

# the news



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The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Vol. 76-4

## Our 90th Year

February 2004

### JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

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

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

WYNDHAM HOTEL • Route 73, Mount Laurel, NJ  
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT:** Rehabilitation of Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) Tubes – Exchange Place to World Trade Center

**SPEAKERS:** J. William Vigrass, Project Manager, Hill International, and Michael V. Griffin, P.E., Senior Vice President, Hill International

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2004.** Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$30.00 per member or guest, \$15.00 per ASCE Student Members, 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](mailto:info@asce-philly.org).

**SPECIAL FEATURE:** TEMPLE UNIVERSITY AND ROWAN UNIVERSITY NIGHT — The ASCE Student Chapters, Faculty and Alumni of Temple University and Rowan University will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited to attend.

The events of September 11, 2001 in New York City resulted in the severing of the Port Authority Trans Hudson's (PATH) rapid transit line from Exchange Place in Jersey City to the World Trade Center, also known as the "downtown" line. The Trade Center terminal was heavily damaged, but the tunnels which carry PATH trains beneath the Hudson River were also affected by flooding from water main breaks in New York City and firefighting at the Trade Center site. The tunnels were left unusable, forcing nearly 100,000 daily PATH riders to find alternate means to continue their trips from the New Jersey side of the Hudson River to New York. A second PATH route, the "uptown" line to midtown Manhattan, became severely overcrowded as a result of this closure. The immediate prohibition of private auto entry into lower Manhattan after the events of September 11 only compounded the situation, as many who formerly drove now sought transit alternatives.

PATH's governing body, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PA), and, ironically, the principal tenant and one-time owner of the World Trade Center, worked feverishly to re-establish the "downtown" link. The first order of business was the clearance of the Trade Center site, but the tunnels, track, signals, etc. would have to be rehabilitated and ready for service when the new Trade Center terminal would be available. PATH also had to find over \$500 million in funding to pay for the work.

Messrs. Vigrass and Griffin will outline the work and how it was completed on an accelerated schedule. An operational headache was resolved on the New Jersey side, with the completion of new tunnels to allow trains to turn back at Exchange Place. The original layout of the line, dating to 1908, did not provide this flexibility. With the new facilities in place, limited service was resumed from PATH's New Jersey terminals to Exchange Place on April 29, 2003. Full service to the new World Trade Center temporary terminal was begun on November 23, 2003.

J. William Vigrass has over 50 years in the transportation industry. For the past 15 years, he has served as a Project Manager for Hill International. He is currently a member of a team led by STV Inc. planning fixed guideway transit in southern New Jersey for the Route 55 Transit Corridor

(Continued on Page 2)

### REMINDER — SEND YOUR SID ROBIN STORIES

Starting with the March edition of THE NEWS, we will publish the first batch of your recollections of Sid Robin. As we promised at the beginning of the season, we would like to offer a tribute to Sid in the newsletter which he ran for over 60 years. We think we have enough to fill at least two installments of this feature right now, but we can always use more. These can be serious, humorous, whatever — Sid, as many of you know, was a many-faceted person, and we welcome the opportunity to illustrate each of his facets.

Thanks to those of you who have sent in stories so far. If you have one, or a few, or whatever, please feel free to send them to us, either at the Post Office Box or via e-mail ([info@philly-asce.org](mailto:info@philly-asce.org)), and we'll get them in THE NEWS.

### TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES Engineering Management Group

Joint Meeting with the Transportation Group  
March 2004 Luncheon Meeting

**SUBJECT:** Management of the NJ Transit  
Commuter Car Procurement

**SPEAKER:** Christopher J. Holliday, P.E.,  
STV Incorporated

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2004,  
12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Municipal Services Building, Conference Room C; 15th & JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

**PRICE:** \$10; Students \$5 (Includes buffet lunch)

New Jersey Transit (NJT) initiated major new vehicle fleet procurements in 1999. It engaged a consultant, STV Inc., to provide engineering support and inspection services for the simultaneous procurement of three different rolling stock fleets: 265 locomotive-hauled Push/Pull type coaches (including 100 cab cars), 33 7000-HP electric locomotives, and 29 4000-HP diesel electric locomotives.

STV performed in the role of oversight and specification compliance assurance along with the day to day management of the documentation

(Continued on Page 8)



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASCE Friends,

It looks like the winter weather is firmly upon us and like most of you, I anxiously await the warmth of spring. We were fortunate to escape the snow during our January Joint Meeting with the **American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE)**. Hopefully, we will be just as lucky in February when we meet with our friends in the **South Jersey Branch of ASCE**. We are looking forward to an enlightening presentation on the Rehabilitation of PATH's World Trade Center Station, which reopened on November 23, 2003 after a 15 month restoration following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Be sure to reserve your spot right away.

Another important event we celebrate in February is **National Engineers Week**. It will be held this year from **February 20 thru 28, 2004** beginning with the **Proclamation Luncheon on February 20, 2004** at the Union League. The mission of Engineers Week is to "coordinate and support activities that celebrate the engineering profession's contributions to society through outreach, education and leadership, and recognize extraordinary achievement and service." **Matthew Burns, P.E.** will officially be honored as the **2004 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year**. In addition, **Michael McAtee, P.E.**, who is the current President of our Younger Member Forum, will be recognized as the **2004 Young Engineer of the Year**. There will also be other awards and scholarship presentations for local engineering achievements, teachers and students. Please make it a point to come out and show your support for Matt and Mike as well as our engineering community by participating in some of the activities that are scheduled during the week. We commend **The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council** for organizing the various local activities in support of National Engineers Week.

National Engineers Week is probably one of the best opportunities for engineers from various disciplines throughout our country to increase public awareness of the Engineering Profession. Once again, I encourage you to get involved and participate in the activities that promote our profession. Use National Engineers Week as a springboard for your own contributions to the Engineering Profession. Become more active in ASCE. Attend a meeting. Mentor a student. Promote engineering in your community by joining a neighborhood committee or participating in career day activities at your local school. These are small things we can all do to advance our profession. Help shape the future of Civil Engineering in our community and our country.

Sincerely,  
Allan F. Moore, Jr., P.E.  
President - Philadelphia Section, ASCE

## February Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

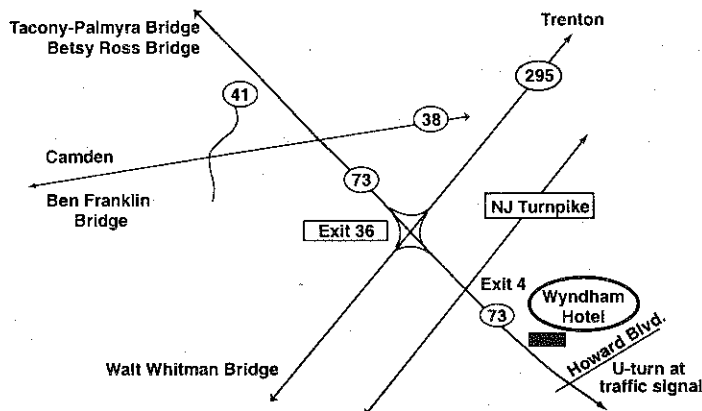
Study. In addition to the PATH project, he has served on project teams for transit and railroad efforts in Philadelphia, South Jersey, the St. Louis area, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Over a period of 20 years, Mr. Vigrass held positions at the Port Authority Transit Corporation. He was Assistant General Manager/Administration, with oversight of operations, from 1984 to 1988, when he retired from PATCO. He worked in the railroad industry from 1948 to 1963 and served as Associate Chief of Transportation Economics and Planning at the Battelle Memorial Institute from 1963 to 1968.

**Michael V. Griffin, P.E.** is a Senior Vice President of Hill International and is responsible for all project management consulting services offered from Hill's Philadelphia Office, covering the mid-Atlantic portion of the United States. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the planning, design, and construction of major building, transportation, and heavy civil construction projects. He has managed Hill's Philadelphia Office for the past two years and has been actively involved in the management of Mayor Street's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative Program.

Mr. Griffin was cited as the Section's Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year in 2003.

## MAP to the WYNDHAM HOTEL, Mount Laurel, NJ



## SECTION WEB SITE!

Our Section's web site has taken on a new look! Check us out at [www.asce-philly.org](http://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](mailto:info@asce-philly.org).

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**COPY DEADLINE FOR  
MARCH 2004 ISSUE  
FEBRUARY 16, 2004**

**WILL HEISER**

Section Past President **Will Heiser** passed away on October 9, 2003, in his retirement home in Crossdaile, North Carolina. He was 86.

Mr. Heiser was employed by Justin and Courtney Engineers, a Philadelphia-based engineering firm which specialized in water resources. He was active on both the domestic and international scenes. He worked on the Bhakra Dam in Lahore, Pakistan, and on smaller dams and irrigation projects in Iran and South Korea.

Mr. Heiser served as President of the Philadelphia Section in 1976-77 and was selected as the Section's Outstanding Civil Engineer in 1979. His tenure as Section President was especially notable as it encompassed the Bicentennial Anniversary of the United States. The Section made its mark in that celebration as it hosted the ASCE National Convention (September 27-October 3, 1976). Mr. Heiser played the role of Convention host to perfection.

Mr. Heiser was instrumental in the creation of the Section's Reading Branch, which came into being in 1975.

Mr. Heiser is survived by his wife, Audrey, who for many years headed the Section's Women's Auxiliary, and their children Marcia, David (JoAnn), and Charles (Donna).

**MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING**  
Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, and  
Delaware Valley Chapter, American Concrete Institute  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004**

UNION LEAGUE • Broad and Sansom Streets, Philadelphia  
Cocktails - 5:30 p.m. • Dinner - 6:30 p.m. • Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

**SUBJECT: Green Concrete**

**SPEAKERS: Jamie M. Phillips, A&E Market Manager, St. Lawrence Cement**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004.** Please send your check for the number of attendees @ \$30.00 per member or guest, \$15.00 per ASCE Student Members, 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@ascephilly.org.

**SPECIAL FEATURE: SWARTHMORE COLLEGE NIGHT.** The ASCE Student Chapters, Faculty and Alumni of Swarthmore College will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited to attend.

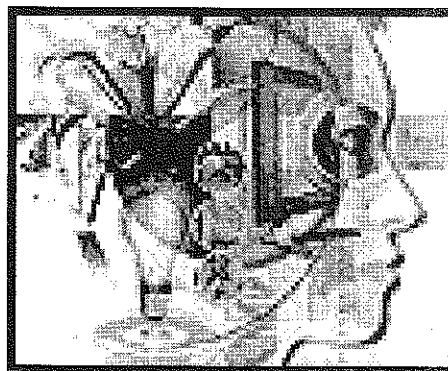
**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

The ASCE, Phila. Section's March Dinner Meeting will also feature our newly-inducted **Life Members**. This has become almost an ASCE, Phila. Section tradition over the last several years. We will be contacting those of you who will have achieved this honored level of membership this year to invite you to this meeting as a guest of the Section.

In April, we will celebrate another "up and coming" tradition with another feature, **Past Presidents Night**. All Section Past Presidents will

be invited to attend as guests of the ASCE, Phila. Section. Last year, we were proud to have nearly twenty Past Presidents in attendance.

We hope you can attend each of these meetings to help us recognize our new Life Members and our Past Presidents.



**Introduce a Girl  
to Engineering Day 2004  
Thursday, February 26**

For 2004, the fourth year for the National Engineers Week "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day," our goal is to have 125 organizations mobilize as many women in engineering as possible — a target of 11,000 — who, along with their male colleagues, will reach more than one million girls.

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with life and think you would  
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think of algebra.**



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## YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by Asha Maliakal  
Forum Editor

**Michael McAtee, PE**  
2003-2004 President

Urban Engineers, Inc.  
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 922-8081  
mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com

The Younger Member Forum (YMF) membership includes college students, recent graduates and young engineers, including Registered Professional Engineers, who are 35 years of age or younger. The objectives of the 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 and be added to the announcement list should contact **James Markham** of Pennoni Associates, at [secretary@ymfphilly.com](mailto:secretary@ymfphilly.com) or at (215) 222-3000. *There are no fees to join!*

### Recent Accomplishments

On **December 16, 2003**, YMF members of legal age gathered at Lucy's Hat Shop in Olde City for a night of drinks and free food. The 25 Happy Hour attendees enjoyed an evening of pool, cheese and a special business card raffle. Thanks to **James Markham** for organizing the event.

On **January 14, 2004**, the Younger Member Forum, in conjunction with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Young Members, sponsored a lunch-time professional development seminar. Twenty-five young engineers from the region participated in ASCE'S live online interactive web seminar titled "From Project Engineer to Project Manager: Look Before You Leap." The event was generously hosted by **Urban Engineers**, who paid for the seminar and provided lunch. Thanks to **Alyson Lester, Thom May and Mike McAtee** for organizing this event. The YMF hopes to continue to provide our members with professional development opportunities. Contact **Anita Menegaux** at [amenegaux@ephconsultants.com](mailto:amenegaux@ephconsultants.com) if you would like to suggest a future professional development event.

The **8th Annual YMF Winter Social** was held on **Thursday, January 22, 2004**, at McGillin's Olde Ale House. With over 100 people in attendance, it was the most successful YMF event to date! The event provided the younger engineering community with a great opportunity to network, catch-up with friends and meet other YMF members from the area. With help from local engineering companies, the Social featured another amazing raffle with numerous chances to win. The raffle raised hundreds of dollars for the Greater Philadelphia Foodbank! Many thanks to the Winter Social Sponsors: **Bentley, EPH Consultants, DMJM+Harris, Edwards & Kelcey, Hilti, Malcolm Pirnie, McCormick, Taylor & Associates, McMahon Associates, Michael Baker Corp., Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Pennoni Associates, Schnabel Engineering, STV, Traffic Planning & Design, Urban Engineers, URS Corp.** and

**Vollmer Associates.**

On **February 3, 2004**, the YMF held a Stormwater Management Seminar at Villanova University. Fifteen young engineers gathered to hear **Dr. Robert Traver, P.E.** discuss the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership. As the Director of the Partnership, and an Associate Professor at Villanova, Dr. Traver was able to enlighten the attendees on the mission of the PaDEP funded Partnership: to advance the evolving comprehensive stormwater management (SWM) field and to foster the development of public and private Partnerships through research on innovative SWM Best Management Practices, Directed Studies, Technology Transfer and Education. In addition to an interesting lecture and discussion, attendees also enjoyed the free food and beverages provided by the YMF. Thanks to **Jeremy Colello** for planning this event.

### Upcoming Events

On **Thursday, March 4, 2004**, the Philadelphia 76ers will take on the NBA's top team, the Sacramento Kings and the YMF will be there to witness the action! Don't miss out on this opportunity to watch Iverson and company take on the NBA's elite! Tickets costing only \$36 will include a seat in the lower 200 level and a coupon redeemable for one soda, one hot dog, one bag of popcorn and a Sixers baseball cap! For more information, or to RSVP, please email [RSVP@YMF.philly.com](mailto:RSVP@YMF.philly.com) by **February 10, 2004**. Tickets are going fast, so be sure to reserve your seat before they're all gone!

### Announcements

**College Outreach...** The YMF is looking for volunteers to participate in discussion sessions with Civil Engineering students at local colleges. No preparation is required! Using personal experience, volunteers will help inform students of what to expect after graduation and will respond to questions and concerns from students. If you would like to volunteer as a speaker, please contact **Joe Platt** at [JPlatt@trafficpd.com](mailto:JPlatt@trafficpd.com) or (610) 326-3100.

### Member Spotlight



**Christopher J. Menna, P.E.**, is a Senior Projects Engineer for the City of Philadelphia, Department of Streets, Bridge Section. As a Senior Projects Engineer, Chris' main responsibility is the management of bridge and retaining wall design projects all over the City. Chris also helps oversee the structure rating program for the City's 160 bridges and culverts. In addition to his other responsibilities, Chris helps manage the oversize/overweight hauling permit program for the City. This program seeks to ensure that potentially oversize/overweight vehicles do not damage City structures. Lastly, Chris is the programmer for the light system on the Strawberry Mansion Bridge in Fairmount Park. So be sure to check out the lightshows! Chris has been with the Department of Streets for almost seven years. Prior to that, he



worked for Gannett Fleming, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and two heavy-highway contractors.

In 1992, Chris graduated from Spring Garden College with an Associate of Science in Civil Engineering Technology. From there, he transferred to Temple University and graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering two years later. From 1995 to 1999, Chris attended Villanova University part-time at night to earn a MS in Civil Engineering. Chris first joined ASCE while at Temple and has been hooked ever since.

Chris is active in several professional organizations including ASCE, the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley Engineers' Week Committee. Over the past several years, Chris has donated much of his time to the YMF, serving in various roles. It all started in 1995, when Chris volunteered to be on the publications committee for then YMF President Allen Cadden. This position led to Chris becoming the YMF editor for seven years, which springboarded him into the YMF Vice-President, President and then Past-President positions. Following his term as YMF president, Chris became more active in ASCE, joining the Zone I Committee on Younger Members and becoming an ASCE Section Director. With only one and a half years as a Director under his belt, Chris was recently chosen to replace our own Walt DeLury as Section Vice-President for the remainder of this year. Chris is now in line to become Section President in two years. Though Chris will be one of the youngest Section Presidents when he is appointed, he has earned the respect and trust of his peers due to many years of dedicated service to the YMF, the Section, and ASCE National.

Outside of work, Chris is very active with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Sons of Italy. As a Boy Scout scoutmaster for a troop of twelve boys, Chris' continues a dedication to the Boy Scouts that has spanned over 20 years. The year 2004 will be a big one for Chris. A lifelong resident of South Philly, Chris will soon be formally engaged and will begin renovations on a newly purchased home in Roxborough.

*Good luck Chris!*

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A partial list of speakers includes: Dr. Roy Meyer, NJDEP; Dr. George Koerner, PE; Geosynthetic Institute; David Smith, PE; Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute; Lisa Westerfield; US Building Green Council; John Henderson, PE; Mirafi Construction Products; Ward McMasters, PE; Earth Engineering, Inc.; Bart Shippee, PE; Gilmore Associates; Louis Ricca, OSHA Assistant Regional Administrator, Region 2

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## JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

January 14, 2004

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge

### "Moving Pennsylvania Forward"

By Bob Wright, Interim Editor and James Markham, Staff Writer

A turnout of nearly 250 braved the threat of snow for this joint meeting co-sponsored by the Delaware Valley Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE), the ASCE, Philadelphia Section, and ASCE, Reading Branch. The joint ASHE/ASCE meeting, which has been held for more than a dozen years, proved to be another successful venture for both societies.

ASHE Section President **Alan Pizzi** opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees with introductions of those at the head table. A short invocation was offered by Section Past President **Ruben David**, followed by announcements on Engineers Week activities offered by ASHE National Director **Richard Prentice**. ASCE, Phila. Section President **Allan Moore** provided some Section announcements and cited the meeting's sponsor, **STV Incorporated**. He also introduced PennDOT District 6 Executive **Andrew Warren**, who presented the evening's speaker with his usual short, humorous banter.

#### The Secretary of Transportation

The Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, **Allen Biehler**, took the podium and began his presentation by citing the many PennDOT employees in the audience. He emphasized that the success of PennDOT is dependent on the men and women of the agency, especially at the District level. He added that he was relieved that the District's maintenance people were not at the meeting since they had to prepare for the impending snow event.

Secretary Biehler explained that the State Transportation Commission, which oversees PennDOT's work, was starting to update its Twelve-Year Program, as it does biennially. Public hearings have been held throughout the State on this, which is PennDOT's long-range funding vehicle. The many and varied transportation needs of the citizens of Pennsylvania are difficult to meet, however, especially when needs are greatly in excess of revenues. The current view of the Twelve-Year Program is attempting to address how to deal with this discrepancy.

Population trends in Pennsylvania, as in many other states, have seen an exodus out of cities into newly-developing areas. This decentralization, or sprawl, is having a significant impact on the needs side of the equation, as new roads must be provided to new developments. Since many commuters are still traveling long distances and using existing facilities that must also be maintained with State funding, the challenge remains as to how to spend the limited resources available.

Secretary Biehler displayed a chart showing population trends versus undeveloped land in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area over the past 70 years. While the population has stayed at 2.5 million throughout that period, its concentration in the city itself in 1930 is vastly different from the current situation in which it is spread over the entire nine-county area. A similar trend was shown

for Philadelphia, although the overall population has grown in our area.

#### And Then There's Transit...

Secretary Biehler noted that there are underutilized transit corridors and lines that often parallel crowded highways. He demonstrated the local example of I-76, the Schuylkill Expressway, that is close to SEPTA's R5 Paoli/Thorndale, R6 Norristown and R6 Cynwyd regional rail lines as well as its Route 100 Norristown high-speed rail line. Many of those who could use the SEPTA lines have moved further away from them, making them less convenient. The transit lines do not easily adapt to serve new centers of residential and commercial development, and much of the population that once lived near and used the lines have relocated. He gave another example of how the King of Prussia mall/office complex is not close to SEPTA regional rail.

Past funding trends had available federal highway and transit dollars at nearly equal amounts nationally from the late 1950s until 1978. Since then, federal legislation has greatly favored the highway side. Unfortunately, this has left many transit needs unmet and has resulted in budgetary and other difficulties for transit authorities. Secretary Biehler explained that, while more equity is needed for transit funding, this could undermine basic levels of highway dollars and possibly leave more needs unmet.

#### Land Use Strategies

Secretary Biehler highlighted a conference on land use and planning, sponsored by four different State agencies, including PennDOT, in summer 2003. The basic concept was a comprehensive review of land use policies. Changing strategies in investments were reviewed, concentrating on sprawl reduction. Emphasis was given on the ways to strengthen the cores of the State's municipi-



## THINK SPRING!

...if you aren't already doing so, trying to get the reality of the cold winter out of your system. The Section's **Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance** is scheduled for **Friday, May 7, 2004** at the **Sugarloaf Conference Center** in **Chestnut Hill** (the same location as last year). Please note this in your calendar. It promises to be the same quality event that it has been for the past several years. Please plan to attend to celebrate the inauguration of new Section Officers and Board Members and to cite the winners of various Section Awards, scholarships, and other recognition.

More information and details on the Social will be included in future issues of THE NEWS.

palities, many of which are economically distressed. Ways to link transportation planning, land use and community values were proposed and explored. As Secretary Biehler stated at the start of his talk, this is not business as usual for PennDOT.

#### Questions/Answers

In response to a question on proposed Turnpike toll increases, Secretary Biehler remarked that he fully supported toll hikes. Additional funding is needed to maintain the infrastructure of the Turnpike and expand it to respond to changing demand. PennDOT is reviewing the possibility of imposition of tolls on I-80, but this may not be self-sustaining.

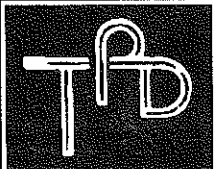
PennDOT is doing what it can to attract and support business to the Commonwealth. Goods movement and accommodation of the increasing volume of truck traffic is key to this.

A question was raised on the historic lock/canal network in the State and possible uses for tourism. Secretary Biehler explained that PennDOT is working with the Corps of Engineers and other partners to address this.

ASHE Section President Pizzi and ASCE, Phila. Section President Moore thanked Secretary Biehler for his informative presentation and offered him tokens of each Section's appreciation.

While no one mentioned it, this event was a successful "Night of Allans" (Secretary Allen Biehler, ASHE President Alan Pizzi, and Section President Allan Moore) which may never be repeated!

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## SECTION HISTORY

Here are some notable events that occurred in the Section in the month of February:

**1917** – Sid Robin was born in Philadelphia on February 3. The Section had been in existence for four years at this point.

**1926** – The topic of the Section meeting for the month was “Design and Construction of the Broad Street Subway”, which was touted as having all the latest innovations and a modern marvel for the City. The first operating segment of the Subway, from City Hall to Olney, opened on September 1, 1928.

**1931** – Initial steps were taken to set up the Section’s Junior Forum. This became known as the Associate Member Forum in 1959 and later evolved to the present-day Younger Member Forum in 1982.

**1952** – The Section’s Central Pennsylvania Sub-Section was established. This became the Central Pennsylvania Section in February 1958.

**1953** – A new group, Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, an offshoot of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, starts a local celebration of Engineers Week.

**1953** – The Section’s Trenton Sub-Section was established. This would become the Trenton Branch, and later moved to become a Branch of the New Jersey Section.

**1956** – Past Section President Francis Friel was nominated for National Vice President.

**1990** – After many years at its 1317 Spruce Street location, the Engineers Club of Philadelphia relocates to the Public Ledger Building and shares meeting space with the Downtown Club. After the move, the Section continued to use the Downtown Club as a meeting venue on an irregular basis.

Section Members were cited as the Delaware Valley Engineer of Year during Engineers Week in the following years:

- 1956 – Francis Friel
- 1959 – Samuel Baxter
- 1971 – Samuel Hudson
- 1975 – John Rumpf
- 1981 – Robert Koerner
- 1985 – C. R. “Chuck” Pennoni
- 1987 – Richard Woodring
- 1992 – Joseph Mullin
- 1995 – Harry Perks
- 1997 – Joseph Syrnick
- 1999 – Lawrence Moy
- 2002 – Edward D’Alba



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## ENGINEERS WEEK – ALMOST HERE!

The 2004 celebration of Engineers Week will take place from **Friday, February 20, 2004 to Saturday, February 28, 2004**. As you may be aware, Engineers Week is held in February each year to highlight the birthday of our nation’s first president, George Washington, who supported extensive engineering and surveying activities throughout his military service. It is a time during which various engineering accomplishments throughout the nation are cited and honored. Locally, Engineers Week programs have been held since 1953, and these include the selection of the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, the Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, and other honors.

Engineers Week’s activities will kick off with the **Proclamation Luncheon** at the Union League on **Friday, February 20, 2004**. The 2004 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Matthew Burns, will be the guest of honor. The 2004 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year candidates will be cited at a dinner on **Wednesday, February 25, 2004**. The culmination of the Week’s events will be the Engineers Week Banquet at Temple University’s Mitten Hall/Diamond Club on **Saturday, February 28, 2004**. The Banquet will recognize the Engineer of the Year, the Young Engineer of the Year, the Outstanding Engineering Achievements in the Delaware Valley, the Outstanding Math and Science Teachers, Student Paper Contest winners, Scholarship recipients, and the winners of the local Future City Competition.

Tickets for these events can be obtained from the Engineers Club of Philadelphia (for more information, visit the Engineers Week Council’s website, [www.dvewc.org](http://www.dvewc.org)).

### Proclamation Luncheon

Friday, February 20, 2004  
11:30 AM reception, 12 Noon lunch  
Union League, 140 S. Broad Street, Phila.  
Tickets \$30 each

### Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year Dinner

Wednesday, February 25, 2004  
5:30 PM reception, 6:15 PM dinner  
Williamson’s Restaurant,  
Belmont and City Avenues  
(GSB Building), Bala Cynwyd  
Tickets \$35 each

### Engineers Week Banquet

Saturday, February 28, 2004  
6:00 PM reception, 7:00 PM dinner  
Temple University,  
Mitten Hall/Diamond Club  
Tickets \$50 each

The Section is well represented on the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, which coordinates Engineers Week activities locally.

**If your ship doesn’t come in, swim out to it.**

– Jonathan Winters

## WORD CORNER

THE NEWS will occasionally feature information on how some words that engineers like to use made their ways into the lexicon. This month’s word is **GADGET**.

From many accounts, the word **gadget** accompanied the Statue of Liberty to the United States in the 1880s. The French donated the Statue to the people of the United States but funds only covered fabrication and delivery to the site. The cost of erection and the Statue’s pedestal had to be borne by private citizens. Some Americans saw this as a slap in the face and wondered whether the gift was worth the cost of placement. It became quite the controversy of the time.

As we now know, those who wanted to keep the Statue won out and raised the funds to erect it. Once it was in place, however, sentiment turned and most Americans quickly and proudly accepted the Statue as a national symbol. This popularity spread nationwide and led to the sale of many miniature replicas of the Statue.

The French firm that built the statue was **Gaget and Gauthier**. This same firm built many of the miniature replicas and engraved its name prominently on them. The name **Gaget** began to be associated by Americans with anything strange and interesting. This is believed to have evolved to become the term ‘**gadget**.’

*OK, so where did we get widget?*

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## TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(Continued from Page 1)

flow for each of these distinct fleet procurements using an internet based Application Server Provider (ASP) along with more traditional project controls tools. This project involved activities occurring in many geographically dispersed locations including seven different countries on three continents and dozens of locations within the US. STV introduced the ASP based platform and technology to the rail vehicle building field with this project. It is now becoming standard practice to run these far-flung projects using these tools.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 50 persons. Please contact **Dennis Mac Bride** at (215) 580-3404 or **Bill Mulloy** at (215) 656-6583.

## DVGI

*February Dinner Meeting*

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 11, 2004;

5:30 PM to 9:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Villanova University, Connelly Center, the Villanova Room

**SPEAKERS:** Mr. Tom Caramanico, P.E., President of McCormick Taylor, and a Villanova graduate, will address the audience as the keynote speaker. Four student speakers will make presentations at the meeting.

Several area Universities have been invited to participate in this event, which will serve as a forum to introduce Geo-Professional and university Geo-Students from the Delaware Valley. Several Geo-Companies will be available to discuss career opportunities with attending students.

For reservations, contact Ms. Cindy Bruce at (610) 524-6762.

## Construction Technical Group & Transportation Technical Group

*Joint Luncheon Meeting*

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 9, 2004; 12:00 Noon

**COST:** \$5.00

**LOCATION:** Conference Room C on the 16th Floor of the Municipal Service Building, 15th and JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA.

**SUBJECT:** Autodesk Civil Series 2004

**SPEAKERS:** Tom O'Brien, Microsol Resources; Otto Weiberth, Autodesk; and, Mike Maibach, Autodesk

Microsol Resources and Autodesk will be demonstrating the Autodesk Civil Series 2004. Autodesk Civil Series 2004 combines the industry's leading civil engineering software in a single package. Autodesk Civil Series 2004 includes: Autodesk Land Desktop 2004, Autodesk Civil Design 2004, Autodesk Survey 2004, Autodesk Raster Design 2004, and the new Autodesk Envision-8. This software will help integrate survey data, complete design tasks and communicate and analyze project information with a broad audience.

A buffet lunch hosted by Microsol Resources will be served starting at Noon with the presentation beginning at 12:30 pm.

Reservations are required. Seating is limited to 50. Please contact either **Joanna Robinson** at (215) 922-8080 or **Joe Hellenbrand** at (610) 688-8200 if you have any questions and for reservations.

## Structural Group

*November 2003 Luncheon Meeting Rescheduled*

**DATE:** Thursday, February 26, 2004,

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**COST:** \$10; Students \$5 (includes buffet lunch)

**LOCATION:** ARA Tower, 1101 Market Street, 8th Floor, Philadelphia

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Repair of I-95 Bridge over Brandywine Creek in Wilmington

**SPEAKERS:** Gregory D. Burkhart, P.E., J.D. Eckman, Inc. and Harry R. Roecker, P.E., DMJM+HARRIS

A 7-ft fracture through the bottom flange and web of an 8-ft deep girder forced DelDOT to close 2 of 3 northbound lanes. The location of the fracture complicated repairs: 80-ft above the river at mid-span of the 245-ft river span. This photo-illustrated presentation will discuss the cause of the fracture, the analysis approach and construction issues. The presentation will highlight cooperation between design and construction engineers in evaluating alternative repair schemes.

Reservations are required. Please contact **Ali Khan**, Chairman, Structures Group, at (609) 530-9618; or call the Electronic Message Center: 1-800-461-4190.

## Structural Group

**DATE:** Thursday, March 25, 2004;

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**COST:** Engineers \$10; Students \$5 per person

**LOCATION:** Conference Room at STV Inc., 1818 Market Street, Suite 1410, Philadelphia, 19103

**SUBJECT:** "Greenbush Rail Project"

**SPEAKER:** John M. Ennis, P.E., Structural Project Manager, STV Inc.

The speaker will present the cost benefit analysis and AREMA 2002 code applications for over twenty railway bridges on this important light rail project.

Snacks will be served. Reservations are required as the seating is limited.

Contact: **Ali Khan** at (609) 530-9618 or e-mail: [khana@stvinc.com](mailto:khana@stvinc.com).

Please mail a check of \$10 to: Philadelphia Section, ASCE; P.O. Box 58186; Philadelphia PA 19102-8186.



2004 Delaware Valley  
Engineer of the Year  
Matt Burns

## Transportation Technical Group

*March Luncheon Meeting*

**DATE:** Thursday, March 4, 2004,

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**COST:** \$10; Students \$5 (includes buffet lunch)

**LOCATION:** Conference Room E, 15th Floor, Municipal Services Building, 15th and JFK Blvd, Philadelphia

**SUBJECT:** PhillyCarShare, a New Mode of Transportation

**SPEAKERS:** Tanya Seaman and Clayton Lane, AICP. Ms. Seaman, co-founder and Executive Director of PhillyCarShare, holds a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning with an emphasis on transportation from the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Lane, co-founder and Board Chair of PhillyCarShare, is also a Planner with Parsons, Brinckerhoff.

PhillyCarShare, a non-profit organization, has operated for over a year and has more than 20 passenger vehicles around the city used by its members. The presentation will discuss car sharing as a mode of transportation and will cover the mission of the organization, the mechanics of the operation, performance monitoring and decision-making.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 50. Please contact **David Hanly** at (215) 735-0832.

## Engineering Management Group

*Joint Meeting with the Structures Group*

*April 2004 Luncheon Meeting*

**SUBJECT:** Management Challenges Surrounding the American Parkway Bridge Project

**SPEAKER:** George Horas, P.E., Structures Department Manager, HNTB Corporation

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 14, 2004,

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Municipal Services Building, Conference Room E, 15th & JFK Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA

**PRICE:** \$10; Students \$5 (Includes buffet lunch)

The American Parkway project consists of an almost one-mile long extension of a four lane, limited access urban arterial through the northeastern part of the City of Allentown, PA. Included are fully functional interchanges on either side of the Lehigh River and a desired distinctive river crossing. The interchanges are required to accommodate all movements while being significantly constrained by the presence of environmental obstacles. The project is being designed by a diverse team, assembled to provide expertise in a number of areas. The estimated construction cost of the project is in excess of \$70 million. When completed, it will have a dramatic impact on the regional mobility of the Lehigh Valley.

Reservations are required and seating is limited to 50 persons. Please contact **Dennis Mac Bride** at (215) 580-3404 or **Bill Mulloy** at (215) 656-6583.



**NEW DEGREE OFFERED AT UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania will soon announce the establishment of a Master of Science Degree Program in Applied GeoScience. This program will reside in the School of Arts and Sciences and will be administered through the Department of Earth and Environmental Science and the College of General Studies. Course concentrations in the program will focus on Hydrogeology, Environmental Geology, and Engineering Geology. Specific course offerings include groundwater hydrology, surface water hydrology, groundwater modeling, geomechanics, engineering geology, geochemistry, geotechnics, and geophysics. Selected Program Course offerings are slated for the Fall 2004 semester.

Engineers, Scientists and Environmental Professionals interested in the degree program or specific courses related to career and professional development can make inquiries to **Dr. Susan Gill**, Executive Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies, Department of Earth and Environmental Science; E-mail: [sgill@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:sgill@sas.upenn.edu); Telephone: (215) 898 6571, Fax: (215) 573 9145

The Applied GeoScience web page will be launched in the Spring of 2004. Other programs of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science and the College of General Studies can be reviewed at these sites:

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/group.html>  
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/cgs/>

**Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.**

— Demosthenes

**SECTION INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS**

The Board of Directors of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section has moved to fill the vacancy in the position of Vice President created by the untimely passing of Walter DeLury in September (see the November issue of THE NEWS for Walt's obituary). Under the Section's Constitution and Bylaws, the Board can take action to fill such positions.

**Christopher Menna**, a member of the Board of Directors, has been selected to serve out the remaining unexpired term of Section Vice President.

**Michael Petner**, our current Co-Assistant Treasurer, has been advanced to the Board. Mike will fill the position on the Board left vacant by Chris' promotion and will serve the remainder of the term of this position (this expires in May).

We thank both Chris and Mike for their acceptances of their new positions and wish them good luck!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section welcomes the following new members who have enrolled since September: Christine Banko, William Biester, Therese Bonnano, Jennifer Caffrey, Adrienne Cooper, Raymond Crossan, Donald Curley, Ralph Curtiss Jr., Daniel Daley, David Daniels, William Dobbins Jr., Charles Dutil II, Kenneth Eyre, Michael Giambra, Stephen Golden, Caesar Gorski, William Grosz, Benjamin Hatch Jr., Michael Hart, Erin Hill, Stelian Ianuli, Jonathan Jadico, Philip Jodzio, Michael Lewandowski, Michelle Lorito, Joseph Luste Jr., Jeremy Madaras, Frank Mawson Jr., Mike Mayhew, Kenneth McFadden, Francis McPartlan, Daniel Mensah, Sheri Miller, Christopher Morris, Dale Morris, Mark Moschella, Ara Mouradian, Dane Moyer, John Mundy, James Perri, Jeffrey Petersen, Dennis Ray, Harold Reed, Charles Sadler, Carlos Santoyo, Timothy Sass, Robert Slade, Lia Sutanto, Theodore Trauner, Song Wang, Sheldon Weaver, Bradley Weidenham, Willard Whitbred, and Jonathan Wise.

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE – ASCE, PHILA. SECTION 2004-05**

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the ASCE, Phila. Section President **Allan Moore** will shortly be appointing the **Nominating Committee** to recommend a slate of nominees for all ASCE, Philadelphia Section elective offices for the 2004-05 administrative year.

The positions which will be open for nominees are the following: President Elect; Vice President; Secretary; Membership Secretary; Director (3 positions).

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 2, 2004**. Any nominations should be submitted to the **Section Secretary, John Stone**, whose contact information can be found on Page 2.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS**

The Section Sponsorship program for 2003-04 has been a resounding success. A total of 31 local firms have taken part in the program this year. Our sponsors' business cards can be seen throughout THE NEWS. The ASCE, Phila. Section extends its collective "thank you" to our sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the Section.

There are several benefits available to you as a Section Sponsor. For a low \$200 annual fee, you too can be a part of this program. While it may be too late in this season to become a sponsor if your firm is not already one, there is time to think about joining for next year.

For information on the program, please contact our Interim Editor, **Bob Wright** at (215) 686-5538 or [robert.wright@phila.gov](mailto:robert.wright@phila.gov).

**SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Once again, the Section will conduct its undergraduate scholarship program this year. Scholarships will be awarded at our Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance.

At present, we anticipate that two types of scholarships will be awarded, one for incoming juniors and seniors in the Section's six Student Chapters, and one for children of Section members. The number and amount of the actual awards remain the discretion of both the Section's Scholarship Committee and the Section's Board of Directors.

More information will be provided on this program in the March issue of THE NEWS.

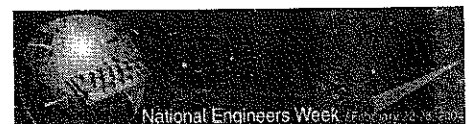
**He who never made a mistake, never made a discovery.**

— Samuel Smiles

**PAST PRESIDENTS AT APRIL 10, 2003 MEETING**



Section Past Presidents (from left to right) R1: Richard Weggel, John E. Durrant, Robert M. Wright, Kenneth J. Zitomer, Klaus K. Fuelleborn, Sidney Robin, Sandra J. May, William G. Richards, Bruno J. Talyacchia, Chris L. Rood. R2: Ruben D. David, Faruq M.A. Siddiqui, Lawrence M. Moy, William T. Thomsen, William M. Malarkey, Joseph R. Syrnick, Thomas J. Branigan, Frank J. Depman, Ira N. Pierce.



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## IMPORTANT! 2003-2004 MEETING NOTICES

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!** Please place the following dates in your calendar. Section Meetings are scheduled for these times and locations. We have also included some information as we know it at press time. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THE TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE! Watch this space in future issues of THE NEWS and the Section website for more information.

**ALL DINNER MEETINGS** (except as noted): Cocktails – 5:30 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Meeting – 7:30 pm. All dinner and/or luncheon meetings have discounted prices for students. In addition, all are welcome to attend meetings without having the meal, at no charge.

**Wednesday, April 14, 2004**

Joint Meeting with Women's Transportation Seminar, Construction Management Association of America, and Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers  
• College – Widener University • Union League

**Friday, May 7, 2004**

Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance • Sugarloaf Conference Center, Chestnut Hill, PA

## 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 @ \_\_\_\_\_
- US Postal Service mail THE NEWS to me at  home or at  work
- E-mail and USPS mail THE NEWS to me at  home or at  work

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](mailto: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.


## WHY IS THE NEWS ONLY 76? (PART II)

For some reason, many of us seem to enjoy sequels. If you are a "sequel" person, here is something you might like — a follow-up to the article on THE NEWS that appeared in the December 03/January 04 edition ("Philadelphia Section 90, THE NEWS 76").

In a not very exhaustive search of our records, we learned that THE NEWS actually came about as a result of a Section Board resolution. The ac-

tion, passed by the Board at its meeting of March 5, 1928, authorized the printing "...from time to time of a tabloid newspaper giving information of interest to members of the Section relating to meetings, membership, Society affairs, etc...".

With this auspicious start, THE NEWS began publication and distribution with Volume 1, Number 1 in November 1928. It has been in continuous production since then, with the exception of the 1957-58 season as explained in the December/January edition.



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