



Monthly Newsletter

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sections.asce.org/columbia

Since October 10, 1950

April 2013

Columbia Section Monthly Meeting

Date:	April 24, 2013
Place:	O'Callahan's Restaurant— Directions Shilo Inn, 50 Comstock Street, Richland WA 99352
Meal:	Buffet (Chef's Choice) - \$20 for members and non-members. Pay online or Cash/Check/(Now Credit Card) accepted at the door.
Topic:	Structural Analysis of Core Performance in Liquid Metal Nuclear Reactors
Speaker:	Julie Dewberry, Becht Nuclear Services
RSVP to:	Register online through the ASCE Columbia Section Website. Or contact Teresa Peterson (509) 546-2046 teresa.peterson@hdrinc.com

Greetings,

A few days ago I received an envelope in the mail from ASCE with this year's class of life members. Did you know that in order to qualify to be a life member, you have to have been a dues paying member for 35 years? This year we're going to recognize those Section members that have attained this distinguished status of membership at our May meeting so please stay tuned.

Section elections are also right around the corner, and we're looking for interested candidates who wish to run for election. Serving as an ASCE officer is a little work but is quite rewarding. It is a three year term as you rotate from Secretary-Treasurer to Vice-President and finally President. Feel free to contact me or any other current officer to learn what things are coming up that you could help be a part of.

Did you know that WSU Tri-Cities now offers a bachelor's degree in civil engineering? At a recent Engineering Connections event, Board Member Ben Volk was able to speak to several interested students in incorporating a student chapter! The Columbia Section Board has agreed to sponsor such an endeavor if the students complete the national application process.

This month I'm excited to have guest speaker Julie Dewberry, a PhD candidate from WSU Tri-Cities who is going to talk to us about structural analysis in the nuclear reactor environment. It will surely be an interesting topic. I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

Paul Knutzen, PE, LEED AP BD+C

ASCE Columbia Section President

The deadline for the April 2013 issue is Friday, April 5, 2013
columbiaascenews@gmail.com



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At 2013 Legislative Fly-In, ASCE Report Card Makes the Grade on Capitol Hill

Two hundred ASCE members fanned out across Capitol Hill this month for the annual Legislative Fly-In with a strong message: Our nation's infrastructure problems are solvable if we have strong leadership in Congress. [See the full article.](#)

ASCE's New Report Card Bumps the Nation's Infrastructure Grade Up to a D+

In a much anticipated release, ASCE's 2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure gave the nation's infrastructure an overall grade of D+, showing slight progress from the D in the last Report Card issued in 2009. [See the full story.](#)

The FE and FS exams are moving to computer-based testing

NCEES is scheduled to complete the transition of the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams to computer-based testing (CBT) on January 1, 2014. The transition to CBT involves significant changes to the format of the exams and the procedures for administering them. For more information go to the NCEES cbt [website.](#)

Join us for MESA Day at Washington State University Tri-Cities

We invite you to become our partner by judging student contest entries for MESA Day or assisting staff in making the event run smoothly. MESA's partnership with representatives from business, industry, and community organizations is a vital and integral part of MESA students' experience. See the attached flyer.

Governor Inslee's 2013-15 Budget Priorities for a Working Washington

Our number one priority is revitalizing Washington's economy and building a 21st century workforce. To do that, we must start with a strong commitment to education — and we must ensure that our investments get results. That is the driving principle behind my Working Washington Agenda, which lays out my vision for revitalizing our economy and creating jobs. [Go to the website.](#)

Listen and Learn with ASCE Podcasts

Insights, a monthly podcast series with noted civil engineering industry leaders discussing their perspectives and insights into the successful practice of civil engineering. An Eye on Infrastructure an ASCE podcast series sponsored by ASCE Committee on Critical Infrastructure. [Go to the website.](#)

Mid Columbia Earth Month

National Earth Day is April 22nd, but in the Tri-Cities, WA we celebrate it for an entire month with educational activities, tours, talks, crafts, projects, and special events. [See the website.](#)

E-Cycle Washington

Washington's FREE, convenient and environmentally responsible electronics recycling program has been operational since January 1, 2009. [See the City of Richland website.](#)

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Join us for **MESA Day**
at Washington State University Tri-Cities in Richland
CIC (Consolidated Information Center) Bldg
Sign-up at <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/mesa>.

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED— All are welcome to participate in events below. Training available for judges on April 24th, Wed. at WSU Tri-Cities in the CIC (Consolidated Information Center) Bldg. Rooms 120 & 120A prepare judges prior to MESA Day.

COMPETITION OVERVIEW:

The Prosthetic Arm Challenge involves the development of a low-cost prosthetic device to complete the pre-defined tasks. High school and middle school teams selected to participate at the local, regional, and national event will compete in the four components below:

◆ **April 19th (Friday)** 1pm –5 pm, WSU-TC Campus, room TBD—Use website above to sign-up by April 12th
Judging Technical Papers – Volunteer Judges will use a rubric to grade middle school and high school teams technical paper that details the design, development, experimentation and understanding of their device.

◆ **April 25th (Thursday)**—8am-1pm—Use website above to sign-up by April 19

Judging volunteer opportunities:

Judging Prosthetic Arm Performance – Volunteer Judges will grade middle and high school teams functionality of research, design, build, test of prosthetic device designed to mimic the movement of the wrist, hand and fingers. Performance is judged as it relates to the following tasks:

- ◇ Distance Accuracy Relay: greatest distance and accuracy achieved by tossing balls of three different sizes into target containers located at three different distances.
- ◇ Object Relocation Task: greatest mass-to-time ratio achieved placing objects of varying weight into specified container.
- ◇ Dexterity Task: Dexterity Task: greatest number of bolts/nuts correctly placed and secured onto the testing device.
- ◇ Design efficiency: greatest ratio of device performance to device mass. *Middle school teams will compete in tasks “a” and “b”. High school teams will compete in tasks “a”, “b”, and “c”. All teams will be scored for Design Efficiency.*

Academic Display – Teams will present the findings of the above-described research in display format. The display Included items such as data (e.g., charts and graphs), photographs, drawings, other ideas, and any necessary written explanations.

Oral Presentation – Teams will give an oral presentation to panel judges based on investigation, experimentation, design, testing, and experiences related to their device. After the presentation, teams will be asked questions by the judges.
Each competing team consist of 2-4 students who are active members of a MESA center.

YVTC MESA students from Pasco, Sunnyside, Granger, and First Nations districts will be gathering to submit contest entries and display activities completed throughout the academic year. We are expecting over 300 middle and high school students and Competition will take place in the CIC bldg. (Consolidated Information Center)
Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact: **Jorge Moreno** at 509 372-7244 or jomoreno_mesa@tricity.wsu.edu.

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Branch News



Volunteer T-Shirts!
For those able to attend future volunteer events we will have T-Shirts available to wear. If you like them, you can purchase one for \$15 to wear your ASCE volunteering pride around.

Please Take Our Short Survey
If you have not had an opportunity to, please take 2 minutes to complete this short, 4 question survey.

ASCE Yakima Branch Survey

**Upcoming
Volunteering
Opportunities**

City of Yakima
May 18, 2013, 8AM—4PM
Exterior painting of Senior housing and neighborhood cleanup. Exact location TBD. Please RSVP with Jason Ingalls. Thank you for volunteering!

Yakima Branch Monthly Meeting

The next meeting will be:

Date: Thursday April 18, 2013
Place: WSDOT South Central Region Office (Board Room)—[Directions](#)
2809 Rudkin Road Union Gap, WA 98903
Meal: Pizza or Sandwiches - free for members and \$5 for non-members. Please pay cash or check to treasurer at meeting.
Topic: **Emerging Well Development and Rehabilitation Technologies**
Speaker(s): **Jim Bailey, LHG, PG—Shannon & Wilson Inc.**
Lunch will start at noon. The presentation will begin shortly thereafter.
Please RSVP through **Constant Contact**

Emerging Well Development and Rehabilitation Technologies

Mr. Bailey has 29 years' experience in hydrogeology, water supply, evaluation of well performance issues and groundwater management. He is a nationally recognized expert in the area of well development and rehabilitation, and a frequent speaker at workshops on well performance and rehabilitation throughout the U.S. and Canada. He works closely with Pigadi GmbH, on various well rehabilitation technologies and development of new approaches to improving well performance. Pigadi GmbH is the largest well services company in Europe and is responsible for maintaining the large 800+ City of Berlin well field which includes many old wells.

We are excited to welcome Mr. Bailey as a presenter and look forward to hearing about his experiences and how they may relate to well rehab in the Yakima Valley.

2013 Report Card for America's Infrastructure

Every four years, ASCE issues the Report Card which evaluates conditions and investment needs for major sectors of infrastructure—including roads, bridges, drinking water systems, ports, mass transit, and the electric grid. This year's Report Card covers 16 infrastructure categories, and it's being released as a digital application (or "app") that includes videos, interactive maps, and other multimedia tools (<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>). Overall, America was given a score of D+. ASCE would like us all to get the word out and share the report with other engineers and the general public as much as possible to raise awareness about the funding gaps and need for improvements.



"Bertha" Arrives in Seattle for Highway 99 Tunnel

The world's largest diameter boring machine has arrived at the Seattle port in preparation for assembly this spring and tunneling soon thereafter.

For the latest information on the project, please visit the following websites:



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ASCE Newsletter on the History and Heritage of American C. Eng.

Now available at www.asce.org, only for members, is a web publication about the great history of American civil engineering and how our predecessors built this country. The publication is full of interesting articles and historical images. Find it [here](#) and bookmark it!