

LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

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Bobby E. Price, PhD, PE, Dist.M.ASCE
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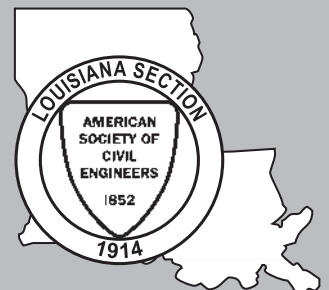
FEATURE:

Benefits from Due Diligence in Historically Developed Areas

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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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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

I'm happy to report that even during the summer the Louisiana Section continued serving the membership through the efforts of the Section Board members, committees and Branches. As President of the Section I would like to express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work put forth by our members that have volunteered to serve on the many boards and committees across Louisiana at both the Section and Branch levels.

The Section awards committee lead by Christopher Humphries as the committee chair continued its work during the summer evaluating a large number of candidates nominated for Section Awards by the Branches. I have served on this committee a number of times in the past and can testify to the difficulty of the task and the time it takes in determining the most worthy candidates through the evaluation process. I know the members of this committee take seriously their obligation and should be commended for their efforts. The results of their efforts will be shared with the Section and announced at the Section's annual awards ceremony. The Section Awards Ceremony and Installation of Officers Banquet will be held on September 7th in Shreveport this year. The banquet is held annually hosted by the incoming Section President's Branch. This year's incoming Louisiana Section President is Kurt Nixon. Kurt is a member of the Shreveport Branch.

The History and Heritage Committee under the chairmanship of Miles Bingham has also been busy this summer preparing for the dedication ceremonies to dedicate the Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson Parish as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The Huey P. Long Bridge will join two other landmarks in Louisiana that have been designated as ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks those being Eads South Pass Navigation Works in Venice, Louisiana and the McNeill Street Pumping Station in Shreveport, Louisiana. The dedication ceremony promises to be a special event with a number of special guests in attendance including Andrew Herrmann, PE, ASCE National President. The ceremony is scheduled for September 28, 2012. The planned location for the dedication ceremony will be on River Road under the bridge where the plaque is being installed. The plaque will be installed on the pier next to River Road on the East Bank. This will be a memorable occasion for the Louisiana Section and I would encourage all members who can be there to make every effort to attend. Further details on the dedication will be forwarded to the membership and posted on the Section website once the arrangements are finalized.

In addition to the Huey P. Long Bridge dedication, the History and Heritage Committee has also been busy preparing the documentation required to nominate the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. This nomination has been forwarded to the ASCE National History and Heritage Committee for consideration with the support of the Louisiana Section Board and the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission.

The ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Program recognizes historically significant local, national, and international civil engineering projects, structures, and sites. The objectives of the program are to: 1) Encourage all civil engineers to become more aware of the history and heritage of their own profession; 2) Increase appreciation by the public of civil engineering contributions to the progress and development of the United States and the world; 3) Identify and designate national historic civil engineering works that have made a

significant contribution to the development of the United States and other countries and to the profession of civil engineering in particular; 4) Encourage, where appropriate and feasible, the preservation of significant historic civil engineering works; 5) Provide a documented archive of Civil Engineering Historic Landmarks for the use of engineering students, professional writers, researchers, and historians; and, 6) Promote the inclusion of information on Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks in encyclopedias, guidebooks and maps used by the general public.



Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., PE

This will be the last Journal message that I will be writing as President of the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. When I took office almost a year ago I had hoped to be able to continue to advance the work of the Section and to provide the leadership provided by my predecessors particularly my immediate predecessor Patrick Landry. As I look back over the past year the Section has continued to make progress. I would like to take this opportunity to point out a few of these accomplishments. The most significant of these was the completion and publication of the first Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure. This was no small accomplishment and the Section can be proud of the final result. In order to continue the effort begun by the Report Card to educate our public official and the citizens of Louisiana on the condition and needs associated with our infrastructure the Section is in the process of establishing a Government Relations Committee. The Louisiana Section for the second year in a row was the winner of the 2011 (Large) Section Renewal Race. All of our members throughout the Louisiana Section contributed to this accomplishment and should be proud of this honor. As noted above, the Section has also re-established the History and Heritage Committee which has already made tremendous progress in identifying major civil engineering works in the State and highlighting these accomplishments and the profession of civil engineering to the public.

It has indeed been an honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve as your President. I would like to thank all of the Section Board members and the various Section committees for the outstanding effort and service provided throughout the year. Without your efforts we would not have been able to accomplish so much this past year. Your service and dedication is very greatly appreciated. As I pass the gavel to Kurt Nixon, our incoming Section President, I would also like to ask everyone to continue to provide the support to him and our new Section leadership, as you have for me over the past year. With your support we can continue the progress we have made as into the future.

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.

ASCE Region 5 Director's Letter

By Bill Grogan, PhD, PE



Bill Grogan, PhD, PE

Dear Region 5 members,

As I become more settled in the Region 5 Director's job, I am amazed every day by the commitment and effort that many of our members willingly put forth to continue to move ASCE forward.

As I was traveling in March, I was fortunate to be able to spend a day at the Carolinas' student conference at Clemson University. Although the Carolinas are not part of Region 5, Georgia Tech participates in this conference and the group was there with its advisor, Dr. Kahn. The student chapters did a great job on their concrete canoes. Only one canoe broke apart. I won't identify the school, but I will say it was not Georgia Tech.

As part of my Board duties, I participated in Program Assessment and Evaluation System (PAES) committee work. One of the processes in building the ASCE annual budget involves committees submitting to the PAES committee their budget requests, with input from supporting staff members. The PAES committee makes recommendations to the Finance committee. The Finance committee then makes the final recommendation to the Board of Direction.

This year was particularly challenging with revenue collections and projections having a slightly downward trend, reflecting the state of the economy. There was a lot of discussion, and hard decisions were made. The final budget will be submitted to the Board of Direction for approval at the July meeting.

I know many committees will not be receiving all the funding that was requested. I want to thank the hard-working volunteers for their efforts and assure them that we Board members (who also are volunteers) are very concerned, as we want to make sure all efforts are not only recognized but also resourced to the fullest extent to make ASCE successful in reaching its goals.

My final topic, elections: Please VOTE! If you have not already, you should be receiving your ballots shortly. We have two Region 5 Governor positions to be filled and two candidates for those positions, as well as a contested election (two candidates) for the single position of President Elect.

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

Bill Grogan, PhD, PE, M. ASCE
Director, Region 5
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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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Region 5 – ASCE Fall 2012 – Winter 2013

Continuing Education Seminars and Workshops

Geographic Services is proud to announce the Continuing Education Schedule of seminars and workshops for Fall 2012 and Winter 2013 scheduled in your geographic area. These seminars/workshops have been produced by ASCE's Continuing Education Department with your members in mind. This new schedule has been placed under the <http://www.asce.org/Regions-Sections-Branches/Region-5/Links/Links/tab> on each Region website.

Seminar/Workshop	Date	City / State
Design and Strengthening of Shallow Foundations for Conventional and Pre-Engineered Buildings	November 5 - 6, 2012	Orlando, FL
Low Impact Development Applications for Water Resource Management	November 5 - 6, 2012	Orlando, FL
Managing the Design Process - Keeping on Schedule, within Budget and Selecting the Right Resources	November 5 - 6, 2012	Orlando, FL
Wind Loads for Buildings and Other Structures	November 5 - 6, 2012	Orlando, FL
Aluminum Structural Design with the 2010 Aluminum Design Manual	November 8 - 9, 2012	Orlando, FL
Designing Non-Building Structures Using ASCE 7-10 -NEW	November 8 - 9, 2012	Orlando, FL
Financial Management for the Professional Engineer	November 8 - 9, 2012	Orlando, FL
HEC-HMS Computer Workshop	November 8 - 9, 2012	Orlando, FL
Earthquake Induced Ground Motions	December 6 - 7, 2012	New Orleans, LA
Design and Construction of Microtunneling Projects	December 12 - 14, 2012	Miami, FL
Design of Buildings in Coastal Regions	January 17 - 18, 2013	Biloxi, MS
Law School for Engineers	January 24 - 25, 2013	Palm Beach, FL
Deep Foundations: Design, Construction and Quality Control	February 7 - 8, 2013	Miami, FL
Design Build Contracting	February 14 - 15, 2013	Orlando, FL
Progressive Collapse Mitigation: Practical Analysis Methods and Proven Solutions	February 21 - 22, 2013	Orlando, FL
Earth Retaining Structures Selection, Design, Construction and Inspection	March 14 - 15, 2013	Tampa, FL
Liability of Engineers: How to Stay out of Trouble	March 14 - 15, 2013	Orlando, FL
Structural Condition Assessment of Existing Structures	March 21 - 22, 2013	Miami, FL

Benefits from Supplemental Due Diligence in Historically Developed Areas

By Jessica R. Keasler, MS

Development projects in historically developed areas are often faced with numerous environmental obstacles. Whether the project involves development of raw land or redevelopment of a previously utilized parcel, the obstacles can generally be identified during the Due Diligence period with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA). In addition to the standard Phase I ESA, business environmental risks considerations, supplemental items can be assessed to paint a more complete picture of environmental concerns that could impede development. Benefits of identifying these hurdles prior to initiation of development activities not only include reducing the risk of unknowns, but often allow for time and cost savings.

The Phase I ESA process is intended to meet the 'inquiry' requirements for innocent landowner, contiguous property owner, or bona fide prospective purchaser limitation of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, 42 USC §9601) in conjunction with a property transaction. This process is defined by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) Rule and the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) E1527-05 guidelines. The continuing obligation requirement for liability protection includes legal aspects of release reporting, duty to reasonably prevent future releases, and maintain integrity and effectiveness of activity and use limitations.

The goal of the Phase I ESA is to identify Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC), defined as "presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the property or into the ground, ground water, or surface water of the property".

ASTM standards identify the minimum requirements for a Phase I ESA, which include site reconnaissance, regulatory records review, physical setting, historical use, interviews and conclusions of the Environmental Professional. Beyond the minimum requirements, ASTM identifies non-scope considerations, which can be assessed

was planned to be demolished prior to re-development of the site.

In an historically developed area, supplemental considerations often play an increased role in not only identifying potential obstacles, but providing additional information to reduce their associated risks.

The overall Due Diligence process, including the standard Phase I ESA and appropriate supplemental considerations, serves the clients' needs for liability protection, documents baseline conditions, and furthermore, identifies foreseeable costs, remediation requirements and costs, and permit requirements.

Foreseeable Costs Can Be Deal Closers

One of the benefits of Due Diligence is often the estimation of foreseeable development costs. With any project, the possibility of unforeseeable costs is present; but with appropriate assessment, the unforeseeable amount can be reduced and the foreseeable costs can be more clearly identified. More often than not in the current economic climate, proposed developments are hinged on specific financial mechanisms; additional costs identified during the Due Diligence period can result in the project no longer being feasible. This looked to be the case for a Shopping Center in Baton Rouge, LA. The Shopping Center property consisted of multiple stand-alone structures, many of which had been vacant for years, and included two easily identifiable environmental hurdles, an on-site drycleaner and a former gas station. Realizing the potential for additional costs the prospective buyer included Phase II ESA (sampling and analysis of soil and groundwater) and an asbestos survey in the initial Due Diligence time period.

As expected, the Phase II ESA identified contaminant issues with the former gas station and drycleaner tenants; recommendations including additional risk assessment and the possibility of soil remediation. During the course of the asbestos survey, an additional hurdle was identified in one of the buildings: water intrusion resulted in visible mold growth. The asbestos survey identified the types and quantities of asbestos present, and provided recommendations associated with the planned renovations. The estimated costs associated with the asbestos abatement in conjunction with the prospect of a mold survey and abatement, on top of the soil contaminant issues pushed the balance of financial metrics from feasible to not feasible.



Jessica R. Keasler, MS

ASTM Definition

Environmental Professional: a person meeting the education, training, and experience requirements as set forth in 40 CFR §312.10(b)

along with the minimum required items. The list of fourteen considerations assembled by ASTM E1527 is not an all-inclusive list, nor is the inclusion of all listed considerations appropriate for every site.

Current site conditions as well as future development plans play a role in identifying the appropriate supplemental considerations. For example, if the site is currently undeveloped, even though it may have been developed in the past, an asbestos survey would not likely provide any useful information. Conversely, one would be remiss to not have an asbestos survey for a site where the existing building

Consider the consequences of not completing the asbestos survey during the Due Diligence phase of the project: the prospective buyer would have purchased the property and later identified the costs associated with abatement, causing not only a delay in renovation activities, but may have added a financial burden the developer could not sustain. This would result in a challenging situation for the new owner, and the Shopping Center would remain un-utilized. Fortunately, after months of re-negotiations and additional financial mechanisms becoming available, a successful property transaction occurred, and the Shopping Center is currently under renovation.

Mitigation of Unforeseeable Costs

Unforeseeable costs are typically part of every development project, and can be greatly increased with a re-development project in a historically developed area. The longer an area has been developed, the more likely there are to be skeletons in the closet—more specifically, environmental skeletons. The Phase I ESA is intended to reduce, not eliminate risks associated with environmental liabilities and costs for redevelopment. A Phase I ESA with the addition of supplementary items and further assessment including Phase II ESA, are often used to mitigate the un-foreseeable costs, by identifying these costs prior to site activities.

A daiquiri shop on a corner lot was identified during a Phase I ESA to have been a gas station from the early-1940s through the mid-1980s. The presence of the gas station was confirmed from multiple historical records including Sanborn Maps, City Directories, and Aerial Photographs. No regulatory records were identified, which was to be expected, as underground storage tank (UST) regulations were not promulgated until the late-1980s. A site reconnaissance revealed an oil UST which contained product and three vent pipes. The site's former use as a gas station and an existing UST were identified as a REC. A Phase II ESA included investigatory borings to identify if additional USTs remained at the site and soil and groundwater sampling to confirm whether petroleum contaminants were present. The results of the Phase II ESA concluded that three USTs remained on-site, and the soil and groundwater had been impacted by gasoline.

As a tool to mitigate risk, the prospective buyer and property owner negotiated a deal which included placing money in an escrow account to be used for the environmental remediation costs associated with the removal of the USTs and risk assessment/monitoring of the identified contaminants. This process is often utilized in such transactions where both parties are unwilling to wholly consume the risk and associated costs of the unknowns. With the successful agreement, and agreed upon cost to include in escrow, the environmental remediation activities began.

The first step required the daiquiri building to be demolished prior to the removal of the USTs. The building itself was quite unique, in that it included multiple expansions over time, and was thought to partially cover two of the USTs. Once the building was demolished,

equipment was used to remove the soils from around the USTs so the condition and size could be documented prior to removal. During this process, more than two USTs were exposed. Initially four USTs were identified, the two original and two previously unidentified USTs, located completely beneath the footprint of the building. To be thorough and eliminate further unknowns, the equipment was used to remove all underlying soils from the building footprint and beyond in an attempt to expose additional USTs. At the end of the process, a total of 11 USTs were uncovered; 10 of which were at least partially underneath the building footprint. While 11 is certainly more than 3, the cost to remove 8 additional tanks was far less than if due diligence had not been conducted and the USTs were a total surprise during redevelopment activities.

To reiterate this important fact: the Phase I ESA process is not intended to eliminate risk (unforeseeable costs), but to reduce risk. Along those lines, risk reduction is bound by the limitations identified within the Phase I ESA and Due Diligence process.

Report Limitations

Most Phase I ESA reports contain a section where the author identifies limitations. Limitations come in all shapes and sizes. Limitations are often associated with information obtained from third parties that is assumed to be complete and accurate. Limitations may occur due to unavailable information during the time period the ESA is conducted; or due to the inability to see the ground surface through a foot of standing water.

The limitations are generally discussed, and the Environmental Professional provides an opinion on whether the limitation has significant meaning to the findings of the report. For example, not being able to interview a property owner may have significant implications if the exact previous site operations are unknown. Conversely, if access issues were not encountered during the site reconnaissance, and the operations manager was interviewed, the property owner interview may not provide any additional information and would be deemed to not have a significant impact.

An often over-looked limitation relates to the accuracy of information obtained through the environmental regulatory records review and interviews. Information gathered during the course of the Phase I ESA is assumed to be true and accurate unless sufficient information exists to prove otherwise. Many of the documented sources of information – topographic maps, city directories, listing in a database – are subject to human error and therefore inaccuracies. This is one of the reasons that a proper ESA process should include reviewing multiple resources.

Interviews with site owners, occupants, neighbors, and even regulatory officials, are often based on memory of a situation or site, and are subject to the inaccuracies that are associated with human memory. A new development in a suburban rural area included property containing undeveloped land, residences, and a few commercial buildings. During the site reconnaissance, one of the occupants indicated that the undeveloped portion of the site

contained buried stolen cars. The interviewee recalled that when he was much younger a car thief would come to this property in the middle of the night and bury the cars he had stolen. In addition to the prospect of buried cars, this interview also led to knowledge of a gas station and USTs along the main road in another portion of the overall site. The Phase I ESA report, including the contents of this interview, identified the “former on-site gas station and USTs” and buried cars as RECs, and recommended additional assessment. Other REC identified included adjacent gas stations and an on-site drycleaner.

A Phase II ESA included soil and groundwater sample collection for the adjacent gas station and on-site drycleaner RECs, and investigation test pits for the buried cars. Although no USTs or buried cars were identified, buried debris was encountered in the undeveloped area. The debris included metal sheeting, likely from a small storage building, as well as a refrigerator, insulations and some piping. The debris was delineated and classified as non-hazardous building debris. The purchaser and later contractor were able to account for not only the debris removal in their project budget, but the costs of the additional soils that were required to fill-in the debris hole, as it was in the middle of the building footprint.

In this case, even inaccurate information facilitated ultimate risk/cost reduction, by discovering the buried debris prior to the start of construction.

Report Review

Beyond providing liability protections and reducing risk, the Phase I ESA can be a wealth of information relating to obstacles that may be faced during the development process. The site reconnaissance section identifies operations, equipment and features observed on-site. In many cases, the features documented may require further action that if not properly handled could result in delays during development. Examples include piles of debris, such as tires or miscellaneous household trash; water well; septic systems; or other equipment not intended for use after re-development. Typically, the report will describe the feature in terms of where it was observed and other details relating to whether or not it is considered a REC. If not a REC, the feature or an aspect of it may result in a de minimis condition.

ASTM Definition

de minimis conditions as those which do not generally present a threat to human health or the environment, and which wouldn't be subject to an enforcement action if brought to the attention of the regulatory agency.

Especially in situations involving major renovation and demolition, this section of the report can be utilized as an outline for specific

items which need to be addressed by the contractor. Often contained within bid specifications, the identification of special circumstances upfront has decreased delays associated with surprises during development activities, as well as decreased the need for costly change-orders. One engineer took the usefulness of the Phase I ESA report one step further, and not only identified pertinent information from the report in the bid specifications, but attached the entire Phase I ESA report and supplemental asbestos report and Phase II ESA report.

Having a complete ESA in-hand proved beneficial to the redevelopment of an out-parcel to a Shopping Mall. The structure was formerly utilized as a retailer which had an automotive component that conducted oil changes and other minor maintenance activities. These activities, including the acknowledgement of an oil/water separator, were identified in the Phase I ESA as well as results of soil and groundwater sampling in the vicinity of the oil/water separator. The bid specifications required the removal and disposal of this equipment.

During demolition of the existing building slab, the contractor encountered the oil/water separator and associated piping, and oily residue. Assuming this was a new discovery, and concerned that the discovery required additional environmental assessment, the contractor shut-down site activities and called the engineer for a change order. The engineer reviewed the bid specifications and contract, and determined that a change order was not necessary. With a couple of phone calls and review of prior documents, the contractor conceded the costs and permits associated with the removal of the oil/water separator were included in his original cost estimate. Only one working day was lost to resolve this issue. Had the contractor reviewed the information contained within the Phase I ESA and environmental reports, he could have been better prepared.

More often than not, a Phase I ESA is completed for a property transaction Due Diligence in an effort to complete tasks on a checklist provided by a lender or other party. Many other benefits from this process are often over-looked or under-utilized. A Phase I ESA with appropriate supplemental considerations, can uncover a wealth of knowledge pertaining to a site can be found. Armed with knowledge upfront, environmental obstacles often become small hurdles in the development process.

Jessica R. Keasler, MS is an experienced environmental services professional having obtained Bachelor's and Master's degree in Environmental Science. As the Environmental Department Manager for Terracon's Baton Rouge Office, Ms. Keasler has performed various risk-based assessments, subsurface remediation, NEPA studies and consulting services.

Attention Civil Engineers

The Nominating Committee for the **Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West (SLFPA-W)** and **Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E)** Boards of Commissioners is seeking qualified civil engineers for future service on the respective boards.

Civil engineers interested in applying for the **future** vacant Board openings may obtain an official application by contacting Ashley Prejean Clark, Secretary of State's Office, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125; (225) 342-4479; (225) 925-4771 facsimile; or e-mail ashley.prejean@sos.louisiana.gov. Please visit their website at www.sos.louisiana.gov for more information. **The intent is to develop a pool of applications of qualified candidates at the Secretary of State's Office for the Nominating Committee.**

FACTS for applicants to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authorities (SLFPA)

- The "levee reform" legislation that created the Southeast Flood Protection Authorities (SLFPA) is the Act 1 of the 2006 First Extraordinary Session created two flood protections boards; the SLFPA- East and SLFPA- West. Constitutional Amendment #3 approved by 81% of the Louisiana voters on Sep 30, 2006 and legislation Act 43 is also significant parts of the levee reform legislation. (R.S. 38:330.1) <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=366193>
- **SLFPA-W Board of Commissioners**
There are a total of seven (7) members serving on the Board of Commissioners. SLFPA-West (<http://www.slpaw.org>)
 - Engineering/Related Field
 - Five (5) members shall either be an engineer or a professional in a related field such as geotechnical, hydrological, or environmental science. Of the five members, one member shall be a civil engineer. Please note the Nominating Committee is not limited to only these areas of expertise; but, seeks other civil engineers with construction management and other areas of expertise.
- **SLFPA-E Board of Commissioners**
There are a total of nine (9) members serving on the Board of Commissioners. SLFPA-East (<http://www.slpae.com>)
 - Engineering/Related Field
 - Three (3) members shall either be an engineer or a professional in a related field such as geotechnical, hydrological, or environmental science. Of the three members, at least one member shall be a civil engineer. Please note the Nominating Committee is not limited to only these areas of expertise; but, seeks other civil engineers with construction management and other areas of expertise.
 - Board positions are unpaid however they receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with Louisiana regulations.
 - The selection process for Board members:
 - Vacancies are announced publicly by the Secretary of State
- Applicants are received and forwarded the nominating committee
- The committee votes to nominate a person(s) to a position on the board using a "qualification based process".
- The nominee(s) is submitted to the Governor for Appointment
- The Senate confirms the Appointment
- The term in office is **four** (4) years, members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Each board determines the residency requirements:
 - **SLFPA-W** - There shall be at least, and not more than, two (2) members from the West Bank of each parish within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority. The territorial jurisdiction includes the west side of the Mississippi River in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The remaining members shall reside outside of the territorial jurisdiction and may live anywhere in the world, subject to qualifications.
 - **SLFPA-E** - There shall be at least, and not more than, one (1) member from each parish within the territorial jurisdiction of the authority. The territorial jurisdiction includes St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa Parishes and the east side of the Mississippi River in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. The remaining members shall reside outside of the territorial jurisdiction and may live anywhere in the world, subject to qualifications.
- The boards meet monthly or as determined by needs of the Board. Members are allowed to participate via electronic conferencing; however, only members present may vote on an official action. Members are also assigned to committees, which meet regularly as required.
- The legal obligations of Boards Members are as trustee and fiduciary of all public interests before the Authority, Board members are subject to the Code of Governmental Ethics of Louisiana, which can be found at: http://www.prd.doa.louisiana.gov/LaServices/PublicPages/ServiceDetail.cfm?service_id=2571
- The members of the nominating committee members are made up of representatives from professional, academic and civic organizations specified in the legislation R.S. 38:330.1c(2)(a) <http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=366193> as amended by HR 796 of the 2009 Regular Session. Applicants may discuss their applications and qualifications with the nominating committee members as needed. A listing of the current nominating committee membership is maintained at the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office.
- State, parish, and local government employees cannot serve on either board due to potential conflict of interest. Federal, state university, or college employees may serve on either board, subject to residency requirements
- Current board membership is maintained on the Louisiana Secretary of State Website: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/> Click on Levee Board Nominations under the Other Services tab.

ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Dan Aucutt, PE



Dr. John Renne (left) and Dr. Brian Wolshon with T&DI seminar coordinator, Carol Short

that the evacuation of the New Orleans metropolitan region for Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav in 2005 and 2008, were some of the largest in U.S. history. The speakers, LSU Professor Brian Wolshon, and UNO Professor John Renne, have studied the reams of data available from these events. Recent significant advances in modeling sophistication and computational speed have allowed micro-level simulations to be conducted over wide geographic areas. A model for the southeast Louisiana region has been developed and evaluated based on its ability to replicate the temporal and spatial travel movements associated with the evacuation of New Orleans prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Taking the forecasting capabilities a step further, the New Orleans Citizen Assisted Evacuation Plan was also integrated into the model to evaluate the internal transit bus, regional coach bus, and tourist airport shuttle bus evacuation plans. The results of this integration showed that busses in particular are able to travel efficiently through the region during the various phases of the evacuation.

On June 14, 2012 the Louisiana T&DI Chapter conducted its third "outreach" seminar (seminar offered outside the New Orleans/Baton Rouge ASCE section areas), and our second seminar for the ASCE Shreveport Branch. Committee Member, Elba Hamilton, PE coordinated the dual-speaker presentation by Mr. Brad Ponder, PE, CSRS, Inc. and Mr. Ed Wedge, PE, DOTD Director of Project Management. Brad explored the differences between typical *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 program.

The concept was further explored by Ed Wedge, who provided valuable insight to the needs of effective Program and Project Management from the State's perspective. Ed acknowledged that

some projects are inherently riskier than others. Recognizing and addressing the risk is essential to effective Program Management.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring a seminar at your branch, the T&DI Louisiana Chapter has prepared a Seminar Coordinator's Check List to assist you. Contact Dan Aucutt, PE, at djaucutt@gmail.com for a copy of the checklist. Our 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. As indicated, we are open to co-hosting seminars in additional Louisiana cities, with proper planning. 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:

- History of the New Orleans Street Car System
- Pavement Engineering (Part 1 of 3) Asphalt Mixture Design and Analysis
- Pavement Engineering (Part 2 of 3) Concrete Mixture Design and Analysis
- Pavement Engineering (Part 3 of 3) Application of Earthwork & Embankment Materials
- Developments in Environmental Air and Noise Regulations

The Chapter is also contributing to the ASCE Fall Civil Engineering Conference in Kenner, Louisiana on September 19 and 20, 2012. Several of the scheduled presentations were coordinated by our T&DI Committee members.

As a final note, the T&DI LA Chapter is planning to initiate an academic scholarship program after the 2012 Fall Semester begins. A scholarship subcommittee, lead by LSU Professor Louay Mohammad will coordinate the announcement with engineering department chairs across the State.



Ed Wedge (left), Karen Holden (T&DI Chair), Brad Ponder, and T&DI seminar coordinator, Elba Hamilton

In Memory

BOBBY E. PRICE, PhD, PE, Dist.M.ASCE

Dr. Bobby E. Price passed away Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at the age of 74. Dr. Price was a Distinguished Member of ASCE and an outstanding educator in civil engineering at Louisiana Tech University for over 30 years. Dr. Price had a profound influence on his students and in their development as professionals in civil engineering. He was not only a great teacher and mentor to his students, but also a person of great integrity. He will be sorely missed by his students and friends in the engineering community. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Patsy and his family. Dr. Price has left a permanent mark in the history of engineering in Louisiana.

Dr. Price was named a Distinguished Member of the Society in 2007 for over four decades of distinguished service and leadership in engineering education and the engineering profession and for outstanding contribution in the reformation of the future of civil engineering education and professional licensure.

Dr. Price was a leader in engineering licensure and ASCE's initiative to reform engineering education in the United States. He has provided ASCE with timely and well founded input at key junctures throughout the implementation of Policy Statement 465 and deserves significant credit in this regard as engineering education changes over the coming decades.

Dr. Price served on the ASCE Committee on Curricula and Accreditation during the development of the ABET EC 2000 Criteria and Civil Engineering Program Criteria, serving as chair of CC & A in 1997-98. In addition, he played a central role in reforming engineering education through his involvement with the Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice (CAP³) for which he was a founding member and the first chair of its licensure committee.

Dr. Price served as the 2004-05 President of the National Society of Professional Engineers and successfully encouraged cooperation among ASCE, NSPE, NCEES, ABET, and other organizations in developing and proposing engineering educational/licensure models and action plans through the NSPE Engineering Education/Licensure Model Task Force. He launched an initiative with the Professional Engineers in Higher Education to gain greater acceptance of construction experience for purposes of engineering licensure. Dr. Price helped to initiate the "Get Licensed/Get Ahead" Campaign to encourage engineering students and young engineers to pursue engineering licensure and conducted dozens of national, state, and local presentations on changes necessary to improve the engineering education/licensure process. He worked closely with federal governmental officials within USACE and

NAVFAC to promote engineering licensure and the establishment of a joint position statement on federal engineers' final technical authority.

Dr. Price was an outstanding educator in hydraulics and water resources. He also taught many courses in engineering mechanics, geotechnical engineering, capstone design, and professionalism and ethics at Louisiana Tech University for 32 years. One of his greatest contributions to the University's educational mission was the emphasis that he placed on communications and presentations. He received the ASCE Student Chapter's Outstanding Professor Award 10 times throughout his tenure with the University. In addition to his teaching, advising, and research responsibilities, Dr. Price held numerous leadership positions in the University, including Civil Engineering Program Chair, College of Engineering Graduate Studies Director, and College Undergraduate Studies Director. The University has established a Distinguished Professorship in his name.

A licensed Professional Engineer, registered in Louisiana and Texas, Dr. Price served on the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board from 1997-2003, and served as Chair in 2002-03.

He played key leadership roles in several professional societies, including serving as President or Chairman, of the Louisiana Engineering Society, the Louisiana Engineering Foundation, the American Water Works Association Southwest Section, and as Vice Chairman and member of the Universities Council on Water Resources Committee on Research and Education in Water Resources Engineering.

In addition to numerous civic organizations, Dr. Price was a member of the Lincoln Parish Geographical Information System Commission and the Sparta Groundwater Conservation Commission. His achievements have been recognized by numerous awards, including the William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award from ASCE, and being inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni by the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Price was an asset to the civil engineering profession. His career was one of meaningful contribution and service to society and the profession.



***Bobby E. Price, PhD, PE, Dist.M.ASCE
{1938 - 2012}***

ASCE National Election Results

PRESIDENT-ELECT (2012-2013):

Randall S. Over, PE, F.ASCE

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR-ELECT (2012-2014):

James A. Rispoli, PE, BCEE, F.ASCE

REGION DIRECTORS-ELECT (2012-2015):

Region 3: John A. Fraenhoffer, PE, SE, M.ASCE

Region 4: David B. Peterson, PE, F.ASCE

Region 8: Kristina L. Swallow, PE, M.ASCE

Technical: Brian R. Manning, PE, F.ASCE

REGION GOVERNORS-ELECT (2012-2015)

Region 1: Anthony L. Cioffi, PE, M.ASCE
Shawn P. Kelley, PhD., M.ASCE

Region 2: Thomas J. Imholte, PE, M.ASCE

Region 3: Carl C. Sutter, PE, CCS, M.ASCE

Region 4: Jonathan D. Keeling, PE, CFM, M.ASCE
Aaron K. Robinson, PE, PS, M.ASCE

Region 5: Eric S. Czerniejewski, PE, M.ASCE
Anthony L. Palmer, PE, M.ASCE

Region 6: Elvidio V. Diniz, PE, D.WRE, M.ASCE
Kenneth A. Rainwater, PhD, PE, BCEE, D.WRE,
CFM, M.ASCE

Region 7: Aaron M. Frits, PE, MS, M.ASCE
Loras A. Klostermann, PE, M.ASCE

Region 8: Douglas D. Knapp, PE, M.ASCE
Michael J. Wilhelm, PE, M.ASCE

Region 9: Lawrence D. Pierce, PE, M.ASCE

Region 10: Himansu K. Banerjee, PhD, CPEng, F.ASCE
Mostafa M. Soliman, PhD, PE, Dist.M.ASCE

If you have any questions regarding the election results, please contact Patty Jones, Director of Executive and Board Operations, at 703/295-6101 or pjones@asce.org.




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Louisiana
CIVIL ENGINEERING
Conference & Show

SAVE THE DATE!

We are proud to announce the dates for the 22nd Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show. This event, a joint effort from the New Orleans Branches of ASCE and ACI, is the premiere gathering for the Civil Engineering community in the Greater New Orleans Area. We are in the process of soliciting sponsors, exhibitors, and establishing the technical program for the fall conference, which will be held on September 19-20, 2012, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana.

For additional information on the conference, please visit our web site at www.LCECS.org

Editorial: Where Do Engineers Come From?

By Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

By the time you read this article, the Class of 2012 engineers will be asking themselves the same question every new grad faces while transitioning from student to practitioner, “Is that all there is? Is this why I became an engineer?”

As one recent commencement speaker said in 2012, “The diploma is just the ticket to opportunity.” So when the emails started coming and the postings on Facebook from the new engineering, nursing, and education majors this summer, I thought this would be a handy article I could send the new grads as they compare what they hoped to do at their first professional job to what they are actually assigned to do as they begin the journey on a career path.

I know my own first year out of engineering school was very mundane. I was assigned to proof volumes of technical specifications for a major USACE waterway project and check that the engineering firm corrected the edits and addressed the USACE’s review comments. This exposed me to the other side of contract documents – the specifications – an often-overlooked topic in engineering school where the technical drawings are emphasized. That gave me a great advantage once assigned as one of the consulting firm’s project engineers because I understood the art of technical specs, as well as how they compliment the plans.

A mechanical engineer I know spent several years riding in the back of a work truck with rig workers doing some tough oilfield work in harsh conditions. A degreed engineer among the laborers, he learned the business literally from the ground up. Today, due to that field experience, he owns his own oil exploration company extracting oil from wells that are not profitable for larger companies.

Another friend, a business major, spent his first year as a delivery driver for the family construction business. What a great way to meet the employees, the vendors, the clients, and the sub-contractors to understand their perspectives. Today he is CEO of the construction company and benefits from those relationships he established over 30 years ago.

Sometimes, my words of encouragement that every assignment is an opportunity to learn something, falls on the ears of the impatient. They start changing jobs, hoping that the next employer gives them that big opportunity immediately. The truth is that opportunity needs to be met with readiness. Clients, patients, and customers are too important for new grads to practice on. Also, the consequences of an error in a professional service are far too serious. Besides, the best time to make mistakes and learn from them is the early stage of a career when the more experienced

professionals can help you take corrective action. But supervisors managing the new talent must also recognize an important fact. According to Russell Campanello, executive with Nervewire, Inc., “The number one reason why people leave their jobs is to pursue personal development - the chance to learn something new.

If you want to hold on to your best people, you’ve got to make sure that they’re learning, growing, and changing.”

Successful organizations recognize the need to train and educate employees, their most valuable resource. Organizations competing for the best and brightest talent also subscribe to Campanello’s opinion that keeping good employees requires a commitment to invest in their personal and professional growth.

Learning takes place in many forms at the workplace. The purpose of job training is to teach specific tasks, skills, and procedures for one specific job. Change the employee’s function and training starts anew. Professional development seeks to educate the worker in a broader set of skills adaptable to many situations. Examples of professional development education are seminars and courses on communication, leadership, conflict resolution, time management, and business etiquette. Training and professional development typically involves structured learning, sometimes on an individual basis, but more often taught to a group. Another approach to learning in the workplace is mentoring.

How then is mentoring distinguished from the coaching that a supervisor provides to the subordinate employee? Coaching is a job requirement of any competent supervisor. In coaching the relationship is based on the supervisor (coach) developing the subordinate (team member) to perform a function for a specific job. The coach is always in the superior, authoritative position. The relationship will end when either supervisor or subordinate leaves the position. Of special significance is that the relationship is independent of whether or not the subordinate admires, respects, or values the supervisor (coach).

The changing world of work, as well as the workforce, emphasizes a need for mentoring. Such factors as the replacement of hierarchical organizations with self-directed work teams; a workforce that expects to be more empowered, innovative,



Deborah Ducote Keller, PE

creative, and autonomous in their work than previous generations; and employees apt to change employers numerous times, as well as change careers over their working years, can be mitigated with mentoring.

Mentoring may exist within an organization whether it fosters such an initiative or not, as well as external to the workplace. Informal mentoring refers to a relationship that forms between two individuals who through chance or circumstance have established the mentor/mentoree roles by mutual consent. Perhaps they work for the same employer or once did; maybe they share the same profession, trade, industry or the relationship could have evolved from sheer chance. However, informal mentoring, besides being a random approach, has another shortcoming. Such as, it depends upon the mentorees finding the contacts and networking among potential mentors.

I have mentored beyond a few co-workers, such as my daughter's classmates and at ASCE functions. Informal mentoring depends upon some catalyst to spark the mentor/mentoree relationship. Nothing is more gratifying than a thank-you from a new PE for mentoring that took place many years ago.

Formal mentoring is the term applied to a structured program that is strategically planned, supported by the organization's top leadership, designed by or with the participants, regularly evaluated and adjusted to meet the needs of the mentors and mentorees.

No two formal mentoring programs will be the same. For a program to achieve its goals and objectives, it must be tailored to the corporate culture in which it will operate. However, formal mentoring programs contain some common elements:

- Support/sponsorship begins with the most senior leader in the organization.
- Coordination is conducted by a program facilitator.
- Goals are established.
- Participation is open.
- Mentors and mentorees are paired through the program.
- Participants are educated about the concept of mentoring.
- Time limits for the mentor/mentoree relationship are established.
- Feedback, assessments, evaluations are made by participants.
- Outcomes are measured.
- The program is evaluated and improved as necessary.

A formal mentoring program has many documented benefits to the employer and employees, including:

- Provides the opportunity for all interested employees to prepare themselves for career opportunities by enhancing their personal and professional development and to develop competence and self-confidence.

- Broadens the employee's perspective of the state's mission and the mission of the department or agency.
- Fosters creative thinking for problem solving by the interaction between mentors and mentorees.
- Shortens the learning curve for new employees and employees transferring to new positions by having an additional contact within the organization.
- Reduces employee turnover rate by increasing job satisfaction and a sense of belonging for the mentorees, especially those under-represented in the organization who may otherwise feel excluded.
- Stimulates career planning and identifying key competencies and weaknesses for the mentorees.
- Creates an opportunity for seasoned leaders to share their experiences with employees other than their direct subordinates and thus provide institutional memory to wide range of employees.
- Aids in organizational succession planning by encouraging continual career development that prepares employees for promotional opportunities, which can be filled from within the organization.

A formal mentoring program is not a "magic pill" to cure all organizational ills. It is not meant to provide an easy path for participants to gain promotions; to substitute for personal counseling for non work related matters; to usurp the authority of a supervisor; or to undermine the disciplinary action of the human resource personnel by taking advantage of a relationship with a senior level employee.

I was once told by a senior manager regarding mentoring programs, "I don't believe in it. You take a job bigger than you are and you sink or swim. Nobody mentored me and I survived. Others should do the same." I beg to differ. That person was mentored informally every time he went to lunch with an executive.

And while I have never had the opportunity to participate in a formal mentoring program, I owe a debt of gratitude to an ASCE Fellow who hired me for my first engineering job, while still a student at Tulane, and has been a trusted mentor that I can always count on.

Be a mentor; get a mentor - for both personal and professional growth.

Branch News

BATON ROUGE BRANCH

By Clinton Willson, PhD, PE, Branch President

One of the great things about being the Branch President is getting to recognize the outstanding contributions that our members make to our profession. At the June 2012 Past President's luncheon, we recognized our 2011-2012 Baton Rouge Branch Awardees:

Sam Amoroso, PhD, PE – Outstanding Young Civil Engineer
Christopher Knotts, PE – Outstanding Civil Engineer
Ann Trappey, PE – Outreach
Ayman Okeil, PhD, PE – Educator of the Year
Larry McKee, PE – Lifetime Achievement
Gerald Dyson, PE – Wall of Fame

In addition, it was my pleasure to also recognize our Past Branch Presidents and also the newest ASCE Life Members. The new Life Members are: Michael Cullen, PE; Oliver Wager, PE; John Laws, PE; Michael Aderman, PE; Raymond Stelly, PE; and Ballard Argus, PE. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your past and current service to ASCE.

The future of our profession is also very bright. At the luncheon, the Southern University student chapter gave us an update on their plans for hosting the 2013 Deep South Conference. We are very excited about this opportunity and the students are very enthusiastic. Please contact the Southern University Practitioner Advisor, Kahli Cohran, for details on how you can help make the conference a success. During lunch, we also listened to a presentation from the LSU student chapter on their recent Steel Bridge National competition. While they didn't win, they did a great job in the competition and in their representation of LSU.

Let me finish with some housekeeping notes. Please be on the lookout for details concerning a Mayoral Forum, to be held in the early fall, that we are organizing in collaboration with several professional organizations. Finally, our August 16th luncheon at Drusilla's, joint with LES, featured LA DOTD Secretary Sherri LeBas.



Southern University Student Chapter gives update on 2013 Deep South Conference



Baton Rouge Past Presidents



Student Chapters accept checks from Baton Rouge Branch President Clinton Willson



American Society of Civil Engineers New Orleans Branch

50th Anniversary Celebration of New Orleans Branch

(1962-2012)

PO Box 8281, Metairie, LA 70011-8281



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.

NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

By Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE, Branch President

The New Orleans branch coordinated several events in the first half of 2012. The annual branch awards luncheon was held in late July at the Chateau Country Club in Kenner, Louisiana. The New Orleans branch recognized fellow members for their commitment to excellence and advancement of the Civil Engineering profession. Each of the award recipients were evaluated based on their involvement with ASCE, service to the advancement of the civil engineering profession, service to the community outside of the field of engineering, technical accomplishment, and other evidence of merit of character. The following were recipients of the branch awards:

Griff Lee, PE – Wall of Fame nominee
Thomas W. Wells, PE – Lifetime Achievement award
Christopher G. Humphreys, PE – Outstanding Civil Engineer
Miles B. Bingham, PE – Outreach award
Wesley R. Eustis, PE – Outstanding Young Civil Engineer
President's Award – TBA

Life Member inductees:

John Holtgreve, PE
William Gwyn, PE
Surendra Kumar Shah, PE
Kenneth Thomas, PE
Fred Myers, Jr., PE
Charles Nelson, PE
E. Berkley Traughber, PE
Larry James Picciola, PE
Eugene James Henkhaus, PE
R. Bradford Rogers, PE
Jorge Alberto Romero, PE
Pratap Pullagurram Reddy, PE
Mervin Bolyard Morehiser, PE
Lawrence William Gilbert, PE

In addition, at the branch luncheon, the members elected the officers for next year. Following are the officers elected for 2012-2013:

President: James Martin, PhD, PE
President-elect: Steve Johns, PE
Vice President: Lee Alexander, PE
Treasurer: Wesley Eustis, PE
Secretary: Tonja Koob, PhD, PE
Director At-large: James Hance, PE
Director At-large: Ajay Potturi, PE
Director, Past President: Malay Ghose Hajra, PhD, PE

In the Spring of 2012, the Engineers without Borders (EWB) – New Orleans professional chapter completed a reconnaissance trip to Caserio Toreras, a small rural community in the northeastern corner of El Salvador. The long term goal of this new project is to provide potable water to the community of about 250 people and as well as build a water distribution system to deliver water from natural springs in the area to all households, the local school, and the community fishery. A second assessment trip to the community is being planned for October or November of 2012. While the first assessment trip focused on collecting data from all sources within the community, the second trip will collect more detailed information on site conditions around those springs with the most


potential for future development. The second trip will also provide an opportunity to talk further with the community about the potential alternatives and any constraints or specific objectives to be included for design. Anyone interested to get more information about the mission can visit <http://ewbnola.wordpress.com>.

Looking ahead in our calendar of events, 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. I encourage everyone to participate in the conference as well as nominate great speakers for the different sessions. More information about the conference and speaker nomination form can be found at <http://www.louisianacivilengineeringconference.org>.

As many of you already know, the Huey P. Long Bridge in Jefferson Parish was recently named a National Historic Civil Engineering landmark by ASCE National. The New Orleans branch will host the dedication ceremony on September 28, 2012 in the presence of President of ASCE National and other dignitaries. As plans are finalized, more information on the dedication ceremony will be communicated to the membership.


2012 also marks the 50th anniversary of the New Orleans Branch. The year-long celebration for our golden jubilee is underway to review past achievements and recognize individuals responsible for them. 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. 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.

The ASCE New Orleans branch is looking forward to an eventful and busy 2012. Please visit our website www.asceneworleans.org for upcoming events and news and do not hesitate to contact me at mghoseha@uno.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.



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

ACADIANA BRANCH

By Luke Hebert, PE, Branch President

Our Branch recently co-hosted the annual crawfish boil with IEEE on April 30, 2012 at Girard Park here in Lafayette. The event was a success and we want to thank everyone who attended.

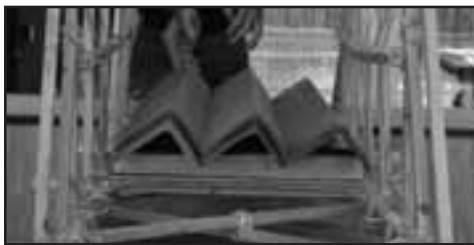
The ASCE High School Student Wooden Bridge Competition took place on Thursday, June 7th, 2012 at the LITE Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. This competition was funded by the State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) that the ASCE Acadiana Branch received from ASCE National and additional funding from the ASCE Louisiana Section. The competition required high school students to build a 6 foot long wooden bridge, spanning a 5'-8" clear span. The students used only $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x $\frac{3}{4}$ in. furring strips, cotter pins, and twine to construct the bridge and must support a minimum of 200 lbs. The competition showcased students from St. Thomas More High School and Lafayette High School with a total of 7 teams participating. The competition was judged based on highest safe load (applied load) to

weight (bridge weight) ratio. Awards were given to the top three teams with the first place team also receiving iPad 2's. Lafayette High School had the best overall performance so they received an award to be kept until the 2013 competition. Below are the overall results and pictures from the event.

We have received nomination application forms for the 2012 ASCE Section Awards from the following nominees:

Outstanding Civil Engineer – Tom R. Carroll, PE, PLS
Wall of Fame – Raymond DesOrmeaux, PE
Civil Engineering Educator – Chris Carroll, PhD
Outstanding Young Civil Engineer – Colby Guidry, PE
Lifetime Achievement – Paul A. Richards, PhD, PE

We plan on holding a luncheon at the Branch level in September to elect our new officers and award the Branch level awards.



Loading wooden bridge



Failure



Failure at Joint



8 pound wooden bridge holding 775 pounds of steel

Rank	Team Name	Team Members	Location	Bridge Weight (lbs)	Load (lbs)	Load/Weight Ratio	Notes
1	First Team	Phuong Dinh, Katelyn Edwards, Graham Thompson, Chris Carroll	Lafayette	8.88	775	87.28	5
2	Second Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	10.12	575	56.82	7
3	Third Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	11.12	275	24.72	5
4	Fourth Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	12.88	500	38.82	2
5	Fifth Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	8.88	500	56.32	5
6	Sixth Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	10.12	275	24.72	5
7	Seventh Team	Kevin Brown, David Brown, Robert Brown	Lafayette	11.12	275	24.72	5

Results

SHREVEPORT BRANCH

By Patrick Furlong, PE, Branch President

This past May we concluded our regular monthly membership meetings until September. Paul B. Fossier, Jr., PE traveled to Shreveport to give us a presentation on the John J. Audubon Bridge project. We would like to thank Mr. Fossier for his great presentation and for bringing a wealth of knowledge on all of Louisiana's bridges. This past June our Branch co-hosted a meeting with T&DI for the second year in a row. We hope this is an annual tradition that

continues. Brad Ponder, PE with CSRS, Inc. and Edward Wedge, PE with DOTD were our featured speakers. This meeting was held at the DTOD District 4 Headquarters and had a great turnout. Thank you Brad, Edward, and all others who helped make it happen.

The Branch would like to congratulate several nominees from the Branch for the various Section Membership Awards. The Shreveport nominees are as follows:

Louis McGee, PE, PLS – Wall of Fame
Dixie M. Griffin, Jr. PhD, PE – Outstanding Civil Engineering Educator Award
Daniel Thompson, PE – Outstanding Young Civil Engineer Award
Patrick Furlong, PE – Outreach Award



Left to right: Elba Hamilton and the two speakers, Ed Wedge and Brad Ponder

Congratulations and good luck! I would also like to congratulate and thank the three new Life Members from the Shreveport Branch: Roy Jones, PE; Bob Basinger, PE; and, William Taylor, PE. The Section Officer Installation and Awards Banquet will be held in Shreveport in September. We have a great event planned and hope everyone can join us.

ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News

By Om Dixit, PE, FASCE, Newsletter Editor



STRUCTURAL
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New Orleans
Chapter

Since our report in May 2012 issue of this magazine, ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter did not host any seminars and has planned the following future seminars in New Orleans.

On May 9 SEI New Orleans Chapter has invited Dr. Joseph Yura, (University of Austin, Austin, Texas) to present the 2012 David Hunter Lecture *"Connection Eccentricities and Restraints: Common Misconceptions"*. A week before the seminar Dr. Yura seriously got ill with heart ailment and it was decided to cancel the David Hunter Lecture for this year. We are delighted to report that Dr. Yura has recovered well and has shown the willingness to present the seminar. We are trying to schedule his seminar in coming November.

SEI New Orleans Chapter is planning to have a seminar on August 23 about Wind Design by Joffrey Easley. The details and title of the seminar are being determined. The details of the seminar could be found on the ASCE New Orleans Branch website. Other future topics for the seminar are Non Destructive Testing, Concrete Repairs, Expansion Joints in Concrete Slab and Steel Structure Connections.

Our Chapter is also helping the Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show 2012 host committee arranging the presentations on structural topics for the conference. The main feature speaker will be Dr. Gene Corley, (CTL Chicago) who will present the Annual Dr. Herbert J. Roussel, Jr. Lecture and talk about history and future of Structural Engineering License. The details about the LCEC&S programs could be obtained at website www.louisianacivilengineeringconference.org.

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@fenstermaker.com.





October 24-26, 2012
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Student Chapter News

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Coastal and Ecological Engineering Master's Program Approved by LA Board of Regents

The LSU College of Engineering and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering recently announced that the M.S. in Coastal and Ecological Engineering graduate program has been approved by the LA Board of Regents, effective summer 2012. The first set of graduates from the program is expected for fall 2012 commencement.

This program, jointly administered by the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, was initiated in 2006. A dedicated team of faculty, alum and CEE External Advisory Board members has worked diligently since then to push for the program's approval.

This program came as a response to the need for qualified coastal and ecological engineers within the consulting community and to conduct the research necessary to properly rebuild, protect and restore the Louisiana coast. Protection, restoration and rebuilding will require trained coastal and ecological engineers possessing coastal engineering knowledge dealing with the river and delta sediments, coastal infrastructures, and this region's ecosystem. In addition, subsidence in the Mississippi delta region, losses of our wetlands, as well as coastal erosion have increased the need for such a program. With fairly recent natural disasters hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which reeked havoc on the Gulf Coast,

accelerated the need for a program such as this.

The curriculum requires twenty-four hours of coursework for the degree. Also, a list of mandatory preparatory courses has been established to accommodate students enrolling in the program without degrees in engineering. For up-to-date information about the implementation of this new program and the coursework requirements, please continue to visit the CEE website (www.cee.lsu.edu) as more information will be posted there in the next couple of months.

Chen Named First CSRS Distinguished Professor in Coastal Engineering at LSU

By Article excerpted from Kimberlie Wessman, CSRS, Inc.



Dr. Q. Jim Chen, P.E., associate professor, has been selected as the CSRS Distinguished Professor in Coastal Engineering at LSU.

The professorship is the result of a \$180,000

pledge from the firm to assist in recruiting and retaining faculty for the LSU Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. The CSRS Distinguished Professorship in Coastal Engineering was the first gift established to support faculty for the new Coastal Engineering program at LSU.

The Coastal Engineering program at LSU was developed in response to the increased emphasis placed statewide on the continuous threat of coastal flooding, erosion of Louisiana's barrier islands and loss of coastal wetlands along Louisiana's unique estuaries and shorelines.

"CSRS is very pleased and committed to helping LSU initiate this unique and promis-

ing program aimed at the development of engineering systems and processes for coastal restoration. It is encouraging to note that Dr. Chen will be leading the effort to educate those choosing to pursue a career in coastal protection and restoration engineering," said CSRS Principal Ronald Rodi, P.E.

"These accolades are well deserved for an outstanding academic leader and innovative researcher dedicated to pushing the boundaries in coastal protection and restoration engineering both here at LSU and statewide," said College of Engineering Dean Richard Koubek.

Before joining LSU, Chen had been on the civil engineering and marine science faculty at the University of South Alabama. He conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Delaware's Center for Applied Coastal Research, and doctoral research at Old Dominion University and Danish Hydraulic Institute. He specializes in the development and application of numerical models for coastal hydrodynamics and near

shore processes, including surface waves, wave induced near shore circulation, storm surges, estuarine circulation, and sediment transport.

In 2011, Chen was named the Principal Investigator of a \$1.35 million award for LSU to develop the Northern Gulf Coastal Hazards Collaboratory (NG-CHC). Funded by the National Science Foundation, researchers in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama are leveraging their unique partnerships, proximity, and significant prior investments in cyberinfrastructure to advance science and engineering of coastal hazards of the Northern Gulf Coast. This consortium is aimed to catalyze collaborative research via enhanced cyberinfrastructure that will potentially address problems such as engineering design, coastal system response, and risk management of coastal hazards; and to enhance the research competitiveness of the Gulf region.

Civil Engineering Student Honored as Member of the 2012 Tiger Twelve Class



Jessica Addison, civil engineering senior, has been named one of this year's Tiger Twelve. This prestigious accolade recognizes student leaders university-wide for their campus and community service.

Each spring, the Office of the Dean of Students recognizes 12 outstanding seniors with the Tiger Twelve honor. The selected seniors must "contribute positively to the life of the campus and surrounding community." Seniors must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and have best demonstrated the seven basic principles outlined in LSU's Commitment to Community.

Addison, a native of Maurice, La., will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. She is president of

Tigers Against Trafficking and involved with Leadership LSU, Trafficking Hope and Healing Place Church. After graduation, Addison plans to become more involved with fighting human trafficking around the world, develop her career in civil engineering and pursue her professional engineering license.

"Throughout the experience of being selected as a Tiger 12, I have had an incredible sense of overwhelming honor. I am still shocked that I was chosen, and it's been over a month since I've known," Addison said. "It has been a tremendous privilege to represent our great university in this capacity. What I find the most incredible is that my being selected as a Tiger 12 is a true testament to the character of the employees devoted to higher education at LSU."

Recipients of the Tiger Twelve distinction must adhere to the following seven principles:

accepting responsibility for their actions; holding themselves and others to the highest standards of academic, personal and social integrity; practicing justice, equality and compassion in human relations; respecting the dignity of all persons and accepting individual differences; respecting the environment and the rights and property of others and the university; contributing positively to the life of the campus and surrounding community; and using their LSU experience to be an active citizen in an international and interdependent world.

"I never expected this, and never imagined that I would be in this place in my life. It's been amazing," Addison said. "I absolutely love this university, and I truly believe that LSU is comprised of the people who work here that invest in and cultivate students. They are the hidden gems in our university."

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

By Jacob Benton, Student Chapter President

The UL Lafayette student chapter closed out the year on an excellent note. Students, faculty, and guests attended the end of the year banquet in celebration of the many accomplishments the students experienced this year. The evening consisted of Dr. Kam Movassaghi giving a special presentation on the Louisiana ASCE Report Card as well as students being recognized for various

awards and scholarships. A final farewell was given to the graduating seniors and the 2012-2013 board members were introduced. This event marked the conclusion of ASCE activities for the 2011-2012 academic year.

However, there was one final challenge left for a few students and the chapter. This

challenge was the National Student Steel Bridge Competition which was held at Clemson University May 25-26. The team competed at a high level finishing 34th overall in the country. In addition to the overall ranking, the steel bridge team finished in 1st place in the stiffness category. This award was garnered by having the bridge that showed the least amount of deflection under loading at the competition. The student chapter is very proud of how the steel bridge team excelled this year and looks to build on this success in the future.

As one year comes to a close it only means that a new year of opportunities begins. The UL Lafayette student chapter of ASCE is excited to continue the success that was experienced this past school year.

If you wish to contact the UL Lafayette Student Chapter they can be reached at ullafayetteasce@gmail.com.



UL Lafayette ASCE members at Steel Bridge Nationals

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

By Amy Robards, Laura Hulliger, Student Chapter Secretary

On May 19th, UNO ASCE partnered up with UNO Engineers Without Borders to work on a coastal restoration project sponsored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. These students woke up at the crack of dawn on their first Saturday of summer to head out to Christian Marsh and plant marsh grass on newly constructed terraces.

The entire Christian Marsh planting project lasted over a course of five days where volunteers planted 40,000 plugs of marsh grass along 25,000 linear feet of terrace in Christian Marsh along the western shore of Vermillion Bay. Construction of these terraces started in November 2011 and completed in February 2012. These terraces serve as earthen barriers to reduce the impact of wind and waves on marsh that is under the threat of erosion. However, these barriers are susceptible to wind and wave damage themselves, which is where UNO's work came in handy.

Plugs of marsh grass will help to prevent further erosion and stabilize the soil to hold these terraces in place. The terraces as well as the planted vegetation will also provide a habitat for the immense amount of wild-life present in Christian Marsh.

UNO participated on the fifth and final day of the project where we managed to plant

all remaining plugs of marsh grass on three full terraces. It was muddy and strenuous work, but these dedicated engineering students loved it! The day ended in success when CRCL reached their goal for the five-day project by leaving no remaining plugs of marsh grass unplanted. The Christian Marsh Planting Project was a rewarding experience for us and we look forward to working on future coastal restoration projects with CRCL.

If you would like to become a member or contact UNO ASCE to work with us on a future project please contact us at asceuno@gmail.com. Also our partner organization, Engineers Without Borders, maybereachedatengineerswithoutborders.uno@gmail.com.



"Boat ride to the first terrace" Back Left to Front: Natalia Neal-Walthall, Luis Mosquera, Laura Hulliger, and Dr. Malay Ghose Hajra



Natalia Neal-Walthall having fun planting marsh grass



Laura Hulliger hard at work digging holes



Aerial view of Christian Marsh before the planting project

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sept. 21-22, 2012 **Louisiana Section Fall Conference: 21st Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show**
Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana • <http://louisianacivilengineeringconference.org>

OCTOBER 2012

Oct. 18-20, 2012 **ASCE's 142nd Annual Civil Engineering Conference**
Montreal, Quebec • <http://content.asce.org/conferences/annual2012/index.html>

Oct. 24-26, 2012 **ATC-SEI Advances in Hurricane Engineering**
Miami, FL • <http://www.atc-sei.org/>

NOVEMBER 2012

Nov. 4-8, 2012 **Electrical Transmission and Substation Structures Congress**
Columbus, OH • <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ets2012/index.html>

FEBRUARY 2013

Feb. 6-9, 2013 **ASCE Leadership Conference Regions, 1, 2, 4, & 5**
Warwick, RI

MAY 2013

May 2-4, 2013 **Structures 2013 Congress**
Pittsburgh, PA • <http://content.asce.org/conferences/structures2013/index.html>

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

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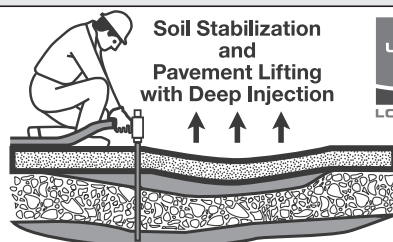


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