

# THE MOMENT

## *Cecil T. Lobo ASCE Student Chapter of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*

This issue of the Moment is packed! Our chapter has been busy with the Indiana Section Meeting, building a concrete canoe, revamping an old baseball diamond, and getting more people to join ASCE! If you haven't joined ASCE yet, what are you waiting for?

-Justin Perry

### 2007 Indiana Section Annual Meeting

—Matt Trowbridge

On March 23, 2007, all CE juniors and seniors drove up to Carmel, Indiana for the 2007 Indiana Section Annual Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to attend several technical sessions, network with students and professionals, and support our seniors that were competing in the Annual Student Chapter Design Presentation Competition. The technical sessions included topics ranging from transportation, geotechnical, structural, environmental, and hydraulics.



The featured speaker was Mr. Richard Albright, a past ASCE Indiana Section president, who discussed the history of the 75 year old Indiana Section. Other speakers included James Brainard, mayor of Carmel, and Karl Browning, INDOT Commissioner. Mr. Browning discussed INDOT's aggressive plan to improve Indiana's infrastructure system. Due to the quantity of upcoming projects, INDOT has over 700 new jobs that it needs to fill in the next couple of years.

The highlight of the meeting was the student competition. The senior design team of Rob Adolph, Andrew Lopshire, David Massey, Ryan Robinson, and Todd Stout represented Rose-Hulman at the event. Their project, the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Extension and Modernization, was up against other student presentations from Purdue and the University of Evansville. All three student groups made excellent presentations, but at the end of the competition it was evident who had made the best presentation; Rose-Hulman was announced as the winner in this competition yet again. They were awarded \$100 for their participation in the competition. Dr. McKinney was the faculty coach for this group.



## It's About as Useful as A Concrete Canoe!

—Liz Ridgway

What is made of concrete and floats?

It's a concrete canoe. Not too long ago, here at Rose-Hulman, we had a competitive concrete canoe team. We would take our canoe to the school that hosted the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Regional Conference and race our canoes amongst the other fine ASCE chapters in our region. Seeing that Rose-Hulman will be hosting this competition in no more than 3 years, it is about time that this tradition of having a concrete canoe team starts back up.

So you may think it can be easy, but concrete canoe building is a lot of work. We at Rose will need about twenty people, from any major, to make our dream of competitive canoe racing capable. Right now, ASCE is looking for a couple of strong leaders to man (or woman) up to the challenge of working this spring to plan for our 2008 canoe. Anyone interested should email Liz Ridgway ([ridgwaej@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:ridgwaej@rose-hulman.edu)) to set up a time to discuss the challenges we face as a team.

Not only will having something this renowned on your resume separate you from the rest, building and racing a concrete canoe will be an experience you'll remember for the rest of your life! Join now!



## Baseball Field Community Service Project

—Sebastian Mendes

On Sunday, March 18, three members from the Cecil T. Lobo Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers volunteered their time to help upgrade a baseball field in Riley, Indiana for Babe Ruth. The Riley Recreation League was in need of revamping the baseball field in time for Spring baseball, and the Chapter leaped at the chance to help out.

Chapter members Sebastian Mendes, Caleb Ross and Matt Trowbridge carried out some light surveying work to measure and mark out key dimensions on the baseball field that complied with Babe Ruth Baseball league specifications. Various tools were employed such as a fiberglass tape measure and a transit to measure distances and angles, and spray paint, stakes and flags to mark out dimensions. Within a couple of hours, many key points were measured and marked out such as the locations of home plate, the pitcher's mound and first, second, and third base. The marked out dimensions will allow turf crews to reform the baseball field with ease.

Overall, the service project was a great success. The members who participated took great enjoyment in contributing to the local community. The Chapter is looking forward to assisting the Riley Recreation League with future projects.



## ASCE Chapter Membership

### What are students missing by not being involved in the ASCE chapter?

—Alex McLean and Elitsa Voeva

Most of the civil engineering sophomore and junior students are not as involved in the ASCE chapter as much as they used to be their freshman year. A lot of them no longer have incentive for paying local dues because they can register nationally online and not be accountable for paying locally. There is a limited incentive for registration, period.

By not getting involved the students are missing much more than the \$10 they would have paid as dues. There a lot of BENEFITS for being an active member in the chapter. The biggest one is professional development. Our monthly meetings/presentations expose students to the numerous applications in the field of civil engineering. Various disciplines are emphasized and described in detail, which helps students answer the infamous question, "What do I want to do after I graduate?" The meetings also provide opportunities to start networking with the professionals giving the presentations. Last but not least, the community service events encourage more involvement in the community and a sense of propriety, which is ultimately what we as civil engineers at Rose have set out to do.

## Just A Little Bit of Trivia...

—Construction of the U.S. Interstate Highway System was the largest earth-moving project in the history of the world. Nearly 42 billion cubic yards of earth were moved. In comparison, "only" 362 million cubic yards were moved during construction of the Panama Canal. The concrete used to construct the Interstate System could build a wall nine feet thick and 50 feet high around the world's equator.

—The highest elevation on the Interstate System is in a tunnel – the Eisenhower Memorial in Colorado. The Eisenhower Tunnel also claims the highest elevation of any vehicle tunnel in the world. It is the longest bored tunnel on the Interstate System at 7,789 feet in length (1.5 miles).

—The first street in the U.S. paved with asphalt was New York's Fifth Avenue in 1872.

—There are 62 routes on the U.S. Interstate System. Of these, only three are transcontinental highways, running from coast-to-coast (I-10, I-80, I-90). However, seven interstate routes connect Canada and Mexico.

### Upcoming Events

- April 10, 17, & 24: Explore Engineering Hot Air Balloons
- April 18: Spring RHIT Career Fair
- April 20: Civil Pride Friday
- April 21: FE Exam, Campus Beautification Day
- April 26-28: Great Lakes Student Conference
- May 2: Freshman Trip to Indianapolis

- May 3: INDOT Maintenance Conference
- May 12: ASCE Habitat Golf Tournament
- May 16: Order of the Engineer

*Did we forget something? Please contact an ASCE officer to contribute items to include on our calendar.*

**To Expose Students and the Community to Civil Engineering through Service and Education**

5500 Wabash Avenue, CM 59  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803  
Phone: 812-877-8352  
Fax: 812-877-8440



We're on the Web

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/ce/asce/index.htm>