

## President's Message



### ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Engineers Without Borders - USA is a partnership of engineers and students dedicated to improving the quality of life of developing communities worldwide, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students. The projects are initiated by, and completed with, contributions from the host community, which is trained to operate the systems without external assistance. ASCE has partnered with EWB-USA to offer our vast pool of practicing civil engineers willing to mentor students in classrooms and in the field.

The Wisconsin Professional Partners Chapter of EWB-USA constructed three bridges near Joyabaj, Guatemala this spring. The existing stream crossings were destroyed by Hurricane Stan in October 2005 and since then the community of 5000 people were isolated during the 5-month rainy season. They were unable to gain access to health care clinics or hospitals and the children were not able to attend junior or senior high school.

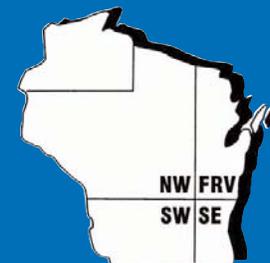
The community provided all labor, and housed and fed the seven EWB-USA volunteers. The municipal government provided aggregate, sand, use of a backhoe and transportation of materials. EWB-USA provided the capital for the wood, reinforcement and cement.

The Wisconsin chapter of EWB-USA is working on several other projects in Guatemala. With Marquette University, solar pumps are being installed for a clinic in Santa Cruz Del Quiche. The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee is working on a wastewater treatment project for a hospital in Nebaj. The group is also working on a cable suspended pedestrian bridge and box culvert structure.

Volunteers can get involved in different tasks, including: Mentoring students during the design process; assisting in fund raising activities; and traveling to assist with construction activities. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mike Paddock at mpaddock@ch2m.com or 262-548-6445.

### WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY BILLS

Two bills that will affect civil engineers are in the State Assembly. The Committee on Labor and Industry met on May 30 and sent AB 181 to the full Assembly after a 9-0 vote. This bill gives the Examining Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, Professional Engineers, Designers, and Land Surveyors the authority to establish continuing education requirements.



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## President's Message Continued

At the same meeting, the committee took no action on AB 69. This bill makes several changes to the licensure process in Wisconsin, most notably removal of the "grandfather" clause and require graduation from an approved engineering course of not less than four years and a four or more years of experience.

Issues which caused the committee to table the bill included a letter from the Executive Director Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association arguing that graduates of two-year programs should be eligible for licensure; another was an amendment offered by Representative Tom Nelson (Kaukauna) that broadened the education requirement to also allow graduation from any course "that the examining board determines is substantially related to the practice of engineering."

The Wisconsin Section will work to have the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industry take up the bill at their next executive session.

Respectfully,  
Mark Mathu

## Order of the Engineer

The Order of the Engineer was initiated in the United States in 1970 to foster a spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession, to bridge the gap between training and experience, and to present to the public a visible symbol identifying the engineer. Participants accept the Obligation of the Engineer and wear a steel ring as a reminder of their commitment to high ethics and professionalism.

ASCE is an official link of the Order of the Engineer and regularly conducts Ring Ceremonies at national events and in conjunction with Section and Branch activities. Information on the Order of the Engineer is available on the ASCE website under Professional Issues.

## Habitat for Humanity



The Fox River Valley Branch has been active in supporting the Habitat for Humanity project.

Branch members volunteered for a day of home construction with Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity (GGBHFH) on April 21, 2007. The members participated in a home renovation/addition project that was a joint venture between GGBHFH and Neighbor Works, an organization that seeks to renovate downtown properties with an emphasis on handicapped accessibility. Branch volunteers worked to retrofit framing for the new windows in the house, which was constructed around the turn of the century and was moved to its current site as a part of the project.

The retrofit framing was tedious, but Branch volunteers did a great job and succeeded in reconstructing most of the second floor windows. Branch volunteers also installed roof decking on the garage and handicapped accessible living quarters, which were added to the original structure. The day was warm, but volunteers worked hard to install the roof deck and prepare it for roofing. Branch volunteers also repaired the sheathing on the house to facilitate siding installation. It was a very productive day at the project site and the volunteers had a great time.

The Fox River Valley Branch plans to continue to sponsor volunteer days with GGBHFH and other organizations and will need Branch members to participate and lead these efforts. The prospect of spending a precious Saturday laboring can be daunting, but the friendship and sense of accomplishment are wonderful and well worth the effort. Thanks to all who participated!

## UW-Madison Repeats as Concrete Canoe Champions



Twenty-two teams paddled into Seattle but only one—the University of Wisconsin-Madison—emerged from the waters as champion of the 20th Annual National Concrete Canoe Competition. Like all success stories, the Badgers' journey was a demanding one, wrought with challenges that tested their brains and their brawn. Countless calculations and measurements made to meet the strict competition requirements, and aching muscles from hours of paddling practice were just a few of the challenges faced by the University of Wisconsin-Madison when they set out to compete at the University of Washington. But, with ingenuity and rock hard determination, they paddled their canoe, the Descendant, to victory. Capturing their fifth Concrete Canoe title, the team's 19.979-foot-long, 179-pound, natural gray canoe defeated entries from other top engineering schools from across the country. The team from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville finished ninth among the eighteen teams entered in the competition. For more information, visit [asce.org/concretecanoe](http://asce.org/concretecanoe).

# Candidates for ASCE Wisconsin Section Board Positions

The Wisconsin Section Board has nominated the following candidates to serve as officers for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The board recommends a vote for each nominated candidate. Please use the enclosed ballot to vote for these candidates, or write-in candidates of your choice. All ASCE members who have paid their 2006 Wisconsin Section dues have the right to vote and are eligible to hold office. Elected officers will assume their duties at the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 21, 2007.

## President Elect – Gary M. Amel, P.E.

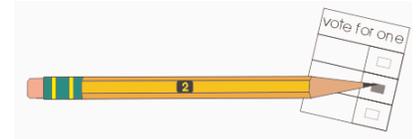
Gary has served as Vice President of the Section for the past year. Prior to that, he served several terms as Section Director. He has served as Director and President of the Fox River Valley Branch, and has chaired the branch Scholarship Committee for the past several years. He was part of the planning committee for several Annual Meetings and Spring Technical Conferences. Gary graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and an MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign. He is a registered engineer in Wisconsin and 13 other states, and is employed as a Senior Structural Engineer at Foth Production Solutions in Green Bay.

## Vice President – Richard A. Schneider, P.E.

Rich is an Instructor of Civil Engineering Technology at Madison Area Technical College. Rich received his AS in Civil Engineering Technology from MATC and his BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from UW-Madison. He has been actively involved with ASCE throughout his academic and professional life. In recent years, Rich has served as President and Secretary/Treasurer for the Southwest Branch. He has participated on the 2000 Spring Technical Conference and 2001 Annual Meeting planning committees and served as co-chair of the 2003 Spring Technical Conference planning committee. Rich is an avid civil engineering and

construction history buff. He has amassed nearly complete collections of ASCE

Transactions dating back to 1873 and Civil Engineering magazine dating back to 1932.

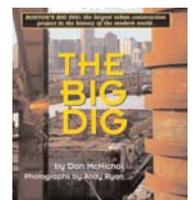


## Director-at-Large – Brian Udovich, P.E.

Brian graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from UW-Platteville in 1997. While at Platteville, he was active with the student chapter of ASCE having served as Vice-President and a member of the concrete canoe team. Brian went on to receive his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in 2005. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Wisconsin and works for R.A. Smith & Associates, Inc. as a Senior Project Engineer/Project Manager in the Municipal Services Division. Brian has been active in the Younger Member Group having served as President-Elect, President, and Past-President, in addition to being a Corresponding Member of the National Committee on Younger Members. He is also quite active in the Southeast Branch having served as Secretary, President-Elect, and President. He is currently Past-President of the Branch, a member of the Scholarship Committee, and is involved with the Section as a Branch Director. Brian was also the Chairman of the 2002 Spring Technical Conference and was a member of the organizing committee for the 2006 Annual Meeting. He has also helped spark student interest in engineering as a Practitioner Advisor at Marquette University as well as volunteering at events such as the Future Cities Competition, the Math Counts Competition, the 150th National Student Conference in 2002, and the 2006 Great Lakes Regional Conference. Brian was recognized by the Wisconsin Section for his efforts in 2004 as the Young Civil Engineer of the Year.

## 2007 ASCE Wisconsin Annual Technical Conference

The Southwest Branch is pleased to report that the 2007 ASCE Wisconsin Annual Technical Conference will be held on September 21, 2007. The conference will be held at the Marriott Madison West. The keynote speaker for the meeting will be Dan McNichol speaking on the topic of the Big Dig. Online registration will be available for this conference.



The Technical Committee Chairs are assembling a variety of technical presentations for the conference. If you have a project that you would like to present, there is still time to contact the technical committee chairs within your area of expertise to notify them of your interest. However, you will need to hurry because the program will be finalized soon.



Wisconsin Section July 2007  
Newsletter

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Addressed to an Important ASCE Member

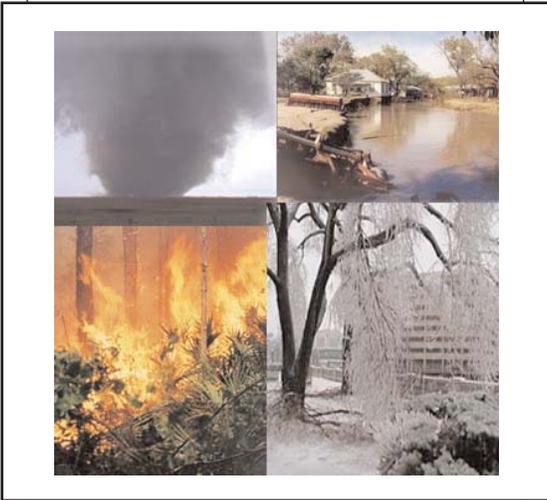
## ASCE Call for Disaster Assistance Volunteers

Each time a natural disaster or man-made event (such as Hurricane Katrina or the terrorist attacks of 9/11) occurs, ASCE members volunteer their time and talents to assist in response and recovery initiatives, and look to ASCE to provide an avenue to do so.

The ASCE Committee on Critical Infrastructure (CCI), in response to our members' desire to lend support to such efforts, is developing a directory of members who express their interest and availability to assist. CCI is currently seeking volunteers to participate in disaster management activities including planning, preparedness, response, and recovery, on an as-needed basis.

The information provided will be included in a directory for the ASCE Disaster Assistance Volunteer

Program to be made available in the event of natural and man-made disasters requiring engineers for planning, damage assessment and rebuilding efforts. The data provid-



ed in the directory will be made available upon request to qualified parties including local, state and federal agencies, as well as private

consulting firms seeking professional engineering expertise. Enrollment in the directory does not guarantee that a member will be called upon. Additionally, volunteers should note that Good Samaritan laws vary from state to state. No protection from liability concerns is provided by enrollment in the database.

Interested members are encouraged to update their ASCE member profile by providing additional disaster assistance related information for inclusion in the directory. To ensure the accuracy of the directory, members may be asked to confirm the information provided on an ongoing basis.

For additional information about the ASCE Disaster Assistance Volunteer Program and to enroll in the directory, visit <http://ciasce.asce.org/>