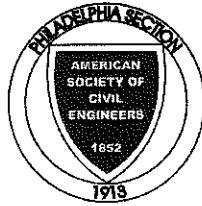


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The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Vol. 77-6

Our 92nd Year

March 2005

MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

UNION LEAGUE • 140 South Broad Street (at Sansom Street) • Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: South Jersey Transportation Master Plan

SPEAKER: Kathleen Aufschneider, P.E., Chief Engineer, South Jersey Transportation Authority

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005. Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$30 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, 800-461-4190, or via e-mail at info@asce-philly.org. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.**

SPECIAL FEATURE — Widener University and Swarthmore College Night. The ASCE Student Chapters, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil Engineering of Widener University and the Department of Engineering of Swarthmore College will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited to participate.

SPECIAL FEATURE — LIFE MEMBERS NIGHT. Newly-inducted Life Members will be the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's honored guests at this meeting. Life Member Certificates will be presented to those attending. Please join us to cite this year's Life Members. *(Continued on Page 2)*

APRIL DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2005

UNION LEAGUE • 140 South Broad Street (at Sansom Street) • Center City Philadelphia
Cocktails – 5:30 p.m. • Dinner – 6:30 p.m. • Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Philadelphia International Airport Expansion

SPEAKER: Charles J. Isdell, Director of Aviation, Philadelphia Department of Commerce

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2005. Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$30 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, 800-461-4190, or via e-mail at info@asce-philly.org. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.**

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Construction, Structural and Transportation Technical Groups Joint Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 12:00
noon to 1:30 PM

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

PRICE: \$10 members, \$5 students (lunch
included)

SUBJECT: Century Lane Bridge – Stone Arch
Strengthening

SPEAKER: John Lutz, P.E., Chief Bridge
Engineer, Philadelphia Department of Streets

There are over 130 stone arch bridges in the five-county Philadelphia area (PaDOT's District 6), with a dozen of them in Philadelphia. While the bridges are good examples of 18th and 19th century craftsmanship and are aesthetically pleasing, they are not always functional for today's vehicular needs. They are also difficult to rate for load limits and structural deficiencies. Many of them lack sufficient waterway openings and present obstructions in streams. There is a concern that the bridges must be preserved as they are historic. Given all of these factors, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to upgrade or restore these structures.

Recently, a new type of strengthening method was developed to increase the load-carrying capacity of these bridges, thereby allowing them to be brought up to today's loading standards. The method is minimally invasive, thus the bridges would look the same after the work as they did before, and historic concerns would be satisfied.

The Department of Streets decided to try this method on one of its stone-arch bridges, Century Lane over Poquessing Creek in the far northeastern section of the City. The work was begun and completed last year. The method was found to be successful and can now be used with confidence in the toolbox of Engineers to solve the problems related to restoration of stone arch bridges.

(Continued on Page 9)



PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It is amazing how quickly the year goes by. There are so many things to accomplish, and the ball starts rolling, with the trick being to keep the momentum. There are things remaining to be accomplished, and I will be working with the Board to make them happen, but I am still looking for help from the membership. The Technical Groups have been doing a great job in providing educational programs to our members, but some Groups are still stronger than others. I hope to still create an atmosphere where these Groups work very closely with the Board for the added support that the Board can provide. Carol Martsoff will be working with me in this effort.

As I write this message, we are in the midst of Engineers Week. I attended the Proclamation Luncheon, and was very happy to see the enthusiasm of the crowd and recognition given to so many of our peers and the projects that they worked on. We must never let up in this tradition! With that introduction, I would like to recognize the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council on the fine work that it does year after year. There is a backbone to that organization that thrives, and continues to bring us great programs every year. THANK YOU!

My message over the year has been to **get involved**, and get involved to make a difference. That is so important. I just recently agreed to become active in the Chester County TMA, an organization that promotes the transportation agenda in the eastern part of the County. As I become more familiar with the organization, I will help promote the infrastructure needs of the community.

I also attended the Future City Competition in late January. I was pleased to see so many of you there to help with the event. What a rewarding experience! To watch these 6th, 7th and 8th graders present what they have accomplished in the weeks (or days) leading up to the competition is amazing. The teachers, mentors, judges and volunteers that give their time to this cause is great. If you haven't gotten involved, I would strongly recommend doing so, as a mentor or a volunteer at the competition.

We still have much to do in the remaining time left before the summer, and I will continue to work with the Board in making our Section better.

Sincerely,
Brian A. Stover, P.E.
President - Philadelphia Section, ASCE

March Joint Dinner Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

The South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) was founded in 1992 to manage the Atlantic City Expressway and Atlantic City International Airport. The agency is charged with the planning, design, and construction of all capital improvements on these facilities. It also plays a significant role in the management of private charter bus operations for casino-related transportation services. The enhancement of Atlantic City as a visitor and convention destination and recent expansion of casinos has led to considerable planning efforts on the expansion of the Expressway and the Airport to handle new travel demand. SJTA is now developing a long-range plan to address these needs and to finance the necessary capital improvements.



Kathleen C. Aufschneider, P.E. has served as Director of Engineering and Chief Engineer for the South Jersey Transportation Authority since 1997. As such, Ms. Aufschneider is responsible for planning, design, and construction of all capital

improvements on the Atlantic City Expressway and at the Atlantic City International Airport. Her experience includes roadway, airfield, passenger terminal, parking, and building projects as well as intelligent transportation systems, and facilities maintenance. Currently underway are construction of an aircraft taxiway, aircraft apron, terminal

expansion, overhead pedestrian bridge, Express E-Zpass facility, 20-mile roadway widening, traveler information system, a major new toll plaza, and two parking facilities.

Ms. Aufschneider is a Professional Engineer and Planner with 28 years of experience in transportation policy, planning and engineering. A veteran of the NJ Department of Transportation, she holds a BS in Civil Engineering and an MS in Transportation Planning and Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York and is a Certified Public Manager. She is also involved in several professional societies and currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS); the Board of Directors of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association; Co-Chair for both the WTS Philadelphia Scholarship Committee and for ITE Met Section, Southern New Jersey Arrangements. She has been honored as 2002 Government Engineer of the Year by the ASCE New Jersey Section; as 2003 Woman of the Year by the WTS Philadelphia; and most recently as a 2004 Women of Influence by NJBiz.

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

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
APRIL/MAY '05 ISSUE
MARCH 18, 2005**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

by James Markham
Forum Editor

Alyson Radel Lester, P.E.
2004-2005 President

Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 922-8081
arleston@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 **John Federico** of Urban Engineers, at **secretary@ymfphilly.com** or at **(215) 922-8081**. *There are no fees to join!*

Current Events

2nd Annual YMF Night at the Sixers

On **Wednesday, March 23, 2005**, the Sixers will take on the NBA's defending world champion Detroit Pistons, and the YMF will be there to witness the action. Tipoff is at 8 PM in the Wachovia Center. Tickets are available for \$25, which includes a ticket in the 200 level (behind the Pistons' bench), a soda and a hot dog.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact **Mike McAtee** at **(215) 922-8082, x1622**, or at **mjmcaatee@urbanengineers.com**.

Volunteers Needed!

On **Saturday, April 9, 2005**, from approximately 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, the YMF will help the Friends of the Wissahickon repair storm-damaged areas of the park. If you would like to get involved, please contact **Catherine Chomat** at **cjchomat@yahoo.com**.

Member Spotlight

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

Kristen York is a Project Engineer for McMahon Associates. Kristen joined McMahon after graduating from Temple University in 2001. At McMahon, Kristen performs many different kinds of work on many different projects. She was recently the Project Engineer for a \$13 million PENNDOT project that involved a new pedestrian bridge, and multi-use trails over the state route. She is an active member of ASCE and ASHE, and she currently serves as the College Contact Chair on the Board of the Younger Member Forum of ASCE. She lives in Harleysville with her new husband of 4 months, Stephen York. Kristen, scoffs at the idea of free-time and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Villanova University.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Best Named 2005 Engineer of the Year, Delco Chapter PSPE

Susan L. Best, P.E. has been named **Engineer of the Year 2005** by the **Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers**. This was presented to Susan at the Chapter's meeting on February 16, 2005.

A native of Pennsylvania, Susan has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University, Los Angeles. After eight years working in Los Angeles and Chicago, she returned to our area in 1984. She currently works for Urban Engineers, Inc. and is the Assistant Director, Traffic Engineering and ITS PA. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland.

Susan has 28 years of engineering experience, primarily in traffic engineering and transportation planning. Her work has included feasibility studies, project need studies, signing plans, traffic control plans, traffic signal design plans, and traffic analyses for environmental impact studies. She is currently the project manager for traffic signal improvements at 29 intersections on the Stenton/Godfrey Avenues corridor in Philadelphia.

Susan is an active member of the American Society of Highway Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers, in addition to our Section. She is a Fellow of both the Institute of Transportation Engineers and Society of Women Engineers. In addition to numerous previous leadership positions in ITE and SWE, she is currently the senior vice chair of the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, judging coordinator for the Philadelphia Regional Future City Competition, newsletter editor of the Delaware County Chapter of PSPE, and national bylaws chair of SWE.

Susan lives in Havertown with her husband Fran Talarowski; her son Andy is majoring in physics education at the University of Delaware. She is active at Temple Lutheran Church where she is currently in the vocal choir and handbell choir and quartet. She is a past president of the church and was treasurer for 13 years. She is also active in the Boy Scouts of America, where she is advancement chair for Troop 296 and Constellation District and has been actively involved in Cradle of Liberty Council training courses. In August 2005, she will be serving her second consecutive year as scoutmaster of the council's National Youth Leadership Training conference.

The ASCE, Phila. Section is happy to see one of our own recognized thusly and offers our collective congratulations to Susan on her well-deserved honors.

SPRING SOCIAL TAKING SHAPE

As President Stover mentioned in his President's Message last month, we were suddenly advised in January that the Sugarloaf Conference Center, the "home" of our Spring Social for 9 of the last 10 events (dating to 1995), was closing. Having become well accustomed to last-minute scrambles for rescheduling, etc., given our history with meeting locations (see the Section History piece in the December/January THE NEWS), a committee was hastily formed to find a new place for our year-end festivities.

The committee, led by Vice President **Carol Martsolf**, quickly came up with a half-dozen possibilities and did a fast but thorough analysis of price, availability and other factors. In a very short time, given all other constraints and schedule needs, the committee came up with a new location which would additionally benefit the Section by allowing the Social to be held on the originally-set date of **May 6, 2005**.

Thus, the Social will be held at the **Villanova University Conference Center** in Radnor on **Friday, May 6, 2005**. The Conference Center is NOT on the main campus. If you attended the Engineers Week Banquet last month (or the 2002 Engineers Week Banquet), you have already enjoyed what the Center has to offer. We believe it is a great venue for the Social and will allow us to enjoy much the same ambience of that we enjoyed at Sugarloaf. (And those of you who know the Interim Editor know that he doesn't toss the word "ambience" around casually!) More information on the Social will be provided in the next edition of THE NEWS.

Mark your calendar now for the **Spring Social** at the **Villanova University Conference Center** on **Friday, May 6, 2005**. The cocktail hour will begin at 7 PM, with dinner at 8 PM, and the usual festivities following. *See you there!*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members joining the ASCE, Phila. Section in January and February are the following:

George Argyris, Craig Benedict, Daniel Condiles, Michael Connor, Brian Farmer, Peter Fedun, Kenneth Felton, Steven Goodsell, Richard Gostautas, Joseph Guckavan, Robert Humbert, Alexandra Iannitelli, Robert Irons, Michael Keiser, Geoffrey Klein, Manoj Krishnappa, Lawrence Leso, Pablo Mancheno, Shante Mason, Thyagarajan Natarajan, Fredric Pondo, Gabrielle Trout, and Joseph Yeager.

Welcome aboard!

AN IRISH EPITATH

May you be in Heaven
a half hour before
the devil knows you're dead!



FROM THE ANNALS OF THE SECTION'S HISTORY...PART 1

The Very Model of a Modern Civil Engineer

In 1983, the ASCE, Phila. Section hosted the ASCE Spring Convention, the last time a National Convention was held in our area. Back then, there were two annual meetings/conventions per year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The last Spring National Meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee in 1988. Since then, the events have been consolidated into one which occurs in October. The 1983 Spring Meeting was a very successful event, conducted at the Franklin Plaza Hotel.

One of the features of the Convention was a performance by the Philadelphia Festival Chorus at the Academy of Music. The Chorus, through one of its members, **Carl Yaffe**, put together a memorable song about the lament of the Civil Engineer, and the ditty was performed by the Chorus at the event. For those of you who may recall some of this, here is the song, sung to the tune of the "Major General's Song" from "Pirates of Penzance."

I am the very model of a modern Civil Engineer,
I survey the land and plan the roads and put up
bridges far and near,
I know the regulations of each county listed on
the map,
And feel at home with dirt upon my boots and
blueprints on my lap.

I supervise the workers with their ponderous
machinery,
I warn them all ahead of time - "Please don't
run down the greenery!"
With great aplomb I slope a highway 'round old
oaks and newer pines (newer pines?),
And take much care to not mix up the water
pipes and sewer lines.

Oh, do take care to not confound the water pipes
and sewer lines,
No, don't you dare to twist around the older and
the newer lines,
Just think of what a drink the sink would give if
linked up to the sewer lines!

Oh, don't worry that the oxen team that pulls the
pipe will go amiss,
I catch mistakes of every type by working on my
abacus,
Because, you see, in planning roads and building
bridges far and near,
I am the very model of a modern Civil Engineer.

Oh yes, we see in planning roads and building
bridges far and near,
You are the very model of a modern Civil
Engineer.

Well, the public grasp of what I do is very low,
and that's the pits,
My neighbors call up saying that their stereo is
on the fritz,
While drivers bold ask tersely why their Chevy
won't stop on a dime,

Commuters scold and curse me 'cause the
railroad doesn't run on time.

The folks in Philadelphia just have tons of gripes
they love to share,
About a so-called high-speed road that runs
beside the Schuylkill there,
The traffic crawls along each day from Valley
Forge to Pass-a-yunk (Pass-ee-yunk?),
And no one can get off until in pothole and
crevasse he's sunk!

If Washington were here, we'd say, "Drive
anywhere but Valley Forge,
You'd do as well to keep your troops alive
behind an alley, George",
The British would have won if Washington had
had to drive to Valley Forge!

Oh, it may occur, when I conduct an urban
re-designing boom,
I'll slip and run a viaduct into somebody's
dining room,
But still in all, in planning roads and building
bridges far and near,
I am the very model of a modern Civil Engineer.

Yet still in all, in planning roads and building
bridges far and near,
He is the very model of a modern Civil Engineer.

Thanks to **Joe Syrnick** for some of the de-
tails on the song. Joe played a key role in the 1983
Convention and coordinated the Chorus' perfor-
mance and this song.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MEETING PLANNED

The ASCE, Phila. Section's Government Af-
fairs Committee, chaired by Past President
Ruben David, has scheduled a meeting with the
Honorable **John Perzel**, State Representative
from Philadelphia and Speaker of the House, on
Thursday, March 31, 2005 at 4:30 PM. The
meeting place will be the Drexel University Pic-
ture Gallery, Third Floor, Main Building, at 32nd
and Chestnut Streets.

This event will be free and open to all ASCE,
Phila. Section members. No RSVP is necessary.
Parking is available in the parking lot east of the
main building.

ASCE, Phila. Section members will have the
opportunity to hear from and speak with one of
our region's most powerful State legislators on is-
sues which affect the Civil Engineering profes-
sion. We strongly encourage you to attend this
important event.



Karen Jehanian, PE
President

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ORDER OF THE ENGINEER CEREMONY SCHEDULED

The Engineers Club of Philadelphia is proud
to announce that **Mr. William Henry, P.E.**,
ASCE National President, will preside over the
Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's initiation cer-
emony of the Order of the Engineer which will be
held on **Wednesday, April 27, 2005** at 4:30PM at
Temple University.

The Order of the Engineer is a solemn obliga-
tion to uphold the standards and the dignity of the
Engineering profession. It is an obligation to turn
to practical use the principles of science and the
means of technology. The purpose is to stimulate
formal public recognition by Engineers in the
United States of two basic principles. These prin-
ciples are that:

(1) The primary purpose of Engineering is
to serve the public, and

(2) All members of the Engineering profes-
sion share a common bond.

Those that have taken the pledge are identi-
fied by a stainless steel ring worn on the 5th
finger of their working hand.

Candidates for the Order of the Engineer must
be graduates from an ABET Engineering Accredi-
tation Commission approved degree program and/
or licensed Engineers. (This includes seniors
about to graduate.) For more information about
the Order of the Engineer, please visit [http://
www.order-of-the-engineer.org](http://www.order-of-the-engineer.org)

The cost to join the Order of the Engineer will
be only \$10, which covers the cost of the ring and
a certificate recognizing your membership. Light
snacks and refreshments will be provided free of
charge!

Please direct any questions to **Michael J.
McAtee, P.E.**, Director, Engineers Club, at
mjmcatee@urbanengineers.com or by phone at
(215) 922-8081, extension 1622.

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FROM THE ANNALS OF THE SECTION'S HISTORY...PART 2

City Hall Recognized as National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark

You may recall that the ASCE, Phila. Section submitted Philadelphia City Hall for recognition by ASCE National as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (NHCEL) in November, 2004. The nomination package was approved by National in December and the landmark designation will be formally adopted as such by the National Board in April, 2005.

City Hall is an amazing and unique structure. Its construction was started in 1871 after State legislation was passed which mandated that it be built to replace the former seat of City government at 6th and Chestnut Streets. This building, next to Independence Hall (still in place, still called Old City Hall), had become inadequate to house the various municipal offices after the consolidation of the City and County of Philadelphia in 1854. The location of the new seat of City government, in the former Center Square, was approved in a public referendum in 1869, beating out Washington Square by nearly 20,000 votes.

While the first "tenants" of the building, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, arrived in 1877, the building would not be totally completed until 1901. The great clock tower itself did not even begin construction until 1884 and took 12 years to finish. The final price tag for the entire construction project was \$24,344,355.48.

Some other facts and figures about City Hall:

- It has 8 floors of office space and 630,000 sq. ft. of floor space.
- There are 14 entrances to the building, making security a nightmare.
- Over 700 separate rooms occupy all that floor space.
- The tower is 548 feet tall. William Penn's statue itself makes up the last 36 feet, 5 inches of its height.

- The Penn statue weighs 27 tons. It was cast into bronze locally at the Tacony Iron and Metal Works and delivered to the site in horse-drawn wagons in 47 pieces. The pieces were assembled in City Hall Courtyard in 1892 to remain on display for the curious. In 1894, the statue was disassembled and hoisted piece by piece into place, allegedly with hydraulic winches.
- When it was built, City Hall had 412 radiators powered by six heating plants.
- The original elevators were steam-powered, since electricity had not been adapted to such use when the building's construction was started. They were converted to electric operation years later:
- The building has the most comprehensive sculpture decoration of any American building, with other 250 pieces on the structure, all crafted by Alexander Milne Calder. It is one of the world's premier showcases of architectural sculpture in the Renaissance tradition.
- The stairways in the corner entrances each contain 156 steps and are cantilevered, with each flight fashioned from a single, self-supporting granite slab.

City Hall remains the highest masonry load-bearing structure in the world. For its first eight years (until 1909), it was also the tallest occupied structure in the United States. (The building's architect, **John McArthur, Jr.**, intended it to be the tallest structure in the world, but it never achieved that distinction. The Washington Monument, 7 feet taller, and the Eiffel Tower managed to beat it once each was completed.)

Thanks to **Ruben David** and the ASCE, Phila. Section's committee on this for a job well done.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

- Thomas Edison

SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP!

The Delaware Valley Science Fairs will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 6, 2005** at the Fort Washington Expo Center. The ASCE, Phila. Section will once again participate in the Fairs and offer four Special Awards for projects that have a Civil Engineering theme, with two awards for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend your day (approximately 8 am to 3 pm) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. It is a very interesting experience to say the least.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge for the Section please contact **Chris L. Rood** at chris.rood@dmjmharris.com.

You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website www.dvsf.org. For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website.

We hope you can join us for this!

HAVE AN ARTICLE? SEND IT IN!

THE NEWS welcomes articles, submissions, photos and just about anything that can be printed if you think it would be of benefit to the ASCE, Philadelphia Section membership. If you have something you would like to share in these pages, please contact the Interim Editor about it.

To truly be Irish is to realize that, in the end, the world will break your heart.

- Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan



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SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section is pleased to announce the availability of the following types of undergraduate scholarships for 2005. Scholarships will be awarded at our Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance on **Friday, May 6, 2005**.

Type of Award

We recognize that the different colleges have differences in the regulations as to scholarships, stipends and awards. It is the 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 which have Student Chapters in the Philadelphia Section (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 will be required to submit an essay, limited to 1,000 words, on the following topic: *"We often hear in ASCE that Civil Engineers make great contributions to society and humanity. In what ways do you want to contribute to society and humanity using your Civil Engineering experience and education?"*

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 **Christopher Menna, P.E.**, President-Elect Scholarship Committee Philadelphia Section ASCE P.O. Box 58186 Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

The deadline for submissions is **Friday, March 25, 2005**. The President-Elect will forward all submissions to the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Scholarship Committee for review and final determinations.

LIFE MEMBERS TO BE HONORED AT MARCH DINNER MEETING

This year, fifteen Philadelphia Section Members will become Life Members of ASCE. These members will be the honored guests of the Section at our **March 17, 2005 Dinner Meeting**, when we will present their Life Member Certificates to them.

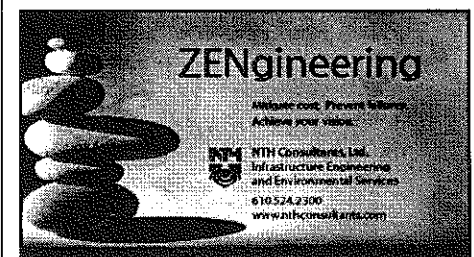
The achievement of Life Membership in ASCE requires a career of service to ASCE and the Civil Engineering Profession. To qualify for Life Membership, a member must:

- 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 News* and *Civil Engineering* magazine.

In 2005, the following members of the Philadelphia Section will achieve the status of Life Member: **Daniel Banks; Matthew J. Burkart; Joel L. Caves; William W. Daley; Balaur S. Dhillon; Klaus K. Fuelleborn; Evans C. Goodling; Robert E. Griffith; Peter C. Johnson; William D. Kee, Jr.; Sheldon A. Kinbar; Alfred A. McClymont; Aswin I. Patel; Paul C. Peterson; and Kamal N. Yousif.**

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 17, 2005**, to congratulate our new Life Members.



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DESIGN PROFESSIONALS MAY BE SUBJECTED TO A CONTRACTOR'S CLAIM FOR ECONOMIC DAMAGES

Prepared by William D. Auxer, Esq.

Until recently, design professionals did not have a concern about being subjected to a lawsuit by contractors seeking economic damages based on the theory of negligent misrepresentation of design plans and specifications. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court's decision in *Bilt-Rite Contractors, Inc. v. The Architectural Studio*, filed on January 19, 2005, should create a concern amongst all design professionals. Prior to the *Bilt-Rite* Supreme Court Decision, Pennsylvania Courts applied the Economic Loss Doctrine in barring a contractor from seeking a claim for economic damages against a design professional based on a theory of negligent misrepresentation where there is an absence of privity of contract between the contractor and design professional. The Economic Loss Doctrine, simply put, bars a person or entity from seeking a claim for economic damages where the action is based in tort.

In *Bilt-Rite Contractors, Inc. v. The Architectural Studio*, the contractor, Bilt-Rite, sued the architect, The Architectural Studio ("TAS"), on a theory of negligent misrepresentation under Section 552 of the Restatement (second) of Torts, claiming that TAS's specifications were false and/or misleading, and seeking economic damages for its increased construction costs. The trial court ruled that Bilt-Rite did not have a viable Section 552 cause of action against TAS. On appeal, the Superior Court (the intermediate appellate court) affirmed the trial court's decision, but noted that the essence of privity is not an absolute bar to recovery for economic damages in tort. The Superior Court also noted that the tort of negligent misrepresentation requires the existence of a duty owed to by one party to another — architect to the contractor in this instance. The Superior Court concluded that because Bilt-Rite did not have privity of contract with TAS, TAS owed it no

duty, and Bilt-Rite cannot proceed on a negligent misrepresentation claim.

The Supreme Court granted further review since the issue was one of first impression with the court. The Supreme Court formally adopted Section 552 of the Restatement (second) of Torts as law in Pennsylvania where a design professional negligently supplied information, and it was "foreseeable that the information would be used and relied upon by third parties, even if the third parties had no direct contractual relationship" with the design professional. The Supreme Court held that the Economic Loss Doctrine did not apply to claims of negligent misrepresentation under Section 552 of the Restatement (second) of Torts. The Supreme Court ruled that since Bilt-Rite stated a viable claim for negligent misrepresentation under Section 552, Bilt-Rite should not be barred from recovering the damages from TAS that it incurred, if proven.

William D. Auxer is a principal of the law firm of Kaplin Stewart. His office is located in Blue Bell, PA. Mr. Auxer focuses his practice in construction law, public contracting and environmental law. Before becoming an attorney, Mr. Auxer worked as a Civil Engineer in the environmental construction field. He is an associate member of ASCE.

2005 ENGINEERS WEEK — ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ONE!

The 2005 celebration of Engineers Week was conducted from Friday, February 18 to Saturday, February 26. The 2005 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, **Donald Dalessandro**, was formally installed at the Engineers Week Banquet on **February 26, 2005**.

The ASCE, Phila. Section is well represented on the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, which coordinates Engineers Week activities locally. This representation includes **Susan Best, Ed D'Alba, Pat Dougherty, Victor Marcus, Carol Martsoff, Mike McAttee, Chris Menna, Larry Moy, Harry Perks, Fred Plotnick, Chris Rood, Joe Syrnick, and Bob Wright**.

SECTION'S FUTURE CITY AWARD WINNERS

The Regional Future City Competition was held on **Saturday, January 29, 2005** at Villanova University. Over 30 regional schools participated.

Both the ASCE, Phila. Section and the Younger Member Forum contributed Special Awards at the Competition and had teams of judges available to rate the contestants. The winning teams of the **St. John the Evangelist School** (Section's award) and the **Carl Sandburg School** (YMF award) are pictured below.




ASCE, Philadelphia Section Award given to St. John the Evangelist School, Yardley, PA.



ASCE, Philadelphia Section, Younger Member Forum Award given to Carl Sandburg School, Levittown, PA.

Truth in science can be defined as the working hypothesis best suited to open the way to the next better one.

— Konrad Lorenz



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FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Wyndham Hotel, Mount Laurel, NJ

"PATCO Happenings"

by James Markham, Staff Writer

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section made our annual journey across the Delaware River to join our South Jersey Branch compatriots at the February Joint Dinner meeting. The topic for the meeting, "PATCO Happenings," was particularly appropriate as over 38,000 riders a day choose the PATCO (Port Authority Transit Company) High Speed Line as their mode for crossing the river every day. The room was filled with a lively crowd of about 1/380th of PATCO's daily ridership.

South Jersey Branch President **Brian Lipko, P.E.**, began the meeting with some announcements from his branch before giving way to Section President **Brian Stover, P.E.** Mr. Stover began by telling some mercifully short jokes about the superiority of his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Stover then introduced, the former Chief Engineer of the DRPA, and the current General Manager of PATCO, **Mr. Bob Box, P.E.**

Mr. Box began by describing how the PATCO High Speed Line was the state of the art when it opened and has served its function admirably through the years. Recently, however, an aggressive modernization program has been undertaken. A \$25 million station upgrade has already been completed. Riders today enjoy new escalators, lighting signing, and aesthetic features thanks to that program. They have also completed the replacement of 52,000 wooden ties with modern concrete ties. The only areas of track that still have the obsolete wooden ties are those areas with complicated switches.

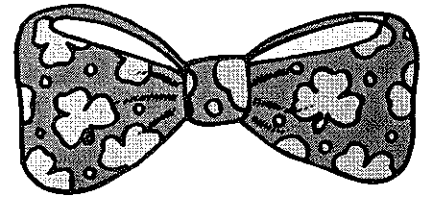
Planned improvements for the near term include upgrading the rolling stock, and implementing a modern fare collection system. Twelve cars at a time will be taken out of service in order to completely rehab them while maintaining a full schedule with the remaining cars. The new fare collection system will utilize a permanent "smart" card that will be used by regular riders and a paper magnetic ticket for the occasional rider. The smart card can be recharged with funds at vending machines throughout the system, or it can be recharged automatically in a similar fashion to the EZ-Pass system in place on the local bridges and toll roads.

Mr. Box also discussed the long term planned expansion of the PATCO High Speed Line. These plans include three options in New Jersey that would all include a new line extending from Camden to the south and east. Any of these options would merge with the main line in Camden before crossing the bridge into Pennsylvania. There are also two options under consideration in Pennsylvania, both of which would provide light rail service along the Delaware waterfront area down to the Navy Yard.

After briefly describing some of the other ventures being considered by PATCO, including Transit Oriented Development (TOD) options, Mr. Box graciously answered several questions from the audience. Both ASCE Presidents then thanked Mr. Box and offered him a few tokens of our appreciation.

For more information on all of the exciting projects happening at PATCO, please visit: <http://www.drpa.org/patco/index.asp>

In the "This Has Almost Nothing To Do With The Joint Meeting" department, interestingly (to some staff writers anyway), last year, our Section President, **Allan Moore**, and the President of the South Jersey Branch, **Dena J. Moore** shared last names, while this year Presidents **Brian Stover** and **Brian Lipko** share the same first name. We at THE NEWS are sure that President Elect for the Philadelphia Section, **Chris Menna**, is wondering what element of his name is shared with the President Elect of the South Jersey Branch, **Upendra Karna**. We'll have to wait until February 2006 to learn the answer to this perplexing dilemma.



AN IRISH PRAYER

May the road rise to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face.

The rains fall soft upon your fields,

And, until we meet again,

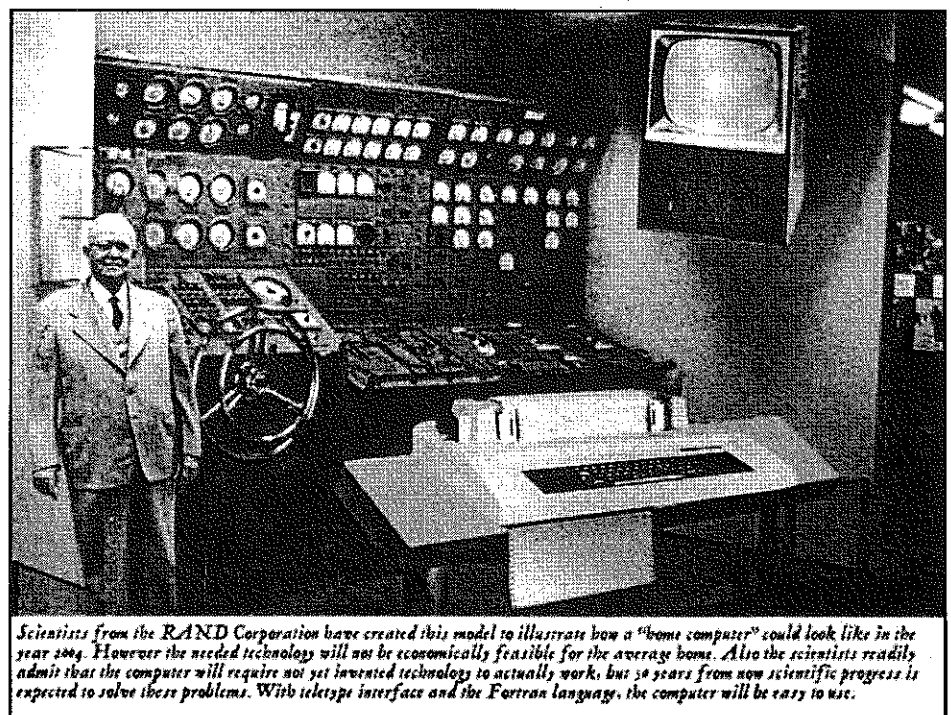
May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand.

PROGRESS — 50 YEARS OF TECHNOLOGY

This photo appeared in *Popular Mechanics* in 1954.

As you may know, the modern computer was invented right here in Philadelphia, at the University of Pennsylvania in 1946. ENIAC (for Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator) was about the size of your living room. Part of it is still on display at Penn.

By 1954, when this photo was taken, computers were getting smaller, and the one pictured was thought to be what a home computer would look like (one for the home, not one the size of a home!). We can only imagine what the 1954 version of a "laptop" must have looked like!



Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 30 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.

Technical Group Activities

(Continued from Page 1)

Jack Lutz has been with the Bridge Section of the Department of Streets for 38 years, starting immediately after he received his Bachelor of Science degree from the then-Drexel Institute of Technology. He has held several positions within the Section and has served as the Chief Bridge Engineer for the past 11 years.

For reservations, please contact **Joanna Robinson** at (215) 922-8080. The deadline for reservations will be Friday, March 18, 2005.

Engineering Management Technical Group

Joint Meeting with the Younger Member Forum

Luncheon Meeting

SUBJECT: An Approach to Overcoming Your Engineering Training

Graduates with an Engineering degree have been well trained in the application of established algorithms related to their field of expertise. As important as these skills are, there is a large array of concepts that is equally important for success. This presentation is intended to create an awareness of these concepts and their effective application.

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM

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

PRICE: Hot Buffet Lunch – \$10; Students – \$5

SPEAKER: Donald J. Koestler, President, DJ Koestler, LLC

Don is a graduate of Villanova University with a degree in Chemical Engineering. During his 40 years with Rohm and Haas Company, he held managerial and leadership positions in manufacturing, engineering, and corporate technology. He played a key role in the establishment of the company's Process Development Network. He is currently an Adjunct Professor in Drexel University's Graduate Program in Engineering Management and teaches courses in "Leadership in Engineering Management", "Engineering Management – Paradox and Creativity" and "Systems Thinking."

For reservations, please contact **Dennis MacBride** at dmacbride@septa.org or (215) 580-3404 or **Bill Mulloy** at William.J.Mulloy@nap02usace.army.mil or (215) 656-6583 *no later than Friday, March 25, 2005.*

Technical Group — Delaware Valley Geoinstitute (DVGI)

DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 5:30 PM, social hour; 6:30 PM, dinner; 7:15 PM, presentation

SUBJECT: Large-scale Load Test

SPEAKER: Martin McDermott, McKinney Drilling Company

LOCATION: Wyndam Valley Forge, 888 Chesterbrook Blvd., Wayne, PA

CONTACT: Ms. Cindy Bruce at (610) 524-6762 by Friday, March 11, 2005

COST: \$30 / \$5 for students

INTERESTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL & WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING?

The Philadelphia Section, ASCE is gauging interest in initiating an Environmental and Water Resources Technical Group. This Group would work alongside the current Technical Groups (Construction, Structural, Transportation, Engineering Management, and DVGI) with a focus on environmental and water resources issues. Borrowing the vision of ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute, this Technical Group will be tasked with the integration of the technical expertise and public policy into the planning, design, construction and operation of environmentally sound and sustainable infrastructure impacting air, land, and water resources. Specifically, this Group will focus on how these issues impact the Delaware Valley and neighboring areas. If you are interested in participating in this Group, have ideas on possible speakers and topics, or would like additional information, please contact **Jeremy Colello** at (215) 222-3000 x3514 or jcoello@pennoni.com.

GET YOUR NEWS ELECTRONICALLY!

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Over 200 of your fellow Section members have chosen the electronic version of THE NEWS since this service began a few years ago. If you elect the e-mail option, you can get THE NEWS sent to the computer of your choice (home, work, wherever) and therefore will see it about a week before the mailed copy might reach your mailbox.

You can also choose to get THE NEWS in both formats (hard copy and e-mail) if you prefer.

If you would like more information or would like to enroll in the e-mail list, please contact us through the Section website, our electronic message hotline, or via "snail mail" through our Post Office Box.

NOMINATIONS FOR SECTION OFFICES NOW OPEN

In accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the ASCE, Phila. Section, President **Brian Stover** will shortly be appointing the Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for all ASCE, Phila. Section elective offices for the 2005-06 administrative year.

The positions which will be open for nominees are the following:

- President Elect
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Membership Secretary
- Director (3 positions)

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 1, 2005**. Any nomination should be submitted to the Section's Secretary, **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh**, whose contact information is given on page 2.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The Section Sponsorship continues to be a success. A total of 29 local firms have taken part in the program so far this season. The 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 annual fee, you too can be a part of this program and have your business card appear in each edition of THE NEWS, among other perks. You may have seen the cards of those who have decided to become Section Sponsors for the current season throughout this edition. If your firm is not in this esteemed group, and you would like to become a sponsor, this is the time to consider it.

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



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"The important thing is science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them."

— Sir William Bragg

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**ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE
 2004-2005 SEASON**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Please keep in mind that this information, as always, is to the best of our knowledge at press time, but it is also **TENTATIVE** and subject to future change.

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.

Friday, May 6, 2005

The Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance • Villanova University Conference Center

MANAGERS AND IMPORTANT EMPLOYEES

Keep in mind that **Administrative Professionals Day** is rapidly approaching (**Wednesday, April 27, 2005**). If you have a good administrative professional (which, once upon a time was also known as a secretary), you might appreciate this story...

A big corporation recently hired several cannibals in the interest of cultural diversity.

"You are all part of our team now", said the HR rep during the welcoming briefing. "You get all the usual benefits and you can go to the cafeteria for something to eat, but please don't eat any of the other employees."

The cannibals promised they would not. Four weeks later their boss remarked, "You're all working very hard, and I'm satisfied with you. However, one of our secretaries has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to her?" The cannibals all shook their heads no.

After the boss had left, the leader of the cannibals said to the others, "Which one of you idiots ate the secretary?" A hand rose hesitantly, to which the leader of the cannibals continued, "You fool!!! For four weeks we've been eating Managers and no one noticed anything, but noooooo, you had to go and eat someone who actually does something!!!!"

A CELTIC BLESSING

by *Sister Noreen Twomey, CSJP*



May joy and peace surround you,
 May contentment latch your door,
 May happiness be with you daily,
 And bless you evermore.

May your house be filled with laughter
 And keep out winter's cold.

May you experience all the peace
 That your heart and soul can hold.



May the brightness of the sun
 Shine on your path each day.
 May the words of a poem and the lilt of a song
 Lighten your heart along the way.

May brooks and trees and singing hills
 Join in the chorus, too.

May every gentle wind that blows
 Bring peace of mind to you.



May you taste the sweetest pleasures
 That life's fortunes have bestowed.
 May all your friends remember
 The favors you are owed.

May your pockets with coins be heavy
 And your heart be always light.
 May goodness e're pursue you
 And shelter you each night.



May God be your protector
 And keep you from all ill.
 May love be the balm to soothe life's hurts
 As God's plan you fulfill.

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