

ASCE NEWS

American Society of Civil Engineers Pittsburgh Section Newsletter

Volume 91, Number 08

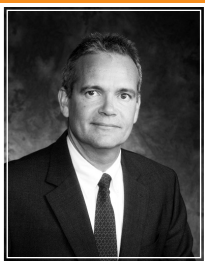
May 2008

<http://www.asce-pgh.org/>

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED

President - Jorge M. Suarez, P.E.

Biography



Jorge M. Suarez, P.E., is Director of Bridge Services for the consulting engineering firm Michael Baker Jr., Inc., with headquarters in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. He is a structural engineer with expertise in both steel and specialized concrete structures such as segmental concrete bridges, cable stay bridges, prestressed and post-tensioned concrete building and bridge designs, construction management, and design build project delivery methods. Mr. Suarez received his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College and is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Mr. Suarez began his involvement with the ASCE Pittsburgh Section through membership with the Structures Group (1996-1999), which he chaired in 1998 and 1999. He also served a three-year term as a Director of the Pittsburgh Section (1999-2002) and as Chair of the Programs Committee from 1999 through 2005. He is currently serving as Section Vice President.

Statement of Purpose

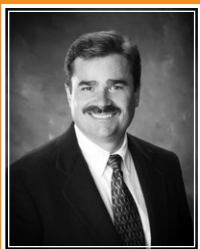
Last year when I was nominated to serve as Vice President of the Pittsburgh Section, my stated goal was to promote the roles of engineers as heroes and community leaders in the redevelopment process to design and construct hospitals, housing, roads, bridges, utilities, and environmental mitigation after recent natural disasters and war. The collapse last summer of the I-35W Bridge in Minnesota brought the attention of the nation and our elected officials to the constant need to rehabilitate and replace our nation's aging infrastructure. Unfortunately, oftentimes difficult life lessons are learned as the result of catastrophic events. I would like to continue to emphasize the engineering profession as an exciting and dynamic one for students as well as increase the public's understanding of engineering's involvement in their neighborhoods. Engineers find innovative solutions to everyday challenges throughout the world; we need to attract more diversity into this field of well-educated professionals in science and math.

I am very excited about our big local event in November when we will host the 2008 ASCE National Convention here in Pittsburgh. It coincides with the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the City of Pittsburgh, which will showcase our history and unique charm and attractions. The last year that Pittsburgh hosted this conference, 1968, Three Rivers Stadium was under construction and the skies were filled with steel industry smog. Our revitalized international city with its new airport, stadiums, and convention center highlights the excellent model of the engineer creating a better environment and business center to attract corporations, jobs and tourists. This creativity also provides for one of America's most livable cities to its citizens.

I am proud to be part of the enthusiastic and proactive group of professional engineers that comprise the ASCE Pittsburgh Section and honored to be given the opportunity to provide leadership and support to our strategic initiatives in this position.

Vice President – Terry Downs, P.G.

Biography



Terry L. Downs serves as the Pittsburgh Geotechnical Services Group Manager of Gannett Fleming, Inc. He is responsible for projects involving all civil disciplines with geotechnical and managerial requirements of varying scope and complexity. With more than 22 years of experience, Mr. Downs has an extensive background in highway, water supply and building projects. Mr. Downs holds a Bachelor of Science in geology from the University of Pittsburgh and Master of Science in civil engineering from the University of Maryland. He is a registered geologist in Pennsylvania and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Mr. Downs has been active in ASCE since 1995 where he served for 8 years on the board of the ASCE Geotechnical Group, currently the Geo-Institute. During this time he served as Member-at-Large, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Chairperson, Chairperson and Past Chairperson. At the completion of his service on the Geo-Institute board Mr. Downs served 3 years on the Pittsburgh Section board as a director and chaired the Continuing Education and Education Outreach Committees.

Statement of Purpose

ASCE has many exciting challenges in the coming year ranging from hosting the 2008 ASCE National Conference in Pittsburgh to expanding and improving ASCE's services to the membership. I look forward to continuing my participation with the Pittsburgh Section in the upcoming year in the role of vice-president and having the opportunity to promote the civil engineering profession through ASCE as well as supporting the Section in its pursuit to deliver educational, technical and business services to our members and community. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Section in this capacity and looking forward to making a vital contribution to the ASCE Pittsburgh Section.