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**American Society of Civil Engineers****MARCH 2005 DINNER SEMINAR:****COMPLIANCE WITH THE
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

An overview of the federal environmental process mandating compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 will be presented by Ms. Chitra Radin. Ms. Radin will discuss how key areas of environmental concerns were managed to comply with NEPA on two major metropolitan projects, the **Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Transit System** Project for NJ Transit and the **Fulton Street Transit Center** Project for New York City Transit (NYCT) in Lower Manhattan. Ms. Radin served as the NJ Transit Project Manager for the light rail project and served as NYCT's agency representative reviewing the environmental documents for the Fulton Street Transit Center Project.

SPEAKER: **Chitra Radin**, president of her own firm, Radin Consulting, Inc., has over 20 years of experience in the field of transportation and environmental planning. Radin Consulting, Inc. specializes in the preparation of environmental documents and facilitating their review and approval by federal and state regulatory agencies.

DATE: Wednesday March 30, 2005

TIME: Registration 5:30 PM, dinner and presentation to follow

LOCATION: Prime Hotel and Suites
690 Route 46 East
Fairfield, New Jersey

COST: \$50 ASCE Members, \$60 Non-Members
\$40 Government Employees and
Full-Time Students with ID

REGISTER: RSVP BY March 23, 2005
Register online at <http://branches.asce.org/northjersey> and click on the RSVP button included in the event flyer

or send name, telephone number and e-mail address to:
Jim Heeren at jheeren@dewberry.com, (973) 428-4909

PDH: Eligibility for this seminar is still in review



It seems the snow has finally arrived. Look at the bright side, the usual late coming of New Jersey's winter snow means that spring is almost here. I hope the snow has not kept you from your appointed rounds. The weather has certainly not slowed down the Branch members.

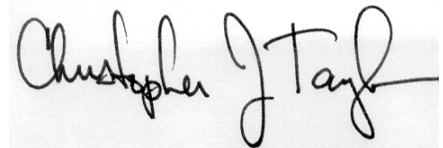
At the start of February, I attended a career day at the Dr. William H. Horton elementary school in Newark. A fellow board member, two young engineers from our branch, and an engineer from Newark's Department of Engineering joined me. The children from grades 6 through 8 seemed intrigued as we traveled to each classroom explaining what it means to be an engineer. You should have seen their faces light up when I told them they could design roller coasters. Please join us for the upcoming career days listed in this month's newsletter.

March 9, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., ASCE will release the 2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure with updated grades on the condition of our nation's roads, bridges, drinking water, transit systems, energy and schools. This valuable service provided by ASCE national puts a spotlight on the work to be done and why you chose a valuable career. It is timely for ASCE to release this highly acclaimed publication just after the release of the 2006 budget by President Bush. To view the 2005 report card visit www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/

President Bush's 2006 proposed budget of \$2.57 trillion includes \$283.9 billion over six years for the delayed surface transportation bill, a significant increase by the administration over the \$256 billion it supported last year. The stalled funding program finally may move ahead – good news. However, the news is less promising for other major infrastructure funding requirements. The President's 2006 plan calls for cuts in the federal water infrastructure program with roughly 35% cut from the EPA's clean water state revolving funds. The FAA Airport Improvement Program grants would be reduced more than 15%. The US Corps of Engineers construction account budget, the General Services Administration budget, and the Bureau of Reclamation funding all would decline for 2006. Overall the news is not promising. I am sure you have all noticed how tight competition already is for limited funds.

I am confident that this year's report card will once again show that significantly more funds are needed to rebuild and expand our aging infrastructure. How can you help? ASCE national has done most of the work for us. The government relations services your national association offers are fabulous. Through the Web page at www.asce.org/govrel/ you can become informed through news articles and ASCE policy statements. Through the Web site you can schedule visits with your congressmen back home or in Washington. And through their automated letter writing services, you can make the case to our elected officials. It is up to each of us to ensure that the Report Card completed by ASCE enters into the debate – that it becomes grist for the ever-grinding mill in the halls of congress.

Once again this month I ask you to get involved. Make this the year you nominate someone for a Branch Award (see the nomination form for more information). Being a part of Branch activities is a learning experience, a networking opportunity and a good time. I hope to see you at this month's events.



MESSAGES FROM THE EDITOR:

The Branch Website Making Strides – featured this month is the deployment of online registration for the March 2005 dinner meeting. While you are at the Branch website updating your calendars for the latest activities and news, you can now register for Branch events. Look for the RSVP button in the flyer for the event you wish to attend. Fill out the information and send.

Interested in advertising in the monthly newsletter? We accept advertisements for employment opportunities and businesses. Contact the newsletter editor, Lamis Malak at lmalak@dewberry.com or call (973)338-9100 for more information.

NORTH JERSEY BRANCH TECHNICAL GROUPS

Join one of these groups and get involved with others in your field of interest. If you want to help out, or have ideas and speaker contacts, we are always interested in new members and future leaders.

For more information, contact **Kenneth Clausen** at kclausen@kseng.com or any of the individuals listed below:

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Jay Meegoda – 973-596-2464
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CONTINUING EDUCATION**NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
SPRING 2005 SEMINAR*****The Health Monitoring Paradigm for Infrastructure Systems***

Date: Monday March 28, 2005

Location: Room 416 Colton Hall

Time: 11:30-1:00 PM

Presenter: Dr. Emin Aktan
Director of the Intelligent Infrastructure
Institute at Drexel University

For more information contact:

Drs. Raj P. Khara (Khara@NJIT.edu) at (973)-596-2475 or
Jay N. Meegoda (Meegoda@NJIT.edu) at (973)-596-2464

Abstract: Health Monitoring is a paradigm involving experimental measurement of the as-is geometry and mechanical characteristics of a constructed system, and then monitoring any changes in these together with its natural, loading and operating environments and critical responses throughout its lifecycle. These measurements are processed to help diagnose any changes in the mechanical conditions, structural capacities and the actual loading history, permitting to establish the structural reliability, operational efficiency and safety. The importance of the paradigm is in its potential to transform the heuristic art of civil engineering into an objective, scientific discipline.

AE INSTITUTE BUILDING SECURITY SYMPOSIUM***Site Planning – The Building Envelope – Progressive Collapse – Blast –Egress and Physical Security Concerns Mechanical/Electrical Issues – And more...***

Date: March 10-11, 2005

Location: The McGraw-Hill Companies Conference Center
New York, NY

12.75 AIA/CES LUs provided for architects & engineers!

Register at: <http://www.aeinsteinute.org/events/symposium05.cfm>
or contact Dona Christensen at 703-295-6370 or aei@asce.org

Co – Sponsored by the Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI) of ASCE, the Steel and Ornamental Metal Institutes of New York and The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP)

SEI 2005 CONFERENCE***Metropolis And Beyond***

Date: April 20-24, 2005

Location: New York Hilton and Towers
New York, NY

Seminar qualifies for 15 PDH credits

To register: visit www.seinsteinute.org

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BRANCH TECHNICAL GROUP SEMINARS**SAVE THE DATES!**

The **STRUCTURAL TECHNICAL GROUP** is currently planning its annual seminar. This year's topic is Design of Post-Tensioned Elements in Bridges.

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2005
Location: New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ
Time: 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Cost: TBA
PDH: Eligibility for this seminar is in review.

For more information contact: Arjuna Ranasinghe at APRanasinghe@mccormicktaylor.com or call 732-692-1800.

The **TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL GROUP** is also planning its annual seminar. This year's topic is Focus on Newark. Presentations of Broad Street Station, Mulberry Street and a city improvements overview by the City Engineer of Newark, James Adams are tentatively scheduled.

Date: Wednesday April 20, 2005
Location: The Newark Club, Newark, NJ
Time: 2 pm to 7 pm
Cost: TBA
PDH: Eligibility for this seminar is in review

For more information contact: Thomas Ott at OttT@PBWorld.com or call 973-353-7628

NJIT ALUMNI BREAKFAST

You are invited to the New Jersey Institute of Technology Civil and Environmental Engineering Department *Annual Alumni Breakfast*

Date: Thursday, March 24, 2005
Location: 3730 Guttenberg Information Technologies Center
Time: 8:00 am to 10:00 am
 Breakfast is complimentary
Speaker: Joseph F. Picciano, BSCE '71, MSEnE '76
 Acting Regional Director, FEMA / Dept. of Homeland Security
RSVP: Roberta Hartlaub at 973-596-2446 or hartlaub@njit.edu

Network!...Renew Acquaintances!...Tour Facilities!
Some retired faculty members will be there to reminisce

CAREER DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Members of the North Jersey Branch and the Newark Department of Engineering teamed up to participate in the February 4th Career Day at the Dr. William Horton elementary school in Newark where they shared their experiences with enthusiastic 6th, 7th & 8th graders. Special thanks are extended to the following participants: **Christopher Taylor**, SYSTRA Consulting - **Gareth Middleton**, Tishman Construction Corp - **Dawn Macey-Wright**, Newark Dept. of Engineering - **Natalie Rodriguez** and **Corey Marshall**, Parsons Brinkerhoff.

The Newark Public School system is holding several more career days (see page 6 for dates) and could use your help. Volunteers are needed to make a short presentation on the field of Civil Engineering followed by a hands-on activity. The North Jersey Branch will supply activities and materials. If you are interested in participating, please contact Eugenia Roman at eroman@hardesty-hanover.com or 201-656-8810.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE MARCH 31

2004-2005 College and High School Scholarships applications are due to the branch on March 31, 2005.

Details and applications are still available for download on the North Jersey Branch website:


<http://branches.asce.org/northjersey>

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ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

The Order of the Engineer is the group of engineers who have publicly and privately recognized their duty to the public and to their profession. Order members understand the significance of the public trust bestowed upon them to perform their roles to the highest moral, ethical, and technical standards. The Order was initiated in the United States to foster a spirit of pride, individual integrity, and responsibility in the engineering profession. It bridges the gap between training and practice and presents to the public a visible symbol of our dedication. The first induction ceremony was held in 1970 at Cleveland State University, though the origins of the organization may be traced to the Canadian "Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer" dating back to 1926.

The Obligation is the formal statement of an engineer's responsibilities to the public and to the profession, publicly accepted by the engineer during the induction ceremony. Upon acceptance of the Obligation, new members receive a stainless steel ring to wear on the fifth finger of the working hand. This ring identifies them to other members of the Order and to the public at large.

In May 2004 the North Jersey Branch initiated 12 members into the Order of the Engineer. Nationally, ASCE is encouraging membership in the Order for all of its members. The North Jersey Branch is planning to hold another induction in May 2005. ALL ENGINEERS are invited to attend. Look for details in the months ahead or contact Teresa Peterson at tpeterson@dewberry.com for information.



Read more about the Order of the Engineer at www.asce.org under the professional issues link.

NOTES FROM JANUARY AND FEBRUARY DINNER MEETINGS

Both were great success with over 70 people in attendance at the Converse-Ward Lecture in January on "The Effective Use Of Load And Integrity Testing Of Drilled Foundations" presented by **Dr. Dan Brown** and over 90 in attendance in February at the Joint ASCE/ASHE presentation of the "New Jersey Turnpike Interchange 1 project" presented by **Larry Williams**. For a listing of the latest Branch activities, visit the Branch website <http://branches.asce.org/northjersey> and view the calendar page.



Pictured from L to R
Dincer Egin - Converse Consultants
Dr. Dan Brown – Presenter
Jay Meegoda - Geotechnical Technical Group Chair



Pictured from L to R:
Lamis Malak - President Elect ASCE
Joe Mathews - President ASHE NCJ Branch
Larry Williams – Presenter
Don DiZuzio - ASHE NCJ Program Chair

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE: **Dennis C. Loh, P.E.** has been promoted to the position of Vice President and will oversee operations at the Somerset, NJ office of Geo-Technology Associates, Inc. (GTA). Dennis joined GTA two years ago as an Associate of the firm, and oversaw the opening of GTA's Somerset office in 2003. He continues to lead the geotechnical engineering and construction observation and testing departments of that office, overseeing the firm's day-to-day operations in New Jersey, New York City, and New York State. Congratulations Dennis!

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Upcoming Events!

March 19 – Region 1 Formation Team Meeting
Want to help shape our Region under the new ASCE governance model? Contact ctaylor@systrausa.com

March 23 & April 26 - Newark Career Days
Volunteers needed. See inside for details.

March 24 – STG Half-Day Seminar
Design of Post-Tensioned Elements

March 30 – Environmental Technical Group
Dinner Meeting - Prime Hotel and Suites
Fairfield, NJ

April 16 – Branch Award Nominations Due Date
See inside for details

April 20 – TTG Half-Day Seminar
Focus on Newark - The Newark Club
Newark, NJ

May 19 – 2005 Branch Awards Dinner
The Newark Club
Newark, NJ
SAVE THE DATE!