

MAY 2008 MEETING:
Annual Combined ASCE/SCE Meeting

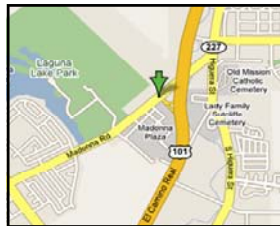
The Cal Poly ASCE student chapter will be co-hosting the May meeting, and they have a great presentation in store for you! You will be hearing from many outstanding Cal Poly civil engineering students and professors from Cal Poly. Dr. Gregg Fiegel and Paul Kvam will provide an overview of SCE and its current status. Jack Montgomery will discuss their victory at the PSWRC in Northridge. Eric Johnson and Jason Marshall will talk about "Big Sur" – SCE's 1st place concrete canoe headed off to Nationals, and you will also get a chance to hear about the 2008 Cal Poly GeoChallenge team. Lastly, ASCE will be presenting the 2008-09 Student Scholarship to one lucky civil engineering student.

On May 15, 2007 at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, you will have a great opportunity to meet student engineers, learn about club events at a student level, and to introduce yourself to your future colleagues.

MAY 2008 MEETING

LOCATION:

Madonna Inn
100 Madonna Road
San Luis Obispo, CA



DATE & TIME:

Thursday, May 15th
12:00 pm (Noon)

MENU:

Food will be your choice of tender slices of roast sirloin of beef (served with whipped potatoes and vegetables, served au jus), a generous portion of fresh boneless chicken breast (stuffed with our special wild rice dressing, served with whipped potatoes, vegetables, and presented with a light Vermouth sauce), or vegetarian pasta with meatless marinara sauce. Entrees are served with green salad, homemade dinner rolls, along with coffee, iced tea, or milk. All choices come with white chocolate cake for dessert.

RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 pm Friday, May 9th, 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:
Cal Poly's Society of Civil Engineers

This month, we have the pleasure of having students from the Society of Civil Engineers at Cal Poly host our luncheon. It really is a pleasure to have these students come and share with us the great things that are going on with the school as well as the club itself.

Since I am one of the Practitioner Advisors for SCE, I meet and talk with the students on a regular basis and find out about all of the activities that these students are involved in. It is amazing how active these students stay and the breadth of knowledge they are obtaining from their time at Cal Poly. I believe it is imperative for the professionals in San Luis Obispo County to find out first hand the great things these students are challenging themselves with to make themselves better civil engineers and people in general. At our Luncheon this month, we will have many students discussing various activities that they have been involved in over the past year. I will just touch briefly on a few.

First, the students have their annual Pacific Southwest Regional Conference, of which they just took back first place. Beyond this though, they are also involved in other competitions such as a geotechnical challenge and seismic design competition. Our local Branch is very proud of the work that these students do and help support whenever possible. ASCE-SLO recently donated \$200 for the geotechnical challenge and \$500 for the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference.

The students not only compete at Cal Poly, but they are also involved in the community, participating in programs such as Building Big. These community service programs challenge the students personally and teach them to become more compassionate about the people around them.

ASCE-SLO also supports the students by providing a \$1,500 scholarship to a deserving SCE member. The lucky recipient of this scholarship will be announced at this month's meeting. I want to personally thank those companies and people who supported this cause by donating to the scholarship fund. We look for students who not only do well in school, but are well-rounded. We look for students who have participated in SCE activities and other organizations on campus, including community service activities. We also look for those students who have broadened their experience by completing internships or co-ops. These features we believe are important factors in developing great civil engineers.

(Continued on page 2)

MEET THE MEMBER - TOM TROTT

It is my pleasure to introduce this month's featured member, Tom Trott PE, an engineer for San Luis Obispo County. I was just barely able to catch Tom since he was on his way out of town with his wife Anne and 15 month old daughter Teagan. Tom was traveling back to his hometown of Twain Harte to visit family and enjoy some backyard fun and wiffleball tournaments.

Tom Grew up in Twain Harte, but came to Cal Poly when he turned 18 because of the prestige of its engineering department. After college Tom started work at Penfield and Smith where he worked on 50 to 200 lot subdivisions in Lancaster and Palmdale, as well as schools in Buellton and a bike path in Santa Maria. He remembers working long days in



Tom with his daughter Teagan

AutoCAD, "For the first year, all I could see when I closed my eyes were circles, fillets, and lines."

It was hard to leave the enjoyable team environment, but after three years Tom moved to the county where he worked in Development Services, focusing on plan checking and inspections. Tom worked with engineers, architects, utility companies, property owners, contractors, planners, and more, to resolve issues in order to move projects through the system as fluidly as possible.

He was eventually moved out of Development Services to the Nacimiento Water Project. The project is currently about 5 miles into what will be a 45 mile stretch of waterline to

bring water from Lake Nacimiento to San Luis Obispo. The project is in its fourth month of construction and is scheduled to be completed in 2010. The Nacimiento water project allows Tom to spend some time away from AutoCAD and more time in the field coordinating, overseeing, and managing. Recently one of the Project's contractors requested a substitution of one of his subcontractors. The subcontractor disagreed with the contractor's request and a dispute arose. In order to resolve this Tom had to act as an investigator, researching the facts, listening to testimonies, and holding a hearing, until a verdict was reached. "It's a great project to work on because you never know what's going to come next. One minute you are an engineer, the next minute you are listening to testimonies in a hearing!"

Outside of engineering Tom is active with Mercy Church. He runs a men's group and teaches leadership classes on Sundays. "I try to help people become all that God has made them to be."

Tom joined ASCE to break the bubble that can sometimes form in the workplace. He wanted to meet other engineers and see new and different ways people were solving engineering problems. "Meeting and socializing with other engineers in the community makes work less task oriented and more personal."

Tom also enjoys fly fishing, although most of his time these days, he admits, is dedicated to his new daughter.

~ Daniel Parker-King

SCE STUDENT/FACULTY/ ALUMNI BBQ BASH

Calling all Alumni for the 3rd Annual SCE Student/Faculty/Alumni BBQ Bash

SCE's 3rd Annual Alumni BBQ Bash is coming. If you have been in the past, you know how much fun this event is. If this is your first, let me tell you a bit about it. It's a BBQ put on by SCE with a softball game between students, alumni and staff/faculty. In addition to softball, there will be other pick-up games like frisbee, football, soccer, anything you want. It's a great event, a lot of fun, and best of all...free!

The date is Sat. May 17, 12 noon at El Chorro Park (off Highway 1 near Cuesta). Please RSVP by May 10. If you have any questions about the event please e-mail me (Eric C. Johnson- SCE Alumni Relations Officer at scealumni@gmail.com). Attached is a flyer with all the necessary info.

See you there!

Visit the ASCE-SLO Website
at: www.ASCESLO.org

PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

The students in SCE are hard working and are the future of the civil engineering field. They will fill the work force in San Luis Obispo County over the next few years. Please help support the students and show your interest in their future by coming to hear what they are up to. I know you won't regret it.

~ Kari Wagner

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.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR SEAL

The engineer's seal is a true hallmark of the profession, yet many engineers don't know when, where and, how to use it. It's an important issue, because a failure to seal when appropriate is a violation of the Professional Engineers Act and may subject the engineer to discipline proceedings. So, how do you decide whether an engineering document needs to be sealed? Chapter 7, Article 1 of the Professional Engineers Act outlines the rules for preparation, signing, and sealing of civil engineering documents:

"All civil (including structural and geotechnical) engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports (hereinafter referred to as "documents") shall be prepared by, or under the responsible charge of, a registered civil engineer and shall include his or her name and license number. Interim documents shall include a notation as to the intended purpose of the document, such as "preliminary," "not for construction," "for plan check only," or "for review only." All civil engineering plans and specifications that are permitted or that are to be released for construction shall bear the signature and seal or stamp of the registrant, the date of signing and sealing or stamping, and the expiration date of the certificate or authority. All final civil engineering calculations and reports shall bear the signature and seal or stamp of the registrant, the date of signing and sealing or stamping, and the expiration date of the certificate or authority. If civil engineering plans are required to be signed and sealed or stamped and have multiple sheets, the signature, seal or stamp, date of signing and sealing or stamping, and expiration date of the certificate or authority shall appear on each sheet of the plans. If civil engineering specifications, calculations, and reports are required to be signed and sealed or stamped and have multiple pages, the signature, seal or stamp, date of signing and sealing or stamping, and expiration date of the certificate or authority shall appear at a minimum on the title sheet, cover sheet, or signature sheet.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a registered civil engineer who signs civil engineering documents shall not be responsible for damage caused by subsequent changes to or uses of those documents, if the subsequent changes or uses, including changes or uses made by state or local governmental agencies, are not authorized or approved by the registered engineer who originally signed the documents, provided that the engineering service rendered by the civil engineer who signed the documents was not also a proximate cause of the damage.

For the complete text of the 2008 Professional Engineers Act, go online to: http://www.pels.ca.gov/licensees/pe_act.pdf. And remember, just sign on the dotted line!

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 Spannbaauer (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.

Engineers Without Borders meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Noon. For further information, contact Natalie Ergish at 547-5605 or Secretary@ewb-slo.org.

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

ASCE BRANCH OFFICERS

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ASSISTANT EDITOR	Dan Parker-King - RRM Design Group	543-1794 dparkerking@rrmdesign.com
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FAX • (805) 543-3230

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