

Indiana Section ASCE

Indiana Civil Engineer



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American Society of Civil Engineers

June 2006

Indiana Civil Engineer Of The Year: Daniel R. Lawson

Outstanding Project of the Year: City of Elkhart Underpass



Daniel R. Lawson, right, Indiana Civil Engineer of the Year, shown receiving plaque from Dave Warder, Awards Co-Chair, at the Indiana Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on March 21, 2006



Indiana Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year: Indiana Avenue Grade Separation Underpass in downtown Elkhart, Indiana. Award presented at the Indiana Section Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on March 21, 2006

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Daniel R. Lawson

Civil Engineer of the Year

Daniel Richard Lawson was born January 7, 1941 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. After graduating from Creighton Prep High School in Omaha, Nebraska he continued his education at the University of Notre Dame earning his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1963 and his Master of Science Degree in Structural Engineering in 1967. His Master's Thesis, "The Analysis of Multi-bay Bent Highway Bridge Piers Using the Electronic Digital Computer", was a "prequel" to bring digital computers into the engineering office environment. During his graduate student tenure at Notre Dame, he was a Teaching Assistant primarily in structural engineering.

Dan began his engineering career at Charles W. Cole & Son in South Bend in 1965 with responsibility for structural engineering projects and bridge design projects. During this time he wrote an extensive library of bridge and highway analysis design and computer generated graphics programs among the earliest applications of this newly developing technology.

In 1971 he founded his own firm, Lawson-Associates, in South Bend as the President and Senior Structural Engineer. He was awarded the 1973 "Young Engineer of the Year" by the Indiana Society of Professional Engineers for his recognized leadership and commitment to quality. In 1975 he was awarded the Young Engineer of the Year in the St Joe Valley Chapter of the ISPE. In 1976 the company was reorganized as Lawson-Fisher Associates P.C. During these years he has had responsibility for management of the firm as well as a number of structural engineering projects.

Dan Lawson has played a major role in the design of several unique and complex projects including the East Race Waterway in downtown South Bend, which was the first Olympic Class Waterway in the United States. This project has proven to be a cornerstone in the current resurgence of the South Bend downtown area.

His commitment to infrastructure improvements, specifically Indiana's aging roadways and bridges, is well known within his profession, with local and state leaders and with the public at large. His true passion as an engineering professional is providing high quality professional services especially in the area of improving the roadways and bridges throughout Indiana and at the same time providing a very high quality, professional working environment for providing consulting services. Specific transportation projects in which Mr. Lawson played a major role include the Indiana Toll Road Milepost 10 Interchange, multiple bridges on I-94 in northwest Indiana and most recently the Olive Road Bridge Project which provides a "gateway" for the Indiana Toll Road's Central Region.

Mr. Lawson has served as ASCE President of both the North Central Branch and the Indiana Section and as Chairman of the four state District 9 Council. He has served as the Practitioner Advisor for the Notre Dame Student Chapter for over 30 years. He has also served as a Member of the ASCE National Automation Advisory Committee, Chairman of the National Committee on Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants and Bequests and as a member of numerous ASCE State and District Committees. Dan also has served as a Visiting Scholar in the University of Notre

Dame's Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences.

Throughout his 40 year career, Dan has actively promoted various American Society of Civil Engineers activities. He has also been active in the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Concrete Institute, and the Professional Services Management Association.

Mr. Lawson has had a considerable impact upon the quality of life in the State of Indiana through his long and successful career as a professional engineer. His many diverse professional activities and involvements, as well as his genuine enthusiasm for Civil Engineering, have reflected very well on the profession over the years. He has also been a caring and concerned mentor for dozens of young engineers who have served under his direction and is most interested in their ongoing success and technical competence.

Mr. Lawson has brought the firm of Lawson-Fisher Associates into the forefront of engineering firms throughout the State while giving back to the community by his own involvement and by fostering employee involvement in various activities including mentoring elementary school students, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, involvement in the United Way campaigns, and sponsoring College Football Hall of Fame activities.

Over the past 35 years, Mr. Lawson has directed the day-to-day business activities of the firm of Lawson-Fisher Associates P.C., which employs 40 people. Mr. Lawson is a Professional Engineer registered in the States of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Tennessee, Colorado and Kentucky and a Registered Professional Structural Engineer in the State of Illinois.

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Section President's Message

by Theresa E. Harrison, P.E.

Greetings Fellow ASCE Members!

Bouquets and Kudos, First and foremost thank you, Mr. David Devine, P.E. (Section Vice-President) for the superb job in putting together the Annual Section meeting, held in Carmel, on March 21st. All of the sessions were outstanding; the technical ones offered a wide variety of topics and holding two plenary sessions was an outstanding way of providing the audience deserved by Mr. Tom Sharp, Commissioner of Indiana Department of Transportation and President Martin Jischke, Ph.D., Purdue University for their timely and important presentations. Thank you are also in order to all our exhibitors; we could not put together such an event at a reasonable cost to our membership without your help and sponsorship.

Congratulations are also in order to Mr. Daniel R. Lawson, P.E., Indiana Civil Engineer of the Year and to the City of Elkhart, American Consulting Engineers, Inc. and everyone involved with the Indiana Avenue Underpass in the City of Elkhart, the Indiana Civil Engineering Project of the Year! And finally, congratulations to Mr. Kenneth Herceg, P.E. on his surprise award of "Honorary President of the Louisiana Section", presented by Mr. E. Raymond DesOrmeaux, President Louisiana Section,



as thanks for his unselfish and generous assistance with obtaining computers and re-establishing communications enabling the Louisiana Section to better help with the hurricane recovery efforts.

Still at the Annual Section Meeting...we welcomed a group of attendees to the Order of the Engineer, and recognized Mr. Marvin Obermeyer, P.E. for several years of service to the Indiana Section, most recently as President in 2004-2005. As you see, the Indiana Section's Annual meeting was a most memorable and enriching event. Bouquets, Kudos, Congratulations and Thanks to everyone!

And the awards do not stop there. Congratulations also go out to the University of Evansville Student Chapter for their Honorable Mention from ASCE National's Committee on Student Chapter Activities. American Consulting Engineers, Inc. received a Younger Member Employer Recognition, from National ASCE as well, for support of their younger member personnel. Well done everyone! The Indiana Section also submitted a paper authored by Mr. Joe Bruno, an engineer in the INDOT Design Division,

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for both the Daniel W. Mead and the Daniel V. Terrell competitions, which are National and Region 4 awards, respectively.

As you have noticed, ASCE is replete with awards and recognition at all levels of the organization from Branch to Section to Region to National, and for all levels and types of involvement. I encourage everyone to explore the many opportunities to recognize the many outstanding contributions of Civil Engineers in all arenas. The Indiana Section's website is a wonderful place to start your search for the perfect recognition opportunity. Check out the *Section Informant*, *Younger Member Newsletter* or *This Week in Washington*, all National publications conveniently located on the Indiana Section's website at http://sections.asce.org/indiana/Enews_Inform.htm, for more information. By recognizing and promoting the great works and service performed by members of the Civil Engineering profession we raise the public's awareness and thereby increase our abilities to best serve our communities.

Theresa E. Harrison, PE, MASCE, M.ITE
President, Indiana Section ASCE

Editor's Note: Contact information for Theresa can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

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Civil Engineering Proj. of the Year: City of Elkhart Underpass

City of Elkhart Opens First Underpass In Over 40 Years

The City of Elkhart, Indiana, conducted several studies between 1984 and 2000 to evaluate the need and technical feasibility for the construction of grade separations on city streets at the Norfolk Southern Railroad mainline tracks that bisect the City. Between 85 and 100 trains travel through Elkhart each day, splitting the city in half for over six hours at each of the many of the at-grade crossings.

The continuing delays associated with train movements through Elkhart were extremely stressful to local residents, disruptive to the operation of local businesses, and confounding to visitors. Years of study quantified the negative effects of the associated delays on economic development, quality of life, and negative environmental impacts. Waiting for trains cost the traveling public over \$600,000 a year in fuel costs alone, while employers had annual costs in excess of \$9 million due to lost time. The trains also created quality-of-life issues such as the impacts of train-generated noise and vibration, including the disruptive effects of train horns blasting throughout the city at all hours of the day and night. Local air quality also suffered from increased hydrocarbon emissions from idling vehicles, and there were safety issues with train-

motor vehicle conflicts. Response times were delayed for police, fire, and emergency medical service vehicles.

In January 2001, the City determined the best course of action was to build a grade separation on Indiana Avenue. American Consulting (ACE) was hired to develop the scope of work and begin the survey and design of a railroad underpass. It was quickly determined the intersection of Indiana Avenue with Main Street,

immediately adjacent to the railroad grade crossing, would have to be lowered to accommodate the project. Because the project is within the heart of the developed urban core of Elkhart, it was also determined that architectural treatments would be desirable to blend the project with the surrounding neighborhood, which includes a large community church within the project limits.

The project team developed an aggressive, 2-year design schedule. In July of 2001, the project scope was finalized, and ACE started its fast-track design effort. ACE facilitated the acquisition of federal, state, and local funding for the project. With outstanding cooperation from many different agencies, including the Elkhart County Commissioners (who provided more than 20 percent of the project cost), the Norfolk Southern Railroad, INDOT, both the Elkhart City and County Councils.

Without this highly committed cooperative effort on all levels of government, this project would never have been funded or moved through the system at the necessary pace.

The goal of the Indiana Avenue Underpass was to improve safety and reduce vehicular delay for the Elkhart community. The development of a grade separation to replace the existing at-grade crossing presented many challenges and required careful consideration of the following design elements: existing and projected vehicular and train traffic volumes, existing terrain and proposed profile grades for the Indiana Avenue and Main Street roadways as they related to the Norfolk Southern Railroad profile, adjacent land



Indiana Civil Engineering Project of the Year: Indiana Ave. Underpass, City of Elkhart. Plaque recipients at Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Left to Right:
Kent Moore, American Consulting, Inc.
Casey Lynch, Lead Inspector, American Consulting, Inc.
Burne Miller, Assist. City Engineer, City of Elkhart
Eric Horvath, Public Works Director, City of Elkhart
David Warder, Awards Co-Chair, Indiana Section ASCE
Sean Porter, Project Manager, American Consulting, Inc.

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uses, utility relocation coordination, limited funding for construction and land acquisition, and complex construction sequencing.

ACE conducted a traffic analysis and determined Indiana Avenue should be widened from a two- to four-lane roadway within the project limits. The selection of a through-girder bridge design minimized the required excavation, resulting in the profile grade of Indiana Avenue being lowered approximately 23 feet while maintaining a maximum grade change of 4.2 percent. The intersection of Indiana Avenue with Main Street was lowered approximately eight feet, with a maximum grade change of 4.8 percent on Main Street.

There were many underground utilities to be accommodated during the excavation. The project construction required careful consideration of selected new routes for sewer and water lines and extensive redesign of existing water, sanitary, and stormwater systems. The locations and designs had to be completed in such a way as to minimize potential construction conflicts with the bridge, rail, and roadway improvements while maintaining service to adjacent residents and businesses.

Retaining walls were used extensively to minimize the impacts to adjacent properties. The design included an innovative design of a terraced, textured, and colorized retaining wall along the frontage of the Ambassadors for Christ Church that complements the church property while providing an inviting Main

Street pedestrian facility along the newly lowered roadways. Renderings were prepared and coordinated with the affected parties to ensure the appearance of the church would be protected and the roadway would be enhanced. This project also made use of tangent pile walls to make certain houses along Main Street would



Indiana Civil Engineering Project of the Year:
Aerial View, Indiana Ave. Underpass, City of Elkhart

not settle and to avoid having to relocate the residents.

A multi-phased detour route allowed for the closure of Indiana Avenue and Main Street to vehicular traffic during critical junctures of the two-year project construction schedule. Additionally, a temporary three-track runaround to maintain rail traffic was installed prior to utility relocation. The track runaround used temporary sheet piling to allow construction of the bridges in phases. The extremely high design loads for the railroad required design of a complicated anchored

sheet pile retaining wall system with tie rods approximately 80 feet long tied to another sheet pile wall to secure these temporary walls.

Construction of the project involved 48 right-of-way parcels (including 11 complete takes, 13 building demolitions, and two acquisitions by eminent domain), two railroad bridges, over four miles of piles, 1.5 football fields of sod, and 1.2 million pounds of steel.

An aggressive design schedule for this federally funded LPA project resulted in delivery of the tracings and contract documents for letting by INDOT within two years of the Notice-To-Proceed.

The underpass opened on July 1, 2005, on schedule and under budget.

Total Project Cost: \$10,250,000

Editor's Note: Full project description and photos can be seen on the Indiana Section's Website:

<http://sections.asce.org/indiana>.

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District 9 Director's Report

by Michael H. Wenning, P.E.

Do You Want To Play Some PAC Man?



If you are reading this article, chances are that you have an interest in what's going on in engineering. If you are a member of ASCE you can be assured that your society shares that interest in many areas. I recently attended my first Board meeting as your District Director. Although I've been active in ASCE for many years, I'm still amazed at the energy the society and its members put forth.

The agenda contained a number of housekeeping items that you would expect from a society serving about 140,000 members with a budget around \$50 million. (By the way, only about 1/3 of that comes from dues. The rest comes from services and programs.) I am pleased to let you know that the organization is more efficient than ever. We are active locally, nationally and internationally. ASCE has received international acclaim for its leadership in fighting corruption in engineering selections. We continue to honor our industry leaders with awards and we continue to help those beginning their careers with mentoring and other programs. The new governance model is being implemented and modifications are being made as needed to solidify the process. Some new things are on the

horizon as well. ASCE is supporting the development of the Building Security Council which will develop and assess ratings for infrastructure security in a

manner similar to how buildings can receive a LEEDS rating for conservation. This will fill a void in an industry that knows we need to do a better job with building security but currently has no way to measure how a building may perform.

One other area that is being investigated at the nation level is how effective ASCE is in the political arena. We currently have a great reputation in Washington for being able to deliver superior technical information. When the towers collapsed on 9/11 ASCE mobilized quickly to study the failure. The same was true for the more recent tsunami and hurricane damage. But when it comes to influencing policy on Capital Hill we aren't sure ASCE is as effective as it could be. Did you know that ASCE has over 150 policy statements? Check out the web site and see for yourself.

With the recent rules in D.C. a lobbyist must represent a PAC, or political action committee, to have the kind of access needed to educate legislators on some of these issues. The question ASCE will be

considering in the future is do we want to play the PAC game? Many other organizations have formed PACs for their members' advantage, but this is a new game for us. With a PAC we could financially support elected officials that support engineering. Now we can't even say we support them. I'm not sure where this discussion will lead, but I'm sure it will be very interesting and informative.

You belong to a very responsive society. As a society, we want to provide the best impact we can for each member. I would like to hear from anyone that has an issue they want discussed. If you have experience with a PAC I'd like to know about that also. I haven't played PAC man since the seventies, and I know the game has changed since then.

Events Calendar

Indiana Section

Annual Meeting:

Spring 2007 - Indianapolis, IN

Section Board Meetings:

August 19, 2006 - Cicero, IN

Region 4 Meeting

August 25-26, 2006 - Asheville, NC

Region 4 & 5

Leadership Conference

January 12-14, 2007 - Nashville, TN

20th Civil Engr. Prof. Dev. Sem.

November 9, 2006 - Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

National ASCE:

Annual Conventions & CExpo:

October 2006 - Chicago, IL

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News From The Branches

METROPOLITAN INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH

Report by: Lenny Noens

Secretary, Metropolitan Indianapolis Branch

Hello Everybody!

We are currently looking forward to a fun day at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 19th where Sam Schmidt will be speaking during our branch meeting. As it turns out, this should be a busy day at the track since most practice days and the first weekend of qualifying were rained out.

Here is a summary of what we've been doing over the past few months. INDOT officials presented during October, we had a Christmas gathering in December, the Indianapolis Public Works Director presented in January, City of Indianapolis and Christopher B. Burke Engineering staff presented on the Pogue's Run tunnel project in February, and the Rose-Hulman seniors presented their senior design projects last month. The Environmental and Water Resources Institute helped plan and lead a HEC-RAS training seminar at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and the Geo Institute helped with a tour of the Pogue's Run Tunnel project. The profit from the HEC-RAS training was deposited into the MIB scholarship fund. Also, a portion of the fees for the upcoming MIB golf outing in July will go to the scholarship fund. Our June meeting will include a presentation by representatives from Lauth Property Group on the French Lick Casino project, and the Geo Institute, Structural Institute and Younger Member

Group are planning a Branch social event for sometime in August. Finally, since October will be the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Branch, the board is planning a special meeting and looking for names of past members who might be interested in attending. Look for more information on the Section web site under MIB news.

We welcomed Paul Vincent as the newest Director in March and Walter Evans assumed leadership of the Local and Civic Affairs Committee, also in March. That's about all I can think of at this late hour – I had forgotten all about preparing this until Ward sent a reminder so I apologize for whatever I missed. On behalf of the rest of the MIB Board, I send our good wishes to the membership and invite anyone to attend any of our upcoming meetings that may interest you. Ward does a great job of posting our latest newsletter to the Section web site each month so you can check things out and come by for a visit.



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NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH

Report by: Mark Foster

North Central Branch President

The North Central Branch has many members to thank in making our 40th year's meetings and events a success. We would like to recap the highlights of our past year and thank those volunteers for their time and efforts.

The St. Joseph County Public Library's 14th annual Science Alive! event was captivating, as always, for our community's children. The North Central Branch participated by introducing our community's youth of all ages to the rewarding profession of Civil Engineering. It was held on February 4, 2006 throughout the Main Library in South Bend. We would like to thank the many ASCE North Central Branch volunteers for their efforts and especially Jared Huss for organizing the event.

The North Central Branch celebrated National Engineers Week 2006 with another great program at the Century Center on March 4, 2006. ASCE joined nine other engineering societies to hear Mr. Michael D. Thieneman, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Chief Technology Officer for the Whirlpool Corporation tell the Whirlpool engineering story of the "Washing Machine". We would like to express a very special thanks to Mr. Thieneman and his staff for their enthusiasm, generosity and for bringing many modern and antique washing machines and appliances to display at the Century Center for all to see. We would also like to thank Mr. Jim Koontz and the Steering committee for planning the momentous celebration.

See BRANCH NEWS - 8

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BRANCH NEWS - from Page 7

NORTHEAST BRANCH

Report by: David Devine

Northeast Branch President

Northeast Branch – Edit1 –(5-25-06)

The Indiana Section ASCE meeting held on March 21, 2006 was again a fantastic success. Although the weather didn't cooperate, it was obvious that our section officers put forth extra effort to ensure a very enlightening program. Our own North Central Branch was very well represented. In fact both the Civil Engineering Project and Engineer of the Year awards were presented to North Central Branch members. Burne Miller and Eric Horvath from the City of Elkhart were on hand to accept the Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award for the American Consulting Engineers, Inc. designed Indiana Avenue Underpass. Mr. Daniel R. Lawson, who is now a Lifetime Member Certificate Award achiever from the North Central Branch, received the Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year Award. Lastly, Mr. Ken Herceg received recognition in the form of an honorary Louisiana Section President pin and Plaque from the ASCE Louisiana Section for the Hurricane Katrina disaster relief efforts. Ken presented photos and discussed the aftermath and their efforts to start the rebuilding efforts at the section meeting luncheon. We at the North Central Branch are delighted to witness and help honor the achievements of our fellow practicing engineers. We would like to express our special thanks to the ASCE Indiana Section Officers for their many hours of planning to afford us the opportunity to celebrate these achievements and gain knowledge and camaraderie with our peers.

The North Central Branch has endeavored to bring area professionals together and to help inform them of new technologies available, local projects of interest and different ways to support our communities and age old and evolving profession. It has once again been an exciting year for our field and we would like to thank our members for their support and dedication.

The Northeast Indiana Branch continues to gain momentum and have activities. Several Branch members attended the Tri-State University Spring Banquet and more recently a Branch Social Meeting was held in order to continue to keep members in contact with each other and plan for the future. Several members who attended the social meeting described it as the best ASCE function they had attended in quite some time if ever.

Ruth Wertz offered to assist me with Branch Officer duties. A late summer or early fall meeting is being planned with a tour of a local point of interest. Possible locations for this tour are the Allen County Main Library renovation, SDI or Nucor, Irving Materials quarry, or an INDOT/highway project. Please direct additional location suggestions or your interest to me via e-mail dpd02ce@yahoo.com.

Active members of the Branch include members who characterized themselves as "older members" as well as some younger members, many with Tri-State affiliations. It is hoped that the Branch will have members attend the Fall Picnic at Tri-State.

The primary means of contact with the Branch membership continues to be through e-mail. Please keep your e-mail address on file with ASCE HQ up to date. Mail or call me if you do not have an e-mail.

I need to acknowledge a personal issue as my employment situation will change in

the future. My teaching contract at IPFW was not renewed during this past semester. Thus any means of getting in touch with me through IPFW may not work as I am searching for other employment. I have a contract to teach through the 2006-2007 school year but not after that. I do not at this time know if I will remain in the area through this next teaching contract. I intend to stay involved with ASCE and the Branch in particular if I remain in the northeast Indiana area.

Government Relations Updates Available For Your Branch Meeting

ASCE's Government Relations staff can provide an update containing the latest information on issues affecting civil engineering that are active in congress and your state legislature. In addition, we include ASCE Key Contact Program brochures, so members can sign up to receive newsletters and Key Alerts, as well as information on using ASCE's "Six Clicks" advocacy Web site.

To request an update for your next meeting, visit the Sections & Branches page on the ASCE Web site at http://www.asce.org/inside/sec_brnch.cfm and click on the "Government Relations Update Request Form" link under the Related Articles section.

E-mail the requested information to ASCE's Government Relations department at govwash@asce.org. We will ship a package of information to you promptly and e-mail the two-page update to you the day before your meeting to ensure that you receive the most recent news and information.

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Student Chapter Activities

INDIANA - PURDUE FORTWAYNE

Report by: David Devine

Student Chapter Advisor

The IPFW Student Club continues to struggle to exist. The big accomplishments of recent note are that nine students registered with ASCE at the national level and one student attended the Section Annual Meeting. None of these students offered to serve the club as an officer and consequently there were no activities during the spring semester and no plans for future meetings.

IPFW has plans to offer a bachelor degree in civil engineering beginning in August 2006, pending approval from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. ASCE is the lead society for ABET accreditation criteria for three current degree programs at IPFW, associate of science in civil engineering technology, associate of science in architectural engineering technology, and bachelor of science in construction engineering technology.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Report by: Brenna Mannion

Student Chapter Secretary

Notre Dame's American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter made many strides this year. We increased underclassmen membership and their participation in our events. This was helped by the hosting of several "social" events where the sophomores and juniors were able to get to know the seniors on a more personal level.

The ASCE concession stand at the Brigham Young vs. Notre Dame football game pulled in much needed revenue for the club and for the impending concrete canoe competition. The club's focus for the year was predominantly on the canoe competition. Much of the resources (in both man-hours and monetary) were dedicated to improving our performance in the race this year. Relying on corporate donations and generous help from alumni we were able to raise almost \$10,000 dollars and will be sending 20 people to Madison, WI at the end of April to compete. It is the largest group Notre Dame has had compete in the three years of competition. We also sent two seniors to the ASCE leadership conference in Tampa, FL in January. They were able to bring back a lot of good tips to better our small organization.

The end of the year will bring the graduation of the four senior ASCE leaders and the implementation of five new officers and a new ASCE advisor. Professor Wilasa Vichit-Vadakan will be leaving Notre Dame to work with Construction Technology Laboratories in Chicago, IL. She will certainly be missed. Her guidance has allowed ASCE at Notre Dame to grow and flourish.

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Report by Matt Trowbridge

Student Chapter Vice President

This has been another great year for our student chapter here at RHIT. We have seen a great group of students step up into leadership positions this year and have been experiencing great participation from every class. We have been very busy this year with multiple community service events, field trips, and social events. This year has truly flown by!

For the second year in a row, our chapter has been picked as the Ridgway Award winner. All members of the chapter were very excited to receive this award. Not only is it a great honor, but it truly shows that hard work pays off. We can only hope to maintain the excellence that the past officers and chapter members have established for RHIT ASCE.

As usual, the chapter has been involved in as many community service activities as possible. We have just completed an activity where we assist elementary through high school kids build and fly hot air balloons.

We have had the opportunity to visit many exciting companies and projects in our field trips this year. Recently, Laura Hemming (RHIT graduate 2005) from American Consulting, Inc. took us on a tour of the Hulman Street renovation here in Terre Haute. It was fun to see the development of Terre Haute's infrastructure first hand. Other recent field trips include Cheetah Building Products and SG Solutions Power Plant.

See **STUDENTACTIVITIES** - page 10

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES - from Page 9

At the Indiana Section Meeting on March 21st, a group of senior students presented their senior design project. Jesse Houghtalen, Matthew Lovell, Zachary Johnson, and Maria Van Houten were picked as the first team in the presentation competition. Their project was a three acre mission compound in Las Lomas, Trinidad where they completed the major components for the structural and foundation design as well as the general layout of the compound. One of their main focuses in the presentation was to encourage professional engineers to use their skills for a good cause.

This is our first year competing in the Precast/Prestressed Institute Big Beam competition. We have three junior students that have taken on this project: Chris Hollen, Adam Hacker, and Yaw Aning. Coreslab Structures located in Indianapolis has sponsored the student chapter in this event and has been giving our team a lot of help. The concrete was just placed into the forms and will be tested in Mid-May. The team is very excited for the testing date and can't wait to see how well their beam performs.

Seven students just came back from the 2006 Regional Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. We competed in the Concrete Shoe, Balsa Wood Bridge, and Environmental competition. Seniors Mike Reeves and Patrick Ludwig were able to win second place in Concrete Shoe while sophomores Michael Krantz and Matt Trowbridge won third place in Balsa Wood Bridge.

The summer is almost here and the students are all off to work. We are going to enjoy the break from classes and the challenges of internships and research opportunities. We are looking forward to continuing the great year when we come back in the fall.

**TRI-STATE
UNIVERSITY****Report by Amanda Cope**
Student Chapter Vice President

The ASCE Student Chapter at Tri-State University has experienced a school term filled with activities, guest lectures, banquets, and of course hard work on the concrete canoe. The fall semester started with the annual cookout, which united current members with alumni and potential ASCE recruits.

Two guest speakers broadened our scope of civil engineering. Robert Ringer of National Corrugated Steel Pipe Association spoke of various engineering practices using corrugated steel. Kurt Heidenreich, President of Engineering Resources in Fort Wayne, Indiana, presented the engineering aspects of a pedestrian bridge recently constructed across a four-lane highway. The ASCE student chapter also made a presentation to a local elementary school during National Engineers' Week in February. A structures building activity was conducted to provide a hands-on look into engineering principles. The activity was followed by a short presentation

explaining engineering and different civil engineering fields.

The spring banquet provided a time for our current members to network with area engineers. Theresa Harrison, Indiana State Section ASCE President, and an engineer from Lawson-Fisher, gave some insights on non-engineering subjects. Her presentation touched on topics that engineers need to know as a professional, including retirement, management skills, and other career oriented topics.

The concrete canoe, named "Blue Streak", will be raced in the regional competition on April 28th at the University of Wisconsin Madison. A new mold design was implemented this year using plastic sheeting as a release agent. The canoe should fair well in the competition, yet better processes are in the design phase for next year's canoe. The feasibility of a fiberglass mold is being discussed now in hopes that a more streamlined canoe can be achieved.

The Tri-State University ASCE chapter looks toward next fall to improve membership and campus involvement. Future projects include the concrete canoe, more presentations to elementary school students, and other community activities.



For full info about the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Interstate Highway System, log on to: <http://interstate50th.org>

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Donn Hancher is Named ASCE Honorary Member

Indiana Section Members Will Remember Hancher's Leadership in Indiana Section and District 9 Council

Kentucky Section member, Donn E. Hancher, has been named as an ASCE Honorary Member the highest level of membership in ASCE. He will receive the award formally at the October ASCE Annual Conference. Indiana Section members will remember Donn's active participation and leadership as President of the Indiana Section ('76-'77) and as the 1974 Chair of the District 9 Council.



The ASCE lists the following as the criteria for the award: "An Honorary Member is a person who has attained acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or in the arts and sciences related thereto, including the fields of engineering education and construction."

Donn received all three of his degrees from Purdue University, BSCE, MSCE, culminating with his Ph.D. in 1972. Donn was a Professor at Purdue University from 1968 to 1988; at Texas A&M University from 1988 to 1992; and at the University of Kentucky from 1992 to present.

Donn E. Hancher, Ph.D., P.E. Hon.M.ASCE, holds the Terrell-McDowell Chair of Construction Engineering and Management at the University of Kentucky and is the associate dean of engineering for administration and academic affairs.

Hancher played a major role in the creation, development, and administration of the ABET-accredited undergraduate program in construction engineering and management at Purdue University. He served as a member of the university-industry task force that helped establish and implement the program, and from 1979 to 1988 he was responsible for the program's academic affairs. He guided efforts to establish the Purdue Society of Construction Engineers, a student society, and a chapter of Beta Tau, an honor fraternity.

Hancher had a comparable role in the development and administration of the construction-oriented major available in Purdue's undergraduate civil engineering curriculum. In similar fashion, he played a major role in structuring the curricula for the graduate-level construction engineering program at Purdue.

Hancher was appointed director of the Center for Construction Education at

Texas A&M in 1988 upon its transfer to the university's civil engineering department and is credited with reorganizing the center to coordinate its professional development programs, which grossed more than \$650,000 per year.

Donn has more than seven years of service on curriculum committees at both Purdue and Texas A&M. He now serves as an ABET, Inc., reviewer for ASCE for the accreditation of civil engineering and construction engineering programs. From 1992 to 2000 he served as chairman of the civil engineering department at the University of Kentucky and was actively involved in a program for continuous quality improvement. He then served as special assistant to the dean of engineering from 2000 to 2003 and was the interim chair of the chemical and materials engineering department from 2001 to 2003.

Hancher has received more than 20 awards. In addition to being named the outstanding faculty adviser in ASCE's Zone II, he has been the recipient of the Chi Epsilon James Robbins Teaching Excellence Award, the Dick and Joyce Birdwell Teaching Award in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University, and the Harold Munson Outstanding Civil Engineering Teaching Award from Purdue University.

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