



American Society of Civil Engineers

North Carolina Section

February 2008

Northern Branch News



The News

Volume XI, Number 6

Meeting Info

Program: Landslides and Steep Slope Construction in Western North Carolina,
Jesse Jacobson, PE

Date:
Wednesday,
February 20, 2008,
Kernersville, NC

UPCOMING (see also pg 6)

*Carolinas Conference at
NC A&T State University,
March, 2008, Greensboro, NC*

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Chair: Shannon Austin

Phone: 336/499-3866

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= \$4,363.15 (1/09/2008)

Presidents Message

National Engineers Week or E-week is celebrated each year in February. This is a week set aside to show everyone how much the world needs engineers! This year E-week is February 17-23, 2008. I encourage each of you to volunteer for E-week. I have videos to introduce the class to engineering and to break the ice. I also have stickers, pencils and bookmarks to hand out. On the North Carolina ASCE section webpage there are links to popular E-week sites and on these sites are projects you can do with the class. Most of them are really easy and require little material and most you can collect from your home or office. And there is good news.....we have funds from the section to support E-week. On a first come-first serve basis we will help fund your project with proper receipts. Please contact Jessica Montgomery at montgomery49er@yahoo.com or 336-345-1732 for more information on how to volunteer.

Also remember if you cannot volunteer for E-week during the week and school hours there is a great event being held at Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem on Saturday, February 23—The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Egg Drop Competition 2008. Go to the following web page for more information <http://www.wsfceggdrop.com/> Carolinas Conference will be hosted by NC A&T this year (March 27-29, 2008). This is a great way to get involved with the local community and up and coming engineers. If you have never been to this event...you need to come see this! As a branch we are sponsoring the Geotechnical Competition. Branch members from S&ME and Trigon Engineering are in the planning phase of this event currently. If you are interested in helping in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact Nathan Huynh, the Northern Branch Vice President. It will not take too much of your time to help out. Let's all support Carolinas Conference!

Please remember that we, as ASCE Northern Branch Officers, are here to serve our members! Please let us know what you think about meetings, topics, location, etc. We would love to hear from each of you.

The ASCE North Carolina Section has offered to help each branch by funding the event, but the key is....you need to volunteer!

For any of you who have participated in E-Week in the past you know how rewarding it is to see the children learn about engineering and for those who have not participated in E-Week before...there is not a better year to start! ASCE will provide you with everything you need, all you have to do is show up and discuss engineering; who knows this could help children stay in school and/or focus their energy on math and science and more importantly engineering!

Volunteers can be individuals or groups of people. If you have a child in school and would like to volunteer to work with their class, please contact me. Remember that even though the program is intended to focus on middle school age students, we would still want volunteers for younger and older students. If you would like more information on how to participate in E-Week please go to the following link: http://sections.asce.org/n_carolina/eWeek.html and contact me, your Northern Branch E-Week coordinator. Hope to see each of you at the February 20th meeting in Kernersville.

Wednesday
Meeting February 20, 2008

North Carolina A&T College of Engineering

Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. (336) 334-7737
Faculty Student Advisor: Dr. Nathan Huynh. nnhuynh@ncat.edu

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The Chapter's Web page is www.angelfire.com/nc2/asce

Last Month's Meeting -

Held January 23, 2008 at Fire Mountain Buffet, Kernersville, NC.

The January meeting was very informative. Kristi Miller from Filterra gave a very good summation of their product. It is a Bio-retention type of structure that can be installed as a new stormwater treatment device that will meet the requirements of a BMP. The Filterra structure can be also be used to retrofit existing storm drainage systems for water quality and works very well in tight spaces and urban spaces with high imperviousness. It is very flexible and attractive. Kristi mentioned that several communities around NC are or will be using them, such as Cary and other communities in North Carolina. The meeting was well attended by members with a wide variety of Civil Engineering disciplines along with four NC A&T graduate students.

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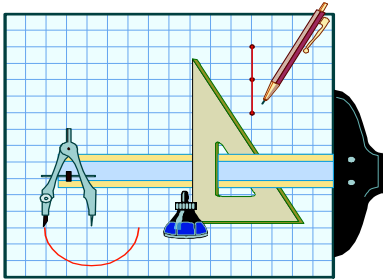
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11/13/07

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Carolina's Conference is just around the corner!

As you are aware, North Carolina A&T State University will host the 2008 ASCE Carolinas Conference on March 27-29, 2008. They have an urgent need for judges for the following events. Below is a brief description of the event and time commitment as a judge.

- 1. Concrete Canoe:** teams design, build, and race their canoes. *Time commitment* – review the rules prior to the event, judge the event on March 28, 2008 from 8AM to about 2PM, and grade the teams after the event.
- 2. Steel bridge:** teams design, build, and assemble their bridges. *Time commitment* – review the rules prior to the event, judge the event on March 29, 2008 from 8AM to about 4PM, and grade the teams after the event.
- 3. Meade Paper:** students write an 8-page paper on “Ethical Issues Surrounding Infrastructure Privatization” and make a 5-minute oral presentation. *Time commitment* – read the submitted papers prior to the conference (you will have one month to do this) and be present at NC A&T on March 28, 2008 from 2PM to about 4PM to evaluate the 5-minutes presentations.

As a branch, we need to support our affiliated institution. Please consider volunteering for one of the above events. If you are willing or have any questions, contact the faculty advisor, Dr. Nathan Huynh at nhuynh@ncat.edu.

Thank you for your support!

2008 NORTHERN BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Thanks to all the members attendance and sponsors for the newsletter, we again have sufficient funds to provide (3)-\$750 scholarships to three (3) Civil Engineering students this year. The topic for this year is **“How can civil engineers better communicate to the public and the media the urgency and importance of caring for the nation’s overburdened infrastructure (i.e. bridges, dams, drinking water and sewer systems) ?”** and scholarships will be awarded during the April ASCE meeting. Students have written very good essays in previous years and we look forward to seeing this years entries.

Upcoming events this year. Please mark you calender!



<u>February 17th to 23rd, 2008</u>	Engineer's week (meeting on 20th, see announcement)
<u>March 28, 2008,</u>	Carolina's Conference, NC A&T State University, Greensboro, NC
<u>April 23, 2008,</u>	NC Turnpike Authority: Will discuss information on transportation finance, how toll roads will be used and current projects, Kernersville, NC
<u>April 28, 2008,</u>	Spring Technical Workshop at McKimmon Center, Raleigh, NC
<u>May 21, 2008,</u>	Dr. Manur Sundaresan: Structural health monitoring, Kernersville, NC
<u>June 18, 2008,</u>	Winston-Salem Ball Stadium Project update, Kernersville, NC
<u>August 20, 2008,</u>	Civil Engineering liens & Contracts, Conner-Gwynn-Schenck, Kernersville, NC
<u>September 11-12th,</u>	Annual Conference, Marriott Executive Park, Charlotte, NC
<u>September 17, 2008,</u>	Denise Poulos from ECS: Wetland Topics

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Northern Branch ASCE MEETING in Kernersville

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 20, 2008
- TIME:** 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch Meeting
(Please arrive between 11:30 and 11:45am to register)
Do **not** pay upfront. Find the meeting room and pay ASCE.
- LOCATION:** Fire Mountain Buffet
1180 S. Main Street
Kernersville, NC
- COST:** Members: \$15
Guests: \$20
Students: \$5

PROGRAM: Landslides and Steep Slope Construction in Western North Carolina (1.0 PDH)

In the Fall of 2005, tropical storms Frances and Ivan triggered numerous landslides across the mountainous regions of Western North Carolina. The results were devastating; the landslides resulted in loss of life and significantly impacted local economies both directly and indirectly. Further evaluation by the author and many others indicated that a large proportion of the landslides were attributed to poor planning and construction techniques, and were thus preventable. As such, steep slope ordinances are now being developed at the city, county and state levels, and subsequently the issue has moved into the political realm.

SPEAKER'S BACKGROUND:

Jesse Jacobson was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi on July 4, 1977. After graduating from Vicksburg High School in May 1995, he went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University in May of 2000. After graduating, Jesse worked in Tuscaloosa, Alabama for the Tuscaloosa Testing Laboratory from May to December 2000. He then returned to school and received a Master of Science in Geotechnical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. Following graduation, he and his wife Corey moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where he has been working as a consultant in geotechnical engineering for over five years.

