

January President's Message
Brant B. Richard, P.E.
ASCE Baton Rouge Branch President

Past Meeting

Our last ASCE Baton Rouge Branch luncheon was held on Thursday November 16, 2005. We do not have a branch luncheon in December due to our Annual Christmas Party which replaces that activity. Our speaker was Andrew Whittle, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The topic was entitled, "What caused the Collapse of the Nicoll Highway in Singapore". In April 2004, this catastrophic failure of a 30 meter deep braced excavation for the new Circle Line led to the collapse of the adjacent Nicoll Highway and four construction fatalities. He detailed the forensic investigations which specifically addressed the underlying causes of the failure. This was a very interesting topic and members said this was one of the best presentations they had attended most recently. The technical nature and length of this presentation qualified for a one hour PDH for all attendees. It is the Board's intention to make more and more of our monthly luncheons "PDH" eligible for our members to get a good lunch and continuing education credits all in one meeting.

Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Party was held on Friday, December 1, 2006 at the Bocage Racquet Club in Baton Rouge. This is held every year on the first Friday of December and basically a "thank you" for all the members and it is another social event to encourage networking which allows younger members to interact with some of our seasoned long time members. We had almost 100 people including spouses and is always a good time and great food.

SPAG Award

As previously discussed, the Baton Rouge Branch recently won a State Public Affairs Grant (SPAG). This grant proposed to use high visibility billboards for the month of February in observance of Engineer's Week (February 18-24). In Baton Rouge, we will have two billboards on the Interstate. The LAMAR billboards will be located at I-12 and Sherwood Forest Blvd, which is the standard vinyl and the digital billboard is located at I-10 and College Drive. The slogan will include "Civil Engineers Make a World of Difference". Please look out for them and tell your fellow civil engineers in order to spread the word of the locations. **A special thanks and appreciation goes out to our Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Duplantis who through his hard work and dedication made this possible. Thanks Jeff!!!!**

Other On-going Activities

In an effort to increase our awareness and interaction of our members, we are looking at activities that would accomplish this goal. We are considering hosting a barbeque possibly with Southern and LSU Student Chapters as well as a possible sponsored golf tournament. Activities that encourage interaction with the student chapters, our younger members, and our general membership are critical to the advancement of our profession. Younger members need to interact with 10-20 year professionals for the practicality aspect of civil engineering.