



### SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2017-18

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is starting to take shape. Our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be 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 use this to 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:

#### 2017

**December 8** (Friday) – “Multi-society” meeting (Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia and others)  
Topic – National Museum of African-American History Construction • Location to be announced

#### 2018

**January 17** (Wednesday) – Joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers, Delaware Valley Section • Radisson Hotel/Valley Forge Casino, Valley Forge • Cocktails 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM, Meeting 8 PM • Topic – Scudders Falls/I-95 Bridge Replacement Program

**February** – in planning stages

**March 8** – Maggiano’s Little Italy, Center City  
Topic to be determined

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

**May 3** – Spring Social, Sky Philadelphia, Center City

#### ASCE VISION

*Civil Engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life.*

#### ASCE MISSION

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

### OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

**Maggiano’s Little Italy**, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City

**SUBJECT: New York City East Side Access and 2nd Avenue Subway “Mega Projects”**

**SPEAKERS: William Thomsen, PE and Edwin Williamson, PE**, Urban Engineers

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, OCTOBER 2.** The cost per attendee is \$40, with a half-price (\$20) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

**RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER OCTOBER 2** – Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be charged \$50 (government agency employees and students will be charged the regular \$20 rate), but will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. Please note that payment via PayPal will NOT be available at the close at the reservation deadline.

**SPECIAL FEATURE: Drexel University Night** – The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering of Drexel University will be highlighted at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students are cordially invited to attend and participate.

**THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

Reservations can be made via e-mail at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or electronically through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and pay via **PayPal**. As noted above, the PayPal option will NOT be available as a payment option after the reservation deadline. Payment for reservations by check (made payable to “Philadelphia Section ASCE”) will be accepted at the reservation table at the door as an option to electronic payment.

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. This will be subject to room capacity constraints.

**ACCESS AND PARKING:** Maggiano’s is a short walk from SEPTA’s Jefferson Regional Rail station and a half-block from bus routes, the Subway-Surface Trolleys and the Market-Frankford Line on Market Street. There is a parking garage directly above the restaurant for which validation can be offered for a reduced price of \$8 for up to 6 hours.

Transit patterns in New York City will be greatly affected by two current “mega projects”, one partly completed and one underway. The Second Avenue Subway, which opened its first phase for service on January 1, provides a long-planned (since 1929!) rapid transit extension to help relieve severe overcrowding on the nearby Lexington Avenue Subway, the busiest line in the system. It is the first major north-south subway line opened in Manhattan since 1940 and is the first of four phases

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### NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

**Maggiano’s Little Italy**, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City

More information will be provided in the November edition of *THE NEWS*.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The weather is getting cooler, kids are back in school, and Pumpkin Spice coffee is back...which means it's also **Professional Society Season!** With so many choices of professional societies, I hope you can appreciate being part of the largest Professional Civil Engineering network in the world. Although ASCE is not a niche organization, it does unify Civil Engineers (no matter the discipline) who strive to advance the Civil Engineering profession and serve the public good. This year the Section and technical groups have a wide spectrum of Civil Engineering presentations and tours lined up. And if the topics aren't appealing, there's always the Section dinner meetings at Maggiano's...there's no doubt our meetings offer the best food!

During the summer, our Section board was hard at work brainstorming and planning how we can improve. Here's a glimpse at the first changes you'll see this year:

- **Engaging New Volunteers** – **Kevin Brown** will be leading this effort starting off with a volunteer spotlight which will be featured in each of our newsletters and at each Section dinner meeting.
- **Improving Internal Operations** – **Kazi M. Hassan** mastered getting over 300 people checked into last year's *Dream Big* Imax event in 15 minutes. He'll be applying similar concepts to help speed up our check in line during the dinner meetings. Beginning with the October 5th dinner meeting, we'll have a 'fast pass' line for those who have paid in advance and remember to bring their printed ticket.
- **Government Relations** – **Spencer Finch** will be providing us updates on what is happening at the State Capital as part of each dinner meeting and in our newsletters.

**Jeanien Wilson, Angelo Waters, Cricket Slattery and Joe Natale** are also hard at work developing initiatives that are new for the Philadelphia Section and are outside of our annual reoccurring efforts. We'll be releasing more details on these initiatives as the year progresses.

If you recall at the beginning of my presidency I issued a challenge to become more engaged in politics. Here's my Government Relations Update: Building off my participation in ASCE's Pennsylvania Legislative Day back in May, I have been contributing to my firm's Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC helps to discuss issues impacting the Civil Engineering industry and not on political parties. In the past few months, I have also become involved in my firm's regular meetings to review the current political climate which includes the state budget stalemate. As I write this letter, any day now, the state Legislature will vote upon a revenue package that proposes to divert Pennsylvania's Public Transit Trust Fund, Multimodal Fund, Infrastructure Bank and Conservation Program funds to help balance the budget. If this were to happen, this could stall or cancel projects or reduce services... thus impacting quality of life and our industry. This is something we should be following and taking action to express our views. Stay tuned.

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

## OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

*Continued from page 1*

that, when completed, will provide a new transit spine on the City's East Side from the Financial District to East Harlem. The second project is the East Side Access Program, which will bring MTA Long Island Railroad trains into a new terminal alongside Grand Central Terminal, greatly relieving the Railroad's overtaxed Penn Station, its only Manhattan terminal. The program will highlight some of the challenges faced, solutions developed, and uncommon approaches used to solve a number of the more difficult heavy civil construction challenges related to tunnel mining.

Section Past President **Bill Thomsen** has been with Urban Engineers for nearly his entire career and serves as the Senior Vice President in charge of the firm's transit oversight and national consulting efforts, including the operations of its New York operations. **Ed Williamson** is a Vice President with Urban Engineers at its New York City office and leads the office's Program Management practice, including directing Project Manager Oversight services for the Federal Transit Administration for both the East Side Access and 2nd Avenue Subway efforts.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

As you may know, the ASCE Philadelphia Section relies on volunteers from its membership to provide meaningful programming to the membership. Without the service of these volunteers this organization could not exist, so in efforts to share with you some of what our outstanding volunteers are doing, the Philadelphia Section will soon be highlighting those volunteers through the ASCE Philadelphia Section Volunteer Spotlight. Please be on the lookout for more information and how you can nominate a colleague to be spotlighted for their dedication to ASCE.

**The joy of engineering  
is to find a straight line  
on a double logarithmic  
diagram.**

– Thomas Koenig

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2017-18 SEASON

### PRESIDENT

Cathy G. Farrell, HNTB, Inc.

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc.

### VICE PRESIDENT

Kazi M. Hassan, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

### SECRETARY

Briana Earle, Langan Engineering  
& Environmental Services

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Chris Renfro, Phila. Dept. of Streets

### TREASURER

Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

### ASSISTANT TREASURER

Joseph Natale, WSP

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mohamed Elghawy, Traffic Planning &  
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### DIRECTORS

Andrew Bechtel, College of New Jersey ('17-'19)

Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers, Inc. ('17-'19)

Spencer Finch, Langan Engineering &  
Environmental Sciences ('16-'18)

Troy Illig, WSP ('16-'18)

Joseph Natale, WSP ('16-'18)

Jeanien Wilson, Phila. Dept. of Streets ('17-'19)

### PAST PRESIDENTS\*

Guy DiMartino, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

AnnMarie L. Vigilante, Langan Engineering &  
Environmental Sciences

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.

*\*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.*

### President — Cathy G. Farrell, PE

Assistant Department Manager, Transportation  
HNTB, Inc.

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### Secretary — Briana Earle, EIT

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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of *THE NEWS*

Robert Wright

Section Outreach Coordinator

Briana Earle

### SEND COPY TO:

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530 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

### COPY DEADLINE FOR

November 2017 ISSUE

October 13, 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

### YOUNG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE LUNCHEON JULY 20

**Kevin Brown, Ajin Fatima, Katrina Lawrence, Chris Renfro, and Nha Truong** of YMF presented to a group of roughly 25 young government employees on the professional advantages of ASCE Membership. During the panel discussion, the presenters gave an overview of the Society as well as the benefits and opportunities that YMF can provide for government employees. They engaged the audience by sharing their own personal experiences with the YMF and how it has helped them grow as professionals. Many of the guests stayed following the presentation to have one-on-one discussions and find out more information on how to become involved!

### STEPPINGSTONE OUTREACH JULY 26



YMF visited William Penn Charter school to present at a career day for Steppingstone Scholars. We spoke with three classes including 60 students from the incoming 7th, 8th, and 10th grades. Students listened to presentations about electrical engineering, architecture, and various concentrations within Civil Engineering. The students were eager to learn how the different fields work together to produce a successful project. Thank you to The Steppingstone Academy for their invitation to the event, **Katrina Lawrence** for coordinating, and the five volunteers from HNTB including **Cathy Farrell, Kofi Nyarko, Devin Plantamura, Stephen Diehl, and Bob Verhelle**, who shared their time, experience and knowledge with the students.

### 2017 YOUNGER MEMBER LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM AUGUST 4-6 – RESTON, VA

ASCE's Committee on Younger Members (CYM) hosted its annual Younger Member Leadership Symposium (YMLS) at National Headquarters in Reston. Approximately 50 young professionals from around the country met to develop their leadership skills, communication styles, and management methodology, including our own Joe Natale. The YMLS included discussions on personal goal-making, decision fatigue, and having difficult conversations. Attendees were also treated to a mentorship panel of ASCE leadership personnel, including ASCE President-Elect **Kristina Swallow**! The YMLS is

growing every year, and those who look to be leaders in ASCE should make all attempts to attend! Thank you to CYM for organizing and hosting such an in-depth leadership event!

### ASCE PRACTITIONER AND FACULTY ADVISOR TRAINING WORKSHOP AUGUST 11-12 – RESTON, VA

Scott Cepietz, Practitioner Advisor for the Villanova Student Chapter and YMF Co-Technical Chair, was selected to participate in the Practitioner and Faculty Advisor Training Workshop at National Headquarters. The workshop brought together student chapter advisors from all over the world for two days of training exercises and discussions on how to help and strengthen their student chapters. Within the discussions, each advisor shared personal stories on successes and difficulties they experienced and provided guidance on how these stories can be applied to other chapters. The opportunity to network with fellow advisors, as well as the discussions on lessons learned was invaluable.

### COLLEGE CONTACT LEADERS KICKOFF MEETING AUGUST 22

College student engagement for the 2017-18 year started up with the annual College Contacts Kickoff Meeting. YMF proudly collaborates with Student Chapters in the Philadelphia area, including Drexel University, Swarthmore College, Temple University, Villanova University, and Widener University, as well as representatives from schools in our neighboring sections, Lehigh University and The College of New Jersey. The College Contact Kickoff Meeting gives YMF a chance to work with the local Student Chapter leaders, and discuss ways the YMF can increase student involvement in YMF and ASCE-related activities and events.



### SPEAK FOR RESULTS

By Anne Weisbord

Max is a team leader and is well-known in his company as the go-to-guy for complex engineering issues. He has his heart set on moving up the corporate ladder to project manager, but so far, he hasn't had any luck. When we spoke to his manager, Luis, he got some honest feedback.

Luis told Max it wasn't his credentials, it was his communication that was holding him back. It seems that when Max speaks up at staff meetings, he goes off in different directions or gets into the

This year's College Contacts Chairs, **Belinda Lester** and **Jacob Nichols**, led the meeting, which included coordinating back-to-school events, as well as scheduling outreach and professional development initiatives. From career readiness to conferences to scholarships, our Section and National have a wide array of opportunities to engage and enrich student members.

YMF is excited to kick off the school year and looks forward to engaging with the student members! ASCE professionals: make sure to meet some of these bright students at upcoming events throughout the year!

### GROUP PHOTO AND HAPPY HOUR SEPTEMBER 14 – FISHTOWN HOPS

YMF gathered at **Fishtown Hops Beer Garden** to celebrate the final days of summer with the annual group photo (below). After posing with the beautiful Ben Franklin Bridge and Delaware River in the background, the group proceeded to enjoy appetizers and drinks amongst the company of fellow members and colleagues. While the weather forecast was for storms, it turned out to be a beautiful, clear night with almost 50 people attending the event and making it a complete success!

### CIVE CLUB

The 2017-18 Civil Engineering Club at the Chester A. Arthur School will begin in October for its sixth year running! YMF is currently seeking the help of local Civil Engineers who would like to volunteer as meeting hosts, presenters, or field trip hosts for our Club. We are especially seeking help 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 **Tim Abel (tabel@pennoni.com)** or **John Doyle (jdoyle@trafficpd.com)**. We look forward to another successful year, and hope that you will be able to join us!

weeds on his topic. That kind of presentation would not fly in the role of a project manager who needs to be able to present to upper management, to clients, to finance, and vendors—just to name a few. Max has to learn to get his message out clearly and concisely while meeting the needs of his audience (even an audience of one) in order to get the results he wants—whether it is approval to a budget, changes to a big account, support for a junior team member, or promoting his ideas at a staff meeting.

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## THE 2017 SPRING SOCIAL

Our Spring Social was conducted on May 4 at a new location for us, the Top of the Tower/Sky Philadelphia in Center City. A large turnout of nearly 150 Section members and guests turned out to close out another successful season (if you're counting, our 104th). The location offered interesting views of the Center City skyline and beyond, and the happy hour was hopping as President **Guy DiMartino** presided over his last meeting and had the challenging task of getting folks into the meeting room and away from the happy hour and views to get things started. Once the crowd was settled, Past President **Ruben David** gave his usual good blessing of the meal and guests began enjoying their dinners.

Following dinner, the usual order of business was begun. Two of our Section prize winners at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs were in attendance, with their award-winning projects on display during the cocktail hour. Section Awards were presented to several nominees (more detail is given below). The slate of incoming Officers and Board Members for the 2017-18 season was introduced, with Region Governor **Carol Martsoff** administering the Oath of Office. The "finale" of the evening was the passage of the gavel, as President DiMartino conducted his last act as President and introduced incoming President **Cathy Farrell**, who closed the evening with her remarks.

As noted, two of our Section's Science Fairs awardees were in attendance, and Past President **Bob Wright**, standing in for Past President **Chris Rood**, chair of the Section's Science Fairs judging contingent, recognized them. These hopefully aspiring Engineers were Grades 6-8 First Place winner **Cody McBride**, a 7th Grade student at his homeschooling in Medford, NJ, with the project "*Harvesting Free Energy from Powerful Waves*", and Grades 9-12 First Place winner **Lea Burton**, in the 9th Grade at Marine Academy of Technology/Environmental Science, Manahawkin, NJ, with her effort "*How Do Soil Nutrients in Natural Vs. Replenished Dunes Affect the Growth of Vegetation?*". Both Cody and Lea managed to survive the grilling they likely received on their projects, which were on display during the networking hour to show what they had done to win our awards, as well as a little teasing from Bob.

We also cited forty (yes, not a typo – forty!) members who were nominated for Section Awards for 2017, using the audiovisual show that has been produced for this purpose (and well-received, as usual) for many years to cover their accomplishments. Information on each of the awardees follows.

### PHILADELPHIA CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR JOHN NAWN

The recipient of our Section's highest honor this year, John is a Civil Engineering expert with Fleisher Forensics in Ambler and has held this position since 2012. In this capacity, he assists Engineering and architectural firms, attorneys, law firms, insurance companies, municipalities,

and industry in the evaluation and resolution of litigation and claims matters. He handles activities including professional liability matters, accident evaluation, determination of the safety of traffic and roadway elements, evaluation of pedestrian safety, and determination of compliance with various codes. Prior to his employment at Fleisher, he served at several local consulting firms in highway, traffic and transportation design.

John received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1987 and returned to earn his Masters degree in 2012. He has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, where he is the current statewide President, as well as several other societies. Earlier this year, he was installed as the 2017 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year.

### PHILA. YOUNG CIVIL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR KEVIN BROWN

Kevin is an Assistant Resident Engineer with Urban Engineers at its headquarters in Center City. He has been with Urban since 2009 and has been involved at several levels as an owner's representative and on-site engineer, where he works closely with design professionals, contractors and owners to oversee the various challenges and issues that occur particularly with the structural aspects of construction projects. Among the significant infrastructure projects in our area on which he has been involved are the Gustine Lake Interchange reconstruction, the rebuilding of Bristol Pike in Bucks County, and the construction of the I-95 interchange with the Pennsylvania Turnpike currently underway.

Kevin is a graduate of Widener University, where he received both his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 2009 and his Masters degree in 2014. He completed his term as President of our Section's Younger Member Forum in May. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and directs the Young Engineers Social for its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. He serves on the board of the ACE Mentoring program.

### EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR FRANK FALCONE

Frank is the Director of Professional Development and Experiential Education in the College of Engineering at Villanova University, a position he assumed last year to manage the University's new Professional Development Program. For the past 43 years he has also served as a Professor in the College's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, where he ably instructed thousands of students in the areas of hydraulics, hydrology, fluid mechanics, flood control measures, stormwater control, and related topics. He has additionally served in the United States Navy, where he is a retired Captain, and has been involved in consulting in Engineering design as well as for the United States Department of State.

Frank received his Bachelors degree from Villanova in 1970 and returned for his Masters degree three years later. He served as the Faculty

Advisor for the ASCE Villanova Student Chapter for many years. He has been recognized with various awards for his teaching and consulting efforts throughout his career.

### GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR ROBERT CRAWFORD

Bob is the Chief Engineer for James J. Anderson Construction Company in Northeast Philadelphia, where he manages the Engineering activities necessary for the firm's construction projects, and has held this position since 2009. He has been in the local heavy and highway construction field for over 30 years, working with contractors, with an emphasis on bridges and foundations. He has been an integral team member in various sections of the I-95 reconstruction program, including the Girard Avenue Interchange reconstruction currently underway, and the Cobbs Creek section of the Market Street Elevated project for SEPTA in 2007.

Bob is a graduate of Drexel University, where he received both his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1986 and his Masters in the following year. He is an active member of our Section's Delaware Valley GeoInstitute and a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR JAMES PEZZOTTI

Jim was recently appointed as an Associate Vice President at Pennoni Associates at its headquarters in Center City. He serves as a project manager and lead bridge Engineer with Pennoni and manages the firm's Philadelphia Bridge Group. He has a total of thirty-one years of experience in bridge design, structural rehabilitation and construction, both in government and private consulting. Among his many local projects are the award-winning restoration of the Rapps Dam Road Covered Bridge, the Burlington-Bristol Bridge Counter-weight Repair effort, movable span repairs on the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge, and the currently-underway replacement of seven bridges across mainline I-676 in Center City for PennDOT.

After earning his Associates Degree at Delaware County Community College, Jim moved on to Villanova University for his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1985, followed by a Masters degree in 1991. He has been heavily involved as a coach for a travelling youth soccer team for the past dozen years.

### YOUNG GOVERNMENT ENGINEER OF THE YEAR NHA TRUONG

Nha is an Environmental Engineering Specialist with the City of Philadelphia Water Department, a position he has held for the past five years. In this capacity he has worked as a project manager on the technical analysis of flood mitigation, hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, and the development and management of a work plan for capital projects required to minimize flood risk. He is directing current projects valued at over \$2 million as part of the flood reduction and stormwater diversion efforts for the Department.

Nha received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Villanova University in 2010

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## SPRING SOCIAL

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and a Masters degree from Villanova two years later. He is currently completing coursework at Villanova for his Masters in Business Administration. He has been involved with our Section both in the Younger Member Forum, where he became the President in May, as well as the Membership Secretary for our Section. If you like those e-mail blasts you receive from our Section, you can thank him for his work sending these and directing our electronic outreach efforts.

### GOVERNMENT SERVICE AWARD

#### MICHAEL CARROLL

Mike serves as a Deputy Managing Director for the City of Philadelphia and directs the Office of Transportation and Infrastructure Services, where he manages the City's transportation and infrastructure policy, coordinates among various regional, federal, state and local bodies and agencies, and oversees the operation of the City's Streets and Water Departments to ensure alignment with the Administration's strategic goals and values. His office handles the City's issues with SEPTA, PennDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, DRPA, PRPA, DVRPC, the Parking Authority, and public and private utility companies. He was appointed as a Deputy Managing Director earlier this year after several years of service at the Streets Department as Deputy Commissioner for Transportation and Acting Commissioner.

Mike earned his Bachelors degree in Urban and Regional Studies at Cornell University in 1991, followed by Masters degrees in Civil Engineering in 1993 and City and Regional Planning in 1996 from the University of California at Berkeley.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SERVICE AWARD

#### KATRINA LAWRENCE KEVIN WALSH

This year, the Community Outreach and Service Award requirements were revised to allow the citation of more than one deserving individual. Accordingly, we honored two recipients this year.

**Katrina Lawrence** is a Senior Projects Implementation Coordinator with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, where she has worked for the past three years. In this position she manages several federally-funded projects that provide safe routes to school, pedestrian connections to transit, and multi-use trails throughout the Philadelphia region. She was nominated for this award as a result of her diligent outreach efforts to introduce grade and high school students to engineering. She assisted in this program through our Section's Younger Member Forum to visit numerous schools and over thirteen hundred students over the past two years.

Katrina is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 2010.

**Kevin Walsh** is an Associate Engineer with Pennoni Associates at its headquarters in Center

City. He is involved in transportation facility and highway design. He has directed the activities of our Younger Member Forum's Civ E Club at the Chester A. Arthur School in South Philadelphia for the past two years. This is one of only a handful of such outreach programs in the country and it has been very successful.

Kevin received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Temple University in 2014.

### HISTORY AND HERITAGE AWARD

To recognize the successful completion of our long-awaited 100th Anniversary Commemorative booklet, also known as the *Centennial Book*, this year, another unusual awards nomination was made to cite the efforts of the 31 volunteers who made this happen. This committee of Section members and some helpers began this effort shortly after our Centennial celebration in 2013. It proved to be a not-so-easy task. The Committee contributed its collective time and talents to author the various sections of the book, develop the timelines which show how our Section started and grew, conduct research to identify historic milestones and events, search for photographs, review several drafts, coordinate with the publisher, and collaborate to put together this concise but comprehensive record of our one hundred years of service. These volunteers were nominated as a group to be cited as the recipients of our History and Heritage Award to highlight their perseverance and diligence in the completion of the *Centennial Book*, which is now available for purchase.

The Committee's members were **Jim Brady, Tom Brady, Tom Branigan, Vicki Brown, Scott Cepietz, Jeremy Chrzan, Ruben David, Kathleen Durham, Mohamed Elghawy, Cathy Farrell, Lindsey Glavin, Kazi Hassan, Lauren Herman, Troy Illig, Stephen Maakestad, Carol Martsoff, Sandra May, Chris Menna, Allan Moore, Jeremy Pampuch, Joe Platt, Sohelia Rahbari, Jen Reigle, Chris Rood, Faruq Siddiqui, Drew Sirianni, Bill Thomsen, Ted Thomson, AnnMarie Vigilante, Jenn Walsh and Bob Wright.**

We additionally cited the accomplishments of **Charlie Mumford**, who was recognized by ASCE National as its 2017 Eastern Region Outstanding Younger Member in Community Activities Award in January. Charlie was selected for this honor among all ASCE younger members on the entire east coast for his dedication and hard work engaging the community and volunteering his time as the K-12 Co-Chair for our Younger Member Forum the past two years. In this capacity, he directed efforts in reaching out to a record-setting 1300 students across our region in the 2015-16 school year and was on a similar pace with school visits in the current season. He worked closely with Committee Co-chair **Katrina Lawrence** to accomplish this noteworthy goal.

Charlie received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Temple University in 2015 and currently serves as a Graduate Bridge Engineer with Pennoni Associates in the Transportation Division of its Newark, Delaware office. We

thank him for his extensive efforts to "get the word out" to students on Engineering careers.

### THANKS TO...

Special thanks are extended to those who helped make the Spring Social a success once again this year. This includes the Spring Social Program Committee (chair **Troy Illig, Briana Earle, Kazi Hassan, AnnMarie Vigilante, Jeanien Wilson and Bob Wright**), the Awards audio narrators, who once again stayed inside on a nice spring evening to donate their voices to the effort (**Guy DiMartino, Carol Martsoff, AnnMarie Vigilante and Bob Wright**), and the Awards Committee (chair **Bob Wright, Carol Martsoff, Allan Moore and Joe Natale**).

If you were unable to attend the Social in May, you have another chance to visit Sky Philadelphia, as the 2018 Spring Social will be returning there on **Thursday, May 3, 2018**. Details will be coming as the date gets closer and plans are formalized.

### SECTION AUDIT COMMITTEE IN SEARCH OF HELP

Our Section will be conducting an internal audit, the first that has been done in several years. The purpose and goal of this audit is to ensure that the Section maintains transparency and improvements to our financial procedures are recommended. The audit will provide an independent opinion to our Section Board on the truth and fairness of the financial statements and budget status updates provided by the Section Treasurer. The audit will be performed on the accounts that are within the purview of the Section Treasurer(s), which would include our checking and PayPal accounts.

We have created an Audit Committee to handle this task and audit guidelines/procedures have been developed. The Committee will consist of three members who will be appointed by our Vice President. Any member of the Philadelphia Section in good standing can be a Member of the Audit Committee with the exception of any Member who has access to any of the Section's financial accounts (e.g. Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, others).

It is intended that the Committee will begin its work in November and complete its review for submission to the Vice President at the January Board meeting and subsequent resolution of comments and submission to the Board in early March.

If you are interested in being part of this Committee or have any questions about it, please contact Section Vice President **Kazi M. Hassan** at **KaziHassan@Pennoni.com**.

**Those are my principles.  
If you don't like them  
I have others.**

— Groucho Marx



**CARL BAUMERT**

We are sad to report that long-time Section member Carl A. Baumert, Jr. passed away on July 11 at the age of 88.

Mr. Baumert was born in Philadelphia and attended Northeast High School and the Drexel Institute of Technology (now Drexel University), where he earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1951. After service in Korea with the Army Corps of Engineers, he returned to Philadelphia and joined Keast & Hood in 1956. He rose to become a Principal of the firm in 1963 and a senior consultant in 1995. He retired in 2014 as Principal Emeritus after 58 years of service.

Mr. Baumert is most noted for his work in the field of Structural Engineering, particularly in historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings. He was the lead structural consultant on the restoration of City Hall and the Museum of Art as well as numerous similar efforts locally and in the Northeast. His work has left a lasting impression on a number of historic buildings and has ensured their continuing viability. He additionally mentored many Structural Engineers throughout his career who have been key team members in building restoration undertakings.

Mr. Baumert served on and chaired several committees for ASTM and ASCE during his career. His valuable contributions earned him several accolades including our Section's Structural Engineer of the Year award in 2011 and induction into the Delaware Valley Engineering Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mr. Baumert is survived by his wife, Mildred, three children and two granddaughters.

**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  
wtthomsen@urbanEngineers.com

Please check the notable websites as well as the main Section site ([www.asce-philly.org](http://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.

**THE MULFORD CLASSIC — GOLF OUTING**

If you're looking for a fun and interesting day on the golf course, please mark the date of **Monday, October 9** in your calendar and plan to join us fun-seekers at the **18th Annual Engineers' Club/Philadelphia Engineering Foundation (PEF) Golf Tournament**, also the **2nd Annual Mulford Classic**. It will be conducted at the **Bala Country Club** in Wynnefield. Various sponsorships, foursomes, and individual play are available.

If you are a serious golfer, you're welcome to attend as well, but be prepared to have fun and play a slightly different variety of the game of golf than your usual rounds. If you don't golf at all, volunteers are always welcome. This is for a good cause – PEF funds and administers college student scholarships and prizes in conjunction with the Engineers' Club that are awarded during Engineers Week.

Please visit the Engineers' Club website ([www.engrclub.org](http://www.engrclub.org)) for more info and registration.

## THANKS TO OUR SECTION SPONSORS — STARTING OUR 27<sup>TH</sup> (!) SEASON

When we first rolled out our sponsorship program at the start of the 1991-92 season, a total of nine “pioneer” firms participated:

BCM Engineers Inc.  
Lippincott Engineering Associates  
National Timber Piling Council  
Pennoni Associates, Inc.  
Pickering Cortis & Summerson, Inc.  
The RBA Group  
Reutter Engineering  
Temple University  
J. Richard Weggel, PhD, PE

Some of these sound familiar, some are no longer. This season, we will enter our 27th year of the Section Sponsorship program. We ended last season with 14 firms participating as Section Sponsors and, thus far, 12 companies are participating in 2017-18. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

As a sponsor, your business card will appear in each edition of *THE NEWS* from October through May. 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 would like to join, renew or come back after a few years away, we look forward to bringing you into the Section Sponsor fold. All this could be yours for a mere \$300 for the season.

Please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

## N-ASCE\*

### THERE'S ANOTHER “MAIN LINE”?

Walter Justin Sherman was a Construction Engineer for the Pennsylvania Railroad in our area as it was expanding westward from Philadelphia. In the 1880's he moved on to work for the Santa Fe Railroad building its new main line from Fort Worth, Texas to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At the time, Oklahoma was officially designated “Indian Territory” by the federal government (it would not become a state until 1907), and it was sparsely settled.

In addition to building the rail line, Sherman was given wide latitude for the designation of names on stations along the line. Like many of us, apparently he fell back on what he knew to do this. If you look at your handy-dandy road atlas or your favorite online map, you can find the towns of Overbrook, Ardmore, Wynnewood, Paoli and Wayne, in that order, from south to north, along Interstate 35 in this part of Oklahoma. Berwyn existed between Ardmore and Wynnewood until it was renamed Gene Autry to honor the hometown of this “Singing Cowboy”.

Thanks to “*Cinders*”, the newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, for this tidbit.

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

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### WINTERMUTE JOINS VOLKERT

Volkert, Inc. is pleased to announce that **Michael Wintermute** has joined its Mid-Atlantic Region as Vice President - Pennsylvania Operations. Volkert is a full-service transportation infrastructure firm, offering civil, traffic, and structural engineering; landscape architecture and urban design; bridge safety inspections and construction management and inspection; and transportation planning, right-of-way and environmental services. It recently established a local office in Center City.

Mike has over 24 years of progressive professional engineering and management experience. His technical experience is entrenched in transportation and infrastructure engineering, spanning multiple transportation modes. His project experience includes civil/roadway and bridge projects, facilities, public space, utility, and other infrastructure projects as well as construction management. He is also involved in business development, staff oversight and development, operations, profit/loss responsibilities, and strategic planning.

Mike earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Construction and Engineering Technology from Temple University, as well as a Masters from Villanova University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey.

Congratulations to Mike on his new position!

### ANTOINE PROMOTED TO PROJECT MANAGER

**Erica Antoine** was recently promoted to Transit Facilities Project Manager of the Railroad & Transit Group at Burns Engineering. She has over ten years of experience in Civil Engineering and construction oversight for various types of railroad and transit projects, as well as transportation facilities and infrastructure. Her project exper-

ience includes design and construction management of transit stations, maintenance facilities, airport terminals, and parking facilities, as well as Art in Transit. She is currently working on the final design for SEPTA's Market-Frankford Line 5th Street/Independence Hall Station and Amtrak's Washington Union Station Crew Base Modifications.

Erica holds Bachelor degrees in both Civil and Architectural Engineering from Drexel University. She is an active member of the Engineering community, volunteering with local organizations including Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia in addition to our Section. Her exceptional leadership, professionalism and technical expertise will ensure that we continue to deliver our promise to help our clients achieve their goals. Congratulations, Erica!

### WALSH MOVES TO HDR

Past President **Jenn Walsh** has begun a new position at HDR's local office in Plymouth Meeting as a Senior Projects Manager. She had previously been with two local consulting firms in her 20-plus year in the local transportation Engineering community before making this move. We wish Jenn well in her new endeavor.

### WRIGHT NOW AT McMAHON

Past President and Editor of *THE NEWS* **Bob Wright** has started at a position as Project Manager with McMahon Associates at its office in Center City. He has 38 years of experience in highway and transportation facility design, project management and project delivery in both the public and private sectors.

Before his move to McMahon, Bob was with two local consulting firms following a long career with the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets. Good luck to Bob in his new spot.

## OUR SECTION HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Last season, we transitioned from our use of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia's office for the place where we received “snail mail” to Urban Engineers' office. Urban has generously offered to be our “mail drop”. 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 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

We would suggest that you continue to reach us through our website ([www.asce-philly.org](http://www.asce-philly.org)) and our e-mail address, [info@asce-philly.org](mailto: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.

As a reminder, if you opt to reserve for a Section meeting or event through our website, and would prefer to pay by check, you can certainly bring your check to the meeting and pay at the door. There will be no “at the door” penalty for reservations made by the deadline in this instance.

If you are paying by check (either bringing it to the meeting or mailing it), please include a copy of the receipt generated when you register for the event and the event name on the check's memo line.

We appreciate your assistance on this.

**To understand a man you should walk a mile in his shoes. If what he says still bothers you that's OK because you'll be a mile away from him and you'll have his shoes.**

– Unknown



## COMPOST USE IN “GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE”

Once upon a time, compost was primarily used for plant establishment. Ron Alexander of R. Alexander Associates has provided the following article, the last of a four-part series, on other ways to use compost — for erosion control, stormwater management, and green infrastructure.

Within our series of compost articles, we have discussed a variety of subjects, including the various benefits of compost use, its national testing and certification program, as well as a variety of landscape related applications. However, there are important environmental applications for compost too. They include, erosion control, land reclamation, and the subject of this article, “green infrastructure”.

“Green infrastructure” is a relatively new term, and it has been used differently in different contexts. The US EPA uses the term “green infrastructure” to refer to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire (the return of water to the atmosphere either through evaporation or by plants), or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated. Green infrastructure can be used in a wide range of landscape scales in place of, or in addition to, more traditional stormwater control elements to support the principles of Low Impact Development.<sup>1</sup> “By weaving natural processes into the built environment, green infrastructure provides not only stormwater management, but also flood mitigation, air quality management, and much more.”<sup>2</sup>

The landscape architecture and engineering communities have the opportunity to promote “green systems” (using specialized or engineered soil mixes and vegetation) to help manage stormwater quantity and improve its quality. As we all know, climate change is more severely impacting rain patterns and intensity, which is causing greater strain to the stormwater infrastructure in many communities. The cost of expanding stormwater infrastructure can be enormous to the general public. Many communities are turning to green infrastructure methods to manage excess stormwater, since they can be both attractive and efficacious, as well as cost effective. The systems are developed to hold and slowly release stormwater, often percolating the water into the native soil where it can more effectively be absorbed, recharging underground aquifers and storage ponds. Further, the systems use engineered soils which contain anywhere between 10 to 40% compost (by volume), to remove sediment, binds heavy metals and degrade petroleum hydrocarbons contained in the stormwater. Native soil, sand, gravel and bark are also sometimes used along with compost in the engineered soils. Compost is an important component to these engineered soils, because it:

- Holds water
- Supplies slow release nutrition
- Feeds soil microbes
- Improves plant establishment and extensive rooting
- Works like a carbon filter, removing many contaminants

It should be noted that although compost does

supply nutrients to the engineered soils, components such as nitrogen and phosphorous are typically in a slow-release form. These nutrients are required for healthy plant growth, but are in a form that reduces potential drift.

Some of the more popular green infrastructure techniques, which employ compost based engineered soils are described below.

Green roofs employ vegetated roof covers, with growing media and plants covering or taking the place of a bare membrane, gravel ballast, shingles or tiles. A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof which involves a high-quality water proofing and root repellent system, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium and plants.<sup>3</sup>

Rain gardens are strategically located areas, typically planted with native vegetation, used to intercept runoff. Rain gardens are designed to direct runoff into a low, vegetated area, where the pollutants can be captured or filtered using an engineered soil. They also work to keep stormwater on the site in which it was generated.<sup>4</sup> Further, while very functional, rain gardens can incorporate an aesthetic component that ties into the overall landscaping theme. Rain Gardens are also great tools for both new construction and existing (retrofitted) projects.

Bioretention basins are soil and plant based features employed to filter and treat runoff from developed areas. Bioretention basins are designed for water infiltration and evapotranspiration, along with pollutant removal by soil filtering, adsorption mechanisms, microbial transformations and other processes. In these functions, bioretention basins are similar to rain gardens, however they are typically much larger in size. Bioretention basins are landscaped depressions or shallow basins used to slow and treat on-site stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces.<sup>5</sup>

Green streets are streetscapes designed to integrate a system of stormwater management within the right of way, reduce the amount of runoff into storm sewers, and make the best use of the street tree canopy for stormwater interception, as well as temperature mitigation and air quality improvement. Converting grey infrastructure into green infrastructure can be achieved by increasing compost use in the soil, installing porous pavement and increasing street planting plantings.<sup>6</sup>

For more information on using compost in green infrastructure, visit the following websites:

- [www.compostingcouncil.org](http://www.compostingcouncil.org)
- [www.laurelvalleysoils.com](http://www.laurelvalleysoils.com)
- [www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure](http://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure)

*Mr. Alexander has over 30 years of experience working with compost and other organic recycled products on large-scale construction projects, and is a member of the ASLA. He began his career in Philadelphia, and is now the President of R. Alexander Associates, Inc., a consulting company specializing in product development for organic recycled products. He is the author of the ‘Field Guide to Compost Use’, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Erosion Control Specifications for Compost, and ‘Landscape Architecture Specifications for Compost Utilization’.*

*He provides technical assistance to Laurel Valley Soils, a large composter in Avondale (<http://laurelvalleysoils.com/>). Contact Ron Alexander at [alexassoc@](mailto:alexassoc@)*

[earthlink.net](http://earthlink.net) or 919-367-8350 if you are interested in additional information on compost use or a related Lunch & Learn.

1 Engineered Soils & ‘Green Infrastructure’, US Composting Council Fact Sheet. 2015.

2 EPA’s Report on the Environment. 2013.

3,4,5,6 Modified from Engineered Soils & ‘Green Infrastructure’, US Composting Council Fact Sheet. 2015.

## SPEAK FOR RESULTS

*Continued from Page 3*

Often, there is only one chance to make a positive impression. If Max loses his audience, he loses an opportunity. If Max wants to be promoted, he needs to learn to be a captivating speaker.

In a leadership position, you need to know how to persuade, influence, motivate, and inform. That means you need to know who your audience is and what they want to know. Each audience is different, so the key is to do some research and preparation before you speak.

Here are some tips to make an outstanding impression as a speaker:

1. Get comfortable with your audience. Make small talk.
2. Find out what your audience already knows and what they need to know.
3. Determine their attitude towards your topic. If it is not positive, look for ways to turn that around.
4. Focus on no more than 4 main talking points.
5. Find relevant supporting arguments/ideas to support your talking points.
6. Know how long you have to make your talk and subtract 33% so that there is flexibility for side tracks and questions.
7. Be optimistic and positive.
8. Summarize your main points and end on a positive note.
9. Exhibit confident, positive body language.
10. Speak in conversational tones and adjust the volume to the size of your audience and venue.

Learning how to master technique of public speaking is critical in every field. Presenting effectively can be learned. Preparation and practice are the main pillars. Work with a coach or get feedback from trusted colleagues. Capitalize on your strengths and minimize your weaknesses. Don’t let your career stagnate like Max did. Take action and develop your presentation skills.

**Anne Weisbord**, *president of Career Services Unlimited*, has been a communications consultant for over 20 years. She has worked with professionals in a wide range of industries helping them become more compelling, confident, and articulate speakers. [www.awlearningconsultants.com](http://www.awlearningconsultants.com).

**I have always wished that my computer would be as easy to use as my telephone. My wish has come true. I no longer know how to use my telephone.**

—Bjarne Stroustrup