

# LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

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ACADIANA • BATON ROUGE • NEW ORLEANS • SHREVEPORT

## FEATURE:

Eliminating Delamination in  
Overlays on Asphalt

## NEWS:

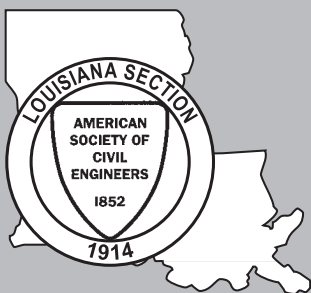
Louisiana Section Installation  
& Awards Luncheon

Louisiana Report Card on  
Infrastructure

New ASCE Region 5 Director



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**NOVEMBER 2011**  
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*The Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers was founded in 1914 and has since been in continuous operation. The Section consists of the entire state of Louisiana and is divided into four branches that directly serve over 2000 members. They are the Acadiana Branch centered in Lafayette, the Baton Rouge Branch, the New Orleans Branch, and the Shreveport Branch.*

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*Louisiana Civil Engineer* quarterly journal is an official publication of the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers with an average circulation of approximately 2100. The Section neither guarantees the accuracy of the information provided nor necessarily concurs with opinions expressed. It does not claim the copyrights for the contents in this publication. Please submit letters and articles for consideration to be published by email to [nedrasuedavis@gmail.com](mailto:nedrasuedavis@gmail.com) or mail to the Publications Committee c/o Nedra S. Davis • 622 Steele Blvd. • Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5742.



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The Louisiana Section is located in ASCE Region 5 that consists of the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida Sections.



## President's Message

By Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE

It is both an honor and privilege to serve as your ASCE Louisiana Section President for the 2011-2012 year. It is my goal to be able to continue the progress made by my predecessors particularly my immediate predecessor, Patrick Landry. Pat did a tremendous job during his tenure maintaining the progress made in the past few years and supporting new initiatives taken on by the Section. Under his leadership the Section and our members continued to achieve recognition on the national level. As Pat would tell you, this level of achievement is no small endeavor and as members of the Louisiana Section we should be proud of its Board, Branches and many members who continue to volunteer their time and energy to serve the public and promote the awareness of the civil engineering profession in Louisiana and make our section one of the most active in ASCE.

On September 23, 2011, the New Orleans Branch hosted the Annual Section Officers Installation Banquet and Section Awards Program at Chateau Estates Country Club in Kenner, Louisiana. Approximately 65 people attended the banquet which annually honors some of the outstanding civil engineers across the state. In the last few years, the Section has made an extra effort to seek out and identify the most deserving award recipients and honor them at the annual banquet. Many thanks are extended to Section Awards Chairman, Kurt Nixon for presenting the awards and to the branches for nominating an outstanding slate of candidates. Kudos also go out to the Awards Committee, it is a difficult task to review the nominations and determine the recipients for the Section Awards from so many deserving candidates identified by the Branches. Look for more information about the installation of officers and the Section award recipients on page 12.

As you know our journal once again received the Outstanding Newsletter Award for large sections and branches last year. The Louisiana Section won the award eight times in the sixteen year history of the award, having won the award in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. The only other multiple year award winners were the Texas and San Diego Sections, both having won the award twice. This year ASCE has discontinued and officially retired the award. The official reason given is that fewer and fewer Sections are publishing newsletters. I believe it was discontinued because no other Section could compete with or match the quality of the journal produced by the Louisiana Section. I believe they were tired of the Louisiana Section winning the award every year. The journal's editor, Nedra Davis, all who contributed and continue to contribute articles, the publications committee and sponsors of our journal all deserve credit for the outstanding effort and support required to continue delivering an award winning and quality journal to our members year after year.

Last year the Louisiana Section decided to move forward with an effort to publish a report card on Louisiana's infrastructure, Louisiana Report Card on Infrastructure. A tremendous amount of work has gone into the development of the first Louisiana Section

report card. This has been a significant undertaking, to say the least, from the Louisiana Section of ASCE with over 50 volunteers committing countless hours to the effort. We are in the final stages of delivering the report card. The peer reviews have been completed and the report card and the

accompanying commentary are undergoing final editing before publishing. Infrastructure Report Cards are developed by ASCE members to help the public digest complex infrastructure data that is collected by many different agencies. Report cards communicate the results in one consolidated and easy to understand document. Report cards are intended for the general public and our elected leaders who ultimately have control over the future of our infrastructure. As civil engineers and more particularly as members of ASCE we have a responsibility to keep the public informed on the condition of our infrastructure. This document will serve to help the public and our elected officials better assess the current condition and needs related to our infrastructure, help prioritize resources and funding to address those needs, and as a baseline against which progress in improving our infrastructure can be measured. As part of the report card effort, a PR University is being conducted by ASCE National to prepare board members and report card committee members in responding to questions from the media and public officials upon release of the report card. A PowerPoint presentation is also being prepared for presentation to professional, civic and other groups. We also intend on making presentations to all of the Branches to inform all of our members on the grading of Louisiana's infrastructure and give our members the opportunity to ask questions regarding the grades given.

As we approach the release of this first report card it is important to understand that this is not the end but just the beginning of the Louisiana Section's efforts to live up to its responsibility to educate and inform the public on the condition of Louisiana's infrastructure. It is important for the public to understand that a majority of our infrastructure was put in place in the 1950's, and 60's. Much of our infrastructure is approaching or surpassing its 50 year design life. While we have managed to live on the initial investments in our infrastructure we cannot afford to continue to defer maintenance if we expect the systems that we depend on to continue to serve us and bring us the quality of life that we have grown accustomed to receiving. Investing in infrastructure improvements is also one area where all citizens benefit. Improved infrastructure supports economic growth, which in return creates jobs. This is increasingly important as government



Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE

*continued on next page*

faces limited resources in the future. We must spend our resources more wisely in the future and investment in our infrastructure is one area where we can receive a return on our investment.

During the recent ASCE National Convention in Memphis this year, it was noted that it is time that we as civil engineers need to stop talking to ourselves and start bringing the issue of our aging infrastructure to the public. In an effort to build upon the release of the Louisiana Report Card, maintain the momentum, and continue to inform and focus the public on the importance of improving the infrastructure, the Louisiana Section will be forming a Government Relations Committee this year. The formation of this committee is an outgrowth of the report card effort. Joey Coco who championed the report card and was instrumental in organizing and leading the effort on the report card has accepted the challenge of chairing and forming this committee.

Another initiative that the Louisiana Section will be undertaking this year is the reconstitution of the section's History and Heritage

Committee. Miles Bingham, a former Louisiana Section President, has offered to form and chair the History and Heritage Committee. As you know, the Huey P. Long Bridge was recently named a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by ASCE. Miles was responsible for leading the effort in obtaining this designation. The History and Heritage Committee will work to identify other potential civil engineering accomplishments throughout the state that have played an important role in our nation's and state's history and the development of our heritage. This is another way in which we can bring the important role civil engineering plays in the development of our quality of life to the attention of the public.

As you can see, the Louisiana Section continues to be active in its endeavors to serve both its members and the public. I am excited about this upcoming year and look forward to, with the help of the board and committee members, continuing to meet the challenges that the Section has undertaken. The Louisiana Section is always striving to develop new ways to serve our members. If you have comments or suggestions on how the Section Board can better serve you, please feel free to contact any board member.

## ASCE Region 5 Director's Letter

By Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE

Dear Region 5 Members:

I want to thank all of you for your support in the recent election. I am honored and humbled at being elected and appreciate the opportunity to serve the members and society for the next three years as the Region 5 Director.

The key aspect of my vision statement is that the Region 5 Board of Governors be a conduit of communication between the members and ASCE national. My intention is to provide letters on a regular basis to help provide this communication bridge.

The Region 5 Board of Governors consists of seven enthusiastic individuals with the shared goal of helping civil engineers and the civil engineering profession. Your governors have expressed a willingness and desire to interact with members as much as possible. If you have a question, please contact any one of us. Although governors are from particular states (sections), all of the governors from Region 5 represent all of the members in Region 5. Following is a list of your current Region 5 Governors:

E. Ray Desormeaux (LA): [erd@erdesormeaux.com](mailto:erd@erdesormeaux.com)  
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Melissa Wheeler (GA): [MSWHEEL@southernco.com](mailto:MSWHEEL@southernco.com)

Our next major event is the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference scheduled for 20 - 21 JAN 2012 in Nashville, Tennessee. One of the

things this conference provides is an opportunity for incoming or potential officers to learn more about ASCE and to interact with the Region Governors as well as ASCE members from other ASCE regions.

In conclusion and as a preview to future letters, I want to share the areas where the Region 5 Board of Governors has agreed we need to focus our efforts:

- Regional Interaction & Communication
- Infrastructure/ Government Relations
- Competency to include "Raising the Bar"/ Public Policy
- Sustainability/ Preparedness

Thanks and together we can continue to improve the greatest profession, Civil Engineering!

Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE  
Director, Region 5  
[William.p.grogan@usace.army.mil](mailto:William.p.grogan@usace.army.mil)



**Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE**

## Region 5 Governor's Message

By E. R. DesOrmeaux, PE, F. ASCE

In addition to the usual Agenda for the Annual Convention in Memphis, Tennessee, this year's meeting had as its primary focus the Strategic Objective for the Society... "The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2025. This objective, currently eight (8) years in the making, has three (3) major components:

- "Envision" – which addresses the need for sustainability in design and construction
- "Infrastructure" – the needs as addressed by our National Report Card, and the various Report Cards prepared by various states (including Louisiana)
- "Raise the Bar" – addressing the need for continuing education of our young engineers

This convention, more than any other previously attended by me, was particularly satisfying, resulting from an appreciation that our Society has a clear focus and direction for the coming years. Our Section, its Branches, and Student Chapters, are requested to bring the Vision of 2025 message to all members by scheduling topic discussions in future meetings. As a Region 5 Governor, I am committed to this initiative, and will assist all of our Branches and Student Chapters in arranging for a guest speaker. The officers of each Branch and Student Chapter are encouraged to add this topic to a future meeting, and contact me for the furnishing of required materials (PowerPoint Presentations, literature, etc.) and the arrangement of a guest speaker if so desired.

The various Regions were established three years ago, and the relationships between the Society Board of Direction, the Region Governors, and the Section and Branches have become refined, with a clear focus and direction. The new Director of Region 5 is William Grogan, PE, who will do an outstanding job in providing direction and guidance to the Region 5 Board of Governors, and will be our representative on the National Society Board of Directors.

Norma Jean Mattei, PE, has represented our Section as a Past President, and her tenure as the first Director of Region 5, and as a member of the National Society Board has ended. She has served with distinction, and every confidence is expressed that NJ will continue with her commitment to ASCE for many years to come. When an opportunity arises, please express your gratitude for her service.

The Annual 2012 Multi Region Leadership Conference is scheduled for January 20 – 21, 2012 in Nashville, Tennessee. Section and

Branch Officers have already received notifications, and all are encouraged to send delegates. The Leadership Conference provides the best opportunity for the Section, Branches, and Student Chapter members to learn the required skills of member and board leadership.



E. R. DesOrmeaux, PE, F. ASCE

Every engineering school in Region 5 is usually well represented at the Annual Leadership Conference. It would truly be inspiring for all of the Louisiana ASCE Student Chapters to have representatives at the Conference. Recently, the Section increased its financial commitment to support students in attending the Leadership Conference, and it is anticipated that each Branch will consider providing additional monies for increased student participation.

Additionally, any member wishing to make a personal donation to assist with student participation is encouraged to do so by contacting your Branch or Student Chapter President, Faculty or Practitioner Advisor. All donations will be appreciated.

Our current students are the future leaders of the profession. In the coming years, they will be the ones sitting at the tables, conducting meetings, providing direction, influence policy making, and be the voices of our profession. They need our support. Join me in making a personal contribution to one of the Student Chapters for this very worthy cause.

# Eliminating Delamination in Overlays on Asphalt

## National Research Project to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Tack Coat Materials

By Louay Mohammad, PhD

Pavements throughout the country have been found to fail in a variety of ways. A serious problem affecting the service life of these surfaces is called delamination (Figure 1). Generally, delamination is characterized by crescent-shaped cracks resulting from horizontal forces induced by traffic load, and it results in a loss of a large area of the pavement surface. It is most commonly found in areas where stopping and accelerating are most prevalent because of the force applied when vehicles turn or brake.



Figure 1 - Delamination appears as crescent-shaped cracks

There are two distress modes at the pavement interface associated with delamination (Figure 2). The first mode, shear, is due to insufficient bonding between the surface layer and the underlying asphalt layer. Because of this, the two layers are unable to withstand traffic and environmental loads. Ultimately, attributed to weak bonding, the shearing force applied by traffic cannot be sustained at the interface, and the surface course begins to move forward and slip. Thus, the slippage crack appears on the surface asphalt layer. In this case, the bottom asphalt layer does not fail. The second mode, tensile, is due to the excessive tensile strain resulting from inappropriate pavement structural design. This can be due to a weak layer or layers supporting the load. Excessive tensile strain initiates cracks at the bottom of the asphalt layer. When cracks reach the pavement surface, fatigue cracks form and

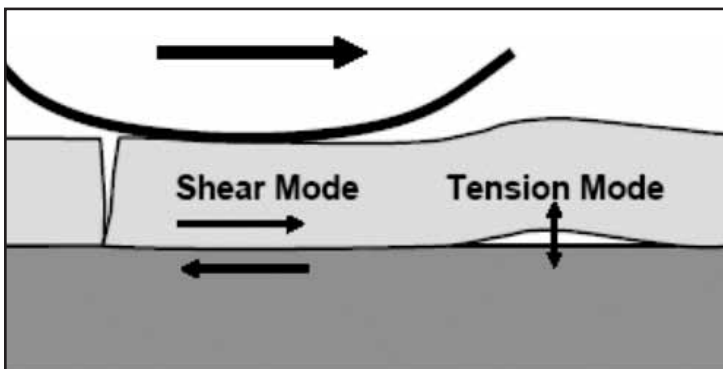


Figure 2 - Distress modes at pavement interface under service conditions

the bonding between asphalt layers is reduced.

### Tack Coat Research

Tack coat is a light application of asphalt, usually asphalt emulsion diluted with water, onto an existing relatively non-absorptive pavement

surface. Tack coat is normally applied between two asphaltic concrete pavement layers or between a new asphalt pavement layer that is placed over an existing Portland cement concrete (PCC) surface. It is used to provide an adequate bond between the pavement being placed and the existing surface, achieving a monolithic system capable of withstanding traffic and environmental stresses. Insufficient bonding between pavement layers decreases the pavement bearing capacity and may cause slippage. In addition, insufficient bonding may cause tensile stresses to be concentrated at the bottom of the wearing course. Such concentrated stresses may accelerate fatigue cracking and lead to total pavement failure.

In a current Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC) study, researchers are investigating improvements to roadway reliability from a uniformly distributed strong tack coat. More specifically, this study, titled *Optimization of Tack Coat for HMA Placement*, sponsored by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), will determine optimum application methods, equipment type and calibration procedures, application rates, and asphalt binder materials for tack coats. Researchers also will recommend revisions to relevant AASHTO methods and practices related to tack coats (Dr. Louay Mohammad, PI). Selection of an optimum tack coat material and application rate is critical in the development of proper bond strength between pavement layers. Pavement surfaces with different conditions (e.g., new, old, milled, grooved, cracked) require different tack coat application rates to achieve proper interface bond strength. Few guidelines are available for the selection of tack coat material type, application rate, placement, and evaluation. In general, selection of tack coat materials has been mainly based on experience, convenience, and/or empirical judgment. In addition, quality control and quality assurance testing of the tack coat construction process is rarely conducted, resulting in the possibility of unacceptable performance, even premature pavement failure.



Louay Mohammad, PhD



NCHRP Project 9-40 funded a research project titled *Optimization of Tack Coat for HMA Placement* (Dr. Louay Mohammad, PI) to determine the optimum application methods, equipment type and calibration procedures, application rates, and asphalt binder materials for the various uses of tack coats and to recommend revisions to relevant AASHTO methods and practices related to tack coat materials. As a part of the research activities in NCHRP Project 9-40, two test devices were developed. The first device evaluates the quality of the bond strength of tack coat materials in tension in the field, whereas the second device characterizes the interface bond strength of two pavement layers in direct shear.

### Two New Testing Devices Measure Strength

The first test device was developed to evaluate the quality of the bond strength of tack coat materials in tension in the field for this NCHRP research project. This device was named the Louisiana Tack Coat Quality Tester (LTCQT) (Figure 3).

A test matrix was developed to evaluate the reliability and the repeatability of the LTCQT in the field. Three emulsified tack coat materials (CRS-1, SS-1h, and Trackless) and an asphalt cement binder (PG 64-22) on an existing pavement surface were evaluated over a wide range of temperatures and at a residual application rate of 0.23 l/m2. Tests demonstrated that each tack coat material exhibited a maximum tensile strength, SMAX, at a distinct testing temperature, TOPT (Figure 4). Furthermore, a good relationship was observed between the maximum tensile strength and the

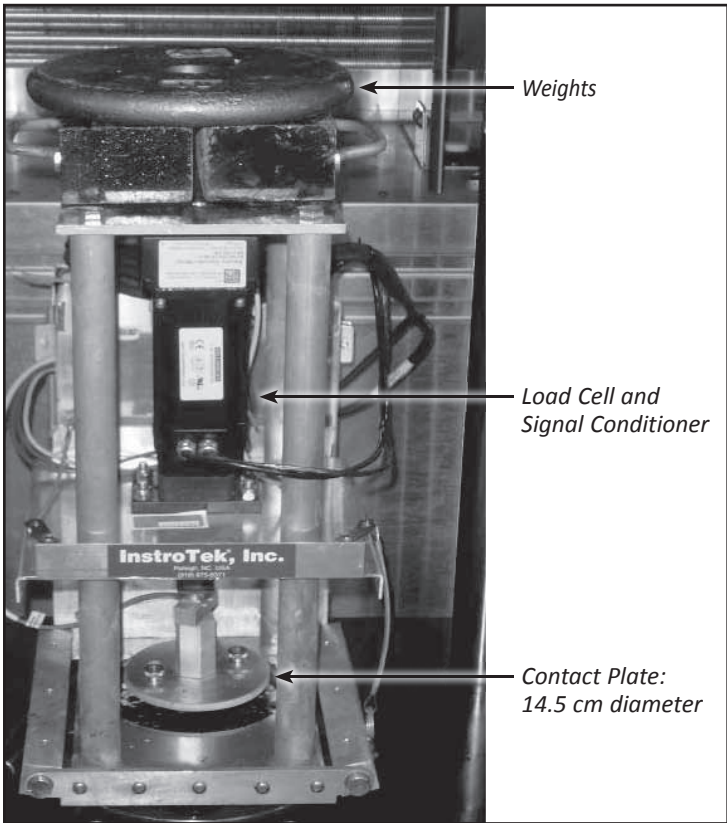


Figure 3 - The Louisiana Tack Coat Quality Tester test set-up

corresponding softening point. As Figure 5 shows, an increase in the material softening point was correlated to an increase in the optimum temperature. These results support a recommendation to conduct tack coat pull-off tests at the softening point in order to successfully and consistently evaluate the quality of tack coat applications in the field.

A second test device, referred to as the Louisiana Interlayer Shear Strength Tester (LISST), was developed for laboratory characterization of interface shear strength for cylindrical specimens (Figure 6) in direct shear mode of testing. Using this new test setup and proposed test method the effects of pavement surface types and conditions, tack coat material types, and tack coat application rates and methods can be evaluated. The LISST device was designed to fit into any universal testing machine. It has a nearly frictionless linear bearing to maintain vertical travel and can accommodate

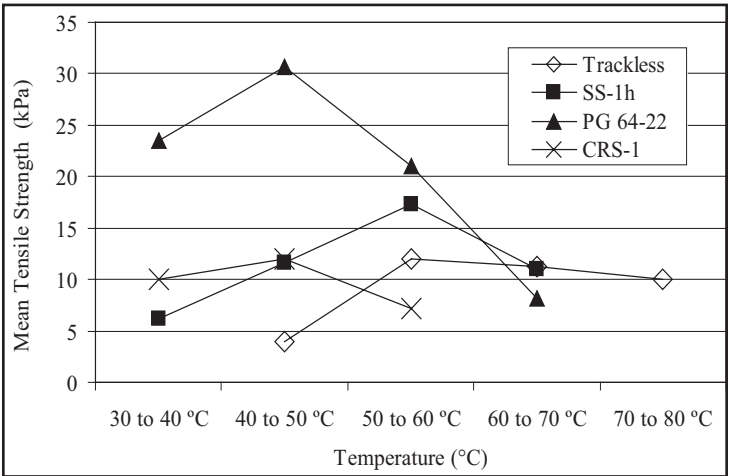


Figure 4 - Variation of the mean tensile strength with temperature

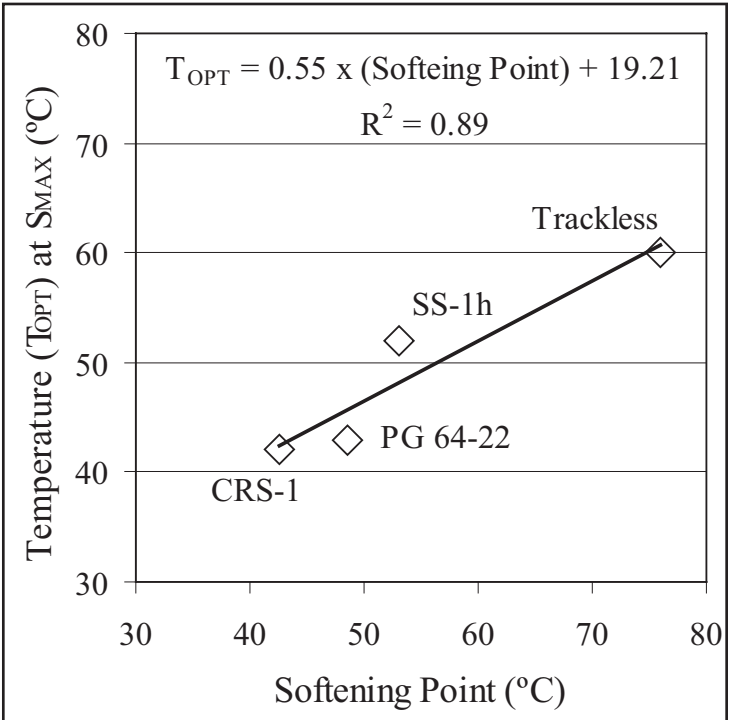


Figure 5 - Relationship between softening point and the optimum test temperature

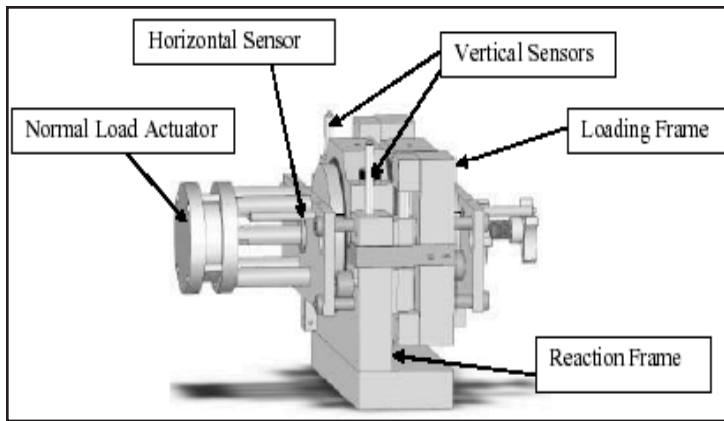


Figure 6 - Schematic diagram of the Louisiana Interlayer Shear Strength Tester

sensors that measure vertical and horizontal displacements. The LISST device can also apply a constant normal load up to 689 kPa and accommodates a specimen with 100-mm or 150-mm diameters. The LISST device enables laboratory testing of the interface shear strength of tack coat materials under a wide range of testing conditions commonly encountered in field applications. LISST tests provide good repeatability, with the average coefficient of variation for replicate tests at less than 10%.

Researchers evaluated five tack coat materials (CRS-1, SS-1, SS-1h, trackless, and PG 64-22) and four types of pavement surfaces (Old HMA, New HMA, Milled HMA, and PCC) at three residual application rates, 0.14/m<sup>2</sup>, 0.28/m<sup>2</sup>, and 0.70 l/m<sup>2</sup>, as well as a “no tack coat” condition. Laboratory direct shear tests were performed at 25°C. To simulate these test conditions, cores were extracted from full-scale asphalt overlays at the LTRC’s Pavement Research Facility (PRF). This test site was designed and constructed using conventional tack coat application and paving equipment over an existing HMA pavement surface (Figure 7).

Figure 8 shows the variation of interface shear strength (ISS) with residual application rates. The average coefficient of variation in the LISST test results was less than 10%. All tack coat materials showed the highest shear strength at a residual application rate of 0.70 l/m<sup>2</sup>. Trackless tack coat exhibited the highest interface shear strength, and CRS-1 resulted in the lowest interface shear strength. These results relate directly to the stiffness of the residual asphalt cement binders. Determination of the optimum application rate proved difficult within the tested residual range. This may be attributed to the highly oxidized HMA surface at the LTRC’s PRF site, which required greater tack coat rates than expected. It may also indicate that, under actual field conditions, optimum application rates are greater than what is commonly predicted from laboratory-based experiments. Importantly, however, while higher application rates may increase interface shear strength, excessive tack coat may migrate into the new asphalt mat during compaction causing a decrease in the air void content of the mix. Selection of the tack-



Figure 7 - Conventional tack coat application and paving equipment over an existing HMA pavement surface

coat application rate should provide for an interface shear strength greater than the predicted shear stress due to traffic and thermal loading.

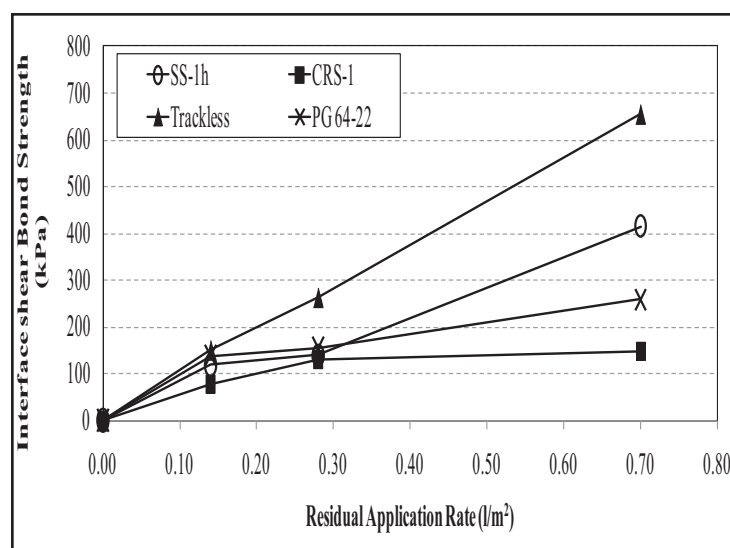


Figure 8 - Variation of interface shear strength with residual application rates

Test results have also demonstrated a direct relationship between the roughness of the existing surface and the shear strength at the interface. Milled HMA surface provided the greatest interface shear strength followed by PCC, old HMA, and new HMA surface.

### Results on the Roadways

The test method for the measurement of the interface bond strength using the LISST device developed during the NCHRP project was successfully used in forensic analysis of a distressed pavement. Researchers found that low interface shear strengths, less than 40 psi, measured between the wearing and binder course confirmed the potential for future problems.

**Dr. Louay Mohammad** is a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and holder of the Irma-Louise Rush Stewart Distinguished Professorship at Louisiana State University, and Director of the Engineering Materials Characterization Research Facility at the Louisiana Transportation Research Center. He teaches and conducts research in the area of Highway Construction Materials, Pavement Engineering, Accelerated Pavement Testing, Advanced Materials Characterization and Modeling, and Infrastructure Sustainability. Dr. Mohammad has published over 250 papers technical papers and reports. Dr. Mohammad is the Chair of TRB Committee AFK 40 on Characteristics of Asphalt-Aggregate Combinations to Meet Surface Requirements; Chair of ASTM committee D 4.25 on the Analysis of Bituminous mixtures; and Associate Editor of ASCE Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering.

He is currently the principle investigator for NCHRP Project 9-40 on the *Optimization of Tack Coat for HMA Placement*, NCHRP Project 9-48 on *Field versus Laboratory Volumetrics and Mechanical Properties*, co- principle investigator for NCHRP Project 9-49A on *Performance of WMA Technologies: Stage II – Long-term Field Performance*, and co- principle investigator for NCHRP Project 10-84 on *Modulus-Based Construction Specification for Compaction of Earthwork and Unbound Aggregate*.

Dr. Mohammad is the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Research Paper of the Journal of Engineering Research, the 2009 Asphalt Rubber Ambassador Award, and the 2002 Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists Board of Directors Award of Recognition.

In summary, with the new testing information agencies and their engineers should be able to provide improved pavement designs that address delamination failures. Agencies and their engineers should specify and inspect for good tack coat material applied uniformly and at sufficient rates to produce minimum shear strength at the interface of the top two layers.

### References

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2. Mohammad, L.N., Bae, A., Elseifi, M., Button, J., and Scherocman, J. (2009). "Interface Shear Strength Characteristics of Emulsified Tack Coats." *Journal of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologist*, Vol. 78, pp. 249-278.

# 2011-2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Installation Luncheon

The 2011 Louisiana Section Awards and Officers Installation Luncheon was held on September 23, 2011, at the Chateau Estates Clubhouse in Kenner, Louisiana and was hosted by the New Orleans Branch. New Orleans Branch President Margaret (Meg) Adams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the luncheon. Section Vice-President Kurt Nixon gave the invocation, which was followed by opening remarks from Section President Patrick Landry. President Landry cited the many accomplishments during the past year and thanked the Section Board for their hard work and support. He made special mention of the Infrastructure Report Card team's monumental work in researching and preparing the Section's first Report Card.

Following an excellent luncheon President Landry called upon Louisiana's Region 5 Director Norma Jean Mattei, PhD, PE to update the luncheon attendees on the latest news regarding the ASCE region, which is comprised of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. The Region 5 Board of Governors reports directly to the ASCE National Board of Directors. Dr. Mattei noted that her term as Director is expiring and the incoming Director will be William P. Grogan, PhD, PE, from Mississippi.

After Dr. Mattei's remarks, Section Awards Committee Chairman Kurt Nixon opened the awards ceremony. The ASCE Louisiana Section Awards were instituted to recognize the outstanding contributions of Louisiana civil engineers for service to their profession and ASCE. Chairman Nixon thanked the branches for nominating an outstanding slate of candidates for consideration for each award. The quality of the nominees for the various awards made the awards committee's task to determine this year's award recipients very difficult. Chairman Nixon also thanked the awards committee, which included Bob Jacobsen, Pamela Gonzales, and Christopher Humphreys for their efforts in reviewing the numerous nominations and assisting in selecting this year's recipients.

## This year's Section Award recipients were:

<b>Frank Nicoladis, PE</b>	Lifetime Achievement
<b>Miles B. Bingham, PE</b>	Outstanding Civil Engineer
<b>Ali M. Mustapha, PE</b>	Outstanding Civil Engineer
<b>Rusty Cooper, PE</b>	Outstanding Young Civil Engineer
<b>Russell Hibbler, PhD</b>	Educator of the Year
<b>Tonja Koob, PhD, PE</b>	Outreach

This year's award recipients reflected a wide range of work experiences varying from consulting to government to academia were honored during the ceremony. Each of these award recipients shares a common bond – they are all dedicated to their civil engineering profession, ASCE, their communities, and their families.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the 2011 Wall of Fame inductees. Each branch can select up to one nominee for inclusion to the Wall. It is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Louisiana Civil Engineer by the Louisiana Section.

## This year's inductees include:

<b>Chris Demopoulos, PE</b>	Shreveport Branch
<b>Emery Domingue, PE</b>	Acadiana Branch, accepted on his behalf by his son Kevin Domingue
<b>Frank Humphrey Walk, PE</b>	(posthumously) New Orleans Branch, accepted on his behalf by his son Wade Walk

After Chairman Nixon presented the Section Awards, Section President Landry announced the final award of the ceremony, the President's Medal, to Russell J. (Joey) Coco, PE for his efforts in leading the Infrastructure Report Card team.

Dr. Mattei was then called upon to install the incoming Section Officers and Board of Directors for the Louisiana Section for the 2011-2012 administrative year.

## The 2011-2012 Section Officers are:

<b>Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE</b>	President
<b>Kurt M. Nixon, PE</b>	President-Elect
<b>Robert Jacobsen, PE</b>	Vice-President
<b>Pamela A. Gonzales PE</b>	Secretary-Treasurer
<b>Patrick J. Landry, PE</b>	Past President

## The Board of Directors are:

<b>Luke M. Hebert, PE</b>	Acadiana Branch President
<b>Clinton S. Willson, PE</b>	Baton Rouge Branch President
<b>Malay Ghose Hajra, PE</b>	New Orleans Branch President
<b>Patrick K. Furlong, PE</b>	Shreveport Branch President
<b>R.J. (Joey) Coco Jr., PE</b>	
<b>Matt D. Redmon, EI</b>	
<b>Christopher G. Humphreys, PE</b>	
<b>Kimberly Landry, EI</b>	
<b>Christopher L. Sanchez, PE</b>	
<b>Luke E. LeBas, PE</b>	

The meeting concluded with outgoing President Landry and incoming President Schumann exchanging the President's Plaque and Past-President pin. President Schumann closed the luncheon and thanked everyone for attending.





*Journal Chairman Ronald Schumann, Editor Nedra Davis, and Section President Patrick Landry*



*Ronald Schumann accepts the Presidential gavel from Patrick Landry*

## 2011-2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Officers



**Ronald L. Schumann, PE**  
*President*



**Kurt M. Nixon, PE**  
*President-Elect*



**Robert Jacobsen, PE**  
*Vice-President*



**Pamela Gonzales, PE**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



**Patrick J. Landry, PE**  
*Past President*



### **2011-12 ASCE Louisiana Section Leadership**

*Left to right top row: Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE, Clinton S. Willson, PhD, PE, Christopher L. Sanchez, PE, Patrick Furlong, PE, Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE, Patrick J. Landry, PE, and Luke E. LeBas, PE*  
*Left to right bottom row: Pamela Gonzales, PE, Kurt M. Nixon, PE, Kimberly Landry, EI, Robert Jacobsen, PE, Matthew D. Redmond, EI, R.J. (Joey) Coco Jr., PE, and Christopher G. Humphreys, PE (not pictured)*

## 2011-2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Board of Directors



**Christopher G. Humphreys, PE**  
*Director-at-Large*



**R.J. (Joey) Coco, Jr., PE**  
*Director-at-Large*



**Kimberly Landry, EI**  
*Director-at-Large*



**Matt Redmon, EI**  
*Director-at-Large*



**Luke Hebert, PE**  
*Branch Director*



**Clinton S. Willson, PhD, PE**  
*Branch Director*



**Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE**  
*Branch Director*



**Patrick Furlong, PE**  
*Branch Director*



**Luke E. LeBas, PE**  
*Assigned Branch Director*



**Christopher L. Sanchez, PE**  
*Assigned Branch Director*

## 2011 Louisiana Section Awards



**Frank Humphrey Walk, PE**  
*Wall of Fame*



**Chris Demopulos, PE**  
*Wall of Fame*



**Emery Domingue, PE**  
*Wall of Fame*



**Frank Nicoladis, PE**  
*Lifetime Achievement*



**Miles B. Bingham, PE**  
*Outstanding Civil Engineer*



**Ali M. Mustapha, PE**  
*Outstanding Civil Engineer*



**Rusty Cooper, PE**  
*Outstanding Young Civil Engineer*



**Tonja Koob, PhD, PE**  
*Outreach*



**Russell J. "Joey" Coco, Jr., PE**  
*President's Medal*

# ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Karen Holden, PE

Our second year of operation ended September 30, 2011. The Chapter would like to acknowledge the continued contribution of our 2010-2011 officers. If anyone could be crowned Founder of the T&DI La. Chapter, it would be Om Dixit, our first Chairman. He has been succeeded as Chairman by Karen Holden, but continues to contribute to the monthly meetings and seminars.

Miles Bingham has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Dan Aucutt is serving as Vice Chairman and Newsletter Editor. These officers have agreed to continue through 2011-2012. Our Executive Committee membership has selectively grown through this past year, with the addition of Robert Dugas, Jr., Sarah Moss, Carol Short, Jim Simmons, and Jennifer Stenhouse.

The intent of the institute is to provide training and networking opportunities for all professionals involved in transportation projects. Training seminars are two hours in length and are typically presented from 5:30–7:30 pm in the New Orleans or Baton Rouge area. We have also presented one out-reach seminar with the ASCE Shreveport Branch and are open to hosting seminars in additional cities.

Accomplishments in the past year include planning and presenting six seminars covering the following topics:

- Roundabout Intersection Safety and Design
- I-10 Twin Span Elevation Determination
- Pavement Engineering Series-Part 1 of 3-Asphalt
- DOTD Traffic Impact Study Policies
- Pavement Engineering Series-Part 2 of 3-Concrete
- Pedestrian & Bicycle Evaluation Tools

Future seminars are planned for the following topics:

- Program Management-Green Light Plan and Others
- Toll Road Feasibility-LA1 Connector
- Pavement Engineering Series-Part 3 of 3-Soil and Subgrade
- New Orleans Streetcar System (Past & Present)
- Hurricane Evacuation

If you have a seminar topic or are interested in co-sponsoring a seminar at your branch, the T&DI LA Chapter has prepared a Seminar Coordinator's Check List to assist you in your preparation. Contact Karen Holden at karenholden@providenceeng.com or Dan Aucutt at djaucutt@terracon.com for a copy of the checklist.

The Chapter also contributed to the ASCE Fall Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show (LCEC&S) in Kenner, Louisiana. This year there were seven presentations which were arranged by the T&DI Louisiana Chapter Members. These were very well



## TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE LOUISIANA CHAPTER

attended. "A History of the Huey P. Long Bridge" and "Widening of the Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans and Construction of the John James Audubon Bridge between St. Francisville and New Roads, LA" had over 200 attendees per session.

Om Dixit, former T&DI Chairman, participated as the member of Host Committee for the Conference. Ronnie Schumann and Dennis Lambert served as Session Moderators, and Miles Bingham was a Speaker. Your T&DI Louisiana Chapter will continue to arrange presentations in future LCEC&S Conferences.

## SAVE THE DATE - FEBRUARY 14, 2012 - NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

### **ASCE New Orleans** **Geotechnical Activities Group Short Course:** **"Analysis and Design of Pile Foundations, Including** **Downdrag and Drag Loads" by Dr. Bengt Fellenius**

Dr. Fellenius, a world-wide expert on pile foundations, will be making a rare appearance in New Orleans to conduct this short course. He is the author of hundreds of technical papers, and is a frequent presenter at conferences, universities, and seminars the world over. This comprehensive one-day course will cover capacity, settlement, drag load, and downdrag of piles and piled foundations. Dr. Fellenius will present case histories, and attendees will receive course notes, selected technical papers, and a reference list. This course is intended for geotechnical and structural engineers who are engaged in the design of pile foundations and their connections. The course will also be of interest to other engineers, contractors, architects, and students.

Additional information about registration for the short course, including the fee, discounts, class time, and the specific course location will be available soon on the ASCE New Orleans Branch web site ([www.asceneworleans.org](http://www.asceneworleans.org)). For additional details, please contact Dr. Malay Ghose-Hajra, PhD, PE, at [mghoseha@uno.edu](mailto:mghoseha@uno.edu) or (504) 280-7062.

This short course will precede the 4th International Conference on Grouting and Deep Mixing, organized by the International Conference Organization for Grouting (ICOG) and the Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) that is being held in New Orleans. This once-a-decade event provides a comprehensive update on grouting practices that shouldn't be missed. We look forward to your participation in both of these events for a truly educational and fun experience next February in New Orleans. For more details, please visit [www.grout2012.org](http://www.grout2012.org).



# Editorial

By Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

"We want more engineers in America," stated President Obama in Durham, North Carolina this past June at a meeting of the Council on Jobs and Competitiveness that has been tasked with creating 1 million new jobs over the next two years.

This Council is comprised of industry leaders, executives of large companies, and small business owners. Taking a multi-pronged approach to the nation's employment challenges, the Council identified eight specific areas to accelerate job growth and steps to spur hiring.

Of particular interest to engineers is the consensus that America's labor pool is not adequately educated and trained in sectors that require high-tech knowledge in design, manufacturing, and construction.

"Today, only 14 percent of all undergraduate students enroll in what we call the STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math. Of those students, one-third will switch out of those fields, and only about 2 in 5 will graduate with a STEM degree or certification within six years," said Obama.

"These are the jobs of the future and we're falling behind in the very fields we know are going to be our future," he noted. The President concluded his speech by announcing that the Council would embark on a program to train 10,000 new American engineers every year, under the Council's leader, Jeffrey Immelt, CEO of General Electric.

Business executives such as Immelt are teaming up to promote STEM education and to offer students incentives to finish their studies. In addition, the Council is seeking private sector funding for universities, community colleges, and vocational schools, as well as encouraging employers to increase summer internship hiring.

On October 11, 2011 the Council released its interim report, "Taking Action—Building Confidence." Included in the 52 page report are five initiatives aimed to boost jobs and competitiveness. These are intended to be practical proposals to accelerate job creation over the next five years as part of a national jobs agenda.

Initiative 5 is "Develop Talent to Fill Today's Jobs and Fuel Growth." Armed with statistics, the report forecasts an ever-widening gap between the number of graduates with STEM skills and the demand for employees capable of working in these high paid technological industries. "The skills gap is not just at the level of rocket scientists and PhDs," predicts the McKinsey Global Institute. Advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and engineering are particularly short of workers, both in

the near-term and long-term analysis.

The report indicates that the percent of B.S. degrees in Engineering is currently only 5 percent in the United States, woefully behind the higher percentages among major countries in Asia and Europe. "The engineering gap is largely a retention problem," concludes the Council.

David Goldbert, an emeritus engineering professor, refers to the first two years of difficult and dry courses as "the math-science death march," since so many would-be engineers and scientists change majors. Is it time to re-engineer the engineering educational process?

According to the Business Higher Education Forum, 35 percent of students enrolled in STEM leave after the first year and 63 percent change majors before graduation. "If we can simply lift the retention and graduation rates of these qualified, interested students, we can move a long way toward our goal," says the Council report.

The report's recommendations for increasing retention in STEM education and training are:

- Funding undergraduate research
- Offering freshman preparedness programs
- Internships to boost early engineering experience
- Partnering with the entertainment industry to inspire tomorrow's engineers

In my opinion, engineering education has not changed its methods and approach since I was graduated over 30 years ago. In most programs, the hands-on activities that engage students come years after the semesters of theory and number-crunching, calculus, physics, and chemistry. Perhaps a fifth component to retention worthy of consideration is meeting the needs of today's youth.

Teachers from kindergarten through high school are part educators, part entertainers, and part creative geniuses at focusing young minds that are wired differently from previous generations. Engineering education would do well to take note of how consumer-driven industries have adapted to reach this segment of Americans.



Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

## Branch News

### NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

*By Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE, Branch President*

On September 21st and 22nd, the ASCE New Orleans Branch co-hosted the 21st Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show with the New Orleans Chapter of ACI. The keynote speaker, Ken Hover, PhD, PE, President of American Concrete Institute (ACI), gave a very interesting and entertaining overview about Things One Discovers while Pursuing a Career in Civil Engineering. Over 600 professionals from around the state attended the conference, enjoying presentations on subjects including structures, geotechnical, environmental, transportation, sustainability, project management, water resources, materials, and ethics. The conference included two full days of seminars and provided an opportunity for members to earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Additionally, sixty exhibitors and sponsors participated in the two-day event. The conference was a great success, receiving many compliments from those in attendance. Congratulations to the officers of the New Orleans branch as well as members of the conference organizing committee for a job well done!



On September 23rd, the ASCE New Orleans branch also hosted the ASCE Louisiana section's annual Section Officers and Board of Directors Installation Luncheon and Section Awards presentation at Chateau Country Club in Kenner, Louisiana. Norma Jean Mattei, PhD, PE, a past section president and current director of Region 5, installed the new officers of Louisiana Section and New Orleans Branch. I would like to thank Meg Adams, PE (past president of New Orleans Branch) for organizing the event and making it a grand success. The following members will serve for the ASCE New Orleans Branch Board for the 2011/ 20112 year:

- President – Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE
- President Elect – James Martin, PhD, PE
- Vice President – Steve Johns, PE
- Treasurer – Lee Alexander, PE
- Secretary – Wesley Eustis, PE
- Directors – Tonja Koob, PhD, PE, James Hance, PE, and Margaret Adams, PE

As part of the Section Awards presentation at Chateau Country Club, award recipients were presented by Meg Adams, PE.

ASCE-New Orleans branch held its first Membership luncheon October 26, 2011. The meeting was well attended by about 55 members at Ralph's on the Park. The speaker was Deborah Keller, PE, Director of Development, the Port of New Orleans. Deborah gave a lively and informative speech about the future of the Port of New Orleans and plans for future improvement programs.

Please visit [www.asceneworleans.org](http://www.asceneworleans.org) for upcoming events and news. As always the board is interested in hearing from our members and encourages your input. You can always contact me at [mghoseha@uno.edu](mailto:mghoseha@uno.edu) with any questions, comments or ideas how we can better serve our members.



Frank Walk, PE (pictured Wade Walk, accepting award) - Wall of Fame



Frank Nicolaidis, PE - Lifetime Achievement



Cullen Ledet, PE - Young Engineer Award



Stephen O. Johns, PE - President's Medal

## BATON ROUGE BRANCH

*By Adam M. Smith, PE, Branch President*

The Baton Rouge Branch returned from summer break with over 100 members in attendance at the August luncheon. Mr. Jerome Zeringue, Executive Director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, gave an overview of the LA Coastal Protection Efforts and an update to the Master Plan. We started a new tradition this year with the "Giving Back" luncheon in September. Three professional development hours were offered in the morning prior to the luncheon. Approximately 40 members took advantage of this free event.

The September luncheon also featured the installation of the 2011 – 2012 Board for the ASCE Baton Rouge Branch. The new Board members are as follows:

- President – Clint Willson, PhD, PE
- President-Elect – Rudy Simoneaux, III, PE
- Vice President – Joey Coco, PE
- Secretary-Treasurer – Kirk Lowery, PE
- Director of Programs – Danielle Welborn, EI
- Director of Education – Sam Amoroso, PhD, PE
- Younger Member Chair – Jennifer Richmond, EI
- Membership Chair – Steve Gunter, PE
- LSU Practitioner Advisor – Blake Vutera, EI
- SU Practitioner Advisor – Kahli Cohran, EI

The installation of the new Board brings an end to my term as President. It has been an honor to serve as President of the Baton Rouge Branch. We had an active year with fundraisers, the Louisiana

Report Card and outreach programs. I would like to thank the Past Presidents who preceded me for their leadership and service to the Branch. I have met so many people at luncheons and conferences that I would not have met otherwise. I would also like to thank the members of the current Board who served during my term as President. Their dedication and service to the Branch was reflected in every activity.

As Past President I am tasked with planning the LA ASCE Section Spring Conference which will be held in Baton Rouge in April of 2012. More details will be announced in the coming months. I look forward to continue working with Branch and Section members while planning this conference.



*Front Row: Jennifer Richmond, Danielle Welborn, Steve Gunter, Clint Willson, and Charlie Eustis. Back Row: Rudy Simoneaux, Sam Amoroso, Kirk Lowery, and Adam Smith*

## SHREVEPORT BRANCH

*By Patrick Furlong, PE, Branch President*

The Shreveport Branch has gotten off to a smooth start for the 2011-2012 administrative year. We had a great September membership meeting. Ashley Adams with Premier Concrete Products, Inc. gave a presentation about articulating concrete block systems. We enjoyed her presentation about the advancement of erosion control systems. I would also like to congratulate three of our Branch members, Ron Norwood, PE, Billie Wayne Brown, PE and Dan Atchley, PE. They recently achieved Life Member status in ASCE and received their plaques at our September membership meeting.

Later in September, several of our Branch members attended the ASCE Louisiana Section Installation Luncheon. It is always a pleasure to spend time with our Section members. I would like to extend congratulations to the following award recipients: Chris Demopoulos, PE received the Wall of Fame award, Ali Mustapha, PE received the Outstanding Civil Engineer award and Rusty Cooper, PE received the Outstanding Young Civil Engineer (see Awards Section).

In October we had our joint meeting with the local chapter of LES. We can thank Billy Moore, PE and his ethics presentation for the great turnout.

I would like to thank Matt Redmon for all of his hard work as he served as our ASCE Branch president during the 2010-2011 year. Matt will continue his service in the Louisiana section as a Director-at-Large. The Branch Officers for the 2011-2012 year are as follows:

- President – Patrick Furlong, PE
- President Elect – Dave Rambaran, PE
- Treasurer – Mitch Guy, EI
- Secretary – David Smith, EI

I feel privileged to serve as Branch president this year and I am excited to work with these officers. I look forward to seeing all of our Branch members at our upcoming monthly meetings and planned activities.



*Left to right: Mitch Guy, EI, David Smith, EI and Patrick Furlong, PE (not pictured: Dave Rambaran, PE)*



*Dan Atchley receiving his Life Member plaque*



*Ron Norwood receiving his Life Member plaque*



## ACADIANA BRANCH

*By Luke Hebert, PE, Branch President*

The Acadiana Branch began the 2011-2012 term with our installation of officers on September 21st, 2011 at Don's Seafood & Steakhouse in Lafayette, LA. The installation was performed by Mr. Pat Landry, PE. The Board of Directors for the 2011 – 2012 term are:

- President – Luke Hebert, PE
- President Elect – Eric T. McClanahan, PE
- Treasurer – Tyler Roy, EI
- Secretary – Mitch Andrus, PE

Branch awards were also presented during the luncheon. Award recipients were presented by Patrick Landry, PE:

- Outstanding Civil Engineer – Allen L. Martin, PE, PLS
- Outstanding Young Civil Engineer – Luke Hebert, PE
- Wall of Fame Award – Emery Domingue, PE, PLS
- Lifetime Achievement Award – James W. Reeves, PhD, PE, PLS
- Educator of the Year – Russell C. Hibbeler, PhD, PE

We have already begun planning our monthly luncheons with the Lafayette Parish President, Mr. Joey Durel, as our first speaker on October 12, 2011 at A la Carte in Lafayette, LA. The topic of the luncheon will be on Lafayette Infrastructure. This luncheon will be co-chaired with the Lafayette ACEC Chapter. Additionally, we plan to have the monthly luncheon dates set three (3) months in advance by the end of October to help our members schedule accordingly. We will also be submitting for the 2012-2013 State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) on October 28, 2011 with the help of Chris Carroll, PhD,

Structural Professor, University of Louisiana in Lafayette (ULL). More details about the SPAG will be forthcoming in the ASCE Acadiana Branch November Newsletter. We are currently updating our website with the new board, adding pictures of events, and scheduling our proposed yearly luncheon layout with locations, dates, speakers, and topics. We also are in the process of preparing our 2011-2012 budget and our Annual Report.

The Board of Directors has also identified and set forth a few goals for the Branch to accomplish during the 2011-2012 administrative year. They are as follows:

- Participate in the annual Joint Engineering Societies Conference (JESC) to be held in Lafayette January 19th - 20th, 2012
- Provide high quality continuing education via the technical topics presented during the monthly Branch membership meetings, and as a result, boost our meeting's attendance!
- Become more involved in our Student Chapters at UL Lafayette & McNeese State University and aid in their participation efforts in the upcoming Deep South Student Conference



*New board for the ASCE Acadiana Branch: Left-President Elect-Eric T. McClanahan, PE; Center-President-Luke Hebert, PE; Right-Treasurer-Tyler Roy, EI; and Secretary-Mitch Andrus, PE (not pictured)*



*Emery Domingue, PE, PLS – Wall of Fame*



*Allen L. Martin, PE, PLS – Outstanding Civil Engineer*



*James W. Reeves, PhD, PE, PLS – Lifetime Achievement*



*Luke M. Hebert, PE – Outstanding Young Civil Engineer*



# ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News

By Om Dixit, PE, FASCE, Newsletter Editor

Since our report in August 2011 issue of this magazine, ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter was busy hosting one seminar and has planned the following future seminars in New Orleans.

Our most recent seminar was held on August 4. *Cliff Schwinger, PE*, of The Hartman Group, Pennsylvania to present a seminar ***"Tips for Improving the Constructability of Structural Steel and Cast-in-Place Concrete Structures."*** The first part of the seminar described the problems and provided tips to design a constructible steel structure and the second part of the seminar dealt with the bad detailing included in plans for the concrete structures. Mr. Schwinger also provided the handout of the tips to attendees for future use.

As of the writing of this article, the next seminar is being planned for October 20, 2011. SEI New Orleans Chapter has invited *Anil Raj, PE*, of Technology Associates, Inc., New Orleans to present an offshore seminar ***"The Roles of Dynamic Positioning and Heave Compensation in the Development of Deep and Ultra Water Resources"***. In the last 25 years the introduction of these technologies has evolved into modern reliable dynamically positioned Drilling Platforms, Construction Vessels, Floating Production and Offshore Supply Vessels. The evolution of reliable dynamic positioning coupled with heave compensation has paved the way for deep and ultra-deep water drilling and developments. This migration to deep and ultra-deep waters created new challenges in structural engineering such as deep water riser analysis, deep water pipe installations, deep water hook ups and deep water moorings. More details of the seminars can be seen at the website of New Orleans Branch of ASCE.

Another seminar is being planned for November 10, 2011. SEI New Orleans Chapter has invited Dr. Vijaya Gopu, PE, of Louisiana Transportation & Research Center, Baton Rouge to present a timber design seminar ***"Design of Connections in Wood Framed Structures"***. In the first part of the presentation Dr. Gopu will provide an overview of the various connectors available for wood framed structures and the methods to design efficient, durable and structural sound connections. Design examples will be presented to illustrate the application of the NDS provisions for wood fasteners/connections. Do's and Don'ts in wood connection design will be discussed throughout the presentation. The participants will gain a better understanding of the various code provisions for wood connections and the design approach needed to ensure proper performance of these connections. The second part of the presentation will cover the changes in the 2012 National Design Specification for Wood Construction and 2012 Wood Frame Construction Manual for One- and Two-Family Dwellings which will be referenced in the 2012 International Building Code and 2012 International Residential Code.

ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter had a change of officers for 2011-12. Zolan Prucz, PhD, PE (Modjeski & Masters) has been elected as Chairman and Anthony Goodgion, PE (Linfield Hunter Junius) is appointed as Vice Chairman for 2011-12. James Danner, PE continues to serve as Treasurer and Om Dixit, PE continues to serve as Newsletter Editor. The outgoing Chairman Pawan Gupta, PE did great job of leading the Chapter during the past year. The chapter hosted 6 seminars. ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter also provided speakers and moderators to the annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show in September. Among other activities the chapter sponsored awards at the Regional Science Fair, provided volunteer support to the ASCE Sponsored Kid Tent at New Orleans Jazz Fest. The Chapter also sponsored New Orleans Regional Math Count Competition hosted by Louisiana Engineering Society every year.

The Chapter Executive Committee has two new members this year. Steven Fall, PE (N-Y Associates) and L.T. Cooper, IV, PE (EDG) has joined the committee in October. Both bring a new expertise to our Executive Committee to make better plans to serve our membership in future.

The committee is looking for good topics and speakers for future presentations. Currently the Chapter is looking into seminar topics such as Joints in Concrete Slab on Grade, Concrete Foundations, Design of Disney World Structures, Concrete Repairs and Seismic Design of Buildings in Louisiana. Members with expertise in the field of structural engineering would be welcome to join the Executive Committee. For any suggestion and information on joining the Executive Committee, contact Chairman Zolan Prucz, PhD, PE, at [zprucz@modjeski.com](mailto:zprucz@modjeski.com).

All seminars are held at the University of New Orleans. Seminar dates, pertinent information, and registration can be found on the New Orleans Branch website at [www.asceneworleans.org](http://www.asceneworleans.org). To add your name to our mailing list, e-mail Om P. Dixit at [om@fenstermaker.com](mailto:om@fenstermaker.com).



SEI New Orleans Chapter Chairman Pawan Gupta, Cliff Schwinger (Speaker) and the seminar coordinator Om Dixit for August 4 Seminar

# Student Chapter News

## UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

*By Jacob Benton, Student Chapter President*

The student chapter at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL-ASCE) has picked up where it left off. The 2011-2012 academic year kicked off with the annual barbecue on September 8th in which students, faculty, and local professionals attended. ASCE-ULL was very successful in the recruitment of new members with enrollment reaching 67 registered members at the barbecue. A 50/50 raffle was held at the event to help raise funds for the academic year's upcoming activities.

The ULL-ASCE new officers are: President Jacob Benton, Vice President Billy Fontenot, Secretary Sarah Richard, Treasurer Leia Kagawa, Fundraising Coordinator Justin Ledet, Deep South Conference Coordinator Michelle Campbell, and Events Coordinator Neil Schneider. The officers along with faculty advisor Dr. Chris Carroll hope to build on the strong foundation established last year.

Community involvement still remains one of the chapter's primary goals. Habitat for Humanity has agreed for students to participate on a project in a Lafayette neighborhood. Students also plan to continue work with several local schools in an outreach program designed to raise interest in the engineering profession.

Competition committees have begun preparing for the annual Deep South Conference held this year at the University of Tennessee, Martin. The chapter is proud to announce entries for the steel bridge and concrete canoe competitions, a rare combination in recent years for the University.

In related news the department's sports team, Shear Studs, had a successful September. Each year, the team participates in tournaments held by the student chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES).

These tournaments allow the different engineering departments to compete against one another in friendly athletic events. The Shear Studs showed great enthusiasm and attendance at the volleyball tournament and were champions of the flag football tournament. The team is currently preparing for the soccer tournament which is planned for early November.

ULL-ASCE is preparing for a busy fall. A team of students will be attending the ACI convention in Cincinnati, Ohio to compete in the pervious concrete competition, while a number of seniors will be taking the FE exam later this semester. Additionally, the chapter looks forward to participating in a Habitat for Humanity project.

## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

*By Josh Bradley, Student Chapter President*

**LSU-ASCE Officers elected for 2011:** President Josh Bradley, Vice President Andrew Cook, Secretary Brittany Alexander, Treasurer Doug Ferrara, Webmaster Philip Goppelt, Meeting Coordinator Melissa Young, Community Service Chair Lesley Cates, and Fundraising Chair Kristina Galindo.

The fall semester began for LSU-ASCE by attending the College of Engineering's summer camp for incoming freshman. A presentation on the benefits of joining ASCE was given to those freshmen who were interested in civil engineering. Freshmen were also given the opportunity to tour the concrete canoe and steel bridge laboratory where they learned about the competitions. Since then, ASCE had been busy holding its usual bi-weekly meetings. So far this fall we have had speakers from Sigma Engineering and Terracon. LSU-ASCE has also planned to participate in BREC's Haunted Hike on October 21st where ASCE members will have the opportunity to give back to the Baton Rouge community.

The concrete canoe team is currently working on fundraising and is currently looking for sponsors. They have had one meeting so far to discuss theme ideas and get to know some of the new members. The team is hopeful that the mix design will start around Fall Break, and they will have a mix before this semester ends. They are

also planning on starting the construction phase before Christmas. The team would also like to announce that they have started a Facebook group: 2011-2012 LSU Concrete Canoe. The steel bridge team is also hard at work designing their bridge with plans to start construction in the near future.



*Incoming freshman touring the concrete canoe laboratory*

Scheduled meetings for 2011 Fall include: Sept. 1st, Sept. 15th, Sept. 29th, Oct. 20th, Nov. 3rd, Nov. 17th, and Dec. 1st. Meetings are at 6:30 pm in the Germano Center PFT 2412. Students are encourage to check out ASCE's current events as well as job postings on our Facebook group page ASCE at LSU or at our new website asce.lsu.edu.

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

By Amy Robards, ASCE-UNO President

UNO-ASCE has proven to be the largest engineering group's on-campus for the past two years, and this year is no different. We started the new school year with approximately 45 members, 20 old members, and 25 new members.

UNO-ASCE new officers are as follows: President Amy Robards, Vice Presidents Meagan Williams and Derek Woods, Treasure Kiet Vo, and Secretary Gina Barrera. So far this year we have had one chapter meeting hosted by UNO-ASCE featuring, Cullen Ledet, III, PE from Modjeski and Masters Engineering Firm. Cullen gave a presentation about "Life after College" explaining the difficulties of deciding on a job, internships, tackling the FE and PE, and other hardships that college students' face. UNO-ASCE plans on having "lunch and learns" or PDH's each month to give back to our membership and help students learn outside of the classroom. UNO-ASCE will attend the 2012 ASCE Deep South Regional Conference. UNO-ASCE also helps to coordinate a UNO COE tour for the St. Charles Satellite Center Engineering program that will take place in November. Attending high school students have the opportunity to learn about the wide range of professions, that engineering offers in college. We show the students interested in civil engineering around our two labs, the concrete and steel labs, and the UNO Engineering building. UNO-ASCE is also planning to partner with the University to participate in "UNO Plunder Hunger," which is a school sponsored food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank. UNO-

ASCE has also partnered with the new ACI Student Chapter that was started this year. ACI Student Chapter and UNO-ASCE will have joint meetings to help build their membership and recognition on campus.

As we look ahead, UNO-ASCE is planning to host at least three volunteer efforts with

Engineers Without Borders, Habitat for Humanity, and Rebuild Together. In addition, we have planned the ASCE social which will be held at Rock N' Bowl right before Thanksgiving. We hope this off-campus event will allow students and faculty to network and mingle in a social environment.

Our time and money each year is devoted to the 2012 Deep South Regional Conference. Last year we attended the conference, which was held in Starkville, MS, at Mississippi State. We participated in the concrete canoe competition, the steel bridge competition, and the survey competition. Although we did not place, we still had fun

building and competing in all events. This year the concrete canoe and steel bridge teams have had a handful of meetings and are working on gathering the needed supplies to start the build process. We are planning to attend the conference this year, which will be held in Tennessee at University of Tennessee, Martin in late March.



Group of students volunteering with Rebuild Together



Concrete Canoe Team at the 2011 Deep South Regional Conference. Canoe Team From left to right, top row: Gina Barrera, Thanh Hoang, Mujahed Shalabi, Chad Larkins, Meagan Williams (Concrete Canoe Co-Captain), Steven Giang, Ahn Nguyen, Tyrone Hutton. In front of the canoe: Matthew Zeringue (Concrete Canoe Co-Captain)

## LOUISIANA TECH

By Grant McCalmont, Student Chapter President

I am pleased to tell you that our chapter is starting with a bang! So far this year we have held multiple meetings, including an interest meeting, steel bridge meeting, and concrete canoe meeting. Our plans for this year are big yet we believe achievable. In the past, we have not been able to participate in the field surveying and mystery event at conference, this year we plan to change that. One of our main goals this year is to place 1st overall at the Deep South

Conference, and place top 20 at nationals in both steel bridge and concrete canoe competition. Some of the minor goals we have are to get more involved not only at our school but in our community as well. To that end we are planning on connecting with Habitat for Humanity, we think that this is one of the best ways to give back to our great community. You can contact LaTech-ASCE at [tgm005@latech.edu](mailto:tgm005@latech.edu) if you have any questions.

## MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

By Jerratt Trahan, Student Chapter President

The McNeese Chapter of ASCE has had a busy semester this fall; with most of our members being seniors that meant a lot of studying for the FE exam this past October. Now that the FE is behind us, we are turning our attention towards Conference. This is the first year we are attempting to have a steel bridge and concrete canoe at conference. This is a tough feat with being such a small college compared to other colleges in the area. We are currently raising money to cover cost of materials

for these competitions. Our first fundraiser this year is a raffle of goods and services donated by local businesses. Our chapter is also brainstorming ideas for a competition between local high schools to take place during E-Week this spring. We have had a busy, busy semester so far and still have lots of work to do.

Jerratt Trahan – President  
Kourtney Hoffpauir – Vice President  
Chris Ashley – Secretary  
Kenneth Unkel – Treasurer



# — CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

DECEMBER 2011

December 31, 2011 2012 ASCE National Dues are due

JANUARY 2012

January 5, 2012 Deadline for article submission for the February issue of the Louisiana Civil Engineer Journal  
January 20-21, 2012 2012 Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders; Sheraton Music City Hotel; Nashville, TN  
January 19 & 20, 2012 16th Louisiana Joint Engineering Societies Conference - <http://www.les-state.org/jesc.htm>  
Holiday Inn, Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, Louisiana

FEBRUARY 2012

February 15-18, 2012 4th International Conference on Grouting and Deep Soil Mixture hosted by Deep Foundation Institute;  
New Orleans Marriott Hotel; For more info, visit [www.grout2012.org](http://www.grout2012.org)

Please check for latest updates online: <http://www.lasce.org/calendar.aspx>

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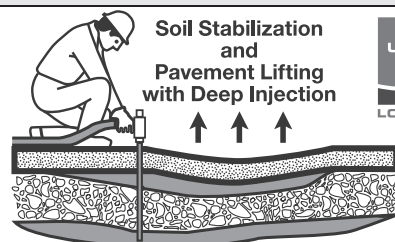


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