



American Society of Civil Engineers  
North Carolina Section

# Northern Branch News



March 2008

Volume XI, Number 7

## Meeting Info

**Program: Geotechnical Competition sponsored by this Branch and S&ME at NC A&T State University for the Carolina's Competition, March 28, 2008**

**Date: Friday, March 28, 2008, Greensboro, NC**

**UPCOMING** (see also pg 6)

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

## Presidents Message

Carolinas Conference is an annual competition between civil engineering universities and this year the event will be hosted by our very own local university, North Carolina A&T. Just to name a few universities participating in the events.....NC State University, UNC-Charlotte, NC A&T, Clemson University, The Citadel, The University of South Carolina, and Georgia Tech. The two big events that will go on to compete at a national level are steel bridge and concrete canoe. This is a great opportunity for our members to get involved in helping out the students and local community.

As a branch we are going to sponsor the Geotechnical Competition. Chris Busch, P.E., with S&ME, Inc., is leading the branch in organizing the Geotechnical Competition. The objective of the Geotechnical competition is to design and build a miniature reinforced earth (MSE) retaining wall using paper reinforcement taped to a poster-paper wall facing. Design competition is to use the least area of paper strips a sustain a "footing" load of 50 lbs. in a 5 gallon bucket loaded 3 inches behind the wall top. In addition to organizing the event he has been gracious enough to set up a Google group at <http://groups.google.com/group/asce-cc-geotech> with the rules and other information in hopes that the student teams will ask questions that will benefit each team and the competitive spirit of the conference. To read the rules and more about the Geotechnical Competition, visit the following website: [http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/Files/2008\\_Carolinas\\_Conference\\_Geotech\\_Competition.pdf](http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/Files/2008_Carolinas_Conference_Geotech_Competition.pdf)

The 2008 Carolinas Conference site is located at <http://www.ncat.edu/~asce/2008CarolinasConference.htm>

You are all encouraged to volunteer to help out at the Geotechnical Competition or other conference events so please do not hesitate to contact myself or Nathan Huynh [nnhuynh@ncat.edu] if you are interested in volunteering. You are also encouraged to come out and support each event.

The Northern Branch March meeting will be the Geotechnical Competition at NC A&T on Friday, March 28, 2:00 to 5:00. Come out and support this event, meet students and cheer on your favorite university!

Please consider becoming more active in ASCE and volunteering! Officer elections are coming up soon. This is a great way to network and get to know the engineering community. Not to mention you get PDHs for being an officer. It is a win-win situation!

Hope to see each of you at NC A&T on March 28.

## National Engineers Week (E-week)

E-week was February 17-23, 2008 and as a branch we had 8 volunteers!

Shannon Austin has recently joined ASCE and already she has stepped up to the secretary-treasurer position and she was also a volunteer at the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Egg Drop Competition this year. This is an annual event that is held during E-week. Shannon's testimony is below:

National Engineer's week (Pres. Message) continued on page 5.

## Inside

Message	pg 1
NC A&T NEWS	pg 2
Sponsor's Directory	pg 3
Last Month's Meeting	pg 2
Career Opportunities	pg 4
Carolina's Conference	pg 5
Upcoming ASCE events	pg 6
Meeting Announcement	pg 7
Parking Pass	pg 8

## Auditing (Sec'y/Treas)

Chair: Shannon Austin  
Phone: 336/499-3866  
Balance in our checking account  
= \$4,458.53 (1/31/2008)

**FRIDAY**

**Meeting MARCH 28, 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

### 2007-2008 ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER OFFICERS

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*Conference Co-Chair, Ursula Richardson & Joshua Bashari*

The Chapter's Web page is [www.angelfire.com/nc2/asce](http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/asce)

### February meeting

The latest NC Northern branch lunch meeting was held February 23, 2008 at Fire Mountain Buffet in Kernersville. Jesse Jacobson, of S&ME, came and spoke on some of the key issues that arise in steep slope construction, particularly in the western region of North Carolina. Mr. Jacobson stressed the need for a higher priority on the geotechnical evaluation and recommendations for sites in high risk landslide areas such as this region. He feels there is a need to reorganize the chain-of-command for site development in these regions. Like many others in his discipline that are familiar with the detrimental effects of overlooking geotechnical hazards, Jesse believes that their involvement earlier in the design process would improve safety and efficiency when problems do arise. Jesse did mention that ordinances are beginning to develop on the city, county, and state levels. His presentation was very informative and gave the civil engineering professionals of the Triad a peak into some of the regional issues that are present in other areas of our state. We had an attentive group come out for his presentation, with 24 in attendance. S&ME, Trigon, and Stimmel are a few of the firms that were well represented at this meeting.

Prepared By: Shannon Austin, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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#### Nathan Huynh, Assistant Professor

Vice President  
NC A&T State University  
Ph 336-334-7737, ext 665  
Fax 336-334-7126  
nnhuynh@ncat.edu

#### Shannon Austin

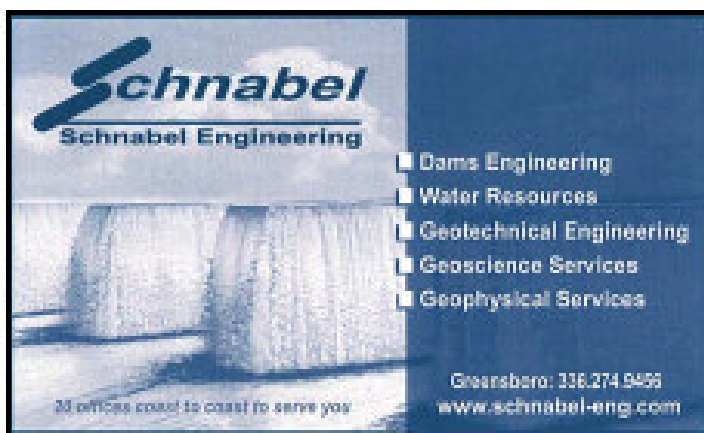
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#### Stephen W. Lacz, P.E.

Branch Representative  
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313 Gallimore Dairy Road, Greensboro, NC  
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Fax (336) 668-3868  
email: Slacz@trigoneng.com

#### Betty Farr, MSCE, PE Newsletter Editor,

Northern Branch Newsletter Editor  
Jewell Engineering Consultants, PC,  
Kernersville, NC  
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336/972-9921 (m)  
Fax 996-9976  
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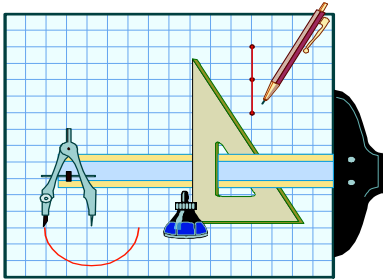
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### **President's Message Continued from Page 1**

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Egg Drop Competition had a HUGE turnout this past Friday at Hanes Mall. Being my first year involved I didn't really know what to expect, but according to veterans of the event it grew tremendously from the previous year. As you can see from the stats below, participation more than doubled!!! While it was great to have such enthusiasm for the event, the day started off pretty chaotic as we were not expecting such a large turn-out. We ran behind schedule most of the day, and massive lines of participants and their parents took over the Belk court of the mall. The large turn-out in combination with approximately 70 volunteers signed up to help, and about 50 actually there, made for a long day. Roped registration lines, with clearly marked directions, and bold notification of free t-shirts for the first "X" number of registrants (of course there were several parents angry that their child did not get a free shirt), were definite improvements noted for next year. While these were a few blips in the day, I will say the scoring process worked seamlessly. Participant's scoring information - device weights, egg weights, and target accuracy - were taken and immediately entered into our database, created by Egg Drop Committee member Josh Tan from Wake Forest University. Participants were also able to access their scores on an automatically updating scoreboard set up on a projector screen near "the drop zone". The database kept things post registration and weigh-in running very smoothly, especially considering the large group of participants. Even though it was somewhat of a taxing day for volunteers, I would definitely say the event was a success. I know the planning committee will be in search of a much larger group of volunteers next year, in anticipation of another big turnout - so keep the event in mind this time next year because we will be soliciting for help!

Individual/Team	2008	2007
K-5 students	64	57
6-8 students	226	51
9-12 students	4	12
Adults	12	10
Teams	194	81

Total egg dropped 500 221

Please read next month's issue for another 2008 E-week volunteer and their testimony.

## 2008 ASCE Carolinas Conference Hosted by North Carolina A&T State University

### Schedule of Events

#### **Thursday, March 27, 2008**

2:00 – 6:30 pm Registration

5:00 – 6:45 pm Refreshments

7:00 – 7:45 pm Kick Off

8:00 – 8:30 pm Business Meeting

8:30 – 9:00 pm Concrete Canoe Captains Meeting

#### **Saturday, March 29, 2008**

7:00 – 5:00 pm Steel Bridge

11:00 – 1:30 pm Lunch

2:00 – 4:00 pm *Wilbur Smith Associates* Transportation

T-Shirt Design

Mead Paper

6:00 – 7:30 pm Expo

8:00 – 10:00 pm Banquet

#### **Friday, March 28, 2008**

6:00 – 8:00 am Canoe Check- In & Breakfast

8:00 – 4:00 pm Canoe Events

11:30 – 1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 – 5:00 pm Surveying

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## 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!



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

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**Northern Branch ASCE MEETING** in Greensboro for the Carolinas Conference

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**DATE:** Friday, March 28, 2008  
**TIME:** 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** North Carolina A&T State University  
McNair Hall (Engineering Building SW corner of campus)  
Greensboro, NC 27411  
**COST:** None, except for parking fee.

**FOOD:** FREE Snacks and drinks will be available for ASCE members.

**PROGRAM:** Northern Branch ASCE sponsored Geotechnical Competition (thanks to S&ME). (0 PDH)

The objective of the geotechnical competition is to design and build a miniature reinforced earth (MSE) retaining wall using paper reinforcement taped to a posterpaper wall facing. Design competition is to use the least area of paper strips and sustain a “footing” load of 50 lbs. placed in a 5-gallon bucket located 3 inches behind the wall top.

**Come to support to our branch and view the conference firsthand. Participation in the geotechnical event is not required by attendees. The Carolina’s Conference will not be held in Greensboro again until 2017!**

**DIRECTIONS:** Follow the directions below to NC A&T. Print out the parking pass(next page) on a yellow sheet and Park your car in the parking deck and then walk to McNair Hall. There will be signs to direct you to the Geotechnical Event.

**From Winston-Salem: (40 East / North 85 Business )**

Travel on Interstate 40 East to Greensboro. Once in Greensboro, continue on Business 85 North to Old Exit #127 , now exit 39 (Highway 29 North, Reidsville Exit). Take Exit 39 onto HWY 29 North. Remain on HWY 29 North for approx. four miles. Take the West Market Street / N.C. A&T University Exit. Once you exit, yield to the right on Market Street. Turn right on Laurel St. The parking deck will be on your right.

**From Charlotte ( North 85 Business)**

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**From Durham ( Business 85 S/40 W)**

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**Parking Pass for NC A&T found on next page**  
**PRINT OUT ON YELLOW PAPER**



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