

# ASCE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
SAN BERNARDINO & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES BRANCH  
LOS ANGELES SECTION , REGION 9-SINCE 1953



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

JULY 2012

Passing the PE exam and being able to use those two little initials following a comma after your name may not seem to be a big deal to anyone who is not in the field of engineering. However, it is every Engineer's dream to have that title. It is a turning point in her/his life from the moment when she/he learns that she is officially a Registered Engineer. Of course with that comes a lot of responsibility, including keeping up with the latest laws, rules, regulations and policies governing Engineering Licensure.

Whether you are planning to take the PE exam soon or you are already a Licensed Civil Engineer, you should attend our ASCE branch July lunch meeting. Mr. Carl Josephson, S.E., principal of Josephson Werdowatz & Associates in San Diego, and a Board Member of the "California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists," will be talking about the recent changes in the Board's enforcement procedures, new and current legislation and policies and, most importantly, changes to the format of the PE exam. He will also delve into the broader topic of ethics in engineering practice. The lunch meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Mexicali Bar & Grill in the City of Riverside.

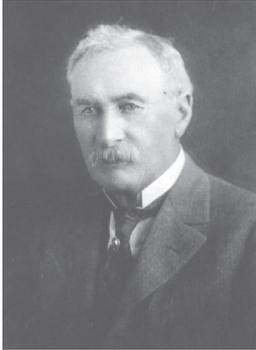
California seems to have more stringent laws and requirements than any other state in the nation. Here, for example, in addition to passing the national NCEES exam, an applicant must take and pass additional exams on Engineering Surveying and Seismic Principles. I remember when I took my exam, I was able to take all my reference material and seat cushion to the test site and I paid \$ 275.00 for all parts of the exam. Talking with one of my colleagues at work, who will be taking the exam this coming October, I learned that the exam fees have apparently increased to approximately \$800. Also parts of the exams will be administered at a computer test center, and soon personal references won't be permitted at the test center. You will only be able to use the reference material provided to you at the test center.

If this is a sample of many changes, we definitely need to attend this meeting to learn more about them. So I hope to see you all there!

- Rita Escobar

# This Month in Engineering History

Kenneth Cox, Assistant Newsletter Editor



William Mulholland in 1924 at Age 69

## William Mulholland

September 11, 1855 – July 22, 1935

William Mulholland was obsessed with solving the engineering problems of supplying a city with water. He met the challenge so well, Los Angeles, with less than 14 inches of rain per year, grew to be one of the largest cities in the world.

Hugh and Ellen Mulholland were Dubliners and returned to the city in the late 1850's after the birth of William Mulholland in Belfast. His mother died when he was seven years old. Hugh remarried when William was 10 years old. William was educated under the Christian Brothers at the O'Connell School in Dublin. At the age of 15, he opted for a life at sea. This decision was encouraged by a beating from his father over his bad marks in school. He joined the British Merchant Navy. His next four years were spent sailing the Atlantic routes.

In 1872 William quit the sea and worked in the Michigan lumber camps and at a Pittsburgh dry-goods store. He arrived in San Francisco in 1877, tried his hand briefly as a miner in Arizona fighting the Apache, moving to Los Angeles later that year. In 1877 the population of the Los Angeles was approximately 9,000.

He was hired by Frederick Eaton as a Deputy Zanjero (assistant ditch tender) for the new Los Angeles Water Company (LAWC). One day, as Mulholland was clearing weeds in a ditch a gentleman rode by and, looking down at Mulholland, "What are you doing?" William responded, "None of your damned business!" Afterwards, when a coworker informed him that the man he had spoken to was the president of the company, William Hayes

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First Los Angeles Aqueduct Cascades, East side I-5 at Route 14, Newhall

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Perry, Mulholland went to the president's office and handed in his resignation. Perry however was impressed with Mulholland's attention to the job and promoted him to foreman. The facts of this event are anecdotal, but the story is at least true to the character of William Mulholland's personality.

In 1886, just 9 years after arriving in Los Angeles, Mulholland went from an immigrant ditch digger to a naturalized American citizen and superintendent of the LAWC. He was a self-taught Engineer. In 1898 the City decided not to renew the contract with LAWC. In 1902, William Mulholland was appointed as the head of the new Los Angeles Department of Water.

As Department Head, Mulholland created the infrastructure that would support the city's tremendous growth. His friend Frederick Eaton, who had first given him a job with the LAWC, helped grease the political wheels and allowed projects to move forward.

Mulholland's Magnum Opus is the Los Angeles Aqueduct: 233 miles, 164 tunnels, and 5,000 laborers. At the opening ceremony in 1913, Mulholland summed up this engineering miracle with the five most famous words in the city's history: "There it is. Take it." He was noted for his short, direct speeches. When asked if he would run for mayor of Los Angeles, as many wanted him to do, he said, "I'd rather give birth to a porcupine backwards."

Mulholland's career ended abruptly in tragedy. On March 12, 1928, William Mulholland and his Assistant, Harvey Van Norman, inspected the St. Francis Dam, which he had supervised during construction. The dam keeper was concerned about the muddy-colored water issuing from a new leak; Mulholland and Van Norman determined that the mud in the water was coming not from the leak itself, but from its contact with a newly-cut access road. They pronounced the dam safe. Twelve hours later, just before midnight, the dam failed catastrophically. Twelve billion gallons of water surged down the bed of the Santa Clara River in a wall 100 feet high, destroying everything in its path to the Pacific Ocean at Ventura. The next day, the town of Santa Paula was buried under 20 feet of mud and flood debris. The flood deposits were up to 70 feet deep in parts of Ventura County. 42 school children were included in the estimated 600 deaths. It was the worst engineering disaster of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mulholland believed that he was to blame for the entire disaster, resigning in March 1929. Later, he stated, "The only people I envy in this thing are the dead." Subsequent technical investigations of the disaster determined that the cause of the failure was unstable rock formations underlying the dam, and that Mulholland could not have known or predicted the failure. Technically, he was absolved, but emotionally, he never recovered.

At the time of his death in 1935, El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles had swelled to a population of approximately 1.3 million.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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## NEWSLETTER TO ELIMINATE PRINTED COPIES

REMINDED

At their June 1 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Riverside / San Bernardino Branch reaffirmed their earlier decision to phase out printed copies of this Newsletter. Our current roster, which we obtain on a regular basis, shows 912 members with addresses in the two counties. Of these, about 130 members have no e-mail address on file. We have been printing and mailing copies to these members, but because of the expense and the widespread of electronic mail for all manner of communication, we will no longer print and mail copies, beginning with the October issue. The money saved will be directed towards our on-going funding of Civil Engineering student scholarships at Cal Poly Pomona and at California Baptist University.

Our mailing list comes from the ASCE national database, so any changes to your contact information must come to us from that source. Members are encouraged to check the database periodically to make sure your information is correct. Go to [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org). On the Society home page, in the menu bar at the top of the page, select "My ASCE", on the following page select "Enter myASCE", at the bottom of the text, then enter your user name and password, and follow the instructions to establish or update your personal data page.

## ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Civil Engineering and Planning since 1945



Albert A. Webb came to Riverside in 1934 after receiving an education in Civil Engineering at Iowa State and became Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Riverside Canal Company. Albert, along with his sons Ernie and Hubert, decided to begin an independent engineering firm, so they could all work together. For a few years, the Webbs joined forces with William Penn Rowe and his son, Joe, and opened an office as Rowe and Webb on North Main in downtown Riverside. After several years the partnership dissolved and the Rowes moved towards the San Bernardino area. In 1948, Albert A. Webb Associates



moved to its present location on McCray Street in Riverside and it was officially incorporated in 1952. Albert's son Ernie took an interest in engineering and attended Stanford University, focusing on the Land Development end of the business. After Albert's death in 1981, Ernie assumed the leadership position as President of Albert A. Webb Associates. Ernie's brother Hubert also took a liking to the field and earned his engineering degree at USC. He joined the company and focused on the Public Works end of the business, often working with water infrastructure. After Ernie's unfortunate death in 1984, Hubert assumed the role of President. Hubert served as President of Albert A. Webb Associates for 15 years before relinquishing that role to his nephew Matthew Webb in 1999. Like his father Ernie, Matt also attended Stanford University and became a registered Civil Engineer. He realized that the company had needs in traffic engineering and undertook the responsibility to learn this challenging field, became a Registered Traffic Engineer, and created a division of traffic and transportation engineering within the company. Matt is a hands-on member of the company, and maintains the open door policies set in place by his grandfather Albert Webb. As Albert A. Webb Associates approaches its 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the future looks bright. As generations to come have the opportunity to expand upon the strong foundation set by Albert Webb, the firm will continue to "provide diversified civil engineering and planning expertise in Southern California," as is stated in its mission statement. As a mid-size consulting firm with nearly 130 associates, WEBB offers a broad range of services including Water and Sewer Facilities, Stormwater Engineering, Land Development, Planning and Environmental, Construction Management and Inspection, Special Assessment and Tax Consulting, Traffic and Transportation, Survey/Mapping/GIS, and Landscape Architecture. WEBB has the in-house resources to address the needs of cities, water and special districts, counties, regional agencies, municipal finance agencies, residential developers, commercial/industrial developers, and our partner firms within the industry. Technical expertise aside, what defines Albert A. Webb Associates is its legacy of family and community. The continued stewardship of the Webb family has created a corporate culture focused on being good members of the community, doing high quality work, and carrying on the vision Albert A. Webb saw in Riverside County three quarters of a century ago.

**President**

Rita Escobar, P.E.  
(714) 567-2498  
Rita.escobar@aecom.com

**President Elect**

Matthew Addington, P.E. P.L.S. CBO. QSD.  
(909) 477-2710 Ext 4202  
matthew.addington@cityofrc.us

**Vice President**

Edwin Quinonez, P.E.  
(951) 955-1917  
eequinonez@rcflood.org

**Treasurer**

Brandon Reyes, P.E.  
909.974.4967  
breyes@rbf.com

**Secretary**

Steven Ledbetter, E.I.T.  
(951) 680-0440  
sledbetter@tkeengineering.com

**Newsletter Editor**

John B. Rogers, P.E.  
(951) 698-1830  
(909) 229-5143  
jrogers@cleengineering.com

**Past President**

Brian D. Wolfe, PE (909)798-7584 ext. 7  
bwolfe@cityofredlands.org

**Committees/ Forums**

**YMF President**

Helio Takano, P.E.  
(951) 955-8627  
hktakano@rcflood.org

**Geotechnical Committee Chairman**

Bill Kitch P.E. Ph.D.  
(909) 869-3147  
wakitch@csupomona.edu

**Stormwater Committee**

Bill Flores Jr., P.E., CPESC, CPSWQ, QSD/QSP  
Trainer of Records  
(951) 320-7311 Bill.flores@hdrinc.com

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

THE CITY OF PALM DESERT ([WWW.CITYOFPALMDESERT.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFPALMDESERT.ORG)) HAS AN OPENING FOR A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE OR SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER, DEPENDING UPON QUALIFICATIONS. CALIFORNIA CIVIL ENGINEERING REGISTRATION REQUIRED. FILING DEADLINE IS JULY 27. INFORMATION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CAN BE FOUND IN THE "JOB OPENINGS" TAB IN THE HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION OF THE CITY WEBSITE.

**UCI Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Irvine (CEE@UCI) is seeking to identify new ways to meet professional development needs in southern California. We are exploring three main issues: (1) program format preferences such as stand alone courses, certificates, and degrees, (2) course topic preferences, and (3) instructional format preferences such as in-class, on-line, and day-of-the-week/time preferences.

Our goal is to meet a range of professional development needs, from a single stand-alone course to a cluster of courses organized by theme. The latter would lead to a certificate. Popular themes could be expanded into new M.S. or M.Eng. degree programs in the future.

We would most likely offer these courses through UCI Extension to make registration easy and avoid the lengthy application process typically associated with MS and PhD degree programs. The cost for a 4 unit course (30-40 hours of instruction) would be around \$1,000.

Results of this survey will be examined by CEE faculty and CEE Affiliates from industry who partner with the Department to promote academic excellence. Our goal is to flesh out the best course ideas and themes this year for implementation in the following year.

The survey deadline has been extended to August 1 to accommodate Riverside/San Bernardino Branch members The survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://eee.uci.edu/survey/newceeprograms>

**Los Angeles Section 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013**

At the Branch Awards Meeting on June 27, past Branch President and Current ASCE Region 9 Governor introduced the Los Angeles Section's ambitious plans to celebrate our Centennial in 2013. Links on the Section website at <http://www.ascelasection.org/index.php/memberdonate100th/> will lead to videos, donation sites and other activities planned throughout the area.





W. Dean Davidson



## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

### Publisher:

ASCE San Bernardino-Riverside Counties Branch  
Lenore Gueste  
7211 Haven Ave E205  
Alta Loma, CA 91701  
Phone: 866-220-5908 (option 2)  
Email: [lagueste@jgwsolutions](mailto:lagueste@jgwsolutions)  
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### Editor:

John B. Rogers, P.E.  
(951) 698-1830  
(909) 229-5143  
[jrogers@cleengineering.com](mailto:jrogers@cleengineering.com)

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### For Billing information contact:

Brandon Reyes, PE  
909.974.4967  
[breyes@rbf.com](mailto:breyes@rbf.com)



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS



Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch  
Government Affairs Committee

Presents



# Engineers and Politics Seminar

Empowering Engineering Advocates

Saturday, August 4, 2012

LOS ANGELES ATHLETIC CLUB

431 WEST SEVENTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90014

Event Time: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Cost: ASCE Members \$40

Non-Members \$50

Student Members \$30

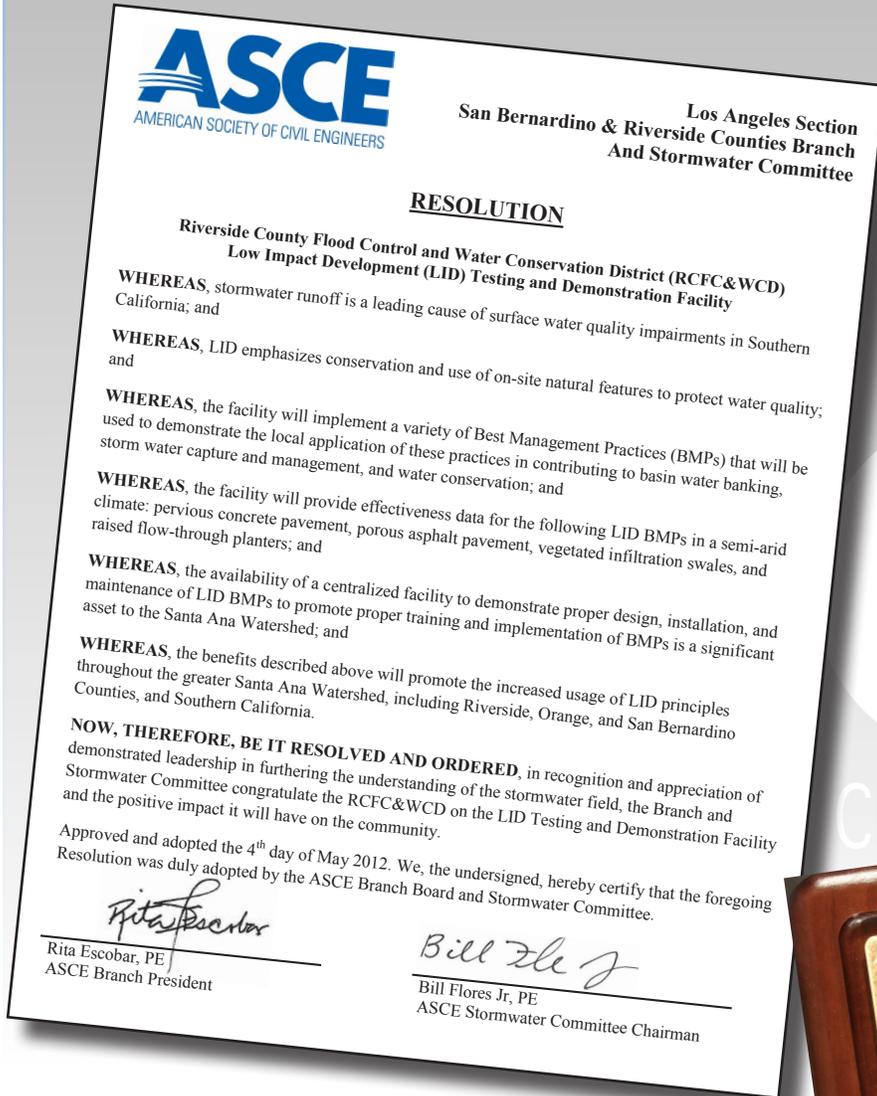
Registration after July 21<sup>st</sup> *additional* \$10

For more information and to reserve a seat, please contact:

Phillip Davies, [asce.mlab.gac@gmail.com](mailto:asce.mlab.gac@gmail.com)

# LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT DEMONSTRATION FACILITY RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

At the May 14 presentation of the completed demonstration project on the Flood Control campus, (ASCE Riverside/San Bernardino Branch Newsletter, June 2012) ASCE member Bill Flores, Chairman of the Branch Storm Water Committee and Vice President for Technical Groups, Los Angeles Section, presented a resolution from the Branch along with a plaque, both of which are now on display in the Flood Control District's main office on Market Street in Riverside.



# CAL BAPTIST STUDENT / ALUMNI SERVICE TRIP TO CHINA

Michael Sampson

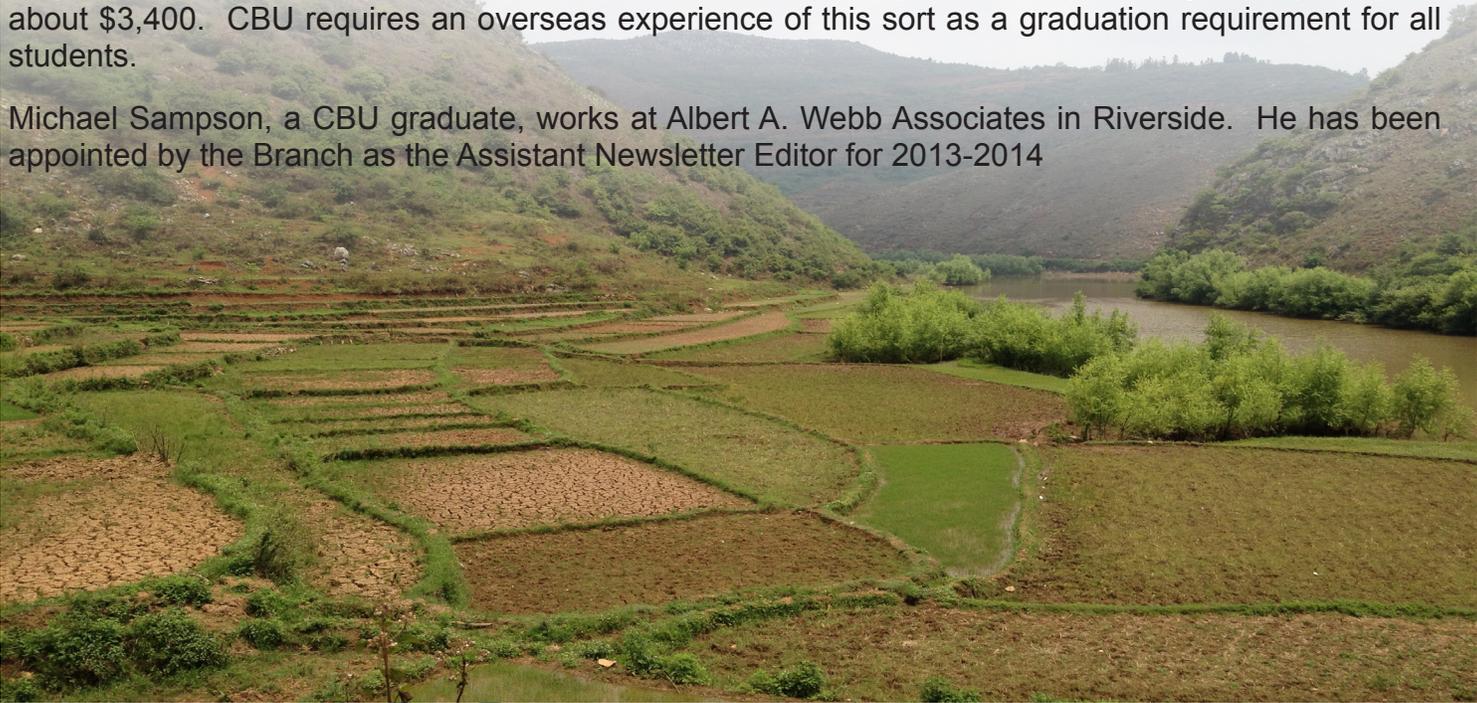
On May 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 two Civil Engineering alumni and 9 Mechanical and Civil Engineering undergraduates from California Baptist University College of Engineering (CBU) embarked on a three week journey., learning to use their engineering skills as a way to help people in need. The group traveled to Yunnan Province in China in cooperation with Resource Development Partners International (RDPI), a charitable organization that provides proprietary ceramic water filters to supply clean safe water to the rural poor with minimal environment impact. RDPI asked CBU to help with a large scale water project that would provide six villages in Yunnan Province with safe running water to homes.

Yunnan is the most southwesterly Province in the Peoples Republic of China, spanning 152,000 square miles, with a population of 45.7 million. Burma, Laos and Vietnam border the province to the south.

Many Residents in these rural villages carry their water each day, or must catch and store rain water during the storm season for summer use. The CBU volunteers went into the villages to work hand in hand with local leaders, planning the routes of the supply lines. During their last week the volunteers helped to build a water tank to store water pumped to the villages. The tank was built of thin-shell concrete, using wire mesh reinforcement and hand-mixed, hand-applied concrete. They taught the local leaders the steps to build the tank so that when the visitors departed, the villagers would be able to build additional storage capacity on their own. Translators were provided, both locals and Chinese-speaking Americans, but much of the communication was of the “show-and-tell” variety by the students themselves. After three weeks in Yunnan, CBU students saw firsthand the importance of sound infrastructure, and understood the luxury of having clean safe running water as well as the importance of providing the basic necessities of living to those lacking the know-how and resources to do so.

This summer trip was one of about 40 in which students participated thru CBU’s International Service Project. All are funded by the students themselves, with this particular trip costing each participant about \$3,400. CBU requires an overseas experience of this sort as a graduation requirement for all students.

Michael Sampson, a CBU graduate, works at Albert A. Webb Associates in Riverside. He has been appointed by the Branch as the Assistant Newsletter Editor for 2013-2014



## 2012 Student Outreach

Mark Swanson

For the 2011-2012 school year, the San Bernardino/Riverside YMF Branch spoke to approximately 650 **AVID** high school students, as well as to approximately 15 community college students enrolled in a survey course. Several small teams of ASCE members participated in promoting Civil Engineering to Inland Empire high school students. While at each school, the teams presented what Civil Engineering is all about, and let the students know that we are not “friendly train conductors”. Students were exposed to the day-to-day basics of Civil Engineering, the educational requirements needed to become a Civil Engineer, and the available career benefits. Each student’s path through school and life is different, so the teams encouraged all the students to attend college after high school and to consider civil engineering if they are interested in math and science.

**AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)** is a nationwide non-profit organization started in 1980 by Mary Catherine Swanson, then head of the English Department at San Diego’s Clairemont High School as a direct result of a Federal court order directing the desegregation of San Diego’s high schools. Today, the **AVID** system reaches over 425,000 students in more than 4,800 elementary and secondary schools in 48 states, the District of Columbia, and in 16 other countries and territories.

This year, YMF had an opportunity to speak with and promote Civil Engineering to survey students at Rio Hondo Community College in Whittier, where the focus was geared toward the students’ next steps beyond community college; they were encouraged to realize that there is light at the end of that long collegiate tunnel. Two of the members that presented to the survey class were transfer students and they were able to provide valuable information regarding what to expect when transferring, how to get involved, financial aid, as well as what to expect once they graduate from a university.

This year YMF volunteers visited four schools and the community college: Heritage High School in Romoland (November 18, 2011); Ontario High School (February 24, during National Engineers Week); Rio Hondo (May 5); and Redlands East Valley High School (May 11). Also during Engineer’s Week, Branch members Kenneth Cox, Doug Blois and John Rogers spoke to two AVID classes at Temecula Valley High School

Helping the profession recruit new, young talent was a great experience for many of the team members. Future goals of the program include increasing both the number of students and number of schools in order to promote the great profession of Civil Engineering. Many of the presenters are passionate about the work they do and we hope if others are too, then they will consider volunteering in the near future. We are always looking for opportunities to present and promote civil engineering to new faces, so if anyone has a contact at a local high school or community college where students may be interested in Civil Engineering (or maybe just college), please provide the contact to any YMF Board Member so that we can include the school in our future planning.

Mark Swanson is the 2011-2012 Branch MF Student Outreach Coordinator. He is employed by AEI-CASC in Colton

## ENGINEERS AND POLITICS SEMINAR

ASCE's national leadership has had a long history of promoting civic involvement by its membership, at all levels. Civil Engineers have been prominent as elected officials in local governments, as well as some State and national legislatures. With the well-publicized deterioration of infrastructure, ASCE President Andrew Herman has been prominent in the national news with numerous appearances before Congressional committees on the subject.

Members in the Inland Empire have an opportunity to learn about this very important aspect of community leadership through the Los Angeles Metropolitan Section's all-day seminar, planned for the historic Los Angeles Athletic Club on Saturday, August 4. Please see the announcement on Page 7 of this issue for details and reservation information.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities are available in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,000. Individual member fee is \$40. Inexpensive validated parking will be provided at the Athletic Club. Inland Empire residents can also take advantage of Metrolink, with a 7:00 AM departure from San Bernardino. The LA Athletic Club is located between the Metro Red Line Pershing Square and 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Metro Center stations.

## Delinquent Dues

The Riverside / San Bernardino branch of ASCE has over 900 members listed in our two-county area. Sadly, about half of these members are delinquent in their Association dues, based upon information we receive from our National mailing list. The local Section and Branch component of your National dues makes up the majority of our local operating budget, and it contributes significantly to our major expense, scholarship awards to local college students who will become the future of our profession. We recently awarded \$ 4,500 to five Engineering students at Cal Poly and at California Baptist University. We cannot continue to provide scholarships and other services to members without your dues support.

Bringing your dues account current is simple; go to [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org), log in using your e-mail address and member number. Then click on "Membership" under the "Membership and Community" tab. There are many options for additional donations as well, through the ASCE Foundation, Engineers Without Borders, or six other ASCE voluntary funds. If you are fortunate to be a Life Member, your Section Dues and voluntary Contributions are still vital.

**Dodgers Game**  
vs  
Cubs

**Come Join  
Riverside-San Bernardino ASCE YMF  
for a Friday Night Dodger Game & a  
spectacular Firework Show!**

**Where:** *Dodgers* Stadium  
1000 Elysian Park Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Date:** Friday August 3, 2012

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Price:** \$8/ticket

**RSVP:** melissa.cayir@transtech.org

**Limited  
Quantity**  
*Please no more than 6 per  
ticket reservation*

**ASCE** LOS ANGELES  
SECTION  
San Bernardino-  
Riverside Branch  
VOLUNTEER MEMBER FOR LIFE

July

July 18 Lunch Meeting, Carl Jacobsen, S.E., Member, California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.

August 3 YMF, Dodgers v. Cubs baseball, Dodger Stadium

August 4 Engineers & Politics Seminar see page 7

August 4 YMF Joint Meeting with LA Section YMF, Valencia

October 25 Joint Dinner Meeting with CLSA, Hydrographic Surveying, Peter Ford, CLE Engineering

October 18-20 ASCE National Conference, Montreal, Canada

## Membership Information

Type of Membership and Annual Dues (National)

**Students:** Free  
**Associate Member:** \$50 year of baccalaureate Degree and first year after, then incremental increases to \$205 over five years.  
**Member:** \$205 annually  
**Affiliate:** \$205 annually  
**Section (Branch) Dues:** \$45/year

1. National ASCE Student Membership is now FREE! Those who have chapters or clubs still must be a member of them before joining National. Log onto <https://www.asce.org/online/> fill out the short application and instantly become a member of ASCE or call 1-800-548-ASCE (2723)

2. Online Membership renewal available, go to <https://www.asce.org/renewal/inforenewal.cfm>. You need your membership number, all payments must be made with a major credit card. An e-receipt is transmitted to the member upon completion of the transaction.

Over the summer your ASCE San Bernardino – Riverside Branch will be contacting you for a business card advertisement in your monthly newsletter. The proceeds from the business card ads defray the costs of newsletter so that the Branch funds can be used for purposes of providing student scholarships, Engineer's Week in February where the Branch volunteers make presentations to the local high schools to generate interest in the field of engineering, and other community programs. The cost of the newsletter advertisement is \$250 for a one-year subscription of 10 issues. Included with the Business Card advertisement is a business spotlight in the monthly newsletter where one or two businesses are highlighted. If you would like to reserve your spot early for next years newsletter please contact your Treasurer for next year – Brandon Reyes 909.974.4967 and let him know which month you would like your Business Spotlight (1st in line gets first choice).

Professional Directory

**Guillermo (Bill) Flores Jr., P.E.**  
Water Resources  
Project Manager

HDR Engineering, Inc.  
2280 Market Street  
Suite 100  
Riverside, CA 92501  
www.hdrinc.com  
Bill.Flores@hdrinc.com

HDR

Main (951) 320-7300 Direct (951) 320-7311  
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Riverside, California 92507  
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mobile: 909.754.9366  
facsimile: 951.788.4988  
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Please see contact information below to have your companies business card displayed here.

If you'd like to have your business card or company information listed in the Professional Directory, Please Contact: The Branch Treasurer, Brandon Reyes at (909) 974-4967, or email at breyes@rbf.com

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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS  
SAN BERNARDINO & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES BRANCH  
LOS ANGELES SECTION , REGION 9-SINCE 1953

**REMI NDER**

July 18

Lunch Meeting. Carl Jacobsen, S.E., Member,  
California Board for Professional Engineers,  
Land Surveyors and Geologists.

# ASCE

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

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