

# Los Angeles Section

*Monthly: Est. 1913*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greg Heiertz, P.E.  
Los Angeles Section President



## Are we ready?

*"We defy augury. There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come. If it be not to come, it will be now. If it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all.", Hamlet*

### January 12, 2010:

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The death toll is thought to have been in the hundreds of thousands. No one will ever know for sure. Over a million people were left homeless. Nearly 300,000 structures were destroyed or severely damaged.

### February 27, 2010:

A magnitude 8.8 earthquake occurred off the coast of central Chile. The earthquake triggered a tsunami that devastated coastal towns and caused minor damage as far away as California and Japan. The death toll was reported to be 562.

### April 4, 2010:

A magnitude 7.2 earthquake hit Baja California on Easter Sunday. Significant damage was reported in Mexicali and Calexico on the US/Mexico border. Four people died. Over 100 were injured.

### February 22, 2011:

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake ripped through Christchurch, New Zealand. The death toll was 181. Many structures in downtown Christchurch were destroyed or severely damaged including the beautiful and historic Christchurch Cathedral. This event was close on the heels of a 7.1 magnitude earthquake that occurred 25 miles west of the city on September 4, 2010. That temblor caused significant damage and one fatality.

### March 11, 2011:

The largest earthquake in recent memory hit off the coast of northern Japan. The 9.0 magnitude shaker and the subsequent tsunami caused horrific damage and loss of life. It is estimated that the tsunami was locally up to 124 feet high and travelled up to 6 miles inland. Hours later, significant damage from the same wave occurred at several locations along the California coast. As of this writing, the death toll in Japan stood at over 13,000 with another 15,000 people missing. Over 100,000 structures were destroyed or severely damaged. Millions of households were left without water or electricity. Most alarmingly, the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant suffered significant damage resulting in containment rupture, partial melt down, and release of radioactivity. The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency declared a Level 7 emergency, the highest possible. It was the first Level 7 event since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. This occurred in a nation that is reputed to be among the best prepared to resist seismic damage.

We have all heard it before. It's not a matter of "if". It's a matter of "when", and "when" could be now. It will happen here too. According to US Geological Survey, there is a probability of more than 99% that in the next 30 years Californians will experience one or

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## Of Disasters and Preparedness

My son came home the other day and asked me about the year 2012 and how we might be prepared for it. I wasn't quite sure what he was talking about, but after a brief pause, I soon realized that he was referring to the widespread discussions that the world might "end" in December 2012.

I looked at him, a child of 10, wondering about these things. How profound is that scene, if you could imagine. Part of me wants to say, don't worry about it. However, part of me also says that I need to calm this boy down. He has a lot to live for rather than worrying about whether a worldwide catastrophe is going to happen or not.

I pondered more on JP's question, though, and left him with the thought that regardless of what happens tomorrow or a year from now, or a decade from now, we must be prepared for any catastrophe every day.

Our Los Angeles Section President Greg Heiertz, P.E. echoes that sentiment in his message this month. We need to be prepared. There are safety measures, regulations, and guidelines that are in place, but those are not enough. ASCE has issued report cards through these years on a local to national scale. We as a nation have not done well in maintaining our infrastructures. There is nothing worse than deferred maintenance as the problem only worsens over time. Read more about what ASCE and you can do in our Section President's message. We provide in this issue additional information and resources on what ASCE (and you) can do in the event of a disaster of national or international significance.

We honor in this issue our newest Distinguished Members. They are members who demonstrate acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or in its related arts and sciences. Truly a great honor.

Finally, we include here a short article about ASCEville. ASCEville is part of ASCE's on-going educational outreach program. The recently revamped site offers engaging graphics, interactive activities and the compelling stories of young civil engineers. It has incorporated up to 20 sustainable principles that will surely engage any age.

The need to prepare is constant. It is up to us to do begin. Enjoy this issue of your newsletter!

-Dr. Cris B. Liban, P.E.

### Reminder:

*Copy deadline for the June 2011 issue is May 1, 2011; copy deadline for July/August 2011 issue is June 1, 2011.*

## ASCE's 2011 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!

## ASCEville Goes Green



Permeable pavement. Mixed use development. Solar Panels. An exciting green make-over on ASCEville features many sustainable technologies, giving kids a fun way to explore the relationship between the world we build and the natural environment. New video, fresh graphics and an interactive scavenger hunt appeal to kids' natural curiosity and demonstrate ways civil engineering supports individual and community decisions to protect our urban landscape. The site is targeted to students in grades 3 - 7, but visitors of all ages will walk away with insights into technological solutions that improve our quality of life.

The new game teaches players about maintaining a healthy water supply, conserving energy and preserving scarce resources. The 20 sustainable features show the technical solutions civil engineering provides to these challenges.

Try it yourself at <http://content.asce.org/asceville/scgame.html>.

Originally launched in 2009, ASCEville is part of ASCE's on-going educational outreach program. Its fresh approach offers engaging graphics, interactive activities and the compelling stories of young civil engineers. The site contains information about the history of civil engineering, its many disciplines, and offers suggestions about what kids can do to explore this career pathway before college. Parents, teachers and engineers will come away from the site with a variety of valuable resources they can use to help them engage kids in conversations about civil engineering.

## A Great Idea From the Life Members

The ASCE Life Members' Public Image Committee request that members take their (to be discarded) Civil Engineering magazines to their doctor's office or barber shop and merge them with the stack of magazines. We feel that this will be an effective way to make the general public more aware of what civil engineers do.

## DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspicious of the State of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA). Classes will be held in ASCE Branch areas when there are sufficient requests. Qualified individuals are California Registered Civil, Structural, Geotechnical, Certified engineering Geologists, or Architects. If you are interested in attending a class, or are interested in arranging a class, please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman.

There is no charge for the class.

The class lasts 4 or 5 hours

The Class can commence as early as 8 AM or after work.

Monday through Friday or on Saturday

Classes will be given for VOLUNTEERS from professional organizations to assess damage, and COORDINATORS from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area. Coordinators may act as Volunteers outside of their area of expertise.

To register for the class submit your name along with your telephone number and e-mail address. You will be contacted when 10 or more request a class. The maximum number in the class should not exceed 20.

If your Branch, or Firm would like to offer the use of its facilities for a class, please register and provide the name of contact person, phone, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support.

Jack W. Rolston, Chair

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# 2011 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING REVIEW SEMINARS & MANUAL

Following a decade of successful presentations BYA Publications is pleased to announce the **11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of the most comprehensive and value added series of structural engineering seminars in California**. The expanded **12 session program (78 hours)** is comprised of detailed and interactive presentations of a selection of problems and topics targeted for the new NCEES 16 hour Structural Engineer exam and the CA specific exam. Also included are discussions of the most recent developments in structural and seismic engineering. **These seminars also provide the best in-depth review of the latest code provisions even for those not considering taking the S.E. exam.**

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All classes are on Saturdays or Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

At the La Quinta, 3 Centerpointe Drive, La Palma, CA 90623, Phone: (714) 670-1400

May 14	Wind & Seismic Provisions	Ben Yousefi, MS, SE
May 22	Advanced Analysis/Dynamics	Dr. Farzad Naeim, Ph.D., SE, Esq.
June 11	Concrete Design, Part I	Dr. Cheng Ming Lin, Ph.D., S.E
June 19	Steel Design, Part I	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
July 10	Wood Design	Kelly Cobein, MS, SE
July 16	Steel Design, Part II	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
July 30	Concrete Design Part II	Chris Tokas, MS, SE
July 31	California (CBC) Amendments	Chris Tokas, MS, SE
August 6	Masonry Design	Dr. Chukwume Ekwueme, Ph.D., SE
August 28	Steel Design, Part III	Dr. Michael Engelhardt, Ph.D., PE
September 17	Concrete Design, Part III	Dr. Cheng Ming Lin, Ph.D., S.E
October 1	General Overview/ All topics	Ben Yousefi, MS, SE

**For complete registration information please check our web site**

**[www.strcuturalsolutions.com](http://www.strcuturalsolutions.com)**

## ASCE METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES BRANCH GEO-INSTITUTE and SEI PROUDLY PRESENT:

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF STEEL SHEET PILING STRUCTURES SEMINAR

**Richard Hartman, Ph.D., P.E.**  
Hartman Engineering



The Design and Construction of Steel Sheet Piling Structures Seminar is a one day class covering topics ranging from design concepts, to practical field problems, through recent product advancements in the design and manufacturing of steel sheet piling.

The seminar will be presented by Richard Hartman, Ph.D., P.E., a leading international expert in the design and construction of steel sheet pile structures. Dr. Hartman is licensed as a professional engineer in 38 states and has over 40 years of experience in the subject. For the past 15 years he has been involved in the research and design of new sheet pile sections and, based on that research, holds four patents for sheet piling sections.

#### Seminar Content

- Design parameters, layout, and construction considerations for cellular cofferdams
- Design and construction considerations for bulkheads, open cell designs and combination walls
- Design and construction considerations for cofferdams and trenches.
- Properties of steel sheet piling, changes in steel pile manufacturing, concerns regarding performance, tranverse loads, stresses in sheet piling, and redesign of sheet piling sections
- Review of instability of the soil/rock in the bottom of an excavation for steel sheet piling structures
- Questions, answers and conclusions

Date: **July 13, 2011**

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Place: **CALTRANS**  
**District 7** –Training Room #01.037  
100 S. Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: 562-449-7990

Contact: Richard Morales **678.714.6730 x103**  
Email: [RMorales@LBFosterCo.com](mailto:RMorales@LBFosterCo.com)

Mail Checks to : **ASCE MLAB** c/o Richard Morales  
130 Satellite Blvd., N.E., Suite A  
Suwanee, GA 30024

Includes: Course Reference Materials, Certificate  
for 7 Professional Development Hours  
(Seminar is IACET certified for 0.7 Continuing  
Education Units), Lunch and Two Breaks

Cost: \$200 before July 1, 2011  
\$300 after July 1, 2011  
\$ 50 for Student Members

RSVP: July 1, 2011 Early Bird Registration  
July 8, 2011 Final Deadline to Receive Checks

Format: One Day Seminar, Business Casual Attire



## Guiding Principles for the Nation's Critical Infrastructure

Do you know that ASCE previously sponsored an industry summit to identify content for a guidance document outlining key attributes required for successful, safe, resilient, and sustainable critical infrastructure systems? The document will assist in proactively preventing infrastructure catastrophes such as the levee failures in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina or the collapse of the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis.

The summit fostered meaningful discussions and insights from experts with wide-ranging roles in critical infrastructure: financiers, elected officials, civil servants, infrastructure advocacy group members, news media, engineers, and others. Summit participants were actively engaged in discussions focused on developing and sustaining resilient infrastructure systems.

In support of the overarching guiding principle to protect public health, safety, and welfare, four fundamental guiding principles were developed:

- Quantifying, communicating, and managing risk.
- Exercising sound leadership, management, and stewardship in decision-making processes.
- Employing an integrated systems approach.
- Adapting critical infrastructure in response to dynamic conditions and practice.

These guiding principles are fully interrelated. No one principle is more important than the others and all are required to protect public safety, health, and welfare.

Read the full report at [http://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Infrastructure\\_-\\_New/GuidingPrinciplesFinalReport.pdf](http://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Infrastructure_-_New/GuidingPrinciplesFinalReport.pdf).

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L.A. Section web site at: [www.ascelasection.org](http://www.ascelasection.org)

more magnitude 6.7 or greater quakes, potentially capable of causing extensive damage and loss of life. There is a 67% chance that the Los Angeles area will experience a magnitude 6.7 earthquake or greater within the next 30 years. There is a 46% chance of one or more quakes of magnitude 7.5 or greater in the next 30 years. Such a quake is twice as likely to occur in the southern half of the State than in the northern half.

Are we prepared to handle this inevitable disaster? Lack of any reasonable building standards is thought to have contributed to the terrible destruction and loss of life in Haiti, but Chile has reasonably good building code enforcement, and it suffered significant damage in a large earthquake. New Zealand was thought to have some of the finest seismic codes and enforcement in the world, yet a 6.3 temblor came close to leveling their second largest city. Japan has rigorously prepared for years to accommodate frequent large seismic events, but it was overwhelmed by the recent quake and tsunami. California's building codes are regularly updated to reflect knowledge gained from earthquakes here and elsewhere, but updated codes and vigorous enforcement are not enough. More effort needs to be devoted to assessing and retrofitting existing buildings and structures to comply with the updated standards. In addition we must prepare to respond to earthquake damage to minimize the loss of life and damage to property when the "big one" occurs.

As civil engineers we have a special role in preparing for earthquake damage. Faced with the daunting responsibility of building and repairing the infrastructure of devastated communities, civil engineers are at the forefront of efforts to minimize loss to life and property through preparedness and mitigation. ASCE provides a range of resources to help civil engineers, related professionals and the public contribute to this important effort.

ASCE has a long history of participating in and conducting engineering studies of disasters of national significance, dating back to the Johnstown Flood in the late 1800s. ASCE has participated in more than a dozen such assessments in the last decade. The reports published by these study teams have been widely recognized within the professional community for their contributions to our understanding of civil engineering practice and public safety and welfare. Such studies are an important part of the Society's continuous effort to advance public safety and engineering practice, and contribute to the understanding of how to make engineered structures safer in the event of earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters.

The Los Angeles Section of ASCE is working to enlist, organize and train volunteers from our membership to assist local and state government agencies in providing damage assessment during earthquakes and other emergencies. The LA Section organizes regular classes for volunteers to help in the event of a major disaster under the auspices of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services. The classes are open to any California registered civil, structural, or geotechnical engineers, as well as certified engineering geologists and architects. Please contact Jack W. Rolston, PE, Chair of the LA Section Disaster Preparedness Committee ([ascedisaster@earthlink.net](mailto:ascedisaster@earthlink.net)) for more information.

## ASCE Announces 2011 Class of Distinguished Members

Distinguished Membership is the highest recognition the Society may confer, second only to the title ASCE President. It is reserved for members of the Society who have attained the grade of Member or Fellow and who demonstrate acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or in its related arts and sciences. The 2011 Distinguished Members are:

Jacobo Bielak, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, NAE  
 John E. Breen, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, NAE  
 Ross B. Corotis, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., Dist.M.ASCE, NAE  
 Robert A. Dalrymple, Ph.D., P.E., DCE, Dist.M.ASCE, NAE  
 Chandrakant S. Desai, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Sidney O. Dewberry, P.E., L.S., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Mohammed M. Ettouney, D.Sc., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Phillip L. Gould, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Francis E. Griggs, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., L.S., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Neil M. Hawkins, Ph.D., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Dallas N. Little, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Robert D. Nichol, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Robert E. Paaswell, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE  
 Shamsher Prakash, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE

The Class of 2011 will be formally inducted during the 141st Annual Civil Engineering Conference in Memphis, Tenn. on October 20, 2011. Since 1852, only 615 individuals have been elected to Distinguished Membership.

## “Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls & Reinforced Soil Slopes: LRFD & ASD Design Approaches”

This course presents the latest national recommendations for design and construction practice for reinforced soil structures. It includes the latest on reinforced wall and slope design based on LRFD and ASD plus hands-on use of two powerful software packages, MSEW and ReSSA, licensed to the FHWA as well as State DOT's.

**Date:** June 1-3, 2011  
**Instructors:** Professor Dov Leshchinsky and Dr. Jim Collin  
**Location:** Los Angeles, California  
**Details:** <http://www.geoprograms.com/shortcourses.htm>

## Post-Disaster Teams

“...the Society is the single best organization to carry out this type of work for our nation.”, Hon. Sherwood Boehlert, M.C. (Ret.), Former Chair, House Science Committee

ASCE has a long history of participating in and conducting engineering studies of national significance, one that dates back to the Johnstown Flood in the late 1800s. ASCE has participated in more than a dozen such assessments in the last decade. The reports published by these study teams have been widely recognized within the professional community for their contributions to our understanding of civil engineering practice and public safety and welfare. Such studies are an important part of the Society's continuous effort to advance public safety and engineering practice, and contribute to the understanding of how to make engineered structures safer in the event of both natural disasters and man-made events.

Learn more about ASCE Assessments and corresponding reports at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org). Available now are the following:

- New Zealand - Earthquake, September 23, 2010
- Chile - Earthquake and Tsunami, February 27, 2010
- Haiti - Earthquake, January 12, 2010
- Samoan Islands - Earthquake and Tsunami, September 29, 2009
- Galveston, Texas - Hurricane Ike, September 13, 2008
- Sichuan, China - Earthquake, May 2008
- New Orleans/Southeast Louisiana - Hurricane Katrina, August 29, 2005
- Post-Katrina Levee Assessment Team
- External Review Panel
- Boston, Massachusetts - Big Dig Collapse, July 10, 2006
- Sumatra - Earthquake and Tsunami, December 26, 2004
- September 11, 2001, World Trade Center Findings
- September 11, 2001, Pentagon Building Performance Report.

## ASCE Responds

ASCE coordinates the civil engineering profession's response to disasters of national and international significance, both lending a hand in the recovery and drawing lessons for the future.

ASCE has a long-standing partnership with the American Red Cross, through which it coordinates contributions to relief and facilitates disaster training for civil engineers. As part of its disaster response procedure, ASCE forms technical teams to study infrastructure damage caused by natural or man-made disasters.

Since 2001, ASCE's Committee on Critical Infrastructure has been responsible for coordinating programs, policies, and procedures for ASCE's response to events of national and/or international significance. This includes addressing liability and legal issues, operational issues regarding participation in disaster response and recovery operations, and developing and promoting training programs for ASCE members to participate in disaster response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.

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By Jack P. Norris, P.E.

For complete information please visit  
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 Event is held on the UC Berkeley Campus, CA, at Sibley Auditorium in the Bechtel Building with an optional dinner held at the Hearst Memorial Mining Building. Registration is required.

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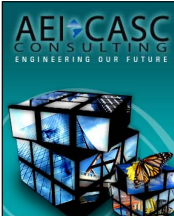
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