

LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

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2012 Report Card for

LOUISIANA'S INFRASTRUCTURE



FEATURE:

Inside the Louisiana Report Card

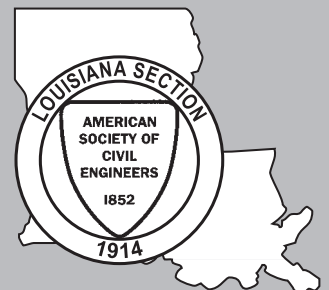
NEWS:

Dr. Roy Dokka:

An Inspiration for Infrastructure Improvement

New Faces of Civil Engineering, College Edition –

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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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ASCE NATIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 1-800-548-ASCE

E-Mail: gsd_master@asce.org

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Louisiana Engineering Center • 9643 Brookline Avenue • Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1488 • (225) 923-1662

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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

The 2012 Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure was released on January 18, 2012. As you know, this is the first-ever report card produced by the Louisiana Section. This is a historic milestone for the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Report Card was released to the public during a press conference held at the Old State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge. Dr. Kam Movassaghi in his role as Executive Director of the Report Card presented the Report Card to the media and responded to questions posed by the media. The Report Card was well received by the media and was given a great deal of coverage across the State. It's been encouraging and rewarding to see the level of interest generated by the Report Card on the condition of Louisiana's infrastructure not only among the media across the State but also among other professional organizations, civic groups, and the general public. We continue to receive request from the media for follow-up interviews regarding the results of the Report Card and from various professional and civic organizations for presentations at their meetings.

I have to say that I was very impressed with the quality of the final product. With the release of our Report Card I believe the Louisiana Section has set a new standard for State Infrastructure Report Cards. Very special thanks go out to Kam Movassaghi for agreeing to serve as Executive Director of the committee becoming the public face of the Report Card; Joey Coco the Deputy Director and driving force behind the organization and development of the Report Card; and Nedra Davis, the Communications Director, responsible for the presentation of the materials and excellent quality of the final Report Card documents. Special thanks also go out to the Committee Chairs who helped head up and organize the nine component areas of our infrastructure that were addressed by the Report Card and my fellow members of the Report Card Committee Executive Board for your leadership and guidance. Once again I would like to thank all members of the Louisiana Report Card Committee, over 50 civil engineers studying and reporting on nine components of our State's infrastructure for over 18 months. Your time and dedication made this possible. This was indeed a monumental task and all should be congratulated on this great accomplishment. I believe that all members of the Louisiana Section have a right to be very proud of this accomplishment. Without the support of our membership the development and production of the Report Card would not have been possible. We will be 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.

With 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. 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.

We have been notified by ASCE National that the Louisiana Section is once again the winner of the 2011 (Large) Section Renewal Race. As such, the Louisiana Section will receive a \$1,000 award from ASCE National. The Louisiana Section won this award last year so this marks the second year in a row that we have claimed this award. In addition, this year we have also been notified that our Younger Member Groups have also won the award for the 2011 (Large) Younger Member Renewal Race. The \$1,000 award for this category will be split among the Younger Member Groups in the 3 branches with active Younger Member Groups. Congratulations to all our members on your tremendous and timely support of ASCE.

The Louisiana Section will once again be sending representatives to the annual ASCE Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C. scheduled for March 20-22, 2012. Bob Jacobsen, Louisiana Section Vice President, and Joey Coco, Chair of the Government Relations Committee will be attending on behalf of the Section. Other members of the Louisiana Section will also be participating at their own expense. This is a very important annual event. The Fly-In gives ASCE members the opportunity to educate and influence lawmakers at the national level on public policy issues affecting the profession of civil engineering. The Fly-In is an excellent opportunity for ASCE and Section leaders to develop relationships with our elected members of Congress and the Louisiana Section will continue to support this worthwhile program.

Planning is underway for our annual Louisiana Section Spring Conference. This year's conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge on May 10 & 11, 2012. Mr. Andrew Hermann, National President of ASCE is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the conference. So mark your calendars for this promises to be a special event and we are looking forward to a large turnout from our membership. The annual Louisiana Section general membership meeting will also be held during the conference so all members are encouraged to attend. The Baton Rouge Branch is hosting the conference and Adam Smith is serving as the conference chair.

The Louisiana Section continues to be active in its endeavors to serve both its members and the public. 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.



Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE

ASCE Region 5 Director's Letter

By Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE

Dear Region 5 members,

Since my last newsletter, I attended the ASCE Board of Direction meeting 11-12 January in Portland, Oregon.

Strategic issues were discussed, and funding was approved to continue the society's success.

Specifically, the board approved funding for an international market research effort (keep in mind that much of our publications funding comes from international sources); a flood safety policies task committee whose goal is to learn if lessons from recent events have been incorporated appropriately; the CEKE platform to modernize our publications and data systems; and messages on Report Card applications to get our mission out effectively.

In other action, the board approved recommendations from the Task Committee on Committee Restructuring and gave the go-ahead for new guidance for volunteer expense reimbursement that should take effect on 1 October of this year.

I also just returned from the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC) that took place 20-21 January in Nashville, where I and the Region 5 Board of Governors had the privilege of interacting with many of Region 5's student members, younger members and leaders of our sections and branches, as well as ASCE staff and members from Regions 1, 2 and 4. The MRLC conducted three sub-conferences, including the Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders, the Younger Members Council Conference, and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders. The many informative presentations and working sessions helped current and aspiring leaders better understand how ASCE's staff and resources can support them to serve our members, help promote our society's strategic priorities and achieve our vision for civil engineering. The next MRLC for Region 5 will be 8-9 February 2013 in Warwick, Rhode Island. All up-and-coming branch and section officers should start deciding now who will go so we can have a great turnout and take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to meet your peers and share best practices.

At the MRLC, we also had a town hall meeting with the four officially declared candidates for president-elect. The four, in alphabetical order, are Randy Over, Garland Rose, Thomas Walther and Mike Wenning. At the spring Board of Direction meeting, the Board of Direction Nominating Committee will select a maximum of two candidates to be official nominees, and those names will appear on the ballot.

Our next major events will include the legislative fly-in and the Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) awards, both of which will be in Washington, D.C., the week of 19 March. The fly-in brings members to our nation's capital to inform our legislators of issues important to

ASCE. Outstanding people and ASCE projects will be recognized at the annual OPAL gala on 22 March. All members are invited and encouraged to participate in both events.

Thanks for all you do for ASCE and the civil engineering profession!

Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE

Director, Region 5

William.p.grogan@usace.army.mil

P.S. Please remember your Region 5 Board of Governors is made up of seven folks willing and able to help. They are:

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Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE

Inside the 2012 Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure



Louisiana Section Releases Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure January 12, 2012. Pictured left to right: Blake Roussel, Adam Smith, Dr. Kam Movassaghi (speaking at podium) Ann Trappey, Jeff Duplantis, Ronald Schumann, and Patrick Landry

While preparation of the Louisiana Report Card was still fresh in their minds, the Journal asked the report card team members to contribute their thoughts on four questions: 1) how the report card development process went; 2) what worked well and what if anything didn't; 3) what they wanted to see done by the Section in the short term as a follow-up; and 4) what they would recommend doing different next time. Here are the responses we received:

Deputy Director, R. J. "Joey" Coco, MBA, PE

The Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure was a tremendous undertaking, but we did it BIG because that's the only way the Louisiana Section of ASCE was going to have it...as usual. I learned this early on when we started talking about putting together the Louisiana Report Card.

Early in 2010, the Baton Rouge Branch of ASCE called upon Frasier Howe, a Region 5 ASCE Governor and chairman of the Florida Infrastructure Report Card, to come in for a visit to discuss Florida's Report Card and the National Report Card. Fraser was instrumental in the Florida Report Card effort. After that meeting, a few of us at the branch luncheon stuck around and talked about the possibility of putting together a Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure. Pat Landry, Louisiana Section President at the time, learned of our meeting and contacted me in subsequent weeks about moving forward with this effort as he had been talking concurrently with ASCE National about his interest in developing a report card for Louisiana.

A few months after Fraser's visit, we called for a meeting at TJ Ribs in Baton Rouge and more people showed up than were anticipated, including some influential volunteers like Chris Humphreys (Levees Chair), Jeffrey Duplantis (Solid Waste Chair), Kirk Lowery (Ports Chair), Ann Trappey (Wastewater Chair), Adam Smith (Drinking Water Chair), John Wilkes (Bridges Chair) and Nedra Davis (Communications Director), along with some others I'm probably leaving out. I was shocked at the amount of interest the potential Report Card had generated. Following this meeting, I realized that we could handle this effort, and together we decided to move forward with the project.

Kam Movassaghi, PhD, PE was brought on by the Louisiana Section leadership shortly thereafter. Dr. Kam, as I can now address the former Secretary of LA DOTD, brought vision, contacts, and a bullet proof vest to stand in front of the media. Most importantly, Kam guided us with the 30,000 ft perspective, and helped to keep us in alignment to get through the process. Shortly after Kam's involvement, we formed an executive board and topic committees; we solidified our structure. The topic committees began gathering volunteers, some larger in number than others, to address 9 infrastructure areas. They

successfully recruited experts from a wide variety of specific infrastructure categories. The Louisiana Report Card eventually snowballed into a large volunteer effort.

As the months passed, topic committees were heavily involved in gathering data, establishing grading criteria, issuing grades, and justifying their work through detailed documentation. The executive board stayed busy by providing assistance to the topic committees, reaching out to agency heads and political leaders, editing content, and preparing for a press conference.

The 2012 Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure – as it is titled – is now a living and breathing document. It has tentacles that will stretch across Louisiana over the upcoming years. It is a time to be proud of the effort, but also a time to recognize the new beginning that exists for civil engineers to address our aging infrastructure. We now have a new infrastructure tool, which is comprised of 57 concise pages about our State's infrastructure along with recommendations on how to make it better, to offer our elected leaders and the general public.

Looking back, I don't think many of the volunteers realized that we would be embarking upon one of the most gratifying exercises of our careers and that it would put infrastructure at the center of attention for the State. I don't think we fully appreciated the way it could pull together civil engineers from across Louisiana to talk about infrastructure. Further, I don't think we realized the potential it could have in the upcoming years to reverse the trend of infrastructure lockjaw in Louisiana. I'm not sure we would do anything different, except for considering additional categories like Energy and Rail. Perhaps future volunteers for the 2017 Report Card will look to our work for guidance and will see that there are some unaddressed infrastructure categories worth exploring.

Of course there will be Louisiana Report Card critics and naysayers. To the critics, we accept your critiques. The evolution of
continued on next page

Now that the Louisiana Report Card is here, we need your help! This is where YOU come in...

1. Download a copy of the fact sheet and full RC from the Section website: www.lasce.org.
2. Give us your thoughts and questions on the RC via reportcard@lasce.org. We will forward them to the RC team, and share them with the Section members (unless you ask us not to) in an upcoming Journal edition.
3. Meet with other civil engineers in your Branch to discuss the RC.
4. Work with other Branch members to form a Branch Government Relations Committee to spearhead RC-related activities in your area and to coordinate with the Section GRC.
5. Invite members of the Executive Board and Committees to come talk about the RC. Contact us via reportcard@lasce.org.
6. Arrange with the Branch and Section GRCs to distribute hard copies to State and Local officials in your area.
7. Arrange with the Branch and Section GRCs to meet with State and Local officials in your area to discuss the RC and the importance of investing in Louisiana's Infrastructure.
8. Participate in the Spring Conference in Baton Rouge and Section GRC events at the State Capitol.
9. Use RC release to stimulate infrastructure discussions in local community organizations (Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.) and encourage interest in civil engineering careers at local high schools.
10. Share your recommendations for further action via reportcard@lasce.org.

our profession is based upon peer review of content that originated from somewhere. We have provided a start for you to build upon and future editions of the Louisiana Report Card will be better off with you. To the naysayers, I challenge you to do it better than this group of professionals I had the pleasure to work with over the past 18 months. Put simply, we did the best that we could as a group of volunteers.

Editor-in-Chief, Mark Lambert

My primary job on the report card was to maintain an “outsider” view of how the report card would be perceived by the public and the news media. Luckily, I was working with an excellent team of professionals on the executive committee that understood the importance of public perception and that all of the work being done by all of the engineers ultimately was worth no more than the public impact the report card would make. The executive committee was cognizant of the importance of making a strong, initial impression on the public, and it demonstrated its commitment to that goal by devoting the necessary resources to make the Jan. 18 news conference a success.

By including a public relations professional in the planning, review and editing process, the executive committee also was able to make better policy decisions on multiple fronts, including timing of the release, how to work with the news media and how to handle relationships with governmental bodies. Again, the committee’s commitment to making a strong and positive impact on the public was key.

In the short term, ASCE must work to keep the report card in the minds of the public. The initial publicity and news coverage was great, but the public’s attention span is short. The report card is a powerful tool because it is comprehensive, objective, and credible. However, it is an educational tool, built to inform and persuade the public, not to sit on a shelf and be admired by other engineers, who do not need to be reminded of the report card’s message that we must make heartier investments in our public infrastructure.

Next time, I would encourage ASCE to think beyond the initial release and develop a plan for reinforcing the report card’s message in the public arena to ensure that this project is fully utilized and has a chance to be used as it was intended.

Aviation Chair, Blake S. Roussel, PE

The organization of the report card team was well thought out and well executed. This began with an Executive Board that showed a passion to deliver only the best product. The Executive Board had the perfect mix of individuals with technical expertise, organizational skills and the required network of contacts to produce a document that is able to withstand scrutiny from both the public and elected officials.

The aviation committee would not have been able to gather the required data without the help of the LA DOTD’s Aviation Section. Brad Brandt and his staff bought in from the beginning to the concept of raising awareness of the condition of Louisiana’s Aviation System, and were extremely cooperative when it came to sharing and providing data to the Aviation committee. In addition, the peer reviewer process worked exactly as intended. Kyle Randall and Thomas David, Jr. performed an independent technical review of the Aviation Committee’s work including data analysis, grading procedures, and text edits. This ITR resulted in a much more comprehensive document.

I think getting the members to provide feedback as previously suggested will be a valuable tool for future editions of the report card. In addition, the government relations committee will be helpful in keeping the report card in the spotlight.

Bridges Chair, John R. Wilkes, PE

On behalf of the bridge committee, it has been an honor and a privilege to contribute to ASCE’s first Report Card on Louisiana’s Infrastructure. This committee’s experience with development of the report card was straightforward and streamlined primarily due to the effective leadership of Deputy Director Joey Coco. Our committee would also like to take this opportunity to thank Executive Director Dr. Kam Movassaghi for his insights, suggestions and review comments. We have given our best efforts toward representing Louisiana’s Bridge Infrastructure as accurately as the available data allowed at the time of publishing. It is our hope that some effort, however small, will be made by every ASCE member in Louisiana to extend the reach of this report card to Louisiana’s voters in the short term. As for the development of future report cards, this committee cannot overstate the value of exploring all available avenues for retrieving bridge-related data from LADOTD. Although the department provided the most important revenue projections related to our state’s bridge infrastructure, the breadth of data was limited. As a result, more of the bridge data used in this Report Card came from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other state and federal agencies. In addition, we strongly suggest future bridge committee’s contact LADOTD’s Assistant State Bridge Engineers to request if any of them or their subordinates would be interested in volunteering to aid in gathering statewide bridge data. Last but not least, it is our hope that future report card committee’s will be better represented by young engineers.

Dams Chair, Pamela A. Gonzales, PE

The report card was a huge undertaking by the Section Board, one not to be taken lightly but well worth the efforts. I was glad to be a part of the effort and I believe the Section has created a great document backed with substantial data. The only change that I would suggest in the future for the Dams portion would be just to include government owned dams and the very large privately owned dams in the scoring.

Drinking Water Chair, Adam M. Smith, PE

I didn’t quite know what I was signing up for when I volunteered for the Louisiana Report Card but I quickly learned it would be an overwhelming task. There is a lot of information available for all aspects of Louisiana’s infrastructure. Unfortunately, this information was not organized in one central location. For example, 89 water systems from all parts of the state were evaluated to develop the drinking water category. The Report Card was a great way to compile all of that information into one place and make it easier for the citizens of Louisiana to digest. As a result, it highlighted the significant lack of funding for infrastructure projects.

I then learned that writing the Report Card was only the beginning of the process. The next task was public awareness and outreach. A Public Relations University was given by ASCE National in December of last year to teach us how to handle meetings with the media and government officials. This was a valuable seminar. As engineers, we write reports and perform calculations on a daily basis but many of us rarely, if ever meet with the media. We must now use the techniques learned in that seminar to continue the momentum of the Louisiana Report Card by expressing the need for infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation projects.

I would again like to thank Julie Comeaux of DHH for her help. She was instrumental in the compilation and interpretation of the data necessary to write the report. Even though the task was overwhelming, it was also very satisfying. Once I saw the final product I was very proud to be a small part of the Louisiana Report Card effort.

Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste Chair, Jeffrey L. Duplantis, PE

Overall, I think that the process for organizing, developing, and finalizing the Louisiana Report Card went very smoothly, but I say this only because of the level of effort put in by the Executive Committee and the Committees. The accomplishment of pulling together such a detailed report required an enormous amount of time and dedication that should not be overlooked. Based on the success of this report and the information derived I think that this should be something that the Louisiana Section should follow up on in 5 years. How are we as a state to gauge the impact of this report and how it affects the decisions made at a local and state level if we don't repeat this effort to measure the success or failure of the report?

ASCE must now "sell" this report to the decision makers within Louisiana – across the state – in order to justify the time and effort put into it. That being the case, only half the battle has been fought. The Executive Committee needs to ensure that this report does not die on the vine. It is up to the Civil Engineering Community to protect the health and welfare of the residents of the state. This is a great step in educating everyone on just how important our infrastructure is and what type of investment is needed to keep it running. Many folks balk at increased taxes or rates, but I really don't think that they understand the impact of doing nothing. We have been doing nothing for many years now and the results have been documented in the Louisiana Report Card. If we continue along this path, the costs to repair and replace our deteriorating infrastructure will only increase.

Many engineers put in countless hours of volunteer time towards generating this Louisiana Report Card. It would be a shame to not do a follow up in 5 or 10 years to check the progress that the state has made.

Levees Chair, Christopher G. Humphreys, PE

Never having done a report card and considering the effort required to grade our infrastructure statewide, I think the process went very well. From my perspective as Levees Committee chair, the key was a dedicated topic committee with members knowledgeable about the topic and with access to the agencies and data as well as willing to volunteer significant time and energy to the effort. This along with the leadership of the Executive Committee that kept every one organized and on task was the key to the quality of the report card. We certainly learned a lot and will be better prepared for future report cards. I recommend that for future report cards we advertise the effort up front and call for volunteers longer to allow all interested to participate. I also believe that establishing the Peer Reviewers sooner and having their involvement throughout, rather than a review near the end of the process would make an even better report card. For now I'd like to see this report card made available to all of our members as well as our state and federal political leaders to be used to focus our resources on improving the infrastructure of our state.

Ports Chair, Kirk Lowery, PE

The process was driven from the top down. Joey basically coordinated most activities and derived with the assistance of the executive board and concurrence from the committee chairs a schedule. Work plans were submitted, and in the Ports Committee's case followed.

Positives: Creating and following the work plan was key to making the endeavor much easier. Having regular meetings of the committee chairs was a good way to keep everybody accountable. In my case, the Port's grade does not get done without having an outstanding committee of volunteers. Getting good and very qualified people involved, allows the creation of an intelligent, thoughtful, and serious report. Negatives: It took way too long to go from a draft in May 2011 to a roll out in Jan 2012.

In the short-term, ASCE needs to push the roll out wherever and whenever we can. I believe the citizens of Louisiana need to really understand that the lack of funding for infrastructure is seriously affecting their lives. I saw that Secretary LeBas was touting in 2011 \$605M was spent on roads and bridges. Out of a \$25B budget, that is not much spending for this infrastructure system. If you compare that to what motorists have to pay for insurance and for repairs due to poor quality as compared to other states, we should be spending more on roads and bridges. As we are starting now, we have to advance the government relations committee to be the experts for the legislature and to help craft legislation. This will be helpful, but in the long run we need to do our best to educate the citizens of Louisiana. The final thing we have to do in the immediate future is put together some sort of follow up document summarizing the key steps forward. The report card is a great tool for the evaluation, but a separate document would be useful to push the infrastructure agenda. In addition, we should redo the key steps forward document annually so that we can have an idea what if anything is happening. Other branches and sections do this, and I believe it would come out best as an annual report from the government relations committee.

If we add any new categories for the next report card, do not change anything. What was done this time works and it worked well. For the existing categories, the emphasis should be on comparing where the infrastructure is at the time of the report card in comparison to the original one. New ideas and thoughts should be incorporated.

Roads Co-Chair, Ken Perret, PE

The Roads Committee had co-chairs, Ken Perret and Gordon Nelson. These arrangements worked well, since we both have extensive highway engineering experience and were able to back each other up on the various tasks of the committee. We also had a great committee to work with, as all members were very cooperative and did their assigned tasks in a very prompt and professional manner. We did most of our committee coordination by email and by a series of committee meetings at critical points in the development of our section of the Louisiana Report Card. We did not make much use of the ASCE national web site; some committee members found it difficult to access.

In the short term, we need to assure that the Louisiana Report Card gets wide distribution and that the message that it portrays is understood by local and state decision makers. We need to ask other professional and civic organizations to review and support the recommendations contained in the report.

Since we had success with our committee structure, I would recommend co-chairs for each component of the Louisiana Report Card for the future update.

Communication Director and Editor, Nedra Davis, MA

This 18-month effort was much more than I imagined when we embarked on the road to build a Louisiana Report Card. Looking back, there were over 550-email correspondence, monthly meetings, meetings with state officials and department heads, weekly phone calls, and countless hours editing. Kristen Koch, as associate editor, was much appreciated at all stages of this endeavor. There were 50+ ASCE members volunteering for this! I witnessed great enthusiasm and passion for making our state better. The professionalism and dedication of the Louisiana Report Card Executive Committee, Topic Chairs, and Committee Members were outstanding. I am proud to be an Associate Member of ASCE and this massive effort to reach out to the community and political leaders.

Some things I would have liked to see done differently (hindsight is 20/20): More bottom-up communications from the committees; ASCE National to train the group earlier in the process and include the Section Board and other members interested in the process; earlier planning for post release and future uses of the Louisiana Report Card; and, a committee for the communications and public relations portion consisting of ASCE members from the Section and Branch Government Relations Committee (GRC).

Dr. Roy Dokka: An Inspiration for Infrastructure Improvement

By Bob Jacobsen, PE, Publications Committee Chair

Few folks have contributed as much to the technical advance of civil engineering in Louisiana as Dr. Roy Dokka did over the last decade. Sadly, Roy passed away unexpectedly on August 1, 2011. Given our Section's current focus on improving Louisiana's infrastructure, we think it appropriate to highlight Roy's significant contributions in this issue of the Louisiana Civil Engineer. They were important, not only to our profession, but above all to the safety and welfare of our citizens. Roy's accomplishments can serve as a potent inspiration in meeting the difficult challenge of infrastructure improvement.

In becoming a valued member of the Louisiana civil engineering community Roy had to overcome two serious impediments—he was born in North Dakota (and apparently of some good ole hard-nosed Norwegian stock) and educated as a structural geologist at the University of Southern California (and thus an unrepentant Trojan). Roy joined the LSU Geology Department in 1980 and became a full professor ten years later. Following an appointment with the National Science Foundation in the early 90s, he joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to pursue his research and applied interests in geoinformatics. Over the years he made many presentations at ASCE and LES luncheons and conferences and gave freely of his time to help us understand the nature of changing surface elevations and techniques for faster, cheaper, and better spatial referencing.

To the academic community Roy was best known as a structural geologist who employed geoinformatics to advance scientific understanding of the structural geology of the lower Mississippi River embayment and the relative contributions of deep structural and other processes to regional and local subsidence rates. He recently published *The Role of Deep Processes in Late 20th Century Subsidence of New Orleans and Coastal Areas of Southern Louisiana and Mississippi*, in the Journal of Geophysical Research (Vol.116, 2011). Having worked with many geologists over the years, I can definitely attest to his being a “splitter” and not a “lumper.” Roy never shrunk from a hearty debate over the finer points of any issue related to his interests.

I knew Roy and his family personally (our wives worked together and his daughters babysat my kids) before we became acquainted

professionally. In 2004, as my practice turned towards coastal restoration, my client, colleagues, and I faced a problem of developing vertical control for hydrologic investigations of the Maurepas Swamp. Roy and Kurt Shinkle's detailed studies of benchmark displacement, just being completed at that time, were crucial to addressing this task.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina many community officials and citizens in south Louisiana woke up to four practical implications of his research that Roy had been preaching to the civil engineering, surveying, and other professions for years: 1) ample spatial

measurements coupled with sound science show that Louisiana has been and always will be sinking and sliding into the Gulf of Mexico at rates we need to be conscious of; 2) a surveying reference system tied to surface monuments in a region like south Louisiana is woefully unreliable—in Roy's words *it is like milk in the refrigerator soon to go bad (in fact errors of two to three feet were not uncommon)*; 3) public safety demands expanding a modern system of “smart benchmarks” that are continuously maintained within a high level of accuracy and precision (Roy's Center for GeoInformatics together with NOAA's National Geodetic Survey initiated the system); and 4) we need to demand funding of that

expansion, as well as more rapid adoption of “smart benchmark” supported surveying techniques.

In 2006, it was my privilege to work closely with fellow members of the ASCE Louisiana Section Board and LSPS to assist Roy in securing support from the Louisiana legislature and FEMA to expand the “smart benchmark” system. Today that system supports over 60 Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) around the state, and civil engineers and surveyors can now confidently establish the heights of levees, floodwalls, canal invert, major coastal bridges, subdivision streets, and homes, as well as the mean level of the Gulf of Mexico and coastal waterbodies.

My hope is that we can achieve half of what Roy did for spatial referencing for the rest of Louisiana's infrastructure.

Several other friends and colleagues of Roy's have offered the following tributes:



There were two aspects of Roy's work that were noteworthy to me. First, he took on the task of trying to clarify the scientific issues associated with the processes of subsidence in the Louisiana. He published several papers on the relationship between the underlying geological processes of faulting, consolidation and fluid withdrawal on surface settlement. Second, he also was engaged in solving some of the real-world problems associated with subsidence such as the assessing the accuracy of topographic surveying in the state. He led the development and implementation of the CORS system of reference GPS base stations, which helps to improve surveying in state and provide a new tool for studying subsidence processes. It was his ability to both conduct quality academic basic research and work to solve critical practical problems that made him exceptional.

**Joseph N. Suhayda, PhD,
Retired, LSU Hurricane Center and Department of Civil and
Environmental Engineering
Baton Rouge, LA**

Roy Dokka was one of the few individuals able to put science into practice and describe one of the world's most significant events we live with daily - a large coastal land area populated that is losing elevation each year and converging with the Gulf of Mexico. This conversion to open water, a geologic process that has been studied for 150 years, has been misunderstood or sometimes ignored in order to allow programs and projects to move forward only to see them succumb to storms, flooding, and communities being damaged or destroyed.

From the realization that we had lost the ability to rely on the conventional benchmarks to survey and measure our elevations, Roy started the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (Center for Geoinformatics), which created a GPS based network of CORS Stations that then lead to a Real Time Network. Today, surveying and engineering companies in Louisiana can turn on their equipment, log into the Real Time Network and within 3 minutes be able to have vertical and horizontal accuracy of that to within the size of a golf ball.

Managing the coast, protecting our population and teaching communities, organizations and state, local and federal government agencies how to use the Real Time Network and to look out and see the future landscape and challenges were very much a priority to Roy. Candid and blunt, he still spent a lot of his time and efforts on projects to demonstrate the problems we face and how to deal with them.

**Tim Osborn
Regional Manager, Office of Coast Survey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Lafayette, LA**

Roy Dokka was an outstanding scientist, innovator, and researcher. I worked for seven years (2001 – 2008) with Roy as a research associate in LSU Engineering for the Center for Geoinformatics (C4G) and the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC). Roy had a vision. He not only mentored and taught college students, he educated everyone about Louisiana's subsidence and sinking infrastructure. Roy fought hard for his amazing ideas and insisted (sometimes loudly and bluntly) that people listen and understand. He worked tirelessly on providing us all with the tools (CORS, GULFnet) to learn and apply his lessons.

Working with Roy was truly an experience I will never forget and I am deeply in debt to him for the vast knowledge he passed on in his stellar career. As hard as it was to hear what Dokka had to say sometimes, he was right.

**Nedra Sue Davis, M.A.
Editor, Louisiana Civil Engineer
Project Manager, ATKINS
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer condolences upon the passing of Dr. Roy K. Dokka, professor and researcher at Louisiana State University, who died unexpectedly on August 1, 2011. His contributions as an educator in LSU's College of Engineering were invaluable, and he will be dearly missed by his family, peers, and the community.

Dr. Dokka was responsible for groundbreaking research during his tenure at LSU and instrumental in establishing LSU's Center for Geoinformatics (C4G). He served as the center's first Executive Director. Since 2001, researchers at C4G have been dedicated to studying the causes of coastal erosion in Louisiana and other important geographic relationships. Use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), along with geodetic leveling, enables C4G engineers to closely study these relationships, providing essential data in understanding many geographic problems our state faces. Dr. Dokka's research contributions continued in 2002 when he spearheaded a cooperative with Louisiana Spatial Reference Center (LSRC) and the National Geodetic Survey-NOAA. Together, this alliance works on creating an advanced positioning system for Louisiana.

Dokka also worked with the state legislature to ensure the efficient usage and application of C4G's resources across Louisiana and provide them with the knowledge to better understand and prevent coastal erosion. Thanks to the contributions of Dr. Dokka, LSU's C4G will continue to be a valuable asset for government, industry, and higher education... Dr. Dokka left an admirable legacy in his profession, and will be remembered as a vital member of the engineering community and a distinguished citizen of the State of Louisiana.

**Hon. Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Of Louisiana
In the House of Representatives
Tuesday, September 13, 2011**

One of the things Roy understood was the importance of trusting surveyors and surveying. Roy referred to surveyors and surveying on many occasions leading to or supporting his hypotheses. One of the books Roy pointed out to me on several occasions was *The Map That Changed the World: William Smith and the Birth of Modern Geology* about William Smith the lowly surveyor who made the map of the title. It is a good read and he seemed to take Smith's story to heart.

In 1793 William Smith, the orphaned son of an English country blacksmith, but most importantly for science' sake, a surveyor, noticed that the rocks he was excavating were arranged in layers and he could see that the fossils found in one layer were very different from those found in another, giving rise to an epiphany: that by following the fossils, one could make a topographic map of the layers of rocks as they rose and fell. His discovery was startling in its day and created the fledgling science of the history of the earth - Geology.

One may note, Roy's repeated associations with the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors, his repetitive precise leveling, the use of GPS and the establishing of a GPS strain-gauge over Louisiana and even the more recent development of the real-time GPS of GULFnet.

**J. Anthony Cavell, PLS, CFedS
Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

I have been involved professionally in flood protection and coastal issues in Louisiana for over 30 years. The greatest technological improvement to help deal with these issues was the ability to get accurate elevations. But added to the accuracy was the ability to get this done quickly and cost effectively. Roy Dokka, using that technology, gave me accurate information on my entire 48 mile levee system in one day. With that information I have been able to confidently and wisely spend the limited money we have to reduce flooding. His research and conversations also helped me understand and deal with the subsidence of our delta.

**Windell Curole
General Manager
South Lafourche Levee District
Galliano, LA**



REGISTRATION FORM

2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Spring Conference

May 10 – 11, 2012

Crowne Plaza – 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Part 1. Registrant Information (*Required)			
a. First Name*		b. Last Name*	
c. First Name as to Appear on Name Tag*		d. Class ___ P.E. ___ P.L.S. ___ Ph.D. ___ E.I.	
e. ASCE Member Number* (If Applicable)			
f. Company Name			
g. Street	h. City	i. State	j. Zip
k. Telephone*	l. Email*		
Part 2. Individual Registration (Check all that you will be needing)			
<i>Please see cover sheet for registration inclusions</i>		Postmarked ON or BEFORE April 20, 2012	Postmarked AFTER April 20, 2012
STUDENT REGISTRATION:			
Technical Sessions Only <i>(Does NOT include Luncheons or Crawfish Boil)</i>		FREE _____	FREE _____
Thursday Luncheon		\$15 _____	\$15 _____
Thursday Night Crawfish Boil		\$25 _____	\$25 _____
Friday Luncheon/Awards Banquet		\$15 _____	\$15 _____
TWO-DAY/FULL REGISTRATION: <i>Includes ALL events</i>			
ASCE Member <i>(Indicate member number in Part 1)</i>		\$200 _____	\$225 _____
Non-Member		\$275 _____	\$300 _____
ONE DAY REGISTRATION: <i>Includes Luncheon But NOT Crawfish Boil</i>			
ASCE Member <i>(Indicate member number in Part 1)</i>		\$100 _____	\$125 _____
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ADDITIONAL CRAWFISH BOIL TICKETS:			
Thursday Night Crawfish Boil (Per Person) (1 Ticket Included with Two Day/Full Registration)		\$40 _____ (Per Person)	\$50 _____ (Per Person)
Total			

Please make checks payable to: **ASCE Baton Rouge Branch**

Mail form with payment to: ASCE Spring Conference
 P. O. Box 80047
 Baton Rouge, LA 70898

For questions concerning the conference
 contact Adam Smith at 225-231-0325
 or adam@owenandwhite.com

Part 3. Hotel accommodations: The special conference group rate is \$89.00 at the **Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge** Rooms may be reserved by calling the hotel direct at 225-930-0130 or through the web-site www.crownebaton.com by **April 20, 2012**. Please use the group code, ASC, when making all reservations to secure negotiated rates.



**2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Spring Conference
May 10 – 11, 2012
Crowne Plaza – 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70808**

SPONSOR / EXHIBITOR FORM

<u>SPONSORSHIP TYPE</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SELECTION</u>
GOLD SPONSOR <i>Includes two full registrations with recognition as a sponsor at the conference OR one exhibitor package with recognition as a sponsor at the conference.</i>	\$750	_____
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EXHIBITOR PACKAGE <i>Exhibitors will receive an 8' x 10' area with a table, two chairs, pipes and drapes along with 1 ticket to the Crawfish Boil and each of the luncheons. Additional resources are available upon request (fees may apply).</i>	\$450	_____
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ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Dan Aucutt, PE

Our last seminar for 2011 was held on October 19th, which also means that it was the first seminar of the 2012 T&DI fiscal year. The seminar: *Pedestrian and Bicycle Evaluation Tools in the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual and AASHTO Highway Safety Manual*, was presented at the Regional Planning Center in New Orleans. The seminar was approved by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), which meant that we could provide continuing education hours for both engineers and planners. Another important distinction was that the speaker, Mr. Jamie Parks, AICP was from Kittelson & Associates, Baltimore, MD. Your T&DI Chapter was able to reimburse Jamie for his transportation and expenses for this interesting discussion. Thanks to T&DI Executive Committee Member, Karen Parsons, AICP for handling the myriad of details to make this a successful seminar.



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Student Union. The State is divided into 12 Regions. Each region holds a Science Fair early in the year. The top winners from each region can participate at the State level. Your T&DI chapter will volunteer as judges and will provide prize money for the transportation-related entries in the Junior Division (Grades 6-8), and the Senior Division (Grades 9-12).

The Louisiana Chapter will continue its seminar series throughout 2012. Training seminars are two hours in length and are typically presented from 5:30-7:30 pm in either the New Orleans or Baton Rouge area. We have hosted an out-reach luncheon seminar in Shreveport and are open to hosting seminars in additional cities in the State, if requested. In keeping with the intent of the Institute to provide training and networking opportunities for all professionals involved in transportation projects, the Chapter is planning the following future seminars:

- Aviation-FAA-Impact of taxiway traffic on pavement design
- Environmental-Impact of New Air and Noise Regulations on Transportation Permitting
- Hurricane Evacuation
- Toll Road Feasibility for the LA1/I-10 Connector in West Baton Rouge Parish

If you would like a seminar on any special topic, please contact Karen Holden at karenholden@providenceeng.com or Dan Aucutt at djaucutt@gmail.com.



Karen Parsons with speaker Jamie Parks

Our second seminar for FY 2012 occurred on Tuesday, January 24th at the LSU Transportation Training and Education Center (TTEC) in Baton Rouge. Mr. Brad Ponder, PE, CSRS, Inc. explored the differences between normal Project Management and Program Management. The East Baton Rouge Parish Green Light Plan was used as an example of a private entity managing a publically funded project. The concept was further explored by Mr. Ed Wedge, PE, DOTD Director of Project Management. Ed provided valuable insight to the needs of effective program management from the State's perspective. Ed acknowledged that some projects are inherently riskier than others. Recognizing and acknowledging the risk is essential to effective program management.

In an effort to increase awareness of our Louisiana Chapter, we will participate in the Louisiana Science and Engineering Fair scheduled for March 25-27, 2012, at the Royal Cotillion Ballroom at the LSU



Left to right: Brad Ponder and Ed Wedge, TDI speakers for the Infrastructure Program Management Seminar held in Baton Rouge on January 24th

Editorial

By Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

If you find it more difficult to work with people these days, you're not alone. Today's workplace has employees ranging from those who just became eligible to vote to those who are great-grandparents. Advances in healthcare and science are keeping older, well-experienced employees healthier and educational opportunities and information technology are attracting the talented young workers sooner. Factor in an economic recession and laws that prohibit age discrimination and the resulting U.S. labor pool spans more than 60 years in age. Furthermore, there has been more social and technological change in the past century than ever before in history. Demographers have attempted to identify distinct generations that followed the Lost Generation, those who came of age during World War I. Each generation is present to some degree in the workplace today, bringing different life experiences that have shaped their values, approach to problem solving, and communication style.

Sociologists have identified typical traits that are commonly associated with each generation in order to understand generational diversity and improve relations among them. The names given to the various age groups and the birth years vary slightly depending upon the source of information. Below is a general guide for the purpose of this article:

Greatest Generation: Born 1914 -1927

Traditionalists or Silent Generation: Born 1928-1945

Baby Boomer Generation: Born 1946-1964

Generation X: Born 1965-1980

Generation Y or Millennials: Born 1981-1994

Generation Z or Multi-tasker or Net or Internet: Born after 1995

Just knowing a stereotypical label will not improve relationships. The underlying principle of diversity training is recognition that there is no right or wrong, nor good or bad type of person. In the larger perspective, we are all human. But, since it's the little things in life that create our differences, a good start to understanding generational diversity is to recognize what cultural experiences in life shaped a generation and consider how it will impact relationships in the workplace. As a bonus, it may improve your personal relationships with your friends and relatives, as well, if you embrace the diversity among us all.

This condensed summary is intended to identify the most common attributes and attitudes prevalent among each generation and does not account for our individuality and unique quirks!

Traditionalists

Life Experience: Many in this generation lived through the Great Depression, as well as World War II and the Korean War. The cultural experience that shaped this generation was based on faith in God and country, duty and honor, as well as tradition and respect for authority figures. Women worked while the men were at war, and subsequently returned to traditional roles as wife and mother when the men returned. This generation is admired for self-discipline and sacrifice, a strong sense of right and wrong, patriotism, and loyalty.

At work, Traditionalists are most comfortable with hierarchical organizational charts, a chain of command with defined job titles, and a control style of leadership. This generation learned by doing and is more impressed with a person's work experience, rather than college diplomas. They are comfortable with set work hours, firm deadlines, face-to-face meetings, and formal correspondence. They are often found in boardrooms for their wealth of knowledge and experience.

Baby Boomers

Life Experience: This is the largest living generation due to the high birthrate and better standards of living that advancements in science, medicine, and technology brought to America. This generation experienced the Vietnam War, the civil rights movement for women and

minorities, as well as the social revolution that gave us the Beatles. They watched the funeral processions of the Kennedys and King broadcasted by three networks on the only black-and-white television in the family. Now avid television viewers, they own several high-definition televisions with more than a hundred cable channels broadcasting at all hours with breaking news from around the world.

At work Baby Boomers are known to be loyal, work-centric, and cynical. They are more educated than their parents and are often the first generation to earn one or more college degrees. Success is defined by income. They value time spent at the workplace and discount the notion of telecommuting. Perks, praise, challenges,



Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

responsibilities motivate them. They probably read “Dressing for Success” in the 1980s to ensure they got all they deserved at the workplace. They are often found in positions of power and authority in organizations as executives and senior management.

Generation X

Life Experience: This generation was originally called the “Baby Bust” due to the significant drop in the birthrate of the Baby Boomers. Divorce is more prevalent among this age group. Today’s recession is similar to economic downturns experienced early in their careers. Women and minorities in this generation had unprecedented equal opportunities when they entered the workforce. Two income households became the norm as more women pursued careers and married couples wanted a lifestyle previously reserved for the rich and famous. They witnessed the burnout and layoffs of the early 1980s, so they value personal time and balancing work with life.

Although ambitious, Gen X’rs prefer flexible work schedules and telecommuting. Entrepreneurs arise from this generation because they enjoy change, challenge, and thinking outside the box. They would rather work alone than in teams and detest unproductive face-to-face meetings. This generation is now the breeding pool for emerging leaders in the workplace as they work in middle management/supervisory positions.

Generation Y

Life Experience: This generation is the fastest growing segment in today’s workforce as the children of the younger Baby Boomers. They are the least likely to belong to an organized religion. They are tech-savvy, and optimistic over-achievers. They seek personal growth and want to make a difference in their paid jobs and the volunteer work they do in the community. Many of them came of age in September 2001 and witnessed U.S. patriotism at its height as the war on terrorism began.

As consumers, they are apt to make major purchases over the Internet at 2am with an unknown vendor than buy from the local store if they can get it faster and cheaper. Some of their college courses were taken on-line, so physical presence seems unnecessary to work with others. Time moves fast with this crowd, so instant feedback and responses are expected when communicating with them electronically. They communicate through social media such as Twitter and Facebook around the clock.

At work, Millennials seek out supervisors who are willing to mentor them rather than direct them. They multi-task easily. They, too, see meetings as inefficient when they can text, email, and

generate work products on a computer nearly simultaneously. They want responsibility and meaningful work upon being hired or they will move on. A flexible workplace and promotional opportunity is what keeps them at an employer. They are in entry-level positions now.

Generation Z

Life Experience: The first wave of this generation is graduating from high school in 2013. This means the adult children of Generation X will be starting college and/or work, and will soon be joined by the adult children of Generation Y in 2017. As kids, Generation Z plays with real cell phones and I-pads. Their schools post homework on the Internet and some are provided laptop computers instead of traditional textbooks. They experience the world through celebrities that are created for the mass media, rather than through people they know, such as family and friends. They expect to also become famous. Their parents are less likely to have married and they are more likely to have siblings that have different fathers or mothers in the household. Blended families may include live-in relatives due to hard economic times. They prefer watching sports and playing electronic games and music, instead of doing physical activities.

For coastal Louisiana, many in Generation Z witnessed the devastation of a hurricane that impacted their lives on a very personal level. Financial hardships came suddenly to some families due to a global recession. Ten years of war in the Middle East may have taken one or both parents away for military duty. How these experiences shape these young people has yet to be manifested.

Conclusion

The engineering profession can only benefit from so much diversity in the workplace because it needs to draw upon the experience of the Traditionalist, the knowledge of the Baby Boomer, the risk-taking of Generation X, the high-energy of Generation Y, and whatever comes from America’s future resting in the hands of Generation Z.



Branch News

BATON ROUGE BRANCH

By Clinton Willson, PhD, PE, Branch President

The Baton Rouge Branch ended the 2011-year with another successful Christmas Party at Bocage. The attendance was great and it was nice to see many of our younger members. We are very excited about a number of our spring activities. Continuing to build on one of our focus areas, a number of our branch and student chapter members will be meeting with middle and high school students in the Baton Rouge area to talk about Civil Engineering and all the great things that we do for our community, the state and the nation.

In case you hadn't heard, this year is the 50th anniversary of the Baton Rouge Branch and, in celebration; we had a Commemorative Luncheon on February 16, 2012 at Drusilla's Catering. The format of this luncheon was a little different than our typical monthly meetings. We invited several Past Presidents and Board members from previous decades to share stories about their experiences on the Board, how the Branch has evolved over the years, and how ASCE has impacted their careers. Additionally, we had an Open Podium for any others who had stories to share. The cost of this luncheon was \$5, the approximated cost of a comparable meal in 1962.

Finally, we are excited to be hosting the 2012 ASCE Louisiana Section Spring Conference, to be held May 10-11, 2012. In addition

to the usual high-quality technical sessions, we will have several sessions related to the recently released Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure and are happy to announce that the current ASCE President, Andrew Herrmann, PE will be speaking at our May 10th luncheon. Please see the registration and sponsor forms on pages 12-13 in this journal.



Baton Rouge Branch Celebrates 50 years. Left to right: Billy R. Prochaska, PE; Paul B. Fossier, Jr., PE; Brant B. Richard, PE; S. Brin Ferlito, PE; Jerome M. Klier, PE; Christopher P. Knotts, PE; Clinton S. Willson, PE; and Gerald R. Dyson, PE

SHREVEPORT BRANCH

By Patrick Furlong, PE, Branch President

This past November, Bill Gonzalez of CONTECH came to Shreveport to discuss "The Use of Buried Structures as an alternate to Conventional Bridge Construction." We enjoyed the presentation and now many of our area engineers have more information and ideas that will help to improve the infrastructure in the Ark-La-Tex.

We wrapped up 2011 with a successful food drive that benefited a local organization, the Providence House. The singular aim of the Providence House program is to break the cycle of homelessness by helping families gain the resources necessary to move permanently to independent living. Our branch and the Providence House would like to sincerely thank all of the participants.

Also to end the year, we held our annual member Christmas party at the Petroleum Club. We had lunch and a gift card raffle as we relaxed and enjoyed each other's company.

On January 18, Robert McKim, PhD of Louisiana Tech gave a presentation about the Trenchless Technology Center at LA Tech. Dr. McKim is the Administrative Director of the Center and gave a very interesting presentation. To learn more about this world class facility located in Ruston, LA please visit the website: <http://www.latech.edu/tech/engr/ttc/>

On February 16, the Shreveport Branch hosted a joint meeting with the local chapter of the Louisiana Engineering Society. LES hosted

the licensing ceremony for the recent engineering and land surveying license recipients. Ali Mustapha, PE and LAPELS board member graciously conducted the ceremony. Nedra Davis, MA, AM ASCE and Ronnie Schumann, Jr., PE, and current Louisiana Section President were our featured speakers. Ms. Davis is editor of the Louisiana Civil Engineer, the journal of the Louisiana Section and the Communications Director for the report card effort. As you may know, the Louisiana Section of ASCE has worked hard to publish the 2012 Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure. The Report Card was released in January 2012. Mr. Schumann and Ms. Davis informed our Branch on the background and details of the report card. The main message was that as engineers, we should be the responsible voice of our infrastructure and should be familiar with this Report Card. The meeting was February 16 at the Petroleum Club (1 PDH).

The Louisiana Tech faculty has chosen the outstanding junior and senior civil engineering students for 2011-2012. David Chatelain is the outstanding junior and Christopher Rabalais is the outstanding senior. Each was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship on January 10th from the Shreveport Branch. We wish them success and a bright future in the engineering industry.

Mark your calendars for the annual golf tournament. It is scheduled for Friday, April 20th. Please contact me if you would like to participate, patrick.furlong@shreveportla.gov.

ACADIANA BRANCH

By Luke Hebert, PE, Branch President

The ASCE Acadiana Branch had our last meeting/social on December 9th, 2011, at Dean O's South in Lafayette, LA; it was a Joint Engineering Society Social between ASCE Acadiana Branch and LES Lafayette Chapter. Gift Cards and coffee mugs were given away as door prizes. It was well attended with 44 members. For our next meeting, we are planning a luncheon on February 29th at Abacus in Lafayette at 12:00 PM; Kam Movassaghi, PhD, PE, F ASCE of Fenstermaker will be presenting on the recently completed "Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure". ASCE T&DI Louisiana Chapter, ASCE Acadiana Branch and Co-Sponsor ULL Department of Civil Engineering will host a 2 hour seminar on March 20th for 2 PDH credits featuring Jeffrey G. Shelden, PE from Moffatt & Nichols on "I-10 Span Elevation Determination Case Study & the AASHTO Guide Specifications for Bridges Vulnerable to Coastal Storms". This topic was selected by our members during the November luncheon.

Branch News:

ASCE Acadiana Branch submitted a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) for a Civil Engineering Outreach Program to ASCE National in 2011. We were awarded funds to move forward with the Civil Engineering Outreach Program. The Board is currently working with Assistant Professor Chris Carroll, PhD, at ULL Department of Civil Engineering to develop this program. The joint effort of the ASCE Acadiana Branch and the ULL Department of Civil Engineering will promote the field of Civil Engineering to the 11th and 12th grade students at public and private schools in the Lafayette area. This program is focused on the civil engineering discipline promoting the profession with an enthusiastic approach. Our hope is that that the Civil Engineering Outreach Program is educational and piques the interests of our school students in becoming a civil engineer as a career choice.

If you should have any questions please call or email me at 337-237-2200 / luke@fenstermaker or any board member through our website at www.asceacadiana.net.



Engineers without Borders: New Orleans Chapter

New Project: Caserio Tereras, El Salvador

Mission

- Potable water and support of fish farms in small rural community
- 230 people in the mountainous region on border with Honduras

Details

- Water pump and distribution system from natural spring
- Improved dissolved oxygen in fishery
- Other needs identified for follow up: road repairs, retaining wall to protect from landslides, latrines

Needs

- Travel expenses for needs assessment ~ \$3k
- Community wide water distribution ~ \$20k

Ways You Can Help

Stay connected

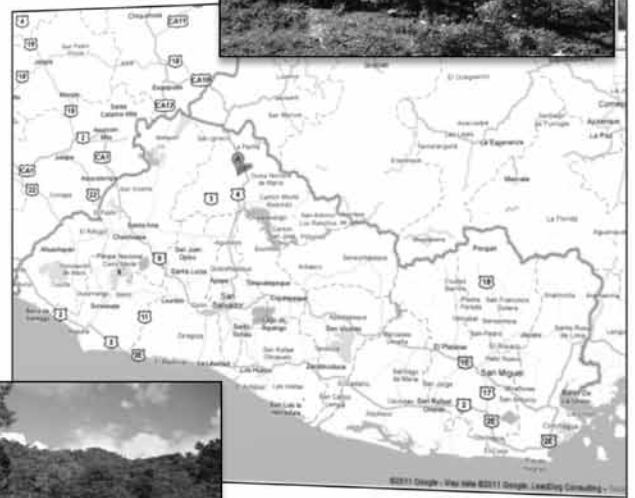
- Visit our website at <http://ewbnola.wordpress.com/>
- 'Like' us on Facebook under EWB-NOLA

Get Involved

- Fill out our skills and interests survey on the website
- Come to an upcoming meeting

Donate

- PayPal link through website
- Checks written to 'EWB-NOLA'





2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Branch. Planning for the year-long celebration is underway. We will review past achievements and recognize individuals responsible for them. Our celebration will build throughout the year and culminate with a banquet in late summer. As we finalize our plans to celebrate this achievement, more information will be posted on our website (www.asceneworleans.org) and communicated to the membership by email.



We have set up a special email address, asceno50@gmail.com, to collect input from all ASCE members. Please send us your civil engineering memories of the past 50 years. Pictures and videos are welcome and encouraged. These memories will be used in various ways throughout the celebration.

Congratulations and sincere appreciation to all ASCE members for your continued support and participation as we celebrate our Golden jubilee.



Huey P. Long Bridge Named Civil Engineering Landmark!

- The ASCE Executive Committee named the bridge a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in September 2011
- One of fewer than 250 landmarks in the world to receive the designation
- Dedication ceremony tentatively planned for Sept 28, 2012

1935 - 2011**2013**

NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

By Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE, Branch President

As we leave 2011 behind and move forward into 2012, the ASCE – New Orleans branch would like to thank its membership for their continued support and participation in different events.

On December 7, 2011, the New Orleans branch hosted a luncheon at Five Happiness restaurant. Our speaker was Mr. Leeland Richard, EI. Mr. Richard is a senior Geotechnical engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans division. The topic of his presentation was “Impacts of Weld beads of spiral welded piles on axial capacity and cost comparison of similar pile”. The luncheon was well attended and received good reviews from the audience.



Branch luncheon, January 2012

On December 20, 2011, the Younger Member group of the New Orleans Branch, chaired by Mr. Jarret Bauer, EI, held its annual Christmas party at Bruno's Tavern, as pictured below. About 15 younger members of the New Orleans branch attended the function with their guests and significant others. The food was good, the company was great, and a good time was had by all! If any younger member of the New Orleans branch would like to participate in future events, please contact Mr. Bauer at bauer.jarret@gmail.com.



On January 18, 2012, the branch hosted its first luncheon of 2012 at Zea's Rotisserie & Grill. The speaker was Ms. Bari Blanks, President of EMS Green. The topic of her presentation was “Soft Engineering Technology in Wetland Restoration”, which addressed the use of an easy and environment friendly technology for wetland and coastal restoration projects in southeast Louisiana.

On February 14, 2012, the ASCE-New Orleans Geotech committee offered a one-day short course on “*Analysis and Design of Pile Foundations including downdrag and drag loads*” presented by Bengt Fellenius, PhD, PE. The course was held at the New Orleans Marriott. Eight (8) professional development hours (PDH) were offered towards participating in the course. Dr. Bengt Fellenius' professional experience comes from a wide variety of assignments that encompass foundation design for industrial plants, water and sewage treatment facilities, bridges and highway projects, marine structures, and urban area development, as well as participation in special investigations, instrumented field tests, etc. He has given lectures and courses to several universities and international conferences throughout America, Europe, South-East Asia, and Australia. Dr. Fellenius is also the author of hundreds of technical papers, and is a frequent presenter at conferences, universities, and seminars the world over. For additional information see www.asceneworleans.org.

The New Orleans Branch celebrated Engineers Week on February 25, 2012. Ms. Meg Adams, PE, organized volunteer work at New Orleans City park in the morning followed by a field trip to the Huey P. Long bridge widening project site.

The annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show will be held on September 19 and 20 (Wednesday and Thursday), 2012 at Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the conference as well as nominate great speakers for the conference. More information about the conference can be found at www.lcecs.org.

The ASCE New Orleans board is excited about the different activities planned for 2012. I invite you to join my fellow board members and me in this journey to enhance the civil engineering profession among us and within the southeast region through exchange of knowledge, outreach activities, volunteer work, and other forms of community service. If you have any ideas or would like to participate or organize an event, or suggest a good speaker for one of our technical luncheons, please contact me at mghose-ha@uno.edu. You can also visit www.asceneworleans.org for upcoming events and news. Wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2012.

ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News

By Om Dixit, PE, FASCE, Newsletter Editor

We hosted 2011 SEI Local Leadership Conference in New Orleans Doubletree Hotel on October 28-29, 2011. About 30 individuals including SEI staff members, SEI Local Activity Division and the Chairs of various SEI Local Chapters and Structural Groups. The 2 day conference had various sessions on leadership, volunteering, recruiting and motivating people. SEI New Orleans Chapter member Om Dixit was also invited to present a session on **SEI Chapter Goals and How to Achieve Them. Our current Chairman Zolan Prucz represented New Orleans Chapter at this conference.**

SEI Local Activity Division has started a new award to recognize the most active SEI Chapter. The SEI New Orleans Chapter has been selected to receive the **2012 SEI Chapter of the Year Award** in recognition of our exemplary activities and efforts to advance the structural engineering profession. This award will be given during the Opening Plenary Awards Luncheon Thursday, March 29 at the 2012 Structures Congress in Chicago. The Executive Committee of SEI New Orleans Chapter feels proud for this recognition and thanks SEI and its ASCE and SEI membership for the support for past 20+ years.

Since our report in November 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.

First seminar was held on October 20, 2011. SEI New Orleans Chapter 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"***. Anil Raj discussed the evolution of reliable dynamic positioning coupled with heave compensation that has paved the way for deep and ultra-deep water drilling and developments. He also presented the way new technology is being used to keep the structures in deep and ultra-deep waters position accurately to perform the intended operations. The seminar was attended by about 50 members.



October 20 SEI New Orleans Chapter Seminar speaker Anil Raj, PE (right) with Seminar Coordinator Jayant Jani, PE (left)

Another seminar was held on November 10, 2011. SEI New Orleans Chapter invited Vijaya Gopu, PhD, PE, of the 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 provided an overview of the various connectors available for wood framed structures and the methods to design efficient, durable and structural sound connections. Design examples were discussed to illustrate the application of the NDS provisions for wood fasteners/connections. The seminar was attended by about 65 members.



SEI Seminar. Dr. Vijaya (VJ) Gopu, PE (left), the speaker of the **DESIGN OF CONNECTIONS IN WOOD FRAMED STRUCTURES** SEI New Orleans Chapter seminar on November 10, 2011, with Chair Dr. Zolan Prucz, PE

The future seminar topics being considered are Concrete Anchor Design in Accordance with ACI 318 Appendix D, Steel Fabrication, Castings and Welding Inspection and Testing (March, 2012), D H L Lecture – Status of Structural Engineer Registration (April 2012), Expansion Joints in Concrete Slabs on Grade (May 2012) and Design of Disney World Structures.

SEI New Orleans Chapter will help ACI Louisiana Chapter in promoting the **ACI/PCA 318-11 Building Code Seminar**. This seminar will be coming to New Orleans area on April 12, 2012. This seminar will cover all the major changes in this new edition of the code. Included with the seminar are complimentary copies of ACI's **"Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-11) and Commentary"** and worked examples prepared by PCA – essential items for anyone who deals with the concrete structures. The place for seminar and other details are being finalized at this time.

The committee is looking for good topics and speakers for future presentations. 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.

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. To add your name to our mailing list, e-mail Om P. Dixit at om@fenster-maker.com.

Student Chapter News

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

By Josh Bradley, Student Chapter President

American Society of Civil Engineers at Louisiana State (ASCE at LSU) is off to a great start this semester. The semester was started with a joint luncheon with LES and APWA in Tiger Stadium. It was a great networking event and ASCE at LSU was honored to have been invited. This semester the students are interested in becoming more involved with the professional ASCE Branch. Plans are in the progress to host a Career/Networking Fair for Civil Engineering on April 18. Progress for both the Steel

Bridge and Concrete Canoe are well underway and they are excited about the Deep South Conference at the University of Tennessee Martin. Students attended a tour of Terracon in Baton Rouge in order to gain a better perspective of the work that is performed in the real world. ASCE at LSU would like to organize more field trips this semester with other companies who are willing to take in a few students to let them get a feel for the firms' daily work. Other social events with the Baton Rouge Younger

Members Group are underway as well as joint meetings. Our new officers are James Parker, President; Brittany Alexander, Vice-President; Lesley Cates, Secretary; Matthew Stewart, Treasurer; Adam Catanzaro, Fundraising Chair; Holly Steffen, Meeting Coordinator; Andrew Cook, Community Service Chair; and Philip Goppelt, Web Master. Please contact James Parker at jpark56@lsu.edu if you have any comments. GEAUX TIGERS!!!!

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AS NEW FACES OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, COLLEGE EDITION

Reston, Va.—Ten promising civil engineering college students have been recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) through its first annual New Faces of Civil Engineering – College Edition. These students are being recognized for achieving the highest standards as college civil engineering students, whose academic success and extracurricular engagement point to a bright future as professionals in the field of civil engineering.

"These students are an inspiration to future generations of students seeking a career in which they can make a difference," said ASCE President Andrew Herrmann, P.E.

Congratulations to ASCE's first collegiate New Faces of Civil Engineering:

- Danielle Antonellis – Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Mass.
- Tyler Beduhn – University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
- Gretchen Heberling – University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.
- Hannah Kiem – Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Andrew Odenthal – Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Miss.
- Anitha Reddy – The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- Marlie Ann Ventress – Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
- Edgar Verdin – Portland State University, Portland, Ore.
- Daniel Wanner – San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif.
- Steven Wong – Columbia University, New York, NY

In addition to receiving this great honor, three of the New Faces were recognized by the National Engineers Week Foundation (NEWF). Danielle Antonellis was selected as the civil engineering representative among the 2012 NEWF New Faces of Engineering – College Edition. Among her achievements, Antonellis helped raise

\$11,000 to benefit the Katrina-stricken Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, while president of her university's Habitat for Humanity chapter. As part of her recognition, Antonellis will receive a \$500 ASCE scholarship.

Antonellis was joined by finalists Gretchen Heberling, an accomplished violinist who is interested in small business development, and green building design and sustainability, and Steven Wong, a structural engineer student, who has worked on a hotel development project in Bahrain and teaches introductory civil engineering courses.

See photos of and read more about all of ASCE's 2012 New Faces of Civil Engineering – College Edition, and see all of the winners from each of the 15 engineering societies for NEWF's first annual honor.

Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 140,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. For more information, visit www.asce.org.



Marlie Ann Ventress (Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.) realized after three years of studying nursing, it was not her passion. With the support of family and friend engineers, Marlie turned her focus to civil engineering. As a diversity ambassador, she visits local middle and high schools to talk about engineering and motivates students to consider it as their profession.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

By Jacob Benton, Student Chapter President

The chapter has gotten off to a great start this year. Students have been excelling in both academic and extracurricular fields this fall semester. Three students, Jacob Benton, William Fontenot, and Nicholas McCoy, attended the biannual ACI conference this October in Cincinnati. The team competed in the pervious concrete competition placing 11th out of 34 teams.



UL Lafayette Civil Engineering Students attend fall ACI conference in Cincinnati, OH

Continuing the academic success of the department there were seven students inducted into the student chapter of Chi Epsilon. Chi Epsilon is a civil engineering honor society with the purpose of maintaining and promoting the status of civil engineering as an ideal profession. In addition, multiple students took the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam and maintained the excellent pass rate that the department prides itself on.

The student chapter also got involved in the community this fall. In conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, students devoted a Friday afternoon to the construction multi-

ple homes in the Lafayette area. The chapter looks forward to a continued presence in the community this spring.

Looking forward to the spring semester the chapter will be very busy. Six students are expected to attend the ASCE leadership conference this January in Nashville, TN. Their goal is to attend multiple sessions in an attempt to gain knowledge towards future direction of the chapter. Students are continuing the preparation for the ASCE regional Deep South Conference. The chapter plans to send approximately 25 students in an attempt to compete in every event. To achieve the goals for the conference the chapter is currently fundraising and looking for potential sponsors. Teams are also preparing for the spring 2012 ACI conference which will be held in Dallas, TX. As chapter president I am very excited for anticipated success of the spring 2012 semester.

LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

<http://www.lasce.org>

ACADIANA • BATON ROUGE • NEW ORLEANS • SHREVEPORT

The Journal is seeking technical articles for future editions. Articles normally run 2,500 to 5,000 words and can include a few pertinent photographs and figures. All content is in black and white.

Please forward your abstract and preferred publication schedule to nedrasuedavis@gmail.com.

ASCE
LOUISIANA SECTION

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

MARCH 2012

March 15, 2012	Shreveport monthly meeting
March 15, 2012	Baton Rouge monthly meeting
March 20, 2012	ASCE TD&I LA Chapter, ASCE Acadiana Branch & Co-Sponsored by ULL Department of Civil Engineering Seminar 5:00pm
March 28, 2012	ULL Engineering & Technology Expo Day - 8:00am to 1:00pm
March 26-29, 2012	ULL Engineering and Technology Week

APRIL 2012

April 5, 2012	All articles due for the Louisiana Civil Engineer May journal
April 19, 2012	Baton Rouge monthly meeting

MAY 2012

May 10-11, 2012	2012 ASCE Spring Conference - See insert for registration and sponsorship in this journal
May 17, 2012	Shreveport monthly meeting
May 17, 2012	Baton Rouge joint meeting with LES at White Oak Landing

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

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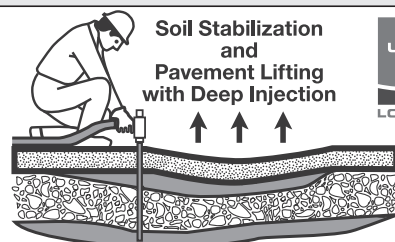


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