

The InterCounty Connector

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

The Maryland State Highway Administration's Melinda Peters is the Project Director for the InterCounty Connector (ICC) Highway Project. Ms. Peters is an innovative and enthusiastic leader who is in charge of a 25-person management team with the lofty goal of completing the project in late 2011. As was recently noted in the Washington Post, she is one of the youngest women in the United States to manage the design and construction of a "major project." This term is reserved by the Federal Highway Association for projects which are quite large and complex, and have budgets topping \$500 million.

The ICC Project, currently under construction, will provide an east-west link between Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland. The 18.8-mile, 6-lane, limited-access divided highway will connect two major north-south corridors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area: I-270/I-370 and I-95/US 1. The roadway will be a "toll-freeway," with tolls being collected on about 13.8 miles of the overall length. Long-time Washington area residents may recall that the highway was originally proposed in the 1960s as part of the [Washington Outer Beltway](#). While other parts of the Outer Beltway were canceled, the ICC and the Fairfax County Parkway remained on master plans. The road's long history as an unbuilt proposed road stems from the controversy that has surrounded it over the years.

In addition to providing increased mobility to the community, the ICC Project is expected to provide a cost-effective transportation infrastructure to serve existing and future development patterns in the area reflecting local land use planning objectives. Construction has also been sensitive to the impacts on natural, human, and cultural environments from past development activities in the project area. In addition, by providing a major alternative route for mobility in case



ICC from Shady Grove Road looking east.

of emergencies, it enhances homeland security.

The \$2.56-billion design-build project is being constructed under five contracts with three major contracts currently under construction: Contract A extends from I-270/I-370 to Georgia Avenue (MD 97) and is approximately 7.2 miles long; it has three full interchanges. Contract B is approximately 6.9 miles long and has two full interchanges; it extends from MD 97 to US

29. Contract C extends from US 29 to I-95 and is approximately 3.8 miles long; there are two full interchanges of the ICC (new MD 200) at US 29 and I-95, and a partial interchange for westbound traffic at Briggs Chaney Road. Contracts D and E are still in the development phase.

Ms. Peters will provide a presentation to the ASCE-National Capital Section (NCS) on the status, challenges, and lessons learned for the ICC Project. The Section meeting will be held on **September 28, 2010**, at the Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. This location is close to the Crystal City Metro Station, serviced by the Blue/Yellow Line.

New ASCE-NCS Officers for the 2010-11 year will also be installed at the meeting prior to the presentation.

Registration and networking will be from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., with a buffet dinner starting at 6:45 p.m. The program will start around 7:30 p.m. One Professional Development Hour (PDH) will be awarded to attendees. Click [here](#) to register. ■

President's Corner

As we begin a new year for ASCE's National Capital Section (NCS), the new Board of Directors has an exciting program of events planned for the year. Over the summer, two planning meetings were held and we had great participation from the leadership and membership of the Section.

The monthly section meetings will be a primary focus of our year and we have a strong agenda. The meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City, in Arlington, VA, on the third Tuesday of the month (with



a few exceptions due to holidays or speaker schedules). Stay tuned to the newsletter and our website (www.asce-ncs.org) to stay informed. The year's kick-off event on September 28 will feature Melinda Peters, P.E., of the Maryland State Highway Administration to discuss the InterCounty

Connector Project, one of the area's largest civil transportation projects. We will follow that up on October 20 (a rare Wednesday meeting) with Chairman Sharon Bulova of Fairfax

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County's Board of Supervisors, speaking on transportation, infrastructure development, and maintenance in times of reduced funding. The remainder of the year will include many exciting topics and speakers to highlight civil engineering in the National Capital region, including Metro construction, sustainability, and history and heritage of civil engineering. Our year's flagship event will be the annual awards banquet scheduled for April 2011. We hope everyone can make it to our meetings this year to hear our speakers and network with their clients and colleagues.

The Section is co-sponsoring a one-day seminar on Managing Project Risks with the Construction Institute of ASCE to be held on October 22, at the Sheraton in Crystal City. The seminar will feature speakers on Dispute Resolution Methods, Delay Claims

from the Owner and Contractor's Perspective, The Contract Change Clause—The Change Order Process, and Construction Reviews. A panel discussion will also be included to provide an open forum and discussion session. For additional information, please click [here](#).


Our meeting cost will remain about \$30 this year, with professional development hours (PDH) being awarded to attendees. At the Hyatt, no free parking is provided, but plenty of free street parking is available. Parking is also available at the Crystal City shopping mall and is only a short walk from the hotel. The Hyatt is also located near the Blue or Yellow Metro lines at the Crystal City Station (2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202).

We have planned a full year of activities in addition to the Section

meetings. Volunteer events, field trips, service projects, and the ASCE "Fly In" are just some to mention. Email and newsletter updates will publicize these events. We hope to have your participation this year.

As the incoming President of the NCS, I look forward to another year of activities and events that provide real value to our members and strengthen our profession. Please feel free to contact myself or any board member to share your ideas for new activities or provide feedback. This is how ASCE can remain responsive to member needs.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Leeman, P.E.

Geotechnical Committee Luncheon Meetings Resumed in September

The NCS Geotechnical Committee resumed luncheon meetings on September 8. This month, Mr. J. Christopher Giese, P.E., Chief Engineer for ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, presented "A Review of Geotechnical-Related Activities for the HOT Lanes Project." The project required the preparation of 200 design packages with corresponding geotechnical analyses. The review included an overview of the overall project organization and systems for data management. From a geotechnical standpoint, the review covered the geotechnical investigations and findings,

foundation analysis and design for the project structures, ground improvement, general construction issues, and other topics. The approach to project quality assurance was also presented.

Save the Date

On October 5, 2010, Fred H. Kulhawy, P.E., will present a Short Course on "Estimation of Rock Properties for Foundation Design" at the next Geotechnical Committee meeting. Please contact Kellie Owens for questions or to RSVP at 703-771-9844. ■

History & Heritage Committee

Our H&H Committee looks forward to a busy season. Plans include several field trips, developing content for the Section web page, and completion of two national Historic Civil Engineering Landmark applications. We have a great time delving into our CE heritage. If you want to be involved, watch for future announcements or email us to ensure you get our event announcements. E-mails: Chairman Steve Pennington (steve.pennington@geo-instruments.com) or Bernie Dennis (berniedennis@mindspring.com). ■

Newsletter

L.J. Sauter, Jr., Editor
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**October 2010 Issue Deadline:
September 17, 2010**

To Submit Articles:
laurence.sauter@ferc.gov

Address Changes:
Call 1-800-548-ASCE, email member@asce.org, go to <http://www.asce.org>, or write: ASCE – Membership, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Remember to include your membership number.

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Committee Chairs

Please refer to the NCS website at <http://www.asce-ncs.org> for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.



MANAGING PROJECT RISK

Friday, October 22, 2010



Managing Project Risk Symposium

Friday,
October 22, 2010

Location:

Sheraton Crystal City
Arlington, VA.

(703) 486-1111

<http://www.sheratoncrystalcity.com/>

Registration Prices:

Member early bird:
\$275

Member: \$375

Non member early bird:
\$375

Non member: \$450

Early bird cutoff date:
Sept. 30, 2010.



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SECTION

Best Practices for Dispute Avoidance and Management

The ASCE Construction Institute's Claims Avoidance and Resolution Committee presents a compendium of the Committee membership's best practices addressing:

- Constructability Reviews
- Contract Changes Clauses
- Delay Claim Management
- Dispute Resolution Methods

Construction projects are fraught with claims and change orders. Members of the Claims Avoidance and Resolution Committee, construction industry professionals whose work and experience focuses on pro-active dispute avoidance management, have compiled their years of experience to present a set of Best Practices for claims avoidance and resolution.

Constructability Reviews: An hour of prevention saves a month of delay. Presenter Ray Jenkins leads us through the committee's experiences of best practices of Constructability Reviews.

Contract Change Clauses: Using the Engineers Joint Contracts document, presenter Dan Becker of HDR Engineering, Inc. provides best practices of change management contract clauses and considerations.

Delay Claims: Understanding and managing project delays for both the Contractor and the Owner, including a hands-on, practical example. The committee's aggregated Owner and Contractor experiences presented by: Dennis MacBride of SEPTA, Craig Lindquist of CCS Group Inc.

Dispute Resolution Methods: The committee compares and contrasts the various construction industry practices for dispute resolution. Presented by subcommittee chair Chip Ossman of Ossman Project Management Consulting, Inc.

Panel Discussion: Harold McKittrick moderates a panel discussion on strategies to avoid claims.

For program agenda, presentation details, and speaker bios: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ciriskman/program.html>

ASCE's Leader Education and Development (LEAD) Program—Two Opportunities to Grow as a Leader

Attend a complimentary LEAD Learning Event on Thursday, September 16th

Have you been contemplating what it takes to lead effectively in your organization? Have you heard about [ASCE's Leader Education and Development \(LEAD\) Program](#) in the past and wondered



if it is right for you, your employees, or a colleague? If so, please join us on **Thursday, September 16th**, at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA, for a [LEAD Learning Event](#) that will highlight **leadership foundations, how to grow high-impact leaders, and building highly-functional leadership teams.**

LEAD alumni will join us a little earlier in the afternoon to reconnect with classmates, share leadership lessons, and learn how other graduates have applied their LEAD skills.

The "LEAD On—A Refresher for LEAD Alumni" session takes place from 3:45—5:00 p.m. The "Getting to LEAD—An Introduction to Leadership" runs from 5:00—6:30 p.m. These sessions are **complimentary** but **registration is required by September 10, 2010**. Visit www.asce.org/lead to learn more and register.

Participate in the full LEAD Program that begins November 30, 2010

The **LEAD Program** is an eight-month program of seven formal training sessions and one individual coaching session that has been developed to **produce dramatic growth in leadership confidence and skills**. Participants develop skills to effectively build trust

with co-workers, motivate staff, improve client relationships, handle conflict situations, lead change, and more.

Registration Deadlines

Don't miss out on the best savings. Register by October 1, 2010, to receive the early-bird rate. [Click here](#) for more information on the registration fee, deadlines, and application.

Questions?

Contact Melissa Prelewicz, P.E., M.ASCE, at ASCE: 703-295-6341 or mprelewicz@asce.org. ■

Section's Scholarship Trust—Your Section Voluntary Contribution

Many of you know that our Section's Scholarship Trust annually awards scholarships to high academic civil engineering students at the 5 universities in our Section boundary: Howard University, Catholic University, George Washington University, University of District of Columbia, and George Mason University. We need your help with this effort, and it's easy.

You will be receiving your annual ASCE membership dues request soon. On the

form, the block for Section Voluntary Contribution allows you to contribute directly to our NCS Scholarship Trust. Your contribution will have a direct impact on the future of the Civil Engineering profession. Please be generous in your contribution—no contribution is considered too small.

Other sources of funding for our Trust include: the Past Presidents Annual Contributions, Memorial Contributions, and Corporate Contributions. ■

Structural Engineering Committee

The SE committee plans to build on the interest shown last season with new presentations on design and construction topics. If you have a particular topic or speaker you'd like us to address, jot the idea(s) down and send them to the Chairman—Bernie

Dennis at berniedennis@mind-spring.com. Announcements for upcoming events will be forthcoming to those on our email list. Want to get the announcement, e-mail us and we'll add you to our list. ■

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Engineered Problem Solving

Continuing Education Now Required for Virginia Professional Engineers...

The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects (Board) has promulgated new regulations requiring registered professional engineers to obtain 16 hours of continuing engineering education credit hours during each 2-year professional engineer license registration cycle.

Engineers renewing licenses or applying for reinstatement after March 31, 2010, will be required to comply with the new continuing education requirements. Individuals are required to complete at least 16 continuing education credit hours of approved education activities for any license renewal or reinstatement. Licensed engineers must maintain records of completion to document compliance with the new requirements for a period of 3 years. Engineers

will be required to provide records of continuing education to the Board upon request.

Most of the monthly meetings sponsored by the NCS fully meet the requirements of continuing education for renewal or reinstatement under 18 VAC 10-20-683-C. A certificate attesting to attendance at an education event equal to 1 Professional Development Hour will be given at NCS monthly meetings. ■

...and Soon for Maryland Professional Engineers, too

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed his state's new Continuing Professional Competency (CPC) bill on April 13, 2010. The new law went into effect on July 1 and applies to those renewing licenses on or after October 1, 2012. The law gives the State PE Board the responsibility of adopting regulations "to require a demonstration of continuing professional competency for a license as a condition of renewal of a license."

The Maryland PE Board is to establish a task force to assist in developing the regulation. All meetings of the Task Force will be open to the public.

The proposed regulation will be published and open for public comment before adoption. Board member David Mongon, PE, has been tasked with developing a backward-time-line for development of the regulation.

Additionally, members of the Maryland PE Board have started meeting with members of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey boards, which are also starting the process of writing CPC regulations. The idea is to develop compatible regulations to facilitate reciprocity among neighboring states.

In testimony before a Maryland General Assembly committee, Maryland

Society of Professional Engineers (MDSPE) President Bill Ryan stated that his organization reluctantly supported the bill out of necessity (because the vast majority of other states now require CPC), and to make it easier, less expensive, and more convenient for Maryland PEs to meet requirements in neighboring states in which they may be licensed through reciprocity. ■

(Editor's note: The Maryland portion of this article is based on information available on the MDSPE website at <http://mdspe.org>.)

Two New NCS Subcommittees Forming—Looking for Help

NCS is looking for a few good members to staff-out two new subcommittees. The mission of the **Management and Best Practices (MBP) Subcommittee** is to evaluate Section activities and identify means for optimizing the value of NCS membership. Activities planned for the subcommittee include:

1. Analysis of monthly meetings, including attendance, costs, and benefits;
2. Compiling and reviewing industry statistics and studies applicable to Section activities;
3. Developing and conducting membership survey, and analyzing responses;
4. Assessing and evaluating Younger Member and university involvement;

5. Reviewing best practices of other ASCE Sections and Branches for potential adoption by NCS;
6. Evaluating geographic and demographic distribution of NCS members to assist in planning future activities; and
7. Identifying and evaluating potential partnerships and sponsorships.

The MBP Subcommittee will provide the NCS with greater understanding of the interests of our membership and identify trends within the profession. It will prepare a draft findings report by the end of November 2010 and present it at a Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in December 2010.

The mission of the **Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) Subcommittee** is to revise the current NCS Constitution to be in line with the current ASCE

National Organization; revise the current NCS Bylaws to reflect the NCS desired structure and to be in line with ASCE National as required or desired; and have the revised documents approved and in place by the end of calendar year 2011. Activities to be undertaken by the subcommittee could include but are not limited to:

1. Review ASCE National procedures to update NCS Constitution and Bylaws.
2. Prepare draft constitution for review by board based on ASCE National template.
3. Review current Bylaws for:
 - a. Roles and responsibilities of BOD
 - b. Meeting requirements
 - c. Election procedures
 - d. Dues amounts

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Tau Beta Pi Announces Dr. Robert E. Efimba, P.E., as 2010 National Outstanding Advisor

Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, has named its 17th National Outstanding Advisor in its program to recognize engineering faculty who make important contributions to students and collegiate chapters.

Dr. Robert E. Efimba, P.E., *Massachusetts Beta '63*, associate professor of civil engineering at Howard University, and Chief Advisor to the District of Columbia Alpha Chapter, is the 2010 *Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor*. He will be honored on October 9, 2010, at the 105th annual Convention to be held in King of Prussia, PA. Tau Beta Pi President Dr. Larry A. Simonson, P.E., will present \$1,000 and a commemorative plaque to Dr. Efimba. Another \$1,000 grant will be presented to Howard University College of Engineering's discretionary fund.

Two New NCS Subcommittees Forming

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4. Review Bylaws of other ASCE sections with an emphasis on ASCE sections in metropolitan areas for ideas on:
 - a. Election procedures
 - b. Committee Structure
 - c. Election procedures
 - d. Dues amounts
5. Prepare draft Bylaws for review by the NCS board based on ASCE National template.

The C&B Subcommittee will present a draft of the C&B by the January BOD meeting (unless the timeframes in ASCE National procedures would require a faster timeframe, i.e., completion by a December 2011 deadline.)

BOD member Chris Manalo will chair the MBP subcommittee and BOD member David Dajc will chair the C&B subcommittee. Both are seeking additional members who are interested to join in the respective missions. If you're looking for a uniquely rewarding experience and a new avenue of involvement with ASCE, contact Chris Manalo at manalo_christian@bah.com to help on the MBP Subcommittee or David Dajc to assist with the C&B Subcommittee at david.dajc@fhwa.dot.gov. ■

Dr. Efimba was cited by students and friends of Tau Beta Pi for his dedication to the enhancement of the Association at the local and national levels, his personality and commitment to inspiring excellence, and an ability to steer students toward success.

Dr. Efimba has been Chief Advisor to DC Alpha for 20 years and an advisor to the chapter for nearly 33 years. He specializes in structural engineering, mechanics, and design. He joined the Howard University civil engineering faculty as an assistant professor in 1975, becoming an associate professor in 1982. He previously gained his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, lectured on civil engineering at the University of Nigeria, and worked as an engineer with the public works department in Cameroon.

Giving life to his belief in positive reinforcement, Dr. Efimba established an award system for student members, with appropriate certificates becoming a feature at banquets. This helped new members gain aspirations, while rewarding longer-standing members for consistently doing well.

He has perfected a balance in providing support, ideas, and continuity, while never making unilateral decisions or dominating chapter affairs. Dr. Efimba constantly reminds student officers that it is their chapter, providing opportunity and resources to help them succeed as leaders.

Under his leadership, the image and visibility of Tau Beta Pi has been enhanced in several ways, from the administration's appreciation and recognition of the chapter as a vital part of college life to initiation and membership acceptance rates that are almost 100 percent. The chapter has also received a number of outstanding project awards, secretary-treasurer's commendations, and Greater Interest in Government Grants. Each of these was made possible because Dr. Efimba was behind the scenes, promoting, reminding, encouraging, and advising.



Dr. Efimba's commitment to Tau Beta Pi extends well beyond the chapter. He has served in various capacities at local and national levels. These include chairing the 2006 Committee of Chapter Advisors, service as a member of the Task Group on International Activities and the Advisor Recruitment and Development

Committee, as well as being a member of inspection teams.

He seeks to "get the word out" about Tau Beta Pi in the community through chapter projects, and by encouraging the initiation of accomplished professionals as eminent engineers. Dr. Efimba devised an objective process for screening eminent-engineer candidates, which has now been adopted into the chapter bylaws. He is also a faculty advisor for ASCE, and a mentor to the student team for the steel bridge competition. He has served on NSF and ASEE/Department of Defense review panels, and been a member of the Architect-Engineer Evaluation Board of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

In his chapter's nomination, it was stated that, "While there are definitely a number of outstanding advisors throughout Tau Beta Pi, none of them is perhaps as essential and appreciated as Dr. Efimba is at DC Alpha. His personality, consistency, and visibility have been and will continue to be an asset...."

In recognition of his leadership abilities, numerous contributions, and talent for inspiring students to create and maintain an effective chapter, Tau Beta Pi hereby recognizes Robert E. Efimba as the 2010 Tau Beta Pi National Outstanding Advisor. ■

(Editor's note: Long-time NCS members will recall that Dr. Efimba served as President of the Section in 1983 and continues to be an active participant and attendee at our meetings.)

Call for Volunteers—USA Science and Engineering Festival

Interested in sharing your enthusiasm for civil engineering with hundreds of kids? ASCE will be exhibiting at the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival being held Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 24 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. A Concrete Canoe display and fun, hands-on educational outreach activities relating to the concrete canoe competition will be a part of ASCE's exhibit. Volunteers are needed for 2–3 hour shifts between

the hours of 10 am and 5 pm during the two-day festival. There will be three shifts: morning, mid-day and afternoon. Volunteers who make themselves available for set up and clean-up either of the two days may have a slightly longer shift.

If interested, please email ASCE Pre-College Outreach Manager, Leslie Payne at lpayne@asce.org with your preferred day and shift. Please indicate if you are available for set up or clean up, and

include your cell phone number with your reply. Details about the activities and your shift will be sent to you as they become available.

Over 400 exhibitors have registered for the festival already, making the festival the largest of its kind in the country! Learn more about this exciting opportunity to inspire the next generation of engineers at: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>. ■

Upcoming Events (Also available on our website under the Events tab)

September 16

Attend a complimentary LEAD Learning Event ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA. The first session begins at 3:45 p.m., while the second session runs from 5:00–6:30 p.m. **Registration is required by September 7, 2010.** Visit www.asce.org/lead to learn more and register. For questions, contact Melissa Prelewicz, at ASCE (703-295-6341) or mprelewicz@asce.org.

September 19-23

Water Jam 2010: Sponsored jointly by the Virginia Section of the American Water Works Association and the Virginia Section of the Water Environment Federation at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA. Registration contact: Cathy LaRue, (757) 363-1760 or cathy.larue@vaawwa.org. Conference brochure at: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=840590>.

September 28

ASCE-NCS Monthly Section Meeting featuring Melinda Peters, PE, the MD State Highway Department's Project Director for the ICC Highway Project. We will also install the new NCS officers for the 2010-2011 year. The meeting will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. \$40 members, \$50 non-members (\$30 and \$40, respectively, if registered September 20); \$5 full-time students.

October 6

YMF Happy Hour at a location in DC to be announced. Please watch the NCS website for additional information.

October 20

NCS monthly meeting featuring Chairman Sharon Bulova of Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, speaking on transportation and infrastructure spending in times of reduced funding. A rare **Wednesday** meeting at the usual location: the Hyatt Regency in Arlington, VA.

October 22

ASCE's Construction Institute's Claims Avoidance and Resolution Committee will present a day-long compendium of the committee memberships best practices at the Sheraton Hotel in Crystal City (see flyer elsewhere in newsletter). Registration will begin at 8 a.m., with the program starting at 8:45. A buffet lunch is scheduled for noon until 1 p.m. The Sheraton is located at 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, VA. Take the Yellow/Blue Line to the Crystal City Metro Station, or park at the Sheraton for \$15. Contact Fady Afif at afiff@bv.com for additional information.

October 24-28

American Concrete Institute's Fall Convention: Westin Convention Center Hotel and David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA. Register at (248) 848-3800 or www.aciconvention.org (until October 3). Convention preview brochure at <http://www.concrete.org/Convention/Fall-Convention/Front.asp>.

Employment Clearinghouse

Then ASCE-NCS provides the Employment Clearinghouse as a free service to its membership. The Clearinghouse allows members to post short (100-word maximum)

notices for available positions or candidates seeking employment. If you have questions or would like to post a position, please e-mail laurence.sauter@ferc.gov.