

President

Robert T. Gorski, PE
HDR Engineering, Inc.
8550 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 380-7951

Past President

P. Kay Whitlock, PE, D. WRE
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 West Higgins Road, Suite 600
Rosemont, IL 60018
(847) 823-0500

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Robinson Engineering, Ltd.
17000 South Park Ave.
South Holland, IL 60473
(708) 210-5680

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Haeger Engineering, LLC
1300 North Plum Grove Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
(847) 230-3155

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Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
9575 West Higgins Road, Suite 600
Rosemont, IL 60018
(847) 823-0500

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(847) 640-3077
Krishna Reddy, Ph.D., PE
(312) 996-4755
Dipal Vimiwala, PE
(312) 373-6625

Directors to 2010

Thera A. Baldauf, PE
(312) 831-3406
Patrick M. Lach, PE
(773) 792-8510
Bryan Luke, PE
(847) 823-0500

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Gary Goodheart, PE
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
3041 Woodcreek Drive, Suite 210
Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 963-6026

Chair, Structural Group

Zaida Morillo, PE
Parsons Brinckerhoff
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60606-4701
(312) 803-6523

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2100 Huntington Drive North
Suite A
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 854-7799

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CH2MHill
8501 West Higgins Road
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60631
(773) 693-3800

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1170 Houbolt Road,
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(815) 744-4200

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645 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 540 * CHICAGO, IL 60611-2881
(312) 649-4600 * FAX (312) 649-5840
EMAIL: Barb@isasce.org * WEBSITE: <http://www.isasce.org>



ASCE ILLINOIS SECTION STRUCTURAL GROUP FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

The Evolution of Some Modern U.S. Bridge Practices

William N. Nickas, P.E.

**Director, Transportation Systems
Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute**

Synopsis:

The talk will focus on a few historical and modern bridge engineering challenges like Traffic Rail Crash Testing, Ship Impact Loadings and Wind Loadings. The presentation will then cover the more recent bridge damage from Hurricane events. The devastation of major coastal bridges in Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana brought about new requirements. The response by engineers, contractors and material suppliers has demonstrated to all citizens how fast Civil Engineers can re-establish mobility to a region. Through these experiences Accelerated Construction Techniques (ACT) are becoming standard practice. The final portion of the talk will take a look at mainstreaming these Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) methods.

Many successful ideas that are now part of the U. S. Bridge Code were adapted from other countries. Other improvements have arisen out of necessity from natural and man made events. Some will be funny and some will be informative.

Speaker:

Mr. Nickas manages all transportation related activities of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. These activities include serving as staff liaison to the transportation related committees. He works to educate engineers of the benefits of precast and prestressed concrete while continuing to facilitate the advancement of research for infrastructure through code development activities and communications to FHWA, Departments of Transportation and members of AASHTO Committees.

Mr. Nickas' entire 25 year career has been spent in the design and construction of transportation facilities. He began his career at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as a Professional Engineer Trainee and Design Engineer. He then joined the private sector where he has served as a design engineer, project manager, and principal. In his second tenure at FDOT William served as State Structure Design Engineer. In this role he was responsible for all structure design policy development for the State and major and complex bridge project issues. In January of 2007, He joined Corven Engineering as a Principal Engineer. One of his initial contracted assignments was to the National Highway Institute as an instructor for LRFD Prestressed Concrete Bridge Design Courses. As a public servant and Consultant, he developed a keen understanding of customer service and owner's perspective and now brings that background to PCI.

Date & Time: Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Cocktails at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:00 pm
Presentation following dinner

Location: Pazzo's
311 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Self-service parking is available south of the building for \$10
Cost: \$40 (\$25 for Students) – RSVP on or before February 6, 2009
\$45 – without/late RSVP

Make checks payable to ASCE Structural Group
RSVP: Victor E. Van Santen, victor.vansanten@hdrinc.com, (773) 380-7966