

Welcome to Our New Officers and Directors

The Pittsburgh Section is proud to recognize our newest crop of officers and directors for 2012-13:

President: **William Gross, P.E.**

Vice-President: **Ralph W. Gilbert, Jr., P.E.**

Director: **John C. Brigham, Ph.D.**

Director: **John Havel, P.E.**

Director: **Lauren Terpak**

Biographies and Statements of Purpose for each follow. Please welcome these individuals and ask them how you can support them in their work for the Section.



President: **William Gross, P.E.**

Biography

Bill Gross is Vice President and Manager of the Transportation Section in HDR's Pittsburgh Office. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Penn State, and is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Mr. Gross also served as a committee chair for the 2008 ASCE National

Conference, and was the recipient of the Pittsburgh Section's 2009 Service to the People Award. He is also currently an officer within the ASHE Southwest Penn Section Board of Directors, and previously served as a president and board member of the ASHE Pittsburgh Section. Mr. Gross has also coordinated the efforts of the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition's Western Pennsylvania outreach to engage elected officials within PennDOT District 11 jurisdiction in the active resolution of the ongoing transportation funding crisis. Mr. Gross is also a highway discipline co-chair in PennDOT/ACE Mutual Gains Negotiations initiative.

Statement of Purpose

I'm truly honored to serve the upcoming year as Pittsburgh Section President of this great organization and I'm also blessed to be following a president with the savvy, passion, and enthusiasm of Mr. Karl Sieg! Through Karl's initiatives and commitment to optimizing the effectiveness of our Section, we find ourselves riding a tsunami of positive momentum into the upcoming year. ASCE continues to be a highly respected voice in discussions regarding the deteriorating condition of our infrastructure, and the critical need to identify funding streams to address these problems. Through ASCE's persistence in educating not only our elected officials, but our neighbors as well, there is growing awareness of the problems before us. As active members of ASCE, it is our professional responsibility to remain diligent in educating the public and our elected officials so that this awareness is acted upon in the form of legislative action that invests in our infrastructure – and in our quality of life.

Through the leadership of our Board of Direction, Institutes, and Young Members' Forum, we will also continue to promote the use of advancing technology to optimize the knowledge and capabilities of today's engineer, while inspiring the engineer of tomorrow through collaboration within the ASCE student chapters of local universities, as well as sustained educational outreach programs geared toward the high school and elementary school levels.

Working collaboratively, the ASCE Pittsburgh Section can accomplish much over the next year. I thank you in advance for your continued support, participation, and enthusiasm!

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Vice-President: Ralph W. Gilbert, Jr., P.E.

Biography

Ralph Gilbert is a former Principal with HDR, Inc. Ralph managed operations in the states of PA, OH and WV for over 22 years. Prior to joining HDR, Ralph was a career officer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired from the Pittsburgh District after 20 years of active duty. He received his BA in Civil Engineering from the University of Mississippi and his MA in Civil and Geotechnical Engineering from Princeton University. Ralph previously served on the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Section, was elected to the grade of Fellow in 1994, and was recognized by the Pittsburgh Section as Engineer of the Year in 2004. He has held leadership positions with other professional societies including State President of ACEC/PA and Board member for ESWP. Currently, he is providing consulting services in the forensic engineering practice as well as serving as a Certified Retirement Coach for other professionals seeking to transition into a meaningful retirement. Ralph is a registered Professional Engineer in PA, OH, WV, KY, NC, SC, and VA.

Statement of Purpose

At this stage of my professional career I am very interested in providing advice and assistance to younger engineers as they grow and develop their own careers. I was fortunate to receive some good guidance along the way from others who preceded me in my career field and who encouraged me to be active in professional societies such as ASCE. Professional societies not only serve the purpose of elevating the goals of our profession, they also provide excellent networking and personal growth opportunities for members who choose to take an active role in the organization. I want to encourage the young civil engineers in our region to become active members of the Pittsburgh Section of ASCE, to serve on committees and to accept leadership positions. In so doing they will enhance their careers as they advance the profession and they will be providing vital professional services to our region and, indeed, our nation.



Director: John C. Brigham, Ph.D.

Biography

John C. Brigham, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering. Professor Brigham received a BE in civil and environmental engineering and mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 2003, and a MS and PhD in civil and environmental engineering from Cornell University in 2006 and 2008, respectively. As a member of the Structural Engineering and Mechanics group within the CEE Department, Dr. Brigham teaches courses focusing on structural analysis and computer methods in civil engineering, and as principal investigator of the Computational Diagnostics and Inverse Mechanics group he and his research team investigate fundamental concepts in mechanics and computation spanning a broad range of applications, from assessing service life of civil, marine, or aircraft structures to diagnosing physiological changes in biological structures.

Statement of Purpose

Since joining the University of Pittsburgh in 2008 I have made it my focus to do everything I can to contribute to the preparation of our civil engineering students to ensure they receive a top-notch education and are prepared to contribute positively to society, particularly the civil engineering profession. I realize that a big part of this preparation is fostering academic-industry relations, bringing light to the world outside the walls of the academic institution and creating opportunities and the means for students to take their first steps after graduation. To this end, utilizing my position as educator, advisor, and mentor at the University of Pittsburgh, I hope to build an even stronger bond among the ASCE Pittsburgh Chapter, Pittsburgh-area educators, and the next generation of Pittsburgh professional civil engineers. I have always had a tremendous amount of respect for the ASCE Pittsburgh Chapter, and I am truly honored to serve on the ASCE Board of Directors.

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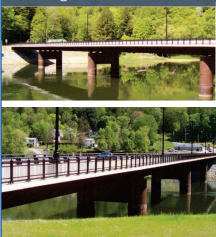
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Director: John Havel, P.E.



Biography

John Havel is a Structural Engineer and Project Manager in the Pittsburgh office of AECOM. John attended Penn State University and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering in May of 1991. During his time at Penn State, John participated in the Cooperative Education Program and worked for PennDOT District 11-0 in the Bridge Unit. Upon graduation, John worked for Professional Services Industries in Pittsburgh PA, Parsons Brinckerhoff for 8 years, and joined AECOM in March of 2000. He has served as a board member for the ASCE Pittsburgh Section and was involved in organizing the National Conferences held in Pittsburgh. John is also active in the Pittsburgh Section of ABCD.

Statement of Purpose

Throughout my career I have tried to stay involved with various activities and board positions that ASCE, ABCD, and ASCE have to offer. As a co-op student I had the opportunity to attend several ASCE meetings, and I realized that getting involved early in my career would bring positive personal and working relationships within our industry. The various organizations in Pittsburgh have evolved over the years, with new Chapters created, the involvement with the local universities, the Younger Member Groups and the individual discipline institutes within ASCE. While there is more to offer within the organizations, the goal still remains to provide support and opportunities to our members. As a first year director with ASCE I am looking forward to working with the Board Members and contributing to the continued development and success of the organization.

Director: Lauren Terpak



Biography

Ms. Terpak is currently employed with AECOM in the Water division and has been with the company since 2003. Lauren obtained a BE in Civil Engineering with a focus in Environmental Engineering from Youngstown State University in 2002. Aside from her career, Lauren has been actively involved with the Pittsburgh Section of ASCE Younger Member Forum (YMF) since she first moved to Pittsburgh by starting off as chair of the Employment Committee (2003-2007). She then became Technical Committee Chair (2007-2009), Secretary (2009-2010), Vice President (2010-2011), and recently served as President of the Younger Members Forum (2011-2012). Pittsburgh wasn't Lauren's first introduction to ASCE, as she served as Secretary of her student chapter and was named Outstanding Senior of the Year of ASCE's Cleveland Section.

Statement of Purpose

I remember attending my first YMF meeting and even though I was new to Pittsburgh my hesitation in getting involved in ASCE quickly disappeared. The level of my involvement over the years has varied but I never lost sight of the benefits of being active in the organization. While serving on the YMF executive board for past three years I was able to witness committees and meeting attendance grow, participate in developing the first grant funded civil engineering outreach video and implement new initiatives that focused on topics such as membership and leadership in the Pittsburgh community. I plan to carry these experiences to the Section level. During my first year as Director and also serving as the YMF Past President I hope to bridge any gaps between the younger generation of our profession and the Section and offer a fresh perspective. I would like to help young professionals and students understand, based on my past experience, the importance and benefits of ASCE. ASCE has played an integral role in helping me build networks, technically evolve, and even find new friends.

Concrete Performance: Pitt Student Chapter of ASCE Hosts Ohio Valley Student Conference

By: Lauren Terpak and Matthew Gilfillan

The University of Pittsburgh student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) hosted the Ohio Valley Student Conference (OVSC) on March 29 - 31, 2012. Conference attendees included over 330 students from 14 schools across Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky. Numerous engineering minds from the attending schools, local engineering companies, and the ASCE Pittsburgh Section and Younger Members Forum partook in the fun by volunteering as competition judges. The nine conference competitions included: Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, AutoCAD, Balsawood Bridge, Concrete Horseshoes, Environmental, Surveying, Sustainable Design, and Technical Papers.

Two of the most popular competitions are the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge. To almost everyone's surprise the concrete canoe competition involves the design and fabrication of a 20-foot-long canoe that is primarily made of concrete and recyclable materials and is capable of withstanding competitive racing. This portion of the conference was held at North Park Lake in which the canoes were judged on aesthetics, racing, durability, technical paper, and an oral presentation. Youngstown State University placed first and qualified for the national competition, with Western Kentucky University in second, with the University of Akron taking third.



The Steel Bridge Competition, held at the university's Cost Center, called for teams to design and fabricate a 23-foot long, 1/10 scale model of a cantilevered bridge. The bridges were assembled at the competition during timed construction and must support a 2,500 pound load. Teams were judged on construction speed, aesthetics, lightness, deflection, construction economy, structural efficiency, and overall performance. The top three teams were the University of Akron, Youngstown State University, and the University of Louisville. All three qualified for the national competition.

The University of Pittsburgh competed in all competitions and came in third place overall. In addition to finishing first in the Surveying competition, Pitt placed sixth in Steel Bridge, fifth in Concrete Canoe, second in Environmental, second in Sustainable Design, and Fourth in the Technical Paper. A detailed listing of all the competition results can be found at <http://sites.google.com/site/ohiovalleystudentconference/home>.

Fourteen universities came to the OVSC, spent two and a half days in Pittsburgh and marveled at the city's unique buildings, its urban setting, and its wonderful people specifically highlighted by Friday night's Gateway Clipper cruise on the Three Rivers. While the central purpose of the conference is to encourage learning, responsibility, and professionalism through competitive events, it is the memories and experiences gained during the competition that will endure.

Pitt's OVSC organizing committee was expertly lead by Matt Gilfillan, student chapter President, and supported by a strong group of members including: Mike Carretta, Natalie Celmo, Mike Cinciripini, Marshall Davis, Jacob Helman, Matt Huddleston, Caitlin Mehall, Matt Morrone, Sam Scalzo, Krista Stippelmans, Dan Stauffer, Abigail Stein, Matt Tamrowski, Dr. Anthony Iannacchione, Dr. Dan Budny, Dr. Jason Monnell, Jennifer Welton, and Monica Bell.



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ASCE National Recognizes Pitt Student Chapter

The Pitt Student Chapter received a Letter of Honorable Mention from ASCE National's Direction of Educational Activities, Ping Wei, in recognition of their 2011 Reported Activities. The letter cited the chapter's "enthusiasm and hard work" as well as the guidance of faculty advisor Jeen-Shang Lin. Past ASCE Pittsburgh president Matt Pierce called it "something for the whole Section to be proud of and to build on moving forward!"

Congratulations to our ASCE Student Chapter members!

PITTSBURGH PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER OF ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The Engineers Without Borders USA Pittsburgh Professional Chapter (PPC) has been named the 2012 recipient of the EWB-USA Premier Project Award for their water pumping system in the South American community of Tingo Pucará, Ecuador.

The award was presented on Friday, March 23, during the 10th Anniversary celebration of EWB-USA held in conjunction with the Ninth Annual EWB-USA International Conference, which took place in Las Vegas, NV. This recognizes excellence in EWB-USA projects and highlights projects that deliver high quality, sustainable solutions to help meet the basic needs of partnering communities abroad.



"The EWB-USA Pittsburgh Professional Ecuador Project team was selected as an exemplary project for achieving a high level of professionalism in a variety of aspects," said Cathy Leslie, Executive Director of Engineers Without Borders USA. "This water pumping project fits within our vision and mission by truly partnering with their host community; it is with great pleasure that we recognize them as a premier project."

Now that construction is almost complete, the EWB-PPC team, which is also partnering with students from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh and has approximately 30 members, is working to produce a clear and concise operations and maintenance manual for the community of Tingo Pucara. For the project to be truly sustainable, the community must be able to operate their system independent of outside help. The chapter will continue to monitor the project for at least another year to make sure all issues can be addressed and the system is as successful as possible.

YMF Spring Egg Hunt at the Children's Institute

by Sara Mullaney, YMF Community Service Co-chair

On Sunday, April 1, the Pittsburgh Younger Members Forum (YMF) held their Second Annual Spring Egg Hunt at the Children's Institute of Pittsburgh, located in Squirrel Hill. The Children's Institute offers many services for special needs patients.

The Spring Egg Hunt involved a craft project, followed by an egg hunt. The volunteers spent time with the patients, aided with the craft project, decorated the gym, hid the eggs, and helped the patients select their prizes. The volunteer turnout was fantastic, including members of the YMF as well as the members of the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) ASCE Student Chapter.

Thanks to all of the patients, attendees, volunteers, and Charlene Horvath, the Program Coordinator at the Children's Institute, for creating such a successful event. The YMF looks forward to the Third Annual Spring Egg Hunt next year!

If you would like to help out on the next YMF community service activity, please contact Sara Mullaney at sara.mullaney@rhea.us.



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IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome to Our New Officers & Director	1
Board of Directors	2
Welcome to Our New Officers & Director	3-4
Pitt Student Chapter Hosts Ohio Valley Student Conference	5
ASCE National Recognizes Pitt Student Chapter.....	6
YMF Spring Egg Hunt at the Children's Institute	7