

Newsletter for the San Luis Obispo / Central Coast Branch • October 2007

OCTOBER 2007 MEETING: SAN LUIS

BAY DRIVE BRIDGE & TOUR

Bridges under construction always appear to be rife with problems. Be it weather, utility delays, or operations problems, there always seem to be reasons and excuses for why construction of a bridge takes longer than it should.

Now, let's close our eyes and pretend that the weather is never a problem and the contractor manages to stay on time. And amongst that, the costs of the project are coming in less than expected. Now open your eyes, you'll find you are on San Luis Bay Drive at Avila Beach Drive, where the bridge itself is completed and the auxiliary work is underway.

The San Luis Bay Drive Bridge is nearing completion, and is anywhere from 8-12 weeks ahead of schedule (depending upon who you ask). At this month's luncheon, at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, Michael Britton, Project Manager for the County of SLO, and Craig Drake, Project Manager for T.Y. Lin, will be here to explain what brought us to this point, and Dean Russu of MNS Engineers, the Resident Engineering Consultant will explain what has happened during construction to keep the works ahead of schedule and under budget.

The meeting will be followed by a walking tour onto the bridge, so bring your hard hat and closed-toed shoes.

OCTOBER 2007 MEETING

LOCATION:

Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort
1215 Avila Beach Drive

DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Oct 18
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Grilled chicken breast with whole grain mustard marinade, choice of classic Caesar salad or mixed greens with herb vinaigrette, choice of blue lake green beans or sauteed yellow and green zucchini, choice of wild rice pilaf or Yukon gold mashed potatoes, and seasonal fruit crisp for dessert. Please contact Erin Westmoreland (see contact below) if you need a vegetarian entrée.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, October 12th, at the Branch web site www.ASCESLO.org. For questions, contact Erin Westmoreland at (805)544-7407 or by email at erinw@cannonassoc.com. The cost is \$20 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.



PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:

Kickoff Article

As you may know, ASCE-SLO has had a changing of the guards. I am truly looking forward to the exciting year to come as I take over as President. I look forward to working with each of my officers to make this year another fantastic year. Taking on the role as President-Elect is sometimes a daunting task. I want to thank Courtney Howard personally for making this commitment and stepping up to the challenge. I know she will do a great job this year and next year as President. I also want to thank my returning officers, Jeff Werst, Nola Engelskirger, Erin Westmoreland, Steve Tanaka, Syllas Cranor, and Jeff van den Eikhof for staying on and committing to another year of service. It is greatly appreciated and is critical to maintain this consistency with the leadership group. I also want to thank my three new officers, Jim Hanson, Jeff Spannbauer, and Dan Parker-King for dedicating their time to a year of service and hopefully longer. I look forward to hearing great ideas from them as well as all of my returning officers. I also have to thank two more; first, John Wallace and Wallace Group for supporting me over the past few years while I have been an officer for ASCE. Second, I want to thank my husband, Chuck Wagner. Without his personal support and understanding at home, it would not be possible to be this involved with ASCE.

Now that I think I am done thanking everyone, let me tell you about myself. I was born and raised in the suburbs of Los Angeles in a town called Hacienda Heights. After graduating from high school, I moved to San Luis Obispo to attend Cal Poly as a Civil and Environmental Engineering Student. I graduated from Cal Poly in 2000. After interning with the Water Quality Authority, Stetson Engineering, and Boyle Engineering throughout my college career, I decided to stay in San Luis Obispo and took a position in the Water Resources Division at Wallace Group. I am currently working with Wallace Group as a Senior Civil Engineer.

During my time at Cal Poly, I got involved with the Society of Civil Engineers as their Corresponding Officer my last year in college. After graduation, it took me a couple of years, but I finally got involved with ASCE helping out with 150th year Anniversary celebration. I subsequently took over as Assistant Newsletter Editor, then Treasurer, Historian, and President-Elect. I find working with this organization rewarding and it provides me with the resources to network with other engineers in San Luis Obispo County and elsewhere. I also find that it is a great way to keep up to date with the various projects going on throughout the County.

Although my career and professional goals (being ASCE

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MEET THE MEMBER - PAUL KVAM

It is a pleasure to introduce Cal Poly SCE President Paul Kvam. Paul came from Palo Alto to San Luis Obispo in 2004 to study Civil Engineering at Cal Poly. His decision to join the glorious field of Civil Engineering was made in haste the night before he sent his application to Cal Poly. That fateful night has dictated the last three years of his life- and he has little to regret.

Paul joined SCE in his second year. He was drawn to SCE by the club's prestige (Cal Poly SCE has won Pacific Southwest Regional 13 out of the last 15 years). After becoming a member, he jumped into office as a lowly newsletter editor (why would anyone agree to that?), and the following year became one of 3 Vice Presidents. As VP of Community Service, Paul organized a survey team to help construct a road for the Ranch Allegre Boy Scout Camp.

After his stint as VP there was only one place to go. Paul was elected president out of 2 other candidates in what he calls a close race. He enjoys the responsibility and is currently trying to increase membership from 230 to 275 members. Due to planning such events



as the Pedestrian Bridge Project, a career fair, and a Conference, Paul notes that "I have never been so busy in my life."

Through working with what he calls an amazing group of officers, Paul has discovered the importance of SCE. "SCE bridges the gap between what we are learning, and what we will be doing in the field."

Outside of SCE Paul is currently on a Student Fee Initiative Committee where students decide where a certain percent of Cal Poly tuition will be

spent. Through this committee Paul has helped to open labs longer, purchased new equipment, and sent people to conferences for leadership. He finds it strange to be dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Now a senior, Paul hopes to graduate in either spring or winter of next year, depending whether he decides to travel 'Down Under,' and study with the Aussies. Like many college students, he is not quite ready to make the difficult decision on a future career, although he is leaning towards construction management, "I love being out there [on site] and seeing stuff get built."

Paul found one of his favorite classes at Poly to be Introduction to Rodeo--though after getting kicked off after seconds in the Poly Rodeo, he hasn't quite given up engineering for a set of spurs.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2008!

If you have, thanks! If you haven't, please remember that 2007 calendar dues are due by January 1, 2008. So, renew today! It's quick, easy and convenient. And fast if you charge your dues to Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Just:

- 1) Call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or (703) 295-6300 and renew over the phone, or
- 2) Renew online at ASCE's secure renewal website:

www.asce.org/renewal

If you don't already have an ASCE online account, you'll have to take a minute or two to create one using your last name and member ID#. You may also take this opportunity to update your address and other ASCE database records by choosing the site's "Update Your Record" link and going to www.asce.org/my_profile.

UPCOMING ASCE CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS

In our continuing effort to enhance communications between ASCE's Regions, Sections, Branches and ASCE National, we are pleased to advise you of the following seminars:

- **Effective Project Risk Management**
October 18-19 ~ San Francisco
- **Design and Evaluation of Highway Bridge Superstructures Using LRFD**
November 1-2 ~ Los Angeles
- **Financial Management for the Professional Engineer**
November 8-9 ~ San Francisco
- **Seismic Design of Liquid Storage Tanks**
November 16 ~ Palm Springs
- **Probabilistic Methods in Geotechnical Engineering**
December 6-7 ~ San Francisco
- **Pipe Selection for Municipal Facilities**
January 10-11 ~ San Diego

A complete list of upcoming seminars and detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE's national website at: www.ASCE.org/conted/seminars.

Visit The ASCE Central Coast Website at:
www.ASCESLO.org

Contact ASCE National by
Calling 1-800-548-ASCE

MEMBER CORNER

Do you know of a Branch member's recent accomplishments worthy of mentioning in next month's newsletter? If so, contact Syllas Cranor at (805) 781-5260 or e-mail at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

President is one of them) is a big part of life, my family is my first priority. I have been married to my husband Chuck for 9 years. We have two small children, Hayden, 5, and Kaci, 2. My family is the pride and joy of my life and without them I would not be where I am today, professionally or personally. My husband and I also own an automotive repair shop in San Luis Obispo, which I do the books for and help out with management issues. All in all, my life is full and exciting and different everyday and I can't imagine changing it.

I look forward to a great year as ASCE President. In the months to come I hope to share my goals for this year and my perspectives on the engineering profession as a whole. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity to serve in this great organization.

~ Kari Wagner

UPCOMING EVENT

The Salmonid Restoration Federation, Central Coast Field School, and Pacific Watershed Associates offer the following course:

Culvert and Road Drainage Practices to Protect and Benefit Steelhead and Water Quality in the Central Coast Region

Date: October 23-25 (8am - 6pm)
 Location: El Capital Canyon, California
 Course fee: \$100

Topics Covered (Minimum):

- Proper ditch relief and stream crossing culvert installation
- Proper installation of critical rolling dips or measures to eliminate stream diversions
- Classroom and field methods to determine appropriate culvert sizing for peak stream flows, sediment, and woody debris in transport
- Proper approach for addressing potential road fill and landing failures, as well as spoil disposal techniques
- A variety of road bed and ditch drainage approaches
- How to properly excavate a stream crossing fill to minimize post excavation erosion and sediment delivery to streams
- How to reduce roadbed width on excessively wide segments of road

For more information contact Nicole at Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, (805) 473-8221.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

If you have an event you would like posted at no cost, contact Syllas Cranor at 781-5260 or at scrantor@co.slo.ca.us.

The local chapter of the **American Public Works Association** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, every other month. For details, contact Jay Walter at jwalter@slocity.org.

The Central Coast Branch of the **Institute of Transportation Engineers** holds monthly meetings throughout the tri-county area. Contact Richard Marshall at 781-5252 or rmarshall@co.slo.ca.us for details.

The Central Coast Branch of the **California Land Surveyors Association** usually meets the second Thursday of each month. Contact Rochelle Vierra at 549-3461 or Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov for more information.

Cal Poly's **Society of Civil Engineers (SCE)** welcomes local professionals to its regular meetings held alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 13-118. For further information, contact Kari Wagner (kariw@WallaceGroup.us) or Jeff Spannbauer (jeffs@cannonassoc.com).

The Central Coast Chapter of the **International Code Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Margie's Dinner. Contact Sylvia Aldana at 781-4671 or saldana@co.slo.ca.us for information.

The **American Institute of Architects** meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Vista Grande Restaurant (Cal Poly). For information, call Jeff Emrick at 549-8658.

The **Central Coast Geological Society** meets every second Tuesday. For information, contact Lou Blanck at 542-4626.

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