

ASCE

American Society
of Civil Engineers



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**Ninth Annual
Golf Outing**

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Newsletter
and reach
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the Chicago Area.**

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Robert Gorski,
at (312) 697-7255
for details.

News

ASCE Illinois Section

Vol. 44, No. 3
March 2003

2003 Awards Program Call for Nominations

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), founded in 1852, is the oldest and one of the most prestigious national engineering societies in the United States. ASCE is dedicated to the advancement of the science and the profession of engineering to enhance the welfare of mankind. The Illinois Section, in keeping with the objectives of ASCE, is soliciting nominations for its 2003 Awards Program to be held October 2003. The Awards Program is held yearly to recognize local engineers and engineering firms who have been committed to the advancement of civil engineering and have contributed to a general improvement in the quality of life. Illinois Section Award recipients will represent the Section by becoming candidates for the 2004 ASCE National Awards Program.

Nominations are being sought for the following awards:

- ▲ Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement
- ▲ Civil Engineer of the Year
- ▲ Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- ▲ Government Civil Engineer of the Year
- ▲ Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year
- ▲ Citizen Engineer Award

- ▲ Public Involvement Award
- ▲ Employer Recognition Program for Exemplary Support of Government Civil Engineers in ASCE Activities
- ▲ Employer Recognition Program for Exemplary Support of Private Civil Engineers in ASCE Activities
- ▲ Excellence in Journalism Award

Persons wishing to submit a nomination should contact Director Darren Olson at (847) 823-0500 for an application form. Forms can also be obtained directly from the ASCE web homepage www.isasce.org.

Nomination forms must be submitted in order to be considered for any of the awards. The nomination forms provide general guidelines for completing an application.

Nominations for all awards are due by July 1, 2003 and should be sent to Mr. Darren Olson, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, 9575 West Higgins Road, Suite 600, Rosemont, Illinois 60018.

(continued on page 4)

ASCE Salutes Future City Volunteers and Sponsors



ASCE Illinois Section members Don Wittmer, Aruch Poonsapaya, Derek Johnson and Lisa Harbert, served as coordinators for the Chicagoland Future City Competition that was held at UIC on Saturday January 25, 2003.

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ASCE - Transportation Group
ASCE - Urban Planning & Development Group

ASCE - Younger Member Group
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President's Notes

John Zimmermann

READ-UP. The topic below can affect your livelihood.
(Or ruin your day.)

The Structural Work Act (SWA) was originally enacted almost 96 years on June 3, 1907. The law was designed to give workers legal protection when they were injured on a jobsite. The SWA is also referred to as the Scaffold Act, as its original intent was to protect workers



An injured worker could sue anyone on the jobsite with responsible charge, like an engineering inspector, regardless of that engineer's actual involvement in the accident itself. There is a limited amount of time left for our membership to act on this issue. You need to contact your state representatives and state senators and voice your concerns with the SWA.

ASCE Illinois Section News

ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

Mailed to all ASCE-IS dues-paying members
American Society of Civil Engineers
Illinois Section - Zone III - District 8

Editor - Robert Gorski

URS Corporation
122 S. Michigan Ave.
Suite 1920
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 697-7255

Robert_Gorski@urscorp.com

Assistant Editor - R. Cliff Galitz

Patrick Engineering Inc.
55 E. Monroe, Suite 3450, Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 201-7929

News Editor - Andy Sikich

Christopher B. Burke Engineering West, Ltd.
116 W. Main Street, Suite 201
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 443-7755

Pres. John Zimmermann . . . (847) 698-6400

Pres.-Elect Don Wittmer . . . (312) 930-9119

Sec. Abdul Khan . . . (312) 930-5191

Treas. Thomas Burke . . . (847) 823-0500

Please update your information at
www.asce.org/myprofile or
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Web Site: <http://www.isasce.org>

ASCE National Information

Phone: 1-800-548-ASCE
Web Site: www.asce.org
Zone III Administrator
Michael Cook x6121

**Submission deadline for the April
Newsletter is March 10, 2003**

falling off of scaffolds. At that time, construction sites were considerably more dangerous than they are today. Employers didn't take care of those injured and more often than not, the employee usually got fired shortly after the accident.

Six years later, in 1913, the Workmen's Compensation Act (WCA) was enacted. The WCA was, and still is, intended to provide

injured workers legal recourse for all types of construction accidents. The WCA was intended to supercede the SWA. As many of you know, the WCA is a no-fault system. As long as the employer pays into the system, as is required by law, the injured worker receives benefits automatically without having to go to court. The WCA gradually

(continued on page 9)

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Designing Safety into Residential Developments

The term designing safety into residential development can take on many aspects, depending on the type of residential development, single family versus multi-family. This article will look at single family developments with the goal of designing safety to protect children.

The first area of concern is the detention facility. Many municipalities are addressing this concern in their storm water ordinances, wet bottom detention ponds are quickly becoming harder to get approved. Where wet bottom ponds are still allowed, safety ledges ten feet wide are typically required anywhere from one to three feet below normal water level. Also the side slopes above normal water level are being reduced from three feet horizontal to one foot vertical to now being as gradual as five feet horizontal to one foot vertical.

Another area where safety can be added to a residential development is the layout of the streets. The concept of having more than two streets coming together at one intersection is not allowed in most municipalities. They require streets to meet as close to a right angle as possible and will not allow a deviation from this rule by more than ten degrees. One of the primary ways of limiting cut through traffic through a development is by breaking up the long straight streets and adding numerous short streets that "T" into one another, this way a driver looking for a short cut will have to slow down and make numerous turns. Where multiple streets "T" into the same street the intersections should be offset by at least 150' for minor streets and the distance should be greater as the traffic volume on the intersecting streets increase.

When it is not possible to have a group of short streets that "T" into each other and there is no way around the long street, traffic calming items can be added to the design. These items can vary from a round-about to narrowing the pavement width at an intersection, giving the feel of being on a rural downtown street to the driver. A change in pavement type and texture will also cause a driver to slow down due to the sudden change in road noises. Options for changing the pavement type can vary from changing from asphalt to concrete or concrete that has been stamped with a brick pattern or using paver bricks.

Another important feature of safety for children is to be sure that intersections are not heavily planted with landscaping or bermed. The site distance is just as important for children to be able to see traffic as it is for drivers to see small children at intersections along with other drivers. Where streets change direction the larger the center line radius of the street the better. If the center radius is too small a driver may not be able to see someone who is crossing the street until they are right on top of them. It is important to realize that even though a street is designed to be a local street, most drivers no longer pay attention to the speed limit or even realize that if the speed limit is not posted on a street, the speed limit is most likely somewhere between fifteen and twenty-five miles per hour so anything that can be incorporated into the design of a project to make a driver more aware of the make-up of the area they are driving through will make the development safer.

—by William (Bill) J. Cussen, P.E., Senior Project Engineer
Haeger Engineering LLC, UP&D Group Treasurer

CRSI Foundation Scholarships for

CIVIL AND ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS

For additional information,
contact:

Mr. David P. Gustafson
CONCRETE REINFORCING
STEEL INSTITUTE

933 North Plum Grove Road,
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4578
Tel: 847-517-1200 Ext. 13
Fax: 847-517-1206
E-mail: dgustafson@crsi.org

The Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships for the 2003-2004 academic year. The scholarships are intended to foster the development of practicing engineers in the field of site-cast reinforced concrete construction.

CRSI plans to award scholarships in the amounts of \$2,500 each to senior students who are majoring in Civil Engineering or Architectural Engineering; and \$3,000 each to incoming graduate students (Master's Degree) in Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, or Architectural Engineering.

Additional information regarding the 2003-2004 scholarship programs is available by contacting Lisa M. Kelly, Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, 933 N. Plum Grove Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4758; e-mail: lkelly@crsi.org; or phone: (847) 517-1200, Ext. 14. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 2, 2003.

Nineteen students were awarded scholarships for the current 2002-2003 academic year. Senior students receiving scholarships: Andrew J. Brinks, Michigan State University; Adam S. Christopoulos, University of Utah; Nathan G. Lubecke, Milwaukee School of Engineering; Alexander V. Lengacher, Tri-State University, Angola, Ind.; Sean W. Peterfreund, University of Massachusetts; Ashleigh D. Trujillo, California State Polytechnic University – San Luis Obispo; Eric R. Sobel, Pennsylvania State University; and Joshua A. Woolley, University of Rhode Island.

Scholarships were also awarded to graduate students: James S. Epps, Virginia Tech; and Nicolas J. Rodrigues, University of California – Berkeley. Van W. Robbins, University of Missouri, was awarded a scholarship to support completion of his B.S. program and to begin graduate study.

Other students receiving scholarships for the 2002-2003 academic year included: John M. Bodine, Anoka-Hennepin Technical College, Anoka, Minn.; Jason Chang, University of California – San Diego; Justin A. Cherpin, California State Polytechnic University - Pomona; Tanner T. Johnson, Anoka-Hennepin Technical College; Jason G. Lindquist, Northwestern College, St. Paul, Minn.; Elizabeth H. Palleija, Broward Community College, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Joel C. Patrie, University of New Hampshire; and Christopher K. Wright, University of Texas at Austin.

2003 Awards Program Call for Nominations *(continued from page 1)*

The Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement

Recognizes projects, which represent outstanding contributions to civil engineering progress and to society. The project must be complete as defined in the 2003 ASCE Official Register, found on the web at www.isasce.org. The following criteria will be given special weight in making the selection: contribution to the well being of people and communities; resourcefulness in the planning and solution of design problems, the pioneering use of materials and methods, innovations in construction; consideration of impact on the environment; usual aspects of a project or aesthetic values; and its contribution to the "quality of life." Two project size categories are established: projects having a construction cost of less than \$5 million and projects having a construction cost of \$5 million and greater. These two awards are being made available in recognition that smaller projects often have a great impact on society and need to be recognized. Projects in both size categories may be nominated for the National OCEA award.

Civil Engineer of the Year

Recognizes outstanding professional contributions to society by exemplary professional conduct in a specific outstanding instance; established reputation for professional service; objective and lasting achievement in improving the conditions under which professional engineers serve in public and private practice; significant contribution toward improvement of employment conditions among civil engineers; significant contribution toward improving the professional aspect of civil engineering education; and/or professional guidance of qualified young persons who would seek civil engineering as a career. Membership in ASCE is not a requirement for the Illinois Section ASCE Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Young Civil Engineer of the Year

This award will be presented to a civil engineer, preferably registered, which is employed in the private sector and is 35 years of age or less on February 1, 2003. The candidate will be judged to have attained significant professional achievement by the degree to which the candidate has shown service to the advancement of the profession, evidence of technical competence, high character and integrity, contribution to public service, and other evidence

of merit that has advanced the Society's objectives. Membership in ASCE is not a requirement for the Illinois Section ASCE Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Government Civil Engineer of the Year

This award will be presented to a distinguished civil engineer, preferable registered, employed in public service, who is a citizen of the United States, and who has sustained outstanding civil engineering performance in the public sector, shown evidence of high character and professional integrity, and has been employed in public service as a civil engineer for a minimum of 15 years, of which five have been at the senior administrative level. Membership in ASCE is not a requirement for the Illinois Section ASCE Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year

This award will be presented to a civil engineer, preferably registered, employed full-time in public service for a minimum of five years, who is 35 years of age or less on December 31, 2003, who is a citizen of the United States, and who has shown excellent performance that has demonstrated leadership potential in the public sector, evidence of high character, and professional integrity. Membership in ASCE is not a requirement for the Illinois Section ASCE Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award.

Citizen Engineer Award

This award will be presented to a member who has made volunteer efforts that better our world in such areas as local or national legislation, education at all levels, non-profit volunteer organizations, community activities, etc. The nominees will be evaluated on the positive impact and overall contribution as a result of their efforts, number of people involved or reached by their effort, originality, and level of effort.

Public Involvement Award

This award will be presented to an ASCE Illinois Section member group (two or more individuals) which has made volunteer efforts that better our world in such areas as local or national legislation, education at all levels, non-profit volunteer organizations, community activities, etc. The nominees will be evaluated

on the positive impact and overall contribution as a result of their effort, number of people involved or reached by their effort, originality, and level of effort.

Government Employer Recognition Award

This award will be presented to a government employer who encourages their engineers to actively participate in ASCE. Special recognition will go to those organizations who exhibit exemplary support as evidenced by: providing a model for involvement through agency-wide participation in local, regional, and national ASCE activities; allowing engineers time off to attend ASCE meetings and seminars; supporting and encouraging technical and professional growth; encouraging engineers to prepare articles for publication in ASCE professional and technical journals; and assisting in the payment of society dues.

Private Employer Recognition Award

This award will be presented an employer in the private sector that encourages their engineers to actively participate in ASCE. Special recognition will go to those organizations who exhibit exemplary support as evidenced by: providing a model for involvement through agency-wide participation in local, regional, and national ASCE activities; allowing engineers time off to attend ASCE meetings and seminars; supporting and encouraging technical and professional growth; encouraging engineers to prepare articles for publication in ASCE professional and technical journals; encouraging participation in ASCE by younger members; and assisting in the payment of Society dues.

Excellence in Journalism Award

This award was founded in 1994 for the ASCE National Awards. This award is given annually to a reporter or reporters whose news coverage enhances public understanding of civil engineering issues and the impact of civil engineers on this state (or nation). Only reports from general (non-trade) print publications are eligible. The publications must be regional or local. News stories must be published: a) in English; b) in Illinois; and c) between May 1, 2002 and April 30, 2003.

Illinois Section News & Secretary Report

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 3

In an effort to inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at the monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this monthly article to the newsletter. Any questions or comments on the Board activities is welcome and can be sent to the Section office at the address shown on Page 2.

■ Treasurer's Report

▲ The January General Ledger Trial Balance, Income Statement and Aged Receivables was discussed and approved. The aged receivables over 90 days were resolved with the help of Director Harbert.

■ Group Reports

Each Section Group reported on their past month's activities and future group meetings as noted in the Section Activities portion of the newsletter. Highlights of the Group's activities are as follows:

▲ The Geotechnical Group's January meeting was on "the design and installation of tiebacks at the World Trade Center site (post 9/11/01)" and 110 Engineers and Geologists attended the joint ASCE/AEG meeting. The February and March meetings will be on "Non-destructive Testing" and "Development of Waterloo Impermeable Sheetpile Wall System and Case Histories" respectively. The 2003 Lecture Series is scheduled in May at UIC Campus and the topic will be "Geotechnical Performance Monitoring".

▲ The Structural Group's January dinner meeting was on "an innovative approach for the repair of Terra Cotta Facades." The February meeting will be on the "Foundations for Renovated Soldier Field". The Biennial Lecture Series (four sessions) are scheduled for March 4, 18, April 1 and 15, 2003 at Harold

Washington Library and the flier/registration form was in the February 2003 newsletter.

▲ The Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group's meeting was held in

January. The next meeting is February 11 at Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. The group will host an XP-SWMM hydrologic &

(continued on page 6)



Sr. Structural Engineer

Interlake Material Handling, Inc. is the leading manufacturer of rollform and structural racks, and a growing integrator of conveyor systems in the United States and Mexico. We have set the standard in the storage industry through innovation, quality and service for over 40 years. Interlake is a subsidiary of Brambles, plc, an Australian-based organization which employs 38,000 people in over 30 countries. We are dedicated to valuing our associates and providing an environment for personal growth and achievement. To learn more, visit us on the web at <http://www.interlake.com>.

We're looking for additional engineering talent to work at our corporate headquarters in Naperville, Illinois. This role will be responsible for analyzing and designing rack structures and providing technical support for larger, more complex rack projects.

PRINCIPLE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Analyzes rack projects to ensure structural integrity of Interlake products.
- Analyzes and interprets design information and designs rack structures to meet customer specifications and a variety of codes.
- Analyzes proposals and special designs to determine the proper selection of components. Prepares Bill Of Materials (BOM) based on customer specifications.
- Interacts extensively with external consultants, distributors and installation, plant and sales staff to provide technical support, ensure accurate product development and resolve installation problems.
- Estimates drafting requirements for projects and reviews final fabrication and installation drawings.
- Leads rack projects to completion ensuring all engineering designs and drawings are completed accurately according to schedule.
- Prepares structural calculations to certify projects.
- Investigates structural failures, analyzes possible causes and writes reports detailing recommendations and corrective actions.
- Trains engineers and CAD operators in the design and/or preparation of rack drawings.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- Bachelor's degree in Civil or Structural Engineering, or equivalent education and experience.
- Registered professional.
- Project lead experience for complex rack projects.
- Prior experience in analysis and design of rack structures with little supervision.
- Knowledge of Interlake rack products and processes a plus.

Interlake Material Handling, Inc. offers a truly exceptional benefits package that includes attractive medical plan options, dental, vision, three weeks vacation after the first year, an excellent education reimbursement plan, and a 401K plan with employer contributions. For consideration, please email your resume to jobs@interlake.com or fax to 630/245-8902. Equal Opportunity Employer

News and Secretary Report *(continued from page 5)*

hydraulic modeling course tentatively scheduled for April 14 through 16, 2003.

▲ The Urban Planning & Development Group's meeting was held in January and the discussion topics were MWRDGC Open Forum, Future City Competition, Mathcounts, Engineer's Week and secondary article for March newsletter. The group is scheduled to meet in February at Denny's Restaurant, Oakbrook Terrace and finalize the details of the Spring Seminar.

▲ The Transportation Group's January meeting was held at Alfred Benesch & Company and a technical seminar on "Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Telecommunications Overview" was at IDOT, District 1, Schaumburg. The group also participated in the Future City Competition and sponsored the "Best Transportation System" Award and contributed to the event. Luncheon programs

are scheduled for February and March, and the speakers are Gerald Hanas, General Manager, Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District and John Koss, District Engineer, Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1 respectively.

▲ The Younger Member Group's January meeting was on "the proposed continuing education requirements for Illinois professional engineers". The February and March meetings will be on "Labor-Management Union Issues" and Lake Shore Drive Project (tentative). The speaker for February meeting will be Rachel Cowen, Attorney at Law from Connelly, Sheehan, Moran.

■ *Committee Reports*

▲ Communications Committee Chair Gorski's report was outlining the newsletter and website. The March newsletter deadline is

February 10. The feature article will be IL-ASCE Awards nominations and the UP&D Group will contribute for the secondary article. The website design and format will be discussed with Director Harbert and will present to the board in March. The board discussed the advertisements on the web site versus newsletter. President-Elect Wittmer and the board congratulated Chair Gorski for the efficiency of the newsletter.

▲ Minority Affairs Committee Chair Granzier reported that a meeting was held in January and February. The Committee discussed to hold a MBE/WBE seminar and explore outreach opportunities. Scholarship applications were distributed to various schools. President Zimmermann and Chair Granzier talked about Golf Outing tentatively scheduled on May 22 and was to make the event successful by supporting the Outing.

■ *Old Business*

▲ President-Elect Wittmer and Director Harbert talked about the Engineer's week, February 16-22, 2003 and request for help and volunteers for Open House. The Future City Competition was held at UIC and there were more than 90 attendees. The Chicagoland Engineering Awards Benefit dinner is scheduled on February 21 and the 2003 Washington Award recipient is Capt. (ret.) Eugene Cernan, former astronaut. The Illinois Section received letters of appreciation from E-Week Chair Kozi and Coordinator White for the support and \$250 contribution.

▲ President-Elect Wittmer is planning a dinner possibly on 24th April, 2003. He is also coordinating with Chair John Vincent, 150th Anniversary Committee.

▲ The board discussed about the Continuing Education Units (CEU) and the recent YMG's seminar on Continuing Education in Illinois. Michael Goodkind is on the board overseeing the requirements for professional engineers. President Zimmermann said he would like ASCE to forward a letter supporting the Act, but requesting that better coursework guide-

Spotlight on Midwest Construction Conference

The Construction Institute (CI) is hosting Midwest Construction 2003 – a 2-day, 2-track event highlighting construction projects and practices in the Midwest.

Scheduled for May 5 & 6, 2003 at the Hilton Minneapolis, this practice-oriented conference features 32 presentations, 3 local site tours, and a Keynote Address by Frank Lombardi, Chief Engineer for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Registration prior to April 1 is \$235 for ASCE/CI members and \$285 for non-members. After April 1, registration rates increase by \$60 each. Optional site tours are available for \$40 prior to April 1 and \$55 after April 1. Students registering prior to April 1 receive a free site tour with their \$75 registration fee. Sleeping rooms are available at the Hilton Minneapolis at a reduced rate of \$129 (single) or \$139 (double), if reserved by April 1. Call 800-445-8667 and ask for the "SCE" rate. Attendance is limited, so register early!

For additional information, visit the CI web site at www.ConstructionInst.org or contact the CI office at 703-295-6390 or ci@asce.org.

lines be installed and personal development hours (PDH) carryover be allowed.

▲ The Planning Committee Chair, Director Covey is coordinating with ASCE headquarters regarding the ASCE 2006 Convention / 2004 Management Conference in Chicago.

■ *New Business*

▲ President Zimmermann participated in the Zone III Conference Call and said that the majority of the call was on the changes in governance at ASCE National.

▲ University of Illinois at Chicago-ASCE Student Chapter submitted the funding request to the board for the Concrete Canoe Competition. This project also is a key tool in the promotion of Civil Engineering at UIC. The board approved the request of \$1500 to the Student Chapter.

▲ President Zimmermann talked in detail the "Structural Work Act (SWA)" also known as the "Scaffold Act". The board discussed the details and unanimously voted to oppose the re-enactment of the SWA. President Zimmermann will immediately send a letter to Illinois Engineering Professionals via e-mail, Illinois Section web site and the newsletter. Director Dickson distributed articles and newspaper cuttings regarding the "Structural Work Act" and talked about "Alliance to Help Employment and Development (AHEAD)" organization and the possibility of IL-ASCE joining the organization.

▲ The Illinois State Geological Survey requested through Geotechnical Chair Raj that IL-ASCE write a letter to Illinois State Library requesting to preserve the Historical Aerial Photography of the State of Illinois. President Zimmermann sent the request to the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

▲ Most of the board members were interested to take the tour to be given by the "Bears" organization of the new Soldier Field Stadium in February and March 2003.

—By Abdul M. Khan, Secretary

2003 Biennial Lecture Series

Structural Group's

The IS-ASCE Structural Group is pleased to announce that their 2003 Biennial Lecture Series, "Advances in Structural Materials and Aesthetics," will be held on March 4, March 18, April 1, and April 15, 2003 at the Harold Washington Library at 5:30 p.m. Each night of the lecture series will feature two speakers with a panel discussion after each presentation. The topic and speakers for each night of the lecture series will be as follows:

Session 1: High-Performance Materials, March 4, 2003

Speakers: Dr. John Schemmel—University of Arkansas and Dr. Atorod Azizinamini—University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Session 2: Hybrid Structures, March 18, 2003

Speakers: Dr. H. J. Dagher—University of Maine and Dr. Tarek Alkhrdaji
Strengthening Division of the Structural Group

Session 3: Fracture & Fatigue in Structures, April 1, 2003

Speakers: Dr. John Fisher—Lehigh University and Dr. Alexander Chudnovsky—University of Illinois - Chicago

Session 4: Aesthetics, April 15, 2003

Speakers: Mr. Frederick Gottemoeller - Rosales Gottemoeller & Associates and Ms. Elizabeth English—Tulane University

Registration information is available at www.isasce.org. 0.25 CEU's (2.5 PDH's) will be offered for each night of the lecture series. For more information, contact Tim Dickson at (312) 440-2308 or tjd@dickson-senffner.com.



The Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group Announces an Intermediate Level Workshop for XP-SWMM.

Date: April 14 -16, 2003

Location: Christopher B. Burke, Ltd.
Rosemont, Illinois.

For more information, please contact Andrew Deitchman at adeitchman@eeiweb.com or 630-466-9350.

Section Activities

Geotechnical Group

Monthly Group Meeting

Speaker: Mr. Robbie Laird, P. Eng.,
Manager Business Development
C3 Environmental Limited,
Breslau, Ontario

Topic: Development of Waterloo
Impermeable Sheetpile Wall System
and Case Histories

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Time: 5:30 pm - cocktails
6:30 p.m. - dinner
8:00 p.m. - presentation

Location: Athena Restaurant,
212 South Halsted, Chicago

For information regarding the Geotechnical Group please contact Dhooli Raj, Chair at DRaj@Casefoundation.com or 630-924-3146.

Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group

February Monthly Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 West Higgins Road
Rosemont, Illinois

For information regarding the EE&WR Group please contact Andrew Deitchman, Chair, at adeitchman@eeiweb.com or (630) 446-9350.

Minority Affairs Group

The Minority Affairs Committee is open to all members interested in supporting minorities in the civil engineering profession. We are currently preparing applications for scholarships, which we will award to minority high school students for a 3-week summer engineering camp at the University of Notre Dame. **To minority members with high school age children:** please contact the group to obtain more information on the scholarship. Activities slated for the future include holding an MBE/WBE workshop session and distributing an engineering camp alumni survey. We look forward to new members and new ideas. Meetings are generally scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month.

Next Meetings: March 5, 2003

Time/Place: TBA

Contact: Tim Scully Granzeier/
ARCADIS
312-263-6703

Structural Group

Biennial Lecture Series Begins

Dates: March 4,18, and April 1,15, 2003

Topic: Session 1: High-Performance
Materials
Session 2: Hybrid Structures
Session 3: Fracture & Fatigue in
Structures
Session 4: Aesthetics

Speakers: See Flier on website at
www.isasce.org

Place: Harold Washington Library @ 5:30pm
Chicago, Illinois
Cost \$225
0.25 CEU's Awarded for each Session

The Illinois Section Structural Group Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual who has been committed throughout his/her career to the advancement of structural engineering. The group is now accepting nominations for this award. Visit isasce.org for the criteria or contact Steven Karlowski at (773) 693-9624 if you have any questions.

Transportation Group

The IL-ASCE Transportation Group would like to invite anyone interested to our monthly luncheons held the third Wednesday of each month. You are also invited to join the Transportation Group Executive Committee, our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month beginning at 5:30.

Monthly Group Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Assoc.
8501 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 280
Chicago, IL

Luncheon Program

Speaker: John P. Kos – District Engineer
Illinois Department of
Transportation, District 1

Date: Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Time: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Location: Chicago Athletic Association
12 S. Michigan Ave.

RSVP: robert_gorski@urscorp.com or
call 312 697 7255

For information regarding the Transportation Group please contact Pete Johnston, Chair at 773-399-0112 or Peter.Johnston@GASAI.com

Urban Planning & Development Group

Monthly Group Meeting

The Urban Planning and Development Group meets monthly in the morning of the 3rd Thursday of the month. The Group meets at the Oakbrook Denny's Restaurant at the northwest corner of Meyers Road and 22nd Street. The Group next meets at 7:30 am on March 20, 2003. The Group is currently working on a MWRD Permitting Seminar / Workshop for a Spring 2003 offering as well as additional seminar offerings later in the year.

Topic: MWRD Permitting Seminar /
Workshop

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2003

Time: 7:30 am

Location: Denny's Restaurant
17 W. 660 22nd Street
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

For questions about the Group activities, contact its Chairman, Glenn Clayton, at 630/ 357-9327 or icpamd@aol.com or the Group Secretary, Stan Walczynski, at 630/ 513-7918 or swalczynski@lightfirst.com.

Younger Member Group

Monthly Group Meeting

Speaker: Mr. Bob Hildebranski
Harbour Engineering, Inc.

Topic: Lake Shore Drive Project

Date: Thursday, March 20, 2003

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: 111 N Canal
Lobby Conference Room

Cost: \$12 / \$6 Students

Please contact Jack Franke, Chair at jefranke@haywardbaker.com or 847-484-8112 for reservations or more information. If you would like to receive monthly e-mails from the Younger Member Group, please e-mail Brian Willham at bwillham@hdrinc.com

President's Notes *(continued from page 2)*

gained acceptance in other states as they repealed their state's version of the SWA in favor of the WCA. In Illinois, this gradual acceptance of the WCA took 88 years. However, the acceptance was only one-sided. In 1995, the SWA was repealed along with other litigation curtailing legislation when the Republican Party took control of the Illinois legislature. The Republicans point to a 1952 Illinois State Court decision as their reason for repealing the SWA. In 1952, the court struck down a section of the SWA that banned third-party lawsuits. From that point until the SWA's repeal, injured workers were able to collect under the WCA, and then sue the General Contractor, any subcontractor on the jobsite, the owner, the architect and the engineer. At that point in 1995, the Republicans said that the SWA was costing Illinois employer's \$170,000,000.00 a year in insurance costs alone.

Because the SWA was repealed with other tort reform legislation, the Democratic Party opposed the repeal on the grounds that an injured workers right to sue was being eliminated. Subsequent to the repeal of the SWA, much of the tort reform legislation that was enacted in 1995 was deemed unconstitutional and struck down in the Illinois Supreme Court. However, the Court has no authority to offer a legislative ruling on a repealed law. So the SWA still stands struck down to this day. However, the Democratic Party has said that the law will be re-enacted early in the current legislative session.

The Illinois Section Board recently discussed this matter intensely and has unanimously voted to oppose the re-enactment of the SWA. The Board deems the SWA as bad legislation for the engineering community for two reasons. First, the SWA allows for the engineers and architects to be responsible for jobsite safety over the entire project even if that person's responsible charge has nothing to do with the accident. Second, the SWA does not require the injured party to establish that the defendant had an actual duty to the plaintiff prior to being named in a lawsuit.

Regarding responsibility for jobsite safety, the Board's first problem with the SWA, the SWA is simply not in sync with how construction projects are administered. The intention is admirable: Everyone entering a jobsite should

have a working knowledge of safety practices and safety programs in an effort to reduce accidents. The resulting legal ramifications create unintended collateral damage. If a design engineer periodically comes onto the jobsite to verify progress and adherence to design, he or she has a 'responsible charge' over the work. Under the SWA, those in responsible charge are required to oversee safety practices and violations project-wide. The design engineer could be sued over an accident that occurred when they were not on the jobsite. Conceivably, an engineer inspecting sewer installation on a project could be drawn into a lawsuit resulting from an ironworker's accident. The engineering inspector has responsible charge over the sewer work, and by virtue of that, is now responsible for site safety. The loose definition of 'responsible charge' as it relates to safety allows for everyone to be included in a lawsuit.

Our second problem with the SWA is the ease by which unrelated third parties can become defendants in a claim. Payouts from a Workmen's Compensation claim are typically 20% to 25% of what a damage award would be for a similar injury in a court of law. Under the WCA, an injured worker can't sue their employer. In most accidents, the injured worker's employer has a higher percentage of culpability for the accident than what is paid out under the WCA. Yet, the case law developed under *Kotecki v. Cyclops* limits the employers liability in the incident to the amount the employer pays under the WCA. Injured workers use the SWA to involve companies and individuals with the 'responsible charge' mentioned above into the claim.

This means that an injured worker could sue anyone on the jobsite with responsible charge, like an engineering inspector, regardless of that engineer's actual involvement in the accident itself. Furthermore, the SWA basically assumes that the injured party has no liability in his or her accident. Typically, civil suits allow juries to assign both the parties involved in the dispute a level or percentage of responsibility for the accident and issues an award based on those percentages. The purpose of the legal proceeding is to argue the levels of responsibility. As an example, most cases involving car accidents assign

pro rata liability for that accident to both parties even though one party may clearly be 'more' wrong. However, the liability conditions under the SWA allow for a situation where defendants are guilty until proven innocent, rather than the other way around. Penalties usually assessed to parties bringing frivolous lawsuits do not apply here. If a project or engineering inspector gets sued, they can't push as quickly for dismissal. Rather, they must spend thousands of dollars in legal fees and insurance deductibles just to clear their name. They also have to cope with the resulting increase in professional and general liability insurance premiums.

The only other state that has a law similar to the SWA is New York. There, insurers have been steadily cutting back on the number of companies in the construction industry that they will cover. Meanwhile, premiums skyrocket while coverage decreases for those companies who have insurance. Here in Illinois, the Chicago Sun-Times, the Chicago Tribune, the Paris Beacon-News and the Journal Star have all opposed the act, on the grounds that the sole beneficiaries of the SWA are trial attorneys. Everyone else is left to pay the bills.

There is a limited amount of time left for our membership to act on this issue. You need to contact your state representatives and state senators and voice your concerns with the SWA. We at the Illinois Section will be contacting Governor Blagojevich and the members of the legislature. We are contacting the other sections of ASCE in Illinois and the ASCE National organization and are requesting that they do the same. Sitting on the sidelines on this issue is not an option. Don't allow the livelihood of the civil engineering community to be legislated into a black hole.

Your legislators can be found online at www.elections.state.il.us

A sample letter as well as this article can be found on the ASCE website at www.isasce.org.

ASCE Illinois Section News

203 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 2010
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Calendar of Events

2003

March 3	Illinois Section Board Meeting
March 4	Structural Group Lecture Series, Session 1: High-Performance Materials
March 4	SEAOI Dinner meeting
March 5	Minority Affairs Group Meeting
March 6	AACEI Midwest Meeting – O'Hare Modernization Plan
March 11	Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group Meeting
March 11	Geotechnical Group Meeting with Mr. Robbie Laird, C3 Environmental Limited
March 12	Transportation Group Executive Committee Meeting
March 12	JETS TEAMS Competition, IIT Rice Campus
March 18	Structural Group Lecture Series, Session 2: Hybrid Structures
March 19	JETS TEAMS Competition, IIT Chicago Campus
March 19	Transportation Group Luncheon Program with John Kos, IDOT D1 Engineer
March 20	Urban Planning and Development Group Meeting

March 20	Younger Member Group Meeting, Lake Shore Drive Project
March 20	ITE Meeting with Doug Knuth, South Lake Shore Drive Reconstruction
April 1	Structural Group Lecture Series, Session 3: Fracture & Fatigue in Structures
April 7	Illinois Section Board Meeting
April 8	Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group Meeting
April 9	Transportation Group Executive Committee Meeting
April 14	EE&WR Sponsored Introductory XP-SWMM
April 15	Structural Group Lecture Series, Session 4: Aesthetics
April 15	EE&WR Sponsored Intermediate XP-SWMM
April 16	Transportation Group Luncheon Program
April 16	EE&WR Sponsored Intermediate XP-SWMM
April 17	Urban Planning and Development Group Meeting
April 22	ITE Meeting

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