

Younger Member Group eNewsletter

07/30/09

Supplementing Branch Activities with a Focus on Younger Members

Happy Hour

Wednesday, **August 26**, 2009, 6:00-8:00pm

Ellwood's Coffee and Community Place, 10 S. Thompson Street, Richmond (23221)

Join us for **socializing and networking** over appetizers and a cash bar. The food and drinks aren't the only local and natural things at Ellwood's. Most of the building and interior are from local and/or recycled origins – reclaimed metals, sustainable concrete, reclaimed pine, refurbished furniture, etc. Add to that the use of dual-flush toilets, low VOC paint, biodegradable “to go” containers, and bins for composting and recycling, and we've found one green hot-spot.



Ethics: The Road All Engineers Must Follow - Update

We had a great turnout for the July webinar-style meeting on Ethics. Attendees paid the bargain price of \$20 for lunch, learning, and 1.5 continuing education credits (CECs).

The Branch is planning to host **more webinars** to provide an opportunity for you to meet the VA CEC requirements. For a listing of webinars offered by ASCE, please visit www.asce.org/webinar/list. Let us know if you have any recommendations.

RAPME Summer Institute - Update

The Richmond Area Program for Minorities in Engineering (RAPME) wrapped up the Summer Engineering Institute (SEI) for 7th to 12th grade students with a graduation ceremony on July 24. Several **ASCE members volunteered** to advise students in real world engineering issues, guide the development of the student's **Future City design**, and provide support for the program's other activities (see photo below of Kateri Simon and an 8th grade team). VCU and VSU greatly appreciated ASCE's help, and **special thanks go to Mike Howell**, Branch Outreach Committee Chair, for organizing our involvement.



YMG Kickball Team - Steel Toed Kickers - Update

The Steel Toed Kickers improved this season to **finish 6-1**. We qualified for playoffs but lost in the first round. See below for scores. **Congrats to the Steel Toed Kickers and Team Captain Stacey Ruby on a great season** and good luck for next year!

Game	Date	Competitors	Result
1	June 10	Team 58	W (15-1)
2	June 16	Team 51	W (4-1)
3	June 23	Team 43	W (7-3)
4	July 1	Team 56	L (8-5)
5	July 6	Team 48	W (14-5)
6	July 15	Team 17	W (3-2)
7	July 21	Team 8	W (15-8)
Playoff Round 1	July 28	Team 35	L (14-8)

Meet the newest YMG eNewsletter Contributor - Chris Miller, EIT

This month we introduce Chris Miller, EIT. Chris currently works at Timmons Group as a site development engineer in the Healthcare practice.

Where are you from; where did you go to school?

I grew up just outside of Baltimore, MD in a little one stoplight town called New Freedom, PA. I attended Virginia Tech from 2003 to 2007 and studied Civil Engineering.

What inspired you to be a civil engineer?

I am a huge sports fan, and baseball is my favorite one. I love nothing more than going to a Sunday day game at a beautiful stadium like Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Half the time I am just as interested in the stadium as I am the game. Ever since I was a kid I have been drawing stadiums, so becoming a Civil Engineer was just in the cards. The best one I can remember drawing was a baseball stadium with a lazy river that went all around the field!

What is the most interesting project you have worked on?

Actually, one of my current projects is my favorite so far. I am working on the site design for a medical office building in Charlottesville for the University of Virginia Foundation. This medical office building is in an old urban and historic area at the corner West Main Street and Jefferson Park Avenue in downtown Charlottesville, making it a very complex utility and grading design.

This particular building will be used by the UVA Children's Hospital, so just knowing that I am working on a facility where children's lives will be saved is very rewarding.

What is your role in the YMG?

As I am only 2 years removed from college, I would very much like to see more people my age get involved in ASCE. Our society has a lot to teach young people, as well as a lot to offer in the forms of networking and potential career opportunities. My role is to convey this to not only recent graduates of regional colleges, but also current college students via ASCE student chapters.

What are we doing to reach out to the university?

Along with the yearly scholarship we award to a Civil Engineering student at UVA, I hope to include students in our branch events. I would like to get the officers from UVA's student chapter to attend one of our branch meetings so that they can get a sense of what the professional world of Civil Engineering is like. Also, I would like to set up an ASCE post at a university Civil Engineering job fair so that we can show students what ASCE has to offer them once they enter the working world.

What do you want to accomplish next year?

Aside from what I have just mentioned, I hope to develop a relationship with the Richmond branches of university alumni associations so that we can seek out and increase ASCE membership recent graduates. I will also be contributing monthly to the YMG newsletter about my work with the student chapters, networking, and the transition between college and professional life, as I am in the thick of transitioning myself. Finally I would like to see a more established mentoring program within our branch between members with professional experience and those who are new to the civil engineering community.

If you are interested in helping Chris with his efforts feel free to contact him at chris.miller@timmons.com or 804-200-6598.



Alphabet Soup - Licensure and Continuing Education

A mentor of mine introduced me to the phrase "Alphabet Soup" to describe all the **acronyms that engineers love to hate**. As a young engineer trying to keep pace, I had trouble keeping all the acronyms straight, especially sorting out the different categories of acronyms: agencies, regulations, consulting firm names, technologies, professional societies, codes, and on and on... Hopefully this column will help you sort through the soup and make sense of things:

APELSCIDLA The licensure board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects in Virginia.

NCEES National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

- EIT Engineer-in-Training, the designation for an engineering college graduate that has passed the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering exam. This is the first step in professional licensure.
- PE Professional Engineer, the designation for an engineer with at least 4 years experience that has passed the NCEES Professional Engineering exam. This is the second step in professional licensure.
- CEC Continuing Education Credit, the label for 50 minutes of educational time. APELSCIDLA requires all licensees to get 16 CECs every two years to maintain their license (18VAC10-20-683). This is the final, on-going step in maintaining professional licensure.
- PDH Professional Development Hour, the name for CECs used in other states. One PDH equals one CEC.
- CEU Continuing Education Unit, the label for educational time typically used in universities. One semester CEU equals 15 CECs. One quarter CEU equals 10 CECs.
- CPE Continuing Professional Education credit, the Virginia label for educational requirements for water and wastewater operators (18VAC160-20-109).

Continuing Education Credits - Free or Cheap CECs

AutoDESK provides AutoCAD and other software for computer-aided design and drafting. They offer a series of **free webinars on sustainable design and LEED**. For a schedule of upcoming webinars are a list of previous, recorded webinars, visit: www.autodesk.com/sustainable-webcasts. Additional resources are available at: www.autodesk.com/civil-resourcecenter and www.autodesk.com/architecturecenter.

Wallingford Software offers **computer modeling packages** for water distribution (WS), sanitary sewers (CS), storm sewers (SD), and rivers (RS), as well as an asset data management software (IN) for public utilities. These products are well known for their user friendly interface, GIS compatibility, model engine stability, and excellent customer support. Wallingford offers **free webinars** on these products and their features regularly. For a schedule of upcoming webinars are a list of previous, recorded webinars, visit: www.wallingfordsoftware.com/products/demos.

Green Construction

Construction equipment manufacturers are working to develop hybrid versions of their vehicles. Caterpillar, for example, recently said it will start production of a **hybrid bulldozer** later this year. Meanwhile, Volvo has already started selling a **hybrid wheel loader**, and Komatsu's PC200-8 **hybrid hydraulic excavator** is also on the market. For more info, visit <http://dconline.com/article/id34656>.

Good News - VA Recycles!

“Central Virginia citizens and businesses **recycled 52.8 percent of waste** generated in the region in 2008, according to a report by the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority released May 19.

CVWMA, a cooperative government agency that coordinates recycling and other waste management programs with thirteen area local governments, compiles the annual regional

recycling rate and submits the information to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. **State law requires** that the region recycle at least **25 percent** of their waste each year.

The recycling rate is computed by dividing the amount recycled in the region by the amount of trash generated. The amount recycled is gathered from local and national businesses with programs in the area. The total amount recycled for the region in 2008 was 432,471 tons.”

Visit www.cvwma.com for the full article and loads of other information.

Are you recycling properly? Check out the two short NBC12 segments by Andrew Freiden on how to recycle right in central Virginia:

- *Do Not Let Your Recycling Go to Waste* ([Click here](#))
- *Where Does your Recycling Really Go?* ([Click here](#))

Upcoming Events:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Aug. 3	Virginia Tele-commuting Day	VA
Aug. 26	Happy Hour	Ellwood's
Sept. 16-17	Virginia Engineer's Conference (ASCE, VSPE, ACEC)	Williamsburg
October 6	Golf Tournament	Rivers Bend
Oct 23	PE Exam	VA
October 29-31	ASCE Annual Conference and Younger Member Leadership Symposium	Kansas City, MO

We want to hear from you!

- Do you have something to share with other Younger Members?
- What would make ASCE better for Younger Members?
- What topics are Younger Members specifically interested in?
- What issues are unique to Younger Members?
- Would you like to advertise your company's log in the next issue? The cost is \$10 (checks only, made payable to ASCE Richmond Branch). Contact any board member for details.

Please feel free to **share this eNewsletter** with your colleagues. You may also reply to the sender to submit email addresses for colleagues that would like to be added to the distribution list. You can find archived copies of the eNewsletter on the Section website at:

<http://www.ascevirginia.org/ASCE%20Newsletters/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

You are on this newsletter listserv as a registered or prospective younger member or younger member supporter in the Richmond Branch of ASCE. The Younger Member Group intends to send no more than 2 emails per month to the listserv. If you wish to be removed from the listserv, please reply to the sender with your request.

Thank you,
Younger Member Group Chair

Denise Nelson, P.E., LEED AP



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