



# THE FORGE

*Shaping the future, one design at a time!*  
Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch of ASCE

February, 2009  
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## Meeting Information for February 5th

Our monthly meetings are the first Thursday of each month at the Altadena Valley Golf and Country Club off of the Acton Road exit on I-459. Due to the holidays this month's meeting will take place on February 5th. The meetings start at 11:30 am.

The Club's address is 2651 Alta Vista Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35243 and can be reached from the Acton Road exit just west of Highway 280 on I-459. The club's phone number is 205.967.5322. Please visit the website for maps and directions from your location.

The Branch has an agreement with Altadena Country Club for a minimum of 30 lunches each month. The price is \$14.00 per person, which you can pay to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer at the meeting or online at our website. We request that if you plan to attend the meeting and pay onsite, please contact Karen Phillips at 205-541-5148 or through the Branch's e-mail at [bham.asce@gmail.com](mailto:bham.asce@gmail.com) and indicate your plans no later than 5:00 pm February 2nd. In order for Altadena to plan for the meals and to ensure enough food is available, we must indicate the total number of lunches required and once the branch confirms the RSVP list we are held accountable for that total amount regardless of the number of people attending. Therefore it is imperative that you indicate your plans no later than the fourth Friday of each month.

## Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!

- The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Engineering Council of Birmingham (ECOB) Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at The Club. Please contact Richard Brown at (205) 836-6300 by February 5<sup>th</sup> to reserve your tickets. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.
- The Section's Summer meeting is scheduled to take place in Orange Beach July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2, 2009.
- The Joint Engineers Council of Alabama will hold the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Summit on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 for more information see <http://www.jeca.org/events.htm>.
- National Engineers Week is the week of February 15<sup>th</sup> 2009.
- 2009 ASCE Southeast Regional Competition and Conference will be held at Vanderbilt University on March 26 – 28, 2009.

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## A Message from the President

*By Bobby Nolen*

Though probably not a reflection of the general slowdown in our economy, there is not much to report or broadcast this month from my vantage point as the Branch's President. As an attachment to the e-mail that delivered this newsletter you should have received the official Branch By-laws that were adopted at the January meeting. The adoption is contingent upon the Alabama Section's advise and consent action at its meeting on January 28, 2009. The Branch will have to reconsider any matter that the Section may raise about the By-laws.

Speaking of the Section, the Winter meeting will be held Thursday, January 29, 2009, at the Bryant Conference Center (corner of Second Avenue and Paul W. Bryant Drive) in Tuscaloosa. I hope you have made plans to attend.

The coloring competition is advancing to its finale next month when the participating schools will surrender the packets for judging. If you are interested in serving as a judge, please contact me.

I have been remiss in appealing for contributions to fund the competition this year. Please consider this a mass appeal to all companies, corporations, businesses, or individuals who may want to participate in the competition by making a donation (please make checks to Birmingham Branch ASCE – memo: coloring comp – and mail to Birmingham Branch ASCE, P. O. Box 190366, Birmingham, Alabama 35219. No amount is too small. I will send out specific solicitation letters in the next couple of weeks.

Soon, Dwight Turnipseed will come out of hibernation to begin planning for the Branch's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament. Susan Goertz will also begin receiving applications for the scholarships the Branch will award this year from last year's tournament proceeds. Finally, spring will bring the traditional coloring competition field trips, where dozens of fourth graders scurry all over the area to inspect dams, water treatment plants, and other sites of engineering significance.

So, there is much to do in the Branch. I hope you can find an interest to plug in and turn on your participation. There are some things that will not get done without you.

## Policy Update – A state-by-state look at the stimulus package

The Center for American Progress just released a interactive graphic that shows a breakdown of the stimulus spending by each state. Not all of the spending could be tallied and only about 2/3 of the plan is broken down by state. But you can see where a large portion of the money is being allocated. Alabama is slated to receive approximately 7.9 billion with 12.1 percent of this money to be used to balance the state budget. Georgia is slated to receive 16.6 billion while Tennessee will receive 10.5 billion. These numbers are likely to change, since the plan has not yet been approved. Many states are angling for more money and to receive a bigger piece of the pie, it is said that the upper limits of the package could increase to close to a Trillion dollars before it is approved. For more information check out the link below.  
[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/house\\_stimulus\\_overview.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/01/house_stimulus_overview.html)

## 2009 Scheduled Lunchtime Presenters

Date	Speaker	Topic	Last Day to RSVP for Lunch
Feb. 5, 2009	Patrick Flanagan MSE Site Solutions	Retaining Walls with Piedmont Precast	Feb. 2, 2009
	Scott Cothron, PE Sain Associates	Access Management – Alabama State Rt. 181 (Baldwin Co.)	March 2, 2009
April 2, 2009	Thomas C. Grimes Chief Engineer Shelby Co. Hwy Dept.	TBA	March 30, 2009
May 7, 2009	Lance Taylor ALDOT	U.S. Highway 280	May 4, 2009
June 2009	No Meeting This Month	N/A	N/A
July 2009	No Meeting This Month	N/A	N/A
Aug 6, 2009	Tim Ritchie South Central Area Manager Nyloplast	TBA	Aug. 3, 2009
Sept 3, 2009	Available	Available	Aug. 31, 2009

If you would like to be the presenter for September or if you have a suggestion, please contact John Clark at 205-321-1320.

## UAB Student Chapter Prepares for Regional Competition

The UAB Student Chapter of ASCE is excited to once again participate in the ASCE Southeastern Regional Competition which will be hosted by Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee on March 26-28, 2009. Last year the group made major advances over previous UAB teams. This year the 18 participating student's energy levels are high as they prepare; striving to improve on last year's results in the various competitions, such as, environmental, balsa bridge, geotechnical, surveying, and the concrete canoe.

These students need YOUR help. To date the student chapter has raised \$1,500 to supplement registration fees, competition materials, and travel expenses. Fundraisers have included a band night, a paintball tournament, and working concessions at numerous UAB events. Unfortunately, the overall competition expenses are approximately \$7,000, and due to state proration, limited departmental funds are available. Please make a contribution to supplement their ongoing fundraising activities and insure these young engineers have the opportunity to attend the competition they have prepared for the past five months and to succeed in their goal of exceeding last years' results.

For those sponsors contributing \$250 or more you will be recognized on team apparel and on the student chapter website.

Please send your contribution by March 13, 2009 to: UAB ASCE c/o Dr. Kirby, Hoehn 140, 1530 3rd Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294-4440

## Creation of Alabama's State Transit Association

On January 6, 2009, the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority and other systems though out the state meet to discuss the possible creation of a statewide industry association and a state commission on public transportation. This group would be able to make recommendations to the state and hopefully obtain state funding for public transportation projects that many people still see as a social service and not an economic engine.

Currently, there is no dedicated state funding for public transit in Alabama and efforts to get state funding for these projects have failed year after year.

Rep. Rod Scott, D-Fairfield said he plans to introduce legislation this session to create a commission that would make recommendations in 2010. "We have to get into legislators' minds that transit means economic development," Scott said. "It's one of the most important issues as a state we can address."

By Kim Chandler Birmingham News (January 07,2009)

## Newsletter Sponsors – Thank You

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## Branch Contact Information

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