

# the news



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PHILADELPHIA SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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Vol. 72-5

## Our 86th Year

March, 2000

PLEASE NOTE NEW ELECTRONIC MESSAGE HOTLINE ABOVE

### MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers  
Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute (ACI)

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2000

WILLIAMSON'S • 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:** SEPTA's Manayunk Bridge Reconstruction Project

**SPEAKER:** Christopher S. Binck, P.E., Philadelphia Regional Manager, Bergmann Associates

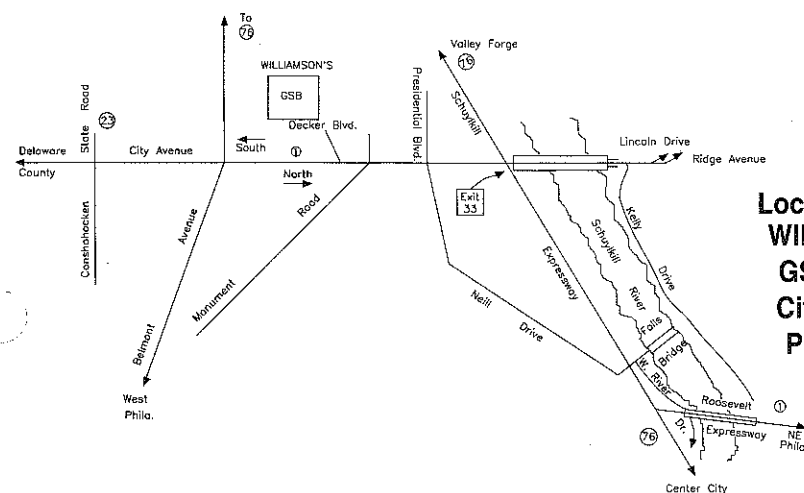
**SPECIAL FEATURE:** WIDENER UNIVERSITY NIGHT. The ASCE Student Chapter, Alumni and Faculty of the Civil Engineering Department of Widener University will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 10, 2000.** Cost is \$25.00 per person, ASCE Student Members \$13.00. Send checks payable to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19102-8186; or call the Electronic Message Center: **1-800-461-4190** (Open 24 hours/day).

### 2000 DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS

The Phila. Section, ASCE, will again be participating in the **Annual Delaware Valley Science Fair**. This year's Fairs' judging day will be **Wednesday, April 5, 2000** 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.

For further information and/or to volunteer as a judge, please contact Phila. Section Vice President **Chris L. Rood, P.E.** at (215) 580-7586 or via email at [c-t-rood@msn.com](mailto:c-t-rood@msn.com).



**Location Map for  
WILLIAMSON'S  
GSB Building  
City Line Ave.  
Philadelphia**

### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

#### Delaware Valley Geo-Institute Group (DVGI)

**March Meeting**

**DATE:** March 7, 2000, Social Hour 6:15 pm;  
Dinner 7:15 pm; Presentation 8:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA

**SUBJECT:** Ground Improvement — Super Jet  
Grouting Atlantic City

**SPEAKER:** Jim Wheeler, Hayward Baker Co.

For full details and reservations, please contact  
**Mike Byle**, Chairman, at Gannett Fleming, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 80794, Valley Forge, PA 19484-0794,  
Phone: (610) 650-8101, Fax: (610) 650-8190.

**Upcoming Activities**

**DATE:** April 11, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Geophysical Investigations for Geo-  
logical and Geotechnical Engineering

**SPEAKER:** Rich Lee, Quantum Geophysics

If you are interested in participating in the or-  
ganizational planning for the DVGI, or would like  
to get on the e-mail list for announcements please  
contact **Mike Byle**, Chairman, by e-mail at  
[mbyle@gfnet.com](mailto:mbyle@gfnet.com).

### Structural Group

**Seeks New Chairperson**

The Phila. Section, ASCE Structural Group  
continues to look for a new Chairperson to as-  
sume the present Chairperson's role beginning in  
the Fall of 2000. If anyone is interested in taking  
over as chair of this group please contact either  
the present chair, **Richard Roberts, P.E.**, at (215)  
222-3000 or **Chris L. Rood, P.E.**, Technical  
Group Liaison at (215) 580-7586.

(Continued on Page 2)

### THINK SPRING!

Mark your calendar and reserve your  
sweetie for the Section's Annual Social  
Dinner Dance at Sugarloaf Conference  
Center — **Friday, May 5, 2000**. Details  
in next month's issue of THE NEWS.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had the opportunity to participate actively in the National Engineers' Week activities last month. Each day I went to work I had the Eweek button on my shirt. You need not have been as exhibitionist, but I hope you surely did your part to celebrate your profession. If we are to bring Civil Engineering to the forefront as a profession, we all have to pull in the same direction and cannot afford to be mere bystanders. The National Academy of Engineering in its list of the 20 greatest achievements of the 20th century listed two areas clearly identifiable with our profession: Water Supply and Distribution System and the

Highway System. Let's hope that we can attract the best minds and talent to the profession so that list will be longer in the next century.

The Section will soon be bolstering its outreach efforts to elementary/secondary students. I am asking that in the next eight weeks, mid-March through mid-May, members try to visit at least one class in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and bring their experience and joy of working in Civil Engineering.

A reminder to all that the Society will present the inaugural OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) awards in conjunction with the 40th Annual Outstanding Civil Engineering Award (OCEA). As mentioned in the last edition of THE NEWS the event will be celebrated with due pomp and circumstance and appropriate media coverage in the nation's capital on **April 29, 2000**. If you are interested in attending please visit the Society's web site - [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org). During May this year, Philadelphia will host the 2000 Structures Congress & Exposition and the Section is one of the sponsors. I hope you are able to attend and participate.

I once again urge all members of the Section to actively participate in the Section's activities. Our attendance has been increasing as I mentioned in an earlier message. Please show your support for the profession and Section by coming to the monthly meetings.

Sincerely, Faruq M.A. Siddiqui, Ph.D.  
President, Phila. Section, ASCE

## Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

### Transportation Group

The Transportation Group has finalized its last two meetings for the 1999-2000 year. They are as follows:

#### March Meeting

**DATE: Wednesday, March 29, 2000**, Joint Meeting with the Construction Group

**SPEAKERS: F. Richard Kreck, P.E.**, Vice President, Urban Engineers and **Charles Odgers, P.E.**, Director of Construction, Delaware River Port Authority

**SUBJECT: The Recently Completed \$74 million Walt Whitman Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

#### April Meeting

**DATE: Thursday, April 13, 2000**

**SPEAKER: Tom Halterman, P.E.**, Project Manager, Urban Engineers, Inc.

**SUBJECT: SEPTA's Schuylkill Valley Metro**

This project looks to provide rail service in the 62-mile long corridor from Philadelphia to the Borough of Wyomissing via Norristown, Phoenixville, Pottstown and Reading.

Reservations are required for both meetings with seating limited to 50. Please contact either **Chris L. Rood, P.E.**, Transportation Technical Group Chairman at (215) 580-7586 or **John Quirus**, Younger Member Forum at (215) 790-2311 for reservations or if you have any questions.

Also, if anyone is interested in participating in the Transportation Group's planning for upcoming meetings/events, please contact **Chris L. Rood, P.E.**, Chairman, at (215) 580-7586.

## HSGTA 2000 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Announcing the High Speed Ground Transportation Association (HSGTA)

2000 Annual Conference in Philadelphia

Wednesday, May 10, 2000 to Saturday May 13, 2000

Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia

The Conference will highlight the inauguration of Amtrak's new Acela high speed rail service on the Northeast Corridor.

The Conference program includes:

- Developing Business Solutions for Mobility;
- Creating Infrastructure for Mobility;
- Providing Rolling Stock & Systems for Mobility;
- Expanding Mobility through Policy Innovation.

For additional information, contact: HSGTA, 1010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Suite 110, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 789-8107; email: [info@hsgt.org](mailto:info@hsgt.org).

## HUMPHREY FUND

### Scholarship Committee Report

Representatives of the Phila. Section, ASCE Scholarship Committee met on Tuesday, February 1, 2000. In attendance were **Ruben David**, **Bob Wright**, **Chris Rood** and **Tom Branigan**. The purpose of the meeting was to assess last year's process and to discuss the current year's direction.

It was agreed that last year's process worked well, although we would like to have participating from all of the schools this year. Tom will for-

ward an updated notice on the scholarships to all of the Faculty Advisors.

Also discussed was the development and implementation of additional scholarship directed toward dependents of dues paying Section members enrolled in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering Program. The Committee will meet again to develop this further with the intent of implementing it in 2001.

### PHILA. SECTION, ASCE OFFICERS 1999-2000

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Darin L. Gatti  
Sandra J. May

#### President - Faruq M.A. Siddiqui

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
APRIL 2000 ISSUE  
MARCH 16, 2000**

## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Christopher Menna, President & 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 **Chris Barber**, Armand Corporation at (609) 348-9430.

### Past Accomplishments

The Congressman Borski Meeting, which was to be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2000 was cancelled due to snow. We are currently trying to reschedule this meeting. In any event, the YMF would like to thank **Carol Martsoff**, Parsons Brinckerhoff for all of the hard work that she has done.

On **Tuesday, February 22, 2000**, the Engineers Club of Philadelphia and the YMF sponsored the **Fourth Annual Younger Engineers' Forum**, which was held at PECO Energy Headquarters in Center City. The theme of the event was "Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers". The featured guest was **John Zarsky, P.E.**, Parsons Brinckerhoff, who is the 2000 Delaware Val- Young Engineer of the Year. John is also the current YMF Past President, so this presentation was extra special for us. We were honored to have Mr. Zarsky as our distinguished guest. In addition, John was supported by panelists: **Yael Heller-Jekogian, P.E.**, AIG Consultants; **Carol Martsoff**; **Dr. Faruq Siddiqui, P.E.**, Philadelphia Section President; and **Brian Stover, P.E.**, Urban Engineers. Special thanks goes to **Sandra May**, **Christopher Menna**, **Carol Martsoff**, **Kristen Bowman**, **Mike McAtee**, and **Chris Barber** for making this event happen.

Several YMF members helped out with this year's Engineers' Week Mall Display. This joint ASCE/Engineers' Club activity took place on **Saturday, February 26, 2000** at the Gallery in Center City. YMF members helped out with judging, assisted with the students' activities, and also helped out with the ASCE information displays for the general public.

Our YMF sent two members to the **2000 Northeast Regional Younger Member Council** meeting held in Pittsburgh, PA on **March 3-5, 2000**. Participants included YMF President **Christopher Menna**, and Secretary **Christopher Barber**. 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 conference again 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.

(Continued on Page 4)

## FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

February 24, 2000

Harbor League Club, Camden, NJ

### "The Delaware River Aerial Tram"

By Bob Wright, Staff Writer

A capacity assembly of members, guests, and students, alumni and faculty of Temple and Villanova Universities, enjoyed the Annual Joint Dinner Meeting of the Philadelphia Section, ASCE and the South Jersey Branch, New Jersey Section, ASCE, at the scenic-surrounded Harbor League Club in Camden, NJ. The subject was "The Delaware River Aerial Tram Project," and the speaker was **Matthew Cummings**, Associate Vice President, Frederic R. Harris, Inc., and Project Manager for the Tram. The meeting was capably co-chaired by Phila. Section President, **Dr. Faruq Siddiqui, P.E.**, and South Jersey Branch President **Michael Fasnacht, P.E.**

### Temple and Villanova Universities Night

The meeting honored the ASCE Student Chapters, alumni and faculties of Temple University and Villanova University Civil Engineering Departments.

### Villanova's Growing Chapter

Villanova University ASCE Student Chapter Advisor, **Dr. Frank Falcone**, introduced distinguished faculty, including **Dr. Lewis Mathers**, Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department and long-time active affiliate of ASCE. Dr. Falcone reviewed the busy, progressive program of the 91-member Student Chapter, which includes regular meetings featuring presentations by noted officials from industry and governmental and private consulting firms, on environmental, geotechnical, construction, etc. subjects. Villanova is hosting the Annual ASCE Student Chapters Concrete Canoe Race Competition in April of this year; and the Chapter is participating in the Annual Steel Bridge Construction Competition. Theirs is indeed a vibrant agenda.

### President Schumacher Introduced

Villanova ASCE Student Chapter President **Kelly Schumacher** thanked her hosts for their courtesies, and presented her fellow officers: Vice President, **Joseph Savakinas**; Treasurer, **Peter Theisz**; Secretary, **Karen Kidd**; Social Chair, **Joseph Brisbane**; ASCE Representative, Engineering Joint Council, **Michael Scarola**. Miss Schumacher read an interesting original paper on the subject of Engineering Education, in which, among many other issues, she compared current teaching, curricula and general engineering educational methods with those of former years. She also cited analogies between education and business training in today's colleges and universities.

### The Temple University ASCE Student Chapter

**Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang**, current Phila. Section Director, and Chair of Temple's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, Faculty Advisor of the ASCE Student Chapter, briefly described the four-year accredited Civil Engineering courses in various specialties. He proudly acknowledged all the Temple students, alumni and faculty at the meeting — an impressive delegation indeed.

### President Yorkonis Speaks

Temple ASCE Student Chapter President **April Yorkonis** thanked the Phila. Section and South Jersey Branch hosts for their consideration and invitation, and introduced her fellow officers: Vice President (and Concrete Canoe Committee Chair), **Chris Herman**; Secretary, **Teresa Gillin**; Treasurer, **Douglas McInnes**; also Faculty, **Professor Stephen Jochum** and **Dr. James Matthews**. A large delegation of Temple Student Chapter members and alumni attended the meeting. In reviewing the numerous technical and communal involvement projects in the very busy agenda of the Student Chapter, Miss Yorkonis cited its intimate participation in the preparation and presentation ceremony of the Phila. Section Younger Member Forum's Mural on the Schuylkill Expressway at the Spring Garden Street ramp. The Chapter also participates in the Concrete Canoe Race and Steel Bridge and Beam annual competitions. It meets regularly, invites distinguished speakers, and conducts tours to major engineering projects.

### Hanly Presents Speaker

Section Treasurer **Dave Hanly** introduced the featured speaker, **Matt Cummings**, Associate Vice President of Frederic R. Harris Inc.'s Philadelphia office, and Project Manager for the Tram effort.

### The Basics of the Project & Historical Background

Cummings posed some basic questions which he noted he would answer through the presentation. The questions were: What is the Tram? Where will it be? Why is the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) sponsoring it?, and Is it really going to happen? In response to the last question, he noted that construction is slated to begin this summer.

Cummings gave a historical background on various methods used to traverse the Delaware River between Philadelphia and Camden. One hundred years ago, ferries were the only way to cross the river, with the bridges coming later. With the new waterfront vision of both Philadelphia and Camden, and the existing and planned attractions at Penns Landing and the Camden Waterfront, a new way for people to cross the river must be found. On the Penns Landing side, the Simon development of an entertainment center and hotel is underway at a cost of \$175 million. Camden has produced a master plan for sites to complement the Aquarium, including hotels, museums, a baseball park, and the Battleship New Jersey.

### Feasibility Studies and Alignments

DRPA engaged Harris in 1997 to assess the feasibility and projected usage of a cross-river tram, following the theme of "two cities, one waterfront." A total of four alternative alignments

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## February Joint Meeting

(Continued from Page 3)

were reviewed to find the one that would be most effective. The chosen option was the one which would start on the Philadelphia side at the top of the new parking garage being built as part of the Simon development, adjacent to the proposed location of the Please Touch Museum (between Chestnut Street and Market Street). The tram terminal will actually be in the second floor of the Museum. The design challenge was the integration of the tram terminal into the entertainment center complex.

On the Camden side, the tram terminal will be located at the foot of Market Street. A new building will be constructed to provide the terminal as well as space for gondola storage and the cable mechanism. This location will be centrally sited within the Camden Waterfront complex and will have a station of the South Jersey Light Rail line at its front door. Because the Camden Waterfront has several historic buildings, the terminal structure has to be carefully designed with this in consideration.

### Description of the Tram

The tram itself is a detachable gondola system, similar to ski-lift trams. Each gondola can hold eight riders and is fully heated and ventilated. The tram cars travel quickly, taking 5 to 8 minutes to make the one-way trip. The main cable span is 2000 feet, and this will clear the shipping channel vertically by 160 feet (compared to 135 feet at the Ben Franklin Bridge and 150 feet at the Walt Whitman Bridge). The support towers are 290 feet in height.

Mr. Cummings highlighted several engineering and environmental challenges offered by the project. The suspension system had to fully span the shipping channel, which is not in the center of the river but biased toward the Philadelphia side. This was fairly unique compared to similar trams such as the Roosevelt Island operation in New York City. The tramway is supported by this suspension system. Comprehensive wind tunnel testing was performed but concerns are mainly for rider comfort, not necessarily for structural considerations. The towers are designed for a vessel collision force of 30,000 tons, although only the New Jersey side tower is exposed to ship traffic directly. On the Pennsylvania side, the tower is behind the Penns Landing promenade bulkhead, but even so it had to be designed for a collision between ship and bulkhead which could have an impact on the tower.

Tower aesthetics were a prime consideration. Cummings displayed several alternates which were proposed. There was no intent to mimic those used on the Ben Franklin Bridge, since there was a desire to have a 21st century feel to the structures. The final selected design was one with tubular members and cable bracing, supported by four 6-foot diameter caissons.

Cummings outlined the agency coordination involved. With two states and a navigable waterway affected, there was no surprise that approximately 30 government agencies had to be con-

tacted and the project coordinated among them. Approval has been received by the Department of Environmental Protection, although there was some concern on the effects on endangered species in the Delaware River. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and distributed for public comment, with public hearings scheduled for March.

### Funding and Development

While DRPA is funding the bulk of the project, approximately \$8 million in federal funds is being provided through the Transportation Enhancement Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers the project a "major and unusual" one. It has been decided to develop the project as a design/build effort to speed procurement, although the FHWA requires a work plan prior to the start of any contracting.

The project is scheduled to go to the bidding phase in May, with a notice to proceed expected in the summer. Construction should be complete in two years.

Mr. Cummings closed his presentation with a computer simulation which gave views at various points along the tram.

### A Lively Question and Answer Period

Many interesting and penetrating comments were directed to our knowledgeable speaker. He addressed them forthrightly and unhesitatingly. It was a highly informative and professional presentation.

President Siddiqui thanked Mr. Cummings for his outstanding presentation, and promised that a token of appreciation would be forthcoming.

Jersey Branch President Fasnacht concluded the meeting.

## Younger Member Forum

(Continued from Page 3)

### Upcoming Events

Now is your time to continue leading 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, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President for College Contacts, Vice-President for Technical Groups, and Vice-President for Community Service. The time commitment is manageable and rewarding. Nominations may be given in advance to **Carol Martsoff** or at one of our upcoming meetings.

The YMF is proud to announce that it will again volunteer for Christmas in April of Philadelphia (CIAP) on **Saturday, April 15, 2000**. CIAP relies on volunteers each year to accomplish its mission — to prevent homelessness by rehabilitating the homes of elderly, disabled, and low income Philadelphia residents so they may continue to live in a warm, safe, and dry environment. This will be an excellent opportunity to do something rewarding for some of the less fortunate residents of Philadelphia. If you would like to participate, please contact **Chris Wright**, Frederic R. Harris at (215) 735-0832 ext. 293.

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE Phila. Section, ASCE 2000-01

In accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Section, the Nominating Committee appointed by **President Siddiqui** and chaired by Past President **Sandra May**, has submitted the following slate of nominees for elective office for the 2000-01 administrative year:

President – Thomas Branigan (moves from current President-Elect position automatically)

President-Elect – Chris Rood (one year as President-Elect followed by one year as President)

Vice President – Ruben David

Secretary – John Stone

Membership Secretary – Allan Moore

Directors – James Matthews (2 years)

William Mulloy (2 years)

Sheldon Kinbar (2 years)

Sean Markey (1 year unexpired term of Ruben David)

John Zarsky (1 year unexpired term of John Stone)

Non-voting assistant position candidates have been proposed, as follows:

Assistant Secretary – Christopher Menna

Assistant Treasurer – Mark Washington

Offices in which incumbents have one remaining year to serve are:

Treasurer – David Hanly

Director – Walter DeLury

Past Presidents to serve on the Board of Directors are:

Darin Gatti – one year

Sandra May – two years

Faruq Siddiqui – three years

The above slate was announced at the February 24 Section Meeting and will be announced again at the March 16 Section Meeting. If no additional nominations are received by the Section Secretary by **Friday, March 31, 2000**, the above slate shall be declared as elected at that time. The Officers will be officially installed at the Section's annual Spring Social & Dinner Dance on Friday, May 5, 2000 at Sugarloaf Conference Center.

The Section's appreciation is extended to the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Sandra May, Tom Branigan, Chris Rood, Dave Hanly, Bill Thomsen, Bob Wright and Sid Robin.

### Member Spotlight

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

**Jeannette Johnson**, E.I.T. is a Traffic Engineer employed by McCormick Taylor & Associates in Center City Philadelphia. In addition to doing traffic design, Jeannette also supervises entry-level engineers and interns. In this position, she is responsible for delegating, teaching, and checking the work of younger engineers. Jeannette is currently working on some interesting projects. She is responsible for the final design of the traffic control, signing, and striping for a section of S.R. 6220 (I-99) in PennDot's District 2 near State College. Likewise, Jeannette is respon-

(Continued on Page 5)

## SECTION TO BEGIN ARCHIVING OLD RECORDS

The Philadelphia Section has undertaken an effort to preserve its old files and archives. Since a loss of space at the former Engineers' Club several years ago, the Section has no formal repository for its many files.

To remedy this, the Section has agreed to permit the Urban Archives of Temple University to take its files, catalogue them, and preserve the contents. Under this arrangement, the Section will still retain access to the materials, while allowing the Urban Archives to use them for historical research and other purposes. This is a "win-win" proposition for the Section, as the materials will be under one roof once again and will additionally be protected and catalogued for us by the Urban Archives.

If you have any materials which you would like to transfer to the Archives, please contact **Bob Wright** through the Section Hotline, by direct telephone (215) 686-5538, or via e-mail [robert.wright@phila.gov](mailto:robert.wright@phila.gov). Bob will answer any questions you may have and instruct you on the archiving process.

Your help in this effort is greatly appreciated.

## Young Member Forum

(Continued from Page 4)

sible for the same scope of work for a new five-lane highway in Ferguson Township, PA. Other projects that she is involved with include: an Origin-Destination (O-D) Study for the City of Lebanon, PA as part of the Bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad, eleven traffic signal upgrades along Academy Road in the City of Philadelphia, and seventeen traffic signal upgrades along Tyson Avenue in the City of Philadelphia. Jeannette has a high level of responsibility on the Tyson Avenue Project. In addition to assisting with the project management, her duties include preparing the scope of work and cost estimate, client contacts, and coordinating with sub-consultants. Coincidentally, Jeannette is also lead engineer on the signal design, which includes interconnections along the corridor. Jeannette received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994. Her studies continued with the completion of a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering (Transportation Concentration) at the University of Pittsburgh in 1995. Jeannette's involvement continues on with her Alma matter, where she is Treasurer of the Greater Philadelphia Pittsburgh Alumni Club. Further, she is very involved with the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). Jeannette was Chair of the 1999 ITE District 2 Conference Committee and is a member of the 2002 ITE International Conference Committee. The 2002 Exposition will be held in Philadelphia. She is also an active member in YMF and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).

## SECTION TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO BYLAWS

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE, has proposed several minor changes to the Section Bylaws to permit the formation of "Technical Institute Chapters" within the Section. Basically, these revisions would provide for the creation of groups similar to the Technical Groups in the Section which would be adjuncts of National ASCE's Institute program. Currently, the Geo-Institute has requested such recognition at the Section level. As other Institutes are organized at the local level, the proposed changes would similarly permit their formation.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Section, any changes in Bylaws do NOT require voting approval by Section members but can be adopted by the Section Board of Directors. These changes are available to be reviewed by Section members. To avoid postage and printing costs, the Section Board has recommended that the proposed revisions be made available to interested members by request rather than a general mailing to all members. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposed Bylaws revisions, please contact the Section by mail at the post office box or leave a message on the Section Hotline and a copy will be forwarded to you.

The Board respectfully requests that all comments be received by **April 1, 2000** as action is expected to take place at the April Board meeting.

## TOYS FOR FUTURE CEOs

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following intriguing report was submitted by Section Past President Darin Gatti. He informs us that his favorite toys were Tonka Trucks (construction equipment was the best), and his Erector Set.*

How do you get to the top of corporate America? According to a survey of business leaders who began their careers as engineers, a good start might just be the right toy. While Furby, video games and remote-controlled cars may have been the hottest presents under the tree this past holiday season, parents looking to encourage a future captain of industry might do well to consider plain old Tinker Toys.

The informational survey, conducted by the national Engineers Week Committee, asked engineers who currently serve as corporate executives in a variety of large companies what toys sparked their love of engineering and, in turn, led to their leadership positions. According to interviews by the Committee, Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs, and chemistry sets were consistently named as childhood gifts that inspired them professionally.

"I loved Tinker Toys," said Glen A. Barton, whose devotion to the wooden dowels and hubs translated into an early engineering interest that led to his current position as vice chairman of Caterpillar.

For Dennis Dick, corporate vice president at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and general manager of its chemical division, it was the gift of a chemistry set that focused his engineering outlook. "The Gilbert chemistry set developed a strong interest in science and technology," he said. "That interest was the major factor in my decision to pursue a career in chemical engineering." He also recalled spending hours playing with an Erector set.

## CIVIL ENGINEER TAPPED TO HEAD WHARTON SCHOOL

University of Pennsylvania President Judith Rodin announced that **Patrick T. Harker** has been named dean of Penn's prestigious Wharton School of Business.

Harker, who has been serving as interim dean since the Fall, holds BS, MS and PhD degrees in Civil Engineering and a master's degree in Economics. The author of nine books and edited volumes, Harker has been Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Operation Research* since 1995.

Harker was selected after a 14-month international search in which more than 200 candidates were reviewed.

Harker's engineering background will stand him in good stead as he has vowed to focus on improving Wharton's use of technology. One of his initial tasks will be to engage faculty in discussions on how technology can be used to enhance educational programs.

The Phila. Section, ASCE salutes Patrick Harker on his selection and wishes him well in his new position.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Sue Lior Honored

Phila. Section, ASCE Past President (1988-1989) **Susan K. Lior**, Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Water Department, was recently honored by the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania at their "Take The Lead" 2000 Awards function. The award recognizes outstanding women achieving in science and technology. The organization applauds these women for their success in advancing the frontiers of knowledge, improving the quality of life, and helping to drive our local high-technology sector. The affair took place on March 7, 2000 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia.

The Phila. Section, ASCE extends its heartiest congratulations to Sue on her achievement of this prestigious recognition.

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## IMPORTANT! REMAINING 1999-2000 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.) THIS IS A TENTATIVE LIST.

**ALL DINNER MEETINGS** (except as noted): Cocktails - 5:30 pm; Dinner - 6:30 pm; Meeting - 7:30 pm


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, April 20, 2000**

"Three Gorges Dam Project, China" • Speaker: Jennifer Lin.  
Swarthmore College Night.

**Friday, May 5, 2000**

Annual Spring Social Dinner Dance • Sugarloaf Conference Center, Chestnut Hill, PA. Details to be announced.



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**JULY 10-14**

**JULY 17-21**  
Boarding available this session at additional cost.

**JULY 24-28**

**JULY 31-AUG. 4**

**AUG. 7-11**  
The School of Engineering reserves the right to cancel a session if the minimum number of students is not met.

**ALL DATES: 9am-4pm**

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For further information on this Widener University School of Engineering event, please call **Bryen E. Lorenz, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Engineering, ESC2000 coordinator, at (610) 499-4064, or email at [bryen.lorenz@widener.edu](mailto:bryen.lorenz@widener.edu); or call **Professor Charles Bartholomew**, Civil Engineering Department Chairman at (610) 499-4249/4042.

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