

Iowa Section



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Marlee Walton, P.E. L.S.

I want to thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as the Iowa Section ASCE President for the 2008-2009 year. The Iowa Section is one of the best sections in the nation. We can all be proud of the Section's legacy and current programs in support of all of our members.

The technical committees (environmental and water resources; geotechnical; structural; surveying and mapping; and transportation) offer such outstanding conferences that we are the envy of many other professional organizations. The technical committees will continue to offer the annual conferences and you are encouraged to take advantage of those learning opportunities. A big thank you to all of the technical committee volunteers for your excellent contributions.

As you may be aware, the Section has had a significant change in board members over the past year. Though we were sad to lose those board members who left (Kole Berg, Sean Brown, Tim Monson, and Ron Gaines), we wish them the best in their new positions or roles. Now, with the significant change in leadership, we are excited about the new energy and passion brought to us by our new board members (Roger Schletzbaum, Steve DeVries, Tom Lisi, Jon Garton, and Dave Claman). With this change, the board desires to review the existing constitution, bylaws, mission, and goals of the Section to assure the Section's operation and activities meet the needs of the members well into the future. We will keep you informed of this review and proposed revisions through our website and newsletters. If you would like to participate or offer any

feedback, please contact me or any of the other board members.

In the coming year, the board will continue to emphasize the valuable relationships we have with the student chapters (Iowa State University and the University of Iowa) and the Younger Member Groups (Eastern Iowa and Central Iowa). Together, these younger members represent our future and they deserve our continuing support. The Board will also place a priority on public relations. We want to increase our efforts to inform the public about civil engineering accomplishments throughout Iowa.

Our organization operates on the volunteer model and only is successful with the generous time donated by many of our members, you and your fellow professionals. Only you can make this Section even better and only you can get out of this organization what you put into it.

Our Section has many opportunities for volunteerism and I invite you to become a regular participant in the Section activities. Please contact me for an opportunity to enhance your professional career and lend support to this outstanding organization. I know we are all extremely busy and have difficulties completing our current tasks at hand. However, if you do become more involved with the Section, I'm sure you will find the rewards will far surpass the time requirements.

In closing, thanks again for all of your continued support. You and the other members are what make this organization so worthwhile. I am looking forward to the upcoming year with the Iowa Section.

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Iowa Section



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2008 Annual Meeting Award Winners

Outstanding Associate Member:

- Dave Panos, P.E., Senior Engineer, City of Iowa City

Outstanding Government Civil Engineer:

- Roger Schletzbaum, P.E., Marion County Engineer

Outstanding Civil Engineer:

- Phil Larson, P.E., Shive-Hattery, Inc.

Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement Award:

- Lime Softening Water Treatment Plant, Camp Dodge
- Snyder and Associates, Inc./Iowa National Guard

A Thank You

By Roger Schletzbaum

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Iowa Section for selecting me as Government Engineer of the Year for 2008. It is indeed a great honor to have my name listed with the past recipients. Serving as a government civil engineer provides a unique perspective on what our profession faces in providing the facilities the public needs to support the lifestyle everyone has grown accustomed to. The Iowa Section has a rich history of providing support to the civil engineers in our state through the many technical conferences and information sharing opportunities. I look forward to working with each of you in the future as we continue down the common path civil engineering affords us.

Annual Meeting Planning Update

The Board conducted an Annual Meeting planning session on January 21. The Iowa-Section Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 10, provides information on current practices and new techniques in civil engineering design, materials, and construction. There are many exciting topics that could be included in this year's meeting. The meeting also provides an opportunity to participate in the business issues of the Iowa-Section, learn about emerging issues in the business of civil engineering, and take part in the annual recognition of Iowa Section members through various awards.

This year there is presentation workshop "Critical Thinking/Engineering Leadership" planned for Friday morning as well as the traditional golf outing on Friday afternoon, sponsored by Central Iowa YMG.

Strategic Planning Session

The Board of Directors will holding a strategic planning session on May 20, 2009 near the Amana Colonies. This will be a day long session with the assistance of an outside facilitator to develop a current mission and vision for the Iowa Section of ASCE. The Board is looking to review the current operations of the section, determine what is working well, and in what ways can the Section better serve its' membership. The meeting will consist of the current Board of Directors, past presidents, and representatives from the Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters.

The Board always welcomes your thoughts and suggestions, never hesitate to contact us!

Iowa Section



Call for Nominations

The Iowa Section needs your help in submitting nominations for awards. This is your chance to nominate that student or engineer that goes above and beyond, or to recognize that innovative project approach or success.

An individual, or group of individuals, may submit nominations, in writing, for these awards. They are encouraged to submit nominations through the Iowa Section ASCE Board of Directors. Nominations may also originate in the Awards Committee. These nominations shall be submitted to the committee chairperson by June 15 of each year. The Committee will then submit its nominations, if any, to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Go to our website at <http://www.iowaasce.org/> for the selection criteria for each award.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Iowa Section ASCE Annual Meeting
September 10-11, 2009
Ames, Iowa**

IOWA SECTION AWARDS

Outstanding Engineering Senior (University of Iowa & Iowa State University each):

To promote excellence among the members of the ASCE Student Chapters within the Iowa Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The award is made annually to the single most outstanding engineering student who is currently a senior in the Civil Engineering curriculum. He/she shall be a member of a Student Chapter of ASCE within the Iowa Section of ASCE.

Outstanding Associate Member:

To recognize the professional contributions of younger members of the Society.

Outstanding Government Civil Engineer

To recognize the distinguished civil engineers employed in public service for significant contributions to Public Service Engineering.

Outstanding Civil Engineer

To recognize the importance of professional attainment in the advancement of "the science and profession of engineering," as defined by the Constitution of the Society.

Iowa Section Award

Iowa Section Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Iowa Section of ASCE. It is given to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to his or her profession, public welfare and/or mankind. It shall be awarded once in three years or as determined by the Awards Committee.

Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement.

Civil engineering achievement within the geographic limits of the Iowa Section is recognized annually by selection of the "Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement." The award is given for the achievement – not to an individual – so that the many engineers who have worked on the project are recognized as having contributed.

Iowa Section



EASTERN IOWA YMG NEWS

By Brian Willham, P.E., President

The Eastern Iowa ASCE YMG continues to be very active. In 2008, a few of our group activities included:

- Technical Webinars
- Future Cities Competition (we provided prizes and judged a special award)
- Annual Golf Outing (approx. 100 golfers, we donated \$700 to local Flood Relief)
- Roughriders Hockey Game (approx. 30 attendees)
- Winter Social (approx. 50 attendees, we collect Toys for Tots every year)
- Service Projects (we assisted two local groups to help build playgrounds in 2008)



Eastern Iowa YMG at Roughriders Hockey Game

We also continue to host a 9-week PE Review Course for local engineers preparing for the PE exam. Our next course will be starting in early February 2009. Each evening that the group meets, ASCE PE Review CD's on each of these seven subjects will be shown: economics, structures, transportation, geotechnical engineering, hydraulics and hydrology, sanitary and environmental engineering, and construction. For each subject, we find volunteer local experts to help answer any questions that come up and to supplement the material presented on the CD's. This has been a huge success and we have received excellent feedback from those who took the course in previous years. We plan to continue this service as long as there is demand.

Our group continues to look for additional public service projects and opportunities to help the communities in eastern

Iowa. We are currently planning to assist with the clean-up of a local park this spring and are always open to suggestions.

Between professional development presentations, service projects, social events, and the PE Review Course, we are looking forward to a fantastic (and hopefully dry) 2009!

CENTRAL IOWA YMG NEWS

By: Benjamin Cole, P.E.

The Central Iowa YMG wrapped up 2008 with a joint social with the ISU Student Chapter at Pizza Pit in Ames. The student chapter had a great turnout and we look forward to continuing these socials with them.

New officer elections took place on January 15th and we welcome the following members to the 2009 Board:

President – Benjamin Cole, P.E., Calhoun-Burns & Assoc.
 Vice-President – Chris Bauer, E.I., Shive-Hattery, Inc.
 Secretary – Michael Roth, P.E., Howard R. Green
 Treasurer – T. Ryan Lamb, P.E., Whitfield & Eddy, P.C.
 Webmaster – Paul Ford, E.I., Calhoun-Burns & Assoc.
 Social Chair – Todd Knox, E.I., Snyder & Associates, Inc.
 Past-President – Dan Smith, P.E., CH2M Hill

In addition to elections this month, YMG President Ben Cole, had the opportunity to represent the Central Iowa YMG at the 2009 Central Region YMC Leadership Conference in Denver, CO in early January. Ben reported that this was a great opportunity to learn about the organization and functions of ASCE and to interact with other leaders to gain valuable tools and resources that can be implemented at our level.

Also highlighted at this conference was our deteriorating infrastructure which will be summarized with ASCE's 2009 Report Card that is being released January 28, 2009. They encouraged that the new administration's economic recovery legislation follows ASCE's "Principles for Infrastructure Stimulus Investment". All of this, and more, can be found at www.asce.org. We would encourage all of you to invest a little time to learn more about this very important issue.

In closing, the Central Iowa YMG Board is very excited for 2009. We will work hard at planning and developing activities throughout the year that are of interest to our members. If you have an event or an idea that we can look into, we'd love to hear from you. Please visit our website at www.centraliowaymg.org to find out more about upcoming activities.

Iowa Section



ISU Student Chapter Update

By: **Heidi Rode**

The Iowa State University ASCE Student Chapter has had a busy and active semester. Current membership is at 68 active members who have participated in a wide variety of activities held throughout the past semester. The members were busy with things like a park clean-up as well as tailgates, social nights, intramurals, and some informative speaker meetings. The next semester is looking just as busy with a ping pong tournament, ski trip, and more intramural games and speaker meetings. The club is also currently looking into working with the AGC student chapter to assist with the flood relief in Eastern Iowa.

Strong leadership from this year's cabinet is paving the way for the groups continuing success. Cabinet members are as follows:

- President – Tony Borgerding
- Vice President – Rudy Koester
- Secretary – Karen Gray
- Treasurer – Nathan Hardisty
- Social Chair – Tyler Anderson
- PR/Recruitment – Heidi Rode
- Webmaster/Historian – Josh Showalter
- Outreach – Doug Hartwell
- ESC Representative – Luke Monat
- Steel Bridge Representative – Travis Good
- Concrete Canoe Representatives – Debbie Peters and Will Hunnicutt
- Sophomore Representatives – Pam Erickson and Andy Stika
- Freshman Representatives – Michelle Schumacher and Ryan Walkup

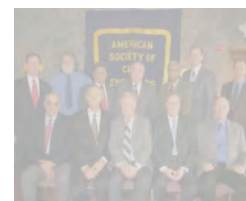
The Iowa State University ASCE Student Chapter also has Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe teams. These groups work hard two days a week all year long to prepare for their respective competitions. The Steel Bridge Team designs, analyzes, constructs and fabricates a 1:10 scale model bridge which is then used to compete in a regional competition and then a national competition if they qualify. Last year was a success for the team as they finished 2nd place at regional's and 10th place overall at the national competition in May. At nationals the team finished 1st in the aesthetics category, which was the first time ISU has ever placed first nationally in any category. The team is looking to build on last year's performance. With almost all of last year's members

returning, and many new additions to the team, they are confident they can improve.

The Concrete Canoe Team designs, analyses, and builds a concrete canoe every school year. The regional competition this year will be hosted by the University of Iowa in April. The final product will be judged against six other universities in a variety of categories. Those categories include a written design paper, an oral presentation, canoe display, and a series of canoe races. If ISU places first they will advance to the national competition. With only one member graduating last year, the team looks to build off of last year's mistakes and make a national bid run this year.

Life Members Involvement

The Section is looking for additional involvement from our life members, we feel that many of our life members can contribute to the Section in numerous ways. We're looking for a volunteer champion to lead this effort in forming the life member group of the Iowa Section and help organize activities. Please contact Marlee Walton if you are interested.



Website Update

Be sure to keep an eye on our website: www.iowaasce.org. We're working on updating our website to provide more up to date news and events. If you have a civil engineering related event held in Iowa that you would like to post on our online calendar, submit it to webmaster@iowaasce.org.

Welcome!

We'd like to welcome the following new or returning professional members to the Section: Cary Solberg, Michelle Sweeney, Elizabeth Falk-Thompson, John Washington, Michael Washburn, Jeremy Ashlock, Michael Schubert, Adam Juel, Linda Narigon, and Shane Bennett

Iowa Section



Annual ASCE/ICEA Survey Conference – Ames Iowa

Wednesday, October 15, and Thursday, October 16, 2008

Each year, the Surveying and Mapping Committee from the Iowa ASCE joins with the Iowa County Engineers Association to plan and host a two-day professional development conference for surveyors in Iowa.

This year's conference educated surveyors and engineers about the "Iowa Real Time Network" (IaRTN) that is slated to be fully functional on February 1, 2009. The IaRTN was designed and constructed under the oversight of the Iowa DOT and allows surveyors access to a real-time, statewide GPS network. This network allows surveyors to obtain sub-centimeter accuracy for survey purposes with a single, roving GPS unit anywhere in the state. While the IDOT will be providing user training sessions when the system comes online, this conference was intended to provide professional education on the network's background, creation, implementation, and

future. Speakers included representatives from the IDOT as well as the network designer from the contractor installing the network.

The conference also included educational presentations and demonstrations from the top three GPS vendors in Iowa. The conference was well attended and had 176 participants including consultants, county engineers, vendors, and survey students.



Civil What!?

Where should kids go online to learn about civil engineering? To ASCEville, of course! Kids of all ages have a new online destination where they will be introduced to the important role of civil engineering in the world around us plus the exciting challenges and possibilities that face civil engineers.

Through engaging graphics, interactive activities, and compelling stories of inspiring young engineers, ASCEville is designed to appeal to kids in grades 4-7, while promoting the excitement, creativity, and rewards of civil engineering. ASCE's Pre-College Outreach Program launched the website in February during National Engineers Week to help inspire the next generation of engineers. Educators, parents, and engineers will find outreach and teaching resources, as well as valuable information about the history of civil engineering, civil engineering disciplines, and preparing kids for civil engineering careers. Visit [ASCEville](http://content.asce.org/asceville/) (<http://content.asce.org/asceville/>) today!



Iowa Section



2009 ASCE Region 3, 6 & 7 Workshop for Section and Branch leaders

By **Steve W. DeVries**

The ASCE regional training conference was held on Friday, January 9-10, 2009 at the Denver Hyatt Regency, in sunny Colorado. Fifty or so Section and Branch officers, including five Iowa Section representatives, attended the day and a half event to learn more about the Association, build leadership skills and learn from each other. A student chapter leadership session ran in parallel and there were several activities that enabled PE's and students to mingle and network.

ASCE's Executive Director, Pat Natale, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and gave an overview of ASCE's goals and strategic initiatives. Next, ASCE headquarters staff members gave a slide show on the organization, history, member services of the Association. The implementation of the new, region based structure of governance is now in place but its exact workings and assignment of duties are still being worked out. Attendees then participated in regional breakout sessions and received instruction on how to chair efficient meetings.

The first morning concluded with a selection of topical breakouts covering: ASCE's relationship with Engineers Without Borders, Engineers week, Institutes and Technical Groups, the value of Volunteerism, Coalition building for Sections and Branches, PR roundtable, Life member involvement, and ASCE website redevelopment.

At lunch we got to meet and hear from the three candidates for ASCE national President Elect: Kathy J. Caldwell, P.E., Moustafa A. Gouda, P.E., and Garland P. Rose, Jr., P.E.. The three individuals have widely diverging personalities and styles, but all demonstrated a real passion for serving the Association and the profession.

The afternoon sessions covered membership recruitment and retention, resources available from National for Section and Branch leaders, an update on the status of the 2009 Infrastructure report card, and a very interesting program of generational differences. That last presentation classified ASCE's membership into four groups: "Traditionalists" (born pre-1946), "Boomers", "Generation-X'rs" and "Millennials" and tried to help each group

understand the perspectives of the others. A key revelation, at least to this author, came when the speaker asked for a show of who wears wristwatches and who doesn't. It was immediately apparent that people under thirty tell time by cell phone – illustrating a generational difference created by new technology.

On Saturday, the day commenced with a coffee for the President Elect Candidates. Each gave a "why me" presentation and then all three took questions from the attendees. We then spent considerable time receiving presentations and asking questions about the proposed "Body of Knowledge" standards for increasing the educational requirements for licensure. As you can imagine, this topic evokes passionate arguments both pro and con. Although it seems to be making progress, the steady outcry of concerns and questions is causing it to morph into new forms as it moves along. Next, we had a session where three Sections, Iowa's included, gave presentations on how they operate, recruit members, engage with students, promote engineering awareness and perform public service projects. The meeting concluded with a panel discussion, featuring a private consultant (who also chairs the Colorado Board of Engineering Examiners), an academic and a city manager, that explored the future needs and requirements of the profession.

This was a very beneficial conference that packed a lot of material into a day and a half session. The national and regional folks that put it together deserve a round of applause. Anyone who becomes a member of the Iowa Section Board should definitely plan to attend one of these events, as they provides significant insights and guidance in a short period of time.

ASCE 139th ANNUAL
CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE
Kansas City, MO OCTOBER 29-31, 2009

2009 Annual Program Highlights

- CEO Forum
- Sessions on Civil Engineers as Leaders
- Short Courses
- ASCE CareerZone
- Technical Tours
- Younger Member Program Activities
- Student Member Program Activities
- International Program Activities
- Celebration of Leaders Dinner
- ASCE Closing Theme Event
- Welcome Reception & Ice Breaker
- Guest Tours



UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 25, 2009	Iowa Section Environmental and Water Resources Conference Ames, IA
September 10-11, 2009	Iowa Section Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet Ames, IA
October 29-31, 2009	139th Annual ASCE Civil Engineering Conference, Kansas City.

IOWA SECTION OF ASCE

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