



Civil Engineer

KANSAS CITY
THE NEWSLETTER

January 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

9th– Geotech Specialty Seminar

20th– YMG Monthly Meeting

31st– YMG Hosts Trip to Snow Creek

February

7th – 32nd Annual Math-Counts

March

6th– Leverage Envision to Benefit Your Projects

The Kansas City Section Presents:

Presentation: **Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Transportation Outlook 2040 - Metropolitan Kansas City's Long-Range Transportation Plan**

SPEAKER: Jim Hubbell, AICP

DATE: Wednesday, January 7, 2015

TIME: 11:30 a.m. Social
12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Presentation

LOCATION: Plaza III Steakhouse, Country Club Plaza, 4749 Pennsylvania Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64112

MEAL CHOICES:

Chopped Beef Steak

*With mushrooms and onions topped with fried onion straws
Served with a side of diable sauce, mashed potatoes & asparagus*

Chicken Caesar Salad

Served on fresh romaine tossed with parmesan

Sautéed Vegetables

Served over a bed of pasta

Crab Cakes

Topped with Chili Aioli and corn relish. Served with potato & vegetable

Dessert: Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

COST: \$27.50 per person (*For Students and Engineers between jobs, \$13.75*).
Please make checks payable to ASCE.

REGISTER HERE:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=nj4vwoab&oeidk=a07eaadaqk2e651e864>

BIO: Jim Hubbell, AICP, completed both his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Kansas. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Spanish and Environmental Studies, and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He is currently a Principal Transportation Planner for the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), the metropolitan planning organization for the bi-state Kansas City region. The primary focus of his occupation is working with regional stakeholders to develop a long-range transportation plan, coordinating with federal, state, and local planning partners to prioritize and implement strategies, and monitoring performance and progress towards meeting the plan's goals and objectives.

2014-2015 KC-ASCE Officers**President:**

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vmccaw@vsmkc.com



From the President

Once in a Lifetime...

This past September, I had the once in a Lifetime opportunity to attend the ASCE Global Engineering Conference. The conference was held in Panama City, Panama where we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Panama Canal. At the end of this amazing week, I was especially inspired by Myth Buster Grant Imaharas' closing ceremony speech. He reminded Conference Attendees that it is a great time to be an engineer. Engineers and scientists star in the number 1 comedy on TV right now, The Big Bang Theory. They are not mere side-kicks, or the butts of jokes, but instead leading people, making us laugh and blowing things up with the Myth Busters. Instead of dreaming about being the quarterback or cheerleader our children's generation may be the first to aspire to be the nerds.

While in Panama, I learned about many things, some grand, and others less so. Such as, I learned about the history of the Panama Canal and I was able to tour the Construction of the massive canal expansion project. This expansion will widen and deepen the canal allowing Post Panamax Ships the ability to pass. I learned that the Panama Hats made popular by Teddy Roosevelt is a misnomer, as they are actually Ecuadorian in manufacture. Their name came from their most popular point of international sale – the Isthmus of Panama.

In learning about the history of the canal, I was shocked at how many times others had tried and failed to make it happen. Originally envisioned by Alexander Von Humboldt in the early 19th Century, the Spanish were the first to attempt it in 1819. But soon their work stalled, with little more than a company created, and a number of surveys completed 1875. Starting in 1876 the French tried their hand and failed miserably to build the canal losing over 20,000 workers lives in the process due to poor planning and ignoring the warnings of engineers. The



French had spent over \$280 million and moved over 65 million cubic yards of earth to create 11 miles of the canal while

From the President, Cont'd

fighting insects, heat, mudslides and rain with little progress for 8 years of actual construction. After such an investment and loss they returned to France unsuccessful.

So I started to wonder, why was Teddy Roosevelt so confident and optimistic that he could make it happen when he took over the project in 1904? That got me thinking about later presidents and why they were so confident in their decisions. Why did his cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt feel confident it was possible build the system of hydroelectric dams which give power all over the nation? Why did Grant feel confident he could connect the nation by rail? How did Eisenhower successfully dream, sell and create National Highway System to support military efforts and commerce? Why was Kennedy so confident we could make it to Space? They were confident because they were able to rally the right people and experts around their common goals and garner support from the American public by creating excitement for their common cause.



All of these great leaders had great vision for improvement and progress and used these mega projects to unite our country. Through perseverance and good leadership they created success where others had failed. How would these great leaders view our American Infrastructure today if they could see it? Would they be proud? So why isn't infrastructure such a priority in our society anymore? Most of us today have never lived without clean running water. Our highway system is over 50 years old so many of us can't remember a time when getting goods across the country was not an easy endeavor. We seem to have forgotten and therefore take these luxuries for granted. Why is transportation deemed a lower priority and funds continuously diverted to other programs? We have seen this lowered standing recently with \$96 million to be taken from the Kansas Transportation Fund and at a Federal Level with the inability to get a long term Transportation Bill Passed. Other countries seem to realize the impact that infrastructure has on their economies are investing in Mega and Giga projects such as the Panama Canal Expansion. The Panamanians are capitalizing on the economic opportunity of expanding the canal to accommodate today's Post Panamax Modern Ships. Meanwhile the U.S. continues to undervalue investing in our infrastructure. This expansion of the Panama Canal will put a strain on the US ports unless we invest in upgrading them as well. According to the ASCE Report Card on Americas Infrastructure the overall grade is a D. We should be embarrassed of this and working to raise our grade.

From the President, Cont'd

Let us re-ignite our country's history of embracing our infrastructure. Let us move forward on this issue and carry forth the legacy and vision of these great Leaders. I encourage everyone to speak up on Infrastructure issues. The general public and our Elected Officials need us to educate them so that they may make informed decisions on things that matter. Consider writing Op-Eds as the Government and Public Relations (GPR) committee has submitted to the KC Star. Plan on attending the Drive-ins to Topeka and Jefferson City planned by the GPR committee. This is a perfect opportunity to help educate our elected officials about Infrastructure issues in person and establish ASCE as the go-to resource for information on infrastructure. Take the initiative to write letters or call elected officials to voice your concerns. Sign the Petition to tell Congress to Fix the Trust Fund at this site. http://www.fixthetrustfund.org/take-action/sign-the-petition/?utm_campaign=GR-20141219-TWiW%20Email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

The U.S. seems to have forgotten the importance of our infrastructure investments, as we watch the work of past leaders crumble around us. We need to have the courage to fight for our infrastructure once again and the confidence to know we can make it happen, for the good of our economy, our safety, and our country as we know it.

"We are a great and strong country - perhaps the greatest and strongest in the history of the world. But greatness and strength are not our natural right. They are not gifts which are automatically ours forever. It took toil and courage and determination to build this country - and it will take those same qualities if we are to maintain it. For, **although a country may stand still, history never stands still. Thus, if we do not soon begin to move forward again, we will inevitably be left behind.** And I know that Americans today are tired of standing still - and that we do not intend to be left behind. But **effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.** For, as Socrates told us, "If a man does not know to what port he is sailing, no wind is favorable." "

~John F. Kennedy: "Speech of Senator John F. Kennedy, Raleigh, NC, Coliseum," September 17, 1960. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley.

ASCE Government & Public Relations

Keep an eye out for future developments on these issues from the GPR Committee. There will be opportunities to make your voice heard on these important legislative decisions on both sides of the state line. In addition to cuts this coming year, the following year will experience even larger shortfalls as the deficit is expected to grow to \$648 million

(<http://www.kansascity.com/news/government-politics/article4443711.html>).

KDOT to transfer nearly \$96 million as part of governor's allotment plan

<http://m.cjonline.com/news/2014-12-09/kdot-transfer-nearly-96-million-part-governors-allotment-plan>

The Kansas Department of Transportation will transfer \$95.7 million to state coffers from the State Highway Fund, the department announced Tuesday.

The transfer is part of Gov. Sam Brownback's allotment plan, also announced Tuesday, which will cut expenditures to state agencies by 4 percent to make up for an estimated \$279 million revenue shortfall for the remainder of the fiscal year.

In addition to the transfer, a 3 percent cut to KDOT's operations budget is included in legislation that will be considered by the Kansas Legislature when it convenes in January.

The reduction amounts to \$7.8 million in cuts from the department's \$260 million operations budget, department officials announced in a news release Tuesday.

Projects planned as part of the 10-year T-WORKS transportation program will not be affected by the cuts.

"KDOT leaders also continue to look for savings through technology and innovation where possible," KDOT spokesman Steve Swartz said.

Geotechnical Committee



The Geotechnical Committee had another hugely successful year hosting 3 evening seminars, a specialty seminar in January, and their Annual Conference in April. Through these events they raised \$15,057.36 for Scholarships. They distributed \$3,750 to the KU Endowment-Sponsorship Program. They distributed the remaining funds of \$11,307.36 into the ASCE/AEG/UMKC Peck-Garstang-Williams Scholarship Endowment Program and UMKC. Since the inception of the program the Geotechnical Committee's cumulative contribution to the fund is in excess of \$130,000.00.

The University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) School of Computing and Engineering hosted a Donor and Student Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on Friday Nov. 7th. Three delegates, Craig Buhr, Sheryl Gallagher and Jennifer Taylor, from the Kansas City Section attended to have lunch with the recipients of the two scholarships given this year, Paige Norris and Marco Toapanta.

ASCE Younger Members Group

December Younger Members Meeting and Toys for Tots Drive - 12/16/14



The Kansas City Area ASCE YMG had their monthly meeting at Tanners on December 16th. As part of the last meeting of the year, Members collectively brought 38 brand new toys and 16 individual Hot Wheel cars to donate! This beat last year's total of 24 toys. Andrew Robertson, Co-chair for Community Service gave a speech concerning the history of the US Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots charity. This event is always a hit and allows the Young Members to show their caring, generous nature. Thanks everyone for helping this great cause!

November Younger Members Meeting and Harvester's Canned Food Drive - 11/18/14

The Kansas City Area ASCE YMG had their monthly meeting at Granfalloon on November 18th. We collected non-perishable food items for our annual Harvester Food Drive. Laura Marshall gave a brief presentation on how the items we donated will be distributed locally and benefits local residents. The YMG donated 63 pounds of food and \$52.00 at the event, which will provide 208 meals! Very Impressive! Thanks everyone who came out for this event!



ASCE Younger Members Group Cont'd

Ozzy Bravo named one of the 2015 ASCE's New Faces of Civil Engineering



Ozzy Bravo, a geotechnical engineer with Terracon, was named one of 2015's New Faces of Civil Engineering by The American Society of Civil Engineers. Bravo grew up in Lima, Peru, and studied civil engineering at The University of Kansas and then completed his graduate degree at Texas A&M University. He now resides in Lenexa, Kansas, and is the vice president and treasurer of ASCE's Younger Member Group. See the following webpage for more information about the new faces recognition program: <http://blogs.asce.org/introducing-the-2015-new-faces-of-civil-engineering/>

Congratulations, Ozzy!

Upcoming Events:

Science Pioneers: Expanding your horizons. Mentoring and workshop activities with 6th to 8th Grade girls - January 6, 2015

Younger Members Monthly Meeting/Social Hour – January 20, 2015

YMG Hosts Trip to Snow Creek – January 31, 2015

32nd Annual MathCounts – February 7, 2015

UMKC & Steel Bridge Team

UMKC's ASCE Student Chapter has had a lot going on recently. This past semester we have been preparing for the National Student Steel Bridge Competition (NSSBC), designing our steel bridge for competition, we held new officer elections, and we have been planning our trip to the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL). This coming semester we will continue to prepare for NSSBC, attend the WSCL in Houston, TX, and move into the fabrication portion of steel bridge.

We will be hosting the 2015 NSSBC May 24th – 25th. The display portion of the competition will be held on Friday, May 24th and the main competition and awards banquet will be held Saturday, May 25th at Bartle Hall. We are currently fundraising and securing the essentials for the competition, including volunteers. We will be sending out a volunteer and judge survey in late January or early February, so please keep an eye out for that if you are interested in helping us. If your company is interested in making a donation or if you have any questions regarding the competition please contact us at nssbc2015@gmail.com.

On another Steel Bridge note, our team has been doing great. Our bridge has moved out of the design phase and we are currently ordering materials and preparing to fabricate the bridge at the beginning of the spring semester. Our Co-Captains Jessica Lowe and Joe Keim have done a great job preparing the team for competition this year and have even arranged for the team to attend community outreach events, such as STEM in the Gym at Raytown Middle School. At STEM in the Gym the team displayed last year's bridge and encouraged students to interact with the bridge and ask questions. STEM in the Gym was quite a success and the team hopes to have boosted an interest in civil engineering in local students.



At our December meeting we held officer elections. Our officers are President-Paige Norris, Vice President-Katie Gonzagowski, Treasurer-Jon Cooksey, Secretary-Andrew Ramsey, and Historian-Joshua Oathout. The new leadership team will be attending the WSCL this January in Houston, TX. We will also be organizing monthly meetings for our members. Starting with an open house January 28th at 1:00 PM, a career fair/resume workshop February 11th from noon until 1:00PM, and a presentation from Jay Guerra, March 4th from noon until 1:00PM. We are looking for presentations for April and May, so if you would like to make a presentation to the student members please contact Paige Norris at plnggb@mail.umkc.edu. Kansas City Section and Younger Members Group members are welcome to any of our meetings. Please email Paige if you have any questions or would like to RSVP to any events. We look forward to working with the KC Section and the YMG this coming semester.

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Meeting Sponsorship

In August, ASCE Kansas City Section – Board, announced the Meeting Sponsorship Program.

This opportunity allowed civil engineering – firms, vendors, manufacturers, contractors or entities to gain valuable market exposure by actively sponsoring monthly breakfast, luncheon or dinner meetings. There is a distinct advantage to be recognized at these meetings, where various members of the engineering and construction community gather.

The criterion for the Meeting Sponsorship Program is as follows:

- One (1) Sponsor per meeting

- Sponsor name appears on meeting invitation

- A table space will be available, just inside the entrance to the meeting area, for the Sponsor to arrange a display and have a couple of representatives to make promotional materials available.

- Two (2) lunches for Sponsor representatives

- Sponsor introduction with a 5-minute presentation at the beginning of the meeting

- Display the Sponsor logo on the welcome screen before the program

- A donation of \$300 (check made out to “ASCE Kansas City Section”)

All of the ASCE led joint meetings were sponsored:

- September 10th: DuBois Consultants

- November 4th: ACE Pipe Cleaning

- January 7th: VSM Engineering

These are the pending ASCE led meetings, and the sponsorship:

- April 14th: University of Kansas – Edwards Campus

- May 12th: sponsorship is available

We look forward to this program, to help improve networking familiarity in the metro area. If you have any questions, please contact John Blancett, PE, ENV SP (jblancett@hntb.com or 816-527-2539).

Awards

Civil Engineering Project of the Year

The Kansas City Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers will recognize a “Project of the Year” for 2014. This is the start of an annual tradition to recognize the important contributions to our lives and lifestyle that are provided through civil engineering projects. In order to be eligible, the project must have been substantially complete by December 12, 2014 and have been constructed in the KC Section area. The award will recognize both the Civil Engineering firm of record and the General Contractor. The award will be given to the project that is most exceptional in the Civil Engineering design aspects in at least one of the following categories:

- New or innovative technologies, design, or construction.
- Creative Solutions
- New or refined methodology applied to the Project to enhance sustainability

The Project of the Year will be chosen based on information submitted. The selection committee may ask additional questions during the selection process, at the committee’s discretion, to clarify specific points or gather additional information.

Submittal Requirements:

1-3 pages in length on 8.5” x 11” paper, single sided ,

Submitted in either electronic .pdf format or in hard copy.

Submissions may be by email or hand delivery. A .pdf delivered on CD or other common storage medium is also acceptable.

Include firm and contact information for Civil Engineering firm of record

Include firm and contact information for General Contractor

Include project cost

Include a description of the project and how it demonstrated exceptional Civil Engineering.

Submittals shall be delivered prior to 4 PM on January 30, 2015 to:

Attn: Chad Johnson, ASCE KC Section Awards Chair

Olsson Associates

7301 W 133rd St., Suite 200

Overland Park, KS 66213

Email: cjohnson@olssonassociates.com

Questions? – Contact Chad Johnson 913-381-1170

Awards Cont'd

Civil Engineer of the Year

The Kansas City Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers will recognize a “Civil Engineer of the Year” for 2014. This is the start of an annual tradition to recognize the important contributions to our society that are provided by civil engineers. The selection will be based the candidate who best meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Exemplary professional conduct in a specific outstanding instance in 2014;
- Established reputation for professional service;
- Significant contribution toward improving the professional aspects of civil engineering education;
- Professional guidance of qualified young persons who would seek civil engineering as a career, or professional development of young civil engineers in the formative stages of their careers.
- The Civil Engineer of the Year will be chosen based on information submitted. The selection committee may ask additional questions during the selection process, at the committee’s discretion, to clarify specific points or gather additional information.

Submittal Requirements:

1-2 pages in length on 8.5” x 11” paper, single sided ,

Submitted in either electronic .pdf format or in hard copy.

Submissions may be by email or hand delivery. A .pdf delivered on CD or other common storage medium is also acceptable.

Include contact information for nominated Civil Engineer

Include contact information for person nominating, if different.

Include a description of how and why the Civil Engineer personifies one or more of the selection criteria.

Submittals shall be delivered prior to 4 PM on January 30, 2015 to:

Attn: Chad Johnson, ASCE KC Section Awards Chair
Olsson Associates
7301 W 133rd St., Suite 200
Overland Park, KS 66213
Email: cjohnson@olssonassociates.com

Questions? – Contact Chad Johnson 913-381-1170

Sustainability

Wild & Scenic Film Festival, September 6th, 2014, Burns & McDonnell, Kansas City, Missouri

The local section of ASCE co-sponsored this evening of networking and “big screen” enjoyment.

The films:

portray incredible natural beauty from around the globe, encourage reflection about questions of social/economic/environmental balance, inspire people to tap into their individual talents to celebrate and protect our shared natural resources.

The goal of the evening’s program was:

to raise awareness in the community about the wide range of environmental-related initiatives and innovative projects in our Kansas City region

lay out for people where and how they can get involved to make a positive difference in our community

More than 150 people attended and the response was very positive. The 2nd annual festival is already being planned for 2015. (For people interested in getting involved, please contact Doug Dietrich.)

1st International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure, November 4th – 8th, 2014, Renaissance Hotel, Long Beach, California

This conference brought together more than 350 professionals from 10 countries focused on building the infrastructure necessary to meet the global challenges of the next 100 years.

There were:

three days of presentations by infrastructure owners, operators, planners, designers, engineers, construction contractors, government officials, financiers, and entrepreneurs;

Two days of leadership workshops for sharing best practices on how to effectively communicate the importance and value of resilient infrastructure programs and investments;



case studies on several of the largest energy, water, and transportation infrastructure projects either on the drawing board or underway in North America, Asia, and Europe;

projections of the astounding magnitude of infrastructure to be developed around the world between now and 2035;

examples of approaches for building integrated infrastructure that is energy-efficient, water-conserving, and protective of air quality.

A highlight of the conference was an evening tour by boat

Sustainability Cont'd

of the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

These facilities manifest the highly complex, automated, and integrated nature of infrastructure in our global economy.

The sheer size of the operations is astounding. For example, these ports are being upgraded to handle vessels larger than the Empire State Building.

The 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure is scheduled for autumn 2016 in Beijing, China. (For people interested in getting involved, please contact Doug Dietrich.)



Coming Up in Early 2015

If you are interested in getting involved and helping plan and coordinate programs, events, and/or tours – please contact either Doug Dietrich or Maggie Melcher.

Look for announcements about a training in March on the Envision Sustainable Infrastructure program to be held at MARC in Kansas City, Missouri.

Diversity Spotlight

Spotlight: Mr. Clarence L. Mabin, P.E.

Hometown: St. Joseph, Missouri

College: Mr. Mabin graduated from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 1961, where he was the first African American to graduate from the Civil Engineering Department. He is also a member of the department's Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Career: President of Custom Engineering, in Independence Missouri, which he founded in 1974. Prior to starting his own firm, Mr. Mabin has worked for the Nebraska Department of Transportation, the University of Nebraska, O.K. Electric Company of Omaha, among other companies. Mr. Mabin specializes in light pole designs, highway tubular structures and foundations. He currently holds Professional Engineering Licenses in 22 states, including New York, California, Florida and Hawaii.

Future Plans: Currently, Mr. Mabin plans to retire in “a few years”. Working keeps him busy and allows his lovely wife, Florence, to have a peaceful house during the day.

Tidbit: Mr. Mabin worked as a waiter before becoming an engineer. This was a valuable experience for him, because it taught him to serve, and to take care of 4 - 5 clients at once.



Congratulations To Our New Members

Sara Goebel, Aff.M.ASCE

Steve J Graham, P.E., M.ASCE

James Green, Aff.M.ASCE

Terry Hood, Aff.M.ASCE

Khader Zake Khayyat, Aff.M.ASCE

Carl W Knuckles, P.E., M.ASCE

Tim McEldowney, P.E., M.ASCE

Anthony Neer, EIT, A.M.ASCE

Anthony W Roth, P.E., M.ASCE

We're on the Web!

www.kcengineers.org

