

*The Newsletter of the Palm Beach Branch, Florida Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers*

**Dates to Remember:**

- **Sept. 13**  
ASCE Palm Beach Branch Monthly Lunch Mtg.
- **Sept. 28 – Oct. 1**  
ASCE National Convention
- **Oct. 14**  
Palm Beach FES Shrimp Boil (see attached flyer)

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**President's Message**

It's been a great summer for the Palm Beach Branch. In June we co-hosted the Tri-County Workshop with the Miami-Dade and Broward branches and the event was a tremendous success. We had a full house at the Long Key Nature Center in Davie and the attendees were not disappointed. Panel discussions were held on Transportation, Utilities, Sea-Level Rise and Asset Management with representation on the panels from leaders in each industry.

In July, our Branch had a memorable year at the Statewide Section Meeting in Jacksonville. We were honored to win the Branch of the Year Award, while David Wantman, PE won the Engineer of the Year Award. It was quite a testament to our membership that we were able to win these prestigious awards at the State level. I would personally like to thank all of our members and especially our executive board officers for making this possible.

As we head into the fall, it is time to look at a new year for the Branch and I am very excited for the direction we are heading. Our incoming President Julie Parham, PE is a past Young Engineer of the Year at the Branch level and has served on our executive board for the past 3 years. I have no doubt that her term as President will bring our Branch to new heights.

To keep the ball rolling, we are now accepting applications for one position on our executive board, Treasurer, and several committee positions. If you are interested in being a part of a special group of professionals that have joined together to work on making Palm Beach County a

better place, please reach out to me before September 16<sup>th</sup>. We are always excited to get more engineers involved in our endeavors.

In the months to come stay tuned as we will be announcing many events at our monthly luncheons, through our email list, and in the newsletters. This year we are planning to continue our tradition of providing quality technical information at our lunches, bringing people together at happy hours and the Bowl-A-Thon, and working in the community at events like Engineering Family Fun Day, the Di-Ti-Fi competition, the School District's SECME contest, and in individual classrooms. I have always been proud of how our Branch provides a technical, social and community focus and your participation is what makes that possible.

Sincerely,

Brent Whitfield, P.E.  
President, Palm Beach Branch  
[bwhitfield@adaeng.net](mailto:bwhitfield@adaeng.net)  
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## PDH Certificates Available on New Website

Please use the link below to access your **PDH certificates** for the ASCE Palm Beach Branch lunch meetings you attended since 2015 where a PDH was offered and you provided proof of your attendance by signing the attendance sheet.

<http://branches.asce.org/palmbeach/resources>

## Upcoming Monthly Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 13, 2016 from 12:00 -1:00 P.M.

**SPEAKER:** Howard Ehmke, PLSM with the South Florida Water Management District

**TOPIC:** Overview of New Vertical and Horizontal Surveying Datums (to replace NAVD 88 and NAD 83)

### DESCRIPTION:

Howard Ehmke, PLSM with the SFWMD and current board member of the Florida Board of Professional Surveyors & Mappers, will give a presentation about the adoption of new vertical and horizontal surveying datums that will be instituted by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey in 2022. These new datums will replace NAVD 88 and NAD 83.

**WHERE:** Vista Center – 2300 N. Jog Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411 (Room 1E-58)












**LUNCH MENU:** \$10 cash/check or \$10.28 by credit card. Use the on-line registration provided at <http://branches.asce.org/palmbeach/>

*Please make your reservation prior to 9:30am on the day of the meeting. Contact Samantha Reilly at 561-209-7786 if you need assistance.*

## 2016 Florida Infrastructure Report Card

The ASCE Florida Section released the **2016 Report Card for Florida's Infrastructure** on Thursday, July 14. The report card is available at:

<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/florida/florida-overview/>

FLORIDA INFRASTRUCTURE GRADES				2016 REPORT CARD GPA: <b>C</b>	
 AVIATION	<b>B-</b>	 BRIDGES	<b>B</b>	 COASTAL AREAS	<b>D+</b>
 DRINKING WATER	<b>C+</b>	 ENERGY	<b>C-</b>	 PORTS	<b>B-</b>
 ROADS	<b>C</b>	 SCHOOL FACILITIES	<b>D+</b>	 STORMWATER	<b>D</b>
 TRANSIT	<b>C</b>	 WASTEWATER	<b>C</b>		

## ASCE Member Benefits

Do you know the **benefits** of being a member of ASCE nationally?

Did you know that you get **5 FREE PDH webinars annually**?

Did you know that you get discounts on car rentals through Avis, Budget, and Hertz as well as discounts on insurance, financial services, Lenovo products, GoodRX, UPS, Toughbooks, technical documents, webinars, journals and ASCE conferences?

Check out the member benefits at: <http://www.asce.org/member-value/>.

Check out the member advantages at: [http://www.asce.org/member\\_advantages/](http://www.asce.org/member_advantages/).

To become an ASCE member for \$240 per year, visit: <http://www.asce.org/join/>. Our local branch membership dues are \$40 per year, paid with your ASCE national membership dues. These dues help fund our branch activities, scholarship and events.



## Florida Section Quarterly Meeting Recap & Southeast Student Conference

The quarterly ASCE Florida Section meeting, attended by branch officers from throughout the state, was held at the ASCE Florida Section Conference in Jacksonville on July 14th. The Section President, Jose Acosta, provided a year in review of achievements and events as his presidency ended and Chris Rader became the new Section President. Mr. Rader outlined his priorities for the new year and presented the draft budget. This year a focus on increasing membership and outreach to students will be implemented.

The officers meeting also included a presentation by FAU to make everyone aware that they will be the hosts of the **ASCE Southeastern Student Conference in March 2017**. Fundraising will continue leading up to the event. Check out the conference website for more details and sponsorship opportunities at: <http://public.eng.fau.edu/design/asce2017/index.html>

**ASCE** MARCH 16-18 2017  
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STUDENT CONFERENCE  
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## Tri-County Workshop Recap

The Tri-County Workshop consisted of four panel discussions moderated by the Presidents and Past-Presidents of the Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Branches. The first panel was an investigation into the state of transportation with Debora Rivera (FDOT District 6), Leslie Wetherell (FDOT District 4) and Bill Cross (SFRTA). A lot of discussion centered around upcoming projects including the Tri-Rail Downtown Link in Miami and the upcoming I-395 project. The second panel focused on Sea-Level Rise and provided a detailed look at the effects and how to address them with Jayantha Obeysekera (SFWMD), Jennifer Jurado (Broward County) and Fred Bloetscher (FAU). After lunch and some networking the third panel was a wide ranging discussion on the status of water and wastewater utilities and asset-management techniques with Hardeep Anand (MD-WASD), Alan Garcia (Broward Water and Wastewater) and Ali Bayat (PBCWUD). The day ended with a round table discussion of how to handle underground utilities, easements and record drawings with the assistance of the latest technologies with James Barton (FTC), John Adler (Longitude Surveyors) and Albert Dominguez (City of Sunrise). Special thanks to Broward Branch President Sam Smith who brought it all together.





## FPL Power Plant Field Trip

On July 22nd the ASCE Palm Beach Branch visited the **FPL Riviera Beach Next Generation Clean Energy Center**. Brian Mangan, the plant manager gave us the tour of the power plant. The trip started with a presentation about the history of the FPL Riviera Beach power plant and comparison between the old and new power plant followed by Q&A from attendees. After Q&A, the team visited the three gas generators and one steam generator. The attendees learned about the process of power generation, management of power and various components of the power plant. The attendees also learned about the adjoining Manatee Lagoon and its impact on the nearby manatee population.

The Clean Energy Center began serving customers in the spring of 2014 using cleaner and more affordable U.S. produced natural gas. This modernized, combined-cycle natural gas plant replaced a 1960s-era, oil-and-gas-fired plant that was demolished on June 19, 2011. The new plant uses 33% less fuel per megawatt-hour. It generates up to 1,250 megawatts of electricity, or enough to power roughly 250,000 homes and businesses (credit: FPL.com).

Click the link below for details about the plant:

<https://www.fpl.com/clean-energy/natural-gas/riviera.html>



## May 2016 U.S. News STEM Solutions Leadership Conference

By Samantha Reilly, E.I., ASCE Palm Beach Branch Treasurer

The United States faces a national dilemma where the supply for STEM talent is too scarce to sustain the current and future demand needed to remain competitive globally as a nation.

The U.S. News STEM Solutions Leadership Conference was held in Baltimore, Maryland this past May which put many of our nation's most decorated business leaders, scientists, technology experts, nonprofit organizers, policymakers and educators in the same room to collaborate, strategize and share innovative ideas urgently needed to secure a promising economic future for our nation in a globally competitive technical market. I was lucky enough to attend.

The United States is becoming increasingly diverse; therefore, securing our nation's future economic prosperity will rely heavily upon leading girls and young people of minorities to pursue careers in STEM fields. There is no simple solution to the complexity of this dilemma but successful initiatives are already underway that are revolutionizing the landscape of how we educate, train and recruit STEM talent. It's like going from a flip phone to a smart phone; things that most of us don't even know could exist are already here. The paradigm is shifting simply because the right people are in the same place at the same time sharing their ideas.

Each person, sponsor and employer invested in this elite collaboration share a common belief that the human potential is available in each and every person, regardless of any real or perceived societal obstructions.



Mike Olka and I were fortunate enough to attend this conference and represent the entire organization of the American Society of Civil Engineers. We represent, what I think is pretty cool, the first realm of the engineering profession. Civil engineers are descendants of the first pioneers to alter the Earth so mankind can live and work together. This conference allotted an opportunity to join hands and compose a letter to the 2016 Presidential candidates shedding light on the demand to further implement innovative and strategic solutions to solve the STEM dilemma that our nation is facing.

Here are a few memorable notes I'd like to pass along:

*"For every job created in tech, four support jobs come with it"*

– Ronald J. Daniels, President, John Hopkins University

## **Launchcode:**

Launchcode is a non-profit organization that partners with hundreds of companies to create paid apprenticeships in technology for talented people who lack the resources to obtain traditional credentials to pursue a career in a STEM related field.

Launchcode has challenged the notion that one's potential may only be reached through a traditional educational platform. Launchcode recognizes that every human being has the capacity to learn new skills and there is an entire market of potential STEM workers in our own backyards.

- Currently, there are millions of Americans that are unemployed or are working low-wage, low-skill set jobs with little opportunity for advancement and dismal job security in an economy where we have an incredible shortage of tech workers that is continuing to grow.

The demand for tech workers is growing rapidly, which should come as no surprise to anyone who lived a world without smartphones. Our nation does not have a shortage of people; the nation has a shortage of pathways to STEM careers. Launchcode is here to change that equation and they just recently expanded to Miami to serve southeast Florida.

- Launchcode was co-founded in 2013 by Square Inc. co-founder Jim McKelvey, Chris Oliver, Dan Lohman and Chris Sommers in St. Louis, Missouri and was named by the St. Louis Riverfront Times as 2014's "The Best Thing to Happen to St. Louis".

Launchcode is helping see that no mind is left behind. Check them out at [Launchcode.org](http://Launchcode.org) and see how your company can acquire readily trained tech workers from one of today's most impressive platforms to hit the STEM talent market.



## Maria Chavez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA

I had the opportunity to meet with Anna Maria Chavez, a woman that has led a national dialogue centered on girls and STEM and the importance of encouraging girls to explore careers in STEM fields. Chavez was selected as one of the 2016 STEM Solutions Hall of Fame honorees.

Chavez uses her platform to engage the nation on the reality that for the past decade, growth in STEM field positions has been three times greater than that of non-STEM positions and these positions comprise 80% of the U.S.'s fastest growing occupations, but something is still holding girls back.

- Chavez reminds us that women comprise 48% of the U.S. workforce while only making up 24% of the STEM workforce, which has not changed for a decade.
- Discouraging classroom experiences and young girls' susceptibility to gender-stereotyping are some of the factors that push girls away from pursuing a STEM career like their male peers.



*“For over 100 years, Girl Scouts has been building girls who will go on to shape the future. Now, at the start of our second century of service to girls, it’s more important than ever that our nation embrace the Girl Scout mission and empower girls to find their passion and follow it wherever it leads them, whether it’s in business, the arts, or the booming STEM sector. **Girls deserve nothing less.**”*

-Anna Maria Chavez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA

## SOCIAL MEDIA



ASCE Palm Beach Branch is on Facebook!

Check it out and friend the page to keep updated: <https://www.facebook.com/ASCEPB?ref=hl>

The page features info about upcoming events, photos from past events, job postings, and a means of connecting online. If you have ideas or things to post please contact Thomas Montano ([Tmontano@teamgfa.com](mailto:Tmontano@teamgfa.com)).



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For more information please visit [2017asce.fau.edu](http://2017asce.fau.edu)

*ASCE at FAU is hosting the **ASCE Southeast Student Conference in March 2017**. This requires a lot of planning, sponsorships & partnership with the ASCE Palm Beach Branch. Please consider becoming a sponsor to help make the event a success!*

### SPONSORSHIPS

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See the sponsorship details online at [2017asce.fau.edu](http://2017asce.fau.edu).

### SPONSORSHIP CONTACT

If you would like to partner with the FAU Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatics Engineering for this event, please contact:

Tamsyn Carey  
 Director of Development and Outreach  
 College of Engineering & Computer Science  
 561.297.2083  
[tcarey2@fau.edu](mailto:tcarey2@fau.edu)



Sponsors can pay online at [s.fau.edu/asce-sponsor](http://s.fau.edu/asce-sponsor) or with a check made payable to FAU FOUNDATION, INC. with ASCE 2017 as the memo.

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## Job Postings

**Job Title:** Professional Engineer – Five Positions Available

**Location:** South Florida Water Management District - West Palm Beach, FL

**Description:** Do you enjoy preserving and restoring the vital natural environment? Value the opportunity to contribute to projects of great environmental significance, while working alongside some of the brightest minds in the field? If so, the South Florida Water Management District might be the place for you!

We are currently searching for five professional engineers to join our team in West Palm Beach, Florida. These positions will provide technical support and problem solving associated with permitting and water quality data analysis; issue the day-to-day orders required to provide flood damage reduction, water supply, water quality compliance, and environmental restoration; be responsible for ensuring proper coordination during capital refurbishment of infrastructure and construction of new projects; coordinate, review, and participate in complex hydrologic and hydraulic engineering initiatives which have a significant impact on major ecosystem restoration programs; plan, schedule, conduct, and coordinate detailed phases for a standard engineering project or process; and interpret flow measurements at laboratory and environmental scales using modern metering technologies. One is a supervisory position that will lead multi-discipline design teams, serve in a design capacity as a technical expert responsible for the preparation of construction drawings, technical specifications and supporting design reports and calculations for a broad range of water resource related projects.

Interested yet? If so, go to [www.sfwmd.gov/careers](http://www.sfwmd.gov/careers) to learn more about these positions and to apply now and embark on your next worthwhile adventure! The SFWMD offers competitive wages and benefits. EOE. Job Reference: 1557BR-Staff Engineer; 1635BR-Lead Engineer/ Water Manager; 1630BR-Staff Engineer; 1631BR-Senior Engineer; and 1618BR-Section Leader/ Engineering Design.

**How to Apply:**

**Contact:** Tammy Germain

**Phone:** 561-682-6321

**Email:** [tgermain@sfwmd.gov](mailto:tgermain@sfwmd.gov)

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- FDOT Roadway Inspector(s) – Gainesville Office

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The Construction Institute offers individuals and organizations working in all sectors of the construction industry the opportunity to network with other professionals, sharpen skills and shape the future of the industry by participating in technical activities, conferences and the development of internationally recognized standards.

Construction engineers manage the construction site and the construction process, such as; Project scheduling, Equipment selection, Mobilization of project materials, Analyzing progress, Safety planning, Quality control and inspection, Acting as liaison with the public, and Designing temporary structures.

Please send resumes to Mark Baker [mbaker@ibaconsultants.com](mailto:mbaker@ibaconsultants.com)



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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://branches.asce.org/palmbeach/>

Visit the Florida Section  
online at:

[www.fla-asce.org](http://www.fla-asce.org)



Palm Beach Branch  
PO Box 20456  
West Palm Beach, FL 33416

Please verify/update your mailing/email information with ASCE National Headquarters  
at 1-800-548-2723 (ASCE) or <http://www.asce.org/membership/>



FES Palm Beach Chapter  
invites you to the annual

# Shrimp Boil

Friday, October 14, 2016 @ 5:30 PM  
Palm Beach Shores Community Center  
90 Edwards Lane, Palm Beach Shores, FL

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