

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2017-18

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is almost “there”. Our meeting program committee is busy finalizing speakers and topics, for what has thus far been an interesting and informative series of meetings. The dates and other information known at this time, have been provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you mark your calendar at this time and hold these dates.

As always, you are welcome to attend the meeting presentation without dinner at no cost if you prefer to do so.

Information on future meetings this season as of this printing are:

February – Joint with Women’s Transportation Seminar, Philadelphia Chapter - Reporters Writing Transportation Stories (in planning stages)

March 8 – Maggiano’s Little Italy, Center City Longwood Gardens Promenade/Fountains Rehabilitation

April 12 – Multi-topic meeting/breakout sessions (in planning stages)

May 3 – Spring Social, Sky Philadelphia, Center City

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ASCE MISSION

Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good.

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We extend our special and collective THANKS to each of our 15 sponsors for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors’ own websites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We also offer sponsors the opportunity to have a “spotlight” article in an edition of *THE NEWS*.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.

DECEMBER MULTI-SOCIETY LUNCHEON MEETING

Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and numerous Technical Societies

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel, 1 Dock Street (at 2nd & Walnut Streets), Center City Philadelphia

Lunch 1:00PM. Presentation and Networking following

SUBJECT: Begin with the Past – Building the National Museum of African-American History & Culture

SPEAKER: Eve Errickson, Supervisory Attorney Advisor, Smithsonian Institution

RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, DECEMBER 4: The cost per attendee is \$65 (\$45 for government agency employees) for reservations received by the deadline..

RESERVATIONS RECEIVED – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AND AFTER: Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” paying at the door without prior reservations, will be charged \$85. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.

The Philadelphia Section will NOT be accepting any reservations for this meeting.

All reservations should be directed to the Engineers’ Club, online through the Club website, www.engrclub.org. Payment will be expected for all reservations regardless of attendance.

Toys for Tots Collection – As has been done for this event in the past, a Toys for Tots collection will be conducted. Please bring an UNWRAPPED toy to brighten a child’s holiday.

This event will review the challenges the Smithsonian experienced while designing and building the National Museum of African American History & Culture (NMAAHC). These included contracting, sequencing, and dispute resolution issues, as well as ensuring that the complicated needs of the many project stakeholders were adequately addressed. Additionally, the presentation will cover the Smithsonian’s evaluation of the lessons learned from this effort and how these are being applied to other projects including the Air and Space Museum Rehabilitation, currently anticipated to be a \$1 billion project.

Ms. Errickson is in a leadership role within the Smithsonian Facilities group to develop and implement acquisition strategy for capital improvements of Smithsonian museums and research facilities, as well as for real estate transactions for residential, office, and storage space supporting Smithsonian collections, conservation, and research efforts abroad. She has also led research and continuous process improvement on acquisition regulations and best practices impacting federal construction and architecture projects. She has a JD from the University of Cincinnati and a Masters in American Studies & Historic Preservation from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Casino, 1st Avenue and Gulph Road, Valley Forge, PA
Cocktails 6:00PM, Dinner 7:00PM, Meeting Presentation 8:00PM

SUBJECT: Scudders Falls/I-95 Bridge Replacement Program

PLEASE NOTE: RESERVATIONS FOR THIS MEETING MUST BE MADE THROUGH DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The reservation process will be provided in the January edition of *THE NEWS*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Our Section is in full swing with activities for the season! We just had our first members-only event...a sold out Section dinner meeting at Maggiano's! The YMF also recently hosted a members-only event, so here's a friendly reminder to renew/sign up by December 12 at www.asce.org/join or www.asce.org/renewal. Thank you to **Jeff Kneuppel**, SEPTA General Manager (and Section Member), for sharing his "Tips for a Successful SEPTA Project". Jeff's thoughts had something for everyone, whether it's organizational structure of a firm/agency to contracting mechanisms to final design details. Personally, I especially enjoyed the part when he described SEPTA's requirement to place signal houses at the 500-year flood elevation, since it showed how multiple Civil Engineering disciplines (water resources, site development, structural and rail) work together. Thanks for the Younger Member Forum for recommending this speaker and for **Joe Natale** for arranging with SEPTA.

This month, you'll see that we have a new feature in our communications...a volunteer spotlight. **Mike Wagner's** (Urban Engineers) involvement with ASCE is noteworthy because once he was done with his Presidency of the YMF, he shifted his volunteer efforts to a National committee. His current efforts allow him the flexibility to make contributions on his own time, something that's helpful considering that he has four children age five and younger. Thank you to **Kevin Brown** of Urban Engineers for leading this strategic initiative for the Section.

Our next Section event will be on December 8 as part of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's Multi-Society Meeting on the National Museum of African American History. Please see the announcement on page 1 of this issue for RSVP information and more details. After that we'll be in King of Prussia as we join with the American Society of Highway Engineers on January 17 for our long-standing annual Joint Meeting to hear about the I-95 Scudders Falls Bridge.

Government Relations Update – This month on my train ride into work, I entered my address on ASCE's Save America's Infrastructure site to find my federal and state elected officials, including their contact info. I entered their office phone numbers into my phone, so the next time I'm driving for work and stuck in traffic, I'll be able to call them. I must admit that work got busy this past month, and with the constant changes on ways to increase revenue in the state, I lost track of what methods to increase funding in the state were currently on the table. Thanks to the Section's update during the meeting (and within this newsletter), I know that although the budget has been resolved for this year, in 3 months they'll begin formalizing the 2019 budget. I want to urge my elected officials to have the revenue and expenses in line with each other BEFORE the spending plan is passed next summer.

Sincerely,
Cathy Golata Farrell, P.E.
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section
cgarrell@hntb.com | 610-290-5108

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will be celebrating **Engineers Week 2018 from February 16 through February 24** and will continue its schedule of three events which will highlight the various contributions of Engineers and Engineering students in the Delaware Valley. Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate.

Kickoff Luncheon – Friday, February 16

Young Engineer Social – Tuesday, February 20

Awards Reception/Student Showcase – Thursday, February 22

More information will be provided on price, location, and other details in the coming months. Please visit www.dvewc.org for up-to-date announcements and nomination information for Engineers Week awards and scholarships.

REMINDER: OUR SECTION'S NEW MAILING ADDRESS

As a reminder, we have transitioned from our use of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's office for our "snail mail" to Urban Engineers' office. Thus, any hard-copy non-financial items should be addressed as follows:

ASCE Philadelphia Section
c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Checks for dinner meeting and other Section event registration and financial items should be mailed to:

Jennifer Reigle, Section Treasurer
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
1900 Market Street, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103

We would suggest that you continue to reach us through our website (www.asce-philly.org) and our e-mail address, info@asce-philly.org, as you need, as these are the ways in which we can receive information most efficiently and respond (as necessary) most promptly.

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**2nd and 3rd Past Presidents are non-voting members.*

In addition, we have a number of Committees which handle various activities. Please visit our website for more information on how you can serve on one or more of these.

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SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.

530 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

COPY DEADLINE FOR

January 2018 ISSUE

December 11, 2017

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Lindsay Chateauvert, Forum Editor
Nha Truong, Forum President 2017-18
 Philadelphia Water Department
 1101 Market Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
nha.truong@phila.gov

NEW ADDITION TO THE GORMLEY FAMILY

YMF would like to share news of the YMF Secretary **Jesse Gormley**'s new baby girl, Sadie Elizabeth Gormley. Sadie arrived early Tuesday morning at 2:06 AM on November 7th. She weighed 6 lbs 15 oz and was 20 inches long. Family is all doing well! Congratulations to Jesse and Christina on their baby girl!

CYM SOCIAL EVENT IN PHILADELPHIA

OCTOBER 13 - HOWL AT THE MOON

YMF Secretary **Jesse Gormley** hosted the fall meeting, for ASCE's Committee on Younger Members (CYM), this year in Philadelphia! Jesse has served as an active member on the committee and was appointed secretary and Eastern Geographic Member for the 2017-18 term.

As a part of the weekend's events, 15 YMF members welcomed their fellow ASCE members from all over the country with a night out in Center City! After drinks, live music and dancing at Howl at the Moon, the group made their way to a few local favorites, including McGillin's Olde Ale House! It was the first time the CYM members had been to Philadelphia, and their dance movies definitely left an impression! Thank you to **Jesse Gormley** and **Kevin Brown** for hosting the successful event!

YMF PANEL EVENT AT TEMPLE

OCTOBER 16

Temple University's ASCE Student Chapter hosted YMF members **Antonio Ditri** (Urban Engineers), **Caroline Voigtsberger** (Hunt Engineering), **Eammon Farley** (Michael Baker International), **Lauren Davenport** (Gilbane), and **Scott Cepietz** (Michael Baker International) for a panel discussion on the topic "A Day in the Life of an Entry Level Engineer." The panel shared experiences and advice from lessons learned, and answered questions from a full room of Temple Engineering students. The students were engaged and contributing to the conversation, making the event a success! YMF would like to thank the panelists and Temple ASCE for a successful outreach event. Special thanks to our YMF College Contacts Co-Chairs, **Belinda Lester** and **Jacob Nichols** for organizing the panel and to **Andrew Rodzon** (HNTB) for inviting his Temple Civil Materials' students!

WELCOME BACK BOWLING

OCTOBER 24

YMF celebrated the start of another school year for the local Civil Engineering college students with our Welcome Back Bowling event! This has become one of our most popular annual events, with this year drawing a crowd of nearly 40 people, including students from Widener, Villanova, Temple, and Drexel Universities. Plenty of pizza was consumed and a lively

bowling competition was held among the students!

Congratulations to **Mohammed Hammoudeh**, from Temple University, for having the highest student bowling score! He earned the much-coveted YMF Bowling trophy and a photo with the YMF's College Contact Co-Chairs, **Belinda Lester** and **Jake Nichols**. The YMF would like to wish the best of luck to all the students with their studies this year and we look forward to seeing you at future events!



VIADUCT TOUR

OCTOBER 25

On a beautiful Wednesday evening, YMF toured the Viaduct Rail Park and were able to see firsthand the progress of Phase 1 of the abandoned elevated rail line transformation to a new recreational facility. The tour was led by **Angelo Waters** and **Urban Engineers**, the designers of the project. 16 Younger Members were led through the existing rail structures and saw the initial landscaping that will transform the park into a popular destination for years to come. Everyone is excited to see what the finished project will look like when it opens in 2018! We would like to extend our gratitude to our Philly YMF Technical Events Co-Chairs, **Scott Cepietz** and **Kevin Walsh** for organizing the tour!



It's worth noting that this was the YMF's first-ever "Members Only" event. We value the input and participation of all of Philadelphia's Young Civil Engineers, but wanted to take an opportunity to especially thank our paid members. We expect to have other member-exclusive events in the future, so if you'd like to attend, please make sure to renew your membership!

ASCE REGION 2 ASSEMBLY

NOVEMBER 4

Nha Truong, **Kevin Brown**, **Jacob Nichols**, and **Cricket Slattery** represented the Philadelphia Section at the ASCE Region 2 Assembly hosted this year in Pittsburgh! Joining them were ASCE student members from Drexel, Temple, and Villanova, who represented their respective schools. The weekend kicked off with a riverboat

tour aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet, followed by networking events and presentations including a speech by ASCE President-Elect, **Robin Kemper** on ASCE Initiatives! Thank you to the Student Chapter of the University of Pittsburgh, the Assembly organizers and the speakers for an educational and inspiring weekend!

CIVE CLUB

The 2017-2018 Civil Engineering Club at the Chester A. Arthur School is already off to a great start this fall, making it the sixth year running! YMF is currently seeking the help of local civil engineers to volunteer with the program as meeting hosts, presenters, or field trip hosts for our Club. Additionally, YMF is seeking assistance in planning local, exciting, Civil-Engineering-related field trips for our middle school student club members. For more information, or to get involved, please contact YMF CivE Club Co-Chairs, **Tim Abel** (tabel@pennoni.com) or **John Doyle** (jdoyle@trafficpd.com). We look forward to another successful year, and hope you will join us in educating middle school students about the field of Engineering!

HONING YOUR SOFT SKILLS

If you're reading this article, most likely you are a highly skilled professional. You have solid expertise in your technical area, and in fact, you may be the go-to contact for any questions that arise in your realm of knowledge. You may even be a subject matter expert! But that isn't enough. You need what are called "soft skills" to make you, your team, and your organization a success.

There is a small restaurant not far from us that has a great menu, a talented chef, and is reasonably priced. Yet, I am boycotting it. Why, you ask? The owner treats the patrons with disrespect. You make a reservation for 7PM, but it isn't honored. You are told, "You'll need to wait," without even an apology. True, some patrons do not care, but while waiting we heard quite a few remarks about never coming back. True, the owner is on site a lot, but I think he leaves his smile under his pillow at home. There is no such thing as a warm greeting. The staff seem uncomfortable. I wouldn't be surprised if he treats them with the same disrespect. And I wonder how long his business will last!

In a series of articles, I am going to address soft skills – the people side of success: the skills, attitudes, and habits that leadership looks for when hiring, awarding increased responsibility, and promotion. Watch for my next article in the January newsletter!

–Anne Weisbord

Anne Weisbord, president of Career Services Unlimited, has been a communications consultant and a career coach for over 20 years. She has worked with professionals in a wide range of industries, helping them to become more compelling, confident, and articulate speakers and leaders. She also provides guidance to clients on career change, job search, interviews, and career management.
www.awlearningconsultants.com

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

November 9, 2017

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

Tips for Achieving Success on a SEPTA Project

by Assunta Daprano, Editorial Assistant

The second Section Dinner Meeting of the 2017-2018 season was an exclusive one, as members of our Section filled the banquet room at Maggiano's in Center City. The newest Section initiative includes the use of printable tickets, which has made the check-in process easier and allows for more time to network inside with colleagues, new and old (hint to those of you who aren't yet using PayPal for this and one way to get to the bar and use those drink tickets faster...).

The sound of President **Cathy Farrell**'s gavel began the evening as several announcements were made, including recognition of the first Volunteer Spotlight, **Michael Wagner** of Urban Engineers (see the separate article on this). Next, a blessing of the meal was provided by Treasurer **Jen Reigle** and, as with October's Dinner Meeting, Director **Spencer Finch** presented an update on legislative happenings (more information is available on our website).

Following this, Director/Assistant Treasurer **Joseph Natale** introduced the evening's speaker, **Jeffrey Knueppel**, General Manager of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) as well as a member of our Section. He began by providing interesting facts about SEPTA including it is the 6th largest

transit agency in the United States. He continued with the phrase "we move people" and discussed the importance of knowing how the system works. This comprises of maintaining safety and speed while a construction project is ongoing, while adapting to possible unforeseen conditions, and modernizing a system that is a collection of routes and lines inherited from private operators and railroads. He also discussed sustainability efforts SEPTA has pursued including making the Regional Rail network more energy efficient. He continued by recounting a story about a design review that he performed on his way home on a train, a review that he was enjoying less and less as he read through it. The story ended with a fist size hole in the train car that mysteriously appeared right where he was sitting in the car. Laughter filled the room as many members agreed they would be looking for said hole on their journey home.

The presentation concluded with a few questions and then loud applause by all the Section members as President Farrell thanked Mr. Knueppel for the wonderful and informative session and presented him with an ASCE Philadelphia solar charger as a token of our appreciation for a job well done

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

HNTB PROMOTES COLELLO, FARRELL

In November, Section Past President **Jeremy Colello, PE, ENV SP**, earned a promotion to the Pennsylvania Deputy Office Leader and Operations Manager for HNTB. In this role, he will focus on the strategic growth, operations, and staff development for the firm's 150 employees across its five Pennsylvania offices.

As a result, Jeremy's assistant, Section President **Cathy Farrell, PE**, received a promotion to Pennsylvania Transportation Manager for HNTB. The position covers the management of over two dozen staff across Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to Jeremy and Cathy on their new positions!

DURRANT CITED BY VILLANOVA

Section Past President **John Durrant, ASCE's** Senior Managing Director of Engineering and Lifelong Learning, recently received a Meritorious Service Award from Villanova University's College of Engineering. John received his Civil Engineering bachelor's and master's degrees from Villanova, and the award presentation cited his service to the City of Philadelphia as Chief of the Water Department's Materials Engineering Laboratory (his "life" before moving on to National) as well as his work at ASCE, which includes the inauguration of the various National Institutes. Nice job, John!

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

#GivingTuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by individuals, families, organizations, businesses, and communities in all 50 states and in countries around the world. Millions of people have come together to support and champion the causes they believe in and the communities in which they live.

#GivingTuesday is a celebration of America's greatest traditions: generosity, entrepreneurialism, community. Everyone has something to give. Make your gift now and help us engineer a better world!

Help the ASCE Foundation reach a \$35,000 goal for **#GivingTuesday** on **November 28!** Your gift will support current ASCE programs that inspire the Civil Engineers of today and tomorrow to innovate, build, and connect.

The ASCE Foundation is dedicated to helping Civil Engineers address infrastructure and sustainability needs. Through programs such as the Report Cards, ASCE helps prepare current and future practitioners to create unique answers to address Civil Engineering challenges.

Your gift today will provide vital funding for ASCE programs focused on Lifelong Learning, Leadership, and Sustainable Infrastructure, including the Report Card, which is not possible with the revenue from dues alone!

Please visit the website (www.ascefoundation.org) for more information and options for donations.

NEW MEETING CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Our new dinner meeting check-in procedure has been successfully implemented in our first two meetings of this season. As you may have seen, the new process, started at the October meeting, employs an "express" line for people who paid in advance (electronically via PayPal). Once you show your printed ticket (and remember to bring this!), you will be permitted to enter the meeting room and get to the bar for happy hour. For those utilizing at-the-door payment (reserved paying by check or walk-ins), the check-in process will continue to be as before with a "manned" table for registration. Name tags for all attendees will be

placed in the dining area at a self-serve table. Thus, less time outside to check-in equals more time to network inside, so it's to your advantage to use our electronic payment system.

We will be employing this system once again in March, our next sponsored meeting (our December, January and February meetings will be joint with other groups which have their own processes for check-in... just when you got used to the "drill").

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we attempt to streamline this process.

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the appropriate Group Chair.

CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride
dmacbride@septa.org

DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI) www.dvgi.org

Archie Filshill
archie@aeroaggregates.com

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Eric Lindhult
eric.lindhult@gmail.com

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) www.sei-philly.org

Joe Fazio
jfazio@hntb.com

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen
wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com

Please check the noted websites as well as the main Section site (www.asce-philly.org) for up-to-date information on Technical Group meetings and events. These will be included in our regular e-mail blasts as well.

N-ASCE*

50 YEARS AGO, A COMPUTER PIONEER GOT A NEW YORK SUBWAY RACE ROLLING

Fifty years ago, Peter Samson, one of the inventors of Spacewar, considered the world's first video game, began another craze underground. Inspired by the story of a Flushing High School senior who a decade earlier traversed the entire 400-mile New York City subway system on a single 15-cent token, Samson and his college classmates harnessed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) embryonic mainframe computer in their race to reach every station and in record time.

The confluence of Samson's three obsessions – trains, computers, and New York City – evolved into the Amateur New York Subway Riding Committee and a bevy of eager contestants who have periodically sought an even faster circumnavigation of the system. So far, six have made it into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Samson was able to use MIT's most advanced computer, a mainframe about the size of a passenger elevator, to calculate the most efficient route to ride the entire subway system in the least amount of time. In the team's wild attempt to break the existing riding record they employed pay phones, runners, and a teletype hookup between a makeshift data center in Midtown Manhattan and the mainframe at MIT.

To what end? Samson noted that there were two goals for this effort – the competitive aspect (can computer skills and physical endurance be combined to beat someone else?) and the more satisfying part (the sense of mastery over a large and complex system that is the New York subway).

Samson was on spring break from college in 1966 when he noticed a blurb on the back of a subway map about an unnamed "Flushing youth" (later identified as Jerome Moses) who had gotten his money's worth by paying one fare to ride every route on the system — or about as long as a train trip from New York to Pittsburgh. It took him 25 hours and 36 minutes. This can be done because of the many places where one can transfer between routes without additional fare payment. In 1940, another buff, Herman Rinke, had taken a similar tour as a "sentimental gesture," he said, before the city's subway system was unified under municipal ownership. Samson had previously used the computer to solve some small subway-network puzzles — minimum-transfer routes, for example — and suddenly saw a way to put all of his loves together: computers, trains, and New York.

But this was the mid-60s, an era well before cellphones and laptops. Digital technology was so new that it was big news that year when a 27-year-old Queens man became the first parking ticket scofflaw tracked down by a computer search. (He pleaded guilty to 26 unpaid tickets.) Using a computer to simulate a route, Samson applied a few rules: travel takes one minute a station, a half-minute a stop, five minutes to cross the East River, one minute to change platforms and five minutes during the day for a train to come. He estimated the complete ride at 25½ hours.

A six-man party (Samson, George Mitchell, Andy Jennings, Jeff Dwork, Dave Anderson, and Dick Gruen) set out from the Pacific Street station in Brooklyn. But when they finally pulled into the platform at Pelham Bay Park after a little more than 25 hours and 57 minutes, reporters confronted them with an unexpected question: How come they hadn't done as well as Geoffrey Arnold had? They had never heard of Arnold, but apparently in 1963 he completed his version of the circuit faster (variously reported as 24 or 25 hours and 56 minutes). Worse, he was from Harvard.

With his competitive juices fired up, Samson got serious. He collaborated with Arnold on official rules and prepared for a full-fledged computer-driven record-breaking attempt with 15 volunteers on April 19, 1967. All the schedules were entered into the PDP-6 computer at MIT, and Samson wrote software that would find what nominally would be the quickest route. The plan was that a party of two people would actually compete for the record attempt, other participants would report their progress by pay phone, the updated information would be entered into the computer, and according to the new circumstances it would print out a revised route for the rest of the run. Other individuals, positioned around the subway system and standing near pay phones, would be called with the revised information to hand to the party on the run as they came by.

By the official Class A rules, which required riding every mile of right-of-way, Mitchell and Jennings started at 2:43 PM at the 168th Street station on the Jamaica el (no longer part of today's system) and clocked in the next afternoon just after 4:30 PM in Pelham Bay Park. They completed the route in 25 hours, 50 minutes and 30 seconds. Since then, some routes have been eliminated and some rules amended. Armed with better software, more experience, and competing in other versions of the race, six competitors have set Guinness Book records since then.

What type of person does this? Someone who likes systems and networks, routes and timetables, according to Samson.

The fastest time so far was set in 2016 when Matthew Ahn, a 25-year-old lawyer, who held the previous record, finished in 21 hours, 28 minutes and 14 seconds, including the Flushing Line extension. With the Second Avenue line having opened, the current record may be hard to match.

Thanks to the *New York Times* for this information.

*N-ASCE – Not always something concerning Engineering...

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

We have begun our **Section Volunteer Spotlight** effort to focus on our members who give their time and effort to provide meaningful programming and services to our Section or promote our Section nationally through their volunteer efforts. This gives us an opportunity to also highlight those who do not have an "official" capacity as an officer or Director.



This month, **Michael Wagner** has been nominated for the Spotlight. Mike is a Deputy Practice Leader in the Ports and Waterways Practice at Urban Engineers at its headquarters in Center City. He has been

with Urban for the past 17 years. He was an active member of our Younger Member Forum for a number of years, serving as the Forum's President in 2010-11, and he was recognized as our Young Civil Engineer in 2011 for his contributions.

These days, Mike has been involved with ASCE National's Coasts, Oceans, Ports and Rivers Institute (COPRI) at the National level. He currently serves with a few subcommittees within the Institute. These include the following:

- The Berthing Velocity Subcommittee, which is focused on collecting actual berthing velocity data for various vessel sizes within the US to confirm current accepted design values, and ensure adequate fender system design at port facilities.
- The Protection and Rehabilitation of Waterfront Structures Subcommittee, which monitors the development of guidelines for inspection and protection of waterfront structures in a marine environment.
- The Ports 2019 Organizing Subcommittee, which is planning and organizing the 2019 Ports Conference in Pittsburgh. The Ports and Harbors Committee of COPTI conducts a conference every on port-related projects and issues every three years at varying locations.

We would like to cite Mike as our Volunteer of the Month for his noted activity and assistance in COPRI.

If you know a member who should be recognized for his/her volunteer service, please feel free to nominate that person for consideration for our Volunteer Spotlight. More information and the nomination form are provided on our website.

**The single biggest problem
in communication is
the illusion that it
has taken place.**

– George Bernard Shaw

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

Your dues statement/invoice for 2018 should have landed in your mailbox (and e-mail inbox) from National in the past couple of weeks. As noted on the invoice, you can pay by check or electronically. Either way, please don't forget to pay your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues (both are due on January 1, with some incentives currently being offered for early renewal).

Keep in mind that your membership entitles you to be eligible for ASCE Member Advantages. These encompass benefits in several member discount programs including professional liability insurance, life insurance, credit cards and banking services, and rental car discounts. ASCE always looks to negotiate the best deal for members. Similarly, when members save through these programs, ASCE earns revenue that helps keep your dues rates as low as possible. Please check asce.org for the details on these offers and programs.

There are additionally a number of free eLearning Webinars available to help you develop critical career skills, with topics covering a broad range of technical interests, leadership development tools, and key member programs. One of the most popular benefits of membership is that every year you can earn up to five free PDHs for the eligible ASCE On-Demand Webinar courses you successfully complete. Every year we update the list of courses to ensure we have relevant and timely topics across all the major facets of Civil Engineering.

This benefit is perfect to share with your peers as part of your referral efforts for the Member Get a Member program, as it will help them stay current and up-to-date with their professional requirements. Through this program you can receive a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card for each new professional member you refer. Please visit asce.org and review the Member Get a Member page for more information. You can refer up to five colleagues at a time, by providing their name and email address, and they will be sent a few emails with information about ASCE on your behalf.

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