

Message from the President



Discover the Benefits of Committee Membership

The numerous benefits of ASCE membership are often overlooked. Not only does membership in ASCE provide an excellent opportunity for continuing education credits, discounted technical publications, and the chance to establish long-lasting professional relationships at local meetings, but it also provides the chance to serve your community with your engineering talents. If you are interested in using your engineering skills to benefit your profession and your community, the Maryland Section is looking for you! We need enthusiastic volunteers to help with several of our committees. To view an organizational chart listing all of the committees within the Maryland Section, please visit our website at www.md-asce.org. If you would like to join a committee, please contact me at mandy@members.asce.org. Watch the newsletter this year for our upcoming feature, the "Committee of the Month" column! Maybe you will find something that interests you?

Mandy Schindhelm

ASCE's Membership Drive 2006

You could win prizes for spreading the word about the benefits of ASCE membership! ASCE's "Everybody Wins in 2006" membership drive is on and quarterly prizes are being awarded to the top recruiters. For more information as well as applications and brochures to recruit new members, visit www.ascedrive.org today and throughout the year.

October Meeting

Thanks to Mr. Frank Birney of Stormwater360 for an excellent presentation about the *Downtown Silver Spring Redevelopment Project* during our October meeting. Mr. Birney discussed the design of StormFilter, an innovative stormwater filtering system designed to meet the project's space limitations. We hope that everyone enjoyed this informative presentation.

November Meeting

During the November meeting, the Government Relations Committee is hosting a representative from ASCE National who will discuss ways in which we can get involved with our local government through the Key Contact Program. We hope you can join us!

Remember that our membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month, September through May. The Maryland Section Newsletter is available online at www.md-asce.org. If you have any suggestions for ways to improve our Section, please contact me. My email address is mandy@members.asce.org.

ASCE's Local Hurricane Relief Fund



Many ASCE members are asking how to help members, Sections and Branches affected by recent hurricanes. To respond to those needing financial support, ASCE has established a Local Hurricane

Relief Fund to raise relief money. ASCE created this fund on behalf of the efforts of our local geographic units and Society leaders in the affected Gulf Coast areas who have actively identified specific needs of ASCE Sections, Branches and members. The fund is intended to: 1) help affected ASCE Sections or Branches; and 2) assist with professional and educational needs of Section, Branch, YMF and Student Chapter members located in the areas harmed by hurricanes. ASCE has approved \$10,000 as its contribution, and up to \$15,000 as a matching contribution for gifts made by ASCE staff, members, and organizational entities.

Make a Donation.

Go to www.asce.org make a contribution electronically through a secure online payment. If you prefer to pay by check, make checks payable to the ASCE Foundation, designating your contribution "Hurricane Relief Fund" on the memo line, and mail to:

ASCE Foundation
Attn: Hurricane Relief Fund
1801 Alexander Bell Drive, 3rd Floor
Reston, VA 20191

Gifts are tax deductible. They may be designated to a specific state, but those not designated will go into a general pool.

IS IT TIME TO UPDATE YOUR RESUME?

The motto "Be prepared," isn't just great advice for Boy Scouts; it's also great career advice. You never know when the perfect career opportunity will present itself. If a recruiter called you today with your dream job, would you be prepared to send out an up-to-date resume right away?

There are four critical times to update your resume:

- At least once a year
- Any time your career focus changes
- When you anticipate layoffs with your company
- When you begin to feel dissatisfied with your current position

1. Update your resume every year.

This is where many people fall short. When that recruiter calls with the perfect job, you may suddenly find your resume is years out of date, and you'll have to scramble to catch up.

Keep your resume current by including your best accomplishments each year. Don't count on your memory to recall everything you achieved in years past! You are likely to overlook critical achievements and contributions. If you need assistance, a resume coach may be able to help you through the process with some targeted questions on your most recent jobs.

2. Update your resume when your career focus changes.

If you want to change your career path, then you also need to change your resume. There are several ways to shift the focus away from your current job and toward your new career.

By focusing on the skills that will be useful in your new career, you can position yourself as a stronger candidate for the job. Highlight those transferable skills in your new resume, bringing them front and center.

In addition to highlighting your transferable skills, shift your list of accomplishments to support those skills. Accomplishment statements give credibility to transferable skills and prove your ability to cross industry or occupational lines. Well-crafted accomplishments make a big difference in whether you win the interview or are passed over.

Finally, be sure you understand your audience. As you shift career focus, it is critical to understand the hiring motives of your target market. Use your resume as an effective selling tool by correctly anticipating the recruiter's "wish list" for great job candidates.

3. Update your resume when you anticipate layoffs within your company.

A harsh reality of today's economy is the need for corporate downsizing. Layoffs and losses are becoming more and more common. But you can prepare for any worst-case scenario by keeping your resume up-to-date.

Don't make the mistake of being overly optimistic. It's safer to assume that you are on the "out" list. Most people who get caught unexpectedly in a layoff thought they were indispensable to their employers. You might be important or well-liked, but remember that the bottom line always has a louder voice than you do. Get your resume ready as soon as you see any indications that downsizing is on the way.

Don't mistake company loyalty for a fear of change. Often employees would rather take their chances with a potential layoff than make proactive steps toward finding a new job. Once they're laid off, it's already too late. Remember, as a candidate, you are always more marketable while still employed. Avoid this trap and start your job search early with self-marketing tools (resume and cover letter) that are up-to-date and top quality.

4. Update your resume when you are dissatisfied with your current position.

Job dissatisfaction leads to feelings of frustration, worthlessness, and often hopelessness. But there is no reason to stay in a job you hate. Being prepared with an updated resume can help you feel better in your current job. When you have a really terrible day at work, you can respond to job opportunities that same evening with confidence in your up-to-the-minute resume. Taking proactive steps toward a new career will give you back your optimism and self worth.

If it's time for you to update your resume, first decide whether your resume requires a simple update or a complete rewrite. If you have been using the same resume format throughout your career, it's possible that you have outgrown the old look. What your resume promoted ten years ago may not be appropriate or significant for your career choices today. And if you've simply been "tacking on" to your old resume, it may start to resemble a house with too many additions, with little sense or direction.

A professional resume critique can help you decide exactly what you need to move forward. A well-written resume can make an incredible difference in:

- The length of time it takes to make your career move
- The quality of your next position
- The income potential of your next position

Your resume is your best sales tool in finding a new job, and it deserves the investment of your time and commitment. With a little extra effort now, you'll be prepared for anything that comes your way—and be well on the path to your next great job.

Courtesy of: Deborah Walker, CCMC, www.AlphaAdvantage.com Email: Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com

Concerns over Maryland's Transportation Trust Fund

Higher gas prices and the trend toward smaller cars is slowing the growth of the Maryland Transportation Trust Fund, prompting officials to warn that they're going to be tight-fisted about new highway, bridge and mass transit projects. The Transportation Trust Fund is used to support transportation services and various projects in Maryland, and is supported by taxes, motor vehicle fees (registrations, licenses and other fees), and federal-aid.

Two taxes have especially been influenced by the increase in the cost of gas - the 23.5-cent gas tax, and the motor vehicle excise tax, which comes from titles of new cars. Both of these taxes brought in less revenue than expected for fiscal year 2005. Flanagan said the Department of Transportation had projected a 2.25 percent increase in funds from the gas tax for 2005, but only a 1.75 percent increase actually occurred, causing a shortfall of

about five million dollars. Flanagan said the titling tax on new vehicles was projected in the budget to increase 1.8 percent. Instead, no increase occurred. This caused a shortfall of about \$15 million, he said. If the trend in both gas and titling taxes continues over the next six years, it could cost the state \$120 million, which is why planners must be extra careful to conserve, Flanagan said.

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MD Section ASCE Newsletter Younger Member News

by Jake Smith, Younger Member Section Newsletter Editor
<http://www.asce.org/gsd/sections/mdasce/ym.htm>



FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

The Future City Competition is a national program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. The program fosters an interest in math, science, and engineering through hands-on, real world applications. Volunteers are needed for this years Future City Competition in the following areas: Organizational Committee

(sponsors, event planning, publicity, registration, etc.); Mentors (weekly to bi-monthly visits to local schools); Event Volunteer (judges, directing students/teachers to judging area, etc.). For more information, contact Chris Moen (moen@alumni.virginia.edu) or visit the website (<http://sections.asce.org/maryland/FC/FutureCities.htm>).

HOLIDAY PARTY!

Planning for the YM Holiday Party has begun! This years contributions will be made to the Toys for Tots charity. If you'd like to help in holiday party planning or with the charity organization, contact Christina (Christina@members.asce.org) or Rosanna (rlaplante@scengineers.com).

ASCE Younger Member Profile



This November we had an opportunity to get to know Deborah West! Deb is a licensed PE working as a Structural Engineer for Jacobs Civil Inc. She is an active member of the Maryland Section's ASCE Younger Member group and is currently volunteering for the Maryland Future City Competition; a program promoting technological literacy and engineering to middle school students in the area. Deb attends the monthly section meetings as often as she can while also participating in the annual ASCE Miniature Golf Tournament and Younger Member Holiday Party. Hailing from Glenwood, Maryland, Deb currently resides in Baltimore City where she earned a BS from Johns Hopkins University. We recently had a chance to catch up with Deb and here are some more interesting facts we learned!

What activities were you involved with at Hopkins?
I was a four year member of the Varsity Field

Hockey Team and served as the Recruitment Chair for my sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. I also worked in the university's Sports Information Department.

Were you involved with ASCE at Hopkins?

Yes, I was a member of the student chapter. I served as the Vice President my senior year, co-organized a Freshman Spaghetti Bridge Competition along with planning the department picnic as the Co-Activities Chairman my sophomore and junior years, and participated on the Concrete Canoe Team.

Where did you pursue your Masters Degree?

I received a MS from the University of Virginia. I did my research and wrote my thesis on the feasibility of viscoelastic tuned mass dampers. While attending UVA full time, I was a two year member of the Field Hockey Club Team.

What type of work do you do as a Structural Engineer at Jacobs?

I do a lot of structural design. I also do structural analysis and inspection work. The structures I primarily work on are steel and concrete bridge structures, retaining walls, and other miscellaneous transportation structures.

Do you have a favorite project at Jacobs?

There's no one project in particular, but I do enjoy

the various design projects I'm assigned and the underwater bridge inspections.

Outside of work, what type of hobbies do you enjoy?

I'm an assistant coach for a local high school varsity field hockey team. I also enjoy playing field hockey myself and participating on my touch football, kickball, and broomball teams. When I'm not doing those activities, I like to run, bike, cook, and read.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

The beach is my favorite because it's relaxing and away from everyday life.

What is your favorite thing about ASCE?

The chance it gives me to meet other engineers in the civil engineering field and learn from their experiences.

What is your goal for the future?

To always be learning and gaining knowledge in the civil engineering field.



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Section Announcements

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP FOR OWNERS AND LEADERS OF ENGINEERING FIRMS

ASCE's unique "Interactive Workshop for Owners and Leaders of Engineering Firms" workshop is a tremendous learning opportunity for owners, potential owners, and managers of engineering firms who want to develop a better understanding of how to build a more successful firm. This seminar provides attendees with a rare chance to see how owners and leaders of other engineering firms handle similar situations and solve problems that face every owner and leader in day-to-day operations. Enrollment is limited to the first 24 participants. The seminar will take place in Boston, Oct. 27-28, and in Palm Springs, Calif., March 16-17, 2006.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TISP BENEFITS WITH YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP

Did you know that your ASCE membership extends into other organizations? ASCE has teamed up with The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP) to offer even more membership benefits. ASCE currently serves as secretariat for TISP and all ASCE members are automatically members of TISP. With a TISP membership, ASCE members will be eligible to attend special conferences and workshops including the bimonthly Breakfast Speaker Series, held in Washington, D.C., featuring experts showcasing the latest developments in infrastructure security and protection.

TISP was established following the tragic events of Sept. 11 as a forum for U.S.- based public and private sector non-profit organizations to collaborate on issues regarding the security of the nation's built environment from both natural and man-made disasters.

Visit www.tisp.org for more information.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL P.E. & E.I.T. CANDIDATES!!

We would like to wish the best of luck to all candidates taking the Engineer-in-Training and Professional Engineer Examinations on October 27th and 28th. Passing these exams is huge step in your engineering career and your dedication and hard work to prepare for these exams will definitely pay off in the future.



The ASCE Engineering News is a monthly publication, except July and August, published by the Maryland Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is provided free to Section, life and student members. Interest in writing an article, comments or questions should be directed to the Editor.

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Section Announcements

COMMITTEE OF THE MONTH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

As one of the newest committees to the MD ASCE Section, the Government Relations (GR) Committee is focusing its efforts to form a solid foundation for years to come. This committee formed over the Summer of 2005 and has already had great successes. We have assisted the MD Section with coordinating our November speaker, Brian Pallasch, and we have also applied for a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG) for 2006. Over this next year, the GR Committee plans on becoming familiar with the state government procedures, the state government representatives and the various legislature that affects the civil engineering industry. We are going to meet with a few lobbyists later in the year, which will show us what happens during a typical session in Annapolis and help us understand the state government better. We would like to get a state official to come meet with our Section for a "Back Home Visit", in which he or she will talk to us about the importance of following current legislature and how to assist our representatives with the bills concerning our field. We want to get members involved in making our voice heard to our state officials in Annapolis. If this is something that interests you or if you want to find out more information, please contact either Jim Woodward at Jim_Woodward@URScorp.com or Jen Reigle at jennifer.reigle@jacobs.com.



Congratulations to our newly elected SEI-MD officers:

- President: Shane Beabes, P.E.
KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Vice President: Gautam Banerjee, P.E.
Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani, LLC
- Secretary: Brian Wolfe, P.E.
KCI Technologies, Inc.
- Treasurer: William Brittle, PE
Bechtel Corporation

Please check our website and watch for an email with details about our November 2005 meeting!

<http://sections.asce.org/maryland/SEIMD/sei md.htm>

The mission of SEI-MD is to serve the Maryland structural engineering community and encourage professional and community service. We organize technical presentations, field trips, continuing education courses, and networking events. SEI-MD operates under the ASCE Maryland Section is a local chapter of the ASCE Structural Engineering Institute.

USA TODAY TO PROFILE NEW FACES OF ENGINEERING

ASCE is seeking nominations of dynamic, young engineers for the 2006 New Faces of Civil Engineering. The New Faces program provides a unique opportunity to put a face on what many consider an "invisible" profession during National Engineers Week, Feb 19-25, 2006. ASCE will profile 10 diverse, young engineers and selected profiles will be featured in USA Today. The national New Faces program is sponsored by Northrop Grumman Corporation and the Society of Women Engineers, co-chairs of National Engineers Week 2006.

All applications must be e-mailed to newfaces@asce.org by Nov 11. Download the form at www.asce.org/kids/newfaces.cfm.

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— MEETING NOTICE — AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Date: Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Time: 6:00 PM – Cocktails
7:00 PM – Dinner
8:00 PM – Meeting

Place: The Engineers Club, 11 W. Mount Vernon Place

Speaker: Mr. Brian Pallasch, ASCE Director of Government Relations
Program: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Abstract: Explore the various branches of government relations within ASCE, as Brian Pallasch guides us through the basics. Find out what government relations is all about and see what impact it has on our industry. Brian will discuss the various methods of participation and the potential impact from both a group and individual stance. He will explain the Key Contact Program, the "6-Clicks" Advocacy website, Back Home Visits, and other established tools to utilize within ASCE Government Relations. He will also mention some of the policies and potential federal legislature that ASCE believes in and is lobbying to get approval. There will be a question and answer period as well.

Brian Pallasch is currently the Director of Government Relations at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Washington, DC. Since joining the staff in 1999, he has been responsible for managing the ASCE's government relations department including federal and state legislative affairs, regulatory affairs, grassroots, and policy development. Prior to joining ASCE, Brian served as the Director of Government Relations for the American Subcontractors Association (ASA), where he was responsible for all federal and state relations. Brian also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American League of Lobbyists, which is an organization that he has been active in for over 9 years. Brian has been involved in and held numerous positions in various Government Relation organizations for over the past 14 years.

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RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made: on the web -
<http://www.md-asce.org>, click on "Meeting Dates" at the top of the page,
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- All reservations and cancellations should be **made by the Monday prior to the meeting.**
- Reservations will be considered firm and billed unless cancelled by not later than Monday noon prior to the meeting.
- Reservations can only be held until 6:45 PM.
- Seats will be available for dinner after 6:45 PM on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- If you are unable to attend dinner, you are welcome to attend the meeting at 8:00 PM
- Checks should be made payable to:

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DRESS CODE: Jacket Required, Tie Optional

Make your reservation by Monday, November 7th 12:00 noon.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

December 14, 2005
January 11, 2006