



SEATTLE SECTION NEWSLETTER

May 2011
Volume 46 No. 9

Section Officers

October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

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YMF Chairperson (Position Vacant)

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WEBMASTER

Lisa Martinez seattleasce@yahoo.com

Ballot Enclosed for 2011 Board Elections.
See Page 7 for the ballot.

ASCE Seattle Section Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Place: Pan Pacific Hotel, 2125 Terry Ave, Seattle, WA 98121
(Valet parking available for \$10 in the garage; accessible via 9th Avenue. On-street parking also available, which is free after 6pm.)

Cost: \$30 per person (\$35 for late reservations)
Students \$10; Unemployed members \$10
Spouses and guests are welcome.
Cash or checks payable to ASCE are accepted.

Meal: Hardwood grilled rainbow trout with hazelnut butter, braised asparagus & four grain pilaf -OR- Spaghetti squash with tomato-eggplant-mushroom ragout & asiago cheese

5:30 Socialize
6:15 Salad
6:30 Ring Ceremony
7:00 Dinner
7:45 Student Presentations
8:45 Adjourn

Please make your reservations by
NOON Friday, April 6, using one of the following methods:

- Call 206-926-0482 (voice mail system — please leave message)
- Send email to: seattleascereservations@gmail.com

Please indicate with RSVP if the vegetarian meal is preferred.

Order of the Engineer Ceremony and Annual UW/SU Student Presentations

This special dinner program features the annual student project presentations. Teams of upper division students attending the University of Washington and Seattle University civil engineering programs have been working on engineering projects throughout the year. Prior to our dinner meeting, each school has a competition to select the best presentation. The two finalists will present their projects to the Seattle Section. This is a great opportunity to see the new challenges our current students are taking on and to show support for the students as they embark on their careers.

The Order of the Engineer ring ceremony for graduating and practicing engineers will also be held during the Section meeting. The

See *May Meeting* on page 3

The deadline for the
June 2011 issue is
5:00 p.m.
Friday, May 20, 2011

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Your newsletter editor is:

**Todd Crandell**  
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#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

All change of address information  
(including your e-mail address for  
the newsletter) should be provided  
directly to ASCE at [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) or:

1801 Alexander Bell Drive,  
Reston, VA 20191-4400.

The Seattle Section will receive the  
updated information from ASCE.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
CIVIL ENGINEERS, SEATTLE SECTION**  
<http://www.seattleasce.org>

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#### ASCE SEATTLE SECTION NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

##### Employment Ads:

Employees Wanted:  
75 cents per word

##### Seeking Employment:

First 75 words free  
75 cents per each additional word

##### Display and Business Card Ads:

Contact the editor at  
[seattleASCEnews@gmail.com](mailto:seattleASCEnews@gmail.com)  
for pricing and format requirements.

## President's Column

By Marc Schulte, P.E.

### Can Technology Erode the Discipline of Civil Engineering ?

Recently, *Slate.com* featured a short piece by Witold Rybczynski ("[Think Before You Build](#)," 30 March 2011) that asked the question "Have computers made architects less disciplined?" It made me think of how technology has affected the discipline of civil engineering, even during my professional lifetime. What is meant when we call civil engineering a "discipline"?



Discipline requires forethought. I am of the vintage to still have had half a semester of hand-drafting in college prior to moving on to the new digital CAD system, and use "cards" of computer code (not the actual paper cards, though) when building my first digital hydraulic models. Today, specialized software helps me cut hydraulic cross-sections through virtual terrain from GIS and automatically.

These new tools are incredibly helpful and make me more productive, but I recognize that there is a risk of losing some discipline in the process. When coding things in by hand, one wouldn't want to waste time creating cross-sections where they weren't needed. One had to use forethought and plan where to locate cross-sections just where they were needed without losing too much detail. (I believe the general term for this is being "parsimonious" in your model set-up.)

Discipline can mean keeping things simple, and sometimes using some ingenuity to make it so. I remember going through record drawings of some concrete-lined flood control facilities designed and built in the 1950s. Why would one build a channel at 0.49 percent, I wondered, when it would be easy enough to round it up to a more elegant 0.50? Then, when I spotted another reach laid out at 0.64 percent, I realized what was going on.

Those familiar with Manning's uniform flow equation will recognize it, too: by specifying a slope as a perfect square, it simplifies the calculation when calculating the radical in the equation. Then, I realized that if you reasonably assume the concrete channel has a Manning roughness coefficient  $n=0.0149$ , the leading coefficient simplifies to 100, and you can practically solve the equation in your head - no need for your slide rule.

Discipline also means thoughtfulness. Recently, I reviewed a set of plans from a colleague, and I immediately called him back about the lack of horizontal control on the plan. "It's okay," he explained. The client planned to give the digital surface topography to the construction contractor, who would load it into the global positioning units on her earth movers. Computers would take care of the rest.

See *President's Column* on page 3

Computer-guided earth-movers: what an extraordinary tool! But I worry about losing the discipline of being thoughtful about our designs – the process of thinking about how surveyors might lay out their flags and how the contractor might accomplish the work can provide valuable insight and a better overall project. Not to mention designing something that actually can be built: I for one don't want to be the engineer who accidentally sends the GPS-guided graders into an endless loop or crashes them into one another (if that is possible).

Technology marches on. Soon even the cutting-edge tools of today will be obsolete. But before we put those tools aside, we should think what might be lost, aside from just the hardware or software. While we should use technology to its best advantage, we need to maintain the discipline of forethought, simplicity, ingenuity, and thoughtfulness that excellence in our profession demands.

Regards,

*Marc Schulte, P.E.*

Seattle Section President

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**May Meeting** (continued from page 1)

purpose is to stimulate formal public recognition by engineers in the United States of two basic principles. These principles are that (1) the primary purpose of engineering is service to the public, and (2) all members of the engineering profession share a common bond. For more information about the Order of the Engineer, see the article in the April 2011 newsletter. There is still time to participate in the Order of the Engineer ceremony – contact Garth Merrill at [garth.merrill@transpogroup.com](mailto:garth.merrill@transpogroup.com) to sign up.

## **BCC Mentor Night Help Needed**

**By Paul Grant, P.E.**

*Bellevue Community College*

Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

at BCC Student Union Bldg. Rm. C-120

If you are interested in being a mentor for a night for college students, the Puget Sound Engineering Council (PSEC) needs your help! The purpose of the mentor night activity has been to bring as many practicing engineers together with as many students as possible. We are trying to inspire the students toward a career in engineering. The mentor night allows engineers to relay their experience in the profession and answer questions posed by students. A typical agenda for the evening will include a welcoming and introduction, potentially a brief panel discussion by young engineering professionals then break out sessions where young and experienced engineers discuss their engineering experiences with the students. Students will rotate between mentors and tables to get a broad overview of answers to their questions.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up online at [www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp](http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp).

Thank you for your support.

### **Keep Up with YMF Information**

The Younger Member Forum maintains and email list to keep members up to date on its activities and relevant information. If you would like to join the list, send a blank email to [seattleymf-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:seattleymf-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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## ASCE's Geomatics Division Reaches Out to Establish a Local Contact

By Marc Schulte, P.E.,  
Seattle Section President

ASCE's Geomatics Division's Executive Committee (GMD) would like to establish contact with at least one ASCE member in every Section and Branch of ASCE who has an interest in Surveying Engineering. Being a licensed Land Surveyor is helpful, but is not a requirement. This contact person would be encouraged to keep the GMD committee apprised of surveying issues in their state. If you are interested in helping the geomatics committee, please contact Prof. David A Wahlström at [david@smultron.com](mailto:david@smultron.com) or (888) 787-7277.

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## Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Awards – Update

By Ron Bard, P.E.,  
Immediate Past President

We received 11 nominations for projects in 6 categories. We will be judging the projects in April and early May and notifying winners in mid-May. Award winners will be announced in the June newsletter and the awards will be presented during the June meeting. Be sure to plan to attend the June meeting and help celebrate these wonderful projects.

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## ASCE Pipelines Conference

By Ron Bard, P.E.,  
Immediate Past President

The Pipelines conference is coming to Seattle this summer. You have a rare opportunity to attend this large national conference in your own backyard. The conference begins on Saturday, July 23 with preconference workshops; the main program starts on Monday, July 25 and goes through Wednesday, July 27. This year's technical program offers more than over 130 technical presentations covering four primary tracks: Condition Assessment & Asset Management; Construction & Rehabilitation; Planning & Design; and a special track covering Geotechnical Considerations, Sustainability, Risk, Education, and Training.

More information is at the conference website, [content.asce.org/conferences/pipelines2011](http://content.asce.org/conferences/pipelines2011). Registration started April 6, and early bird registration ends June 9. **Student members**, be sure to consider attending, student registration costs are very low.

## New Life Members to be Recognized at May Seattle Section Meeting

By Ron Bard, P.E.,  
Immediate Past President

Life Member status is an honor awarded to members that have made a lifetime commitment to ASCE and the civil engineering profession. To obtain Life Member status, ASCE Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members must have reached the age of 65 years, paid dues for at least 30 years, and had 10 years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member.

Life Member status exempts a member from further payment of membership dues. Life Members are only required to pay to receive membership publications, currently *Civil Engineering* magazine and *ASCE News*.

Congratulations to the following new Seattle Section Life Members:

- John Barich III
- Robert Brock
- John Carpita
- Charles Crouse
- Dennis Dorratcague
- Bradley Erickson
- Robert Fiddes
- Robert Gatton
- Kenneth Johnson
- James Perry
- Ronald Poulsen
- Robert Richardson
- Richard Sage
- Dean Scott
- Gene Unger
- Cecil Urlich
- J Dennis Wermcrantz
- Peter White
- Robert Zylman

Please join us at the May 11 dinner meeting where we will be honoring the new Life Members. If you know or work with any of these people, you are encouraged to contact them personally and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

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## UW Lecture to Focus on Nuclear Power Industry

2011 Daniel L. and Irma Evans Lecture

UW Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Time: Thursday, May 19, 4:30 pm

Location: Kane Hall, Room 220  
(Reception following lecture in Kane Hall, Walker Ames Room)

Speaker: Dr. Gail Marcus, Independent Consultant on Nuclear Power Technology and Policy

Title: "Nuclear Power: Past, Present and Future"

Please join the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering for the 2011 Daniel L. and Irma Evans Lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public. This year's speaker is Dr. Gail H. Marcus, an independent consultant on nuclear power technology and policy. Her lecture, "Nuclear Power: Past, Present and Future," will focus on nuclear power's growth from a research novelty to a global industry. Within the context of the recent nuclear crisis in Japan, Dr. Marcus will explore the evolution of nuclear power from its earliest days, and will consider how current nuclear events might affect future developments of this industry.

Dr. Marcus presently serves as a consultant on nuclear technology and policy, after a career that included senior management positions in the U.S. government at the Congressional Research Service, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Energy, and assignments abroad in Tokyo and Paris. Her last position was as Deputy Director-General of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris. She has also served as the President of the American Nuclear Society and on a National Academy study of nuclear engineering education.

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## ASCE Seattle Section Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the April 13, 2011, meeting will appear in the June newsletter.

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## UW ASCE Student Chapter Seeks Presentations on Projects

By Marc Schulte, P.E.,  
Seattle Section President

Are you interested in sharing your knowledge and experience with upcoming engineers? The UW ASCE student chapter would like you to come and speak about current projects and experiences. If you have a presentation that you want to share, please contact Kelly Toy at [toykelly4@hotmail.com](mailto:toykelly4@hotmail.com) or 425-785-9421.

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## Seattle Section Begins Participation in Adopt-A-Road Program

By Garth Merrill, P.E.

The Seattle Section of ASCE is participating in King County's Adopt-A-Road program and our first clean-up day will be Saturday May 14, 2011. We have adopted a two-mile stretch of 1st Ave S/Myers Way S in Seattle that we will clean up twice a year. The county provides bags and vests so all you need to do is show up.

We will meet at the Myers/Olson park-and-ride lot at 10:00 a.m. and plan to spend about two hours cleaning up so you can enjoy the rest of your spring day. The park-and-ride lot is located at 9000 Olson Place South, behind Arrowhead Gardens and a public storage in south Seattle. If you are able to attend please email Garth at [Garth.Merrill@transpogroup.com](mailto:Garth.Merrill@transpogroup.com).

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## Transportation and Urban Development Committee to Resume its Meetings

By Diane M. Hilmo, P.E.

The Seattle Section's Transportation and Urban Development Committee is once again active and will be holding a brown bag lunch on May 17.

### Presentation on the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program - Deep Bore Tunnel.

Presenter: Ron Paananen, Program Administrator

Time: Tuesday, May 17, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Wells Fargo Building, 999 3rd Ave, 22nd Floor

Please come 10 minutes early so you can check in at the 22nd floor. Let the receptionist know you're attending the ASCE Transportation Committee meeting. (Parking validation will not be available.)

## Washington State Representatives Participate in Legislative Fly-In

By Ron Borowski, ASCE Region 8 Board of Governors and Member, Seattle Section

Over 200 ASCE members from 46 states descended on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., from March 29 to 31 this year to educate lawmakers on the need to invest in the nation's infrastructure. Washington State members Ron Borowski and Larry Costich (both from Seattle Section), and Marcy Boyer from the Vancouver Branch, Oregon Section, visited the Senate and House buildings to meet with elected officials or their staff to present the Society's perspectives on infrastructure as presented below. We met with staff from the offices of Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray, and Representative Dave Reichert. Larry also met with Representative Jim McDermott, and Marcy met with Representatives from the Vancouver area. Our audiences were very interested in what engineers think, asked several questions, and thanked us for our input.

Briefing materials were prepared by Society staff based on ASCE Policy Statements. Participants in the 2011 Legislative Fly-In presented information about several pieces of legislation important to the future of the nation's infrastructure and civil engineers, including:

- Support reauthorization of surface transportation programs for six years, funded by robust and sustainable sources of revenue through increased motor vehicle fuels tax and an assortment of innovative financing techniques.
- Support enactment of legislation which will assist financing for infrastructure projects of substantial regional and national significance by the establishment of a national infrastructure bank.
- Support full reauthorization of the National Dam



Seattle Section members Ron Borowski and Larry Costich visit Washington, D.C., for the ASCE 2011 Legislative Fly-In in March.

Safety Program and enactment of dam rehabilitation legislation to address the estimated \$12 billion in needed repairs of critical high-hazard dams.

- Support full repeal of the three percent withholding mandate set by Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention Act signed on May 17, 2006. This would repeal a provision requiring withholding of payment on contracts with governments at all levels.

Our state has over 3,000 members who can participate in communications with elected officials about issues and initiatives important to our infrastructure. For more information about the Fly-In process and to download issue briefs and background information, visit [www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=7364](http://www.asce.org/Content.aspx?id=7364)

### Welcome New ASCE Members!

We welcome the following 16 members, who joined the Seattle Section during the month of March!

Mindy Pancoast, A.M.ASCE

Juliette Peyroux, S.M.ASCE

Katie McIntyre, S.M.ASCE

Charlene Hails, P.E., M.ASCE

Elizabeth Lenker, S.M.ASCE

Alexander Dendy, S.M.ASCE

Dennis Lee, S.M.ASCE

Mary Schmoyer, P.E., M.ASCE

Robert Fernandes, P.E., M.ASCE

Carsten Becker, P.E., M.ASCE

William Vick, EIT, A.M.ASCE

Maryam Manuchehri, A.M.ASCE

Don Nguyen, S.M.ASCE

Alejandro Castro, A.M.ASCE

Beth Narciso, A.M.ASCE

Peter Grant, P.E., M.ASCE



SEATTLE SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

# 2011 BALLOT

## Your Email Address

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Please provide the email address where you received this ballot. Email addresses will be disassociated from the ballots during tabulation to keep votes anonymous.

## President-Elect (Please vote for ONE.)

James Chae, P.E., M.ASCE

\_\_\_\_\_

## Treasurer (Please vote for ONE.)

Emily Spahn, P.E., M.ASCE

\_\_\_\_\_

## Director 2011-2014 (Please vote for ONE.)

Mike Harney, P.E. M.ASCE

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## Please Vote Using ONE of the Following Methods:

| EMAIL                                                                                                                      | FAX                                                                                                               | U.S. MAIL                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scan and email your ballot to:<br><br><a href="mailto:seattle.asce.election@gmail.com">seattle.asce.election@gmail.com</a> | Print out and fax your completed ballot to:<br><br>Mike Harney<br>Secretary, ASCE Seattle Section<br>206-633-6777 | Print out and mail your ballot to:<br><br>ASCE Seattle Section<br>P.O. Box 1786<br>Seattle, WA 98111 |

\*\*\* All ballots must be received by 11:59 p.m. **May 15, 2011** \*\*\*

Questions? Please contact Mike Harney, ASCE Seattle Section Secretary (206-695-6850 phone;  
<mailto:Seattle.ASCE.Election@gmail.com>)



SEATTLE SECTION  
AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

2011 ASCE Seattle Section Board of Directors Ballot  
**Candidate Biographical Statements**

**President-Elect**

*James Chae, P.E., PMP, M.ASCE*

James Chae is a project manager at Jacobs Engineering Group in Bellevue. He has been with Jacobs since 1994, and currently manages their water/wastewater group. During his past 17 years at Jacobs, he has served in various roles in design, project management, and construction management for wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities, transportation projects, and port/marine facilities. James' most recent professional engineering experience includes design and project management of water/wastewater projects involving trenchless technologies, tunnels, and pumping stations.



James has been a member of ASCE since 1999, and is currently serving as the co-chair for the 2011 ASCE International Pipelines Conference to be held in Seattle this year, from July 23–27. He is also an active member of other professional engineering associations in the Pacific Northwest including PNCWA, ACEC, and NASTT. James received his BS and MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, and is a licensed civil engineer in Washington.

**Secretary**

*Emily Spahn, P.E., M.ASCE*

Emily Spahn is a hydraulic engineer with WEST Consultants, Inc., a consulting firm specializing in water resource engineering services in Bellevue. Since joining the firm in 2008, she has worked on reservoir and flood studies, hydrologic models, and multi-dimensional hydraulic modeling. Previously, she worked at NOAA's National Ocean Service as a data analyst, processing tidal, lake and water current data and participating in limited field work and outreach events.



Emily has been active with the ASCE Seattle Section as co-chair for the House & Hospitality committee since 2009. In 2010, she

helped coordinate the Seattle ASCE Rebuilding Together event. She has a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in physics from the Johns Hopkins University.

**Director 2011-2014**

*Michael Harney, P.E., M.ASCE*

Michael Harney is a principal engineer and geotechnical engineering project manager with Shannon & Wilson, Inc. Mike's 10 years of experience in civil engineering includes time as a researcher, a university instructor, and a consultant. Since joining Shannon & Wilson, he has been involved in a wide variety of civil and geotechnical engineering projects throughout the United States. These include design-build transportation infrastructure, rehabilitation of landslides, U.S. military facilities, and a U.S. Department of Energy nuclear power facility. Mike's technical interests include geotechnical aspects of heavy civil construction, challenging geotechnical site conditions, landslide assessment and stabilization, and sustainable civil design and construction. He is one of only seven Americans to hold a Special Certificate on Landslide Risk Assessment and Mitigation from the University of Salerno, Italy.



As a five-year Board member and past president of the ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group (Geo-Institute Seattle Chapter), Mike was influential in the establishment of the >\$130,000 Robert D. Holtz Fellowship at the University of Washington and was the Chair of the Group's 2006 Spring Seminar on "Soft Ground Engineering" which attracted more than 300 attendees and 30 exhibitors. Mike has served as the Seattle Section Secretary for the past two years. He has also been active on national-level committees of the Transportation Research Board, the Geo-Institute, and the Deep Foundations Institute. Mike's research on geotechnical site characterization, ground improvement, geosynthetics, and soil behavior has been published in peer-reviewed journals, and at several peer-reviewed technical conferences. Mike is a graduate of Purdue University (BSCE, 1998) and the University of Washington (MSCE, 2001).

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**  
(for complete calendar, visit  
[www.seattleasce.org](http://www.seattleasce.org))

**Saturday, May 14, 2011, 10:00 am**

**Adopt-a-Road Volunteering**

Location: Myers/Olson park-and-ride lot, 9000  
Olson Place South, Seattle

Contact: Garth Merrill,

[Garth.Merrill@transpogroup.com](mailto:Garth.Merrill@transpogroup.com).

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 12:00 pm**

**Transportation & Urban Development Committee**

Location: 999 3rd Ave, 22nd Floor, Seattle

Presenter: Ron Paananen, Program Administrator

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011, 5:30 pm**

**YMF Job-Hunting, Resume Tips and Resume Review Session**

Location: 720 Olive Way, Suite 1900, Seattle

Contact: Rhiannon Parmelee, 206-325-5254, ext. 64724, or [Rhiannon.Parmelee@arcadis-us.com](mailto:Rhiannon.Parmelee@arcadis-us.com).

**Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 6:00 pm**

**PSEC Mentor Night at BCC**

Location: BCC Student Union Building, Room C-120,  
Bellevue Community College, Bellevue

Contact: To volunteer to be a mentor, visit

[www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp](http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights/SignUp).

**YMF Job-Hunting, Resume Tips  
and Resume Review Session**

Time: Tuesday, May 17, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: Anchor QEA, LLC  
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900, Seattle, WA  
98101

Jessie LaHaie, Human Resources Generalist/ Recruiter at Anchor QEA, will present some resume dos and don'ts (from her perspective). She will be talking about the things that make or break a resume when she is scanning through hundreds of them. What will get you noticed out of a stack of 200 resumes? Then, we will have a resume reviewing session including peer-review and review by senior engineers. This session is especially geared toward engineers in the beginning phases of their careers who have been laid off or are still searching for the right fit, but all are welcome. *Please bring four copies of your resume.*

To RSVP or volunteer as a resume reviewer, contact Rhiannon Parmelee at 206-325-5254, ext. 64724, or [Rhiannon.Parmelee@arcadis-us.com](mailto:Rhiannon.Parmelee@arcadis-us.com).

May 2011 Newsletter  
Volume 46, Number 9

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Seattle, WA 98154

AMERICAN SOCIETY  
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SEATTLE SECTION

