

# CIVIL ENGINEER



T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Tacoma ♦ Olympia Section of the  
American Society of Civil Engineers



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**CIVIL ENGINEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!**

**THEY PROVIDE THE QUALITY OF LIFE!**

The **Civil Engineer Newsletter** is published for the Tacoma/Olympia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers monthly from September to June.

To submit ads or articles of interest, please contact the current President of the Section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For address changes and corrections, contact the Editor.

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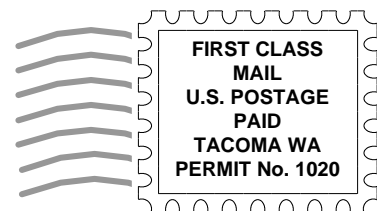
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**CIVIL ENGINEER**  
**The NEWSLETTER**

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# February Program

St. Martin's College Engineering Division and the Student Sections of ASCE, ASME, NSPE, SWE host the Annual Engineering Dinner

## "Better, Cheaper, Faster in the Global Environment"

### FRIDAY

February 6, 1998

Worthington Center, St. Martin's, Lacey

6:00 p.m. - Wine and Cheese Social

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

Baked Cod or Baron of Beef

The guest speaker is **David Brown**, Vice President of Manufacturing for Tektronix, Inc. of Portland, Oregon.

This is always a very social event with a special guest speaker. You should have received an invitation in the mail. Please note changes in reservations for this meeting only.

### This meeting only:

#### Attention Students

**This month's meeting is hosted by you, not by us. Consequently, the Section's long-standing policy that your meal price is half off may not be valid this meeting. Please check with your organizers.**

#### Reservations

**RSVP for dinner is requested and is strongly suggested as last year the place was absolutely packed. Since this event is hosted by St. Martin's, please call Ron at (360) 438-4320 or e-mail ronv@crc.stmartin.edu for reservations. Our house chairs will not be taking reservations for this meeting.**

### Directions

to St. Martin's Worthington Center

**From Tacoma:** I-5 south to Martin Way (Exit 109); bear right to College Street (the next signalled intersection); turn left on College; travel south to Pacific Avenue; turn left on Pacific to the entrance to Saint Martin's Pavilion on the left.

**From Olympia:** Take either Pacific Avenue to Saint Martin's or I-5 north to Sleater-Kinney/College Street (Exit 108); continue to College Street; turn right and proceed to Pacific Avenue; turn left on Pacific to the entrance to Saint Martin's Pavilion on left.

It is very important to make firm reservations for the section meetings for the following reasons:

To make sure that we have a place set for everyone;  
So the presenter can bring enough hand-outs for all who are present;  
We (section) give an advance count of attendees so the proper amount of food will be prepared;  
We are charged for each person we make a reservation for;  
If the meeting is canceled, we can

### Positions Available:

#### Commercial Plan Examiner

Structural Specialty Requires Degree in Engineering or Architecture and a strong structural engineering background, preferably with a Washington State Structural Engineering Specialty License.

Specific activities include but are not limited to reviewing plans to assure compliance with: building, mechanical, plumbing and energy codes for life safety, exiting and fire-resistance; barrier free design; structural adequacy; HVAC system design; lighting, ventilation and heat loss; duct sizing; plumbing waste and venting; supply piping, gas piping and other associated building aspects. Position requires ability to make sound decisions and deal effectively with the public.

#### Salary Range:

\$3114 to \$3777 per month. Additional Compensation for ICBO Plans Examiner Certificate and/or Architectural or Engineering License. (\$4142 to \$5023 per month with Structural Engineers License).

Contact: the City of Tacoma Human Resources Department, 747 Market Street, Room 1336, Tacoma, Washington 98402. (253) 591-5400.

#### Section Resume Policy

Our section newsletter will provide free space for ASCE students and members to advertise their qualifications. The resume information needs to be received by the 20th of the month to make the next newsletter. If you still

*(See Resume Policy Page 3)*



**More  
on Continuing Education**

The following open letter from Ray Walton provides an interesting counterpoint to last month's editorial about continuing education. Here is a guy asking us all to help make some good technical education happen, to put our time and our money where our mouth is. I wonder what kind of response he gets?

If an observer could judge us only by our actions, would engineers as a group show a belief in the importance of organized continuing education? I'm guessing that only a handful of engineers have enough passion for continuing education that their own time and resources get spent on it. I wonder if this handful is part of the set of people promoting mandatory continuing education, or not.

Rebecca Vader, President  
Tacoma Olympia Section  
timv@halcyon.com

**ASCE Activities Open Letter  
from the WRE Division**

*From August 8-11, 1999, the ASCE Water Resources Engineering (WRE) Division will hold its annual National Conference at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle. We are planning this conference a little differently: it will last four days (instead of the usual five); it will run from Sunday to Wednesday (instead of the usual Monday through Friday); we will try to encourage more papers on engineering practice to provide a balance with research papers; and we will try to increase diversity by considering features such as concurrent short courses, debates, brown bag lunches, and panel discussions.*

*However, the key to our putting on a successful conference is the participation of water resources engineers throughout the Pacific Northwest. We need: your help in organizing and running the conference; ideas and topics for the conference itself; technical papers or moderated ses-*

*sions; and **You** to attend the conference and perhaps to offer financial support through donations or exhibits.*

*A Seattle-based Steering Committee has been set up to organize the local conference details. As we develop the conference framework, we will need volunteers to help us organize the technical program, exhibits, local arrangements, technical tours, publicity/promotions, and activities (socials and spouse programs).*

*We believe that most members would like to see more technical papers that discuss project applications. If so, we will ask you to submit more of these abstracts for review when the Call-for-Papers comes out this late spring.*

*But we also need ideas. How about running some short courses through the morning and/or afternoon sessions (perhaps, 90 minutes on 3 or 4 consecutive days)? How about some "brown bag" lunch (or breakfast) sessions with invited experts in various topical or technical areas? How about some evening seminars on technical and/or management topics? How about some debates between experts on 'hot' topics, such as Western water rights or the removal of major dams? How about panel discussions, such as "Where has Water Resources been in the 20th century, and where will it go in the 21st?"*

*These are just a few ideas. But we need YOUR ideas, and we need specifics! For example, if you support the idea of a short course or debate, how about suggesting topics? What else can we do to encourage you to support the conference?*

*To the Senior Managers: what can we do to encourage you to attend? What can we do to encourage you to send your staff, particularly your newer engineers? Will you donate to the conference, and what can we do in return? Would you like to exhibit, particularly if we encourage more presentations on engineering practice?*

*To the Project Managers: do you want purely research papers, or would you like to see more papers on technical practice? Finally, to the newer engineers: what would you like to see at a conference, and how can we convince your boss to pay your way?*

*One question that comes up over and over again is, "If you are not presenting a paper or moderating a session, what will encourage you to attend the conference anyway, or send your staff?" The future of our technical conferences depends on whether we can all find answers to this question.*

*To encourage more local attendance, we will offer a "company" registration, where a conference pass can be used to allow individuals to attend different sessions as interests vary. In this way, you won't have to buy more registration than you have the time or interest to attend.*

*If you have any ideas, comments, questions or would like to help us in any way, would you please e-mail me at [RWalton@WESTConsultants.com](mailto:RWalton@WESTConsultants.com), fax me at (425)646-0570 or call me at (425)425-646-8806. On behalf of the Seattle-based Steering Committee for the 1999 WRE National Conference, I would like to thank you in advance for helping us make YOUR conference something you will want to attend.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Walton  
Chair, Steering Committee  
1999 WRE Conference*

**Resume Policy (Continued from Page 2)**

don't have a job, send it again the next month. The resume information is limited to: Name, engineering degree/year, position desired, years of related experience, membership status ASCE section, address to obtain more information, and daytime phone.

Please send information to Rebecca Vader, 2917 South 17th Street, Tacoma, WA 98405 or e-mail [timv@halcyon.com](mailto:timv@halcyon.com)

## Book Review

*The Existential Pleasures of Engineering*, by Samuel C. Florman, 1976, second edition 1994, 195 pages.

I can't believe I wasted twelve bucks on this book and then actually invested the time to read the whole thing! Like the *Civilized Engineer*, by the same author and reviewed earlier, this book is a collection of essays, although this work is much more closely grouped around a cohesive theme.

The introduction to the second edition tells the reader that the origins of the book date back to 1968. Some of the references, like the personalities of engineers in chapter seven, date from studies in the 1950s. Unfortunately, this datedness shows up all over the book and detracts considerably from the theme of each essay.

Unlike the *Civilized Engineer*, this book is not interesting and is not very relevant to any part of life that I can see. There are a few items of poetry or scenes from dramas and books that might lead a determined reader to more enjoyable selections, but this is not supposed to be a bibliography. These few nuggets are encountered only after slogging through 100 pages of whining, moaning, and complaining about how society misunderstands the worth of the engineer and his works. In my opinion, petulance is not pleasurable.

## Check Out Section's WEB Page

**Richard Swanson** of WSDOT, past president, took on the role of Webmaster for our section. He designed and constructed the Tacoma-Olympia section home page, thereby fulfilling our 1997 Public Relations grant activity.

Now, you can now make meeting reservations, contact board members, check upcoming events, and view the current newsletter—all from our Web page! And the content keeps growing!

I was really impressed by the way he kept the page quick to download, easy to use, and relevant.

To access our web page go to <http://home.att.net/~swanson.jr/asce.htm> or link to us from the geographic units part of the general ASCE home page ([www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)) Many thanks to Richard for his work and his willingness to keep the system up to date.

## NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are open for the following 1998 local and zonal awards.

**Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement** —This award goes to a project that exemplifies civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to civil engineering progress and society. We are looking for projects that are substantially complete in 1997, and have as many as possible of the following characteristics: Contributed to the well-being of people and communities, showed resourcefulness in planning and solving design challenges, pioneered a use of materials or methods, innovation in construction, (positive or neutral) impact on the physical environment, aesthetic value, and other beneficial effects.

**Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year** —For Demonstrated Leadership Potential In and for Significant Contributions to Public Service Engineering. Nominees of 35 years of age or less (12/31/98), with 5 to 10 years of public service, excellent performance and leadership, high character, and community service may apply until March 1, 1998. Please contact a Board member if you are interested in nomination.

**Government Civil Engineer of the Year** —For Significant Contributions to Public Service Engineering. Nominees with a minimum of 15 years of public service, 5 years at the senior administrative level, sustained outstanding performance, high character, and community service may apply until March 1, 1998. Please contact a Board member if you are interested in nomination.

**CERF Charles Pankow Award for Innovation** —Two awards are given. Entries must be in by April 30, 1998.

**Innovative Applications Award** —For organizations working collaboratively to demonstrate innovative approaches to design, materials use, or the construction process in the categories of Materials and Systems; Construction and Equipment; or Information Technology Systems for Design and Project Management

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## ASCE Calendar

### February

4 Board Meeting, Tacoma  
6 (Friday) Section Meeting  
Annual Engineering Banquet,  
Hosted by St. Martin's.

### March

4 Board Meeting, Olympia  
10 Section Meeting, Tacoma

### April

1 Board Meeting, Tacoma  
14 Section Meeting, Olympia

### PELP Programs

Effective Project Negotiation Skills  
February 18 or February 21, 1998: 8:30  
A.M. - 4:30 P.M. \$195 (early registra-  
tion)/\$220

Achieving Real Success as a Project  
Manager March 4 and 5, 1998:  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
\$330 (early registration)/\$365