



### SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2017-18 — WINDING DOWN...

Hard to believe, and time indeed flies...

The last two Section meetings of this season are upon us and information on each is provided under separate headings for these announcements. There is one remaining Section event in our "look-ahead" schedule, the **Spring Social**.

The Social will be held on **Thursday, May 3**, at **Sky Philadelphia/Top of the Tower** in Center City, the same location as last year. More information will be provided in the April edition of *THE NEWS*. Please hold the evening on this date to join us for our end-of-season festivities, socializing, networking and fun at an interesting venue.

### ENGINEERS WEEK A SUCCESS (ONCE AGAIN!)

We hope you participated in **Engineers Week** this year. In case you missed it, it was celebrated locally from **Friday, February 16** through **Saturday, February 24**.

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee (DVEWC) events were popular and successful, as usual. The **Kickoff Luncheon**, conducted at Sofitel on February 16, drew over 120 attendees. The **Young Engineers Social**, held at U-Bahn in Center City on February 20, and the **Awards Reception** on February 22, at the IATSE Ballroom in South Philadelphia, were similarly well attended.

As we know, the completion of this year's events only kicks off the planning for next year's. DVEWC, a committee of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, is always in need of volunteers to assist in many of the activities surrounding Engineers Week. DVEWC has a need for your talents and skills in several diverse areas. If you are interested in volunteering or would like information on volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at [www.dvewc.org](http://www.dvewc.org).

Congratulations to the 2018 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, **Deborah Grubbe**, and Young Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, **Alexa Egan Harper!**

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

### THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

**Maggiano's Little Italy**, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th Street), Center City  
Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

**SUBJECT: Longwood Gardens New Heights Fountain Revitalization Project**

**SPEAKER: James A. Bilella, PE**, Vice President, Urban Engineers, Inc.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, MARCH 5.** 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 the deadline (March 6 and later) 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.

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 alternative to electronic payment.

Our new check-in procedure, as begun at our October meeting, will be in place. Please print and bring a copy of your paper ticket to use the "express" check-in line (see the separate article on this elsewhere in this edition).

All registrations are final. Due to our commitment with our event venues, cancellations or no-shows will be invoiced for the full cost of the event. Registrants are able to transfer their registrations to others without penalty.

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. Validation is available at the hostess stand near the front door. Please keep in mind the always-popular Philadelphia Flower Show will be conducted

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## Resolve to attend ALL Section Meetings!

## APRIL DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

### THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

**The Inn at Villanova University** (formerly the Villanova Conference Center)  
County Line Road, Radnor, PA

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM

Following the pattern established eight years ago, this meeting will consist of a dinner with subsequent "breakout" sessions on three separate topics. More information will be provided in the April edition of *THE NEWS*.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Section Members,

During this past month's **Engineers Week** luncheon, one of the points that **Young Engineer of the Year Alexa Harper** made that resonated with me, was to give back to the community even if it's for a few hours a month. Keeping that in mind, the Civil Engineering community is so fortunate to have so many of its Engineers volunteer through professional societies and many do double duty and also volunteer through the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee. I would like to highlight those ASCE members who also served on the DelVal Eweek Committee including: **Megan Syrnick Clayton** and **Robert Wright** (Co-Chairs), **AnnMarie Vigilante**, **Christopher Menna**, **Kevin Brown**, **Ruben David**, **Briana Earle**, **Christopher Gray**, **Chris Rood**, **Dennis Wilson**, **Carol Martsoff**, **Erica Antoine**, **Helene Brennan**, **Abbey Gancz**, **Ernest Hanna** and **Andrew Hartmann**. Thank you for your efforts and time management ability!

This month I would also like to recognize **Dr. Geoffrey Rowe** who was recently awarded ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute's **2018 Wilbur S. Smith award**. Congratulations to Dr. Rowe for having his work in asphalt materials be recognized by this national award.

The Section's last dinner meeting of the year is quickly approaching on **Thursday, April 12th** at the **Villanova Conference Center**. This meeting is my favorite meeting of the year because it shows that although Civil Engineers have diverse discipline technical backgrounds, together we have a strong voice. The format of this meeting is a cocktail networking hour and followed by a buffet dinner including recognition of newly inducted Life membership status members and recognition of past presidents. Following this, there are three concurrent technical presentations that members get to choose which one they attend. I hope to see you there on the 12th.

**Government Relations Update** – In the past few weeks, I've heard a lot of headlines about the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's ruling that the state's congressional maps were unconstitutional and a new map was drawn (and since then challenged). If you were curious like me about how the existing maps compared to the new ones, this link provides a nice side by side comparison.

[http://www.pennlive.com/news/2018/02/supreme\\_court\\_congressional\\_di.html](http://www.pennlive.com/news/2018/02/supreme_court_congressional_di.html)

(Thanks **Ann Tomalavage** for sharing this.) What have you been up to inform yourself of the latest in government affairs?

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

## MARCH DINNER MEETING

*Continued from Page 1*

the week of our meeting and crowds can be expected in this area, as well as additional traffic and transit riders.

The 1077-acre space that is Longwood Gardens was originally an arboretum that was purchased by Pierre S. duPont in 1906. DuPont's intent was to preserve the trees in the arboretum, which had been abandoned and was proposed to be cleared for other purposes. DuPont preserved the trees and added other plants and features, as well as a residence, over time, including the well-known fountains in the 1920's. In 1954, Longwood Gardens was established after duPont's death to carry on his mission of preservation and natural beauty.

In 2014 Longwood began a program for the restoration and revitalization of the historic Main Fountain Garden. Mr. Bilella will present a behind-the-scenes look at the new modern engineered systems and infrastructure supporting the gardens, which are invisible to the public. This not only enhances the visitor experience, but preserves the European aesthetic intended by du Pont. Urban Engineers designed a geothermal condenser water loop system which, in addition to engineered soils and pervious surface materials that reduce the site's stormwater runoff, supports Longwood's mission to be a good steward to the environment. The complex systems were relocated underground through a network of tunnels

leading to a 50,000 SF two-story underground pump house.

Mr. Bilella serves as Vice President and General Manager of Facilities & Building Systems and oversees Urban's Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Engineering services, as well as Fire Protection and IT Systems design. He received his Bachelors degree from Drexel University. When he is not designing improvements, he is actively involved in his community and serves as Mayor of Berlin Borough, NJ, a historic town of 7,500 people, a role he is proud to have been inspired to pursue based on his father's contributions to the community.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We thank those firms who have made the financial commitment to Section Sponsorship for this season. The business cards of these 15 firms are included in the sponsor section of *THE NEWS*. Sponsor logos are also displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Through a click on the particular sponsor's logo, we provide direct links to its own website so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions being offered by that firm. Sponsors can additionally provide a profile article in *THE NEWS*.

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

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

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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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#### Section Outreach Coordinator

Briana Earle

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ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.

530 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

#### COPY DEADLINE FOR

April 2018 ISSUE

March 16, 2018



**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

**K-12 OUTREACH AT CHARLES W. HENRY SCHOOL AND PRESENTATION BVM SCHOOL JANUARY 24 / JANUARY 30**

For the 2017-18 school year, the **YMF K-12 Outreach** continued its efforts with a visit to the Charles W. Henry School in the Mount Airy neighborhood of Philadelphia. Outreach Co-Chair **Caroline Voigtsberger**, along with **Alan Fody**, met with a classroom of 3rd and 4th graders to discuss the role Civil Engineers play in the students' everyday lives. The YMF K-12 Outreach hosted another event with a visit to the Presentation BVM School in Cheltenham. Outreach Co-Chair **Assunta Daprano** was joined by volunteers, **Tisha Garrett**, **Danielle Schroeder** and YMF President, **Nha Truong**, to present to 100 students in kindergarten, 1st grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade.

At both schools, the students designed, built, and raced wind powered cars using only Life Saver candies, straws, paper clips, and paper. A big thank you to Charles Henry's Gifted Support and Intervention teacher, **Sarah Macholdt**, and BVM 1st grade teacher, **Joan Schroeder**, for helping to coordinate the visits!



collectively share advice on how to overcome these. Additionally, Conference attendees had the opportunity to listen to the inspiring journeys of ASCE President **Kristina Swallow, PE, ENV SP, F.ASCE** and President-Elect **Robin A. Kemper, PE, LEED AP, F.ASCE**, and how they are advancing the Civil Engineering profession.



As part of this Conference, the annual ERYMC Awards Banquet was held to recognize outstanding Younger Member volunteers and groups from throughout the eastern regions. It is an



**ERYMC FEBRUARY 8-11 • BUFFALO, NY**

YMF attended the ASCE Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) in Buffalo to participate in the Eastern Region Younger Member Council (ERYMC). The Conference, hosted by the ASCE Buffalo Section, brought together members from throughout the eastern third of the country for a weekend of networking, leadership development, and discussion. The Conference provided a unique opportunity to talk with other Younger Member groups about the successes and challenges that each group has encountered and to



honor to announce that our own YMF received the **Peers Group Award!** The award is judged and voted on by all younger member groups in the Eastern Region and presented for demonstrating outstanding achievement throughout the 2016-17 year. YMF also received the **Outstanding Younger Member Group Project Award** for demonstrating favorable and measurable impact on the community through our E-Week North Penn K-12 Outreach Project. This project was led by our 2017 K-12 Outreach Co-Chairs, **Charlie Mumford** and **Katrina Lawrence**, with a special thank you to **Caroline Voigtsberger** and **Cory Bogas** for their support. Additionally, **Nha Truong** received the **Outstanding Young Civil Engineer in the Public-Sector Award** for his demonstrated leadership potential.

Lastly, we are THRILLED to announce that YMF was voted by the Younger Member groups in the Eastern Regions to host MRLC 2020. **Kevin Brown** and **Joe Natale** led the effort with a captivating bid presentation, highlighting the

many reasons why our Section and city were best fit to host the conference! We would like to thank the ASCE Buffalo Section for hosting such a fascinating and successful weekend and look forward to leaning on their expertise for 2020.

**K-12 OUTREACH AT SPRING-FORD HIGH SCHOOL AND NORTH PENN HIGH SCHOOL FEBRUARY 22 / FEBRUARY 23**

As a part of the Engineers Week celebration, **YMF K-12 Outreach team** continued its remarkable work with two more visits to Spring-Ford High School in Royersford and North Penn High School in Lansdale. YMF applauds their dedication to the students and persistent efforts to expand their outreach to more schools in the Greater Philadelphia area! During the two most

recent visits, Outreach Co-Chairs, **Assunta Daprano** and **Caroline Voigtsberger**, were joined by volunteers, **Alexa Harper**, **Brian Farina**, **Sean Pence**, **Lindsay Chateauvert**, **Charlie Mumford**, **Dan Matour**, **Darren Black**, **HuYoung Kim**, **Bilal Baqai**, **Cory Bogas**, **Alex Hazuda**, and **Van Nuyen** to lead presentations on the various disciplines of Civil Engineering to over 165 high school students at both schools. With many of the students currently applying to colleges, the volunteers focused on discussing the college application process, what to expect in an Engineering curriculum, and answering any other questions from the students. As always, if interested in volunteering at similar events, contact **YMF K-12 Outreach at ASCEPhilaYMFK12@gmail.com** to get on our volunteer list!

**CIVIL ENGINEERING CLUB**

YMF is currently seeking the help of local Civil Engineers to volunteer with the program as meeting hosts, presenters, or field trip hosts for the upcoming spring semester. 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 the rest of the year and hope you will join us in educating middle school students about the field of Engineering!

*Photos – top center and bottom left, at ERYMC Conference; right center and left center, K-12 Outreach*

## NEWS FROM NATIONAL

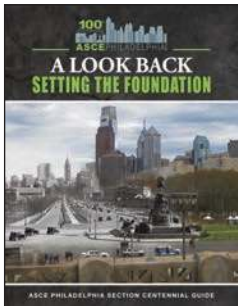


The ASCE Board of Direction convened its first quarterly meeting of the year in Las Vegas on January 11, with a renewed emphasis on communication and collaboration that will inform future decisions.

“We took the opportunity to bring in different groups, different stakeholders to have some different conversations,” said 2018 ASCE President **Kristina Swallow**. “I think doing that gave the Board a good opportunity to engage, ask questions, learn, and have a healthy conversation about the future.”

In an ASCE first, the Board meeting featured three women at the head of the table as presidential officers — President-Elect **Robin Kemper**, President **Kristina Swallow**, and Past President **Norma Jean Mattei** (pictured above). The meeting also saw a panel of active Younger Members update Board members on their interests and current trends, plus approval of a novel way to plan strategically.

## CENTENNIAL BOOK — STILL AVAILABLE (MAYBE NOT MUCH LONGER)...



To memorialize our 100th Anniversary season and cite the many local landmarks, facilities and efforts that have been brought “to life” by members of our Section over that time, we have developed and printed our keepsake commemorative *Centennial Book*.

The last few copies of the original printing run of the book are being sold now. We will have a limited number of copies available for direct sale at upcoming Section dinner meetings, and you can purchase this online as well through our website ([asce-philly.org](http://asce-philly.org)) while supplies last. Payment can be made via PayPal or check payable to ASCE Philadelphia Section. Online orders will be processed monthly with anticipated arrival dates in mid-month.

The book price is \$30 for Section members and book sponsors, \$40 for others, which includes shipping.

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT


This month’s volunteer in the spotlight is **Dan Kucz**. Dan is a Bridge Engineer with FIGG in Exton, PA. He has volunteered as a board member for the SEI Philadelphia Section subgroup since 2013. He has been attending the SEI Philly meetings since the group’s infancy in 2009. Since the founding of SEI Philly, the meetings have blossomed from approximately 20 attendees per month, to upwards of 100 attendees on a regular basis. Witnessing this growth, Dan has worked together with the board to set up a scholarship awarded by SEI Philly to a student pursuing a career in the Structural Engineering field.



Dan is also an avid supporter of the ASCE/AISC Student Steel Bridge competition, where he has volunteered as a judge at the Mid-Atlantic competition every year over the last decade, serving as Head Judge for a handful of years. But sometimes the logistics required to get the competition up and running is the most challenging part of volunteering for it. When the 2017 Mid-Atlantic competition was held at the University of Maryland last April, Dan was spotted driving a rental truck south on I-95 with 6000 lb of equipment in the back, to ensure the competition started on time and ran smoothly!


As an alumnus of Lafayette College and the University of Delaware, Dan has continued his involvement in the ASCE Student Chapters at each of these schools and has returned a few times to talk about FIGG bridges and offer career advice for students entering the industry. For all that Dan has done with SEI and ASCE we are pleased to cite him in this month’s Volunteer Spotlight.


Efforts have begun on the 2018 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card, which is anticipated to be released in the Fall. For updates and to view the 2014 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card, visit [pareportcard.org](http://pareportcard.org).



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The Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers is a proud sponsor of the  **MARCH OF DIMES**

## SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP — JUDGES NEEDED

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. The Fairs will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 4** at the **Greater Philadelphia Expo Center** in Oaks. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

### VOLUNTEER JUDGES ARE NEEDED FOR THIS EFFORT.

The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge please contact **Chris Rood** at [crood@drjtbc.org](mailto:crood@drjtbc.org). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs’ website [www.dvsf.org](http://www.dvsf.org).

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website.

We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.

## 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](mailto:dmacbride@septa.org)

### DELAWARE VALLEY GEO-INSTITUTE (DVGI) [www.dvgi.org](http://www.dvgi.org)

Archie Filshill  
[archie@aeroaggregates.com](mailto:archie@aeroaggregates.com)

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Eric Lindhult  
[eric.lindhult@gmail.com](mailto:eric.lindhult@gmail.com)

### STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI) [www.sei-philly.org](http://www.sei-philly.org)

Joe Fazio  
[jfazio@hntb.com](mailto:jfazio@hntb.com)

### TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen  
[wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com](mailto:wthomsen@urbanEngineers.com)

Please check the noted 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.



# I on Infrastructure

## AFTER 61 YEARS, AMERICA'S BUSIEST HIGHWAY IS ALMOST COMPLETE

An infamous gap in Interstate 95 will finally be closed this summer. And it's right in our backyard.

The past few years have been thick with promises of shiny new infrastructure and the revival of American greatness. Funny, then, that so little has been made of a quiet victory

for US infrastructure due later this year. By September, one of the country's most famous Civil Engineering projects will finally complete construction, six decades after work on it began.

I-95, the country's most used highway, will finally run as one continuous road between Miami and Maine by the late summer. The highway's infamous "gap," in our area will be closed, turning I-95 into an unbroken river of concrete more than 1,900 miles long. In so doing, it will also mark a larger milestone, say transportation officials – the completion of the original United States interstate system.

Construction to fix the I-95 gap began more than eight years ago in Pennsylvania, but it has now reached its final stage. Recently, the New Jersey Department of Transportation began switching out road signs in preparation for the change.

But I-95's completion isn't a stand-alone feat. Local transportation planners claim it will herald a larger accomplishment, and although there are new portions of interstate highway are still being proposed (among the latest is I-11 to connect Las Vegas and Phoenix, the last major city pair without an interstate connection), the understanding is that this is the final piece of that original interstate system.

It may be surprising that President Dwight Eisenhower's dream of a linked network of American autobahns is still (a little) incomplete in 2018, more than half a century after the passage of the Federal-Aid Highway Act. But the reason has less to do with recent national politics and much more to do with long-term planning, wealthy homeowners, the 1970s fuel crisis—and that pesky gap in New Jersey.

I-95 is an American marvel. It's the longest north-south highway in the United States and the country's most-used highway in terms of vehicle miles traveled, according to the Department of Transportation. It's efficient, serving about 10 percent of America's land area but almost 40 percent of its population, or roughly 110 million people. Its path is "as densely settled as much of Western Europe," brags the I-95 Corridor Coalition, a group of government agencies that maintain the route.

Yet despite all these accolades, I-95 isn't particularly beloved or extolled—though it appears in at least one Bruce Springsteen song. In some



ways, it's a lot like the densest cities on its path: a little rough around the edges, and nothing special to look at, but every day it does its job without much of a fuss. Except, that is, in New Jersey, where at one crucial juncture, I-95 utterly fails to work.

If you are driving northbound on I-95, just outside of Princeton, a road sign will warn you that I-95 North—the road you are on—is ending. But the physical road itself doesn't end—instead, the highway veers south, now under the name I-295. If you don't get off at an exit, you will find yourself suddenly driving south, and have to do a complicated series of maneuvers to get back on a northbound road. On the other side of this gap, I-95 continues northward, starting from eight miles away.

But while the current situation may be perplexing, the root cause of the problem is easy to explain: There was supposed to be a chunk of highway in this part of New Jersey, and no one ever built it. Its origins go back to the late 1930s, when federal planners first proposed the idea of a national superhighway system, which would include a major north-south artery through central New Jersey. In 1955, Eisenhower adopted many of these plans when he first proposed the interstate system to Congress. He, too, slotted a highway into the same part of the state.

These were the most important 10,228 miles of superhighway that could be built, according to the 1939 report Toll Roads and Free Roads. The authors considered the central New Jersey route so important that they placed it in all five of their smaller scale proposals. During the late '50s, the new highway also got its name.

By the early 1970s, most of I-95 had been constructed through New Jersey. But one segment remained: the so-called Somerset Highway, the very link in I-95 between Pennsylvania and New Jersey's urbanized north that Eisenhower and the authors of the 1939 report thought so crucial. Local residents had fought against the proposed interstate nearly from its beginning. In 1976 New Jersey's governor made a last-ditch push to build the route. The project was estimated to cost \$500 million at that time (more than \$2 billion today). The AFL-CIO supported the new highway on behalf of construction workers, and pushed the governor to support it; the state transportation chief wanted it canceled. And so the gap in I-95 was born.

In 1982, Congress resolved to fix it. A highway bill that year ordered the interstate to be completed by linking I-95 directly to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, to allow the New Jersey Turnpike to become I-95 where it meets the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Preparations and environmental study took years, and construction began on the interchange in 2010. Along the way, the New Jersey gap became I-95's last major remaining discontinuity, after Florida closed a 33.8-mile hole in its section of the interstate in 1987.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission says it will complete its portion of the I-95 section by August. New Jersey is aiming for a similar date. Under the new plan, the new I-295 will take over the old Princeton-area segment, forming a beltway around Trenton. The rerouted I-95 will connect to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, cross the Delaware River at Bristol Township, then merge with the New Jersey Turnpike.

Separating I-95 from the New Jersey Turnpike would have helped alleviate one of the Mid-Atlantic's biggest design flaws, to bridge the gap by hooking the Somerset Highway into I-287, which forms a beltway around greater New York, and would have allowed most interstate drivers to circumvent the city's downtown. Instead, I-95 now feeds into the George Washington Bridge, dumping drivers who would otherwise bypass the region into uptown Manhattan and the Cross Bronx Expressway.

Thanks to the *Atlantic* for this information.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### ROWE CITED BY NATIONAL

ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute has selected Section Member **Geoffrey M. Rowe, PhD., PE** as the recipient of its **2018 Wilbur S. Smith Award** for his practical work in asphalt materials and associated dissemination of knowledge that has advanced the state of practice in Highway Engineering and Construction both nationally and globally. He is President of Abatech, Inc., where he has led the development of approximately 20 software packages for Pavement Engineering which are marketed and used in approximately 40 countries around the world. The technology includes pavement structural design, analysis of FWD data, materials property analysis and rheology. Congratulations on this honor!

### BOGAS RECEIVES REGION 2 AWARD

ASCE's Region 2, which includes our Section, initiated an Awards Program this year to cite deserving individuals. Of the four awardees cited in this Program, Student Member **Cory Bogas** of Temple University was cited as the Region's **2018 Outstanding Student Member**. We congratulate Cory on this achievement!

### 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.*

**YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!  
CONTACT US AT  
newseditor@asce-philly.org  
FOR DETAILS**

# ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

Many reputable studies on leadership cite critical thinking as one of the top skills for success for leaders. That means that you look for the “why” and the “how” in addition to the “what.” You think reflectively. So, do you?

How do you score on the quiz below?

Rate yourself from 1 (low) to 5 (highest) on the qualities below that demonstrate critical thinking. When faced with an issue, problem, or decision to make, ....

1. I am curious about alternative solutions and eager to research options. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I consider multiple perspectives, thinking about who else might be interested or affected by the decision. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I examine my own beliefs, assumptions, and opinions and weigh them against facts. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I suspend judgment until all facts have been gathered and considered. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I look for evidence to support assumptions and beliefs. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I adjust my opinions when new facts are found. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I reject information that is incorrect, over-simplified, or irrelevant. \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

Over 28 is good, over 30 is very good, and under 25.... well, you might want to start doing some of the tasks listed in the quiz above.

Critical thinking is reflective thinking. It means not accepting things as they seem. It means that you explore assumptions and deal with facts. You evaluate arguments for credibility, logic, and appear to all stakeholders, and then you draw conclusions based on objectivity, accuracy, logic, and scope.

Critical thinking takes time and practice to develop. It is without doubt worth the effort. Think of all the rash decisions that were crudely made and the consequences left to deal with.

— Anne Weisbord

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).



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## BEANNACHTAÍ NA FÉILE PÁDRAIG!\*

It doesn't seem like it should be that time already again, but the "great day for the Irish", as the song goes, will be here shortly. And, to cite that great day, we at *THE NEWS* have provided our annual "Lightly Amusing Message from Eire" (also known as LAME) for your enjoyment for St. Pat's Day.

As you may recall, given the lack of response to contests for this and our Lightly Amusing Yuletide Message (LAYM) for the Christmas season, the staff of *THE NEWS* made an executive decision to no longer conduct such efforts. The consequence of this action is that we are forced to hand the creative pen to your Editor to come up with something. And this is something that gives us a little scare, as we never really know where he's going to go with that.

And where he went was back to last year, dusting off the offering that was provided then. What he neglected to provide then was a translation of the Gaelic words, leaving this up to the reader (and probably forgetting to do it based on the "creative process" involved, also known as conspicuous consumption of "thought helpers", possibly...). So this year, we offer you a "rerun" for the LAME (does this make it the LAMER – LAME Re-used?) and let you in on the "secret", in the event you didn't rush to the Gaelic-English dictionary you no doubt have handy for the translations.

And, *tá fáilte romhat!*

(ta fahl'chuh rom' at – you're welcome)

*Uilleann* pipes piping

(will' in – Irish bagpipes)

Everyone in green

Irish potatoes, well...

Not what they seem

Raising pints in honor

*Slainte*, dear old sod

(slawn' cha – cheers)

Irish eyes smiling

And we give a nod

*Bainne* in your *caife*

(bane – milk, kaf' ee – coffee)

Brings the morning smile

Some *uisce beatha* added

(wish' ka bay' ta – whiskey)

So-called Irish style

All the lads and lassies

Shamrocks abound

Rattle your *shillelagh*

(shi lay' lee – walking stick)

Be heard the world 'round

Inaccurate stereotypes

Fall to the side

*Failte*, Emerald Isle'rs

(fahl' chuh – welcome)

Demonstrate your pride

All good wishes

As you make your way

The Philly Section wishes

The best for Saint Pat's Day

Complaints and outrages can be registered at our website (keep in mind your Editor can get away with this, given his allegedly mainly-Irish heritage).

And...

**\*Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig! (ban ochth' thee na fay'le paw' drig) – Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

## NEW MEETING CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

Our new check-in process for our Dinner Meetings has been successfully implemented at our October and November events and will be in place for our Section Meetings in March and April as well. As you may have seen, this 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.

As noted, it is prudent to bring your **printed tickets** with you. **We cannot accept tickets on mobile devices, so please print out a hard copy of the ticket.**

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

## SECTION COMMITTEES

Our Section runs very well and it is mainly a result of the dedication and service of our many volunteers, both our Officers and Board Members as well as our various Committees. While many of you know the former group well, you may not be all that aware of the latter. Our Committees address many of our regular and ongoing issues and keep our Section vibrant and in the forefront of service to our membership. A list of our current Committees and chairs is provided below.

This list is intended to let you know what Committees we have. We will provide more information on Committee volunteers in our next edition. If you have a particular interest in helping the Section as a Committee volunteer, this list advises you what groups we offer. If you would like to join a Committee, please reach out to us at [info@asce-philly.org](mailto:info@asce-philly.org) or through our Section Secretary, **Briana Earle** (contact information is provided on page 2).

Audit – Kazi Hassan

Awards – Bob Wright

Budget and Finance – Jen Reigle

Civil Engineers in Government – Jeanien Wilson

College Scholarship – Andrew Bechtel

Communications – Briana Earle

E-mail Outreach – Mohammed Elghawy

Newsletter – Bob Wright

Sponsorship – Bob Wright

Webmaster – Joe Natale

Continuing Education – Angelo Waters

High School Scholarship Exploration –

Joe Natale

Humphrey Fund – John Zarsky

Legislative Affairs – Spencer Finch

Membership – Mohammed Elghawy

Mural – Angelo Waters

Nominating – Cathy Farrell

PA Report Card Philadelphia Promotion –

Cricket Slattery

Program – Angelo Waters

Venue Coordination – Troy Illig

Society Relations – Cathy Farrell

Region 2 Governors – Carol Martsolf,

Jack Raudenbush

Region 2 Younger Member Representative

– Chris Renfro

PA Council – Ann Tomalavage, Bob Wright

Delaware Valley Science Fairs – Chris Rood

Spring Social – Troy Illig

Subsidiary Groups – Kazi Hassan

Construction Management –

Dennis MacBride

Delaware Valley GeoInstitute –

Archie Filshill

Environmental and Water Resources –

Eric Lindhult

Structural Engineering Institute – Joe Fazio

Transportation & Urban Development –

Bill Thomsen

Younger Member Forum – Nha Troung

**The great liability of the Engineer compared to men of other professions is that his works are out in the open where all can see them. His acts, step by step, are in hard substance. He cannot bury his mistakes in the grade like the doctors. He cannot argue them into thin air or blame the judge like the lawyers. He cannot, like the architects, cover his failures with trees and vines. He cannot, like the politicians, screen his shortcomings by blaming his opponents and hope the people will forget. The Engineer simply cannot deny he did it. If his works do not work, he is damned.**

– Herbert Hoover, 31st US President  
(trained as a Mining Engineer)