

# The Nebraska Civil Engineer



Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

## Calendar of Events:

### April:

- 15 - P.E. Exam
- 22 - Happy Hour & Networking, 5 PM, DJ's Dugout, Miracle Hills, Omaha
- 26 - Transportation Group Meeting, Anthony's Restaurant, Omaha (Note this meeting is on a Tuesday. Date has been updated since last months letter)
- 26 - ACI Seminar, 7:45 AM, Double Tree Guest Suites 7270 Cedar Street, Omaha (see Pg 5)
- 27 - Transportation Conference, Scott Conference Center, UNO, Omaha

### May:

- 19 - Annual Meeting, The Champions Club, Omaha

## Highlights of this Issue:

NE-ASCE Member, John Hill, Travels to Mexico

Engineers Without Borders™

ACI Conference

Senate Committee Approves Transportation Bill

Congratulations to Dan Jackman, P.E.

*recipient of:*

The 2005 Gene Wilhoite Innovations in  
Transmission Line Engineering Award

Awarded by The Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE.

## The Transportation Group Presents:

"Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)  
Implementation"  
Tuesday, April 26th

Featuring: Christopher Poe, Ph.D., P.E.  
Regional Manager, PB Farradyne

**Dr. Poe** is the Regional Manager in the Central U.S. for PB Farradyne. He has an extensive background in transportation management and traffic operations. His focus areas are ITS, freeway operations, and multi-modal integration. Dr. Poe led one of the largest university-based ITS programs in the nation. He has been project manager on projects involving TMC design, incident management, ITS data management and warehousing, highway-rail intersection integration, transit operation integration, traffic signal system simulation, and HOV design and operation. Dr Poe is certified by FHWA in the application of the National ITS Systems Architecture. He has also taught university courses on transportation engineering at Pennsylvania State University, University of Texas at Arlington, and Texas A&M University.

Location: Anthony's Restaurant & Lounge  
7220 F Street, Omaha

Times:	Social Hour	6:00
	Dinner/Announcements	6:30
	Presentation	7:30

Menu: Top Sirloin, Chicken Breast  
Parmigiano, Broiled Walleye

Spouses and guests welcome  
\$25 with a meal; \$10 without a meal.  
RSVP by 12 PM Friday, April 22 nd  
TO CRYSTAL 402.496.2498 OR  
VP@NEASCE.ORG SUBJECT LINE: ASCE RSVP

*Prices include tax and gratuity.  
Portions of the proceeds will go towards hosting our speaker.*

# From the President

- Loras A Klostermann, P.E.



Loras Klostermann, P.E.  
NE-ASCE President

I was fortunate to be able to help **Bruce Harris** present the plaques and checks to area high school students who won this year's balsa wood truss contest. Informal awards ceremonies were held at Omaha North High School and Gross High School. As a part of the award presentations, Bruce and I discussed our profession of Civil Engineering with the students and the assistance that ASCE provides. After our discussions the students asked some very good questions. I hope these activities have ignited their interest in engineering. I left both presentations with an elated feeling that the future of engineering is strong and will be in good hands as long as current engineers remain involved in education.

**Randy Perkinson**, District 16 Director, will be attending the Nebraska Section meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the Transportation Conference on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Randy also plans to visit the student chapters in Omaha and Lincoln while he is in Nebraska. Randy is our representative to National ASCE and to the Board of Direction.

A few of the items the Board of Direction tends to are the ASCE National budget, and action on resolutions brought before the National by the Sections, Branches, District Councils, and Younger Member Groups. We are informed that after a few very difficult years, the ASCE National financial situation turned around last year and National is now able to make a significant contribution back to the Society's reserve fund that had been severely depleted. Although there is still a need to replenish the reserves, the situation is much better than it was. The proposed budget will be discussed at the Board of Direction meeting on April 14/15, and National proposes a \$5.00 dues increase for next year. The four items of substantially added value to the members of ASCE are discussed in detail within Randy's note. Initiatives in the budget include enhancing K-12 Outreach, and increased funding of Section Allotments and the SPAG program. I recommend you read the entire note on the Nebraska Section Web Page, [www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org).

Randy was also kind enough to include descriptions of the 27 resolutions brought forward to National. Of these, 14 are still under active consideration by the Board. These are also listed with Randy's letter on our web site. Please review the materials on the web page and come to this month's Section meeting to discuss these items with Randy or, just come to the meeting to say hello.

As spring rolls back into Nebraska, we find our workloads increasing and the activities of construction increasing. With increased activities comes the increased risk of injury. Look out for yourself and you coworkers, be careful of traffic, and have a safe working season.

Have a safe and prosperous month.

Loras A. Klostermann, P.E.  
ASCE Nebraska Section President

## 2004-2005 NE-ASCE Officers

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Loras Klostermann, P.E.  
HWS Consulting Group  
(V) 402.333.5792, (F) 402.333.2248  
president@neasce.org

**President-Elect / Program & Annual Meeting Committee Chair**  
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(V) 402.493.4800, (F) 402.493.7951  
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Tom Mamik, P.E.  
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(V) 402.496.2498, (F) 402.496.2730  
vp@neasce.org

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(V) 402.458.5616, (F) 402.474.5160  
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The Schemmer Associates, Inc.  
(V) 402.493.4800, (F) 402.492.3276  
secretary@neasce.org

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Lamp Rynearson & Associates  
(V) 402.496.2498, (F) 402.496.2730  
treasurer@neasce.org

**Director / Geotechnical Technical Chair**  
Ed Prost, P.E.  
Terracon  
(V) 402.330.2202, (F) 402.330.7606  
director1@neasce.org

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Davis Erection Co., Inc.  
(V) 402.738.6160, (F) 402.731.1116  
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**Webmaster / Younger Member Chair**  
Marie Maly, E.I.  
The Schemmer Associates  
(V) 402.330.2202, (F) 402.330.7606  
webmaster@neasce.org

**Newsletter Editor**  
Peggy Meyers, E.I.  
Lamp Rynearson and Associates  
(V) 402.496.2498, (F) 402.496.2730  
editor@neasce.org

## Member Spotlight:

### NE-ASCE Member, John Hill, Travels to Mexico

-John Hill, P.E.

In March, I had the opportunity to burn up a week of my paid leave and two weekends and travel to Mexico with a small group of High School kids and other adults to construct a "house" for a family much less fortunate than most people of Nebraska.

Our group of eight drove to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico (just across the border from El Paso, Texas) to the southwest edge of the City. We set up a camp, and the next four days we worked on the edge of the desert to build an 11' x 22' – two room house for a family of four. We were a small group with only a short time to work, so we paid to have the concrete floor placed before our arrival. Our work consisted of framing up the four exterior walls with one door and two windows and a single interior wall. The roof was single sloped with plywood and roofing material. The exterior walls were covered with stucco. The inside of the house was totally unfinished, but would likely be covered with blankets or cardboard by the family.

The father of the family has been away in Texas for the past 22 months of a 2-year job, and would soon be returning to a new house that they were keeping secret from him. The mother and her two boys, 6 and 3, also shared the house with her brother. We never got to meet the brother since he would be gone for work each day before we arrived and would return long after we left the site.

The living conditions at the site were just above primitive at best. The family owned the roughly 20' x 50' lot and lived in a single room house, roughly 12' x 8', and built out of wooden pallets stacked on end and covered with cardboard, and a plywood roof. The house contained two beds, a dresser and a table. The single light bulb in the house was hanging from the ceiling by its multicolored, scavenged wires. The family had a single water pipe protruding from the ground with a hose tap about 15' from their front door. They shared a refrigerator and washing machine, both outside, with their neighbor. They had the luxury of a toilet (cracked, without a seat and no running water) that they shared with three other neighboring families.

We were able to complete the house with the exception of the second coat of stucco. Other crews would return within

*"Nights were cool, down to 25° one night, days were dirty and windy, work was tiring, and I enjoyed it all."*

the week to finish the second coat. The mother was so excited that she moved into the new house on our last day there, even before the stucco was dry!

Nights were cool, down to 25° one night, days were dirty and windy, work was tiring and I enjoyed it all.

This was a good opportunity to learn of a different culture, do some hard work, put smiles on faces, and appreciate the good life we have in Nebraska. My local church through *Amor Ministries*, an organization celebrating its 25th year, sponsored this trip. In 2003, Amor Ministries had over 21,000 participants build houses, churches, schools and medical clinics in three different cities in Mexico. For more information visit [www.amor.org](http://www.amor.org).

*John Hill is Structural Department Head at Lamp, Rynearson & Associates, Inc., and Treasurer of the Nebraska Section of ASCE.*

### Second Senate Committee Approves Six Year Transportation Bill

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee last month approved reauthorization of transit programs, providing \$51.6 billion to fund public transportation systems in the U.S. over the next six years. The Environment and Public Works Committee earlier in the week approved the highway portions of the bill.

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-MD), ranking member of the Committee, expressed a desire to increase the funding to \$53.3 billion, the level included in the reauthorization could not be considered by the full Senate, so Sarbanes decided not to offer an amendment.

The bill is expected to be considered by the full Senate sometime in April after lawmakers return from the Spring District Work Period.

In the meantime, ASCE members are encouraged to contact their Senators in support of strong funding for transportation programs. Visit the "Six Clicks" Advocacy Website to read more and draft a message to send to your Senators.

*Article from [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)*

## ASCE Teams with Engineers Without Borders™

In February 2005, ASCE and Engineers Without Borders - USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Attendees of the Zone III Leadership Conference in St. Louis were lucky enough to witness this event and hear a presentation about Engineers Without Borders.

I would like to encourage everyone to promote civil engineering by become an active member in our community and helping those in need. Engineers Without Borders™ is an excellent organization and is worthy of our participation. Below is a brief overview of Engineers Without Borders, EWB. Go to [www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org) for information on how to get involved with EWB.

### Mission

The mission of Engineers Without Borders™ - USA (EWB-USA) is to partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through implementation of environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internationally responsible engineering students.

### The Challenge

There is a need for training a new generation of engineers who could better meet the challenges and needs of the developing world. The challenge is the education of



engineers: (i) who have the skills and tools appropriate to address the issues that our planet is facing today and is likely to face within the next 20 years; (ii) who are aware of the needs of the developing world; and (iii) who can contribute to the relief of the epidemic problems of poverty afflicting developing communities worldwide.

### Meeting the Challenge

Quoting Albert Einstein, "*The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when they were created.*" As important as international aid programs are, many community problems cannot be solved by short-term international aid programs. These problems will require the dedication of a new generation of engineers, working hand-in-hand with local communities, social scientists, economists, businesses, human rights organizations, other non-government organizations, and international development organizations. EWB-USA assists in training this new generation of engineers through hands-on involvement in new and ongoing national and international development projects.



### Mode of Operation

The business of EWB-USA is to engage a developing community in resolving a particular infrastructure need (or needs) that the community itself has identified. EWB-USA involves student engineers in every step of the EWB-USA process, enabling them to learn firsthand about the application of engineering solutions to the problems of the developing world. EWB-USA works on small-scale projects and in partnership with local communities.

Whether you are an engineering student (undergraduate or graduate), a professional engineer, an engineering faculty, or not even an engineer, EWB-USA offers you several great opportunities to serve and ways for you to become involved in building a better world, one community at a time.

To learn more about Engineers Without Borders, check out their US website: [www.ewb-usa.org](http://www.ewb-usa.org). In addition, **a new section is being formed for the Great Plains States.** Go to [www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org) for information on the Great Plains States section.

*Photos and information on EWB obtained from [www.ewb-usa.org](http://www.ewb-usa.org)*

## ACI Conference

*"Cost-effective solutions and valuable information about the symptoms and causes of moisture-related distress"*

**Tuesday, April 26th, 2005 8:00 AM - 5 PM**  
Double Tree Guests Suites, Omaha

Go to [www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org) for more information or to register.

# NE-ASCE News

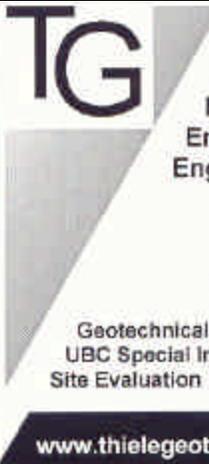
## March Meeting Hosted by the Environmental Group

Thanks to Gretchen Livingston for hosting the April Meeting. Steve Jorgensen gave an excellent presentation on the remediation of lead-impacted soil (and railroad ties) at the cornhusker army ammunition plant firing range.

The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the March meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Aaron Buettner  
Brad Chambers  
Randy Graham  
Jason Herr  
Julie Jamenson  
Dave Johnson  
Susan Jorgensen  
Steve Jorgensen  
Loras Klostermann  
Chris Langan  
Larry Lucke

Marie Maly  
Tom Marnik  
Jeff McClenathan  
Peggy Meyers  
Jon Ritterling  
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