

### AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS *SLO Branch Stimulus Package*

To start off the new ASCE year right, we've decided to implement a SLO Branch Stimulus Package in the form of a temporary reduction on luncheon fees to **\$20** to help encourage participation. We know many of you are finding it a challenge to attend our meetings in these economic times, and hope this helps allow you to continue to network with your peers and hear about some great projects in our area.

### SEPTEMBER 2009 MEETING: *Annual Meeting and Harmony Left Turn Channelization Project*

#### TOPIC:

Please join us on September 17, 2009 at Dairy Creek Golf Course in San Luis Obispo as we install the new officers for our branch and honor local Life Members of ASCE. Attendees will also get to learn more from North Coast Engineering about the Left Turn Channelization Project near Harmony that won our Outstanding Private Civil Engineering Project award this year.

#### LOCATION:

**Fairways Restaurant**  
(at the Dairy Creek Golf Course)  
2990 Dairy Creek Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA



#### DATE & TIME:

Thursday, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm (Noon)

#### MENU:

South of the border buffet including fiesta salad, pork chile verde, Spanish rice, refried beans, tortillas, beef and chicken fajitas, and churros with iced tea and coffee.

#### RESERVATIONS:

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Branch web site ([www.asceslo.org](http://www.asceslo.org)). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – some restaurants will charge the Branch for every seat we reserve, regardless of the actual attendance. If you have specific dietary restrictions or have questions, please contact Tom Zehnder at (805) 544-4011 or by email at [TomZ@wallacegroup.us](mailto:TomZ@wallacegroup.us). The cost is **\$20** for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

Visit the ASCE National Website: [www.ASCE.org](http://www.ASCE.org)

### PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE: *A Year? Really?*

People never cease to amaze me. And I mean that in the good sense. Recently, a neighbor of ours had the kindness to rescue our runaway dog from the busy road, keep her in their yard, and print up and post a photo flyer, even though they were living in a hotel after being flooded out of their house. Ironically, it seems their cat managed to turn on a faucet while they were on vacation which overflowed their septic system, which then backed up into their house. Similarly, even with significant other priorities in their lives, our branch officers have volunteered their time over the past year to ensure we continue to have the opportunity to network and learn as civil engineers through ASCE.

For example, our webmaster, Dan Parker-King, took the time in Costa Rica to make sure our newsletter and luncheon announcement went out to our membership on time. Unbeknownst to many, our secretary, Valerie Dawe, diligently prepared our officer meeting minutes and sent out thank you letters to our luncheon speakers in between interviewing caterers and trying on dresses for her wedding. Carolyn Berg, our Public Relations Coordinator, not only stepped up when that position was vacated, she added programs such as K through 12 Outreach and Legislative Contact Training to her duties. Hopefully you've noticed the additional features that have been added to the newsletter. Our editor, Syllas Cranor, continues to improve its content and look, and we're lucky to have him continuing on as editor this coming year. We had some great seminars on Low Impact Development and related technology this year put on by our Vice-President, Rob Down. Even with his significant involvement with Engineers without Borders, he has accepted a nomination to be President-elect next year. Our treasurer, Tom Zehnder, has done a great job keeping the officers informed about our branch budget and we've even enjoyed some new venues as a result of his extra efforts. New members are welcomed into the branch by our membership chair, Steve Tanaka, and he has even stepped up this year to fulfill historian duties. Our previous historian, Katie Grimm, relocated to Fresno and we wish her and her new little one well. I don't know how he did it, but Jim Hanson, our assistant newsletter editor, identified members of our branch to introduce us to in between educating the future generation of civil and environmental engineers. We wish him well on his sabbatical next year. Our branch has the benefit of having a governor of our ASCE Region living locally and Jennifer Epp has been a great resource for the officers this year – we thank her for joining us and providing

## MEET THE MEMBER - LIZ MOODY

This month we have an opportunity to meet Liz Moody, who is Director of Marketing for Cannon in San Luis Obispo. Liz and I sat down to discuss her background and thoughts on the local civil engineering industry.

Liz has been at Cannon for over 12 years. During that time, she has worked with or met many of the engineers in the community. However, some of that has been through e-mail and phone conversations. Liz joined ASCE as one way to actually get to know the local civil engineers better and put a face to a name. She has enjoyed attending the monthly branch meetings for opportunities to meet ASCE members and learn about ongoing local projects. She has found the monthly ASCE meetings to be very informative. Liz remarked "I like to stay in tune with what is going on in our industry as far as trends and technology as well as politically."

Liz is originally from Richland, Washington and has a degree in English from University of Washington. In addition, she has a Technical Communications Certificate from Cal Poly and is LEED accredited. Liz previously worked for Microsoft in Washington before moving to the Central Coast to join Cannon. Liz mentioned that she has enjoyed her work at Cannon because "it affords me so many different opportunities: both technically and socially."

Liz and I discussed the status of the civil engineering industry in relation to the economic downturn. When asked whether she thinks the economic downturn will have long-term effects on the profession, Liz quickly responded "definitely." She sees that there's a much greater appreciation for employment opportunities. Liz doesn't



think we will see a whole lot of job-hopping and instead, engineers will be more inclined to stay in one job longer. She also added, "The industry has become so much more competitive. It's all about doing everything faster and for less. It is critical that we keep quality of product at the forefront."

I asked Liz if she has any advice for the young engineers of the branch. She had three great suggestions: 1) be open to any and all training opportunities, 2) look for a mentor in your chosen specialty area, and 3) always work to improve your communications skills both

verbal and written. Part of what Liz does at Cannon is technical writing and editing for some of their major studies and reports and can therefore appreciate the acute need for strong communication skills.

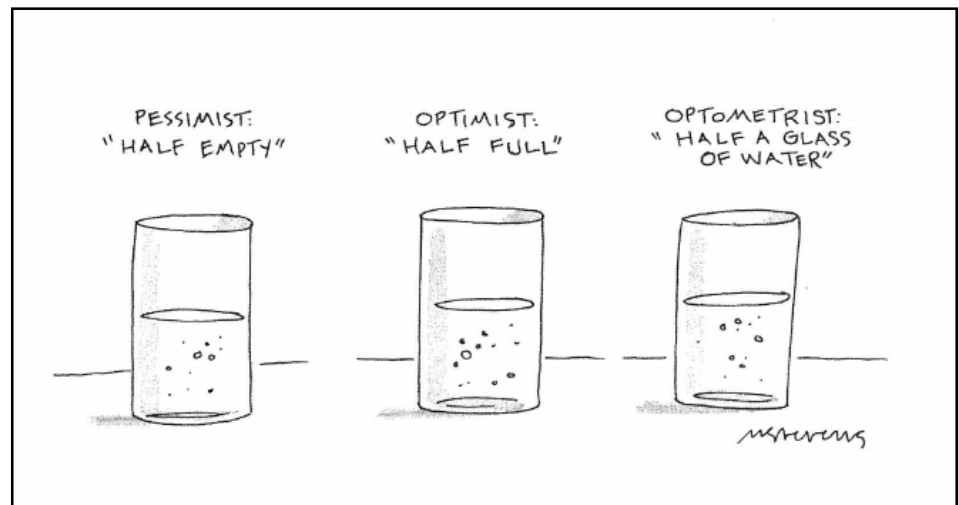
Liz and I discussed the need for the civil engineering profession to increase the presence of women in civil engineering. Liz had a visionary perspective and remarked "I'm an advocate for women in engineering, but what I really think we should be doing is encouraging more young people in general – female and male – to go into the field of engineering." She promotes us getting out into our communities and finding ways to communicate what the field of civil engineering is all about – in a way that is exciting and interesting to young people.

When not working, Liz spends the majority of her time with her husband and kids. Together, they almost anything outdoors: hiking, biking, jogging, camping, gardening, playing four-square and tag, and playing at the beach.

Liz will be taking over as Treasurer for the San Luis Obispo Branch of ASCE for 2009-2010 cycle. Keep an eye out and make sure to say hi at upcoming branch meetings – she will have a prominent spot as Treasurer.

~ Jim Hanson

Check out the photos taken at recent branch meetings on the SLO Branch website at [www.ASCESLO.org](http://www.ASCESLO.org)



## PRESIDENT PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

additional insight as we consider branch governance issues. The end of Kari Wagner's involvement as an officer culminates in her recognition by the Los Angeles Section as an Outstanding Practitioner Advisor for the students at Cal Poly and we wish her the best of luck at the Region level. We are lucky to have her continuing in the Practitioner Advisor role and supporting our branch.

Jeff Spannbauer will take on the task of President this year, and I wish him the best of luck in that role. I know he and the other incoming officers will do a great job and I look forward to supporting them and sharing in their many accomplishments. To start it off, we've decided to implement a SLO Branch Stimulus Package in the form of a temporary reduction on luncheon fees to \$20 to help encourage participation. We know many of you are finding it a challenge to attend in these economic times, and hope this helps allow you to continue to network and hear about some great projects in our area.

~ Courtney Howard

## REMINDER: SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS!

The Committee on Volunteer Community Service is seeking nominations to recognize ASCE members that have made contributions to their community through public involvement, public awareness, or public service. The Citizen Engineer Award recognizes individual ASCE members and the Public Service Award recognizes organized components within ASCE. Nominations are due on October 1, 2009.

The 2007 ASCE National Public Service Award winner (pictured right) was the Wisconsin Section Younger Member Group, which led food drives, fundraising for the Salvation Army, and an extensive K-12 outreach program.



For more information or nomination forms, contact Becky Waldrup at 1-800-548-2723, ext. 6281 or [rwaldrup@asce.org](mailto:rwaldrup@asce.org).

Nomination forms can also be found at: [www.asce.org/professional/commservice/awards.cfm](http://www.asce.org/professional/commservice/awards.cfm)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jwalter@slocity.org).

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](mailto: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](mailto:kariw@WallaceGroup.us)) or Jeff Spannbauer ([jeffs@cannonassoc.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 an EWB Officer at [ewb.slo@gmail.com](mailto:ewb.slo@gmail.com).

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

## 2008-09 ASCE-SLO BRANCH OFFICERS

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