

the news



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Vol. 75-8

Our 89th Year

March, 2003

APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers
Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)
Philadelphia Chapter, American Public Works Association (APWA)

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2003

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA • 140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
Parking available at discount rate (coupons available at meeting) at Midtown Parking Garage,
1450 Sansom St. (directly across the street from the Union League)

COCKTAILS - 5:30 P.M. • DINNER - 6:30 P.M. • MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

SUBJECT: City Planning

SPEAKER: Dr. Gary Hack, Chairman, Philadelphia City Planning Commission

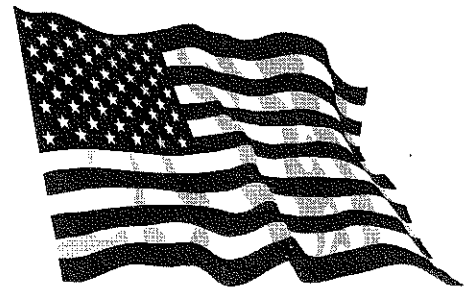
RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2003. Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$30.00 per member or guest, \$15.00 per ASCE Student Member, payable to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Phila., PA 19102-8186; or call the Electronic Message Center: 1-800-461-4190 (Open 24 hours/day) or e-mail the Section at info@asce-philly.org.

SPECIAL FEATURES: PAST PRESIDENTS' NIGHT & WIDENER UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA NIGHT - The ASCE Student Chapters, Alumni and Faculty of the Engineering Departments of Widener University and University of Pennsylvania will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited.



GARY HACK AICP is professor of city and regional planning, and dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the leader of a multi-disciplinary school, which includes architecture, landscape architecture, city and regional planning, fine arts, historic preservation and urban design. He teaches, practices and studies large scale physical planning and urban design. He is co-author of *Global Regional Cities* (with Roger Simmonds), *Site Planning*, 3rd Edition (with Kevin Lynch) and *Lessons from Local Experiences* (with Robert Eury), and numerous articles and chapters on the subject of the spatial environment of cities. Recently he has been one of

(Continued on Page 2)



United We Stand!

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Structural Group

April Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, April 17, 2003, 12-1:30 pm

SUBJECT: Design of Movable Bridges

SPEAKER: Dr. Charles Birnstiel, Ph.D., P.E.

LOCATION: Conference Room E, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th & JFK Blvd., Philadelphia, PA

PRICE: No charge for the lecture. ASCE Members \$12; Students \$6

Dr. Birnstiel is a Principal Associate with Hardesty and Hanover, LLP in New York City. Prior to that he was a Professor of Civil Engineering at New York University and at Polytechnic University. He is an expert on movable bridges. Before joining H&H in 1997, he led an engineering team that specialized, designed and constructed such bridges over rivers in USA.

Dr. Birnstiel will discuss applications of unusual and conventional movable bridges, including their design aspects.

Lunch will be served at Noon. Reservations are required as seating is limited.

For reservations, please contact Ali Khan, Ph.D., P.E., Chairman, Structural Group, at (609) 530-9618. Or call the Electronic Message Center: 1-800-461-4190 (Open 24 hours/day). Or send your check for \$12 to the Phila. Section, ASCE, P.O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-18186.

More Technical Group Activities
on pages 3 and 7

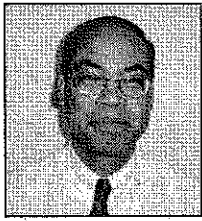
SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE Big Social Event of the Year is Coming Soon!

The Annual Spring Dinner Dance Social, Presentation of Awards and Installation of Officers. Music and dancing, fun and good fellowship.

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2003 • Sugarloaf Conference Center,
9230 Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill, Phila, PA
6PM • Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres

\$40.00 per person • RESERVE THE DATE • details in next month's issue of THE NEWS



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Volunteering in Civil Engineering ("Voice")

Dear Fellow Members in ASCE,

I am very happy to report that our March 20 Section meeting was a huge success. More than 200 guests attended it. It was the most attended Section meeting this season in the historic Union League of Philadelphia. A record number of Philadelphia Section/Chapter Technical Societies joined the dinner meeting. Joining were Women's Transportation Seminar, Society of Women Engineers, American Concrete Institute, Institute of Transportation Engineers and ASCE Reading Branch. This is part of our continuing effort to meet one of our goals for the Section, which is networking and communicating closely with our counterparts in the other fields of engineering and Technical Societies. It was a special night for women and for the Section's new Life Members of the ASCE. March is National Women's History Month. The meeting was well represented by women from the engineering communities, both public and private. It was fitting and an honor for the Section to be joined by two women who made recent histories. Attending were the first woman to be elected as National President-Elect in ASCE's 150 years of existence and the first woman to hold the position of General Manager of the fifth largest Transit Authority in the nation, SEPTA. They are **Patricia Galloway** and **Faye Moore**, respectively. The Section was also honored by the presence of ASCE Philadelphia Section members who attained personal milestone for being selected to the ASCE Life Membership in 2003. On behalf of the Section, I congratulate and salute them for their many years of continuing support of the ASCE and our profession.

I would like to thank **Carol Martsof** for her hardwork and initiative in preparing for this meeting. To **Bob Wright** and **Dave Hanly** for doing excellent job in greeting our guests. To **John Stone** for contacting and inviting the new Life Members. My personal appreciation to the Section Officers, Board members, committee chairs and their members who tirelessly devoted their time and effort for Volunteering in Civil Engineering (VOICE).

Our success should not stop here. This is not the last but rather a beginning. We should continue the momentum of our success and strive more and work harder for the interest and benefit of our society and profession in improving the quality of life. As my term as Section President comes to an end in May, I hope I met or exceeded your expectations of me as your leader. I believe we made progress in making our Section and profession more visible to the public through community volunteering, networking with other Technical Societies, welcoming non-technical people with open arms as guest speakers to our meetings and reaching out to our future leaders at middle and high schools students. Let us keep up the good work in the name of our Section and civil engineering profession.

The Section is looking forward to another successful Section meeting on **April 10, 2003** as we welcome **Dr. Gary Hack** of the University of Pennsylvania, our friends from Construction Management Association of America and American Public Works Association, and future Civil Engineers from University of Pennsylvania and Widener University.

Your comments and suggestions for the betterment of our Section are always welcome. Please contact me by phone at (215) 683-4477 or e-mail at ruben.david@phila.gov or write to me at Section's mailing address shown on the front of this newsletter.

Sincerely, Ruben D. David, P.E., President
Philadelphia Section, ASCE

April Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

the principal investigators on an international comparative study of how the form of cities has changed of the past 40 years, in response to the globalization of their economies, widespread motorization, and new communications technologies.

Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Hack taught for 25 years at MIT, and was a principal in the Cambridge Massachusetts firm of Carr, Lynch, Hack and Sandell.

He has prepared plans for over 30 cities in the US and abroad including, recently, the redevelopment plan for Prudential Center in Boston, the West Side Waterfront plan in New York City, and the new Metropolitan Plan for Bangkok, Thailand. He was responsible for the Hudson River Park at Battery Park City, a new 8 acre multi-use open space that is the principal amenity in that project. He is currently a member of the Studio Libeskind team that has submitted proposals for the World Trade Center site in New York. Earlier in his career he was responsible for the Canadian Govern-

ments housing and urban development research and demonstration programs, and initiated the development of several large neighborhoods and redevelopment of urban waterfronts in a number of Canadian cities.

He was educated in architecture at the University of Manitoba and the University of Illinois, where he also received his first planning degree, and has a Ph.D. in urban studies and planning from MIT.

Professor Hack is chairman of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, and a member of the Board of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Commission, the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the Landscape Architecture Foundation and Heritage Pennsylvania.

CALL FOR PAPERS!

2003 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium

Implementing Stormwater Management
- Integration of Planning, Regulation, Design, and Operations

(Continued on Page 4)

SECTION WEB SITE!

Our Section's web site has taken on a new look! Check us out at www.asce-philly.org. Make sure you bookmark this site to check on our latest meetings and events, links and much more! Comments and/or suggestions? Please contact us either via our Electronic Message Hotline at 1-800-461-4190 (24 hours a day) or e-mail at info@asce-philly.org.

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SEND COPY TO:

Sidney Robin
64 Nancy Drive
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APRIL 2003 ISSUE
APRIL 7, 2003

Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

Transportation Group

April Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, April 22, 2003, 11:45A.M. – Registration; Noon to 12:30 Lunch, 12:30–1:30P.M. Presentation

SUBJECT: Next TEA Legislation

SPEAKER: Mr. Charles Dougherty, Associate Director for Transportation Planning

LOCATION: Philadelphia Room at the Offices of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission(DVRPC), 111 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA

PRICE: ASCE Members \$10; Students \$5

DVRPC is the Philadelphia area's metropolitan planning organization (MPO). It encompasses the nine-county area including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer Counties in New Jersey. It has overall responsibility for preparation of both short-range and long-range plans for guidance of transportation planning, land use, storm water management and air quality.

One of DVRPC's principal roles is the management of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is prepared from input of the nine regional counties, four principal cities, and the state DOT's. Projects that use federal highway or federal transit funding must be on the TIP. Mr. Dougherty will discuss DVRPC's role in this process and how the coming federal transportation legislation will affect the region.

A buffet lunch will be served starting at Noon with the presentation beginning at 12:30 pm. Reservations are required. Seating is limited to 40. Please contact either **Dave Hanly** at (215) 735-0832 or **Chris Rood** at (856) 461-9565 if you have any questions and for reservations. Reservations are required by close of business on **Friday, April 18, 2003.**

Engineering Management Group and Construction Group

Joint Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 23, 2003, 12:00 noon

LOCATION: One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street (16th and Arch Streets), 18th Floor, Conference Room 18-022, Philadelphia, PA

PRICE: \$10.00. Students \$5.00.

SUBJECT: CON/SPAN Bridge Systems

SPEAKERS: Richard Tate and William Gray, BridgeTek Bridge Technologies, LLC

Richard Tate and William Gray will discuss BridgeTek's innovative precast modular bridge system. The program will include the installation process, local and national applications, hydraulic considerations, siting considerations, and other related topics.

For reservations, please contact **Dennis MacBride, P.E.** at (856) 768-7743 or **William Mulloy, P.E.** at (215) 656-6583 no later than **Wednesday, April 16, 2003.**

Please note that a photo ID is needed to enter the building

CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION

REGIONAL COMPETITION

APRIL 25-26, 2003

Lafayette will host the bridge competition. Drexel will host the canoe race.

We still need some judges for the Canoe Competition – contact **Darin Gatti** at (215) 686-5573, or email darin.gatti@phila.gov. **John Stone** is our chief judge and currently only confirmed judge, we would like five additional judges.

There will be a Balsa Wood Bridge Competition on Friday night, **April 25, 2003.** We will invite the high school to participate in this competition.

There will also be a Technical Paper Competition – Drexel has judges for this.

Saturday, June 14, 2003 – Clean up day at the Race site, between the Canoe Club and St. Joe's boathouse, just south of Strawberry Mansion Bridge. We are hoping that the YMF can help us coordinate this.

Wednesday, June 18, 2003 – At lunchtime we will put three of Drexel's canoes in the fountain as a publicity stunt. We will need help with displays (maybe some consultant displays depicting the type of work they do) and information posters and banners. We should also have information about the race.

Friday, June 20, 2003 – Block Party on Drexel Campus. Welcome party for the contestants.

Saturday, June 21, 2003 – VIP Dinner for Judges, Dignitaries and Sponsors on the Battleship NJ.

Sunday, June 22, 2003 – A Day at the Races

If anyone has any ideas or volunteers contact **Darin Gatti** at (215) 686-5573 or darin.gatti@phila.gov.

Engineering Management Group

May Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Friday, May 16, 2003, 12:00 noon

LOCATION: One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street (16th and Arch Streets), 18th Floor, Conference Room 18-022, Philadelphia, PA

SUBJECT: Telecommuting


SPEAKERS: Cecile Charlton, Executive Director, Delaware County Transportation Management Association

PRICE: \$10.00. Students \$5.00.

The many pros and cons of telecommuting will be discussed in this presentation. Telecommuting offers many advantages for both employers and employees. There is the opportunity for companies to save time and money. Employees have the opportunity to adjust their job schedules to fit personal needs. Telecommuting is also an important step in reducing traffic congestion on our highways.

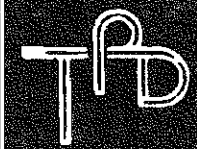
For reservations, please contact **Dennis MacBride, P.E.** at (856) 768-7743 or **William Mulloy, P.E.** at (215) 656-6583 no later than **Wednesday, May 14, 2003.**

Please note that a photo ID is needed to enter the building

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2003 SECTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPRING SOCIAL

Section Awards for the year 2003 will be presented to this year's recipients at the Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance on **Friday, May 2, 2003**. The Section Award recipients are:

- **Michael Griffin**, Hill International - Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Christopher Wright**, DMJM + HARRIS - Philadelphia Young Engineer of the Year
- **John Schuler**, PennDOT - Young Government Engineer of the Year
- **Michael Byle**, Gannett Fleming - Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- **Timothy Kruppenbacher**, DMJM Aviation - Construction Engineer of the Year
- **Catherine Chia-Calabria**, McCormick Taylor Associates - Structural Engineer of the Year

We hope you will join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year.

Future issues of THE NEWS will feature more information on the awardees as well as a synopsis of the Spring Social's events.

Stormwater Symposium

(Continued from Page 2)

Mission Statement

Villanova is again hosting the 2003 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium on October 16-17, 2003. The purpose of the symposium is to advance the knowledge and understanding of comprehensive stormwater management. Participants are expected to include Engineers, Planners, Water Resource Professionals, Regional, State and Local Government Representatives, Land Development Professionals, and Watershed and Conservation Groups. The symposium organizing committee is seeking potential speakers for the proposed sessions. Interested authors are encouraged to submit a brief abstract of not more than two pages by the **30th of May, 2003** (Papers are required). Papers will be published in the conference proceedings. Electronic and fax submissions are accepted.

Submit Abstracts to: Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; 2003 Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Symposium; Villanova University, Villanova PA, 19085; Fax - 610-619-6754; Email **Robert.Traver@Villanova.Edu**

For more details and a list of proposed sessions see The Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership homepage — <http://www.engineering.villanova.edu/ce/vusp/>

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 Director
 Construction Management
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 Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania
 USA 19462-1308
 Tel (610) 828-8100
 Fax (610) 828-6700
charles.mouzannar@amec.com

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Michael McAtee, PE

2002-03 YMF Vice President

Younger Member Forum Editor

Kristen Bowman, PE, 2002-03 President

Flow Science Incorporated

Two Penn Center, Suite 200

Philadelphia, PA 19102

(215) 854-6445

kbowman@flowscience.com

The Younger Member Forum (YMF) current membership includes college students, recent graduates, and young engineers including 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 developments.

Young engineers or college students who would like to become part of the YMF and to be added to the announcement list, please contact Alyson Lester, Urban Engineers, Inc. at secretary@ymfphilly.com or at (215) 922-8080. There are no fees to join!

Noteworthy Events

The Younger Member Forum arranged an informative meeting with former Congressman Robert Borski on Thursday, March 27, 2003. Congressman Borski, a lifelong resident of Philadelphia, joined us for the evening to share his insights on how engineers can be more involved in politics and improve our ability to affect legislation. The event was held at the Municipal Services Building, 16th floor, Conference Room X, and was free of charge! A light meal and refreshments was served at 6:00 PM, followed by the presentation at 6:30.

Through the end of March, the YMF accepted nominations for officers for the 2003-04 year. If you are interested in becoming involved or would like a list of officer descriptions, please contact Kristen Bowman at kbowman@flowscience.com.

The Drexel University ASCE Student Chapter is hosting the next Penn-Delaware Regional Conference on April 25-26, 2003, in Doylestown, PA. The Conference includes the Regional Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Competitions, a Balsa Wood Bridge Competition, several other design competitions, and a Student Chapter business meeting. The YMF will be assisting with several events in order to increase the practitioner-student interaction. If you are interested in helping out or learning more, please contact Kevin Aach at kaach@mbakercorp.com.

Spring is almost here, so it's a great time to start thinking about volunteering in your community! The YMF has once again arranged to assist Habitat For Humanity this year. The date of this volunteer effort will be Saturday, June 7, 2003, from 9AM to 4PM. The YMF is looking for 15 to 20 volunteers to assist Habitat repair a home in West Philadelphia. If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact John Federico, Urban Engineers, Inc., at jefederico@urbanengineers.com.

Member Spotlight

Are you a Younger Member who has recently worked on interesting projects? Are you interested in being featured in an upcoming YMF Spotlight? If so, contact Mike McAtee at mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com. The purpose of the Member Spotlight is to introduce a fellow YMF member to the Delaware Valley Engineering Community.

Jeff Given, EIT is a Project Manager for Loftus Construction, Inc., headquartered in Cinnaminson, NJ. LCI focuses on the construction of concrete structures, including bridges, culverts, dams, retaining walls, and heavy foundations. Their projects range from \$50K to \$5 Million. Jeff has been employed by LCI for six years, having started there during his senior year in college. He graduated from Drexel University in 1998 with a dual degree in Civil and Architectural Engineering.

At Loftus, Jeff's work encompasses a full spectrum, ranging from estimating projects to project management and corresponding with the client on a daily basis to ensure a successful project. One notable project in which he was involved was the Bridgetown Pike Rehabilitation in Langhorne, PA for PENNDOT. This project was recently awarded the 2001 ASHE Project of the Year Award and ABC's 2002 Project of the Year Award for projects in the \$5 to \$10 million range. Jeff is also heavily involved with the Metroplex Design/Build in Plymouth Meeting, PA, which was awarded ABC's 2002 Project of the Year Award for projects in the \$1 to \$3 million range. Currently he is involved with the replacement of a bridge for NJDOT over NJ Transit facilities, as well as the construction of a foundation for a prototype aircraft launching system for the Lakehurst Naval Center.

Outside of work, Jeff is a PIAA Wrestling Official. He is also an Active Member of ACI, ASHE, ASCE and the Younger Member Forum. He is an Alumni Advisor for Drexel's Concrete Canoe Race Team and a member of the Steering Committee that is hosting the 16th Annual National Concrete Canoe Race, scheduled to come to Philadelphia in June of 2003. Most recently, Jeff has become a member of the Young Alumni Board of Governors at Drexel University. When time permits, he volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. In what time is left in the day, Jeff enjoys Phillies games during the summer and Flyers and Eagles games during the winter. Jeff is currently a resident of Lower Bucks County, PA.

LIFE MEMBERS HONORED

At the March 20, 2003 Joint Dinner Meeting, ASCE Life Memberships were awarded to Phila. Section, ASCE, members. The presentations were made by Section Secretary John W. Stone.

The following Section members were in attendance at the meeting and received their Certificates of Life Membership in person: Joseph Callaghan, Charles Durkin, Putinas Masalaitis, Robert Schoenberge, Albert M. Tantal.

The following awardees were not present at the meeting. Their Certificates were mailed to

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Michael Baker Corporation (www.mbakercorp.com) provides engineering and energy expertise for public and private sector clients worldwide. The firm's primary services include engineering design for the transportation and civil infrastructure markets, operation and maintenance of oil and gas production facilities, architecture, environmental services, and construction management for building and transportation projects. Baker has more than 4,200 employees in over 30 offices across the United States and internationally. Locally, there are over 45 Baker employees between Philadelphia and Horsham.

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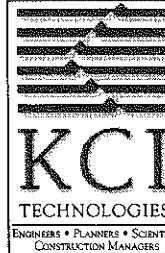
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The Philadelphia Section congratulates its newest Life Members on their achievement of this honor.

MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

March 20, 2003

The Union League of Philadelphia

"SEPTA's Vision"

By Bob Wright, Staff Writer and Sid Robin, Editor

An overflow audience of almost 250 members and guests of the five participating Engineering Societies; and Officers and members of the ASCE Student Chapter, Civil Engineering students, alumni and faculty of the Civil Engineering Department of Swarthmore College, attended a splendidly articulated presentation at the Joint Meeting at the Union League of Philadelphia in Center City. After a delightful steak dinner, cocktail and fellowship hour which preceded the formal meeting, the unusually large number of Societies in Joint Session heard the recently appointed General Manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA), **Faye Moore**, discuss the subject: "SEPTA's Vision." The participating Societies, in addition to the Philadelphia Section, ASCE, were: the Philadelphia Chapter, Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS); Philadelphia Section, Society of Women Engineers (SWE); Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute (ACI); and the Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).

The meeting was chaired — in his usual excellent manner — by Philadelphia Section, ASCE President **Ruben D. David, P.E.**, whose term of office enters its final two months in April. In his announcements prior to the Principal Speaker's presentation, Ruben paid tribute to women engineers, observing that it was indisputably appropriate for the meeting to be especially geared to the technologically accomplished women in engineering and their Societies, because March has been designated **Women's History Month**.

The meeting was generously sponsored by **STV Incorporated**, a full-service consulting firm offering planning, architecture, engineering, environmental and construction services. It has more than 1,300 professionals in offices across the United States, including Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. A representative of STV made brief remarks about his company. Philadelphia Section President David and officers and representatives of the other participating Societies made announcements of interest and importance to their respective organizations.

National ASCE President-Elect is Honored Guest

A special treat for the large and enthusiastic audience at the meeting was the presence and insightful remarks by recently elected ASCE National President-Elect **Patricia Galloway**, who next year will become the first female National ASCE President in its 150-year history, currently being celebrated by the Society — a historic achievement for Ms. Galloway.

In her remarks on National ASCE agenda, Ms. Galloway emphasized her overall vision of leadership and the vital roles Civil Engineers should play in political and technological decision-making processes. Her three principal objectives when she assumes the National ASCE Presi-

dency embrace the following: Public Policy; Ethics in Professionalism; and Globalization. Civil Engineers, she proclaims, are obliged to get involved in local and national politics; transportation and infrastructure development, and other major issues. Ethics in Professionalism is embodied in the ideals of attaining membership in one of the most prestigious professional organizations in the land, and maintaining the influence of that prestige and technological ability within the bounds of unassailable ethical principles. Globalization, said Ms. Galloway, entails the making of alliances within Local Sections of ASCE and chapters of other Technical Societies globally through Conferences and pursuit of mutual objectives and qualifications. Ms. Galloway harbors great pride in our profession — she is ordinarily proud to be a Civil Engineer!

Swarthmore College Night

The meeting honored the ASCE Student Chapter, alumni and faculty and Department of Civil Engineering of Swarthmore College. Philadelphia Section ASCE Past President (1999-2000) **Dr. Faruq M.A. Siddiqui**, Professor and Chair of Engineering at Swarthmore, and Faculty Advisor of the ASCE Student Chapter, thanked the Philadelphia Section, ASCE and the other participating Societies for the tribute and recognition afforded the Swarthmore Civil Engineering community. He reviewed the history of Swarthmore as a pioneering engineering school, and he is proud of the School's general engineering high national standing.

ASCE Student Chapter Co-President Speaks

Swarthmore ASCE Student Chapter Co-President **Michael Noreika** acknowledged the students, alumni and faculty in the audience and thanked the Joint Meeting Societies for their courtesies. He introduced his fellow Officers: Co-President, **Tim Lang**; Secretary, **Alex Flurie**; Treasurer, **Jesse Young**; and alumni, **Richard Mabry ('63)**, and **Daniel Hoenig ('72)**.

Mike described the 2002-2003 year, in which the Chapter experienced many educational and exciting events. These included rewarding community service projects, the National ASCE Student Conference, and Delaware Valley Engineers' Week activities. On March 23, 2002, the Chapter volunteered to paint the interior of a Philadelphia Halfway House for AIDS patients. Last June, Officers Jesse Young and Alex Flurie attended the National ASCE Student Conference in Madison, WI. During last February's National Engineers' Week in the Delaware Valley, activities consisted of an all-campus display of the happening of Swarthmore engineering, including several major student projects, a history of engineering at Swarthmore, and interviews with faculty members. For the past month, the Chapter has been working on the American Concrete Institute Model Beam Competition, a project in which Swarthmore consistently participates. It was the

winner last year of both the maximum load and best predicted load for specific deflection. Many other technical competition events and community projects participation are anticipated for the busy and progressive Chapter.

Carol Martsof Introduces Speaker

Philadelphia Section, ASCE Director **Carol Martsof** introduced the evening's Featured Speaker, **Faye Moore**, General Manager of SEPTA. In her introduction, Ms. Martsof noted that Ms. Moore is both the first woman General Manager in SEPTA's almost 40-year history as well as the first African American to hold this position.

Ms. Moore opened her presentation by thanking Phila. Section, ASCE President Ruben David for inviting her to speak. She added that he had told her the group would be 60 to 80 people, not the almost 250 of "his closest friends" that were in attendance.

Ms. Moore explained that she had prepared two versions of her speech. The first was the "exciting" version. As a result of recent events, she assembled another which she termed the "depressing" version. After some thought, she decided that she would deliver the "depressing" version.

SEPTA System Defined

She presented some facts and figures about the SEPTA system, the fifth largest transit agency in the United States. It serves a coverage area of roughly 2200 square miles, which encompasses the five-county Philadelphia metropolitan area as well as small areas of New Jersey and Delaware. It operates 2400 vehicles of several different types (buses, trolleys, trackless trolleys, rapid transit and commuter rail), which all must be maintained in serviceable condition. There are about 9000 employees. Its challenge is to provide transit service in an environment in which funding sources are rapidly dwindling.

Funding Challenges and Needs

Ms. Moore outlined her background and service, which has primarily been in the financial area at SEPTA (she served as the agency's treasurer for several years before moving to the General Manager position). Farebox revenues cannot cover all expenses. Subsidy funding and capital assistance are greatly needed, but in light of budget cuts at all levels of government, SEPTA must find more ways to be as self-sufficient as possible. With recent developments in the world, security has become a major concern, and costs for police and related services are correspondingly increasing.

Despite these factors, the challenge remains for SEPTA to respond to the transportation needs of the region. Ms. Moore cited one example of specialized late night service which could not be economically sustained. Even though there was a demand for this in several corridors, the cost could not justify it, especially on the labor-intensive Regional Rail system. The trend in decreased funding support does not bode well for this sort of service expansion in the future.

SEPTA Staff Praised

Ms. Moore applauded the talents of SEPTA's

(Continued on Page 7)

March Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

staff, especially the engineers, in the ongoing modernization and improvement of the system. She highlighted the model "station of the future", the Columbia/Cecil B. Moore station on the Broad Street Subway, which has many high-tech aspects that can be monitored from the Control Center at the Authority's Center City headquarters. She also hopes to be able to utilize local engineering talent on upcoming major "new start" projects such as the Schuylkill Valley Metro and other efforts to add "smart" aspects to existing vehicles.

Economic Impact and Financial Challenges

She explained that every dollar spent by SEPTA has a multiplier factor of 6, and therefore has a significant economic impact in the region. Over 90% of the dollars spent by SEPTA goes to companies within the Authority's service area. She added that SEPTA, like the rest of us, is affected greatly by economic realities. She has watched the rapid rise in fuel prices affect the budget, both in diesel fuel costs and electric energy needs. Similarly, labor costs have increased dramatically, led by major rises in medical coverage.

Customer Relations Necessities

Consistent with the theme of the meeting, "SEPTA's Vision", Ms. Moore explained that she continually stresses customer friendliness to her employees, and recognizes the critical need to give as accurate as possible service and delay information clearly to customers. She referenced the recent Regional Rail difficulties, which are directly related to aging infrastructure (70-year-old overhead catenary, which is currently being replaced).

Question and Answer Discussion

Ms. Moore responded to several probing questions and comments on the feasibility of late night service, the anticipated effect of upcoming budgets on fares, ways to entice more ridership, and whether a fuel surcharge could be applied to fares to offset rapid fuel and other costs increases which are "soaring through the roof," while fare rate income and capital projects and maintenance subsidies from State and Federal agencies remain frozen - or even reduced - a daunting challenge.

Section President-Elect **Allan Moore** closed the meeting with remarks of interest. Along with President David and Director Carol Martsof, he thanked Ms. Moore for her insightful presentation. Ms. Moore was presented Gifts of Appreciation from both the Women's Transportation Seminar and the Phila. Section, ASCE.

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Delaware Valley Geotechnical Institute

April Dinner Meeting

SUBJECT: Diaphragm Wall Construction for the New United States Capitol Visitor's Center

SPEAKER: Mr. Fred Tarquinio, P.E.,
Nicholson Construction Company

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2003

LOCATION: Wyndham Valley Forge, 888
Chesterbrook Blvd., Wayne, PA 19087

TIME: 5:30 social hour, 6:30 dinner, 7:15
presentation

Fred Tarquinio, P.E. of Nicholson Construction Company will be speaking at the April 2003 dinner meeting on the subject of diaphragm wall construction for the new United States Capitol Visitor's Center (CVC) in Washington, D.C. Nicholson was contracted by Centex Construction to install 128,000 sq. ft of reinforced diaphragm wall and 600 temporary anchors for support of excavation for the new CVC. The CVC will be located underground on the East Front of the

Capitol. When completed, the building will contain 580,000 sq. ft. on three levels, requiring a 196,000-square-foot excavation. The Capitol itself encompasses 775,000 square feet.


The diaphragm wall foundation will act as permanent water cut-off and structural wall to the three-level structure. The support of excavation system will be the combination of the diaphragm wall, temporary tiebacks and cross bracing. The original construction sequence called for a top-down sequence with potential impacts to the schedule due to the contemporary installation of caissons and diaphragm wall. Nicholson/Centex proposed a revised construction sequence using a bottom-up sequence outlining the advantages to the schedule and cost savings. The revised sequence was approved by the Owner for final construction.

Fax form to **Ms. Lee Stanish** at (610) 277-7932. [Voice: (610) 277-2950]. Send check, payable to DVGI, to **Frank Vibbert**, Schnabel Foundation Co., Inc., 315 Hertzog Blvd., King of Prussia, PA, 19406 as soon as possible to confirm reservation. The cost is \$30 per attendee, students \$5 for the first 20 students.




Karen Jehanian, PE
President

p: 610-896-1996 355D Lancaster Avenue
f: 610-896-8002 Haverford, PA 19041-0157
e: kjehanian@kmjinc.com www.kmjinc.com



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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We have expanded our Section Sponsorship program this year. Many of our local firms have responded to this. These firms have made the commitment and their business cards are included in the pages of THE NEWS.

If your firm has not already decided to become a Section Sponsor, we hope you will review the many benefits available to our sponsors, and we welcome your support. We are sure you would like to see your firm's card along with the others in THE NEWS.

To those of you have decided to become a Section Sponsor, we offer our collective "Thank You", and we look forward to your continued support. This support helps the Phila. Section provide our various activities and programs for our membership. This indirectly helps our community as well, as we continue to expand our outreach programs to "spread the word" as part of our VOICE (VOLunteering In Civil Engineering) effort.

Various benefits are available to your firm as a Section sponsor. Your business card appears in THE NEWS, and this remains the most visible evidence of your support. If you have attended any of our Section meetings thus far, you have also seen our poster with your logo on it prominently displayed in the meeting room.

Several of you have taken advantage of the Meeting Sponsor opportunity available to Section sponsors. As such, you are welcome to bring company representatives, literature, displays, handouts, and "give-aways" at a specific meeting at which your firm will be featured. If you have not yet signed up to sponsor an upcoming meeting, and would like to do so, please let us know. We have four Section meetings remaining this season and not all have been slated for sponsors.

You are able to place two employment want ads on the Section website during the season, free of charge. Again, if you require this service, we can offer it to you.

You are eligible for two free dinners at any Section meeting during the season, not including the Spring Social. And, speaking of the Social (it is literally right around the corner, **May 2, 2003**), your business card ad will be included in the event program for our annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance. This year, the Social will highlight our 90th Anniversary.

We hope this reminder is useful for you, and we hope you will take full advantage of the benefits your firm has as a Section sponsor. We thank you for your continued assistance and generosity in this regard.

"When I was a teenager," complained the frustrated father, "I was disciplined by being sent to my room without supper. But my son has his own color TV, phone, computer, and CD player." "I send him to MY room!"

HELP WANTED

The Phila. Section, ASCE, needs your help! Become a volunteer for a Section Technical Group or following committees (see list on page 10).

Administrative Committees: Awards and Prizes; Professional Practice/150th Anniversary; 150th Anniversary. **Standing Committees:** Nominating; Humphrey Fund Trustees. **Special Committees:** Bylaws; Audit; Membership; Diversity and Women in Civil Engineering; Government Affairs; History and Heritage; Program; Publications; Website; National Society Awards; Phila. Section Awards; Scholarships; Educational and Outreach; Public Relations; Community Services; Delaware Valley Science Fairs; Delaware Valley Engineers' Week; Salary and Benefits Survey; Annual Spring Social; Sponsorship.

For further details, please contact Section President **Ruben D. David** either by:

E-mail: ruben.david@phila.gov

Rubendavid2@juno.com

Phone: (215) 683-4477 or 1-800-461-4190

THE PHILADELPHIA SECTION E-NEWS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MAIL


The Phila. Section, ASCE Board of Directors is currently exploring ways to reduce the Section's operating expenses while continuing to provide a high level of service to the membership. One possible reduction method we are considering is to offer our membership the opportunity of receiving THE NEWS via e-mail vs. through the US Postal Service. If you opt for e-mail delivery, your copy of THE NEWS should arrive 7-10 calendar days ahead of the US Postal Service delivered version. E-mail delivery will not only be quicker than the current method, but it will save the Philadelphia Section considerable printing and mailing charges as well. Another advantage with an electronic version is that you can forward THE NEWS to others interested in our Section's activities. E-mail receipt of THE NEWS will require downloading a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 with receipt of your first edition of THE NEWS.

At this time we are providing members with a survey form to elicit their opinion of how they would like to receive THE NEWS in the future. **If we do not hear from you we will assume that you want the USPS option.**

- E-mail THE NEWS to me @ _____
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Your e-mail address is necessary since we are updating our database and it will help us to better serve you. You can: call in your response to the survey at **1-800-461-4190** (24 hours a day); e-mail your response to us at info@asce-philly.org or mail your response to PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186.

Be sure to include your name, address, e-mail address(es), if applicable, and your ASCE Membership ID Number with your preference.



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