

Jan. 2010

Happy New Year to All!!!

VOL_XLX NO_1

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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Feb. 2010 issue is Jan. 1, 2010; copy deadline for Mar. 2010 issue is Feb. 1, 2010.



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Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jay Higgins, P.E., M.ASCE
Section President

Pre-College Outreach – Introducing Students to the Wonderful World of Civil Engineering



In the October issue of the newsletter I discussed my Section goals for the year. The first and second goals discussed were developing leadership and legislative activities. The third goal was to develop a consistent Section-wide Pre-College Outreach program (aka Student Outreach). As demonstrated by the ASCE Report Card, there is an increasing demand for civil engineers in order to maintain our existing infrastructure and build the new infrastructure that will meet the needs of future generations. We not only need to develop the students that will be our successors in the civil

engineering work force, but we need to introduce many more students to the profession if we are to meet this demand. We can start now by reaching out to students at all grade levels from kindergarten to high school and introducing them to the world of civil engineering.

In this article I will provide an overview of the pre-college outreach program, an example of an outreach activity, where we hope to go in the future, and how you can participate in this rewarding activity.

ASCE's goals for the pre-college outreach program are to:

- Increase awareness and interest in civil engineering among students and their communities by linking engineering to everyday life,
- Show kids that engineering is fun, creative, and forward thinking, and
- Break down stereotypes and demonstrate to kids that many of them have the aptitude to become an engineer.

The program is designed to reach students at all grade levels, not only in schools, but through other community organizations such as Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Science and Technology museums. Some examples of materials that are available through ASCE which can be used during presentations and activities are:

- For grades K to 1, there is the Curious George "Let's Build!" teaching guide and poster which teaches young students about how to make a plan, recognize and name geometric shapes, and understand the difference between natural and people-made objects. One of the activities is to build a bridge out of marshmallows, toothpicks, and cards.
- "Civil Engineering: It's Everywhere!" guides, designed for 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8 grades. These guides are filled with interesting facts, experiments, and engineer profiles including younger members and women in engineering.

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What We Have and What We Seek

We begin this year with a realization that we have been doing this newsletter for over a decade now. We have gone through a lot in the last 10 years. What have we accomplished:

- We have made a significant change in the format and look of our newsletter;
- We have adopted a dual delivery information system where those who would want to continue receiving a paper version of this newsletter continued to do so, while those who prefer electronic versions receive the same either through e-mail or through the web;
- We have streamlined and straightened out our finances and on a regular basis have provided significantly value by providing a consistent revenue stream for our Section and Branches;
- We have become a magnet for out of state recruiters implying a recognition that Southern California is truly a haven of excellent engineering talent;
- We have voluntarily shifted to using soy-based ink and have printed on paper harvested from FSC-certified forests; and
- We have consistently delivered your newsletter on-time.

While these successes have brought us kudos in the last few years, we consistently seek new ideas on how we can further improve this newsletter. We constantly seek input in how we can do better not only in the delivery of your Section and Branch information, but more importantly in how we can become a more integrated part of your Branch, Section, or company operations.

Therefore, we challenge you in this brand new year to become part of this journey to build a better newsletter. In a past article, I joked once that there is no better compliment to see the newsletter in the Men's bathroom. At least I know someone reads it, right? We invite your constructive criticism of how we are doing and how we can improve. Accolades are ok, but we think we have plenty of room for improvement.

The new year brings new hope. A new beginning is at hand!

Enjoy this issue of your newsletter.

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

Disaster Preparedness for Civil Engineers

By Ziad Y. Mazboudi, PE, ASCE Region 9 Disaster Preparedness Chair



When disasters strike, and living in California we all know that sooner or later one will, what will you do? The disaster can be an earthquake, a fire, a flood or a man made disaster but no matter what it is, civil engineers will have a role in helping the public.

When the disaster strikes, you might be at work or at home and your first responsibility is to yourself, your family or your co-workers, so how can you help?

We should all learn the basic first aid and CPR. The American Red Cross or other organizations provide classes regularly, sign up for one, or better yet, set up a class to be given at your place of work, so that you and your colleagues are trained. In a large disaster, public safety officers are overwhelmed and might not be able to assist you as fast as they usually can. Knowing basic first aid could save the lives of your loved ones or a colleague. Make sure to have a disaster plan, for your work and for your family. Identify an out of the area call number that you and your family, or your employees can call to check in. As an engineer, you should also think about a disaster plan for your company or your work. After disasters are over, you need to be able to get back to business after things get back to normal, so make sure you have a backup plan. Practice a disaster drill annually, at home and at work. Another disaster preparedness action to take is to participate in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT is a Citizen Corps program focused on disaster preparedness and teaching basic disaster response skills. These volunteer teams are utilized to provide emergency support when disasters overwhelm the conventional emergency services. Check with your city to find out if they are offering a CERT class.

Once the initial impact of a disaster is over, a civil engineer's role becomes more important. The State of California has a State Assessment Program, SAP, which ASCE is a member of and plays a critical role in post disasters. The Safety Assessment Program utilizes volunteers and mutual aid resources to provide professional engineers, architects and certified building inspectors to assist local governments in safety evaluation of their built environment in an aftermath of a disaster. These Evaluators assist local government in identifying if structures are safe or unsafe to be occupied. The program is managed by the California Emergency Management Agency, CAL EMA, with cooperation from professional organizations such as ASCE, California Building Officials (CALBO), American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Construction Inspectors Association (ACIA), and the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC). SAP produces two resources, SAP Evaluators, described above, and SAP Coordinators, which are local government representatives that coordinate the program. Cal EMA issues registration ID cards to all SAP Evaluators that have successfully completed the program requirements. ASCE has currently 21 trainers throughout the State who can provide training to our members to become evaluators. As the new chair of the Disaster Preparedness Committee, one of my goals is to have a minimum of 2 trainers per Branch and to have regular training for our members to become Evaluators, Coordinators and trainers, so when a disaster

strikes, we will be ready to assist our communities. My other goal is to have a disaster preparedness committee in every Section and Branch, to be chaired or co-chaired by the local trainers, who would be the local champions to get more of our members involved and trained. Over the next couple of months, I will be contacting all the Sections and Branches to get the ball rolling. May is California disaster preparedness month, and I hope that we all plan on raising the awareness on the matters I described above and plan statewide training, so we have volunteers in every Section and Branch in California. For more information on the Cal EMA training, visit www.oes.ca.gov or watch for update from your Section or Branch.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH UPDATE

By Ziad Mazboudi, PE, Vice President

The Orange County branch has been very active over the past couple of months and with the Installation of the new Board on November 18th, we are ready to have a very active year. The Branch had a very successful History and Heritage and Student Fellowship night at the Hilton Costa Mesa. The Branch's keynote speaker was our Society's ASCE President-Elect Kathy Caldwell, who shared her vision of the future of ASCE with the 200 attendees. President-Elect Caldwell installed the new board and wished them a successful year. The event included an Order of the Engineer ceremony that was conducted by L.A. Section President, Jay Higgins. The evening was very successful and marks the beginning of a planned great year for the Branch. The Branch Board took President-Elect Caldwell on a tour of the Opal award winner project, the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment plant.

On November 14th, the Branch held a picnic for its members and it was well attended. The members enjoyed the food, the company and had some great time playing games. At the October luncheon, Blake Anderson gave the attendees an update and an initial presentation of the 2010 Orange County Infrastructure Report card. The event was well attended and Blake shared with the members some of the executive committee's ideas on rolling out the report card. Our continuing education committee held a seminar on stormwater quality that attracted 100 engineers who learned from our speakers, who are local expert on the issue. The seminar raised more than \$5,000 toward student scholarships. In December, the Branch had a joint luncheon with ACEC and Engineers without Borders.

The Orange County Branch luncheons are held every third Thursday of the month and we invite all members of the Los Angeles Section to attend. We have good topics and it's always a great opportunity to meet fellow engineers and old friends. Please check out our web-site at www.asceoc.org. We hope to see you soon.

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.

ASCE's 2010 Member-Get-A-Member Drive Depends on You!



Dear Interested Party:

On behalf of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Environmental & Water Resources Institute, we are pleased to announce the selection of Palm Springs, California for to the 2011 World Environmental & Water Resources Congress in, May 22-26, 2011. The Congress Steering Committee is putting together a program that is intellectually and professionally stimulating as well as providing plenty of opportunities for networking with your peers. The program will include outstanding plenary sessions and technical presentations that address the congress theme. It will also be the site of our annual committee meetings and offer fun social events that allow us to renew old friendships and make new ones. There will be opportunities for exhibits, co-sponsorships, cooperating organizations, student and international activities and much more.

The World Environmental & Water Resources Congress is an important opportunity for professionals in the environmental and water fields to convene and focus on topics of the day. This year's technical program focuses on the "Bearing Knowledge for Sustainability", our theme which is currently under development. It is important that the environmental and engineering community integrate sustainability, in dealing with today's issues whether they be technical, economic, social, environmental or political.

Please join us in Palm Springs and let the world benefit not only from the technical program, but also from your personal involvement.

Mark W. Killgore, M. ASCE, P.E., D.WRE (Mark.Killgore@pse.com)
General Congress Chair

R. Edward Beighley II, A.M. ASCE, Ph.D. (Beighley@mail.sdsu.edu)
Technical Program Chair

Bill Flores Jr, M.ASCE, P.E. (bill.flores@hdrinc.com)
Local Arrangements Chair

OPAL AND OCEA AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

This premier black-tie event, held in Washington, D.C., annually brings together the most recognizable names in civil engineering. On March 25, 2010, ASCE will honor the remarkable achievements of civil engineers over the past year by awarding five lifetime achievement awards, the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) for the year's most outstanding project, the Charles Pankow Award for Innovation, the Henry L. Michel Award for Industry Advancement of Research, and the ASCE Excellence in Journalism Award.

Celebrate this special event with ASCE on **March 25, 2010 at the Renaissance Hotel Washington.**

This year's event will honor these venerable civil engineers and projects:

Outstanding Projects And Leaders (OPAL) Awards

Established in 1999, these prestigious awards recognize and honor outstanding civil engineering leaders whose lifetime accomplishments and achievements have made significant differences in one of five categories.

ASCE congratulates the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients:



Terence E. (Ed) Richardson, P.E., M.ASCE

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David E. Daniel, Ph.D., P.E., Dist. M.ASCE, NAE

University of Texas at Dallas

EDUCATION

For demonstrated excellence in advancing civil engineering education.



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Robert D. Nichol, P.E., F.ASCE

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For demonstrating exceptional management skills in his/her professional career.

Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA)

ASCE annually recognizes an exemplary civil engineering project as the Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement. Established in 1960, this prestigious award honors the project that best illustrates superior civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to civil engineering progress and society. Honoring an overall project rather than an individual, the award celebrates the contributions of many engineers.

The 2010 OCEA winner will be announced at the OPAL Gala.

ASCE proudly recognizes this year's five OCEA finalists:

- Arrowhead Tunnels Project - Inland Feeder Program (San Bernardino, CA)
- Concordia University Wisconsin Lakeshore Environmental Enhancement and Education Project (Mequon, WI)
- Sound Transit Central Link Light Rail: Section 710 Beacon Hill Station and Tunnels (Seattle, WA)
- Sutong Bridge (Nantong City, Jiangsu Province, China)
- Utah State Capitol Seismic Base Isolation and Restoration (Salt Lake City, UT)

Charles Pankow Award for Innovation

Established in honor of Charles J. Pankow to celebrate collaboration in innovative design, materials, or construction-related research and development transferred into practice in a sustainable manner.

ASCE congratulates

Eco Sound Barrier (Moon TWP, PA)

Henry L. Michel Award for Industry Advancement of Research

Established in 1996 in honor of Henry L. Michel, the award recognizes and acknowledges leaders of the design and construction industry whose dedication and aggressive vision have provided cornerstones for improving the quality of people's lives around the world through research in the design and construction industry.

ASCE congratulates

Samuel Yen-Liang Yin, Ph.D., M.ASCE
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ASCE Excellence in Journalism Award

Established in 1994, the Excellence in Journalism Award honors journalists whose news coverage enhances public understanding of civil engineering.

**Winner of the 2010 Journalism Award
to be announced.**

ASCE Region 9

**Announces the Fourth Annual
California Infrastructure Symposium and Awards Ceremony**



When the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released the *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, it raised public awareness about America's crumbling infrastructure. While the *Report Cards* and the attention they drew were effective in building public support for infrastructure renewal, civil engineers must continue to lead the discussion on viable solutions. ASCE Region 9 is taking that lead by presenting the **Fourth Annual California Infrastructure Symposium** to be held on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010**, in Sacramento. The Symposium promises to focus on key infrastructure issues as well as identifying resources and opportunities to meet demands and raise report card grades in California.

Following the Symposium, you may also register for an evening to help celebrate excellence in California Civil Engineering projects and honor the outstanding accomplishments of individuals at the 2009 ASCE Region 9 Awards Ceremony.

Please mark your calendar to join us on **Tuesday, February 9, 2010**, at the Citizen Hotel, 926 J Street, Sacramento, California for continuing education, networking, and social events you will not want to miss. Look for more information as it becomes available at <http://region9.asce.org/Region9InfrastructureSymposium2010.html>

Also, please note that the ASCE Region 9 Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, February, 10, 2010, at the California State Capital in Sacramento.

For additional information, please contact Lori Campbell, Administrator, lkc.consulting@sbcglobal.net, or by telephone at 916.965.1536.

ASCE Region 9 represents more than 18,000 ASCE members in the State of California.

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DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers to help in the event of a major disasters under the auspicious of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES). Classes will be held in alternate 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 a charge of \$15 for the class.

The class begins at 9 or 10 and lasts 5 or 6 hours.

Classes will be given for Volunteers to assess damage and / or Coordinators from City or County to direct Volunteers for their area of damage.

To register for the class submit your name along with your Telephone number, Fax number, Zip code, and Email address. You will be contacted when 10 or more requests 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 contact person, phone, Fax, and E-mail. You will be contacted to make arrangements.

Thank you for your support of the A S C E

Jack W. Rolston, Chair

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engineers and the students. I was thinking about creating some type of continuing interaction program within the Section when I became aware of the ACE Mentor Program and realized we didn't need to reinvent the wheel. ACE has just the type of program the Los Angeles Section needs, so I approached ACE about teaming with their organization. For those of you who are not familiar with ACE, it stands for "Architecture, Construction, and Engineering", a nationwide organization with a local Los Angeles Chapter. Teams consist of approximately six professions from the architecture, construction, and engineering fields who are paired with a sponsoring high school and approximately 24 students in grades 10 to 12. They meet after school about sixteen times during the school year. A typical year starts with visits to architectural and engineering firm offices and construction sites in the fall and early winter. In January, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a project is issued. For example last year in January, the "ACE Regional Transit Authority" issued a RFP for the design of a light rail line, station, and related facilities to join the ACE-Los Angeles high school campuses. Throughout the winter, students conducted research, prepared designs with calculations, and built a model of their transit station. The students presented their projects at the annual ACE spring event where many seniors who would be attending college or trade school in the fall received \$1,000 scholarships.

ACE is very interested in adding more emphasis on the civil engineering profession to their program. They would like to introduce students to heavy civil engineering projects such as dams, bridges, water and wastewater treatment plants, and other civil structures. If you have expertise in these areas of practice and are interested in becoming a mentor, or could provide a civil engineering construction site for the students to visit, contact Chuck Whitaker, Chairman, ACE Mentor Los Angeles Metropolitan Area, at WHITAKER@johnmartin.com. If you would like to learn more about the ACE Mentor Program go to www.acementor.org/579.

If you have any questions and comments please feel free to send me an e-mail at jay_higgins@urscorp.com or talk to the Vice President of Student Activities, Karen Sepulveda, at kar@sepulvedas.net

Articles for the Newsletter may be submitted to the Newsletter Editor, Cris Liban. Enjoy your newsletter and may you have a prosperous and healthy year!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

- Presentations for high school students which show them the really impressive transportation, water, environmental, and structural projects that civil engineers work on every day. Also, how they can make a difference and contribute to the welfare of society. Lots of pictures and DVD presentations get their attention!

I recently attended a 5th grade activity at Clover Elementary School on the Westside of Los Angeles where about two dozen Los Angeles Section members and students worked with about sixty 5th graders on an activity that taught them about shoreline marine structures. It was a rewarding experience for me to see the enthusiasm with which the students asked questions and constructed their seawalls. I looked out at the group and wondered which of the students might be my successor.

If you would like to participate in the outreach program, contact your Branch President to find out when and where the next event will be, or to suggest a school where an event could be held. If no activities have been scheduled for your branch, sign up to be the designated outreach contact in your Branch/YMF group and make an event happen! Several branches have ongoing programs and can help you get started. The goal of the Section is to have an active ongoing program in every Branch/YMF group. The Section Vice-President for Student Activities, Karen Sepulveda, is planning a Pre-College Outreach workshop during the spring. E-mail Karen at kar@sepulvedas.net if you would like to help with this workshop. Look for notices and plan to attend. For more information about the ASCE Pre-College outreach program, go to www.asce.org, under Knowledge and Learning, go to "Kids" and click on "Outreach Volunteer".

The Section's pre-college program is doing a great job of reaching students and introducing them to civil engineering. However, under the current program there is no continuing interaction between the civil

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 Typesetting, Layout & Printing: The Center Quickprint



Please send all copy to the Editor by
 the first of the month preceding publication.

Identification Statement

ASCE Newsletter, (ISSN 0273-6233)
 is published monthly by ASCE,
 Los Angeles Section, 1405 Warner Ave.
 Tustin, California 92780. Subscription price
 included in Section dues of \$45.

Circulation

Circulated monthly (except for a joint
 July/August issue) to the 5,000 subscribing
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