



SEATTLE SECTION NEWSLETTER

September 2011
Volume 47 No. 1

Section Officers

October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011

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ASCE Seattle Section Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 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: Meat, vegetarian, and vegan meal choices will be posted soon on the Section website at seattleasce.org

5:30 Socialize

6:15 Dinner

7:00 Program: David Swanson of Reid Middleton and
Doug Lindquist of Hart Crowser

8:45 Adjourn

Please make your reservations by **NOON, Friday, September 9**, using one of the following methods:

- Call 206-926-0482 (voice mail system — please leave message)
- Details for online registration will be posted soon at www.seattleasce.org

Please indicate with RSVP if you prefer the vegetarian or vegan meal choice.

Program: Observations and Lessons Learned from the March 11, 2011 M 9.0 Japan Earthquake

On Friday, March 11, 2011 at 2:46 PM (local time), the northeast coast of Japan was struck by a magnitude 9.0 subduction earthquake. The earthquake generated a tsunami that severely impacted Japan's east coast and was felt across the Pacific Ocean. The earthquake and tsunami resulted in 15,700 fatalities, 4,600 missing, and 125,000 damaged or destroyed buildings, and it caused an estimated \$300 billion in direct losses, making it the most expensive natural disaster on record. A similar magnitude event has occurred in the past and is expected to occur again along

See *September Meeting* on page 3

The deadline for the
October 2011 issue is
5:00 p.m.

Friday, September 23, 2011

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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 your updated information from ASCE.

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## President's Column

By Melissa Wu, President-Elect



Welcome to another year of ASCE! I hope you have all been enjoying your summer and are refreshed and ready for the coming year's activities. Your incoming Section officers and chairs met recently at the annual Section Leadership Meeting to discuss plans and ideas for 2011-2012. I am always impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of our Section leaders (and members), and this meeting was no exception. We have some excellent program topics lined up that I think you will find interesting and timely, including this month's presentation on the March Tohoku Earthquake.

In addition, we are continually looking for ways to bring more value to your membership and provide opportunities to further your professional and personal growth. With that in mind, we have a few committees that are reactivating this year, including the Urban Development and Transportation Committee, the Professional Practices Committee, and the Community Service Committee. I invite you to talk with the chairs of these committees at one of our dinner meetings or get in touch with them (see [our website](#) for contact info) to learn more and get involved.

Networking with others in the profession has always been one of the biggest benefits of being an ASCE member. Even if you don't have a smart phone (like me) or Facebook account, there is no denying that social media has become an increasingly significant part of our daily lives and is one way to meet, follow, tweet, post, poke, and tag friends, family, colleagues, and even strangers. Not everyone may know how to do half the things I just wrote, but

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## Bios for September 14 Speakers

**David Swanson, P.E., S.E., M.ASCE - Reid Middleton, Director of Structural Engineering.** Dave is a structural engineer with more than 20 years' experience in the design of a wide variety of projects throughout the Pacific Northwest, California, and Alaska. Dave's experience includes the design of new facilities, expansions, remodels, retrofits, condition surveys, seismic evaluations and upgrades, and on-site investigations of structures. Dave has participated on SEAW earthquake reconnaissance teams investigating the 1995 Kobe, 1999 Chi Chi, 2001 Nisqually, 2008 Wenchuan, and 2010 Chile Earthquakes.

**Doug Lindquist, P.E., G.E., M.ASCE - Hart Crowser, Geotechnical Engineer.** Doug is a geotechnical engineer with 14 years of local professional experience. He earned his bachelors and masters degrees in civil (geotechnical) engineering from the University of Washington. His interest in earthquake engineering grew in graduate school when he studied under Dr. Steven L. Kramer. Doug has been the lead seismic designer on a number of high-profile projects including embankments, waterfront structures, and peer-reviewed performance-based designs for high-rise structures. Doug is a Past President of the ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group and is a member of the SEAW Earthquake Engineering Committee.

**President's Column** (continued from page 2)

ultimately, it's all about communicating and connecting with others. To that end, the Seattle Section now has Twitter and LinkedIn accounts. We're just getting started and I would love to hear any thoughts you have on the role social media plays in your life and how the Section can be a part of it.

Other plans for the year include continuing preparations to celebrate the Section's 100th anniversary in 2013. The Centennial Committee is in full swing and welcomes all who would like to help plan for this occasion. It is truly an exciting opportunity to celebrate local civil engineering history and achievements.

I am looking forward to the upcoming months and hope you are too. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things you would like to see from the Section, let me or another Board member know! Your engagement and participation is what makes us such a strong and vibrant group.

Here's to another insightful, interesting, and fun year of ASCE.

Cheers,

*Melissa Wu*

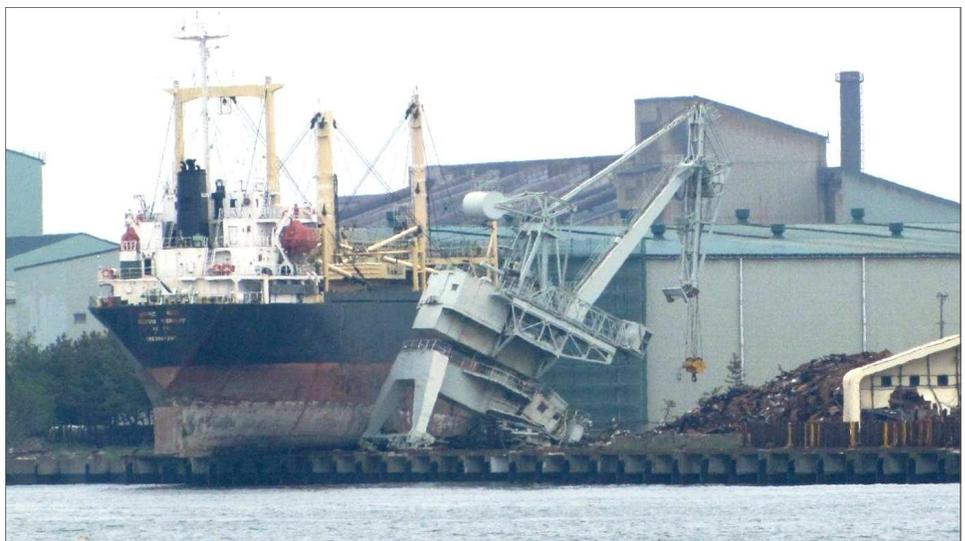
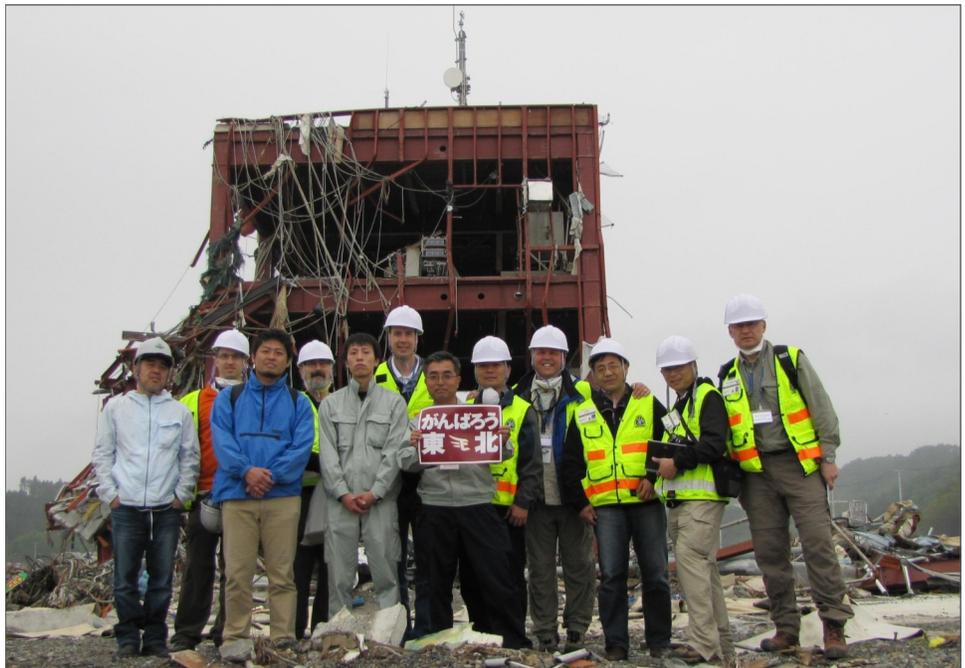
Seattle Section President-Elect

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

the Cascadia Subduction Zone along the coast of Washington and Oregon.

Recognizing the impacts this earthquake may have on the Pacific Northwest, the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW) formed a reconnaissance team of nine engineers to observe and evaluate damage in the affected areas. The team traveled the metropolitan cities of Tokyo and Sendai, and along the Honshu coast, to visit damaged areas. The team also met with Japanese earthquake research organizations and design/construction professionals to learn more about the extent of the damage and standard design practices in Japan. Our speakers, David Swanson of Reid Middleton and Doug Lindquist of Hart Crowser, will present a summary of the team's findings and lessons learned for improving seismic safety in the Pacific Northwest.

*Photos at right: Top – The reconnaissance team visits damaged areas. Bottom – Example of quake damage.*



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# Déjà Vu All Over Again: Reconstituting the Professional Practice Committee

By Ed Huston

You might think I've used Yogi Berra's famous quote because we are nearing the end of the baseball season. Or, perhaps you think I am reflecting on the Mariner's standing in the pennant race. However, my reference is to our Section's intention of reconstituting the Professional Practice Committee.

At last November's joint meeting with SEAW, George Twiss noted that the Washington Board of Registration was planning to revise issues such as "Direct Supervision" and "Responsible Charge" and challenged ASCE to join the conversation. Marc Schulte and I discussed that invitation and I discovered that several years ago the Seattle Section had a Professional Practice Committee.

After a review of the former brief of the committee, and discussion of reconstituting the committee with last year's Seattle Section Executive Board, I am pleased to invite Seattle Section members to join, or rejoin, the committee.

The Seattle Section is a diverse group. While most of us are civil engineers, we work in several distinct sub-disciplines. Some, but not all of us, are registered. We work for the state, for cities and counties. We work in one-person offices and for major corporations. We teach, or practice or regulate. Some of us work 8 to 5, others suspect that they are "on" 24/7, and some of us are looking for work. But in one way or another, if we are acting professionally, we are all governed by Section 18.43.070 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and by Section 196-23-070 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

These two articles each contain one long, wordy sentence, and both are open to interpretation. At their core, they define the practice of engineering. Their definition can be distilled to four points. Professional Engineers have "special knowledge"; are trained, educated and experienced; perform a service or engage in creative work; and are ethical.

Other parts of the RCW and the WAC further define our responsibilities, who and how we supervise, what we are supposed to seal, and other topics. Sometimes there are conflicts between these regulations and the way the majority of us conduct our business.

As one example, we all know that "final" documents have to be sealed and signed. Do you realize that all documents which are not final still have to be sealed? They can be stamped "preliminary," but they are to be sealed. Based on

the definitions in the RCW and the WAC, this would include the majority of the documents which leave our offices. Is that your practice? When you send an electronic document to another consultant, does it always have a seal on it? Is it possible to conform to this practice in the digital age? These are questions that a rejuvenated Professional Practice Committee should discuss, and the results of that discussion should be shared with the Seattle Section.

State regulation is not the only thing that affects our professional practice. We are responsible to conform to the "standard of care"; to conform to codes and standards; and to fulfill contractual obligations.

These constraints are not static. Has the standard of care changed in the digital age? Codes and standards are under constant revision. Contract language seems to be revised with every project. These constraints might be areas of discussion for the Professional Practice Committee.

The previous committee was charged with recommending members for appointment to various boards, committees and commissions that affect the practice of engineering; with reviewing job descriptions and requirements for civil service positions; and with reviewing various policies and ordinances affecting the hiring and/or performance of engineers. A rejuvenated Professional Practice Committee should discuss these charges and decide whether to include any or all of them in the purview of the committee.

Continuing Professional Development was not mentioned in the brief for the previous committee, but to my mind, it could also be a topic of interest for the rejuvenated committee.

There are probably other areas that a new committee could consider. What comes to your mind? I'd like to know. I would like to receive your thoughts at my email address: [huston@smithhustoninc.com](mailto:huston@smithhustoninc.com).

So, is any of this of interest to you? I believe that we could have lively discussions on these topics. As we grapple with these issues we will need to find ways of sharing our discoveries with the Section. My hope is that we make this committee work stimulating and meaningful.

I'm sure that we can't take on everything that I have mentioned in this article. We will have to choose where to put our energies. But, to close as I began, consider another of Yogi Berra's euphemisms: "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." Which may describe what we are doing!

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## Washington State Section of ASCM to Hold Seminar on Getting Surveys and Plans Approved in City of Seattle

**Event Topic:** Surveying in the City of Seattle – How to Get Your Surveys & Plans Approved

For more information, including directions, see [wss-acsm.com](http://wss-acsm.com).

**Time:** October 7, 2011 (8:00 AM to 3:30 PM)

**Location:** Graham’s Visitor Center, 2300 Arboretum Drive E, Seattle, WA

### Agenda

**7:00 – 8:00:** Registration (\$175 on-site registration or \$150 if checks are received by October 5. Made out to “WSS-ACSM” and mailed to: 6729 -180th St SE, Snohomish, WA 98296)

**8:00 – 9:00:** How to Get Your Engineering Plans Through the Review Process as Quickly as Possible. (Michael J Brennan, P.E. SPU Plan Review Manager)

**9:00 – 9:15:** Break provided with coffee and pastries

**9:15 – 10:15:** Reviewing Land Survey Maps in the City of Seattle. What we look for, why we look, and how you can

prevent costly, time consuming reviews. (Gary M Gervelis, P.L.S. SPU Land Survey Manager)

**10:15 – 10:30:** Break

**10:30 – 11:00:** “The Engineering Records Center” research for land survey and utility information.

**11:00 – 11:30:** The new Washington State Land Survey Data Warehouse. The new on line repository of Land Survey Control developed by the Washington Geodetic Survey. (Dean Noble, Owner, Track It Mapping)

**11:30 – 12:30:** Lunch Provided (Please let the organizers know if you have any dietary restrictions).

**12:30 – 1:30:** The Seattle Public Utilities GIS – Its availability to the public as a research and mapping tool.

**1:30 – 3:00:** A panel of experts will answer your questions on the errors that prevent maps and plans from getting approved.

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## Seattle Section Transportation Committee

By Diane M. Hilmo, P.E.

The Transportation/Urban Planning Committee’s Brown Bag Lunch Meeting will be on September 20 at Bellevue City Hall. Here are the details:

**Topic:** City of Bellevue Planning for the 130th Avenue NE Light Rail Station. Planning includes providing access to the station, Goff Creek restoration, park and open space development, and facilitating development around the station.

**Time:** Tuesday, September 20, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Bellevue City Hall, First Floor, Room 1E-112, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

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

**Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 12:00 pm**

**Transportation Committee**

Location: Bellevue City Hall, First Floor, Room 1E-112, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Topic: City of Bellevue Planning for the 130th Avenue NE Light Rail Station

**Wednesday, September 21, 2011, 6:00 pm**

**ASCE Seattle Section – North Branch Meeting**

Location: Trumpeter Public House, 416 Myrtle Street, Mount Vernon

Presenters: Larry Applegate and Aaron McCain of SoilFreeze

Contact: Sean Cool, [scool@geoengineers.com](mailto:scool@geoengineers.com) or  
(360) 647-1510

**ASCE Seattle Section Executive  
Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes for the June 8, 2011, meeting will appear in the October newsletter.

**Seattle Section YMF Wins  
National Public Service Award**

**By Marc Schulte, P.E.**

ASCE National has awarded the 2010 Paul A. Parisi National Public Service Award to the Seattle Section Younger Member Forum. In the award notification, Michael G. Joyce, Chair of the ASCE Committee on Volunteer Community Service, praised Seattle YMF for their wide variety of community service activities that meet community needs make a difference in the lives of people in the Seattle community. The award will be announced at the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum in September. Congratulations to all our younger members on being such a vital part of ASCE Seattle Section and the community at large!

**Welcome New ASCE Members**

We welcome the following 9 members, who joined the Seattle Section during the month of May 2011!

Sohaib Gutub

John Hutchins

Mark Guy

Evan Edgecomb

Edward Barry

Ulf Gwildis

Edward Hulinec

Natalia Roberts

Anne Alsheimer