

Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch/Alabama Section

March 2007

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No March Meeting

Due to the Winter meeting Birmingham will not have a branch meeting this month.

What's in a Title?

In recent years, ASCE leaders have discussed whether the title of Honorary Member effectively captures the significance of ASCE's most prestigious member grade. In 2005, ASCE commissioned a Task Committee to examine the issue by reviewing the programs of other organizations, as well as interviewing ASCE past-presidents and Honorary Members. The Committee agreed the term "honorary" does not adequately recognize the indelible impression ASCE's 555 Honorary Members have made in civil engineering and society. Therefore the ASCE Board, on the Committee's recommendation, approved moving forward with the change to the elite member grade to "Distinguished Member." ASCE invites its members to finalize the change by voting this summer.

More information will be available online in the coming months. Check www.asce.org/awards for updates. (ASCE e-newsletter, 1-19-2007)

Design Squad



ASCE's new student outreach program: it is meant to "spark" kids' interest in engineering. This program will introduce the engineering process to teens through television episodes aired on PBS, the

website (www.pbskidsgo.org/designsquad/engineers) and the outreach campaign.

Also visit ASCE's website for information on the Design Squad at:

<http://www.asce.org/membership/voluntary/designsquad/>

ASCE in Washington

Should ASCE form a parallel 501(c)6 organization? Our current 501(c)3 status caps the amount of money we are

allowed to spend on lobbying at \$1 million. The parallel organization would allow us greater flexibility to take part in the decision making on legislation that directly affects the engineering practice and the general public.

More information is available in the President's Monthly Message (January 2007):

<http://content.asce.org/President%20Page/JanuaryPresidentsMessage.html>.

Do you want to voice your opinion and discuss it with your peers? ASCE is sponsoring two webinars, free of charge:

Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 1-2 PM ET

Thursday, February 1, 2007, noon-1 PM ET

To participate in these discussions please email govwash@asce.org for registration.

Virgil Hooper is Leaving

Virgil Hooper has decided to pursue a business opportunity in Georgia and will be resigning his post as the branch's vice president. More to follow soon on filling the vacant position.

Let's all wish him well...

Partnership Produces Engineering Education Poster



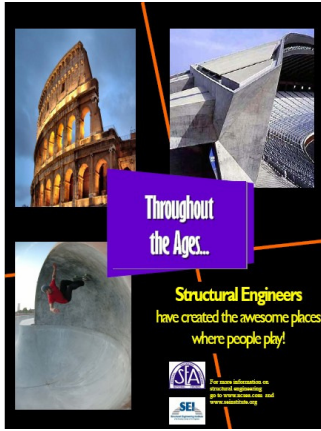
Each year, SEI and the National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA) partner to create a career poster promoting structural engineering. The intent of the poster, which is distributed to middle schools and high schools, is to increase young people's awareness of structural engineering as a career by featuring different appealing aspects of the profession. It is SEI and NCSEA's hope that young people will be inspired by the structures shown in each year's poster and consider structural engineering as a future profession.

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Alabama Section Meeting 2007

The Montgomery Branch will be hosting the 2007 Alabama Section Meeting on March 15, 2007 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Montgomery. We are looking for speakers to fill the morning program with a variety of topics suitable for PDH credits. The afternoon program will feature speakers and tours of projects in Downtown Montgomery. Perhaps you have had an interesting speaker at your branch that would be of interest to the entire Section. Anyone interested in speaking needs to contact Robert Thompson, P.E.

(rthompson@danbrownandassociates.com or 334-850-2794) or Kidada Dixon, E.I. (dixonk@dot.state.al.us or 334-353-6940). A postcard will be mailed to the entire Section in December. Registration information will be mailed out in early February.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- The SWE Regional Conference will be in Tuscaloosa March 2 - 4, 2007.
- ASCE Winter meeting in Montgomery, March 15, 2007
- 2007 SEI Structures Conference is to be held in long Beach, California on May 16th - 19th.

ASCE National and Section News

The latest ASCE National News can be viewed at

www.asce.org.

The Alabama Section web site can be found at

<http://www.alabama-asce.org>

Newsletter Advertising

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