



# ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

## WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2003

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### President's Message

Welcome to 2003! I hope your holidays were enjoyable and I wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

The Wisconsin Section celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> year in 2003. The ASCE National Board of Directors approved the Milwaukee Section on April 16, 1923 with 11 members. By February 1924, the permanent constitution was established, officers were elected and 23 members were enrolled. The Milwaukee Section changed its name to the Wisconsin Section in April 1938. The Wisconsin Section currently has over 1900 members.

The Wisconsin Section was very active in 2002 and will continue to be active in 2003. Among the highlights of 2002 were the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Student Conference and the continued growth of the Future Cities competition. Although the National Student Conference was a once in a lifetime event, the Future Cities competition will continue. As a reminder, additional help is always welcomed for Future Cities.



In February, the Wisconsin Section will issue a "Report Card on Wisconsin's Infrastructure". This report card is the culmination of a large effort by many members of the Section and will be our largest public relations effort in 2003. It could not have been created without cooperation of several State Agencies that provided information critical to the compilation of the report card. I would like to thank John Goetter, the Report Card Committee, and both members and agencies that provided

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assistance or information along the way.

This is just the beginning of our effort on the Report Card. After its release, I encourage you to speak to local community organizations or business groups about the Report Card. Each of us can present a "local" perspective on the infrastructure areas that have been evaluated. Remember, the closer you can bring this to your community, the greater effect we can have as a state to impact and influence legislation to improve infrastructure.

I would also request each of you to help the Wisconsin Section grow in 2003. Invite a colleague who is not a member to a meeting. Explain the benefits of membership in ASCE. Attendance at meetings allows the benefits of meeting with peers, sharing ideas, mentoring, and networking. Other benefits of membership include the salary survey, resume referral service, cybrarian service, civil engineering database, reduced rates for continuing education programs, and many insurance and financial planning programs. I believe they will find the benefits available make membership a bargain. If you know of a colleague who is interested in joining, go to [www.ascedrive.org](http://www.ascedrive.org) and click on "Refer your colleagues online". This is an easy way for them to receive membership information and makes you eligible to win prizes at the same time.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Technical Conference to be held March 27, 2003 at the House on the Rock Resort in Spring Green. The proposed agenda includes a plenary session, twelve technical sessions from which to choose, and an evening speaker. I am also pleased to announce that President – Elect Patricia Galloway is scheduled to attend and address the Wisconsin Section during the Conference. It promises to be a memorable meeting. I hope to see you there!

Respectfully,

Carl Sutter



### Canoe Correction

Our apologies. Alert reader Tammy Kuehlmann pointed out that the UW-Milwaukee team of 1990 also accomplished a 5th place finish in the national competition, equaling the accomplishment of the UW-Madison crew in 2002. This just shows that you should not completely trust what you read in the papers. And, as the editor's grandmother used to tell him...

"Love many, trust few,  
And always Paddle your Own Canoe"

#### **World Trade Center Building Performance Study: Data Collection, Preliminary Observations & Recommendations**

ASCE SOUTHEAST BRANCH  
JANUARY DINNER MEETING and SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

**Speaker: W. Gene Corley, Ph. D.**

Dr. W. Gene Corley headed the investigation of the collapse of the World Trade Center for the ASCE/Structural Engineering Institute and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He presented findings of the investigation to the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Science last year.

- Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 2003
- Time:** 6:00 pm Social Gathering  
6:30 pm Dinner  
7:30 pm UW-Milwaukee ASCE Program  
8:00 pm Presentation by Dr. Corley
- Location:** Wisconsin Room, UW-Milwaukee Union, 3<sup>rd</sup>Floor  
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
- Menu:** Italian Buffet including Vegetarian or Meat Lasagna, Tortellini w Cream Pesto Sauce, Chicken Cacciatore, Antipasto Platter, Caesar Salad, Fruit & Bread.
- Cost:** \$33 ASCE members and guests  
\$20 student members

To make reservations, call Joseph Blakeman at UW-Milwaukee at (414) 229-2339 or e-mail at [blakeman@uwm.edu](mailto:blakeman@uwm.edu) by Wednesday, **January 15, 2003**. Space is limited to the first 200 to register. Parking is available at the Union structure on E. Kenwood Blvd. No-shows will be billed for the cost of dinner. **If you cannot attend please call to cancel.**

**Younger Engineers Invited to Join**

The Younger Members Group (YMG) of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE is actively seeking ASCE members under 35 years old that are interested in participating in social, professional development, and/or outreach activities with other younger engineers.

Although most YMG activities are currently held in southeastern Wisconsin, YMG is interested in forming groups in other areas of Wisconsin that show significant interest. Activities currently slated this year in southeastern Wisconsin include social (such as after-work speak-easies, sporting events, and participation in intramural sports teams), professional (such as technical speakers and non-technical professional development presentations), and community (such as local school outreach and Habitat for Humanity). Activities for other parts of Wisconsin will be dependent on local interests.

Interested members in southeastern Wisconsin can receive newsletters regarding upcoming meetings and activities by sending a blank email to:

Wisconsin\_Section\_YMG-  
subscribe@yahoo.com

Interested members in other areas of Wisconsin should send an email to the YMG president, Uriah Wolfe, at Uriah.Wolfe@GASAI.com. Please include your name, city, and contact information.

**WANTED**

Your Articles, Comments, Photos, and Letters for publication in this ASCE Newsletter  
Anything civil, interesting and primarily factual may be submitted to:

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Phone: (608) 222-1201 ext. 257  
Fax: (608) 222-2703  
Deadline for next issue: February 15, 2003

**Mark Your Calendars**

**SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

The 2003 ASCE Spring conference will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, March 27 in Spring Green. The location is the House on the Rock Resort (previously the Springs Hotel).

This is a unique location designed by Taliesin Architects. The hotel would be ideal for a late Spring family outing after the conference. See You There!

The Editor's Text Box

**Who Says Engineers Can't Communicate?**

*Dear Text Box:* I have been told that civil engineers are sometimes lacking important speaking skills and people skills. Is this true? - *Interested Reader*

*Dear Reader:* Well, yes and no. Many professionals, not just civil engineers, could benefit from improving these skills. Do you remember all those motivational speakers and management consultants of the 1990's? Well, OK, we don't either, but they often stated that up to 80% of a person's success depends on his/her communication and people skills. They never said what the other 20% depends on, but it probably has something to do with the stock market.

Anyway, it is a paradox that engineers, often among the most gifted of individuals, can suffer from a significant handicap - they *know too much*. After analyzing a proposed design and considering the complex interplay of the many factors that went into the conclusion, they mistakenly assume that their audience wants to hear *all* about it. In fact, this is only true if the audience is also made up of engineers. And in that event, the speaker had better *really* know the subject, because he/she is about to get grilled with thoughtful questions from all sides. Perhaps this explains why engineers are not often selected for jury duty.

But fear not. Many engineers are excellent public speakers. You don't need to be a beautiful television personality with great acting skills. Just be yourself, be honest, be well organized, and practice. Your audience *will* appreciate your knowledgeable and balanced presentation of the facts. Of course, there is a catch. A good, concise, well-organized summary will take more preparation time up front than will a long-winded ramble. But your audience will thank you.

P.S. We did *not* mean to imply that civil engineers are not also beautiful. Happy New Year and have a Great 2003!  
NWP



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**January 2003 Newsletter**

c/o: Ned W. Paschke, P.E.  
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 1610 Moorland Road  
 Madison, Wisconsin 53713

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**Wisconsin Section Board Meetings**

Nov. 13, 2002	Neenah
Dec. 12, 2002	Milwaukee
Jan. 15, 2003	Madison
Feb. 2003	No Meeting
Mar. 27, 2003	Spring Green
Apr. 15, 2003	Wausau
May 22, 2003	Milwaukee
June 19, 2003	Madison
July 2003	No Meeting
Aug. 14, 2003	Neenah

**Southeast Branch Meetings**

Nov. 14, 2002	West Allis, dinner with ACI
Dec. 19, 2002	Marquette Univ., lunch w/ ESM
Jan. 22, 2003	UWM, scholarship fundraiser dinner
Feb. 11, 2003	Milwaukee, Engr.-of-Year banquet, with ESM
Mar. 27, 2003	Spring Green Tech. Conference
Apr. 17, 2003	Marquette Univ., lunch w/ ESOM
May 15, 2003	Lunch, location TBA
Jun. 19, 2003	Dinner, location TBA, past-presidents and spouses night
July, 2003	Field trip, TBA
Aug., 2003	No meeting

\*TBA = to be announced

**Fox River Valley Branch Meetings**

Nov. 21, 2002	Green Bay, with WSPE
Dec. 2002	No meeting this month
Jan. 16, 2003	Manitowoc
Feb. 19, 2003	Appleton
Mar. 27, 2003	Spring Green Tech. Conf.
Apr. 22, 2003	Oshkosh
May 21, 2003	Green Bay, Golf Outing

**NW Branch Meetings**

Nov. 19, 2002	East side of branch
Jan. 24, 2003	Eau Claire, with WSPE
Feb. 18, 2003	Mosinee/Rothschild
Mar. 18, 2003	West side of branch
Mar. 27, 2003	Spring Green Tech. Conference
Apr. 15, 2003	East side, with Wis. Sect. Board
May 23, 2003	Social event

**Southwest Branch Meetings**

Nov. 21, 2002	Dodgeville, with UW-Platteville
Dec. 19, 2002	Essen Haus lunch mtg., TBA
Jan., 2003	Lunch mtg., TBA
Feb., 2003	Joint w/ WSPE, TBA
Mar. 27, 2003	Spring Green Tech. Conference