



SEATTLE SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 2012
Volume 47 No. 5

Section Officers

October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012

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Joint Meeting between ASCE Seattle Section and Ports and Harbors Committee

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

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.)

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

Meal: Meat, Vegetarian & Vegan entrees are available.

5:30 Socialize
6:15 Dinner
7:00 Announcements & Short Break
7:30 Program
8:45 Adjourn

Please make your reservations by **NOON, Friday, January 6**. Use the following method to register:

- Register at <http://january2012asce.eventbrite.com>. To pay at the door with Cash/Check select "Show other payment options."

For assistance with online registration, please contact House and Hospitality at seattleascereservations@gmail.com.

Direct questions or comments regarding meetings to Section President Melissa Wu at Melissa.Wu@ch2m.com.

Program: "Elliott Bay Seawall Project: Setting the Stage for Redeveloping Seattle's Downtown Waterfront"

The Elliott Bay Seawall, which runs from Washington Street to Broad Street along the waterfront, was built between 1916 and 1934. It has deteriorated significantly in the ensuing years and could fail in the event of a moderate to large earthquake, or even a large storm. While the City of Seattle has committed over \$3 million to temporary repairs of the seawall since the Nisqually Earthquake, the seawall is a public safety hazard that must be replaced. The need to replace the seawall presents the City of Seattle with an opportunity to enhance the critical marine habitat along the shoreline. Replacement of the seawall, along with a parallel effort to reshape the upland side of the Central Waterfront, will make the waterfront more accessible to Seattle residents and visitors.

The deadline for the
February 2012 issue is
5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 20, 2012

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Your newsletter editor is:  
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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.

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

Volume 47 No. 5, January 2012  
Published 10 times a year

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**President's Column**

By **Melissa Wu, Seattle Section President**

Happy New Year! We have a lot to look forward to in the Section's planned activities for 2012. Our branches, committees, younger members, and student members continue to do great work with many events coming up in the next few months. Among these, the Infrastructure Report Card committee will formally kick off their effort to develop a local report card this month. This comes on the heels of the Society's recent publication, *Failure to Act: Economic Impact of Current Investment Trends in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*. This publication is the second in a series of economic studies by ASCE that looks to determine the potential impacts on gross domestic product (GDP), personal income, and jobs based on continuation of current infrastructure investment trends. You can check it out on the national ASCE website. The Younger Member Forum is busy preparing for the annual high school Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition, to be held in mid-February in conjunction with the Puget Sound Engineering Council's Engineering Fair and Engineers' Week. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the bridge competition as well as the Section's booth at the Fair.



For Section dinner meetings, we begin the year with our annual series of joint technical committee meetings; first, with the Ports and Harbors Committee and a presentation on the Elliot Bay Seawall project. Dinner meetings are one of the Section's largest expenses, since we subsidize the meals for all members (not just students and those who are unemployed). To that end, we do our best to make the meetings and programs highly

See *President's Column* on page 3

**Bio for January 11 Speaker**

**Bob Fernandes**, with BergerABAM, has 33 years of experience in design and construction of bridge and marine structures. In addition to his project management experience, he has served as a key technical leader on various structural projects located throughout the United States and around the world and is currently principal-in-charge of BergerABAM's Public Works and Transportation Department. He understands the complementary disciplines related to transportation design and construction, including maintenance of traffic, roadway and bridge design, and permitting.

**Rick Schaefer**, with Tetra Tech, brings over 30 years' experience to the planning, design and construction of infrastructure projects and programs for public and private sector clients. Rick manages Seattle operations for Tetra Tech's Surface Water Group, where his technical practice emphasizes surface water management and stormwater, potable water, wastewater and CSO infrastructure. Prior to managing the Elliott Bay Seawall Project, Rick was responsible for utility relocation and design on the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Project.

## Water Resources Technical Committee Visits Landsburg Fish Passage Facility

By Laura Ruppert, P.E.

In October, the Water Resources Technical Committee went on a field trip to the Landsburg Fish Passage facility. The Landsburg Dam on the Cedar River provides a reliable supply of high quality municipal water to the City of Seattle and surrounding communities. Built in 1901, the Landsburg Dam was a barrier to fish. Construction of the Landsburg Fish Passage facility, completed in 2003, re-establishes fish passage into 17 miles of high quality mainstem and tributary habitat. The facilities are made up of four primary components:

1. A full channel, boulder/chute fishway downstream of the aqueduct crossing to provide easy passage over the aqueduct and improved habitat conditions
2. Fish ladder and sorting facility at the diversion dam, to provide passage for adult salmon and steelhead, adfluvial and resident rainbow and cutthroat trout. Sorting facilities allow the exclusion of sockeye, which, because of their much higher numbers, can pose a risk to drinking water quality.
3. Tip-out downstream passage gate to provide safe passage for downstream migrating fish as they pass over the diversion dam, and

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

valuable and a worthwhile member benefit. Last month we asked those of you who attended the meeting for program suggestions and general meeting feedback. Thank you very much to those of you who shared your beneficial comments. Our Membership and Program chairs are evaluating the improvements we can make based on your feedback. If you did not have a chance to attend the meeting and have ideas for programs or meeting changes, please let me know. We're excited to hear your thoughts and do our best to provide you with high value for your membership.

I hope you can join us at the Pan Pacific next Wednesday as we kick off an exciting 2012!

Cheers,

*Melissa Wu*

Seattle Section President

4. Special screens on the municipal water intake to route downstream migrating fish away from the municipal water intake and safely back into the river.

The numbers of fish passing above the dam have generally increased since construction of the passage facilities in 2003. Early monitoring suggests that fish are performing well in this new habitat and recolonization is progressing well.

## University Mentor Night Help Needed

By Paul Grant, P.E.

- **North Seattle Community College**  
Wednesday, January 25, 2012  
6:00 to 8:00 pm  
College Center Building - 1st Floor
- **South Seattle Community College**  
Thursday, February 9, 2012  
6:00 to 8:00 pm  
Location: TBA

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, most of whom are freshmen and sophomores as well as high school seniors, toward a career

in engineering. The mentor night allows engineers to relay their experience in the profession and answer questions posed by students. The event will be kicked off with a brief introduction of the engineering disciplines represented by the volunteers followed by a brief panel discussion with past alumni. Following the panel discussion will be an open forum where the students visit various tables and converse with the mentors. Mentors are asked to bring a sample of work that will fit on a 30" x 30" table top for potential discussion with the students.

If you are interested in participating, please sign up online at: <http://www.pseconline.org/Events/MentorNights> or contact Paul Grant at [pgrant@pangeoinc.com](mailto:pgrant@pangeoinc.com). Maps and further instruction will be sent out prior to the event.

Thank you for your support.

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## Seattle Section Transportation Committee Meeting on South Park Bridge

By Diane M. Hilmo, P.E.

The Transportation/Urban Planning Committee's Brown Bag Lunch Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17 in Seattle. Here are the details:

Time: Tuesday, January 17, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Location: 8442 Dallas Ave S, Seattle, WA 98109 (Beige construction trailer just NW of the Dallas/14th Ave S intersection)  
Topic: King County Presentation on the South Park Bridge. We will have a project presentation followed by a site tour.

Safety Requirements: Everyone entering the site must have: hard hat, eye protection, gloves, safety vest, & sturdy shoes. We'll have hats, goggles, gloves and vests on-site for 12 people. Please bring your own safety gear if you have it.

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## Abstracts Due for 6th Forensic Engineering Congress

By Clemens J. Rossell

ASCE's Technical Council on Forensic Engineering is preparing the 6th Forensic Engineering Congress. This will take place from October 31 through November 3, 2012, in San Francisco, California, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Embarcadero area.

As a member of the Steering Committee for the Congress, I would like to encourage the participation of Washington's structural and civil engineers to attend the Congress and to consider contributing a paper.

The deadline for abstracts is January 18, 2012 and the draft paper deadline is April 25, 2012. For more information on technical papers or the congress in general, visit [content.asce.org/conferences/forensics2012](http://content.asce.org/conferences/forensics2012) or view the [Call for Abstracts and Sessions](#).

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## Employment Notices

To post an employment notice or an employment wanted notice in the newsletter and on the Section's web site, please contact the editor in advance of the monthly deadline. Rates for advertising are shown on page 2.

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### Civil Engineer

Opportunity for civil engineer at Tahoe City, California. Skills should include 3 to 7 years experience, 2008 Land Development Desktop CAD, Civil 3D a plus, land development experience a must, PE preferred, project management, Engineer's Estimates, and SWPPP preparation a plus. Benefits, profit sharing, good salary, and flexible schedule. [www.garydavisgroup.com](http://www.garydavisgroup.com).



### Outside Sales Rep, Engineered Products

Basalite Concrete Products, located in Dupont, WA, is looking for a sales rep with a Civil Engineering background. Five years sales experience in construction/engineering industry required. For a full job description or to apply go to [www.paccoast.jobs](http://www.paccoast.jobs). Resumes may also be sent to [PCBPrecruiter@paccoast.com](mailto:PCBPrecruiter@paccoast.com).

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

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 12:00 pm**

**Transportation/Urban Planning Committee's  
Brown Bag Lunch Meeting**

Location: 8442 Dallas Ave S, Seattle, WA 98109

Topic: South Park Bridge

More info: See article on page 4 for details.

**Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 6:00 pm**

**PSEC Mentor Night**

Location: North Seattle Community College

Contact: To be a mentor, sign up online at

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

contact Paul Grant at [pgrant@pangeoinc.com](mailto:pgrant@pangeoinc.com)

**ASCE Seattle Section Executive  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**Minutes for November 9 and December 14, 2011**

The November 9 and December 14 minutes will be published in the February 2012 newsletter.