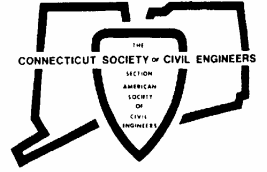


Since 1884

# CSCE Newsletter

WWW.CSCE.ORG

Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society of Civil Engineers **September 2007 Edition**



Since 1884

## CSCE MONTHLY DINNER MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2007

**Date:** Tuesday, September 18, 2007

**Speaker:** R. Lee Wooten, P.E., Vice President of GEI Consultants, Inc., Winchester, MA

**Topic:** Observations of New Orleans Levees After Hurricane Katrina

The storm surges produced by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, resulted in numerous breaches of the extensive levee system designed to protect the city of New Orleans. These breaches allowed flooding of approximately 75% of the metropolitan area of New Orleans resulting in billions of dollars of damage and the loss of hundreds of lives. ASCE sent in a team of engineers in late September and early October to observe the extent and nature of the major levee breaches. Mr. Wooten was part of ASCE's levee assessment team and will describe the observations of the aftermath of the Katrina event as it affected the hundreds of miles of levees in the New Orleans area.

**Location:** Nathan Hale Inn at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

**Time:** 6:00-7:00 PM Social Hour, 7:00-8:00 PM Dinner, 8:00-9:00 PM Program

**Cost:** Members: \$30.00, Life Members \$25.00, Full Time Students: \$10.00 (Please make checks payable to CSCE)

**Dinner:** Grilled Chicken Sonoma (topped w/prosciutto, portabellas, tomatoes, swiss); Red Pepper & Herb Stuffed Roulade of Beef; or Vegetarian Choice.

**Reservations:** Contact Amy Petrone, (860) 526-5935 or by email at petwhit@juno.com. The deadline is September 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Directions:** Take 84 E to exit 68 / Tolland – Take a Right off the exit ramp – This will be 195 South – Follow this road straight till you come to University of Connecticut – Go straight until you see the pond on your right hand side, take the next right at the stop light onto Mansfield Road – Take a Left at the 1st stop sign onto Gilbert Road – Take the 2nd left onto Gilbert extension – Nathan Hale Inn will be directly in front of you

*Additionally, the Moles 2007 Student Award will be presented to Justin Giorlando at the meeting.*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

We start the upcoming year with a great deal of excitement and promise, but also with a bit of sadness because of the tragic collapse of the 35W Bridge in Minneapolis. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families. CSCE will be working with ASCE to provide technical assistance to the local media as well as policy makers regarding the condition of Connecticut's Infrastructure.

Our topic for the September Dinner Meeting - Analysis of the Levees in New Orleans, is very timely to the overall discussion of our nation's infrastructure needs.

ASCE's Region I Meeting, together with the New England Council meeting will be held on September 15 & 16 at West Point. Myself, Chris Holden, Ron Hill, and Billy Cunningham will be attending. As Governor, Billy will provide a report to the membership during the September Dinner Meeting.

Our June 14 Planning Meeting at the Skungamaug River Golf Club in Coventry was very productive. Some of the planned activities include the establishment of a planning committee for next year's annual meeting to possibly include a Connecticut OPAL (Outstanding Project & Leaders) Award. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on that committee.

At the June Planning meeting, the Board voted to transition to electronic delivery of the CSCE Newsletter. Starting with this newsletter, CSCE members will receive an abbreviated version with the Dinner Meeting information, and announcing that the newsletter is posted on CSCE's website. Additionally, we will send out an "email blast" to all CSCE members that have a current email address on record with ASCE. You can verify that your information is current by going to ASCE's website ([www.ASCE.org](http://www.ASCE.org)) and clicking on the "Members Only / Update Membership Information" link. We will also be providing additional information on CSCE's website.

Finally, I would like to thank in advance all Board and Committee members for their efforts during the upcoming year. It is an honor to work with such a great group of people, and to serve the membership of CSCE as your President.

I hope to see many of you at the September Dinner Meeting!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Silva', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Silva, P.E., M.ASCE  
President

## 2007-2008 CSCE MONTHLY MEETING CALENDAR

*Please mark your calendars!*

- Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at Univ. of Hartford (Newsletter submissions due by Sept. 28)
- Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at CCSU (Newsletter submissions due by October 26)
- Tuesday, January 15, 2008 in Westport (Newsletter submission due by December 21)
- February Meeting to be determined (Newsletter submissions due by January 25)
- Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at Univ. of New Haven (Newsletter submissions due by Feb. 29)
- Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at Coast Guard Academy (Newsletter submissions due by March 28)
- Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at a location to be determined (Newsletter submissions due by April 25)

Note: The Annual Geotechnical Seminar will be held on November 2, 2007 at the Hawthorne Inn located in Berlin, Connecticut. The theme will be "Foundation Construction in an Urban Environment." The event will be co-sponsored by DFI.



### **Return Services Requested:**

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**CONTINUING EDUCATION & CSCE SPONSORED SEMINARS**

The Continuing Education Committee looks forward to hosting technical and management seminars on topics of interest to our members. We rely on feedback from fellow members and technical committee chairs as to which topics are "hot". Please forward any seminar topics you would like to see to Ron Nault c/o Luchs Consulting Engineers, LLC - phone (203) 288-5188 ext. 207; fax (203) 288-2583 or [nault@luchs.com](mailto:nault@luchs.com)

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**THE BRAIN TEASER CORNER**

May 2007 Newsletter Solution (The Joker) – Bill had the joker.

The Tide Comes In – Not far off shore stands a ship with a rope ladder hanging over her side. The rope has 10 rungs. The distance between each rung is 12 inches. The lowest rung touches the water. The ocean is calm. Because of the incoming tide, the surface of the water rises 4 inches per hour. How soon will the water cover the third rung from the top of the rope ladder?

Solution to be shown in the next newsletter.

Want to stump your colleagues? If so, submit your Brain Teaser (and solution) to the editor at [nl-editor@csce.org](mailto:nl-editor@csce.org)

## CSCE Mourns the Passing of Past President Jack E. Stephens, P.E., L.S., PhD


It is with great sadness that CSCE announces the passing of Professor Emeritus Jack E. Stephens, P.E., L.S., Ph.D., 83, of Storrs. Professor Stephens was Past President of CSCE (1967-1968), and the 1989 recipient of the Benjamin Wright Award.

He was a prominent civil engineer who earned his BS at the University of Connecticut and his MS and PhD degrees at Purdue University. He became both a licensed Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor. As a UConn Civil Engineering faculty member for 38 years, he taught over 4,500 students and served as department chair for 7 years. At the University of Connecticut he established the Connecticut Advanced Pavement Laboratory, the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center and the Connecticut Transportation Institute. He created the Connecticut Cooperative Highway/Joint Highway Research Advisory Council Program with the Connecticut Dept. of Transportation. He enabled the Civil Engineering PhD degree program at the University of Connecticut as the first professor with a doctorate degree. In addition to the Benjamin Wright Award, some of the awards and recognitions he received were Distinguished Public Service Award from the University of Connecticut Alumni Association, the University of Connecticut Outstanding Engineering Alumni Award, and the University of Connecticut Distinguished Engineering Service Award.

He was active in many professional organizations including American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society of Engineering Education, Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists, National Society of Professional Engineers and the Transportation Research Board. He served on the TRB SHRP Asphalt Advisory Panel and several other state and regional committees.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Virginia; his children, Jay Stephens and wife Joyce, Jerry Stephens and wife Kathleen, Jill Hastings and husband Philip, Jana Sime and husband James. He is also survived by grandchildren, Jonathan and wife Cara, Johanna and husband Roy, Max, Samantha, Scott, Emily, William and Andrew; and one great grandchild, Angelina. He also leaves a sister, Doris Mettert Tillson. He is predeceased by sisters, June Peters and Hilda Stout.

Memorial donations may be made to the Jack E. Stephens Scholarship Fund payable to "UConn Foundation" and sent to University of CT Foundation, 2390 Alumni Dr., Storrs, CT 06269-3206.



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### ATTENTION YOUNGER MEMBERS

Younger Members are considered to be 35 years of age or younger. The Younger Member Committee fosters the professional growth, ethical awareness, and technical competence of the Section's younger members. The Committee sponsors both technical and non-technical trips. The Committee encourages membership and participation in ASCE and CSCE Committees, Technical Groups, and other activities. If you are interested in meeting fellow peers, please contact Sara Ramsbottom. The Committee holds monthly meetings with food and beverage provided.

**Call for Papers: *Leadership and Management In Engineering Journal***  
**Special Issue: “ENGINEERS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND POLITICS”**

You are invited to submit an article to *Leadership and Management in Engineering* (LME) for a special issue focusing on engineers and politics. This special issue, “Engineers, Infrastructure, and Politics,” focuses on the evolution and state of infrastructure policy and decision making with its associated achievements, shortcomings, and future prospects for collaborative leadership. The last date for submission of abstracts is **October 31, 2007**.

With the recent-past failure of major infrastructure systems and its associated devastating impact on communities, the existing level of collaboration among the public, elected and appointed government officials, engineering firms, and construction organizations need to enter a new stage of institutionalized relationships and norm-building. To regain the trust of the public, the need for transparency with public sector decision making while protecting the public’s right to expect their safety, health, and welfare to be unambiguously addressed must be timely as well as clearly communicated.

Major failures of the past infrastructure decision processes illustrate the need for engineers to be more visibly involved in the politics that govern the decision making. However, professional engineers are often conflicted between their sense of client confidentiality, employment security, and state-registered and ethical professional obligations to the public at large. As a result of education and experience, engineers focus primarily on the analytical and quantifiable. The excellent problem-solving skills of engineers do not appear to be the most effective methodology to address techno-sociocultural challenges concerning infrastructure and politics.

It is essential that 21<sup>st</sup> Century Engineers be more proactively and visibly involved in the political policy processes involving infrastructure. This subject needs to be placed in the “light of day” as a new “normal part” of the public’s voting process within the American political system. Given the necessary multidisciplinary and collaborative nature of inquiries into the interaction between engineers, community, and politicians, ASCE welcomes contributions from practitioners and researchers in many fields.

This special issue covers topics that provide perspectives and insights into the developments above in general, as well as all policy and professional areas that provide insight, including but not limited to:

- Presenting theories and practice of public integration and communication;
- Evaluating different policy areas that support and restrain effective public decision making;
- Project selection decision process including dialogue with the public;
- Case studies of engineers participating in the political process;
- Experiences of engineering political fellows;
- Conceptualizing past, current, and future integration dynamics;
- Economic and career risks for public and private sector employees;
- Virtual public forums;
- Clarity of public accountability regarding the operation, maintenance, and replacement of life-cycle infrastructure;
- Experience with blog-based dialogue; and
- Economics of technology facilitated communities.

ASCE welcomes joint or separate submissions from across such fields as anthropology, architecture, communication, computer science economics, engineering, geography, information studies, information systems, management science, planning, political science, psychology, sociology, and telecommunication.

Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers are subject to editorial review and approval. A guide for authors, sample copies, and other relevant information for submitting papers are available online: <http://www.pubs.asce.org/authors/index.html>

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**BVH Integrated Services** – *Structural Engineers* - BVH Integrated Services ([www.bvhis.com](http://www.bvhis.com)) is currently seeking civil and structural engineers with 3 to 5 years experience, as well as CADD operators for our Bloomfield, CT office.

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**Heller and Johnsen** - *Geotechnical Engineer* - Heller and Johnsen is looking for a geotechnical engineer in the southern CT/NY area. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in engineering, EIT, good writing, analytical and AutoCAD skills. References required. Reply to Heller and Johnsen, Foot of Broad Street, Stratford, CT 06615.

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- *Civil Engineer-BSCE, PE*, Seeking experienced engineer with 4-6 years experience in general civil engineering and land development practices, preferably with emphasis on municipal engineering for central Connecticut shoreline office. Applicant should have excellent oral and written communications skills and proficiency in AutoCAD. Design experience and professional engineering license required.
- *Entry Level Civil Engineer*, BSCE required and 0-4 years experience with emphasis on site engineering, roadway design, drainage and stormwater management design. Applicant should be proficient in AutoCAD. EIT certificate preferred.
- *Resident Construction Engineer, Civil/Highway Engineer*, 10 years experience, 4 years bridge & highway, 2 years field inspection. BSCE, CT PE, Licensed Construction Engineer with supervisory capacity, CT DOT construction practices and procedures knowledge required.
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