

## Younger Member Group eNewsletter

3/15/10

*Supplementing Branch Activities with a Focus on Younger Members*

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### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Popsicle Bridge Contest – Recap

The event was a HUGE success this year. There are approximately **150 middle and high school students** and **70 bridges**. Since the event was covered in the Branch Newsletter, I'll keep this short. I just wanted to emphasize how much the teachers and students enjoyed the event and all the hard work put into it by the **ASCE volunteers lead by Mike Howell**. Great job everyone!

### The Augusta Project – Richmond's First LEED Registered Home

**Join the GREEN DRINKS group on Thursday, March 18th, 5:30pm – 7:30pm for a tour of The Augusta Project.** Hollyport Ventures LLC is rehabilitating a 1930s home at 4600 Augusta Ave, Richmond. The goal of the "Augusta Project" is to renovate this home to meet the highest levels of certification under the **LEED for Homes program**. Key features of this project include use of a geothermal heating, cooling and hot water system, passive solar elements, superior insulation, improved water management, efficient lighting fixtures, and other innovative design elements. The home is in its final phases of construction allowing an opportunity to get a glimpse of what the finished product will be while still being able to discuss all the **cool green building techniques** and products that have been incorporated into the structure itself. To learn more follow the project blog at: <http://AugustaProject.blogspot.com>.

### James River Association Video Contest

Anything that goes onto the ground eventually ends up in the James River, whether it's litter, motor oil or fertilizer on your lawn! How would you inspire someone to keep the river clean and healthy for the future? Create a **25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA)** to protect the river. The 2010 theme is "**Don't Trash the River!**" You could win **\$1,000**. The James and ME Video Contest is open to high school and college students, and professionals throughout the James River basin. They are accepting entries from **March 15 - June 7, 2010**. Get more information [here](#).

### Las Vegas casinos to turn off lights for Earth Hour

Hotels and casinos along the Las Vegas Strip plan to dim or shut off their lights for one hour to mark **Earth Hour at 8:30 p.m. on March 27**. Can you do the same?

### Getting and Maintaining your LEED AP Credential

Join the James River Green Building Council and the Association of General Contractors-VA Chapter on **April 6th, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.** for a presentation describing how to get and maintain your LEED AP credential. **This presentation will provide a step-by-step guide to earning your accreditation, maintaining it through continuing education, and resources to find out more.**

Cut through the confusion and **get all the information you need in one easy, one-hour seminar.** **This presentation is \$20/person, and space is very limited, so sign up today!** Light refreshments will be provided. This presentation will take place at the **AGC Facility** located at **11950 Nuckols Road, Glen Allen, VA, 23059.** Pre-register [here](#).

### **“Liquid Assets” Community Event and Branch Meeting**

The Liquid Assets documentary tells the story of **essential infrastructure systems: water, wastewater, and stormwater.** These systems are critical to public health and development, but the aging infrastructure is out of sight and out of mind and slowly degrading.

This **free community event** at the Byrd Theater **includes a reception** sponsored by water, sewer, and stormwater societies, **the documentary,** and a **brief discussion of the state of Virginia's infrastructure.** Invite your friends, family, neighbors, pizza delivery guy, etc...

The event is being structured to qualify for **2 hours of continuing education credit time** in Virginia for licensed Professional Engineers and Architects. There is a **\$10** processing fee for these professionals wishing to have their attendance documented and receive attendance certificates. These **individuals should pre-register and pay the processing fee online** at <http://liquidassets.eventbrite.com>.

April 20, 2010, 5:30pm - 9:00pm  
Byrd Theater, 2908 W Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23221  
More information is available at [www.ascevirginia.org](http://www.ascevirginia.org)

To volunteer with event planning or the day of, contact the event chair: Me! Details below.

### **Upcoming Pre-College Outreach Opportunities**

Chesterfield County Science Fair – April 23rd, 5:30-9:00, Manchester High School. **Judges are needed** to evaluate the students’ science fair entries.

Younger Member Student Panel – To Be Determined. **Younger members would sit down with local high school students** that are college bound to pursue an engineering degree. Members could share some of their lessons learned with the students regarding social and academic **adjustments from high school to college life.**

Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these events should contact our **Outreach Chair, Mike Howell** ([mhowell@brockenbrough.com](mailto:mhowell@brockenbrough.com)).

### **Reminder: VA Section Scholarship**

The ASCE Virginia Section invites ASCE Virginia Student Members OR children and grandchildren of ASCE Virginia Section members or life members attending an ABET accredited civil engineering program to apply for a \$2,000 scholarship. Two \$2,000 awards will be made for the 2010-2011 school year. Download applications at [www.ascevirginia.org](http://www.ascevirginia.org). Application deadline is May 1, 2010.

# THE STUDENT SECTION

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

By Chris Miller

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On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the ASCE Richmond branch will be giving presentation to UVA which will highlight the many opportunities for ASCE involvement post-graduation. Luckily for those graduating in 2010, it looks as though the tides are turning in the job hunt. The Chicago Sun-Times & monster.com report that civil engineering jobs are already on the rise, and show a trend of increasing more in 2010 with more Recovery Act funds becoming available ([http://www.suntimes.com/monster/industry/engineering/2018940\\_engineering\\_outlook2010-12010.article](http://www.suntimes.com/monster/industry/engineering/2018940_engineering_outlook2010-12010.article)) .

Students, are you ready for the F.E. Exam? ASCE can help if you feel overwhelmed by the daunting 8 hour test. They offer a review course that has a \$50 discount for ASCE members. Check that out here:

<https://secure.asce.org/ASCEWebSite/ESTORE/ProductSearchResult.aspx?ProdId=8167>

Finally, students should keep up with the ASCE student member website where great resources and news pertaining to students can be found (<http://content.asce.org/student/index.html>).

As always, if you are willing to help out in any way with events, or just want to get involved with local student chapters, please contact me at [chris.miller@timmons.com](mailto:chris.miller@timmons.com) or 804-200-6598.

## Crazy Conversions – Just for PUN

### Did you solve these puns from last month?

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = 1 eskimo pie
2. 2,000 pounds of Chinese soup = won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a banana peel and smacking the pavement = 1 banano-second
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = Billi-gram

### See if you can solve these (answers will be in the next newsletter):

6. 100 rations?
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone?
8. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at one nautical mile per hour?
9. 1,000,000 headaches?
10. Basic unit of laryngitis?

## Q&A on Continuing Education Credits

A fellow Younger Member contacted me with some questions about Virginia's continuing education credit requirements. Here are the original definitions I posted followed by the Q&A:

- 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).

*I attended a conference that gave the following definitions:*

- *Continuing Education Units (CEUs) - One CEU is the equivalent to 10 clock hours of training or formal instruction. These are distributed for structured, relevant professional training above and beyond that of initial certification or employment in a particular field.*
- *Professional Development Hours (PDHs) - A PDH is typically defined as one clock hour that is spent engaged in an activity that contributes to the advancement or enhancement of professional skills or scientific knowledge of a professional engineer. These are given for technical sessions & opening/closing general sessions.*

*Based on that, it looks like 10 CECs equal one CEU. Does that sound right or have you gotten that far into things yet?*

First, I hope I hadn't confused you by referring to a "semester CEU" and a "quarter CEU". Typically, a "semester" class (to keep in university terms), is 15 hours, so therefore it equals 15 CECs. And similarly, a university on quarters (instead of semesters) has classes that are 10 hours, so they equal 10 CECs.

To address your question: CEU time is typically highly technical or getting into deeper topics, so CEU hours will typically always count toward CEC time (think "hour for hour conversion" to simplify instead of converting CEU credit to CEC credit). However, things that count toward CEC time might not be of the high quality to count towards CEU time. So **while it's safe to say 1 CEU = 10 CECs, the reverse is not usually true** (10 CECs do not equal 1 CEU).

**Not every part of a conference will qualify for CEU or CEC time.** So while a four day conference with 8 hours of sessions per day seems like 48 hours of learning (4.8 CEUs or 48 CECs), you have to be sure those hours meet the definitions to qualify for CEU or CEC time (**breaks, networking, team building, etc don't count**). To make it easy, the conference advertisers usually look this up for you and advertise the max credits that can be achieved.

*If that individual has been to the class and received 2.4 CEUs he has technically met the requirement for 16 CECs that are required for renewal right?*

The **Virginia board is a stickler for terminology**. So as long as that person has the meeting agenda or something to show that the 2.4 CEUs came from “24 hours of continuing education time” (and keep in mind that a 50 minute session is “one hour”), then they have met the 16 credit requirement. And really they are ahead of the game, since the **16 hours is required for every two years**, so now they can chill for a while.

Also keep in mind that **our Branch lunch meetings count as half an hour of CEC time** and the **webinars typically count for 1 or 1.5 hours**.

**Upcoming Events:**

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 18	James River Green Building Council Meeting	U of R
March 18 5:30	Richmond Green Drinks – Tour the Augusta Project	Augusta House
March 22	World Water Day	
March 23	UVA Panel Discussion	UVA
March 27	Earth Hour at 8:30pm	
April 8	Virginias Student Competition	DC
April 16	VA Society of Landscape Architects Conference	Renaissance Conference Center
April 20 5:30	“Liquid Assets” Community Event and Branch Meeting	Byrd Theater
April 22	Student/Professional Happy Hour and Banquet	UVA
April 23	Chesterfield County Science Fair (judges needed)	Manchester HS
April 23-25	Richmond Green Conference	Convention Center
April 28 5:00	Post-PE Happy Hour	TBD

**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>.

Join the group “**ASCE Younger Members (Richmond Area)**” on **FaceBook** to get more info on upcoming events and connect with other members.

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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