

February 2006

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26	27	28				

WWW.ASCEACADIANA.NET

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE
BRANCH

Schedule of Events

- February 14: St. Valentine's Day
- February 15: February Branch Meeting
- February 20: President's Day
- February 28: Mardi Gras



Acadiana Branch

American Society of Civil Engineers

Volume 24, Issue 4

February 2006

Upcoming Events / Information

- Feb. 15 Luncheon
- For more information concerning the Acadiana Branch, go to our newly established website at www.asceacadiana.net
- **Please make note of our newsletter sponsors for again helping make this newsletter an ongoing success! (See page 3)**

President's Message

Dear Acadiana Branch Members,

As we begin this new year, the Board of Directors is back at work planning for upcoming events within our organization. The Board of Directors met recently to discuss old and new business including the JESC Conference, the Public Outreach Program for high school students, plans for the February and March branch meetings, ULL and McNeese University Student Chapter donations, and having a two-day technical seminar this coming Fall 2006.

I would like to first thank those who attended the Joint Engineering Societies Conference this past January. The conference was an unbelievable success with over 450 registrants attending. I would like to express my apologies to those who attended for the lack of seating in the session rooms. LES, who hosted the conference, did not anticipate this type of overwhelming attendance. I was proud to see that well over 60% (in my opinion) of the registrants were ASCE members from across the state. Our branch is awaiting discussions with LES to determine what percent of the proceeds from the conference will be given to

ASCE being a participant in the conference session planning and having the ASCE membership attend.

It is the plan of the Board and Public Outreach Committee to begin promoting Civil Engineering to high school students this coming April 2006. We will be looking for volunteers to help attend local high schools and promote Civil Engineering to the students utilizing the presentation that Dr. Kenneth McMannis and his committee has prepared. If you are interested in helping, please call or email any of the board members or Dr. McMannis at kmcmannis@cox.net.

Lastly, the board is looking into having a technical seminar this coming Fall 2006. Typically, every other year, the branch hosts a 2-day seminar on one technical Civil Engineering topic. Two years ago if you recall, the 2-day seminar was about the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Design of Culverts presented by Dr. Rollin Hotchkiss from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. If you have any ideas of a topic you would like to learn

about, please discuss with the board of directors as soon as possible so that we can consider and begin planning for the event.

Thanks,
Dax A. Douet, P.E.

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February Acadiana Branch Luncheon

DATE: Thursday, February 15th, 2006
LOCATION: Petroleum Club
 111 Heymann Blvd.
 Lafayette, LA 70503
TIME: 11:30 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.
 (11:30 A.M.—Check In)
PRICE: \$15.00 Professionals / \$5.00 Students
MENU: Self-Served Buffet
SPEAKER: Chris Abadie, P.E., Materials Research Administrator, LTRC
TOPIC: Perpetual Pavements



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ASCE ACADIANA BRANCH

BOARD / BRANCH NEWS

The Public Outreach Committee has continued to make progress in constructing a very impressive presentation for the local High School sophomores and juniors and is nearly complete. The first of several presentations will be demonstrated in early April by volunteer members throughout the area. Compensation for travel and meals is still being discussed and further details are to be announced as they are finalized.

The Board also discussed the upcoming Engineering Day at ULL and is planning to help

finance the cost for supplying food for the high school students. Details are currently under discussion.

LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER MAGAZINE

If anyone is interested in putting an advertisement about their respective company in the *Louisiana Civil Engineer Magazine*, please contact Jim Porter at (225) 242-4556. Advertisement pricing is as follows:

- \$240 - 1/4 page advertisement

- \$425 - 1/2 page advertisement
- \$750 - Full page advertisement

These advertisement prices are for one issue, but various discounts are available for multiple issue purchases. Advertising is also available for business cards as well. Please contact Mr. Porter for more information and pricing.

MR. CHRIS ABADIE, P.E.

Mr. Chris Abadie is the Materials Research Administrator with the Louisiana Transportation Research Center. He is also a lifelong resident of Baton Rouge, LA and received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University in 1982.

Mr. Abadie has over 20 years

of experience in Materials research and quality assurance with the Department of Transportation and Development specializing in Asphalt materials for the majority of that time.

In the past 12 years with LTRC, he has participated in several research projects, directing such projects as implementation of

Superpave Binder and Mixtures, and Determining In-Situ strength of asphalt mixtures.

Mr. Abadie is a member of the Transportation Research Board, Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists, and National Society of Professional Engineers.

ASCE STATE NEWS

The state board held its monthly meeting on Friday, February 3, 2006, and several issues were discussed. A couple items of interest to our branch included an endorsement letter from ASCE to FEMA concerning the CORS network and also the receipt of awards from the national Zone II Conference.

ASCE previously submitted an endorsement letter to FEMA and other agencies promoting the need for an expansion of the CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) network to

aid surveyors and engineers throughout the Gulf Coast in performing elevation surveys that are consistent and on the same datum utilizing these "intelligent" benchmarks. The endorsement letter was composed by Mr. Bob Jacobsen and Dax Douet, reviewed, and accepted by the State Board of Directors. This letter was hand carried to FEMA to basically request financial aid in helping to implement such a needed system in the state especially in a time when accurate and consistent elevation benchmarks are needed to help rebuild the devastated Gulf Coast region.

The Louisiana State Section also received two awards at the National Zone II Conference. These two awards included one for Outstanding State Newsletter and a second special citation for our use of the state website following the hurricanes for obtaining contact information and needs from hurricane victims.

The ASCE Spring Conference will be in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on March 29-31. More information about the upcoming conference will be included in the *Louisiana Civil Engineer Magazine*.

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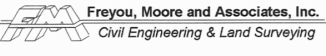




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Contact Information & ASCE Acadiana Branch Newsletter Sponsors

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