



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

Newsletter

April, 2004

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Columbia Section April 13, 2004 Meeting An ASCE Structural Engineering Institute Presentation

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 at 5:30 PM

Place: Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

Meal: Buffet (Chef's choice) \$16 per person.
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

Topic: An Overview of *Bam, Iran Earthquake of 12/26/2003*

Speaker: Dr. Fahrang Ostadan

About the Speaker: Dr. Ostadan has more than 25 years of experience in geotechnical, earthquake engineering and foundation design. As Chief Soils Engineer for Bechtel Corp, San Francisco, he has overall responsibility and manages the efforts of a large and diverse group of geotechnical specialists in locations across the US and around the globe involving major transportation projects, power, petrochemical and nuclear projects. He has published over 30 technical papers. He was a member of the EERI reconnaissance team to Bam, Iran.

RSVP to: Indra Ghosh, ighosh2000@msn.com or (509) 308-6701 by April 12, 2004.

Columbia Section April 21, 2004 Meeting

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2004 at 11:30 am – 2:00 PM

Place: Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

Meal: Buffet (Chef's choice) \$10 per person.
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

Topic: Infrastructure Conference

Each City and County will have a 20-min time period to discuss upcoming infrastructure projects. There should be limited time for question and answer. However, we will try to keep each jurisdiction to 20 minutes.

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentations will start at Noon.

RSVP to: Byron Perry, bperry@hdrinc.com or (509) 546-2040 by April 20, 2004.

Have you renewed your membership? If not visit:
www.asce.org/renewal

From President's Desk

Dear Members:

Happy Easter to all of you! Hopefully you will be able to attend one of our two meetings in April. One is a dinner meeting while the other is a lunch meeting. See the newsletter for more details.

Our March speaker gave new meaning to the phrase "Give back to your country." Mr. David Weeks, an Attorney with the USACE Mr. Weeks spent from September 18, 2003 to January 2, 2004 in the Sunni Triangle of Iraq as the liaison officer to the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized). His responsibilities included hiring, organizing, and administering as many as eight Iraqi engineers doing site assessments, QA/QC of construction sites, and preparation of designs. Basically his job was to set up an engineering consulting firm and begin to do preliminary engineering reports for the repair and rebuilding of Iraq. He was occasionally escorted by armed troops while other times he was driven around by civilian engineers. Mr. Weeks gave us some interesting insights into the engineering challenges that are being faced by military and private personnel working in Iraq.

Please be thinking about representing the ASCE as an officer or volunteer this year. The current slate of officers will be retiring soon and we need some more earnest troops to take our positions. Aaron Meilleur with HDR will be stepping up to be President but we will have openings for Newsletter Editor, Vice-President, and President-Elect. Give me a call at J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. (783-2144) if you are interested or need more details. Serving as an ASCE officer is just one way you can give back to this fine profession.

God Bless You All.

Sincerely,

Ben

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

---Melody Beattie

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