



Acadiana Branch

American Society of Civil Engineers

February 2010

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Presidents Message

Dear Acadiana Branch Members:

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable and safe Mardi Gras season. Allow me to take the time to thank all those who attended December's LES/ASCE luncheon social at Pete's on Johnson St. on December 11th, 2009. It was well attended and received, and we were able to donate moneys to a worthy cause for a high school student in need of clothes for the winter holidays.

I also hope that everyone was able to attend the recent JESC on January 28th-29th. There was a great turnout with great presentations and speakers, and due to our participation from you all, our branch will be receiving a portion of the proceeds which has yet to be determined. I appreciate everyone who was able to participate on ASCE's behalf!

Our next luncheon will be a very well received Ethics presentation given by Mr. David Grouchy, P.E. I have personally attended two of his presentation and absolutely had to have him present to the membership. As a board, we have decided to donate all proceeds of the meeting and any additional individual donations to the Haiti disaster relief efforts. Every little contribution can help, so please show your support in their times of need from the devastating earthquake on January 12th, 2010.

In addition ASCE has also publically announced additional ways to help.

How you can help

Send \$10 to the American Red Cross relief effort immediately by texting "**Haiti**" to **90999** from your cell phone. The donation will appear on your cell phone bill. Or donate via the [American Red Cross Web site](http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main) @ http://american.redcross.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ntld_main.

Help at the scene -- [enroll in the ASCE Disaster Assistance Volunteer Directory](http://ciance.asce.org/ASCEDisasterAssistanceVolunteerProgram.html) to match your skills with disaster relief efforts. Urgently needed are **structural engineers** or any engineer who **speaks French or Creole**; please specify such skills when enrolling. This site is at <http://ciance.asce.org/ASCEDisasterAssistanceVolunteerProgram.html>.

On March 26th-27th, New Orleans will be hosting the Deep South Conference this year, and UL Lafayette has already expressed high interest in attending and participating in several events including the almighty Bridge competition that most of us were a part of back in our college days. The student chapter board met personally with our board to go over their budgetary needs for this event, and we have donated \$1,000 to their large expense. It is really great to see the student chapter highly involved once again in these events, and I urge all of you to show your support as well.

February Meeting Itinerary

DATE: February 25, 2010
LOCATION: A La Carte-301 Heymann Boulevard, Lafayette, LA
TIME: 11:45 Registration-12:00 p.m. Presentation
PRICE: \$15 for Professionals / \$5 for students
MENU: Caesar Salad, Buffet Style: Sliced Turkey Au Jus, Fried fish, Crawfish Fettucini, Green Beans with Bacon, Cornbread Dressing, Tea & Coffee, & dessert
TOPIC: Engineering Ethics, David Grouchy

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In addition to these student activities, I have also recently sent out applications for the Spring semester scholarship awards for Juniors and Seniors at both UL Lafayette and McNeese State University. I very much look forward to awarding these to all the well deserving hard students for a job well done. We had a tough time making selections this past Fall Semester. Keep up the hard work!

Please also stay tuned for our next meeting currently scheduled March 24th, 2010 in which Chris Abadie from LTRC will be doing a current Asphalt presentation. We will be looking to have this one at Don's Seafood Downtown. Thanks again for all your support and participation as it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve you as your Chapter President thus far. I hope to see each and every one of you at our next meeting!

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Stutes, M.S., P.E.

ASCE – Acadiana Branch President

Local News

• ULL Civil Engineers Rebuild Rome

“We’ve had a week to build Rome and Egypt,” said Chris Carroll, an assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Smaller versions of historical architectural marvels — Rome’s Pantheon, the Roman aqueducts and an Egyptian pyramid, are being reconstructed by Carroll and a group of ULL students on university property off campus.

The group is recreating the structures as part of a two-part series, “Engineering the Impossible” set to air on the Discovery Channel later this year.

“The purpose of the show is to show how all of these ancient structures were built and what engineering techniques were used to do it,” said Carroll.

A crew with Atlantic Productions of has been in Lafayette documenting the construction for the show. Carroll’s work with the production company on a prior series led to his role on “Engineering the Impossible.”

Taping has brought the crew on location to Egypt and through next week — Lafayette. The next stop is Rome.

Steve Burrows, who was part of the team behind the Beijing National Stadium, nicknamed the Bird’s Nest, is the show’s host. Burrows, of the international engineering firm, Arup, takes viewers to Rome and Egypt to deconstruct how the buildings were built.

“We’re going back to ancient civilizations and reexamining with 21st century eyes the engineering and architectural feats of those civilizations,” said Tom St. John Gray, the show’s associate producer.

Construction of the smaller models has not been simplified by modern day conveniences such as concrete truck mixers or power tools.

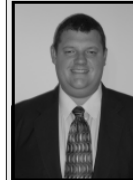
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“It’s still difficult to construct,” Carroll said pointing to what would become a mini-version of the Pantheon. “For people to say that the Pantheon was built all at once. It’s been a challenge for us because we’ve had to build it in layers.”

Carroll stood a few feet away from the model of the Pantheon. Across the field, stood a 70-foot aqueduct that would send water into a Roman bath. In another field, the construction of the pyramid would begin.

As part of the show, the scaled down versions will serve as test sites for the engineering techniques. Other techniques that will be tested at the Lafayette site include: the raising of an obelisk as the Egyptians would have — with only dirt and sand and using a Roman crane to lift and move concrete blocks.

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/84812242.html>

State/National News

- **ASCE UNO Student Chapter: 2010 Deep South Regional Conference**



This year, the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of New Orleans will be hosting the 2010 Deep South Regional Conference. This conference features the annual concrete canoe and steel bridge competitions, as well as competitions and activities for civil engineering schools across Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. It is estimated that 350 civil engineering students will be participating in this year’s conference, to be held March 26 through 28.

We ask that you please consider supporting the student chapter and become a sponsor for the 2010 Deep South Regional Conference. A letter of invitation from the ASCE UNO Student Chapter that outlines sponsorship opportunities for the conference may be found at http://www.asceneworleans.org/attachments/064_ASCE%20UNO%20Chapter%20Sponsor%20Letter.pdf.

Contact information for the student chapter can found in the letter as well.

- **LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE & SHOW**

The dates for the 2010, 20th annual conference are September 22nd & 23. More details will follow soon.

Please log on to <http://louisianacivilengineeringconference.org> to view this year’s PDH forms.

If you have any questions about the registration process or about the conference in general, please contact:

Nicole Hutchison

504-962-7254

nchutchison@signature-dmc.com

- **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 140th ANNUAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE**

Save the date and prepare to join colleagues in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 21-23, 2010. For more information please log on to <http://content.asce.org/conferences/annual2010/call.html>.

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February 2010

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March 2010

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Schedule of Events

- February 2nd— Groundhog Day
- February 14th—Valentine’s Day
- February 15th—Presidents’s Day
- February 16th—Mardi Gras
- February 17th—Ash Wednesday
- February 22nd—Acadiana Branch Officers Meeting
- February 25th—Acadiana Branch Luncheon
- March 14th—Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 17th—St. Patrick’s Day
- March 28th—Palm Sunday
- March 30th—Passover