

Los Angeles Section

Monthly: Est. 1913

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathereen Shinkai, P.E., M.ASCE
Los Angeles Section President

VOL. LVII NO. 7

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Understanding Communication Styles

Have you ever had trouble approaching or relating to a particular employee, co-worker or friend because they differ in personality from you? Have you ever taken a communication class such as Toastmasters or a public speaking course as a way to improve communicating your message clearly to others? There are many behavior assessments out there, but I find that the "DISC" is an easier method to better understand each person's personality/behavior to effectively communicate within the company.

The DISC profile was designed by William Moulton Marston in 1928 and uses four personality dimensions: Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness. The DISC profile does not precisely determine whether a person is fit for the job or will succeed at the job, but basically describes one's work behavior patterns and allows you to use well-studied methods to identify other people's personality. This information can allow you to advance in your career, adapt with other people, and even tolerate the work situations. I have taken other personality tests at companies I have worked at, but typically these tests only deal with yourself. DISC makes you aware of the people who you interact with on a day to day basis.

While I cannot explain in-depth the complete DISC personality test in one newsletter, I can give you an idea of how the DISC assessment works, and how you could possibly use it within your own company or in your personal life. Let us begin. In the real test you would answer 28 questions which describe and measure your human behavior in a specific environment, but in this article we will only address the two most basic DISC questions to identify your personality type. First, "Do you consider yourself as being an 'active/fast-paced' or more 'thoughtful/moderately paced' person?" (Please note the "active" I am referring to is not describing if you are active in sports, but whether or not you are an assertive or enthusiastic person). The second question is; "Do you think you are more 'questioning' or more 'accepting' person? Even though we are all unique, most people do fit into a certain style or predictable pattern of behavior. People with similar styles tend to exhibit common pattern styles and these patterns of behavior influence how people prefer to communicate and interact with others. The answers below will classify your personality based on the answers you gave.

If you answered Active and Questioning you are a "D" personality which stands for "Dominance". This person's tendencies include getting immediate results, causing action, accepting challenges, making quick decisions, questioning the status quo, taking authority, managing trouble, and solving problems. They want an environment that includes power and authority, prestige and challenge, opportunities for individual accomplishments and advancement, direct answers, and freedom from controls and supervision.



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2017 Region 9 Legislative Fly-In to Sacramento during Infrastructure Week (May 15–19)

by Mojgan (MJ) Hashemi, P.E., M. ASCE, Chair, ASCE Region 9 Government Relations Committee



ASCE Region 9 members participated in the annual Legislative Fly-In to the State Capitol in Sacramento, on Wednesday May 17. For the past two years, the Region 9 Legislative Fly-In visits have been held in conjunction with the Infrastructure Week to highlight the importance of infrastructure investment needs in communities throughout California. In addition, for each of the past two years, the Region 9 Government Relations Committee (GRC) has authored

an Infrastructure Week Resolution to encourage leadership at the federal, state, and local levels to address our pressing infrastructure challenges. Our 2016 Infrastructure Week Resolution was the Senate Resolution 74 (SR74) and it marked the first such resolution shining a light on the significance of infrastructure in California during Infrastructure Week. Our 2017 Infrastructure Week Resolution was aimed at both legislative houses, and it was introduced by Senator Beall as the Senate Concurrent Resolution 35 (SCR35). It was overwhelmingly approved by all California legislators (Ayes 76, Noes 0).

The 2017 Region 9 Fly-In event brought together about 50 civil engineers from across California, of which 40% were first-time attendees. A pre-Fly-in webinar was held on May 11, to help prepare the attendees for their visits. Five Issue Briefs were also prepared and handed out on transportation funding, infrastructure investments, expanding design-build delivery options, increase STEM pathways, and advocating new approaches to the infrastructure deliberation process by legislators. The event consisted of a morning training session at the historic Sutter House venue in downtown Sacramento, followed by over 60 legislative visits at the State Capitol after lunch. Highlights of the day included a public relations and legislative training session by Richard Markuson, ASCE Advocate;

introduction to the legislative process by Bob Franzonia, former Staff Director, Senate Appropriations Committee; discussion of current issues at the California Board of Professional Engineers by Richard Moore, Executive Officer; A Journalist's perspective on current events by John Howard, Editor, Capitol Weekly; and Keynote addresses by Senators Bill Dodd and Scott Weiner who also discussed the passage of SB1 and the importance of transportation infrastructure funding. Participants this year displayed great enthusiasm, were engaged, and offered their own contributions during the legislative visits. Thanks to all who attended, for your effective participation!

The ASCE Region 9 Government Relations Committee (GRC) actively monitors and recommends positions on statewide legislative and regulatory proposals that affect civil engineers, and support the standing policies of ASCE. The committee is also responsible for the annual Region 9 Legislative Fly-In and the follow up local visits, which are intended to encourage an ongoing dialogue between ASCE members and their legislators about issues of importance to ASCE and to reaffirm the recognition that ASCE enjoys with state and federal legislators as a valuable non-partisan resource with expertise in all infrastructure related issues.



Region 9 and the GRC both work closely with the ASCE Society's Government Relations staff in Washington, D.C and in Reston, VA, and utilize their grassroots advocacy system, the "Key Contact Program" for important legislative issues. ASCE Key Contacts influence the policy process at the state and federal levels by developing relationships with elected officials. You can learn more

about this program at <http://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>

If you would like to learn more about the activities of the Region 9 Government Relations Committee, please contact me at mhashemi@mwdh2o.com

If you answered Active and Accepting, you are an "I" personality which stands for "Influence". This person's tendencies include contacting people/networking, making a favorable impression, being articulate, creating a motivational environment, generating enthusiasm, entertaining people, viewing people and situations with optimism, and participating in a group. This person needs to control time, make objective decisions, use hands-on management, be more realistic appraising others, make priorities and deadlines, and be more firm with others.

If you answered Thoughtful and Questioning, you are a "S" personality which stands for "Steadiness". This person's tendencies include adhering to the key directives and standards, concentrating on key details thinking analytically, weighing pros and cons, being diplomatic with people using subtle or indirect approaches to conflict, checking accuracy, analyzing performance critically, and using systematic approach to situations or activities. They need to be conditioned prior to change, validate for their self worth, know how personal effort contributes to the group effort, have colleagues of similar competence and sincerity, know task guidelines, and to have creativity encouraged.

If you answered Thoughtful and Accepting, you are a "C" personality which stands for "Conscientiousness". This person's tendencies include performing in a consistent, predictable manner, demonstrating patience, developing in specialized skills, helping others, being a good listener, handling excited people, and creating a stable, harmonious environment. This

person needs to plan more carefully, know exact job descriptions, schedule performance appraisals, receive specific feedback on performance, respect people's personal worth as much as their own accomplishments, and develop tolerance for conflict.

Based on these characteristics, let's say you are a person who is classified as "D," and you are dealing with someone who is classified as a "S." The tendency for a "D" personality is to get as much work done as fast as possible with little explanation, but the "S" personality needs someone to be patient and to explain to them specifically on what needs to be done. The "S" personality requires that they look at the different options and make a logical decision, whereas the "D" personality will make the decision out of instinct. If the "D" personality exhibits this behavior without recognizing "S" personality behavior, there may be conflict in communication and therefore resistance to finishing work tasks a particular way.

By understanding behavior strengths and weaknesses, it allows people to build a good rapport. Although these tests are generalized assessments, it does give a good idea of how each behavior style group does interact with each other and how you can avoid clashes with others. So the next time you are with a colleague, client, or even a friend and want to test out this DISC assessment, ask yourself the two questions that were mentioned at the beginning of this article and identify their behavior trait. By figuring out a person's behavior, it will help you strategize your communication method since you will be able to recognize how that person handles conflicts. This will lead to a more systematic way of solving conflicts and being able to work together.

ARTICLE

ASCE | INDUSTRY LEADERS COUNCIL

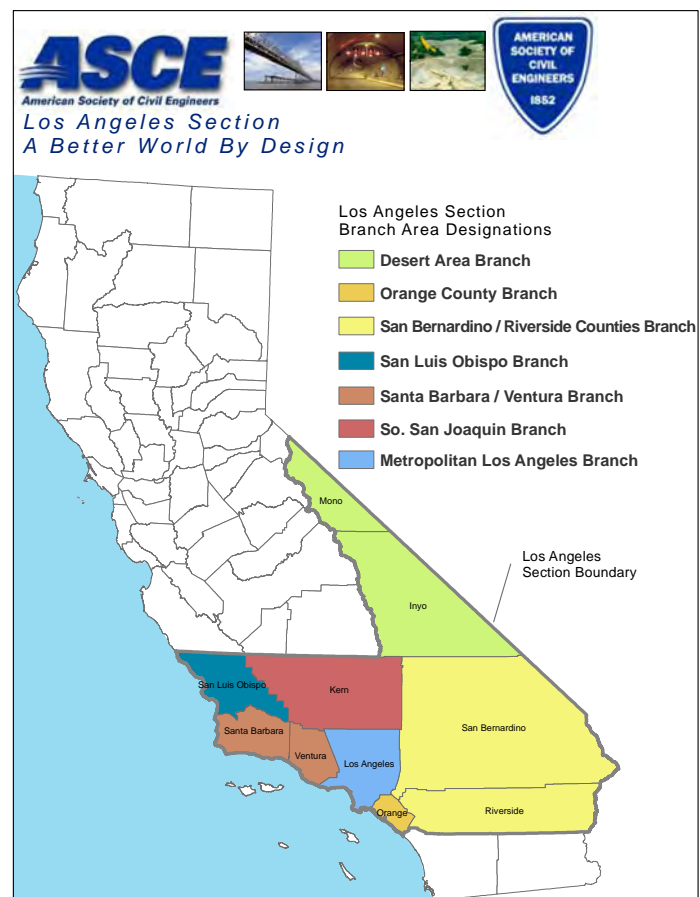
The Industry Leaders Council engages senior leaders from industry, academia, government, and non-governmental organizations to identify tactical actions for ASCE and the civil engineering profession.

Membership on the ILC is by invitation only. Council members commit to a two (2) year term of service. Potential candidates are nominated by their peers and those candidates selected to join the ILC receive an invitation from the ILC Chair and ASCE Executive Director.

Interested in learning more about the ILC? The ILC is always looking for dedicated, active, and dynamic leaders to join them in their work for the industry. Please contact Carol Vargas (cvargas@asce.org), Director of Industry Relations for information.



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State Investments and Legislative Update

by Richard Markuson, CA Region 9 Legislative Advocate



The Legislature reached another milestone with the House of origin deadline on June 2, 2017. By that date all bills (with a few exceptions) needed to be approved by the respective houses where introduced – or they became two-year bills and ineligible for passage in 2017.

Legislation

The Assembly approved ASCE supported AB 851 (Caballero D) that allows the Santa Clara Valley Water District to use the design-build procurement method. The bill was significantly narrowed from its original broad authority for all special districts.

ASCE supported SB 27 (Morrell R) that would have required every board under the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to grant a waiver for the application and initial licensing fee to an honorably discharged veteran, failed passage in Senate Appropriations.

The full Senate sent ASCE supported SB 436 (Allen D) to the Assembly on a 35-0 vote. The bill establishes the California STEM Professional Teaching Pathway to recruit, train, support, and retain qualified science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals as mathematics and science teachers in California. To pass, the bill was stripped of its Proposition 98 General Fund appropriation, beginning in the 2017-18 fiscal year. The bill would require its provisions to be implemented only upon the enactment of an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute for its purposes.

Recent Reports

Pacific Institute released Impact of California's Five-Year (2012-2016) Drought on Hydroelectricity Generation [web link] "The severe five-year drought afflicting California between 2012 and 2016 was the driest and hottest in the instrumental record.... Under normal conditions, electricity for the state's millions of users is produced from a blend of many sources, with natural gas and hydropower being the top two. During the drought, reductions to state river flows that power hundreds of hydropower stations meant that natural gas became a more prominent player in the mix. This was an expensive change. According to the report, the five years of drought led to an increase in electricity costs of approximately \$2.45 billion. The additional combustion of fossil fuels for electric generation led to a 10% increase in the release of carbon dioxide from California power plants. In addition, the report notes that the ability to expand California's hydroelectricity capacity is limited, as there are few undammed rivers, little unallocated water, and growing environmental, economic, and political constraints to adding new hydropower capacity."

In a pair of short reports, researchers at **Pew Charitable Trusts** provide snapshots of state-level driver safety trends, distracted

driving, and seatbelt use. California ranked in the top 3rd of states for distracted driving habits, with high rates of hard braking, risky acceleration and abrupt turns. At the same time, California tied with Georgia for having the highest rate of seatbelt use in the country. Where Are the Most Distracted Drivers? Where Are the Safest? and More States Adopt 'Click It or Ticket' Laws; Do They Work?

International Boundary Water Commission, released Report of Transboundary Bypass Flows into the Tijuana River. "A sewer line break in Tijuana resulted in the bypass of approximately 28 million gallons (105,000 cubic meters) of wastewater into the Tijuana River channel on February 1-4, 2017.... In addition, other sewer line problems in the Mexican city affected the Tijuana River Valley in both countries. These included blocked or collapsed pipes and the overflow of sanitary sewers after rainwater entered the sewer system.... A binational task force ... aside from gathering the facts surrounding the sewage spill, made a series of recommendations that include acquiring equipment to prevent or manage spills, establishment of a communication and notification protocol, and an enhancement of data collection and information exchange to assist in speedy detection and response to transboundary sewage spills."

The **Institute for Leadership and Public Policy at Fresno State College of Social Sciences** released 2017 San Joaquin Valley Survey—Results on High-Speed Rail A telephone survey of 541 adults from eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley found that interest in the high-speed rail project is mixed. "Among those who voted in the 2016 presidential election, there is a very marked split in their views of the high-speed rail project. Forty-seven percent of voters support the completion of the project, while 46% oppose it. In contrast, non-voters are much more supportive of high-speed rail, with 74% of them in favor of it.... Across racial and ethnic groups, non-white groups are the most supportive of the high-speed rail project. Seventy-six percent of Latinos and 60% of non-white, non-Latinos, which includes blacks and Asians, support construction of the project. In contrast, a majority of whites (64%) oppose the construction of the high-speed train through the Valley."

The **National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Dept. of Energy** released ESIF 2016: Modernizing Our Grid and Energy System. "This 2016 ESIF [Energy Systems Integration Facility] annual report highlights work in finding new ways to control and protect electric grids, showing how they can accommodate more renewables, demonstrating that utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) installations can provide grid services, challenging inventors to create a smaller inverter, determining the best way to dispatch battery energy storage systems (BESS), using big data to improve solar forecasting, and developing new test devices for hydrogen refueling."

The **UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies** released Rethinking the Corporate Campus: The Next Bay Area Workplace. "The suburban corporate campus remains the predominant real estate solution for the [Bay Area's] employers. With isolated single-

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use buildings set behind vast parking lots, far away from the public street, it is a model that reinforces dependence on cars and pushes sprawl development into open spaces and farmland.... Rethinking the Corporate Campus examines the forces that shape our employment landscape, highlights the implications of different models, and recommends policies and practices to tackle two key questions: How do we encourage employers to choose efficient, sustainable, high-performance locations [; and] how do we create new locations that are more efficient, sustainable and high-performing?"

The **Public Policy Institute of California** released Californians' Views on Climate Change. "A majority of Californians say the effects of global warming are already occurring" with 64% surveyed responding that "global warming's effects have already begun." Four in five Californians believe that global warming is a "very serious (54%) or somewhat serious (27%) threat to the state's future economy and quality of life." The majority of respondents supported independent state efforts to address global warming (67%) and supported action even with increased costs (56%). In fact, "only 20% of Californians believe state action on climate change will lead to a loss of jobs."

The **California Housing Partnership** released Housing Needs 2017. Ten briefs describe the current state of housing needs in Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo and Sonoma Counties. For the Bay Area counties, "[s]kyrocketing rents, shrinking incomes and severe

cuts in state- and federal-government support for affordable housing have made it far harder for lower-income Bay Area residents to find a place to live.... [For] Alameda, Contra Costa, Sonoma and San Mateo counties, ... each is more than 10,000 rental spots short of what it would take for everyone of limited means to find an affordable place to live.... [Also], state and federal funding for affordable housing in the four counties has dropped 65 percent since 2008. Meanwhile, in each county the split between rent and income diverged sharply from 2000 to 2015—with rent shooting up and income dipping."

The **Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University** released Lower Basin States Work to Keep Lake Mead Afloat. "Hoover dam and the reservoir it created have had one public purpose since the 1930s, when they first tamed the Colorado River. And as the Depression's engineering marvels aged into the 21st century, Lake Mead and its dam were still seen largely as the workhorses needed to send water and hydroelectricity around the Southwest. But in the last 15 years, things have changed. Climate change and the disconnect between the river's water supply and the amounts promised has given Lake Mead a new identity. It remains the biggest storage tank in the Southwest's plumbing system, but now it is also an hourglass. Its falling level marks the time remaining before interstate and international agreements kick in to dictate who loses water. As of this writing, the lake level stands at 1,082 feet. As the bathtub ring on the canyon walls gets larger, the time will get shorter."

Bi-Monthly Board Meetings



Day:
First Thursday of
every other Month

Time:
6:00 pm

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Everyone is welcome

Thoughts From Your Outgoing Region 9 Governor

by John Hogan, P.E., M. ASCE, ASCE Region 9 Governor from the Los Angeles Section



It was just three short years ago that I was elected to the position of Region 9 Governor representing the Los Angeles Section. When my term began in October 2014, I penned an Incoming Governor article about my plans and hopes for the coming three-year term. In addition to working to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Board of Governors, I listed my passions as Membership Growth, Infrastructure Advocacy, and Leadership Development. It was my wish at the time that we could make tangible progress in each of these three goal categories.

So how have we done? As my term draws to a close, here is my perspective:

Membership Growth: Although membership numbers fluctuate due to seasonal factors (e.g., timing of renewals, student memberships), Region 9 averages about 19,000 members. Earlier this year, we briefly hit the 20,000-member mark. This has been encouraging! So too has our overall focus on membership, led at the Region 9 level by Matt Kennedy, P.E., Region Governor from San Francisco. Our membership numbers carry clout and enhance the effectiveness of the organization in advancing its goals, especially with regards to influencing public policy. We are influential now, but as our member count rises, it will be hard to find a public policy maker or legislator, at any level, who would not want to listen to what we have to say. Adding and retaining members is an on-going, never-ending quest. As a Region, our progress has been slow and steady, but we are clearly on the right track.

Infrastructure Advocacy: I continue to believe that one of the most important roles of the Region 9 organization is to advocate sound infrastructure policies at our State and local levels. Having a legislative advocate in Sacramento (Richard Markuson), funded by Region 9, is important to our effectiveness. So too are the visits, calls, and messages from our members to our legislators and other elected officials. I have helped organize, and I attended, each of the past three annual Sacramento Fly-ins. Not only do the fly-ins allow us to take our message directly to our elected officials, but there is an interesting bonus from this experience for our participating members. I have observed that members who spend the day at one of the Fly-ins, come away with increased confidence and self-assuredness. These important leadership traits will make our members more effective in their everyday lives. Who knew that participating in legislative advocacy could be transformative in one's career development?

Leadership Development: As a Region Governor, I have become more fully aware of the many ways in which ASCE works to provide leadership development opportunities for its members. Some of these opportunities are side benefits to other ASCE activities, like the Sacramento Fly-in example above. Other programs are designed for leadership development. As Region Governor, I attended and helped lead the annual Multi-Region Leadership Conferences, which include tracks for Section, Branch and Institute leaders, younger member leaders, and student leaders. These two-day conferences attract hundreds of highly motivated ASCE volunteer leaders from California and other western states. Within Region 9, various Branches, YMF's, and student chapters offer leadership development programs throughout the year. Such programs are beneficial to the ASCE organizations by assuring an all-important leadership pipeline. Similarly, the programs pay dividends to the employers of our member-leaders.

My overall assessment of our progress is therefore positive. While the Region 9 organization was strong when I came aboard, it has gained strength during these past three years, as evidenced by the tangible improvements in membership, statewide infrastructure awareness, our leadership depth, success of our annual Symposiums and Fly-ins, and our financial health. These accomplishments are a testament to the efforts of the entire group of Region 9 volunteers, led by Jay Higgins, P.E., Region 9 Director. On behalf of the Board of Governors, and all of the members of ASCE Region 9, I wish to commend and thank Jay for his tireless efforts. It has been our good fortune to have Jay at the helm these past three years!

Although I will be stepping down as a Region Governor at the end of September, I will remain quite active in Region 9 as a co-chair of the 2019 California Infrastructure Report Card. As you might imagine, producing a Report Card on infrastructure for a State as large and complex as California is a significant undertaking. Fortunately, we have many devoted members who will be volunteering their services to assist in producing this important document. For me personally, it will provide an opportunity to stay connected with colleagues across the State as we work together on this important project which, when completed, will once again highlight ASCE's crucial role as advocates and stewards of our infrastructure.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you as Region Governor. In addition, thank you for demonstrating your commitment to our profession through your membership in ASCE. There is no time like the present to enrich the value of your membership by taking on an active role in the organization.

If you would like to get in touch with me, please contact me at JHogan@deainc.com

Ask Anthony: How Do you Become an Expert in a Specific Civil Engineering Niche?*

by Anthony Fasano, P.E., M.ASCE



In previous blogs in www.asce.org, I covered the benefits of becoming a jack-of-all-trades, and more recently, focusing on a specific niche as a civil engineer. In this post, I want to dig deeper into specialization as a civil engineer.

If you decide that you want to go the route of becoming an expert in a narrow field, here are seven things you can do to establish that expertise.

1. Learn all you can about the area of expertise by working on that area

For example, if you decide to specialize in stormwater design, you should do as many drainage analyses as possible, until you have a really good handle on the technical side of stormwater design. This sounds obvious, but I want to reinforce it.

2. Be aware of industry rules and regulations at all times

To remain an expert in a field, you must always know what's going on in that field with regard to regulations. Read trade journals and online news outlets to stay up to date with changing regulations. Doing this will allow you to keep your clients updated on these items, which will cement you as an expert in their minds.

3. Author a white paper or other publication on the topic

One of the quickest ways to boost your credibility around a topic is to write about it. When someone is published in a certain arena, they immediately garner an expert reputation.

There are most likely several trade journals or online outlets that would welcome good content on your topic of expertise. (Note: I am hopefully garnering expert status around career coaching for civil engineers by authoring this column and hosting the Civil Engineering Podcast.)

4. Turn your written content into a 45- to 60-minute presentation

Take the information in one or a few of your publications and convert it into a presentation that provides value to your existing and prospective clients.

5. Present in front of the right people

Just like writing, presenting a topic in front of people screams "expert." The key, though, is to present in front of the correct crowd. I

would focus on presenting in front of existing and prospective clients. You can do this by contacting event planners for events that attract those types of audiences.

For example, when I was practicing as a civil engineer in land development, I would try to present in front of realtors or real estate developers. It's not that hard to find out where these types of people come together.

6. Share your written articles and presentations on social media

You can write or present for the audiences that you have direct access to, but you can then use that content to reach many more people through social media. I recommend focusing on LinkedIn, as this is the best social networking site for professional networking. Social media sites will help you to further establish yourself as an expert in a field and build your brand.

7. Do all of the above consistently

I have learned that the only way to become an expert in a field, and quite frankly to do anything successfully, is to do it over and over consistently. Not just once a month, or every once in a while – you *must* practice your craft consistently.

*Modified from www.asce.org

Anthony Fasano, P.E., M.ASCE, is the founder of the Engineering Career Coach website, which has helped thousands of engineers develop their business and leadership skills. He hosts the Civil Engineering Podcast, and is the author of a bestselling book for engineers, *Engineer Your Own Success*. You can download a free video series on his website that will give you the tools needed to immediately improve your networking and communication skills by going here: <https://engineeringcareercoach.com>



Remembering 'Father of Civil Engineering'

by Reuben Hull



June celebrates the birth of Englishman John Smeaton, the first self-proclaimed civil engineer, often regarded as the "father of civil engineering."

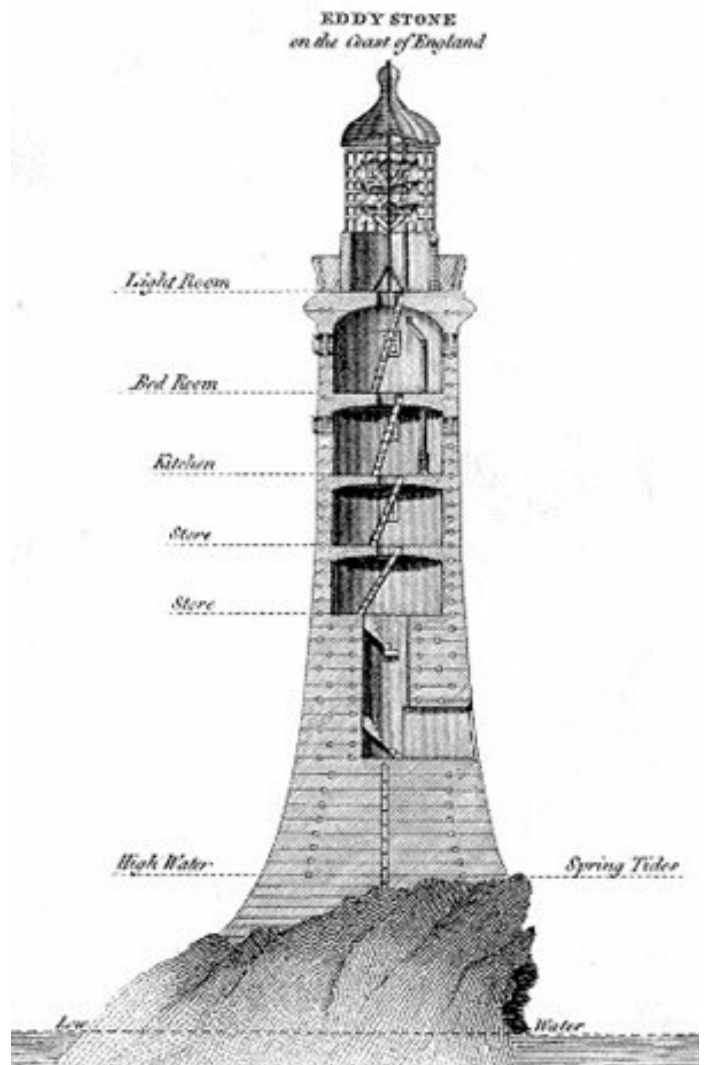
Smeaton was born in Austhorpe, Leeds, England on June 8, 1724. After studying at Leeds Grammar School he was initially trained in law and joined his father's law firm, but left to become a maker of scientific instruments.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1753, and in 1759 won the Copley Medal for his research into the mechanics of waterwheels and windmills, working out scientifically their power and effectiveness. His tests proved that overshot waterwheels were much more efficient than undershot. The advantage was the result of gravity, which is greater in falling water than in flowing water.

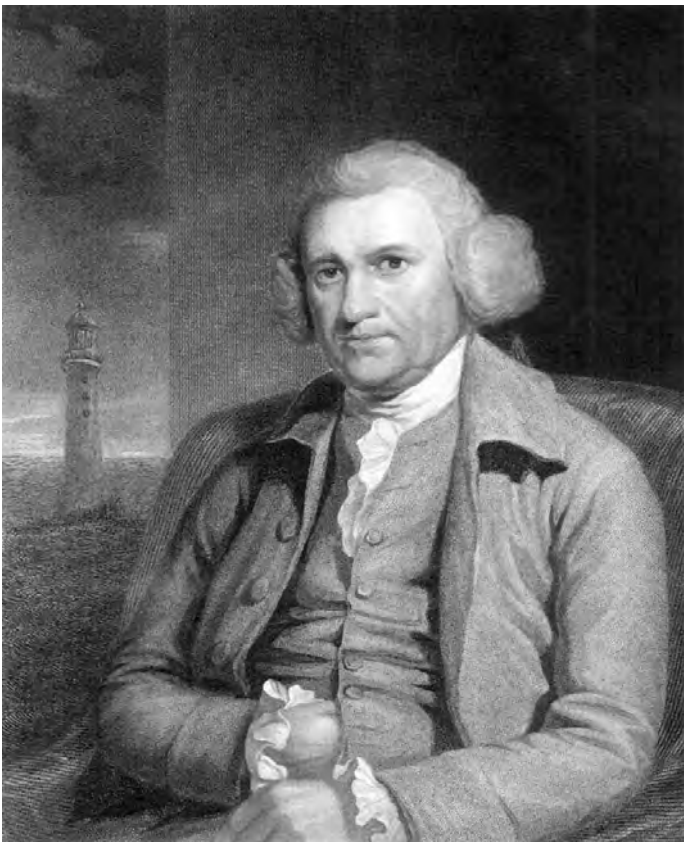
Smeaton analyzed steam engines, making improvements to the early Newcomen engines, working out ways to measure their performance accurately. His 1759 paper, "An Experimental Enquiry Concerning the Natural Powers of Water and Wind to Turn Mills and Other Machines Depending on Circular Motion," addressed the relationship between

pressure and velocity for objects moving in air, and his concepts were subsequently developed to devise the Smeaton Coefficient.

Recommended by the Royal Society at the age of 30, Smeaton designed the third Eddystone Lighthouse after the previous structure was destroyed by fire. He pioneered the use of hydraulic lime, a form of mortar which will set under water, and developed a technique involving dovetailed blocks of granite in the building of the lighthouse. He also developed a method to raise the blocks from a movable floating base 60 feet in the air, so that the stones could be placed atop the lighthouse.



Smeaton is important in the history, rediscovery of, and development of modern cement, having identified the compositional requirements needed to obtain hydraulicity in lime, work which led ultimately to the invention of Portland cement. His lighthouse remained in use until 1877. After the rock underlying the structure's foundations began to erode, it was dismantled and partially rebuilt at Plymouth Hoe where it is known as Smeaton's Tower.



John Smeaton

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After the Eddystone Lighthouse, Smeaton continued his career with an extensive series of projects, including bridges, canals, viaducts, and harbor works. Major works included Scotland's 35-mile long canal between the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde, at the narrowest part of the Scottish Lowlands. Construction of the Forth and Clyde Canal began in 1768 and was completed in 1790. The canal, which provided an east-west route across Scotland for seagoing vessels, operated until the mid-20th century, closing in 1963.

Smeaton was a pioneer in establishing fixed fees for routine commissions. In 1782, Smeaton was called to testify in court for a case related to silting of the harbor at Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk. He is considered to be the first expert witness to appear in an English court.

Highly regarded by other engineers, he contributed to the Lunar Society (a dinner club and informal learned society of prominent 18th century figures) and founded the Society of Civil Engineers in 1771. He coined the term civil engineers to distinguish them from military engineers graduating from the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. After his death, the Society was renamed the Smeatonian Society, and was a forerunner of the Institution of Civil Engineers, established in 1818.

John Smeaton died after suffering a stroke while walking in the garden of his family home at Austhorpe, and was buried in the parish church at Whitkirk, West Yorkshire.



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