

## Younger Member Group eNewsletter

12/15/09

*Supplementing Branch Activities with a Focus on Younger Members*

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### Outreach Update

Our Pre-College **Outreach efforts have caught the eye of the National ASCE** Pre-College Outreach group who has commented that we “serve as a model for other branches who wish to expand their outreach efforts!” **Richmond Branch and YMG outreach efforts are spotlighted on ASCE’s website** at: [http://content.asce.org/pre\\_college\\_outreach/index.html](http://content.asce.org/pre_college_outreach/index.html).

Also, **our group received the Excellence in Community Service award** from the Richmond Area Program for Minority Engineers for our efforts as **mentors** of their summer institute a few months back. Many thanks to those members who volunteered over the summer in support of this program.

Planning has begun for the **2010 Popsicle Bridge Contest** on February 28, 2010 from 1-5pm. If you’d like to **get involved** now or help out the day of, please contact Mike Howell at [mhowell@brockenbrough.com](mailto:mhowell@brockenbrough.com).

**Congratulations to Mike Howell!** The ASCE Richmond Board has selected Mike for nomination to national ASCE for a **Community Activities Award** based on his commitment to Outreach Efforts. We’ll find out in February if he will be recognized nationally.

### Reminder: Paper Competitions Are Open Now!

1. ASCE Collingwood Prize Application – **Want more recognition for a paper you’ve already published?** The Collingwood Prize is awarded to the Younger Member (35 or under) author or authors of a paper describing an engineering work with which the author(s) have been directly connected; or recording investigations contributing to engineering knowledge to which the author(s) have contributed some essential part; and containing a rational digest of results. Papers must have been published by the Society during the twelve (12) month period ending with September 30, 2009. Applications must be endorsed by the Branch and are **due by February 1, 2010**.
2. Daniel W. Mead Prize and Daniel V. Terrell Award - **Want to kill two birds with one stone?** The Daniel W. Mead and Daniel V. Terrell competition have the same topic: **“What ethical problems might the engineer of 2025 encounter with advancements in technology and communication?”** These are two separate competitions but the same paper can be submitted to both. Mead is open to all ASCE members, and Terrell is open to Region 4 members only. Applications must be endorsed by the Branch and are **due by February 1, 2010** (Mead) and March 1, 2010 (Terrell).

Full rules and applications are available upon request or can be downloaded from [www.ascevirginia.org](http://www.ascevirginia.org).

### Know an Outstanding Young Engineer?

The **Friedman Young Engineer Award** has been awarded since 1972 to recognize outstanding younger members (35 years old max) for professionalism, leadership, technical competence, public service, and other achievements. The **Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year Award** recognizes public sector employees (min 5 years) for the same traits. Nominations for both awards must be endorsed by the Branch and are **due by February 1, 2010**. Full rules and applications are available upon request or can be downloaded from [www.ascevirginia.org](http://www.ascevirginia.org).

### ASCE Key Contact Program

Visit ASCE's Key Contact webpage at <http://www.asce.org/keycontacts> to view the newest education tools: a series of videos of ASCE members discussing their **public policy** involvement. The **brief videos** focus on how ASCE members can be involved in various activities including grassroots efforts, involvement through the Key Contact Program, the Legislative Fly-In and the Congressional Fellows Program.

## THE STUDENT SECTION

For those still in school (and those who still love to tailgate)

By Chris Miller

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The ASCE Richmond Branch was busy this past month with helping the UVA Student Chapter put together its annual fall banquet. The event started off with an ASCE Richmond Branch sponsored happy hour where students and professionals got an hour to network over a few cocktails. The banquet itself was held in the dome room of the Rotunda on UVA's campus. It was a wonderful setting for the students to hand out awards, and for the Richmond branch to hand out its annual scholarship. This year it was once again awarded to Hiba Hashmi, the student chapter's vice president. Speaking at the event was Charlene Harper, P.E., LEED AP, who discussed environmentally friendly practices in civil engineering.

December marks the end of the semester for the student chapter which includes their annual elections. The new officers were elected Tuesday night, and the Richmond branch is excited to work with them to continue our relationship. In the coming semester there are several great events we will help the chapter with, so check in every month to see what's going on!

Happy Holidays!

### Richmond Green Drinks

What is Green Drinks? Every month people who work in **building and environmental fields** meet up for a beer at these informal sessions. It's a great way of catching up with people you know and also for **making new contacts**. These events are very simple and unstructured, but

many people have found employment, made friends, developed new ideas, done deals and had moments of serendipity.

Our next GREEN DRINKS will be **Thursday, December 17th, 5:30pm – 7:30pm** at The Camel, on Broad Street. Get ready to rock the last Green Drinks of the year as we **discuss Virginia's future** with Virginia Conservation Network, just in time for upcoming 2010 legislation. The Virginia Conservation Network is a coalition of more than 100 environmental nonprofits and community groups working together for a cleaner, healthier Virginia. [Visit them on the web.](#)

## Intro to Social Networking Sites

**LinkedIn** ([www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)) is a **networking website** with over 53 million members representing 170 industries and 200 countries. It's a free online resource for posting a **resume-style profile** and connecting with other **professionals**. There are some handy tools available to search for members you already know, so there's no need to be nervous about a short contacts list (you'll find me there). You can search your connections and request introductions to their connections (and so on to whittle the seven degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon down until you are practically best friends!). You can also join Groups to get updates and be involved in chats related to the Group – **most professional organizations, like ASCE, have a Linked In Group**. Plus there are plenty of tools and Groups focused on recruiting and **posting jobs**, so it's a good idea to get your profile and network set up before you have the need...

**Facebook** ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) is a **social networking site** for connecting with friends and family in a more casual environment. It's a free online resource for posting a **personal profile**, photos, videos, and playing games. There are handy tools for finding friends, emailing, and sharing other content (and again, I'm a member). In a more recent twist, **most professional organizations, like ASCE, have made Facebook pages or Groups** for members to follow. There you go – you now have a legitimate excuse for checking your Facebook page at work! Just be careful mixing work with pleasure – you may not want your friends to think you're too engineerly and you may not want your coworkers to see that picture of you doing a kegstand.

**Twitter** ([www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)) is a website for **posting short details of what you are doing** (in 140 characters or less) so all your colleagues, friends, and family can "follow" you. And you can "follow" your favorite people, groups, retailers, etc, too, all for free. And guess what, **ASCE Past-President, Wayne Klotz, wants you to follow his "tweets."**

**Ning** ([www.ning.com](http://www.ning.com)) is a **social networking site based on pages for Groups**, Events, Topics, etc. Individuals can become a member of each page. Pages can include a variety of applications, and users can create new ones if not already offered. Ning is available for free by selling ad space, and there's an option to pay a service fee to control or limits the ads on your page. Users can control who and how many people become members, so **Ning is perfect as an online repository** for private groups or as an open forum to advertise a group or event.

Stay tuned for details on many more old and new resources (MySpace, Google Groups, Yahoo! Groups, Big Tent ...).

## PE Exam Prep Courses

ASCE Continuing Education offers a many options to help you prepare for the P.E. or F.E. Exam!

- [Click here](#) to learn more about **Self-Paced Courses**.
- [Click here](#) to learn about **Live P.E. Exam Review Courses**.

**Webinars are perfect for groups** – ASCE hosts a 12 part, 2-hour webinar series on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3-5pm, March - April. Cost is \$1,995 per site and there is no limit to number of people at each site. Visit <https://secure.asce.org/files/estore/15335/PEwebinarFall2009.pdf> for more information.

**Prefer classes in person?** - Virginia Society of Professional Engineers (VSPE) hosts a Civil Engineering PE Exam Preparation course here in Richmond. Courses are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9pm, from March - April. Cost is \$700 for VSPE members and \$1000 for non-members. Visit [www.vspe.org](http://www.vspe.org) for more information.

## Upcoming Events:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
December 15	Branch Meeting	Westwood
January 20	VA Report Card Release and Happy Hour	VCU
February 28	Engineers Career Day and Popsicle Bridge Contest	Science Museum of Virginia

## 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?

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

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