

# 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. 71-6

## Our 85th Year

April/May, 1999

### APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers  
Philadelphia Post, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1999

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

**SUBJECT:** "Tunnel Detection Along the Southwest Border of the United States"

**SPEAKER:** Maureen K. Corcoran, Research Geologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**SPECIAL FEATURE: SWARTHMORE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA NIGHT.** The ASCE Student Chapters, Alumni and Faculty of the Departments of Civil Engineering, Swarthmore College and Civil Engineering and Systems, University of Pennsylvania will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1999.** Please 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).



To date, three drug-related tunnels have been discovered under the U.S.-Mexico border — The Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station (WES) has been designated the lead agency in the Army's tunnel detection program. As such, the WES has conducted four tunnel search missions requested by DEA, Customs, and the U.S. Border Patrol through Joint Task Force Six. Current search strategy requires a geologic assessment of suspect zones prior to a tunnel search mission.

**Maureen K. Corcoran** is a Research Geologist for the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (WES). Her primary research area focuses on subsurface

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### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### Construction Group and Transportation Group

##### April Joint Luncheon Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, April 29, 1999, 12:00 Noon  
**LOCATION:** Conference Room D on the 16th Floor of the Municipal Services Building, Philadelphia, PA

**SUBJECT:** Route 202/I-76 Interchange Reconstruction Project

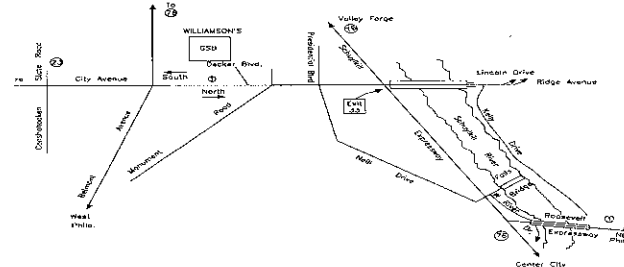
**SPEAKER:** Randy Wanger, P.E., Liaison engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

**COST:** \$10.00; ASCE Student Members Half Price

Mr. Wanger will present an overview of PADOT's Route 202/I-76 Interchange Reconstruction Project taking place in the King of Prussia, PA area. This project which recently began construction, will not only improve the interchange between Route 202 and I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway) but also that of Route 422/Route 202/I-76 and widen Route 202 from two lanes in each direction to three lanes in each direction from King of Prussia to the Chesterbrook Blvd. Exit (approximately 4.0 miles).

A buffet lunch will be served starting at 12:00 noon with the presentation beginning at 12:30 pm.

**Reservations are required and 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 if you have any questions and for reservations.



**LOCATION MAP for  
WILLIAMSON'S,  
GSB Building,  
City Line Ave.,  
Philadelphia, PA**

**SPRING DINNER DANCE - FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1999  
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS!**

### 1999 SECTION AWARDS

As is its custom, the 1999 Phila. Section, ASCE Awards will be presented to this year's recipients at the Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance at Sugarloaf May 7, 1999. The Section Award recipients are:

**Carmine Fiscina**, Federal Highway Administration, Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year

**Carol Martsoff**, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year

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## ERIN GO BRAUGH!!

### Phila. Section, ASCE

*Oh Danny Boy, take your Kathleen  
back to Sugarloaf again!!  
And your Irish eyes will be smiling!*

## Annual Dinner Dance

### Friday, May 7, 1999

at

### Sugar Loaf Conference Center

*(Executive Conference Center of Temple University)*  
9230 Germantown Ave., Phila., PA 19118 (215) 242-9100

6:00 pm Cocktails (Cash Bar)

*Hors d'Oeuvres*

7:00 pm Dinner

*Music for your listening and dancing  
pleasure til Midnight.*

*Send for your tickets today... Guests Welcome!*  
\$35.00 per person

**Consultants, Contractors, etc...**

Tables can be reserved for your party or firm.

For reservations and more information, call  
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and mail to: Phila. Section, ASCE  
P.O. Box 58186 • Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

## ACI AWARDS BANQUET

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Concrete Institute announces its Eighth Annual Concrete Awards Banquet.

Place: The Downtown Club, Independence Square, Philadelphia, PA

Date: **April 28, 1999**

Time: Cocktails - 6:00 pm; Dinner - 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$55.00 per person

Table of Ten: \$500.00

**Deadline is April 18, 1999 for reservations.**

All seats are reserved. Any questions call **Helm Wilden** at (610) 966-3935.

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

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OCTOBER 1999 ISSUE:  
SEPTEMBER 3, 1999**

## April Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

geology in support of the Corps missions in tunnel detection and environmental applications. She has also been involved in developing a GIS pilot system for the US Border Patrol, San Diego Sector, to define areas of illegal border crossings. Ms. Corcoran obtained B.S. (1980) and M.S. (1993) degrees in Geology from the University of South-

ern Mississippi.

Ms. Corcoran is a Registered Professional Geologist and is currently working towards a PhD in Geology from Oregon State University. She has served as a member of the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists in Mississippi and is past-president of the Natchez Geological Society and Sigma Xi Research Society, WES Chapter.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

National Engineers Week 1999 has come and gone — but not without making an impact on local professionals and the public. Kudos to the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council for successfully planning those memorable events. But while they worked hard at accomplishing their tasks, the Phila. Section, ASCE was also busy at work. The Younger Member Forum, led by **John Zarsky**, hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers Seminar with keynote speaker **Larry Moy, P.E.**, Commissioner of the Phila. Dept. of Streets, Past President of the Phila. Section (1971-1972), and Delaware Valley 1999 Engineer

of the Year. Our second project was a K'Nex Bridge Building Contest for middle school students where **Dr. Richard Woodring** "weighed their chances" by applying the fatal loads. Our final event was held at the Gallery at Market East where we hosted a student project mall exhibit. Based on parameters chosen by **Ruben David**, the St. Bridgett Parish School was the recipient of the Section's special Civil Engineering Award for its Future Cities Competition model.

The Phila. Section was chosen as a recipient of a 1999 ASCE Grant Award for its newly formed Government Relations Program. Stay tuned for notification of upcoming government and/or public relations events. Remember, our electronic hotline can be accessed 24 hours a day. Just call (215) 934-3639 for a listing of all scheduled events.

It was an honor to be among so many Past Presidents at our last meeting. The Board appreciates your continuous support. For those who missed this outstanding meeting, please be sure to read the highlights on Page 4.

The Section goal to speak to 1000 youth is quickly approaching the mark. To date, presentations for 800 have been scheduled and to an extent, completed. It's not too late, contact the school of your choice and scheduled to share the highlights of being a Civil Engineer. Resources such as videos, handouts and coloring books are available, free of charge.

We have one meeting remaining and then our annual Dinner Dance Social. Come join the awardees and the Board on **Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate the luck of the Irish and **Erin Go Bragh!** — Y'all! (Ireland Forever and the Phila. Section, ASCE, too!) Have a wonderful Spring and Summer. See you in the Fall!

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

## THE MAY PRESIDENCY: RESOLVE, IMPLEMENTATION AND PROOF

Almost every President of the Phila. Section, ASCE since its inception in 1913 has possessed "resolve." But Sandra May's resolve has been unique. It was not just rooted in the fact that she was preceded a few years ago by the first woman President in the Section's history. It was because she was determined to prove that women in engineering and allied technologies were just as capable as men in articulating that capability. So, she implemented that resolve when she assumed the presidency in May, 1998. Her principal resolve was to program that all speakers on technical — mainly civil engineering — specialties, such as environment, transportation, major construction, etc., would be women. And, boy! Did she prove her point! The caliber of all the speakers at the Section's monthly meetings was superb — arguably one of the best overall in memory. Their knowledge of subject, quality of delivery, the ability to retain audience interest and attention and promote commentary and questions, has been beyond criticism.

It follows, therefore, that Sandra May was one of the most innovative holders of the Phila. Section, ASCE highest office, and that her tenure will be long remembered by the Section's members and associates who regularly attended the main Section meetings over which she presided, or the innumerable supplementary Conferences, Special Forums, or Committee sessions in which she played major roles.

But her talents should come as no surprise. They have been spawned by a vast and varied array of career achievements in engineering and other fields. An examination of her formidable resume, reproduced here in capsulated form, confirms this inarguable conclusion of competence. It all began with her graduation from Drexel University in 1985 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, followed by a Masters Degree in Engineering from Penn State University in 1991. Since starting her professional career, she has been profiled as "...a results-oriented professional with a proven track record for producing significant operation improvements; a strategic thinker, visionary leader, and a people-oriented team player..."

Sandra's professional experience was almost instantaneous after her graduation from Drexel. She joined the United Gas Improvement Corporation (UGI), working through the ranks from Engineer I to Staff Engineer/Project Manager—Technical Services Group (1990-1991). She joined PECO Energy in 1991 as Engineer III, quickly advanced to Special Projects Engineer (1992-1994); Legislative Policy Specialist (1994-1998), charged with developing relationships with regulatory and public officials; served as Company Spokesperson for Media Relations; coordinated and developed consumer education tools for electric competition and presented to more than 2000 external and internal customers. From 1998 to the present, Sandra has held the high position of

Project Manager, coordinating and preparing Y2K contingency plans for Systems Operations; and serving the broad scope as Company Spokesperson on all pertinent issues.

Among the honors bestowed on President May, perhaps her most prized personal one is a Letter of Commendation from President Clinton in 1994. That same year she was named Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year; Young Civil Engineer of the Year; and received the YMCA Adult Achiever's Award. She has served as a Graduate Assistant in College Effective Speaking and Human Relations courses. For many years she has been a group leader for PRIME, that admirable organization which seeks to provide career opportunities in engineering and technology to minority groups. In addition, she has been involved in numerous community improvements programs outside the fields of engineering.

Sandra's professional affiliations, in addition to ASCE, include: Chairperson, Environmental Technology Academy; Chairperson, PA Gas Association — Environmental Committee; Chairperson, United Nations Association Environmental Technology Task Force.

With this brief — by no means complete — review of her awesome educational, professional and community activation career, it is difficult for an ordinary mortal to grasp and rationalize such vast accomplishments in her young life, and Sandra May's ability to lead an organization as professionally complex and widespread as the Phila. Section, ASCE. But she has done so, with admirable dexterity, subdued but intent diplomacy and tenacity, and skillful management. She worked closely with the Section's Technical Groups, Committee personnel, and fellow Officers, in their common pursuit of high objectives. One of her proudest initiatives in encouragement and help to the continuing vitality of the Section's Younger Member Forum which, thanks to Sandra's recent predecessor regimes, has grown to be one of the most dynamic and progressive affiliates of the Section. The YMF has established a stature which is admired and unmatched by others nationally.

Sandra May has worked gallantly with the Metropolitan area colleges to maintain interest in Phila. Section activities and functions, through ASCE Student Chapters, Civil Engineering alumni and faculty. She knows well the Phila. Section's Reading Branch (she is a Past President of that proud affiliate), has kept the Branch informed of what is going on, and invites its members to attend and participate in the Board and Main Section meetings, programming and all Technical and Social affairs.

It is inconceivable that the Phila. Section ASCE, will be denied the continued contribution of talent and activity by Sandra May which is has so thoroughly enjoyed and has benefited from, as she terminates her presidential incumbency. Sugarloaf come May 7<sup>th</sup>. We request — nay, demand — that she continue to play a key and integral part in all programs in which the Section will be involved in the years to come. Thank you,

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## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Christopher Menna, Forum Editor

### Upcoming Events

Now is your time to help lead the YMF into the next millennium and make your ideas happen. April is election month. The YMF is currently seeking nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President for College Contacts, Vice President for Technical Groups, and Vice-President for Community Service. All posts are for one-year terms. The time commitment is manageable and rewarding. Nominations may be given in advance to Carol Martsof or at one of our upcoming meetings.

Younger Members will again participate at the National Trailwork Volunteer Day at Wissahickon Park in the northwest section of Philadelphia on **Saturday, June 5, 1999**. This will be an excellent opportunity to do something rewarding in an outdoor environment and to work alongside other groups. If you would like to participate, please contact **Chris Menna**, Streets Department at (215) 686-5070.

### Past Accomplishments

Our YMF sent three members to the 1999 Northeast Regional Younger Member Council meeting held in Providence, RI on **February 26-29, 1999**. Participants included President **John Zarsky**, Parsons Brinckerhoff, Vice President **Chris Menna**, and Treasurer **Chris Barber**, Pennoni Associates. We gathered and shared many ideas with our fellow YMF members, participated in discussions, and helped to generate some resolutions for ASCE National to consider. The main theme of the conference focused on the question of whether the master's degree should be the first professional degree for civil engineers. This very important question generated many heated debates as well as more ideas for discussion.

A Joint Meeting was held with the ASCE Drexel Student Chapter on **Wednesday, March 10, 1999**, in the Hill Conference Room on Drexel University's campus. Food and refreshments were provided. A panel comprised of several YMF members represented engineers from various disciplines. Each panelist gave a short presentation to the students. A short question and discussion period followed the presentations. A special thanks goes to **Christina Berardi**, NTH Consultants for coordinating this event.

Our joint meeting with the South Jersey YMF was rescheduled to Thursday, **March 11, 1999**. The meeting was held at Remy's Bar and Restaurant in West Collingswood Heights, NJ. The featured speaker was **Mr. Ronald J. Watson**, President of R.J. Watson, Inc. The company is located in East Amherst, NY and is a supplier of high strength fiber wraps. These wraps are used primarily for seismic retrofit and repair of existing concrete, masonry, and wood structures. Mr. Watson reviewed the products of his company, types of applications, and recent projects including one for PennDOT where a bridge column was damaged from a truck collision. After the presentation, many of the attendees stayed to watch the Flyers games. This meeting was an excellent opportunity

## MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

March 11, 1999

Williamson's City Line, Philadelphia, PA

### The New Federal Detention Center

By Bob Wright, Staff Writer

As is customary, the Annual Joint Dinner Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, and the Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute (ACI) was well attended, the subject was

for our two YMFs to network with each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

#### Member Spotlight

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

**Peter J. Tantala**, E.I.T. is a Civil Engineer employed by Tantala Associates in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. In this position, his duties include the design, study and inspection of wood, steel, concrete, and masonry structures. He has also performed site stormwater management analyses. In addition, Peter has been involved in several site investigations, which have included property and topographic surveys, property research, and building and zoning permits. Still further, Peter has helped with client partnering on some projects as well. Recently, Peter has participated in some very interesting projects. He assisted with the installation of microbrewery equipment into a 109-year-old warehouse facility for The Red Bell Brewery Company of Philadelphia. In addition, he also took part in the foundation rehabilitation for some partially collapsed residences for the City of Philadelphia—Office of Risk Management. And, Peter helped with the foundation design for a 140-foot high outdoor advertising structure owned by the Bell Beverage Company of Phila. Not long ago, Peter attended the "Engineering for Extreme Winds" conference at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Peter received his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. He went on to obtain his master degree from the Johns Hopkins University in 1994, where he attended classes on a full merit scholarship. Peter plans to take his PE exam in the spring of 1999. Recently, Peter returned to the University of Pennsylvania in the spring of 1998 to help teach a reinforced concrete design class. It is no wonder that this fine YMF member is the 1999 finalist for the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's Young Engineer of the Year Award.

#### April Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 2)

She is currently a director of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences and has been active in several other research societies. She currently serves as Mapping Automation Team Leader to evaluate GIS software for a data management system for the U.S. Border Patrol. This project will provide a framework for exchange of data among all levels of Border Patrol and further facilitate exchange of geotechnical military technology for law enforcement sector use.

intensely interesting, the speakers were outstanding, and the audience enjoyed a splendid presentation. The subject was "Construction of the New Federal Detention Center," the striking \$63+ million facility nearing completion at 7th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia. The well-informed and articulate speakers on the project were: **Elizabeth Dougherty Moore**, Supervisor Contract Specialist, Federal Bureau of Prisons; and **John A. Westenberger, P.E.**, Project Engineer, Ewing Cole Cherry Brott, Architects, Engineers, Interior Designers and Planners of the great project. The meeting was co-chaired competently by Phila. Section, ASCE President **Sandra J. May, P.E.**, and Delaware Valley Chapter ACI President **Barry Cupchak, P.E.**

#### Drexel University Night

The meeting honored the ASCE Student Chapter, Alumni and Faculty of the Civil and Architectural Department of Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA.

**Dr. Joseph P. Martin, P.E.**, Head of the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, and Faculty Advisor of the ASCE Student Chapter at Drexel, thanked his hosts for their courtesies. He proudly reviewed the tremendous strides and progress of his Department, principally the \$4.5 million laboratory rehabilitation and expansion project currently underway. He pointed out that Drexel boasts the largest private Civil Engineering school in the United States, in addition to being the largest Architectural Engineering college in the country. He described the principal foci of the Civil Engineering curriculum, in which foundations design plays an important part.

#### Student Chapter Officials Speak

Several Drexel ASCE Student Chapter leaders described the busy agenda of the Chapter, including the technical symposia, community involvement and sports activities, principally the Annual Concrete Canoe Race competition. Drexel Student Chapter fellow officers were introduced by Vice President **Matthew Marcello**; President, **Bob Farman** (who was absent from the meeting); Treasurer, **Valerie Zofchak**; Membership Secretary **Niles Johnson**; Correspondence Secretary **Brian Stoult**.

#### Past Presidents & Life Members Acknowledged

President **Sandra May** introduced and paid tribute to Phila. Section, ASCE Past Presidents and veteran Life Members of National ASCE, both groups of whom were special honored guests at the meeting and who were in attendance. Newly installed Life Members were then presented their certificates (see separate article in this issue of THE NEWS).

Delaware Valley Chapter ACI President **Cupchak** then made announcements of interest to his organization.

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## March Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

### VanOcker Introduces Speakers

Delaware Valley Chapter, ACI Past President **avid VanOcker, P.E.**, a Past Director and active member of the Phila. Section, ASCE, introduced the principal speakers of the evening.

**Elizabeth Dougherty Moore**, Contract Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, began the presentation with some highlights of her 28 years of service in the Bureau in various locations. She refers to challenges rather than problems as what she must face to build prisons in areas which generally would prefer not to have them.

### Evolution of the Center

The new Federal Detention Center being constructed in Center City (7th and Arch Streets) is a \$63 million project. The current cost is \$67 million, due to several unforeseen situations which required slight design changes. The Detention Center is designed to be a short-term housing facility for those undergoing trial or recently arrested. It is not a prison in the strict sense, since prisons are long-term facilities.

The site, in a portion of Center City close to the historic area, was first surveyed in 1682 and the original homes built on it date to 1700. The Bureau had to perform archaeological surveys and digs to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal guidelines, and evidence of these homes was found. Cribbing, cisterns and privies were present throughout the site and various artifacts were recovered.

The site was subdivided in the 1800's with new construction taking place. This brought more substantial brick homes and a pottery factory. In the 1900's, the Lit Brothers of department store fame began to purchase the homes and controlled the site by 1942. It cleared the site and erected several buildings, including an auto repair center and a passport office. The federal government acquired the site in the late 1980's.

### Physical Description and Construction

The Detention Center is 11 stories tall with over 320,000 square feet of space. This includes 628 cells. The capacity could vary, as decisions on whether the cells will house one or two inmates have not yet been made. A tunnel beneath 7th Street provides access to the U.S. Courthouse for inmate transport.

Construction of the Center required the support of the adjacent historic Cast Iron Building, part of the Lit's complex. Substantial concrete grouting in the Cast Iron Building's three sub-basements was needed to ensure its stability during construction. The Center has 63 drilled caissons of varying length, since a more typical mat foundation support system was ruled out due to soft spots in the subgrade. The variations in caisson length made construction more difficult than originally expected.

### Mr. Westenberger Describes Details

**John Westenberger, P.E.**, Structural Project Engineer for Ewing Cole Cherry Brott, explained

## The May Presidency

(Continued from Page 3)

Sandra, for an extraordinary and memorable year. You have cast your mark in stone in the annals of our great organization and we congratulate you for all you have done. We, your fellow members of the Section and all of our associates who have benefited, applaud you for the great things you have accomplished.

And now, **Faruq Siddiqui**, we welcome you as the 1999-2000 President, the first of the new millennium. We are confident that you are capable of addressing all the challenges facing your succession. Your fellow Officers, Board Members, Technical Group and Committee officials, as well as the general membership, are fully apprised of your ability, courage and forceful aggressiveness in organizing, initiating and seeking solutions to the inevitably difficult issues which will face you as you assume office. We are sure you will succeed. And we will help you. *Good luck!*

the technical details of the Center. It is a 70-column building with an unusual geometry which resembles a bowtie in plan view. The site is extremely compact and, being in Center City, allowed almost no storage of materials. This contributed to construction difficulties.

The tunnel beneath 7th Street was hand-dug, shielded and grouted. Several other options were explored during design, including overpass alternatives, but the hand-dug tunnel was the optimal choice for many reasons.

### Importance of Security and Partnering

Security issues were paramount in design of the Center. Often, these requirements overly complicated both design and construction. For example, Westenberger noted that no gaps in walls, partitions, or other elements were permitted. Thus, floor slabs had to be expected to carry large loads. Exterior panels, which are precast and 10 inches thick, had to be reinforced both horizontally and vertically.

Mrs. Moore returned to talk about partnering, one of the successes of the project. All project partners agreed on a zero-defect policy and ten basic tenets: a quality project finished on time, within budget, and fulfilling all owner guidelines; issue resolution; document control; cooperation/teamwork; profit for all; good neighbor; zero claims; good communications; enhanced reputations; and, have fun while doing so.

The Center is now in the final stages of completion, with the building scheduled for completion by the end of this summer. The Bureau hopes to open it by the end of 1999.

### Question and Answer Period

In-depth and introspective comments and questions from members of the audience were addressed forthrightly and in detail by our well-informed speakers. Tokens of appreciation were presented to them both by the Presidents of both Societies.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Pennoni New President of ABET

**C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni, P.E.**, Chairman and CEO of the Philadelphia-based engineering firm Pennoni Associates, Inc., distinguished Phila. Section, ASCE member (Past President, 1978-1979); National ASCE Past President (1991-1992), Past Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year; a Trustee of United Engineering Trustees, Inc.; current Chairman of the Drexel University Board of Trustees – was recently officially installed as the new President of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). He has served for several years as an ABET Board member, and President-elect for the past year.

ABET is a world leader in the advancement of engineering technology and applied science education. The Phila. Section, ASCE is proud to recognize yet another preeminent addition to Chuck's voluminous list of honors.

### Koerner Inducted into the NAE

**Robert M. Koerner, Ph.D., P.E.**, Harry L. Bowman Professor of Civil Engineering and Founder and Director of the Geosynthetic Research Institute, Drexel University, another distinguished member of the Phila. Section, ASCE (Past President, 1975-1976; Past Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year) – was recently inducted into the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). Membership in the Academy is based on contributions to engineering theory and practice, including significant contributions to the literature of engineering, as well as unusual accomplishments in the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology. The Phila. Section, ASCE salutes this favorite son on the addition of this high honor to his formidable roster of recognitions.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED

Phila. Section, ASCE members who have achieved the ASCE Life Member grade were awarded Certificates at the March 11, 1999 Joint Dinner Meeting of the Phila. Section and the Delaware Valley Chapter ACI. The following awardees were present at the meeting and received their Certificates in person from President Sandra May: **Mr. Michael J. Gabor, Mr. Daniel M. Kane, Mr. Richard E. Lander, Mr. Allen J. Hulshizer, Mr. Bijan K. Sil.**

The following awardees were not present at the meeting, and their Life Membership Certificates were mailed to them: **Mr. David A. Dambly, Mr. Stewart R. Gilbert, Mr. Jay W. Gorham, Mr. Curvin H. Hollimon, Mr. Peter K. MacEwen, Dr. Lewis J. Mathers, Dr. Manabendra N. Dat, Mr. John C. Herr.**

### 1999 Section Awards

(Continued from Page 1)

**Ronald Flegel**, Delaware River Port Authority, Engineering Manager of the Year

**Richard Tyler**, City of Philadelphia Historical Commission, History and Heritage Award

We hope you will join us at the Social to honor these deserving individuals.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE IS GOING STRONG!

Enthusiastic ASCE volunteers have been visiting schools since the beginning of this year to talk to students of all ages about our fascinating profession and the program is going strong! These activities have been happening because of the great initiative of many of our members and also due to the coordination of the newly formed Educational Outreach Committee. To date, almost 500 students in the Philadelphia area have been visited by ASCE volunteers. We're halfway to our goal for the school year! Several more schools have been scheduled for outreaches through April.

There is still time to participate in this fun and rewarding activity. Feel free to contact **Dr. Faruq Siddiqui** at Swarthmore College at (610) 328-8074 or **Paula Estornell** at Philadelphia Department of Streets, (215) 686-5181 for information. There are educational materials available for anyone who is interested (brochures, coloring books, videos). We also have a list of outreach volunteers for anyone interested in teaming up with another volunteer. School outreaches may be scheduled either by the volunteers themselves, at the school of their choice, or by contacting Faruq or Paula for the latest requests for speakers.

Finally, the Educational Outreach Committee is keeping a running list of schools, dates of outreaches, and number of students. We'd like to recognize and congratulate everyone at the end of the school year. Please contact Faruq or Paula to notify them of your outreach.

## OBITUARY

Philadelphia Section, ASCE member **Robert A. Kendall** passed away on February 8, 1999. Mr. Kendall was a Life Member of ASCE and has been a member since he graduated from the University of Michigan in 1952 with a BS in Civil Engineering. The Phila. Section offers its sincere condolences to the family.

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## WISHING YOU A PLEASANT SPRING AND SUMMER

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Phila. Section, ASCE, THE NEWS extends to the Membership its Best Wishes for a pleasant Spring and Summer Season. We look forward to an active 1999-2000 year starting in October, 1999. So, please participate fully, attend all meetings and functions of the Technical Groups, Standing and Special Committees, etc., and invite your colleagues and associates to join with you in attending and supporting all Section activities. And we'll see you at the Annual Dinner Dance at Sugarloaf, Friday, May 7, 1999 (see page 2 for details!)

## SEPTA & THE DOTS WORKSHOP

A two-hour workshop, organized by NTH Consultants, Ltd., in conjunction with the Phila. Post, S.A.M.E., **Wednesday, April 14, 1999** Dinner Meeting at the Harbor League Club, Camden, NJ. The subject is "TEA21-Impacts for Our Region." Discussed will be methods to make the agencies aware of your firm's capabilities; forecasts of upcoming engineering services; and construction contract opportunities. For reservations, call **Rocky Romagnoli** at (215) 656-6727.

## STORMWATER SYMPOSIUM

Villanova University Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Institute for Environmental Engineering Research, is issuing a Call for Papers - abstracts due **May 31, 1999** - for the *1999 Southeastern Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium*, to be held on the campus of **Villanova University October 20-21, 1999**. It will be similar to one held last Fall, and it is felt that Pennsylvania's Southeast Region in particular needs to continue the technology transfer and communications generated from last year's Conference. For questions and full details, contact **Professor Robert G. Traver, Ph.D., P.E.** at Villanova University, phone (610) 519-7899; or **Professor Frank Falcone, Ph.D., P.E.** at (610) 519-7920.

## GEOSYNTHETIC SEMINAR CANCELLED

The Phila. Section, ASCE has reluctantly cancelled the Geosynthetic Seminar scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at Drexel University. This occurred since the reservation turnout for the event was much lower than expected.

We are planning to reschedule this event for either Fall 1999 or Spring 2000. Those who regis-

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## SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE

Widener University is co-sponsoring the 15th International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management, on **December 12-15, 1999** in Philadelphia, PA. Abstracts of papers are welcome and should be received by **May 31, 1999**. For full registration information and Conference details, contact **Dr. Ronald L. Mersky**, Program Chair, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Widener University, 1 University Place, Chester, PA 19013-5792, phone (610) 499-4042.

tered for the March Seminar will be given advance notice and first chance at registration for the rescheduled Seminar when final details have been made.

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