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SHREVEPORT BRANCH

September 2007 Issue

President's Message

By **Rusty Cooper, EI,**
President

Over the past few months, your Shreveport Branch officers have enjoyed a brief pause in duties. However, our traditional schedule of Branch meetings will soon resume. September marks the start of this schedule. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting on Thursday, September 27, 2007. At this meeting, we will hold our official 2007-2008 Officer Inductions.

Our Branch has been through a few changes recently with Cody Goodwin, E.I. moving to Houston, Tx. This required the nominations of two new officers for the new year in order to fill all positions. Those new officers are Daniel Thompson, E.I. with AFJMc as Treasurer, and Eric McClanahan, E.I. with TetraTech as Secretary. I look forward to working with these gentlemen in the upcoming year. Unfortunately, Jarred Corbell, E.I., President-Elect, has also moved away to Austin, Tx. Jarred's position will remain vacant, and his duties will be dispersed among the other officers. I appreciate all the

help the Branch received from Cody and Jarred over the past few years, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

On Friday, August 10, 2007, I attended the Louisiana Section ASCE Board of Directors meeting here in Shreveport. This was a very informative meeting where I was able to hear discussions on budget items. This gave me a better understanding of the Section's expectations on how each Branch should serve its members. One topic that was of concern amongst the Board was the Section's Visions and Goals. I was impressed to see a group of people dedicated to determining the most intelligent and efficient means to represent its membership. I have no doubts that they will continue to strive to achieve this goal.

Your Branch officers already have a few things in the works for the upcoming months. Some events to keep in mind include an evening reception in Ruston in October to honor Dr. Price



for receiving Honorary Member status in ASCE, and we also plan to have our Christmas Lunch in December again. We will continue working to provide the best service to our Branch members as we can. As always, we welcome any and all suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of your Branch officers.

Next Monthly Meeting

- ... **Date:** Thursday, September 27, 2007
 - ... **Time:** 11:45 am
 - ... **Location:** University Club
 - ... **Speaker:** Aerotec - "Things you can do with LIDAR Data/ Engineering Models"
 - ... **Cost:** \$15.00
- PLEASE RSVP to Rusty Cooper at rcooper@alliance-ae.com or call at 318.221.7501**

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Congratulations:

- ... C. Eric Hudson, P.E.
- ... Mark W. Snow, P.E.
- ... Joe E. (Butch) Ford, Jr., P.E.
- ... Jerome M. (Jerry) Klier, P.E.
- ... Bobby E. Price, P.E.
- ... James C. Porter, P.E.

These Members were selected for outstanding performance in their field. They are considered outstanding by their peers in their careers and service to their profession. They were honored during the Section Annual Meeting in New Orleans on September, 14, 2007.

I-35 Bridge Collapse

By Eric McClanahan, E.I.

The Civil Engineering community is a key element in the infrastructure used in everyday life by ordinary citizens. However, the national and local news do not report on the structures that have stood for over a hundred years, or the ability of road systems and traffic signals to route traffic in a safe and expedient manner. The water systems that provide clean drinking water, provide fire main water, provide waste water disposal, and provide storm water protection systems are virtually taken for granted by the general public. These are systems designed and maintained by civil engineers. We as Civil Engineers do not seek thanks and praise from media outlets, nor do we expect the general public to seek the engineers out and thank them for a sound structure and safe environment. These things are engineer's jobs and engineers take pride in doing a job right. Seeing a project come to fruition and become successful is all the "pat-on-the-back" engineers' need.

The recent Minneapolis Mississippi I-35 Bridge collapse has put civil engineering under the microscope. The catastrophic failure of the structure brought to light the significance of the work Civil Engineers perform. As a result of the Bridge collapse, ASCE endorsed legislation to create a commission to study the nation's infrastructure needs. This legislation received priority treatment in the U.S. Senate this week in the wake of the I-35 Mississippi River Bridge collapse in Minneapolis. The United States Senate passed the National Infrastructure Improvement Act (S. 775), a bill that would establish a national commission to assess the physical condition of America's infrastructure and recommend ways to improve it. The bill would create the National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States and would require this commission to complete a study of "all matters relating to the infrastructure of the United States" by February 15, 2009. The study will report on infrastructure improvements that aid in long-term economic development; the age and condition of public infrastructure; financing methods for the construction and maintenance of public works projects; trends in innovative financing and investment needs; and the projected federal-state share of investment. "We believe this effort is essential to beginning a robust national debate on the best way to solve our festering infrastructure problems," ASCE said in a letter to Sen. Thomas Carper (D-DE) and Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), the bill's primary sponsors. Also co-sponsoring the bill are Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN) and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY).

A point of fact is, in Louisiana the majority of public bridges are inspected annually or biannually. Inspectors review twenty-six key components of the superstructure and substructure. These components are scored on a scale from one to nine. Anything four or under is considered to be "structurally deficient." Bridges with design flaws or outdated components are termed "functionally obsolete." However, the term "functionally obsolete" does not mean the bridge is in any danger of collapse.



The Times Picayune published an article reporting four of the eleven main bridges in the New Orleans area received a rating lower than the Mississippi River bridge that collapsed. The Times Picayune reported, "The U.S. 11 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain, the Interstate 310 Mississippi River bridge at Luling and both of the Interstate 10 twin spans over Lake Pontchartrain were rated either in "serious" or "critical," need of repair. The Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans is the longest and highest steel railroad bridge in the country. Louisiana citizens would expect a low score for this bridge, however, they would be incorrect. The Huey P. Long Bridge, designed many years ago, scored an eight out of a possible nine. The state of Louisiana has reacted positively to implement an 800 million dollar upgrade to widen the lanes and refurbish corroded bridge members.

The collapse of the I-35 Mississippi River Bridge in Minneapolis was a major disaster. However, it has made the average citizen aware of the importance of the Civil Engineers in the communities they live in. It is imperative for us as Civil Engineers to understand the poor condition of our country's infrastructure. Civil Engineers should and are leading the way in making the public aware of the poor condition of our nation's infrastructure. When graded by ASCE, our

national infrastructure received a very low grade.

We do not know what caused the collapse of the Minnesota Mississippi River Bridge. It could have been construction flaws, additional loads from construction equipment doing repairs, increases in allowed truck weights on the highways by congress after

the bridge was built, poor maintenance, and yes even a design flaw. This will not be the only failure in the nation's infrastructure in the next decade. Let's hope the country will take notice of what engineers have been saying about the infrastructure and demand systems be upgraded so the public will be safer.





Project Spotlight

Willis Knighton and Tetra Tech Work Together for a Healthier Shreveport

Willis Knighton has been and continues to be an integral part of the Shreveport/Bossier community. Not only are they known throughout the community and the surrounding area for supporting health, public education, and humanitarian aid. Annually, Willis Knighton gives more to the local community than does the United Way, and has committed One Million dollars to the Alliance for Education. Other contributors are: The Shreveport Symphony, The Salvation Army, and Providence. As Civil Engineers, we also know that Willis Knighton provides many construction jobs throughout the community.

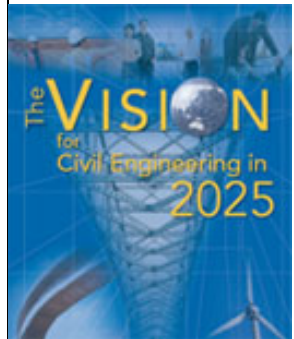
Because Willis Knighton is a non-profit organization, they must finically contribute or continue to build and expand in order to better serve the people in the Shreveport/Bossier area. Currently WK is constructing an addition to their Shell Tower building, and constructing Medical Office Building III. These are both located at the WK complex near the Benton Rd./I-220 interchange. Bartlett Construction is contracted to erect Medical Office Building III while McInnis Brothers Construction has been working to complete the Shell Tower Expansion. However, prior to any construction taking place, subsurface exploration must be completed to ensure proper foundation design.

Tetra Tech, (formerly Maxim Technologies and Southwestern Laboratories) has been employed by Willis Knighton for Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Materials Engineering since 1982. Most recently Tetra Tech has provided foundation recommendations for WK Piermont, WK Medical Office Building III, the WK North Laundry Expansion, and the Shell Tower Expansion. In order for these projects to take form, Tetra Tech was first required to drill deep enough to ensure pile load capacities would be great enough to support the proposed construction. Tetra Tech's Geotechnical Technicians and Geotechnical Engineer analyzed the properties of the retrieved material in order to give complete recommendations to WK construction personnel. These

recommendations would ensure the structure to be well founded and protect the building from settlement and lateral loads. For MOB III and the Shell Tower Expansion, WK personnel decided the most positive way to support the structures was to use Auger Cast Piles. These piles would be installed in groups of three or four and capped to support the column loads of the structures. Under shear walls and elevator shafts up to thirty-five piles would be used to protect the structure from the effects of up-lift pressure and wind shear.

After drilling and geotechnical analysis had been completed, Tetra Tech turned its focus to Construction Materials Engineering and Testing. Tetra Tech personnel ensured Auger Cast Piles were installed correctly by: ensuring the correct drill depth had been reached, suitable grout had been used, and each pile had sufficient grout per specifications. Pile caps and grade beams were inspected for quality rebar placement and concrete cylinders were molded for quality testing of the concrete. Tetra Tech personnel also ensured all backfill material used on site was properly compacted and met specifications for density and moisture content. As these projects are being completed, Tetra Tech is still called out for onsite testing of Construction Materials. Currently Tetra Tech is drilling and sampling soil for a Medical Office Building II which will be located behind the existing Willis Knighton Piermont.

It should be noted that Tetra Tech's success in these projects does not come without help from and teamwork from McInnis Brothers Construction and David Bartlett Construction. Tetra Tech is also appreciative of Mr. Jerry Ivy of WK for his confidence in Tetra Tech to produce quality engineering and construction materials engineering and testing. Through quality construction practices, sound soils engineering, and construction materials testing, Shreveport/Bossier's Willis Knighton Hospital will continue to grow and produce great healthcare for the community around us.



Download your copy of ASCE National's publication

The Vision for Civil Engineering in 2005

today at the following web address:

http://content.asce.org/vision2025/index.html



Welcome NEW MEMBERS!



Dr. Bobby E. Price, P.E., receives ASCE Honorary Member status

By: The Academy of Distinguished Alumni, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Dr. Bobby E. Price, P.E., has made a life long commitment to engineering. His demonstration to excellence in the practice and teaching of civil engineering has earned him national recognition. In addition he has assumed leadership roles in key engineering organizations.

After thirty-two years of service, Dr. Price retired from Louisiana Tech University in June of 1999 with the rank of Professor Emeritus. For many years he taught undergraduate and graduate courses in hydraulics and water resources, conducted numerous seminars and workshops, and served as civil engineering program chair. As a faculty member he received several prestigious teaching and service awards and was 1999's spring commencement speaker. (This was the first faculty member ever to speak at a commencement ceremony.) A distinguished professorship has also been established in his name.

His dedication to technical and professional efforts continued when Dr. Price served as the 2004-05 president of the National Society of Professional Engineers. As a fellow member he chaired various committees, served as southwestern regional vice president, Louisiana National Director, and has been on several task forces within the organization.

Dr. Price also served as the ASCE Louisiana Section President, ASCE Student Chapter Facility Advisor at Louisiana Tech, and presently serves on

the ASCE Committee for Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice.

His career of service extends beyond the national level to local and civic endeavors in his own backyard. Dr. Price was president of the Louisiana Engineering Society and the Louisiana Engineering Foundation. He is married to Patsy Patrick Price. Together they have two children: Barry E. Price and Kami Price Proulx as well as one granddaughter, Megan Price.

Dr. Price has been elected to Honorary Membership in ASCE. He is only one of ten nationally to receive this honor. He is being recognized after serving over four decades of distinguished service and leadership in engineering education. He is further being recognized for his dedication to the engineering profession, for outstanding contribution in the reformation of the future of Civil Engineering education, and Professional Licensure.

Dr. Price earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas located in Austin, Texas in 1967. He earned his Masters Degree from Oklahoma State University in 1963 and earned his B.S. from Arlington State College (UT Arlington) in 1962.

Dr. Price is an active member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at the University of Texas in Austin, TX.



ASCE Shreveport is planning an evening reception on October 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. (Tentative) to honor Dr. Price's recent accomplishment. Details of this event are currently being planned. Please e-mail Rusty Cooper at rcooper@alliance-ae.com to show your interest in attending.

Instant Downloads

ASCE STANDARDS



Browse and Download AWS, ACI, ASME, ASTM, CSA, ICC and NFPA (fire) Standards just to name a few.



Log on to <http://www.asce.org> to fill out the 2007 Salary Survey and get Survey Reports!

Louisiana Tech ASCE Student Chapter


The Louisiana Tech Student Chapter of ASCE is building a new website. Any alumni with ideas or pictures for the site are encouraged to contact Patrick Icenogle. He can be contacted through the Current Louisiana Tech ASCE site.

Congratulations to Jim Ellingburg. He has been chosen to be the Chapter President for the Louisiana Tech Student Chapter of ASCE for the 2007-2008 school year.



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* Note that the minimum purchase is for one year (4 issues).

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