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American Society of Civil Engineers

SHREVEPORT BRANCH

September 2006 Issue

President's Message

**By Elba Hamilton, EI,
President**

This summer is almost over and this means that it is time to start our regular membership monthly meetings. This month's meeting will be a joint meeting with LES. Please notice that the meeting will take place on a Wednesday instead of our traditional third Thursday of the month at the University Club. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to meet with other engineers in town and learn more about LES. Brenda Gajan, the State Office LES Executive Director will be attending the meeting and briefing us on state level LES business.

Additionally, the main speaker for this meeting will be State Representative Mike Powell representing House District No.6. Representative Powell serves on the Education and Transportation, Highways and Public Works Committees. He will be briefing us on State level highway and public works projects and upcoming constitutional amendments.

The end of the summer also means that it is time to go back

to school for many civil engineering students at Louisiana Tech. It is a privilege for us to bring you news from Louisiana Tech. Thanks to Dr. Freddy Roberts for sending us a brief report on what is going on in the Department. I would also like to thank Mr. Nathan Linhardt, ASCE student chapter president, and Mr. Luke Lee, ASCE faculty advisor, for working on an article for this month's newsletter describing what Tech's student chapter is planning to do this upcoming year. I would encourage all of you to support LA Tech students this year, especially as they prepare to host the Deep South Regional Conference. This event involves a lot of detail and demands a lot of support not only from the faculty and school, but also from all of us in the private sector. I remembered helping in planning one of these conference that was hosted by the LSU student chapter while I was there. It really meant a lot to see companies helping in support of the different activities, such as the concrete canoe and steel bridge, and the additional support of money and attendance to the different events hosted by the



students. The Conference really is a wonderful way for the students to learn teamwork and enjoy a great time of camaraderie with students from other schools in the region.

Your officers had a very busy summer planning new things for this year and cannot wait to start implementing them. We started last month with the new format of the newsletter that so far has generated great reviews. Thanks so much for your emails of support and your suggestions on how to keep improving our newsletter. If you have ideas, articles, or suggestions for the newsletter please feel free to contact any of us at the addresses on the back. Also, please let us know if you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically as it will assist us in keeping our postage costs to a minimum.

As always, please let us know if you have any suggestions for our branch, including topics and speakers for our meetings. We love to hear from you! See you Wednesday, September 20 for the LES/ASCE joint meeting.

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If you received the August 2006 newsletter by mail but not by email, please send your email address to:

ggoodwin@alliance-ae.com

Next Monthly Meeting

- ... **Date:** **Wednesday, September 20, 2006**
- ... **Time:** **11:45 am**
- ... **Location:** **University Club**
- ... **Speaker:** **Mr. Mike Powell representing House District No. 6.**
- ... **Cost:** **\$15.00 (Make Check Payable to LES)**

PLEASE RSVP to Rusty Cooper at rcooper@alliance-ae.com or call at 318.221.7501



LaTech Student Chapter

By Nathan Linhardt

The Louisiana Tech University Student Chapter is currently making plans for the 2006-07 academic year. This year's officers are excited at the opportunities and challenges they will face. The ASCE student officers have many goals for the civil engineering students at Tech. Our major goals for this year are as follows:

Increase ASCE Student membership at Tech by 25%.

Develop a program to keep student members aware and accountable to the integrity of the civil engineering profession.

Host a GREAT Deep South Conference (www.deepsouthconference.com) at Louisiana Tech University, March 23-24, 2007.

Increase professionalism and networking opportunities for Civil Engineering Students. Increase service to the university and community through public service and volunteering.

In addition to our major goals, the student chapter will continue to conduct its monthly meetings, fund raisers, and major events. Monthly member meetings with guest speakers

from engineering companies are planned. The current schedule for guest speakers are,
September 20th - ARA (Applied Research Associates)

October 11th - Pate Engineering

December 13th - NCI Buildings

If you or your company are interested in meeting Louisiana Tech Civil Engineering Undergraduates and introducing your company and activities please feel free to contact Nathan Linhardt (nLi002@LaTech.edu); current open meeting dates are 11/8, 1/10, 2/7, 3/14, and 4/11. The monthly member meetings are held at 6:30 pm in Bogard Hall on the Louisiana Tech campus.

The annual Civil Engineering Awards Banquet will be held in early December/January, please look for announcements and plans. In addition, the Louisiana Tech ASCE Student chapter will be hosting the COES (College of Engineering and Science) tailgate at the first Tech home game versus McNeese State University on September 16 all ASCE members are invited to meet the student chapter and eat

free food! Our other annual events include, the Fall Burger Burn on September 15th, Spring Hackers Classic, and End of the Year Senior Bash. All Louisiana Tech Civil Engineering Students, Alumni, and ASCE members are invited.

This year's ASCE Deep South Conference will be hosted at Louisiana Tech University from March 22-25, 2007. Thirteen universities from the south will be competing in events such as the concrete canoe, steel bridge, surveying competition, and Daniel Mead Paper competition. As part of our conference hosting efforts, the student chapter is trying to raise \$20,000. If you or your company are interested in supporting Louisiana Tech University in hosting the best conference ever, please contact our conference chairperson Ms. Mary-Lou Schwaller (mLs033@LaTech.edu) or our faculty advisor, Dr. Luke Lee (LukeLee@LaTech.edu). Please check out our conference webpage at www.deepsouthconference.com.

The Louisiana Tech Student Chapter is looking forward to a fantastic year. We hope that you will attend and support all of our events!

What's happening at La Tech, Fall 2006

By Dr. Freddy Roberts

The civil engineering faculty and students are getting ready to begin another busy Fall. With continuing effects from Katrina, selecting faculty to cover the basic courses has been a challenge for Dr. Aziz Saber, the new program chair. Before Katrina hit, the program was in line for two new faculty positions, one in water resources and a second in highways or construction. Last year all potential new hires were stopped with the budget uncertainties brought on by the effects of Katrina. This year, civil is at the top of the list for new hires. In order to cover 2006-07 year undergraduate classes we have enlisted the help of Dr. Tom Straughan, Mr. Walter Carpenter, Mr. Tommy Folk, and Mr. Rodney Ray.

During the summer, the civil faculty began to contact graduates since 2000 to get them to evaluate how well the curriculum prepared them for their first jobs. So far Dr. Roberts has attempted to contact members of the Classes of 2000-01, 2001-02, and 2002-03 and to send them surveys to evaluate undergraduate courses from their curriculum. During the Fall we will continue to contact members of these classes plus the classes of 2003-04 and 2004-05. These data will be used in preparation for the next ABET accreditation report which will be due to ABET in Spring 2008. If any Tech graduates from these classes have not been contacted and would like to participate in the surveys, please contact Dr. Roberts at froberts@coes.latech.edu and he will

be glad to update your e-mail address and add your comments to the survey results.

We look forward to another productive year and request your support for our program and students this year.





Younger Members

**By Sairam Eddanapudi, E.I.,
Younger Member Chair**

We know Engineers like to cut loose in the evening hours. It's time to take a break and relax.

Upcoming event alert!

Eat, drink and DINE at Buffalo Wild Wings Grill and Bar with friends on Thursday, September 21, 2006 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. RSVP and feel free to bring a guest!

RSVP:

Rusty Cooper:

rcooper@alliance-ae.com or call 318.221.7501.



Sai, Younger Member Committee Chair

If you received a hard copy of the newsletter but not a digital copy, please send your correct e-mail address to Cody Goodwin cgoodwin@alliance-ae.com or call 318.221.7501. We cannot deliver your notices and newsletters if we do not have your correct address.

Upcoming Events

... 2006 Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show (Kenner, Louisiana)
Thursday September 14, 2006
All Day

... 2006 Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show (Kenner, Louisiana)
Friday September 15, 2006
All Day

... 2006 Louisiana Section Annual Meeting
Friday September 15, 2006 @ 6:00pm
Go to <http://www.asceno.org/conference/committee.php> for registration information.

Welcome NEW MEMBERS!

-Frank Adams—Remco Ready Mix
-Michael Roach—NICON

Congratulations:

John & Elba Hamilton are the proud parents of a baby girl. Isabella Elise was born on August 8, 2006. She weighed 8lbs 4oz and was 20 1/2 inches long. Congratulations John and Elba!

Position Available:

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New Engineer Interns:

... Kathleen Putsch
... Daniel Thompson

Congratulations!



Improved Highway Program

By Kevin Crosby, P.E., P.L.S.

A movement by LAGC, Concrete & Aggregate Association (CAAL), the Louisiana Asphalt Pavement Association (LAPA) and construction equipment dealers is underway to develop and promote an improved highway program in the State of Louisiana. Our current state highway funding program is critically short of funds to plan, construct and maintain an adequate transportation infrastructure system.

One of the first steps in the movement is to improve the public's perception and image of the LDOTD and gain a favorable public opinion in providing increased funding for future transportation programs.

The LDOTD currently has a back log of \$12 Billion in needed transportation improvements. This back log is continuing to grow as current available funds dwindle. There is concern that if changes are not made, the LDOTD will not have enough state funds to provide the match for federal funds in the next few years.

All of us that currently perform work for the LDOTD recognize that the LDOTD is currently unable to address capacity improvement issues, overlay issues and bridge issues under current funding sources. In order to have a viable and

meaningful transportation program, the LDOTD is going to have to have more funding.

Some may question why the LDOTD is not taking the lead on this issue. Secretary Bradberry has done all of the up-front work regarding the streamlining of LDOTD. Because of recent developments involving the issue of tolls, LDOTD has had to, for the time being, pull back their participation. So the industry must pick up the issue and run with it.

Engineers that do work for LDOTD need to join with LAGC, CAAL, LAPA and others and push this initiative.

There will be a meeting for all of the involved groups at the LAGC office, 666 North Street, Baton Rouge, on September 14, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the proposed campaign. At the meeting we will discuss highway funding options, campaign strategies, public awareness tactics, and legislative contacts.

A special meeting will be held for the engineering community at 9:00 a.m. in the LAGC meeting room for Shawn Wilson of LDOTD to present some of the briefings and to discuss

LDOTD funding and future problems of not having the federal match money. We need a large number of firms represented at both meetings. This is an important issue and we do not need to set back and let someone else do all of the work. As with any campaign, there will be financial obligations to get our message out. We will have TV and radio ads to raise the public's awareness. There will need to be polls ran of the general public to get their view on funding sources, LDOTD approval ratings, etc. From that information, we will help plan the campaign.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I look forward to seeing you at the September 14, 2006 meeting to discuss our future with LDOTD.

Kevin E. Crosby, P.E., P.L.S.

LES President

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2006 National Election Results

The national election results ended on Monday, August 14. The Tellers Committee convened on Wednesday, August 16, to verify the results. The results are as follows:

President-elect Elect (2006-2007)

David G. Morgan, P.E., F ASCE

Region Directors-Elect (2006-2009)

Region 3: Thomas R. Walther, P.E., F ASCE

Region 4: Robert I. Smith II, M ASCE

Region 8: Westley K.C. Chun, Ph.D., P.E., DEE, F ASCE

Technical Region: Thomas M. Rachford, Ph.D., P.E., F ASCE

Region Governors-Elect (2006-2009)

Region 3: Eriks V. Ludins, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 4: Findlay G. Edwards, Ph.D., P.E., M. ASCE

David F. Garber, P.E., F.ASCE

Region 6: John N. Furlong, P.E., M.ASCE

Jeanette Walther, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 8: Michael J. Barton, P.E., M.ASCE


Robert J. Russell, P.E., F.ASCE

Region 9: Mark L. Creveling, P.E., M.ASCE



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"ASCE Shreveport News" is published ten times a year (August—May). Any suggestions or comments on the format or content are welcome. News on members, the Section or the profession should be submitted to the Branch Secretary.

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