

# ASCE

American Society of Civil Engineers  
South Carolina - Midlands Branch  
PO Box 2506 - Columbia, SC 29201

January 2009

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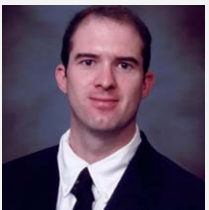
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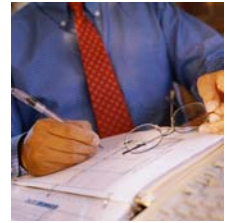
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## President's Pen

*Happy New Year!!!*

This year looks to be one of many changes with the economy being a primary focus. With a new President and Congress now in place, infrastructure improvement is likely to be a priority nationally and in South Carolina. ASCE National and the SC Section are in the process of developing the 2009 Infrastructure Report Card. On January 28, ASCE National will issue preliminary results of the report card and on March 25, will release the complete report. Additionally, the SC Section will be releasing its report card in the next few months. While the report card is a great tool for identifying infrastructure needing improvement, it is completely useless if only read by civil engineers. It is vital that we, the ASCE membership, share it with the media, town and county planners, elected officials, and others who have influence in making decisions on funding, timing, and implementation of such improvements. Please take time to read the report cards and share it with as many people as you can.

We are starting the New Year with a new meeting place this week. The Vista Room is no longer available to us so our January meeting will be at Grecian Gardens in West Columbia on Wednesday, January 21. Please come join us for a good presentation and networking with other engineers. I hope to see you there.

*Kevin Krick*

## January Branch Meeting

Application of Near-Surface Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Projects – Ned Billington, PG



Ned will speak about the application of near-surface geophysics to subsurface problems. This includes testing some concrete structures with GPR to look for voids and rebar. Ned will also discuss the use of non-destructive testing (NDT) techniques such as Impact Echo and

Ultrasonic Testing to look at concrete structures and unknown foundation lengths.

Ned has been with Schnabel Engineering for over 8 years where he is a Senior Associate and a registered P.G. in North Carolina. He is a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill where he earned degrees in Geology and Physics and he also received a MS in Geophysical Science from Georgia Tech.

## February Branch Meeting

Hurricane wind and structural engineering testing – Scott Schiff, Ph.D.



Clemson University's Wind and Structural Engineering Research (WISER) Facility is one of the nation's top laboratories for the study of wind effects on structures. Current research compares wind-tunnel data with full-scale measurements of wind

loads on residential structures in suburban areas collected during recent hurricanes.

Dr. Schiff will discuss how Clemson uses the facility to better understand the effects of wind on structural and building envelope systems and to develop low-cost, off-the-shelf solutions to protect homes, essential facilities and schools from severe wind damage or failures.

## March Branch Meeting

March 18, 2009

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY 2009

#### BRANCH MEETING

SPEAKER – NED BILLINGTON, PG  
 TOPIC – APPLICATION OF GEOPHYSICS TO ENGINEERING  
 GRECIAN GARDENS RESTAURANT  
 2312 SUNSET BLVD  
 WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169  
 (803) 794-7552

### FEBRUARY 2009

#### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

US HIGHWAY 1, WEST COLUMBIA, SC  
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2009

#### BRANCH MEETING

SPEAKER – SCOTT SCHIFF, PH.D.  
 TOPIC – HURRICANE WIND AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TESTING  
 GRECIAN GARDENS RESTAURANT  
 2312 SUNSET BLVD  
 WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169

## Remember Our USC ASCE Work Shadowing Program

Calling all Columbia Area Civil Engineering Companies, the USC ASCE Chapter has an interest in starting a Professional Work Shadowing Program. Most of the USC students are unsure about which discipline they would like to pursue after college. We have all been in that position when we were students. This is our time as professionals to help these eager students. When the program is established, the interested

students will contact the companies that are participating and at that time the professional and the student can set a time to meet. The shadowing time and effort will be up to the professional to decide. If you as an individual or company are interested in participating in this Work Shadowing Program please contact Elizabeth Kelly at [ekelly@wilbursmith.com](mailto:ekelly@wilbursmith.com) or at 758-4617.

## Adopt-A-Highway

### US Highway 1

Since its start in 1988, South Carolina's Adopt-A-Highway has been successful in keeping the state's roads and highways beautiful. Now it's your turn to help!

Join the Midlands branch on Friday, February 6 at 11:30 on US Highway 1, and Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> between Lowe's Drive and Ermine Drive in West Columbia and be a part of Adopt-A-Highway.



Volunteers will meet at the Carolina Pottery parking lot at 11:30 am on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. All participants will need to wear closed toed shoes during pick-up time. Water, vests, and trash bags will be provided. Participants can contact John Collum at 803-765-0070 or [john@tidewaterenvironmental.com](mailto:john@tidewaterenvironmental.com) to sign up for pick up or if they have any questions.

## Education Initiative

### What is a Civil Engineer? (by Kevin Krick)

I am often asked "What is a civil engineer?" and "What do you do as a civil engineer?" At first these questions don't appear odd or unusual. But have you ever asked doctors what they do? We need to be more proactive in telling our community who civil engineers are and what we do. We play an integral role in everyday life by providing safe drinking water, roads to and from work, and pedestrian friendly sidewalks and ball fields in our neighborhoods. The SC Section of ASCE is launching an initiative to educate those around us about the importance of civil engineers. By doing this, we will have the opportunity to impact future engineers and make civil engineering more recognizable. On December 5, 2008, I gave a presentation to Ms. Crocker's Kindergarten class at Lake Murray Elementary School in Lexington, SC. While these kids may be young, the impact of this visit will have a lasting impression as they decide over the years what they want to be when they grow up. Please take a few minutes of your time to visit a school near you and let the SC Section of ASCE know about it. For more information and helpful resources, and to let us know about a recent school visit, please e-mail me at [kkrick@genesis-consulting-group.com](mailto:kkrick@genesis-consulting-group.com).



**We Want to Hear From YOU!!**

If you'd like to recommend an ASCE member for the Member Spotlight or if you feel your firm deserves to be featured in the Company Spotlight, please email Cedric Fairbanks at [cfairbanks@schnabel-eng.com](mailto:cfairbanks@schnabel-eng.com). Please provide 3-4 paragraphs about the member or company and why they should be featured.

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