MATHCOUNTS Program is requested. It is only with the volunteer effort and support of ASCE and PSPE members that MATHCOUNTS can be a success. By donating your time to support the Philadelphia MATHCOUNTS Competition, you are assuring the successful completion of a program which motivates Junior High School students in mathematics and promotes their interest in technology related careers. Each school team shall comprise of four students. A maximum of four "Alternates" from each school may also participate. Teams may be made up of any combination of 7th and 8th grade students

On **Saturday, February 6, 1999** at 8:00 A.M. volunteers are requested to come to Student Activities Center (SAC) at Temple University Main Campus, which is located at 13th Street and Montgomery Avenue. Parking is available at 12th Street and Montgomery Avenue

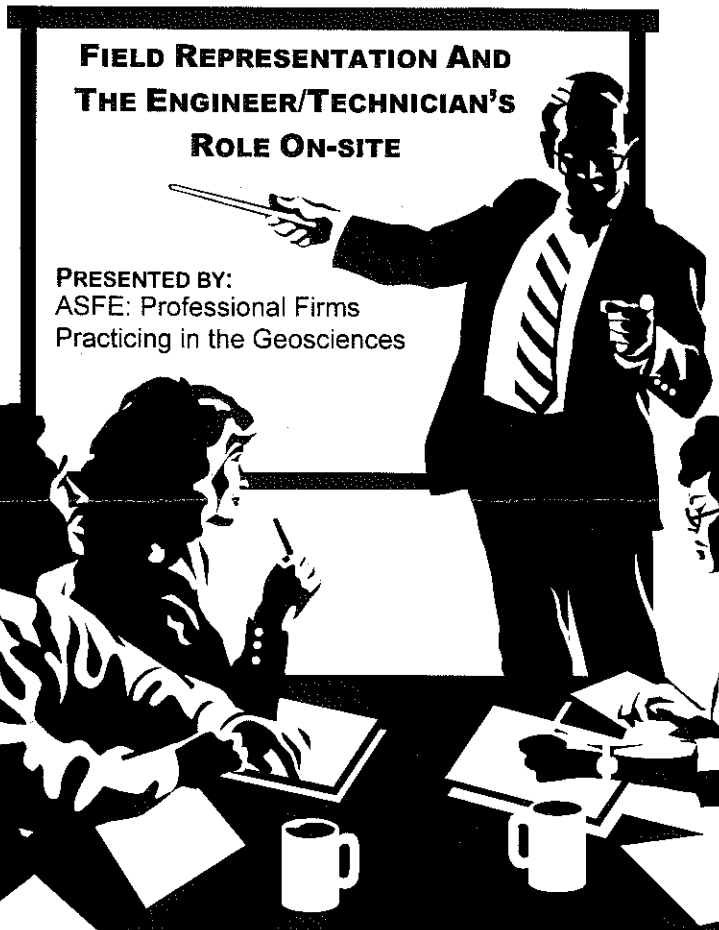
Volunteers will assist in distributing, collecting and grading test papers, monitoring and directing students during the test, and any other necessary task. Hope to see you on February 6th. If you have any questions, please contact **Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang**, Phila. Section, ASCE Director, at (215) 204-7831, or e-mail to [udoinyan@astro.ocis.temple.edu](mailto:udoinyan@astro.ocis.temple.edu). Thank you!

(Continued on Page 5)

# BACKYARD SEMINAR

## EXAMPLE TOPICS:

- Field Representative's Role On-site
- The US Court System
- Types of Liability
- The Role of Insurance
- The Typical Claim
- Daily Field Reports and Field Journals
- Parts of Speech and Effective Reporting
- Preventing Communication Breakdowns
- How to handle Small Projects



**DATE:**  
THURSDAY  
MARCH 18, 1999

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**TIME:**  
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**SPONSORED BY:** Powell-Harpstead, Inc. and Duffield Associates, Inc.  
**SUPPORTED BY:** Philadelphia Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers

- ✓ Earn Continuing Education Units (0.75 CEUs) from ASFE for attending this 8-hour Hands-on Seminar.
- ✓ Learn ways to work cooperatively with other project principals to achieve win/win outcomes.
- ✓ Attend if you serve as field representatives, or supervise geoenvironmental, geotechnical, civil or other field activities.

**SEND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM (ONE FOR EACH ATTENDEE) AND YOUR CHECK TO:**

Powell-Harpstead, Inc.  
 2615 River Road, Unit 2, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077  
 Attention: Mary A. Crawford  
 609-786-7171, Fax: 609-786-7174  
 E-mail: mcrawford@powell-harpstead.com

**Or**

Duffield Associates, Inc.  
 5400 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808-1232  
 Attention: Claire Fegley  
 302-239-6634, Fax: 302-239-8485  
 E-mail: cfegley@duffnet.com

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Make check payable to  
 Powell-Harpstead, Inc.

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PHONE NUMBER

TITLE

FAX NUMBER

COMPANY

E-MAIL

ADDRESS

City

STATE

ZIP CODE

**REGISTER EARLY - SEATING IS LIMITED! DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999**

Registration will not be confirmed until payment is received.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 1, 1999  
Contact: Mary A. Crawford, Powell~Harpstead, Inc.  
609-786-7171, Fax: 609-786-7174  
Or Claire Fegley, Duffield Associates, Inc.  
302-239-6634, Fax 302-239-8485

**Powell~Harpstead, Inc. & Duffield Associates, Inc. sponsor  
Backyard Seminar – “Field Representation and the Engineer/Technician’s Role On-site”**

**Cinnaminson, NJ** — Joni L. Powell, President of Powell~Harpstead, Inc., and R. David Charles, Chief Executive Officer of Duffield Associates, Inc., announce their joint sponsorship of the Backyard Seminar – “Field Representation and the Engineer/Technician’s Role On-site.” The seminar will be presented by ASFE: Professional Firms Practicing the Geosciences on Thursday, March 18, 1999, at the Sheraton Hotel by the Philadelphia International Airport, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is intended for those who serve as field representatives, or supervise geoenvironmental, geotechnical, civil and other field activities. Topics to be covered include: the field representative’s role on-site; the U.S. court system; types of liability; the role of insurance; the typical claim; prevention of claims through effective attitude and behavior; how to handle small projects; preventing communication breakdowns; parts of speech and effective reporting; and Daily Field Reports and field journals.

According to Powell and Charles, “The field representatives employed by professional firms, such as ours, act for and speak for the professionals who head the projects. It is essential for field representatives to understand the importance of their role and how to perform it. Also, Backyard Seminars are designed to eliminate the costly attendance at national seminars since they are held close to home.”

John Philip Bachner, a nationally recognized loss prevention and contracts expert, and author, will lead the seminar. Mr. Bachner has authored some 500 books, manuals, texts, case histories, monographs and other materials on risk management issues, many having to do with field representation. He has served as ASFE’s professional loss prevention consultant since the late 1970s.

Early registration is encouraged since seating is limited. Continuing Education Units (0.75 CEUs) are available from ASFE for this 8-hour training seminar. The cost is \$150 per person. Contact Mary A. Crawford at Powell~Harpstead, Inc. (609-786-7171) or Claire Fegley at Duffield Associates, Inc. (302-239-6634) to register.

ASFE was formally launched in early 1969 to deal with professional liability issues. At that time, professional liability insurers had withdrawn coverage for geotechnical consulting firms. Over time, the effectiveness of ASFE’s efforts has been underscored by national surveys that show ASFE Member Firms’ professional liability rates are among the lowest of all design professionals. Many attribute this development to concepts, programs and publications developed by ASFE.

Powell~Harpstead, Inc. (a multi-service professional engineering, environmental services and construction firm) and Duffield Associates, Inc. (consultants providing services in the geosciences, structural and construction engineering) are dedicated to supporting ASFE programs, materials and policies. They believe that the most effective way to manage their firms’ risk is to work cooperatively with other project principals to achieve win/win outcomes.

**MATHCOUNTS! GO FIGURE!!**

As engineers we are expected to figure things out, technically and may be mathematically. Sometimes I wonder how many engineers, especially PSPE members, can figure out: that MATHCOUNTS is our "baby", sponsored and implemented by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and its 535 local and state chapters, with support from other organizations; that MATHCOUNTS was founded in 1983 by NSPE and CNA Insurance Companies, and current national sponsors also include The Dow Chemical Company Foundation, General Motors Foundation, Phillips Petroleum Company, Texas Instruments Incorporated, 3M Foundation, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA);

that MATHCOUNTS is the only nationwide math coaching and competition program for 7th and 8th graders, designed to promote math as an exciting, challenging and absorbing experience which leads to rewarding career opportunities in sciences, technology and engineering;

that MATHCOUNTS emphasizes teamwork and practical problem solving, a familiar approach for engineering projects, and each participating school sends a team of four students to work on math subjects including algebra, geometry and statistics, and then they are scored individually and as a team;

that MATHCOUNTS winners at the Philadelphia Chapter competition in 1994 went on to win the state and national competitions and also that Pennsylvania State team is the current national champion (twice in three years);

that MATHCOUNTS national competition is held every year in May at Washington, D.C. while the state competition is held at Carlisle/Harrisburg, PA in March, and winners at the state and national levels receive prizes including scholarships, free trips, computers;

that the Philadelphia Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition will be held at Temple University on Saturday, February 6, 1999 starting from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.;

that MATHCOUNTS had more than 7,000 school, 350,000 students and 17,000 volunteers participate nationally every year, and more volunteers are always needed on the day of the competition;

The National Mathcounts program also receives contributions from the following corporations: Alcoa Foundation, Allied Signal, Inc., American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, ANR Pipeline, Champion International Corporation, Exxon Educational Foundation, Flour Daniel, Ford Motor Company Fund, GEICO, GTE Foundation, Lockheed Martin, Mobil, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Rockwell, and TRW Foundation.

Locally, MATHCOUNTS is organized by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). Local sponsors include PSPE members and its Women Auxiliary, Pennoni Associates, Inc., Raytheon Engineers & Constructors, Inc., and Temple University College of Engineering.

**GEOSYNTHETICS SEMINAR**

*Geosynthetics in Transportation Facilities: Design, Testing and Construction*

**Tuesday, March 23, 1999 - Drexel University**

Pennoni Associates, Inc., in conjunction with the Phila. Section, ASCE, will join efforts to co-sponsor a one-day seminar on "Geosynthetics in Transportation Facilities: Design, Testing and Construction." The seminar will be conducted at Drexel University on **Tuesday, March 23, 1999** beginning at 8:30 am and lasting until approximately 4:30 pm.

The seminar will be conducted by the staff of the Geosynthetic Research Institute under the moderation of **Robert M. Koerner, Ph.D.**, the H.L. Bowman Professor of Civil Engineering at Drexel University and Director of the Institute. Bob, a very active member and Past President of the Phila. Section (1975-1976), is an Honorary Member of ASCE and is a past Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. The event represents a unique opportunity to obtain the latest information on geosynthetics from an internationally-recognized expert of Bob's caliber.

The course content will focus on the proper design, testing and construction of geosynthetics used in transportation facilities, such as paved highways, unpaved roads, railroads, retaining walls, steep slope and embankment stabilization, and similar applications. The target audience is transportation engineers at all levels of government, consultants, land developers, testing laboratories, material manufacturers and suppliers, academics, and others who may desire information on this important aspect of transportation engineering systems.

The cost of the seminar will be \$50 for Phila. Section members, \$75 for all others. Lunch will NOT be included, and sufficient time will be allotted for participants to obtain their lunch on their own.

There are a limited number of spaces available and these will be filled on a first come, first served basis. In the past, the spaces have filled quickly, so you are advised to reserve early to avoid being "shut out." The deadline for reservations is **Friday, February 26, 1999**. Please note that no phone reservations will be accepted for the seminar — only mailed responses with payment will be accepted to reserve space.

Please clip and return the form below with your check to ensure your reservation.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PREVENTS PUBLIC OUTCRY**

*(Reprinted from ENGINEERING TIMES, NSPE)*

A few years ago, an engineering firm may have spent two years working on a highway planning project before it was ready to go public with right-of-way plans. At that time, the smooth process may have turned into a public relations nightmare if the firm found out there was a previously unidentified burial ground on the property, that the public hated the proposed route, or that local business owners felt the project had been forced on them.

Situations like this could have been avoided through the implementation of a public involvement program.

In 1991 the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act emphasized the requirement for effective public participation in transportation planning and implementation. The demand for public involvement was further strengthened by such federal acts as the Clean Air Act reauthorization and the Americans With Disabilities Act. Since that time, however, public involvement has moved from being a mandate to becoming an integral part of the planning process.

There are a number of tools firms can use to get the public involved, depending on the situation, such as newsletters, public meetings, videos and direct mail. In rural areas, for example, the firm would create a database of local property owners along the corridor being studied and then use newsletters to announce public meetings and explain the planning process and what the study is doing.

Public meetings are often an important part of any public involvement program. Although not set up as formal hearings, public meetings give people a chance to voice their opinions and discuss the issues they feel are important. In addition, a firm can use the information to get a sense of what the public will support.

But public meetings by themselves are not enough. It's not a matter of simply having public meetings and saying, "what do you think?" It needs to go beyond that."

In the end, the public's exposure to the planning process may help raise the public's perceptions of engineers and what engineers do. People realize decisions are being made by professional, intelligent, and caring individuals. It's not the case that a human computer is jamming decisions down the public's throat.

**GEOSYNTHETICS SEMINAR - TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1999**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for the event in the following name:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (checks only, please)

ASCE Philadelphia Section member?  Yes  No ASCE Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: ASCE Philadelphia Section, P.O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

Deadline for reservations is **Friday, February 26, 1999**.

## JOIN THE SECTION'S TECHNICAL GROUPS

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## CIVIL ENGINEER / PROJECT MANAGER

Real estate investment corporation seeks a Civil (or other suitable) Engineer or experienced Construction/Project Manager to serve as the Owner's onsite representative during the total repair of a 3-level parking deck in Bala Cynwyd, PA. Duties will include monitoring and inspecting contractors' work, maintaining an onsite field office, and project administration and coordination activities.

Position is available immediately and this multi-million dollar project is expected to begin in March 1999 and continue for 12 to 15 months. The ideal candidate will be experienced in design and/or onsite construction monitoring of large concrete repair/restoration or similar projects. Salary commensurate with experience.

All qualified applicants are welcome to apply for this limited duration project including those who are semi-retired. Fax resume to (650) 651-1645 or email [Dave\\_Gilbert@trmc-na.com](mailto:Dave_Gilbert@trmc-na.com).

## IMPORTANT! 1998-1999 REMAINING MEETING NOTICES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! for the dates of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE monthly meetings and social functions, as follows: (Check each upcoming edition of THE NEWS for additional details, possible date and topic changes.)

All Dinner Meetings (except as noted):

Cocktails - 5:30 pm; Dinner - 6:30 pm; Meeting - 7:30 pm

### Thursday, March 11, 1999

Joint Dinner Meeting with Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute (ACI) • Williamson's City Line • "Construction of the New Federal Detention Center," Elizabeth Moore, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Federal Bureau of Prisons. Phila. Section Past Presidents to be honored  
Life Memberships Awarded • Drexel University Night

### Thursday, April 8, 1999

Joint Dinner Meeting with the Philadelphia Post, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) • Harbor League Club, Camden, NJ • "Tunnel Detection Along the Southwest Border of the United States," Maureen Corcoran, Research Geologist, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
Swarthmore College and University of Pennsylvania Night

### Friday, May 7, 1999

Annual Spring Social Dinner Dance, Sugarloaf Conference Center, Chestnut Hill, PA • **Theme: Irish**



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