

# September 2006

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FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
BRANCH

## Schedule of Events

- September 4: Labor Day
- September 14: September Branch Meeting
- September 21-22: 2006 Acadiana Branch Fall Conference



# Acadiana Branch

American Society of Civil Engineers

Volume 24, Issue 7

September 2006

### Upcoming Events / Information

- September 14 Luncheon
- For more information concerning the Acadiana Branch, go to our newly established website at [www.asceacadiana.net](http://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

#### Acadiana Branch

President's Message to Membership

Well, it is that time of the year again for the branch to become active after a long hot summer. I truly hope that all of you have had a nice summer and have been able to have the chance to get away from the rustle and bustle of work.

Typically, during the month of September, the branch installs its new officers for the next term year. The board is planning to have our last meeting for the 2006-2007 year this coming Thursday September 14, 2006. We hope that you can attend, because it is this meeting that we will close nominations and vote for the new 2006-2007 board of directors. The meeting will not include any guest speaker. The installation of officers will be conducted during our 2006 fall seminar which will be in two weeks.

I hope that you have given serious thought to attending this year's fall two-day technical seminar. Knowing that most of the Civil Engineers within the branch area have been engaged in the design of roadway transportation system, I believe that this two-day technical seminar topic will be of great value to your continuing education. A total of 14 PDH hours is anticipated for less than \$350 dollars, and will be located right here in Lafayette, Louisiana. Where else can you find a deal like that....

I want to extend a congratulations to Dr. Kenneth McManis, the new department head of Civil Engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. If you have had the chance to meet Dr. McManis, you would easily describe him as one of the hardest and most dedicated workers you have ever known. I believe that Ken will bring new light and ideas to the Civil Engineering

program at the school. I also want to extend congratulations to our new upcoming branch president, Dr. Jamal Khattak. As a professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Dr. Khattak has dedicated much of his time to both ASCE and his students. I am confident that Jamal will do a wonderful job in managing the branch.

I want to conclude by saying that it has been an honor to serve as your president for the 2005-2006 term. I thank the board of directors for "putting up with me". As I move on to being your representative on the state level, I hope that I can always promote the Acadiana Branch, and most of all, the Civil Engineering profession. God Bless

Dax A. Douet, P.E.

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### September Acadiana Branch Luncheon

<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, September 14, 2006
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Don's Seafood & Steakhouse 301 E. Vermilion Lafayette, LA 70501
<b>TIME:</b>	11:30a until 1:00p
<b>PRICE:</b>	\$15.00 Professionals / \$5.00 Students
<b>MENU:</b>	Choice of either the fried shrimp, broiled catfish, grilled boneless chicken breast, half fried shrimp/catfish, or crab meat au gratin dinner. Include dinner salad, bread pudding w/ rum sauce, and tea/water.
<b>AGENDA:</b>	ASCE Acadiana Branch Social, Nominations, & Voting of Officers for the 2006-07 term



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## ASCE ACADIANA BRANCH NEWS

### BOARD/BRANCH NEWS

The upcoming 2006 Fall Conference will be held on September 21st & 22nd at the Hilton Hotel in Lafayette. The seminar will be a two-day event that will focus on Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) and Advanced Flexibility in

Design. If you are interested in attending, please register ASAP.

The Acadiana Branch will continue to have meetings on the second Thursday of each month. This upcoming Branch meeting will be the last chance to nominate for the board of directors. Also be sure to visit the website

at <http://www.asceacadiana.net/> for all the latest information and Branch news. And, a very big thanks goes out to Kim Landry for doing such a great job maintaining it!! Several members have expressed their compliments to having such a well organized site.

## ASCE NATIONAL NEWS

### LESSONS FROM HURRICANE KATRINA

*Engineers Issue Call to Action for Protecting New Orleans and the Nation*

**New Orleans, La.**—The damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina included catastrophic human, cultural and economic damages for the Gulf Coast region. A year later, as the nation reflects on the anniversary of that tragic day, an expert engineering panel formed by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) today released a set of essential recommendations for overcoming the deficiencies in the city's hurricane protection system and instituting real change in its governance, management and engineering.

The panel noted that organizations must be structured to enable, not to inhibit, the focus on safety, and engineers must continually evaluate the appropriateness of design criteria, always considering how the performance of individual components affects the overall performance of a system. Specific recommendations included:

- Keep safety at the forefront of public priorities by having all responsible agencies reevaluate their policies and practices to ensure that protection of public safety, health and welfare is the top priority for infrequent but potentially devastating impacts from hurri-

canes and flooding. Also, encourage Congress to establish and fund a mechanism for nationwide "Levee Safety and Rehabilitation," as is done for major dams.

- Quantify and periodically update the assessment of risk. This approach should be extended to all areas in the United States that are vulnerable to major losses from hurricanes and flooding.

- Determine the level of acceptable risk in the community through quality programs of public risk communication in New Orleans and other areas threatened by hurricanes and flooding.

- Correct the system's deficiencies by establishing mechanisms to incorporate changing information, making the levees survivable if overtopped, strengthening the I-walls and levees, and upgrading the pumping stations.

- Assign to a single individual, a licensed engineer, the responsibility of managing critical hurricane and flood protection systems such as the one in the New Orleans.

- Implement more effective mechanisms for coordination and cooperation (for example, those responsible for maintenance of the system must collaborate with system designers and must upgrade their inspection, repair and operations to ensure that the system is hurricane and flood-ready).

- Upgrade engineering design procedures to place greater emphasis on safety.

Engage independent experts in high-level reviews of all critical life safety structures, including hurricane and flood protection systems.

These recommendations were developed as a result of the ERP's in-depth review of the comprehensive work of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET). During the course of its work, the ERP developed a deep understanding of the underlying issues that led to this tragedy, and recognizing their obligation to share these findings so others may learn from this tragedy and prevent it from happening again, the Panel developed the essential list of calls to action.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the ERP was formed at the request of USACE Chief of Engineers General Carl Strock to conduct continuing expert peer review of the work performed by IPET. The ERP comprises 14 engineers and a social scientist currently engaged as private consultants, academics and public agency officials. The ERP has experts from several technical fields, including multiple specialties of civil engineering. Over the past nine months, the ERP has worked collaboratively with IPET to ensure that lessons learned from the tragedy in New Orleans are incorporated into the rebuilding and recovery efforts in real time. The ERP will issue its final report later in September.

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