

the news



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The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Vol. 76-5

Our 90th Year

March 2004

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, Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Green Concrete

SPEAKERS: Jamie M. Phillips, Senior Sales Support Specialist, Master Builders Inc.

COST: \$30 per member/guest, \$15 per student

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

SPECIAL FEATURE: LIFE MEMBERS NIGHT. Newly-inducted Life Members will be honored as guests of the Section.

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@asce-philly.org.

Building environmentally is now on the forefront of the minds of most engineers, architects, and, especially, owners. Selection of materials that have little or reduced impact on the environment is part of this effort. Concrete, the most widely utilized building material and the second-most consumed product in the world, is actually inherently environmentally friendly. Even so, there are ways to enhance this quality of concrete and simultaneously make it a stronger, more durable, longer-lasting product.

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APRIL JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers,
Women's Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia, PA and
Institute of Transportation Engineers; Mid-Atlantic Section

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2004

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

SUBJECT: Transportation Legislation and Funding: An Update for 2004

SPEAKER: The Honorable Richard A. Geist, House of Representatives, Majority Chairman, House Transportation Committee

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 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.

SPECIAL FEATURE: PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT. Past Section Presidents will be honored as guests of the Section.

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Structural Group

Luncheon Meeting

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, Phila., PA 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.

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

Engineering Management Group

Joint Meeting with the Structural Group

SUBJECT: Management Challenges Surrounding the American Parkway Bridge Project

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

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2004

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

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

(Continued on Page 10)



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASCE Friends,

It is hard to believe we are winding down to our last two dinner meetings of this season. This month's meeting will be our **Annual Joint Meeting** with the **Delaware Chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI)**. As usual, the topic of this meeting somehow seems to center around concrete and this year will be no exception. We are looking forward to an enlightening presentation on **'Green' Concrete Construction**. Our March meeting is also where we take the opportunity to recognize our newly inducted **Life Members** for 2004. Be sure to reserve your spot right away.

Our final dinner meeting will be in April when U.S. **Representative Rick Geist** will update us on the current state of Transportation Funding in our country. Given our strong interest in the ever-declining state of our infrastructure, this meeting should generate a good deal of interest among our Section membership. Joining us for this meeting will be our friends from the **Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)** and **Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE)**. We will also be honoring the **Past Presidents** of the Philadelphia Section. Last year, we had nearly twenty Past Presidents in attendance and hope we can get just as good a turnout this year. We hope you can find the time to attend these last two meetings to help us recognize our new Life Members and Past Presidents.

This season's activities will culminate at our **Annual Spring Social** to be held on **Friday, May 7, 2004** at the **Sugarloaf Conference Center** in scenic Chestnut Hill. Fortunately, the highlight of this event is not the dancing, but rather the awards and scholarship presentations. While it will mark the end of my presidency, it is also the beginning of another new year filled with great expectations. Please plan to come out, enjoy the weather, socialize with friends and celebrate another exciting year in the Philadelphia Section, ASCE.

As it is, I still have two more months left as President and one thing I am looking forward to is representing our Section at the **Annual Zone 1 Workshop** for Section and Branch Leaders in **New York City**. I will be attending this conference along with several other Board members and some of our Younger Members in the beginning of March. I have found this Conference to be an excellent opportunity to interact with other ASCE Section leaders in the Northeast as well as ASCE National Board members and staff. Ideas and information are exchanged on such essential topics as section operations, National resources, membership, public service, student outreach and government relations. One of the hot issues this year will be the proposed restructuring of ASCE's governing body and reconfiguration of the geographic regions. I expect to bring back the latest update to our Board in order to stay current on these significant changes to our Society. Look for more information in a future edition of THE NEWS.

One final note... Some of you may have noticed our ASCE mural was recently removed from the wall at the Spring Garden Street Exit of I-76 due to some damage it sustained from a vehicle. Unfortunately, after five years, the mural had also become weathered and was in need of some touch up. The mural was removed for safety reasons and to preserve it from further damage. The Board is considering options to repair and relocate the mural to a more visible and protected location. If you have any suggestions, please pass them on to the Board for consideration. We are very proud of our mural and the attention it has brought to our Section. We anticipate having it prominently displayed once again in the future.

In closing, I want to once again encourage you to get involved and participate in the activities that promote our Profession. Become more active in ASCE. Attend a meeting. Mentor a student. Attend the **Build-a-Thon** at the **Franklin Institute** on **April 3, 2004**. 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

MCATEE RECOGNIZED AS DELAWARE VALLEY YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

ASCE, Phila. Section is proud to announce that **Michael McAtee** was cited by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council as the **2004 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**. Mike was formally awarded this honor at a dinner highlighting the nominees on February 25, 2004.

Mike is a Project Engineer in the Bridge Unit at Urban Engineers. He is also the current President of the Section's Younger Member Forum.

Congratulations to Mike on this honor!

The best mirror is a friend's eye.
— Gaelic proverb

COMBINED ENGINEERS WEEK COUNCIL & ASCE, PHILA. SECTION SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RECEIVES AWARD

The ASCE, Phila. Section teamed up with the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council to sponsor a scholarship to be presented to an incoming junior or senior majoring in Civil Engineering at a college in our region, for presentation for the first time this year.

We are proud to announce that **Theresa Louise Andrejack**, a junior at Drexel University, is the recipient of this scholarship. Section President **Allan Moore** and 2004 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year **Matthew Burns** presented the scholarship to Theresa at the Engineers Week Banquet on February 28, 2004.

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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**COPY DEADLINE FOR
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MARCH 18, 2004**

The LawAce Says...



PREPARING FOR DEPOSITIONS

Mark W.S. Young, Esq.

Preparing witnesses for depositions is one thing that many law firms do not spend enough time doing. Depositions are hearings, usually in the attorney's office where sworn testimony is given. Usually the testimony is recorded with a court reporter. Sometimes the deposition will be audio recorded and/or video recorded. Giving oral testimony can be intimidating for the first timers.

The primary purpose of a deposition is to gather information and in the process force the witness to stick to one story. The attorney hopes to later find holes in the story. Depositions are one of the most effective discovery techniques in an attorney's arsenal of discovery techniques. In depositions, the attorney can gauge the witness's non-verbal response to questions to determine where to probe further. The attorney can get an idea how sympathetic the witness would be in front of a jury. Another advantage for the deposing attorney is that your attorney is limited in the type of objections that can be made during a deposition.

On television, we see lawyers shouting at witnesses, and the witnesses crumble under the pres-

sure from the attorneys and confess. That is television; the real world is quite different. In real life, yelling at a witness usually makes the witness mad at the lawyer and makes the witness less willing to provide useful information. If you are concerned about the opposing lawyer yelling at you, ask your lawyer to arrange for the deposition to be video-recorded.

Since depositions are one of the most powerful weapons for attorneys, a witness should prepare for testimony. A good plaintiff's attorney will use the deposition to determine what other witnesses the attorney should depose. The lawyer is searching for the weakest link in the defendant's organization, to elicit incriminating evidence.

Typically the lower in an organization a witness is, the less prepared the witness will be. But the unprepared low-ranking witness may be the organization's greatest weakness.

Here are a few guidelines for preparing for giving testimony:

Tell The Truth

Telling the truth is essential whenever giving testimony. Remember that perjury is a crime. If you lie, there is a good chance that the opposing side will notice it and confront you about it. If the opposing side does this, it will destroy the credibility of the truthful statements, so it is in your best interest to tell the truth.

Answer "Yes" or "No"

The deposition will be recorded by a court reporter translating what he/she hears onto a written

record. The court reporter cannot hear you nodding your head "yes" or shaking your head "no." "Umhugh" and "unhugh", which may indicate yes or no, may be mistakenly translated by the court reporter. So it is better to verbally answer these questions with a "Yes" or "No."

"I Don't Know" Or "I Can't Recall"

Remember that "I don't know" and "I can't recall" are acceptable responses if they are truthful. It is better to say, "I don't know" or "I can't recall" than it is to guess. However, your credibility will be questioned if you do not recall anything during a deposition, but have a crystal clear memory during trial.

Do Not Volunteer Information

Although the other attorney may seem friendly, do not volunteer information. In a lawsuit, knowledge is power. The opposing attorney will ask specific questions, and you should answer those questions without volunteering information. The less information you give the other side, the less power they have against you. Although we have a natural urge to want to tell our side of the story, in a lawsuit, volunteering information will often hurt you. Volunteering information should occur during settlement negotiations, not during a deposition. Everything you say in a deposition can and will be used against you.

Do Not Be Nervous

Nobody likes to be in a lawsuit and few people like to be deposed. Preparation can help to ease anxiety. However, additional things which can help ease anxiety are: 1) a deposition testimony rarely destroys a case, 2) no one ever gives a perfect deposition, so do not panic if you make a mistake; and 3) your attorney will be there and help to protect you if the other side uses improper tactics during the deposition.

Do Not Try To Please

You are not testifying to try to make the other side's attorney happy. Some attorneys are very aggressive in their questioning, and then ease up when they start to get the answers they like. Avoid the temptation to change or modify your answers to halt aggressive questions. If the other side gets too aggressive, ask for a "break." A break will allow you a few minutes to rest, get a drink of water, use the restroom and collect your thoughts.

Take Your Time

There is no need to rush to give an answer. Feel free to take your time to think about your answers, before you speak.

Listen To Your Attorney

During the deposition, your attorney may object to some questions. When your attorney ob-

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ASCE Philadelphia Section Members

Are you interested in receiving the DVGI monthly newsletter? Add your name to our email list by sending your email address to Mr. Yongli Min, PE @ yongli_min@urscorp.com and you will begin receiving our newsletter!

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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 or at (215) 222-3000. *There are no fees to join!*

Recent Accomplishments

On **January 24, 2004**, several YMF members participated in the **Philadelphia Future Cities Competition** held at Widener University. This year, the YMF provided mentors, essay judges, special awards judges, preliminary judges and other volunteers. The event was once again a huge success and a great opportunity for young engineers to share their enthusiasm for the profession with middle school students. If you would like to volunteer for this annual competition, be on the look out for announcements later this year. Thanks to **Jennifer Wetzel** for organizing this event.

On **January 30, 2004**, the YMF submitted its application for the **National Younger Member Group Award**. The submission included the YMF's Year-End Report, which will be posted on the YMF Website. The purpose of the National Younger Member Group Award is to promote excellence among ASCE Younger Member Groups throughout the nation. The competition is tough this year with Section's from Los Angeles (two awards in the past four years), East Central Florida (two awards in the past three years) and Sacramento (three awards in the past seven years) participating. The winners will be presented with the award at the 2004 ASCE National Convention in Baltimore along with a grand prize of \$500! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort!

The **8th Annual Critical Issues Facing Young Engineers Seminar** was hosted by the YMF on **March 1, 2004**, at the Municipal Services Building. This year, the panel of speakers featured some of the leaders of our Engineering community, including **Tony Bartolomeo**, President, Pennoni Associates; **Edward M. D'Alba**, President, Urban Engineers; **Christine Hunt**, President, Hunt Engineering; and **Joseph Syrnick**, Chief Engineer of the City of Philadelphia. These distinguished speakers led discussions concerning career management, professional de-

velopment, industry trends, licensing, public service and other important issues facing young engineers today. The YMF's Secretary, **James Markham**, served as the moderator for this event. Thanks to the panelists for passing on their experiences with our members!

On **Thursday, March 4, 2004**, the Sixers took on the NBA's top team, the Sacramento Kings, and the YMF was there to witness the action! Forty engineers came out to watch Iverson and company take on the NBA's elite! In an effort to promote the conclusion of Engineers' Week, the American Society of Civil Engineers was recognized during the game on the Jumbotron. Thanks to **Mike McAtee** for arranging this successful event!

Upcoming Events

Technical Meeting: Joint Meeting with the Structural Group: **Forensic Engineering Case Study - World Trade Center Area. Thursday, April 22, 2004, 6:00 PM**, Conference Room X, 16th Floor, Municipal Services Building. Cost: \$10 for a Buffet Dinner (Free for Students). Please join the YMF as we welcome **Allen Roth, P.E.**, Vice President of Joseph B. Callaghan, Inc. Following the events of September 11, 2001, Joseph B. Callaghan, Inc. was retained to investigate the façade of 90 West Street, an office building in close proximity to the World Trade Center Towers. The building, designed in 1907, suffered tremendous localized fire and impact damage, yet remained structurally sound. Mr. Roth will discuss the investigation and report of findings. For further information, or to RSVP, YMF members should contact **Jeremy Colello** at coello@pbworld.com. (215) 209-1228, and Structural Group members should contact **Ali Khan** at (609) 530-9618.

(Arena) Football in March?! The YMF will be in attendance as the start-up **Philadelphia Soul** take on their new rivals, the **New York Dragons** on **Saturday, April 24, 2004, at 7:30PM!** Tickets for lower level seats are only \$20 each! Don't miss out on this opportunity to catch the exciting Arena Football League action from these great seats! For further information, or to RSVP, contact **Kevin Aach** at kaach@mbakercorp.com, or phone (215) 442-5334. Please RSVP by **March 24, 2004**.

Announcements

YMF tee-shirts are now on sale! Last year we sold out of our ever popular YMF tee-shirts and had to order a batch of new ones to satisfy our fashion-hungry younger members. This year's designer YMF tee-shirt "line" includes the classic grey tee (\$9), a retro grey/navy ringer tee (\$10) and a sporty grey/navy baseball tee (\$12) — all with the coveted YMF logo. Shirts are available in sizes Medium through 2XXL. Get one while supplies last! To place your order, contact **Alyson Lester** at arlester@urbanengineers.com, or phone (215) 922-8081 x1445. Thanks to our sponsors: **DMJM+Harris, McCormick, Taylor & Associates, McMahan Associates, Michael Baker, Jr., Parsons Brinckerhoff, Pennoni & Associates, St. Lawrence Cement, Traffic Planning and Design, Urban Engineers, URS Corporation, and Vollmer Associates**. T-shirt sales will fund YMF

Awards for members who publish articles in engineering publications.

Attention P.E. Candidates! Are you preparing for the P.E. exam? Visit the new YMF Website to take a look at the YMF's "PE Exam Study Guide": <http://www.asce-philly.org/ymf/articles.htm>. While you are there, check out the rest of the YMF website as it goes through construction.

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 or (610) 326-3100.



Member Spotlight

Carol C. Martsof, EIT is a Transportation Engineer at Urban Engineers, Inc. She manages and provides technical support for monthly report deliverables and performs Project Management Administration and Marketing for the Program Management Oversight (PMO) Group. The PMO Group oversees the work of transit agencies throughout the country for the Federal Transit Administration.

Carol is a graduate of Temple University, where she earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering degree in 1992. She is currently pursuing her Professional Engineer's Licensure in Pennsylvania.

Carol enjoys being very active in the engineering profession and community and her commitment shows through her hard work and dedication. She has been active in the YMF and with ASCE for over eight years. She is a former President of the YMF and is currently a very active member of the Board of Directors of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section. Carol is also extremely active in the Philadelphia Chapter of Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS), in the role of Recording Secretary and Scholarship co-chair; the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, as Chair of Scholarships; the Engineers Club of

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YMF News

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Philadelphia, in the role of Chair of Communications; and the Philadelphia Engineering Foundation, as Vice President.

Carol received the ASCE, Philadelphia Section 1999 Young Civil Engineer of the Year award; the 1999 National Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members; 2002 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year award; the 2002 WTS-Philadelphia Member of the Year award; and the 2004 ASCE Zone I Citizenship Award, to be awarded at the Zone I Conference in New York City in March 2004.

Carol's dedication goes beyond the engineering profession to the community at large. Her caring and compassion show through her volunteer and community service activities. Carol is on the board of the Street Clothes Project, an organization that helps the homeless and others in need. She volunteers at a homeless shelter and visits homebound seniors with her eight-year-old daughter Catherine. Carol is also a registered hospice volunteer for the Delaware County Memorial Hospital Hospice Program and she is co-chair of

the Service Committee at her daughter Catherine's school.

Outside of her professional and community activities, Carol enjoys biking and spending time with her daughter, Catherine. Carol and her daughter reside in Lansdowne.

SECTION MEMBERS ON ENGINEERS WEEK COUNCIL

Last month THE NEWS presented the schedule of events for the local celebration of Engineers Week (which were successfully completed, by the way). A partial list of past Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year recipients was also provided. The ASCE, Phila. Section has been well represented in the Engineer of the Year honors over the 51-year history of Delaware Valley Engineers Week. We have also had many members involved in the Engineers Week Council, including the following:
Susan Best – Council Senior Vice Chair; Judging Coordinator, Future City Competition
Robert Wright – Council Vice Chair; Chair, Announcement Flyer; Chair, Luncheon/Banquet Programs

Edward D'Alba – Past General Council Chair; Chair, Advisory Committee; Chair, Strategic Planning

Chris Rood – Chair, Financial/Fund Development
William Thomsen – Chair, Elections

Fredric Plotnick – Chair, Technical Society Liaison; Outstanding Engineering Project

Harry Perks – Chair, Long Range Planning; Co-Chair, Financial Support

Joseph Syrnick – Co-Chair, Financial Support Committee; Chair, Golf Outing; Strategic Planning

Pasquale Dougherty – Vice Chair, Strategic Planning

Lawrence Moy – Bylaws Director; Strategic Planning

Carol Martsoff – Chair, Scholarships; Student Papers; College/University Liaison; Elementary/Secondary Liaison

Ruben David – Member

Christopher Menna – Member

Michael McAtee – Member

The Section thanks these dedicated folks who help to make Engineers Week the success that it has become.



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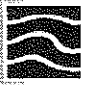


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FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

February 19, 2004

Wyndham Hotel, Mount Laurel, NJ

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

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

For the second monthly January Dinner Meeting, (we at THE NEWS dislike February so much we referred to this meeting as the January Dinner Meeting — see the February edition of THE NEWS and this month's "Oops..." column (page 10) for more information), the Philadelphia Section, ASCE traveled to join our New Jersey-based compatriots for our Annual Joint Meeting at the Wyndham Hotel in Mount Laurel, NJ.

The meeting began with a brief welcome from the Moores, otherwise known as **Allan Moore**, the President of the Philadelphia Section ASCE, and **Dena J. Moore**, President of the South Jersey Branch ASCE, who happen to coincidentally share the same last name. After the warm welcomes, the featured Student Sections' representatives presented information about the happenings at their respective schools.

Dr. Philip Udo-Inyang of Temple University stood in for the Temple Student Chapter faculty advisor, **Dr. Sergio Serrano**, who was unable to attend. He introduced Student Chapter President **Kwabena Addo-Boateng**, who brought the crowd up to date on current events at the Chapter. Rowan University's Student Chapter advisor, **Dr. Douglas Cleary**, explained that the students could not attend, and spoke on Rowan's activities.

Section Past President **Bob Wright** reminded the crowd of the South Jersey Branch/Philadelphia Section Joint Meeting last year, at which we saw a great presentation on the Slurry Wall at the site of the World Trade Center disaster. He added that we could expect an equally compelling presentation about another facility, the PATH tunnels, affected by the events of September 11, 2001. He then introduced the official introducer, the **2003 Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year, Mike Griffin**.

Mr. Griffin explained that **Bill Vigrass**, the guest speaker for the evening, has a long, distin-

guished career in railway engineering. He noted that Mr. Vigrass was at PATCO for 20 years before joining Hill International. He remarked that Mr. Vigrass is a true rail fan and should you be lucky enough to ride a train, any train, with him he would tell you when the car was built, and who built it.

PATH Tunnels

Mr. Vigrass surprised the attendees by starting his presentation on the rehabilitation of the PATH tunnels, with slides of boats. He stated that when the tunnels were suddenly put out of commission on September 11, 2001, several private boats, including those used for whale watching and sightseeing were recruited to supplement the ferry service in the New York Harbor.

Mr. Vigrass explained that his firm was a sub-contractor on a team that was responsible for assessing the condition of the tunnels and the PATH equipment within the tunnels after they were inundated for over a month with river water. On September 11, 2001, most of the water mains that served lower Manhattan were severed in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers. The Fire Departments' used water drawn from the Hudson River which subsequently inundated the PATH tunnels to the point where water was coming out in Jersey City.

The investigation team found that the water fouled several components of the railway system, including much of the railbed ballast and the supports for the all-important third rail. The damage throughout the tunnels was extensive. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey already had plans in place to rehabilitate the tunnels but in order to keep the trains operating during the work the rehabilitation was to take 12 years. They decided to take advantage of the service outage and rehabilitate the entire system.

The rehabilitation went relatively smoothly. The rail and wooden tie system was replaced with rails directly fixed on a concrete slab. The outdated asbestos and lead components as well as all the wiring and conduit were also replaced. Much of this wiring dated to the original construction of the tunnels, which were opened for service in 1908.

Manhattan Terminus

Of course there was also the significant problem of providing a station on the Manhattan end of the line. Two thirds of the station was destroyed and one third of the station was damaged. Mr. Vigrass illustrated that most of the damage occurred during the demolition and removal of the collapsed World Trade Center towers, but that it could not really be avoided. There was simply no way to easily remove the huge beams and rubble from the collapsed towers while preserving the PATH terminus.

Mr. Vigrass added that the Port Authority had committed to opening a station at the former site of the World Trade Center towers in time for Christmas shopping in 2003. This was very ambitious goal considering the throughput of passengers accommodated at the old station: nine escalators were in place to bring the pedestrian traffic from the trains to the street level.

The new temporary station was opened with full service from New Jersey on November 23, 2003. The Port Authority considers this a temporary station that will be fully operational as the new permanent station is constructed.

Conclusion

After a brief question and answer session, the Presidents Moore both thanked Mr. Vigrass and presented him with a few tokens of appreciation from the South Jersey Branch and the Philadelphia Section.

Interesting Tidbits from Mr. Vigrass's Presentation

Did you know?

- That the PATH tunnels were constructed with pneumatic pumps so that if there was flooding there would be no need rely on electric power?
- That as part of the regular inspection schedule for the tunnels, approximately 400 leaks are found and repaired every year? Caulk is generally used for this purpose.
- That the PATH tunnels are constructed out of cast iron?
- That each floor of the World Trade Center towers had a different marble treatment? After the towers collapsed the engineer from the Port Authority who worked on the construction of the towers could identify which floor was being excavated by the marble fragments.

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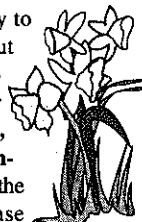
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THINK SPRING!

If you aren't already doing so, try 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.

This year, the theme of the Social will be **Cajun** to celebrate the rich history and cuisine of Louisiana which was greatly influenced by European settlers. More information on the Social will appear in the April/May edition of THE NEWS.



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SECTION HISTORY

Here are some notable events in the history of the Section that have occurred in the month of March.

1928 – At a Section Board meeting on March 5th, a resolution was passed to authorize the printing of a tabloid newspaper to give information of interest to members. This was the start of THE NEWS. The very first edition “hit the streets” in November 1928. It is still going strong 76 years later.

1991 – The Section held its second joint meeting with the South Jersey Branch of the New Jersey Section. The first one was scheduled as an experimental measure in November 1989. The meeting place, the Harbour League Club in downtown Camden, became an immediate hit with the membership. Thus, the joint meeting with South Jersey remains a Section standby. Unfortunately, the Club closed suddenly and unexpectedly in late 2000, forcing the meeting to move. (Some members may recall the Section’s March 1993 family event at the recently-opened New Jersey Aquarium, which featured a dinner at the Club following the day at the Aquarium. Additionally, the Section’s 1994 Spring Social was held at the Club after the sudden closure of the Officers Club at the Naval Base, the location of the Social for the prior three years.)

1994 – In response to the survey of Section membership conducted in 1993, which showed a large percentage of members living in the “Northeast quadrant” of the Section (Northeast Philadelphia, Bucks County, and eastern Montgomery County), a Section meeting was held at Fisher’s Restaurant in Northeast Philadelphia. The topic of the meeting was the controversial “Employee Trip Reduction Program”, presented by James Rue, Southeast Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. Roughly 60 attendees participated in the meeting. Although Section President Robert Wright declared the meeting a success, no meetings have been conducted in the “Northeast quadrant” since.

1997 – The Section’s Board began discussions on a public mural and charged a committee to investigate funding requirements, locations, and other details. Younger Member Forum President Yael Heller accepted the committee chair assignment. As a result of the committee’s hard work, the ASCE Mural was unveiled in October 1999.

ASCE, PHILA. SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE is pleased to announce the availability of the following types of undergraduate scholarships for 2004. Scholarships will be awarded at our **Annual Spring Social Dinner Dance, on Friday, May 7, 2004, at the Sugarloaf Conference Center.**

Type of Award

We recognize that the different colleges have differences in the regulations as to scholarships, stipends and awards. It is the ASCE, Philadelphia Section’s intent to provide these awards to give the maximum financial support to the individual Engineering student within his/her college’s rules. Therefore, the form of award will be that most beneficial to the student consistent with his/her college regulations. Unless indicated otherwise by the student, a check in the name of the award recipient will be presented. No two scholarships will be awarded to the same student.

Student Chapter Scholarship

It is anticipated that two scholarships will be awarded. The number and amount of the actual awards remains at the discretion of both the Section’s Scholarship Committee and the Section’s Board of Directors.

Eligibility Requirements

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

Section Member Scholarship

One scholarship will be awarded.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student must be the child of an active Philadelphia Section member.
- The student must be matriculating in a full-time Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering program at an accredited college or university.
- The student must be an active participant in the ASCE Student Chapter at his/her school.
- Students in their sophomore and junior year are eligible to submit.

Submission

The candidate must submit the following:

- An essay, limited to 1,000 words, on “*How can civil engineers assist in the security of the nation’s infrastructures in the wake of recent terrorist attacks? What is the role of civil engineering profession in public safety in reaction to these events?*” is required.
- The candidate’s name, GPA and/or class rank and an address/telephone number where they can be reached must be included. Additional

information for consideration (such as need) is allowed. A letter and/or resume is an acceptable means to provide this information.

- A recommendation letter from the candidate’s faculty advisor is not required but is strongly suggested.
- For the Section Member Scholarship ONLY, a second letter of recommendation from a faculty member of the candidate’s civil engineering program (other than his/her advisor), or a present or past employer, is required.

Section Evaluation

- The Section Scholarship Committee will evaluate all nominations and select award recipients for scholarships or other form of stipend.
- Awardees will be invited guests at our **Annual Spring Social Dinner Dance** to receive their awards and will be asked to participate in future ASCE educational outreach activities.

Submission Deadline

Submissions should be directed to Brian Stover, PE, President-Elect Philadelphia Section ASCE
P.O. Box 58186
Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

by **Friday, March 26, 2004.** The President-Elect will forward all submissions to the Section’s Scholarship Committee.

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

— Albert Einstein

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In Loving Memory... Sid Robin

SECTION MEMBERS' TRIBUTES TO SID

To honor the memory of Sid Robin, the Editor of THE NEWS for an unbelievable 61 years, we thought it only fitting that THE NEWS should be used as the vehicle for this duty. We also know that, after Sid's 61-year stint as Editor, and his long career as an engineer and developer, there had to be many stories out there that many of us probably have not heard. Thus, we thought that the proper honor to Sid, in the pages of his beloved THE NEWS, would be the publication of some of our favorite anecdotes and remembrances of Sid. Here is the first in what may be more than one "volume" of what we like to call "Sid stories".

SID STORIES

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF SID

My story with Sid starts with Ginnie and Loie of American Speedy, Richboro. I went to their shop to print out a laser copy of a newsletter I was working on, and they recruited me to come on board with them. That was when I first met Sid, 15 years ago. They called him "El Sid." I called him, "My Man Sid."

I let Ginnie and Loie deal with Sid — he was too exact for me to have to go over every one of his red marks on every single page in every single column!

Then came the day when G&L sold the shop and retired! First of all, they gave Sid my phone number and address. Okay, so I work out of my home, not an unreasonable thing to do! But, we are talking about Sid — persistence personified! Sid would call at all hours. If I didn't pick up the business line, Sid would revert to my home number, begging, pleading for me to pick up. (Thank goodness for caller ID!)

We all miss Our Man Sid, even my dog.

— Kathy Keiper, Creative Director of THE NEWS

Sid would throw a stir into the heart of any new Board member or first-time attendee at a Section Board meeting by coming in a few minutes late, tossing a pile of fresh-off-the-press News into the middle of the table, and loudly proclaiming that the meeting could now start. Of course, the meeting was usually well underway by that point, and most of us who were used to this just carried on as usual.

— Bob Wright, Interim Editor, Past President

A past Membership Secretary (not me!) obtained a list of non-renewing members, as the Section usually gets from National, and dutifully sent out letters asking these folks if they were going to renew their ASCE dues. Shortly after the letter went out, a stinging reply came back to the Section President. The letter went to the newly-inducted Life member, Sid, who reminded the "young upstart" Membership Secretary that he no longer had to pay dues as a life member. The mistake was never made again.

— Bob Wright

My own first impression of Sid was that he was exact, precise and demanding. As I usually do with people, my approach was to use humor to get to know him. Before too long, I found he was just as fun-loving as me, with a keen sense of humor. As I began to help handle dinner payments at the door at meetings, he would always say,

"This one's free, ain't it?" and I would proceed to take his check, telling him he owed double but would qualify for the 50% senior discount, then drop his check to see if it would bounce. It became our ritual. He was easy to get to know and befriend once you got past what many perceived (wrongly) to be a gruff exterior.

— Bob Wright

SID AND HIS BELOVED TRUCK

One of Sid's prized possessions was his 1964 Ford pickup truck. He lovingly kept it garaged and in tip-top shape. He enjoyed driving the truck and having strangers stop and ask him about it. If they ever asked if he were interested in selling it, they would get a resounding "NO".

— Frank Depman, Past President

Sid once took his truck to the township mulch pile to get a load to spread on his flower beds. Shortly after getting the mulch down, he was admitted to the hospital for a successful medical procedure. When he returned home from the hospital, he found his freshly mulched prized flower beds full of dandelions. To use Sid's "catch phrase", "Can you imagine?"

— Frank Depman

I have a chocolate Labrador retriever that at the sound of Sid's truck coming 'round the bend would set her on guard.

— Kathy Keiper

The neighbors came to know and love Sid also. They knew the sight and sound of his truck and would know not to bother with any dog walking if Sid had been by.

— Kathy Keiper

Sid's truck found a prominent place in many a Bucks County Democratic Party function, parade, or similar event.

— Betsy Cohn, Sid's niece

SID THE LOTHARIO

When Sid married Betty, they honeymooned in Italy and visited Venice during the trip. As most visitors to Venice would, they arranged to take a gondola trip. They had just begun the tour when Sid heard the pounding of piles being driven from the opposite direction. Without a moment's hesitation, Sid ordered the gondolier to reverse course, so the newly-married couple spent their gondola tour observing a construction project rather than exploring the scenic canals of Venice. "Can you imagine?"

— Frank Depman

The Section Board invited candidates for zone vice president to one of its meetings. Both candi-

dates accepted the invitation. One of the candidates happened to be a woman. Each of the candidates ably presented his/her views and responded well to questions. At the end of the presentations, the candidates were asked to leave the room and the Board would make an endorsement. Sid was the first to speak, and his rationale favored the woman candidate. He made several persuasive arguments for her, and then added, "She's pretty, too".

— Bob Wright

At a Section meeting, a young female member seated at the same table remarked to me that she did not have a ride home from the meeting, as she had gotten a ride to the meeting from a co-worker who was headed in a different direction after the meeting. I asked her where she was going, and when she told me this, I thought that Sid and Frank Depman, who had usually driven together, were probably heading in that same direction. I asked Frank, who gladly offered to give the woman a ride home. The next day, Sid called me to ask who the delightful young lady was who rode home with Frank and him. He said many nice things about her, but he just couldn't remember her name. He did want to make it a point that he would gladly give her rides any time she needed this service in the future.

— Bob Wright

Sid always loved when we brought some young women engineers to the meetings. It just so happened that over the course of time, we had several young blondes, recent graduates no less, who began attending meetings. College sponsor nights helped get them to attend. Sid just loved to sit at a table with them and converse....what a change from those male-dominated days! They all seemed to move on though, marriages taking many away first, then children. He'd always ask me about them though, always wanted to know where they were....how they were doing.

— Dave VanOcker, Past Director

SID THE NIGHT OWL

I swear Sid would sit and wait until 5PM Friday to call to let me know the ASCE, Philadelphia Section newsletter was headed my way! Then it got to be, Sid would come in the wee hours of the morning to do the actual drop off.

I have a chocolate Labrador retriever that at the sound of Sid's truck coming 'round the bend would set her on guard. But the slightest touch on the front door would light her off the bed and down the stairs faster than you could say NO! (but then, most folks are in the REM-stages of sleep at 2AM and couldn't even get to NO!!)

I had a sit down talk with Sid, begging, pleading, telling him he was a worry to me, being out on the road at that time with all the drunks, what if he went offroad and into a ditch? As you can well imagine, that didn't faze him one bit. So we came to agree, Sid wouldn't come after 11pm. Then it was midnight because, you know, he

(Continued on Page 9)

In Loving Memory of Sid Robin

(Continued from Page 8)

would be out at a social engagement of some sort and convenient for him — then, before long, it was back to his usual whenever he got it done he would rush it over to me!

— Kathy Keiper

Sid would call early on Saturday mornings or late on Sunday evenings to get any info he needed, since he knew he'd catch me at those times. It didn't matter if I was barely awake, as long as he got me.

— Bob Wright

SID THE CONNOISSEUR

We keep hoping against hope that he'll come barreling around the corner... That he'll call and ask us out to Georgine's... even though he had to give up his martinis, he still liked a good time.

— Kathy Keiper

Sid, for whatever reason, never ate at the Engineers Club, and I never asked why. His preferred seat at any dinner at the Club was at the piano. (But he would never play anything!)

— Bob Wright

Sid enjoyed the movement of Section meetings away from the Engineers Club. He liked the meals at Williamson's. When the meetings moved to the Union League, he was ecstatic when the first meeting featured steak on the menu. At the following Board meeting, someone asked who was speaking that night. Sid replied, "I don't care, but I hope we're having that steak again!"

— Bob Wright

Sid was, for some reason, always so protective of his salads. Every once in a great while a waitress would actually get his salad plate away from him as they cleared the tables before serving the dinner portion; this was a rare event though! I think it was partly due to us changing meeting venues frequently that none of the waitresses ever got to know him, and his insistence on always having his salad WITH his dinner! If he had to leave during dinner he would always advise everyone at the table not to let them take the salad. (And heaven help you if you forgot, and his salad wasn't there when he returned!) It always took a detailed explanation from him for any of the waitresses to consent. I remember some funny confrontations with waitresses who at times were very insistent that he let them get his salad plate off the table — they didn't want to make exceptions.

— Dave VanOcker, Bob Wright

SID THE QUESTIONER

Sid enjoyed a long streak of having at least one question for the speaker at each Section meeting. In November 2002, the streak was broken. It was as if some unspoken ritual were being violated — we all chatted about it in hushed tones, and wondered what was going on. Sid didn't miss a beat, however, and he started another streak again at the next meeting.

— Bob Wright

The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.

— Jonas Salk

The LawAce Says...

(Continued from Page 3)

jects, stop and listen to what your attorney says. There is a reason for your attorney's objection.

Your attorney may object because the question goes to privileged information, such as attorney-client communications. Your attorney might object to the form of the question. The form of the question may be compounded with multiple parts or the question is confusing. After your attorney objects, the opposing attorney may ask you whether the question is confusing. Inevitably the question is confusing.

Be Careful What You Review In Preparation

The other side's attorney is entitled to see the documents you use in your deposition. The opposing attorney may also be able to see the documents you used to prepare for the deposition. You should not review documents that are communications from your attorney to you. These documents are privileged, meaning the other side cannot see them. However, if you review them before testifying, the other side may be entitled to see these documents that they could not see otherwise. Your purpose in testifying is to give truthful testimony of what you know; not to be the all-knowing person who will help the opposing side by giving them information.

Wear Appropriate Attire

You should dress for a deposition as if you were going to testify in court. You should dress up for depositions because some depositions are video recorded. The recording may be played in front of the jury, so dress accordingly. The attire should radiate credibility, not sex appeal or style. The preferred attire would be suits for men and skirted suits for women in a conservative color (navy blue, dark gray, beige, etc.)

Smile For the Camera

If a video camera is present, presume that you are being videotaped. This is worth mentioning because a high-ranking Microsoft executive pur-

portedly did not seem realize that the camera was recording until near the end of his three-day deposition in Microsoft's antitrust case.

Be Prepared For Questions

It is best to be prepared for some off-the-wall questions. The opposing attorney may ask you "Did you speak with your attorney prior to giving testimony today?" The attorney is trying to produce the surprised effect, hoping to get it on videotape or make you look untrustworthy in front of the jury. The attorney is able to ask if you talked to your attorney, but not the content of the communication. The proper dialog would go like this: Attorney: Did you speak with your attorney prior to giving testimony today?

Witness: Yes. He told me to tell the truth.

Attorney: What else did he say?

Your Attorney: Objection, privileged communication. I instruct you not to answer that question.

Tell The Truth

This is worth repeating — tell the truth. If you remember one thing from this article, it should be to tell the truth.

Prepared by Mark W.S. Young, JD, MBA, BSCE, EIT. Mr. Young is an attorney licensed in the US Patent and Trademark Office, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Texas. Mark Young has worked on a variety of construction law cases ranging from defective house construction to million dollar environmental contamination cases. From the engineering side, Mark Young has experience designing land development, municipal, DOT, and airport projects. Website: www.LawAce.net

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March Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

This presentation will address concrete, its impact on the environment, how it can be made "greener", and how it may be used to attain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) points.

In December, the topic of the Section Meeting was "Green Buildings and Integrated Design." This meeting will provide follow-up data and more specific information concerning the role of concrete in this important effort.

Jamie M. Phillips has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Michigan. She has EIT certification and will be eligible for PE licensure later this year. She recently took a position with Master Builders after working on the technical side of cement and concrete for over four years with St Lawrence Cement (and sister company Holcim, US). She is a certified "Concrete Technologist," ACI Level I, ACI Flatwork Technician, and a member of ACI, ASCE, CSI and other professional organizations in addition to ASCE. She is a member of the ACI committees for Cold Weather Concreting (ACI-306), Residential Concrete (ACI-332) as well as the Transportation Research Board (TRB) committee A2E05- Concrete Materials and Placement Techniques. She started her career as an on-site project engineer in commercial construction for The Christman Company in Michigan.

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2004 DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIRS

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE, will again be participating in the **Annual Delaware Valley Science Fairs**. This year's Fairs' judging day will be **Wednesday, April 7, 2004** at the **Fort Washington Expo Center**, Fort Washington, PA. As in the past, the Section will be judging, and subsequently presenting Special Awards. Our Section is looking for 6 to 8 judges to participate in our judging, with the Science Fairs needing approximately 500 judges.

For further information and /or to volunteer as a judge, please contact Philadelphia Section Past President **Chris L. Rood, P.E.** at (856) 461-9565, ext 102 or via e-mail at C-T-Rood@msn.com.

LIFE MEMBERS TO BE HONORED AT MARCH DINNER MEETING

This year, twelve Philadelphia Section Members will become Life Members of ASCE. These members will be honored at our March 18, 2004 Dinner Meeting, when we will present their Life Member Certificates to them.

Achieving Life Membership in ASCE requires a career of service to ASCE and the Civil Engineering Profession. To qualify for Life Membership, a member must:

- Have reached the age of 65
- Have paid dues for a minimum of 20 years
- Have paid dues in any membership grade for a number of years that when added to their age equals or exceeds 95

Life Members are exempt from dues and need only pay a small service fee to receive ASCE THE NEWS and Civil Engineering magazine.

In 2004, the following members of the Philadelphia Section will achieve the status of Life Member: **Mohammad B. A. Kahn; John Smyth, Sr.; Philip V. D. McLaughlin, Jr.; G. Lee**

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Continued from Page 1

strained 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 MacBride** at (215) 580-3404 or **Bill Mulloy** at (215) 656-6583.



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OOPS...

It appears that the Philadelphia Section, ASCE either had two dinner meetings in January or the notice on the front page of the February edition of THE NEWS had the wrong month. In any event, we think it was the latter, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Our Interim Editor will be disciplined appropriately and will immediately be given a calendar which lists January only once per year for future use.

In the Section History column in the February edition of THE NEWS, we inadvertently omitted one Section member who has served as Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year. **Pasquale 'Pat' Dougherty** was honored thusly in 2001. Sorry for leaving you off the list, Pat.

Christensen; A. Carl Helwig; John E. Edinger; Alvin R. Zion; Thomas R. Babacz; Robert C. Peters; John E. Righy; Robert H. Bryans; Thomas R. Smith


ASCE appreciates the lifelong support of these members. We thank them for their contributions and years of dedication to our profession. We hope you will join us on **March 18, 2004** to congratulate our new Life Members.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Get THE NEWS Via Email!

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Over 200 of the Section's members have opted for the electronic version of THE NEWS since this service has been provided. If you elect the e-mail option, you can get THE NEWS sent to your computer, either at home or in the office, and see it about a week before the mailed version would hit your mailbox.

You can also choose to get THE NEWS both electronically and hard-copy if you would prefer both. If you would like more information, or want to sign up for the e-mail service, please contact us through our website, our hotline, or our Post Office box.



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