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Reminder:

Copy deadline for the Nov. 2008 issue is Oct. 1, 2008; copy deadline for Dec. 2008 issue is Nov. 1, 2008.



Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Don Sepulveda, P.E., FASCE Section President



2009 Goals and Challenges

This issue of the newsletter marks the beginning of our new fiscal year and the beginning of my year as your Section President. As many of you know, I have been involved with the Section for a number of years, including involvement as a student. Over those years I have worked with many of the leaders of the Section whom I consider to be mentors and role models

for all of us. I am in the daunting position of walking in the footsteps of some of the finest leaders of our profession. I thought that I would take my first newsletter article to talk about my goals as your new Section Presindent and how we would move forward into the future.

The Los Angeles Section is a part of the larger picture of ASCE as a whole, in other words, the Society. We have to strategically place ourselves at the forefront of the Society and to general public. We should be the Society of choice for the civil engineering community to belong to and the public to turn to for information, guidance, and resources. Education, sustainability, public awareness of engineering issues, and our decaying infrastructure continue to be key issues as the Society moves into the future.

The Los Angeles Section plays a key role in the Society. We have provided national leaders, including several Society presidents, who have shaped the direction of the Society and are widely responsible for where we are today. Our Section has its foundations in our seven Branches and they provide the framework for how we develop local activities and provide value to our members. In addition, the Section has the very unique position as the second largest (or largest depending on the list) to the Texas Section, which happens to be the entire state of Texas. We are part of Region 9 which is the only region within the Society that encompasses a single geo-political unit, the entire state of California. As we move forward we must remember these relationships and our role within these separate groups.

As President of the Section, I have set the following goals for this year:

Branch Activities

The Branches are the foundation for our success. It is our effort at the Branch level that provides significant value to our members. Over the next year we will continue to strengthen the network between the Section and the Branches and build upon the Branches for local leadership in the areas of legislative activities, education, public involvement, and recognition.

Legislative Activities

This is a very important year from a political standpoint. Over the coming months we will be electing a new United States President along with several National Senators and Representatives. As we all know, infrastructure has been a significant issue in recent years. This will continue through the national election. So far, it appears that some candidates are more in tune with our infrastructure needs than others. It is up to us to ensure that they all understand that infrastructure is not important to us solely because of the jobs it brings, but more importantly because we build the quality of life for all Americans. Over the coming year, we will increase legislative involvement by working with the Branches and the Region to develop a legislative activity plan that strengthens our influence in the society. A Legislative Committee has been established at the Section level to work with the Branches and the Region to build upon the successes that we have had in recent years.

EDITORIAL

We Need You

The beginning of the new fiscal year brings with its new plans and hopes for a bigger and better Los Angeles Section. In the backdrop of challenging economic times, we struggle to survive in our environment. In these times of anxiety, we put forth our engineering agenda, that while drowned in the midst of financial and political news, we must continue to highlight, lest these will be forgotten.

Our new Los Angeles Section President Don Sepulveda, P.E., FASCE does just that. In his inaugural ASCE Los Angeles Section Monthly newsletter message, he outlines his goals in five specific areas for the coming year:

- **Branch Activities:**
- Legislative Activities;
- Education;
- Membership.
- and 2013 Centennial Celebration.

Specific activities within these areas will form the backbone of this year's Section Programs. Let us put our full support to Don as he leads our Section to a new and very exciting administration.

We also hope to hear from you soon. We are interested in receiving articles and other materials for your monthly newsletter. We thank those of you who have submitted the material published over the past few years. Submissions should be in the form of a publishable article that is preferably tied to an ASCE event.

We will publish articles of general engineering interest like sustainability tips and innovations, water resource conservation, an interesting take on a design concept or case studies. There are many ideas that may become articles with a little bit of ingenuity. We welcome letters to the editor and reviews.

Marie Trinh is an example. We feature in this issue Marie's trip to Reston, VA to participate in the ASCE Practitioner & Faculty Advisor Training Workshop. This workshop provides an avenue for both veteran and rookie Faculty and Practitioner Advisors to share ideas and mentor each other in the implementation of school related programs at their respective Sections.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Thanks!

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

starting to get their feet wet.

After the day's activities, we enjoyed dinner at the Washington Harbor in Georgetown, which had an incredible view of the Potomac River. We ended the night with a driving tour of our

nation's capital before heading back to the hotel. The workshop was well worth the trip across the country. I encourage everyone to support the students, whether as an advisor or a mentor, as they are the future of

> civil engineering! Marie Trinh is with Jacobs Carter Burgess.

> She is also the ASCE Orange County Branch Student Activities Committee Chair.

> > ****

Roundtable discussion on how to motivate student chapter leaders.

Photo taken by Spencer Boulter, ASCE National staff.

ARTICLE

Rendezvous in Reston

By: Marie Trinh

Are you wondering where in the world is Reston? Shame on you if you don't know! Reston, VA is the hometown of ASCE World Headquarters in the Washington DC metropolitan area, and the meeting place for the annual ASCE Practitioner & Faculty Advisor Training Workshop (PFATW), which took place on Aug. 8-9.

I bet now you're wondering, "Faculty and Practitioner Advisors? Who are they and what do they do?" Faculty and Practitioner Advisors are advisors to the student chapters, in which the Los Angeles Section has ten: CPP, CPSLO, CSUF, CSULA, CSULB, CSUN, LMU, UCI, UCLA, and USC. Each student chapter should have three advisors: one Faculty Advisor (FA) appointed by the university and two Practitioner Advisors (PA) appointed by their respective section or branch, but that doesn't mean they can't have more! Advisors offer continuity throughout the years as students come and go.

As an advisor, one may be at lost as to where to start and how to help the students. That is where the PFATW comes in. The goals of the PFATW are

- · Impart the vision of the value and purpose of ASCE Student Organizations:
- Give advisors the tools they need to make their ASCE Student Organization function:
- Create a network of ASCE Faculty and Practitioner Advisors;
- Develop the leadership abilities of the Faculty Advisor; and
- Assist Faculty and Practitioner Advisors in understanding his/her role in working with the Student Organization.

The workshop kicked off with a Welcome Dinner at Paolo's Restaurant in Reston Towne Center, where we made our introductions. The diverse group of 30+ people comprised of practitioner and faculty advisors, young and younger, who came from as far west as California, and as far east as Pennsylvania. LA Section represented approximately 10% of the attendees. They included Kari Wagner, PA for Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Dr. Binod Tiwari, FA for Cal State Fullerton; and myself, PA for UC Irvine. Kari won the award for traveling the farthest to get to Reston.

On Saturday, we started the ball rolling on accomplishing our goals with a nice, warm breakfast to power our brains. We had several roundtable topics to discuss how we, as advisors, can help our respective student chapters. The new advisors were able to learn about what worked and what didn't

from seasoned advisors, some having over 15 years of experience, while the seasoned advisors were able to get fresh ideas from advisors who were just



2008 PFATW attendees in front of the beautiful Washington Harbour fountain. Photo taken by Dion Coward, ASCÉ National staff.



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

REGION 9 - DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL VISUAL MATERIALS FOR RECRUITMENT

ASCE Region 9 (the state of California) would like to invite Student Chapters and Younger Member Forums (YMF) to participate in an event to promote the Civil Engineering profession. The purpose of the activity is to develop digital video, music, and/or photo slideshow presentation to be used for:

- (1) the recruitment and transition of young engineers into ASCE and YMF activities, and
- (2) the recruitment of pre-college students into undergraduate civil engineering programs.

There will be funds to reimburse teams up to \$150 per school to purchase materials for the creation of the videos (ie music rights, props, rights to photos). This program is open to all 24 ASCE student groups in Region 9, each student group will be permitted to sponsor one team for each topic.

Each team will be comprised of three or more students, a YMF member, a practitioner advisor, and a faculty advisor. The advisors will provide input from the industry and university perspectives. The team will prepare a three to six minute presentation using digital video/photo/music slideshow format or combination thereof. Using an inspiring and uplifting message, each presentation will address one of the two possible topics, (1) the recruitment and transition of young engineers into ASCE and YMF activities and (2) the recruitment of precollege students into undergraduate civil engineering programs. **Example videos are provided in the package.** A team may have two entries but only one entry in each of the two topic areas.

Teams will be responsible for acquiring their own photo, video, and music copyright use and license use in order to post presentation on the internet and website. Use of public domain material is also encouraged.

The following is the time for submittal:

Competition announcement August 1, 2008
 Student team enrollment October 1, 2008
 Presentation preparation completion January 1, 2009

Announcement of winners

At Region 9 awards banquet in February, 2009 in Sacramento

THERE WILL BE TWO PRIZES (ONE EACH CATEGORY) OF \$1,500 FOR THE WINNING TEAM(S)

We look forward to your participation in this event. If you have questions please contact Gary Gilbert at gary@diazyourman.com,

continued

DISASTER TRAINING

Classes are being organized for volunteers under the auspicies of the State of California, Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help in the event of a major disaster. 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 please contact the ASCE Disaster Preparedness Committee Chairman. The class lasts 5-6 hours and the cost is \$15. Classes are midweek and start at 9 or 10 AM.

To register for the class, submit your name along with your telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and zip code. You will be contacted when 10 or more individuals request a class. The maximum number in a 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. The class should have at least 10 and not more than about 20.

Thank you for your support of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Jack W. Rolston

Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee, ASCE L.A. Section 818-345-9199 818-345-5283 fx

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Education

The future of our Society and our profession is in our youth. As many of you know, the education of our younger folks is very important to me. Of course we will be continuing the strong university outreach that we have built up over the years. In particular, I want to be able to assist our ten schools in successfully participating in the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference which will be held in Hawaii this year. Any support we can give our students through advisement, mentorship, and financial donations will go a long way to help them be successful.

The Society recognizes that our K-12 generation is important to the future of civil engineering. We have found out that by reaching into these younger people we have an opportunity to guide them into engineering and increase the knowledge base that will be important for our future. Several of our Branches have established K-12 outreach programs. I have asked Russ Ryan, Los Angeles Section Vice President of Student Activities, to further develop our K-12 outreach by building on the successes within the Branches and applying that success across the Section through coordinated activities.

Membership

It is no secret that we rely on our members to attain our goal and provide the value that we do. Over the next year we will continue to provide value to our membership and potential members through coordinated outreach between the Section and the Branches. In addition, we will be looking to promote the advancement in grade of Section Members from Member to Fellow.

A not so new, but little known, focal point for the Society is the subject of "student conversion". A new strategic initiative for the Society is to increase the amount of student members that convert to Associate Members upon graduation. We will be working in concert with the Society initiative to better facilitate this conversion.

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2013 Centennial

The year 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of our Section. I will be appointing a committee to begin the preparations for this celebration, and already some great ideas have been put forward. The Committee will be moving ideas forward, beginning the planning for the year, and establishing budgets and action plans.

These five goals will serve as a foundation from which we will be exploring new ideas. In addition, we will be continuing the great work that has commenced in the areas of sustainability and water resources. Two additional initiatives that I would like to see completed or instituted in this term include:

Policy and Procedures

The Section modified our Bylaws and Constitution over the past year. Throughout this year we will finalize the changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Engineers Without Borders

As some of you may know, the Society has established a partnership with Engineers without Borders (EWB). We will work closer with EWB this year.

The role of all members of the Section from students to Life Members is important. We each provide life experience that is an example to others. This is an exciting time with many challenges. Together we can meet them and succeed.

I am looking forward to working with you as we continue to provide the highest value to our membership. Please call me at (310) 846-1813 or email me at dsepulveda@hntb.com if you have any questions or suggestions. We hope to see you at our next ASCE Los Angeles Section event!

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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.



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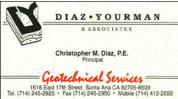
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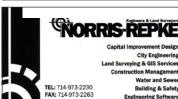
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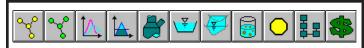
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