

Serge Haddad



**MLAB YMF
PRESIDENT**

Kathereen Shinkai



**OC YMF
PRESIDENT**

David Garcia



**SB/RC YMF
PRESIDENT**

Anna Bosin



**SB/VC YMF
PRESIDENT**

In This Issue:

- Events Calendar
- President's Message
- YMF Leader Retreat
- LA Sect. Award Dinner
- Charity Mini-Golf
- GIS Seminar
- National Conference
- EWB—India Reconstruct
- Survey Event
- Beach Day
- Hydro Conduit Tour
- Happy Hour w/ CSULB
- Happy Hour at D&B's
- SAWPA Presentation
- Segway Event
- Meet Leah Melaku
- Ask YMF
- Digital Newsletter
- And More...

MLAB YMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bleeding ASCE

By: Serge Haddad—MLAB YMF President

Over the past year, it has been a great privilege to work directly under Past President Julian A. Garcia. He will continue to be a strong foundation for this year's success. My name is Serge Michael Haddad and I am pleased to be the new Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch Younger Member Forum (MLAB YMF) President.

I am currently in my third year of employment at the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering. I am a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, class of 2002, and I am currently attending the University of Southern California expecting to attain my Masters in Structural Engineering from the University of Southern California this December. Most importantly, my blood type is ASCE. That's right, I bleed ASCE.

Please, allow me to introduce you to the best younger civil engineering professionals in the nation, conveniently working together in Los Angeles. They are the arms, legs, eyes, ears, and heart of this MLAB YMF body; they are unstoppable and committed. I am very lucky to have the opportunity to work for them this year. With their help, work, and ambition, I am determined to accomplish the following goals:

1. To serve MLAB YMF members to the best of my ability.
2. To increase the budget and its security.
3. To coordinate with all levels of ASCE.

One way I will serve MLAB YMF is by increasing its active membership base by exposing civil engineering to the public through student outreach, community service, and technical presentations. It is my hope to illuminate our crucial role in infrastructure to the public. As we all know, education begins in the classroom. Most students believe that ASCE involvement ends at graduation. This misconception is an obstacle to our growth. Five universities fall under MLAB Branch jurisdiction: USC, LMU, CSULA, UCLA, and CSUN. The students from these five schools will be the future of MLAB YMF and we must actively support their events such as the 2006 Pacific Southwest Regional Conference hosted by our own UCLA student chapter.

Student participation in MLAB YMF meetings, presentations, and conferences is high priority for my term. This investment will allow YMF to flourish and help accomplish two of my goals. Student outreach this year will spread beyond college and into high school and elementary school with events such as the popsicle stick bridge high school contest and the gumdrop elementary school project.

Community service projects and technical presentations both educate and enhance the public. Evidence of this was found at the 2005 ASCE National conference. The "Rebuilding Together" project gave civil engineers exposure

and experience. The leadership based presentations paved the road for this year's direction. Ultimately, I want to increase the positive view of civil engineers in the eyes of political leaders and the public. I want our profession to be synonymous with true leadership. I want politicians to actively seek out our advice on infrastructure. I challenge each younger civil engineer to become dynamic in her/his profession by becoming active in this organization.

I am a believer. One that feels actions speak louder than words, that one person can impact the world, that if you want something done, you give it to the person with the most to do. It is because of these reasons, and many others, that I believe so strongly in ASCE.

I've seen the potential of ASCE; it has the power to impact majors, careers, communities, and policies. The Society is continuing to evolve. Evidence of this evolution was found at the 2005 ASCE national conference; the objective was clear: create civil engineering leaders. As President, I will support this aim wholeheartedly.

To achieve this objective, a constant and well planned budget is crucial. With the skills of my team and the generosity of people like you, I promise that our funding will increase and our budget will improve civil engineering membership and awareness.

ASCE is an organization broken up into various layers, sections, subsections, and branches. Carl Blum, a National Director of ASCE and a true bleeder of ASCE, has stated that the Society has tended to work in "silos", not doing a good job of cross coordination. In order to support each other financially, politically, and actively, it is vital that we work together. We must communicate within our organization and establish consistent and active liaisons between all levels to keep a consistent ASCE message. To do this I call upon the leaders of ASCE to focus and coordinate their agendas to achieve success and provide our professionalism to all of the citizens we serve. This is one challenge I intend to overcome in my term

As President, I will focus on those three goals: service, budget, and coordination. For those objectives to be met, they must work in conjunction with one another. With my MLAB YMF body and my ASCE blood type I know that this year has the potential to be one of the greatest in history. I invite you to join MLAB YMF this year and be an active part of our success; perhaps you too may find that you "bleed ASCE".

Serge M. Haddad
MLAB YMF President

JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST!

Keep up to date with all the latest YMF events and important announcements. Join our e-mail list. Please contact **Gary Gilbert** in OC at gary@diazyourman.com, **Greg Sommer** in MLAB at gsommer@ladpw.org, **David Garcia** in SB/RC at dhgarcia@co.riverside.ca.us, or **Anna Bosin** in SB/VC at abosin@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Production assistance provided by  **MOFFATT & NICHOL**

2005 YMF BOARD MEMBERS

Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch YMF	Serge Haddad - President
	Julian A. Garcia, P.E. - Past-President
	Elizabeth Dealy, P.E. - President Elect
	Cesar Moran - Vice-President
	Greg Sommer - Secretary & Membership
	Johan Torroldeo - Treasurer
	Jesal Shah, P.E. - Student Night Coord.
	Eddie Lyons - Student Night Coord.
	Nickolas VanGunst - PERC Co-Chair
	Melissa Murphy - PERC Co-Chair
	Julia Moye - Fundraising
	Leah Melaku - Scholarship Chair
	Edith Flores - Community Service
	Thomas Poyer - Newsletter Editor
	Ted Mekuria - Webmaster
Orange County Branch YMF	Refugio "Cuca" Barrasa - Social Activities
	Delores Ventura, P.E. - Guardian
	Lorena Arce - Godmother
	Kathereen M. Shinkai, P.E. - President
	Gary Gilbert, P.E. - President-Elect
	Anh Ly, P.E. Past-President
	Ana Licon - Treasurer
	Shiow -Whei Chou, P.E. - Secretary
	Minh Tran, P.E. - K-12 Outreach
	Tom Burke, P.E. - Social Chair
	Alan Yuan - Program Chair
	Robert Henderson - P.E. Chair
	Daney Saylor, P.E. - Webmaster
	Gitanjali Shinde - Community Outreach
	Robert Trazo, P.E. - BIA Liaison
SB/RC YMF	Ana Bosin - President
	Alexis Spencer - Vice President
	Nick Andrews - Secretary
	Matt Pollard - Treasurer
	David Haymen - Webmaster
SB/VC YMF	David Garcia - President
	Lauren Popescu - Past President
	Albert Martinez - Vice President
	Jennifer Otterson - Secretary
	Komy Ghods - Treasurer
	Benje Cho - Historian
	Cassie Weiss - Practitioner Advisor
	Edwin Wen - Event Coordinator
	Sam Swartz - Technical Tour Advisor
Setu Upadhy - Newsletter Editor	

OC YMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Membership, Leadership, Fulfillment

By: Kathereen Shinkai, P.E.— OC YMF President

I am very honored and excited to serve as the Orange County Branch Younger Member Forum (OC YMF) President for the 2005 ~ 2006 year. I have been involved with YMF for several years now and it has changed my life on a professional and personal level. I would like to give back to the Civil Engineering Society what it has given me and share the fulfillment I have had with other Younger Members.

To tell you a little about myself, I am currently employed at Carter & Burgess, Inc. as the Civil Engineering Group Manager for a Land Development Division in the Orange County Office. I graduated the University of California, Irvine in 1998 and have been involved with ASCE since my freshman year in college. ASCE has allowed me to meet so many people in the industry, and I have been fortunate to be able to work with many of them.

I am very happy to have so many dedicated people on the OC YMF Board. They are very excited for this upcoming year, and have already started the planning process. Please allow me to introduce to you the 2005 ~ 2006 OC YMF Board. They are the foundation in which makes the OC YMF successful each year, and I rely and trust each one of them.

I would like to follow the foot steps of Anh Ly, our Past President. I cannot thank Anh enough for her dedication and commitment to OC YMF throughout the years. Last year, she brought in many new members to the YMF Board, and had countless hours of attending meetings and organizing activities. She will also be helping us out as the Awards and Nominations Chair. Gary Gilbert is our President Elect and Student Activities Liaison. He has been very active with the university students and has brought on new interest from the student members. Ana Licon is the Treasurer for the second year in a row. She has been overseeing the budget and the person who has led us to successfully being under budget with many of our activities. Since ASCE is a non-profit organization, budget is always a crucial issue we face each year. Shiow-Whei Chou has been a very important member in putting together the newsletter last year, and this year will be on the Executive Board as Secretary.

Minh Tran is in charge of the K-12 Outreach Program. Last year was our first year to host the Popsicle Stick Bridge with UCI, and his motivation in helping the younger students has led this event to a great success. Tom Burke has been our Social Chair, and has arranged many trips for the YMF groups including the Mammoth Trip we are planning at the end of January this year. Please stay tuned for this event! Daney Saylor is our new webmaster. We are working on a website that members can easily access and see up-to-date information on our various activities. Alan Yuan is a new member who is stepping up as the Program's Chair and providing the Younger Members with interesting technical presentations and tours throughout the year. Robert Henderson is also new to our group and will be coordinating the PE Review Course which benefits many of our Younger Members who will be taking the PE exam in the fall. Gitanjali Shinde will continue her efforts on Rebuilding Together, and Rob Trazo is our link to the BIA association. With a group of so many talented individuals, I am certain that we will be able to have a successful year!

I would like all YMF members to know that YMF exists for you! Please take advantage of it. If you feel that there is something missing or if you have any comments, suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to ask me or any of the other Board members. The Board members work and strive for the members. We are always looking for people that are enthusiastic and would like to help us grow. If you are interested in being on the Board please contact me.

This year, there are three key words I am focusing on. They are "membership", "network", and most importantly "fulfillment".

First, I would like to increase the membership in ASCE and YMF. I would like to see more students get involved in ASCE, and have the people who have graduated join us as YMF members. YMF is the stepping stone between the student chapters and the Branch. As part of YMF'S goal, we are planning to visit the local universities and make sure we can help students make that transition, and also have them understand what we are all about.

Second, it is essential for Civil Engineers to network with other engineers and people in the community. It is always beneficial to share ideas with other engineers, and it is important that the public acknowledge what we do. We would like to work with K-12 students and educate the future what we do as Civil Engineers. We as Civil Engineers need to step up to the plate, and fix the decrease in the enrollment of students in the Civil Engineering program. We need to be the leaders and network with other professionals and local leaders in our community.

Third, I would like each YMF member to feel that they are part of the Civil Engineering community and feel fulfillment in what they do as Civil Engineers. Of course, my philosophy is "Work hard, and play hard." YMF has many activities that are fun and beneficial for both the YMF members and the Branch members. Whether you like to do community service such as Rebuilding Together or the Soup Kitchen or like to go to social activities such as our Happy Hours or Baseball Games, there is something for everyone. Who said Civil Engineers can't have fun?

As a final note, I would like to request and invite all Younger Members to come to at least one Board Meeting, Technical Series, or one of our Social events to see what YMF is all about. As mentioned before, I have been able to network with so many people and participate in variety of events. I enjoy what I do, and would like to see more members get involved and experience the excitement I am having. For those of you who are already involved, I hope YMF has been fun and educational and I hope you continue to be a part of this growing organization. For the rest of the people who are thinking of whether YMF is something they would like to do, give YMF a chance! You never know what you will find. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at one of the events!

Kathereen Shinkai, P.E.
OC YMF President

SB/RC YMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By David H. Garcia Jr., A.M.ASCE, P.E.—SB/RC YMF President

It is a pleasure to be the president for the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Younger Member Forum (SB/RC YMF). This is the second year of existence for the SB/RC YMF. I would like to thank the Los Angeles and Orange County Younger Member Forums for their commitment to ASCE and their continuing support for our relatively new organization. The 2004-2005 inaugural year for the SB/RC YMF was a major success. A small group of highly motivated young engineers are creating a bridge between the young and the experienced. The advice and the information gained from other experienced professionals is priceless. Also, a very special thanks to the San Bernardino and Riverside Counties Branch ASCE for their support. I believe the Younger Member Forum is here to help them continue to create a critical professional network within our area also referred to as the Inland Empire. I look forward to continuing to play a key role for the overall success of ASCE, it's sections, subsections, and branches. The upcoming year will be as successful as the previous by continuing to promote the civil engineering profession, hosting a variety of professional and technical presentations and informing prospective ASCE members about all of the professional benefits the organization has to offer.

Promoting the civil engineering profession is relatively easy for someone who takes pride in his or her job. I have yet to encounter a civil professional who does not enjoy their line of work. I consider myself extremely fortunate to provide a service that has a direct effect on the quality of everyday life. Working with other quality individuals to see a project thru completion is truly a rewarding experience. In the past, we have presented this experience to middle school and high school students in order to inform the public at an early age about our beloved profession. The SB/RC YMF will continue to provide valuable information to younger students to ensure our profession is an option for these young individuals. Community service events will continue to be used as a positive information tool for ASCE.

A variety of professional presentations may come in the form of fascinating projects, engineering theory, field trips or general information about a company or agency. These presentations are crucial to provide universal information on civil engineering that may be placed in a "professional tool bag" for later use. These presentations provide a meeting place for engineers playing a starring role in the Inland Empire's infrastructure, public or private. These presentations can provide a window of opportunity for a motivated individual to

apply or expand on it. The local engineering firms and agencies in the Inland Empire have been more than generous to provide us with the resources and talent to make these presentations possible. These exciting platforms provide information to potential ASCE members about our organization.

The Younger Member Forum provides information to the young engineer about all of ASCE's resources designed to help meet one's career goals. This information is crucial to the engineer ready to take the plunge into the civil world. The younger member will experience what ASCE has to offer along with close interaction with the branch and section.

The upcoming year will be as successful as the previous by continuing to promote the civil engineering profession, hosting a variety of professional and technical presentations and informing prospective ASCE members all about of the professional benefits the organization has to offer. This next year will continue to be an extremely rewarding experience by working with superior individuals and meeting new ones along the way.

David H. Garcia Jr., A.M.ASCE, P.E.
SB/RC YMF President

SB/VC YMF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Still All About Fun!"

By: Anna Bosin—SB/VC YMF President

You might be thinking, "What? This chick again?" Yup, I am here as President of our still newly formed Santa Barbara-Ventura County YMF (SB/VC YMF) for another year! The reason is simple: ASCE is plain FUN! I have had a blast meeting all the faces that make up our community of young engineers here in Southern California. From ski trips, to wine tastings, and birthdays to bike touring, YMF is where you can make fabulous friends and have a great time.

I have a talented group of officers (Alexis, Matt, Nick, and David) that kindly agreed to stay on for another year, since our first year was really only a half-year, and we still had so many more ideas on events we wanted to share with everyone. Not to forget, our Branch continues to show us support and praise which is always appreciated.

As for myself, I am currently employed at the City of Santa Barbara as a Project Engineer in the Streets Design Section. I graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2002 as a *Mechanical Engineer* but soon 'saw the light' and switched to Civil when I started at the City. Lucky for me, and many fellow YMFers, the PE exam is currently a very real part of my life.

Shout outs to the awesome leadership and support from the other YMFs (Metro LA, OC, SB-RC, and SD) that helped us form and continue to show us the ropes as we make a face for YMF in the Santa Barbara-Ventura area. We plan to continue to participate in the always entertaining joint events with you in the year to come! Some of our own planned events include, but are not limited to the following: camping trip, Segway rental, presentation on starting your own company, and a tailgate party at a UCLA football game. I invite all YMFers to join our Project Partners Email list to hear of upcoming events.

Anna Bosin
SB/VC YMF President

ASCE YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

MLAB YMF Available Positions:

- Newsletter Editor
- Nominations
- Historian
- Webmaster

SB/RC YMF Available Positions:

- President Elect
- Activities Chair
- Recruiting Officer
- Temecula Area YMF Representative

SB/VC YMF Available Positions:

- President Elect

RECENT YMF EVENTS

YMF Leadership Retreat

By: Cesar Moran, - MLAB YMF

In preparation for this coming year, Board members from Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Orange County met in San Francisco to establish goals for the coming year. This retreat also served as an opportunity to get to know our YMF neighbors a little better through social activities throughout the weekend.

Some of the topics discussed were, how to motivate Civil Engineers to be active in YMF, how to establish better relations with local Universities, and ways raise money. Some of the goals set were to improve communication with general members by updating websites & reformatting our newsletter. We hope to establish better relations with Universities by educating students about YMF, communicating with students scholarship and employment opportunities, and establishing a mentor program. This coming year, we also plan to raise more money by broadening our company sponsorship, investing money into profitable accounts, and keeping current fundraisers successful.

When we weren't working, we were out on the town. Going out and having fun with other engineers our age (which is the whole point of YMF) helped us make new friends and establish good relations with people from other YMF chapters. As the year progresses we look forward to other joint events with members from all YMF chapters. Overall, we feel the leadership retreat was a success. I expect this year to be a very exciting and successful year for all of us.

Charity Miniature Golf Tournament

By Julian Garcia—MLAB YMF

Hurricane Katrina tore through the Gulf Coast causing great mayhem and destruction in its path. As engineers, the storm drove home the importance of infrastructure maintenance and the necessity to be prepared in case of a disaster; as human beings, it reminded us of our duty to help our neighbors in their time of need.

On September 29, 2005, MLA YMF joined forces with other young engineers, and their friends, to put together a Hurricane Relief Miniature Golf Tournament, in El Monte. Eighteen teams of four competed for the much-coveted trophies and the title of "Most Aweomest Miniature Golfer" as we raised over \$1500 towards hurricane relief in the Gulf Coast.



Los Angeles Section Installation & Awards Dinner

By: Kathereen Shinkai, P.E.— OC YMF

The Los Angeles Section held their Installation and Awards Dinner at the exclusive "Club 33" at Disneyland on September 29, 2005. Many members were looking forward to the evening since it is a rare occasion to be able to go into Club 33.

With the admission to Disneyland and California Adventure covered in the banquet tickets, several YMF members took the opportunity to have fun at both parks and enjoy the rides and live entertainment. Space Mountain had just opened, and YMF members enjoyed going on this newly revamped ride.

During the banquet, all the officers in YMF, Local Branch, and Section were installed into their position. The night was followed by recognizing our local leaders and excellent projects during the year and presenting them with award plaques. Several of our YMF members were recognized with their dedication and hard work with ASCE. The Metropolitan Branch awarded Serge Haddad with the Practitioner Advisor of the Year Award. For the LA Section, Kathereen Shinkai and Gary Gilbert (Honorable Mention) received the Younger Civil Engineer of the Year Award. Congratulations!

The night ended with numerous door prizes in which many of our YMF members won. Good luck to all our incoming officers, and thank you for your dedication to the civil engineering society.



GIS Seminar

By David Garcia—SB/RC YMF

In July, the Riverside and San Bernardino Counties Younger Member forum were honored to host guest speaker Gerard Reminiskey from Wilson & Company. Mr. Reminiskey is a GIS expert and shared with us the tools and future of GIS technologies. Mr. Reminiskey explained how GIS applications incorporate many features of CADD systems, but also link to databases. This allows linking of a drawings to connect to information such as as-built plans, easements etc. Because this information is in a database, a user can quickly search to find the information required.

Mr. Reminiskey then demonstrated the power of GIS, with a GIS application developed for Metrolink. By inputting origin and destination points, he connected to both traffic information and the train schedule. From this information he could compare the time to commute via train or automobile. These kind of GIS applications are becoming more common everyday. We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Reminiskey for coming to share his knowledge with the YMF members.

RECENT YMF EVENTS

Technical Series — Survey Event

By Ana Licon—OC YMF

The Orange County YMF Technical Series Program has enjoyed a great response from our members since its' commencement in 2003. We'd like to thank everyone who has participated in our program events. Our July 23, 2005 half-day Hands-On Field Survey Event was attended by 30 engineers from Southern California. The day began with a complimentary breakfast at Mimi's Café in Santa Ana, where Jim Luke from Norris Repke Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors gave a presentation on the topic "Surveying in School vs. Real World Surveying". Items such as: Communication Difficulties Between Surveying & Engineering Departments, Field Surveying Methods, Design Base Mapping, and Data Preparation & Transfer were discussed. The presentation was followed by a Question & Answer session. The group then headed to a commercial development in Tustin where surveyors from Norris Repke and Guida Surveying set-up survey instruments and interacted with participants while allowing them to handle the equipment. Thanks to Norris Repke Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors for sponsoring this event. We'd also like to thank Guida Surveying for donating their time.

Hydro Conduit Tour

By Ana Licon—OC YMF

OC YMF hosted a Hydro Conduit Tour on August 24th in Corona. The tour included an explanation of varying processes used in manufacturing reinforced concrete pipe, witnessing a D-Load strength test, and a Powerpoint presentation while enjoying a catered lunch. Thanks to Rinker Materials Hydro Conduit for hosting OC YMF.



OC YMF Happy Hour

By Katherine Shinkai, P.E.,-OC YMF

The OC YMF once again had a very successful Happy Hour at Dave & Busters in Irvine on August 25, 2005. Many came early and enjoyed the free appetizers and first round of drinks. There were over 20 young members and the Orange County Branch President-Elect, Yazdan Emrani joined us for this fun-filled event. The YMF Happy Hours are a great way for members to meet the YMF Board Members and network with other professionals their own age and local leaders in the community. Please stay tuned to our next Happy Hour, and see for yourself what all the YMF members are talking about! Don't miss this great opportunity!



Beach Day

By Ana Licon—OC YMF

What is a better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than relaxing on the beach with some good YMF buddies? That is exactly what Riverside and San Bernardino YMF did this September. For our monthly activity, we spent some quality time at Huntington Beach. In addition to catching some waves, we played football, smash ball, and even some softball. We were also joined by many good friends from Orange County YMF. After the beach, we enjoyed dinner together at BJ's.



OC YMF & CSULB Happy Hour

By Gary Gilbert—OC YMF

Orange County YMF ventured north to the beautiful city of Long Beach for our September happy hour. Students from California State University, Long Beach joined in on the festivities. The venue was the Yardhouse and the attendees enjoyed food, drinks and conversation with fellow engineers. We didn't sample all the beers on tap, but we did our best. Students were able learn about potential job opportunities and YMF members were able to share the experiences in the work place and at YMF events. Everyone had a good time and can't wait for another happy hour. Don't forget to check your emails for the next happy hour, because you will not want to miss out on the excitement.

SAWPA Presentation

By David Garcia, P.E., - SB/RC YMF

The Riverside and San Bernardino YMF kicked off the month of August with a technical presentation and dinner at the Spaghetti Factory in downtown Riverside. Our guest speaker was Mark Norton from the Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority (SAWPA). Mark shared with us the history of SAWPA and its role improving the water quality of the Santa Ana Watershed. Mark shared with us some of SAWPA's major projects, such as wildlife recovery along the Santa Ana River and maintenance of salt water pipelines. Mark also highlighted SAWPA's ability to obtain large grants from the government by developing joint projects between several water districts and agencies.

YOUNGER MEMBER PROFILE

Meet Leah Melaku

By Serge Haddad

Meet Leah Melaku, this year's MLAB YMF Scholarship Chair. Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Leah pursued her love of engineering when she moved to Los Angeles approximately 7 years ago. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in June 2002 from Cal Polytechnic University of Pomona. She is now completing her third year at the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) in the City of Los Angeles.



ASCE involvement in 2001 as a student member. After graduation, as with many recent graduates, Leah lost touch with ASCE. She discontinued her membership and it all seemed over. Lucky for her, Leah began working with me and I reintroduced her to the exciting world of ASCE. My experience with her at BOE tells me how important her contribution will be to the organization. She is caring, hardworking, and reliable.

the [YMF] board as Scholarship Chair. I want to provide students the financial assistance they need to succeed in their goals."

Leah enjoys listening to live music, interior decorating and fashion designing. In addition to being a computer programmer, her fiancé is a talented musician and his concerts are very entertaining. I can understand why she enjoys listening to live music. I'm sure her interior decorating will come in handy after she moves into her new home. As for fashion designing, Leah always shows up to work in style. She definitely knows a thing or two about color coordination.

I have the great privilege of working with Leah at BOE. When I asked her why she chose Civil engineering as a major, she said, "...because I have always liked math and physics. So I chose a major that combined both." She began her

I asked her why she ultimately decided to be Scholarship Chair for MLA YMF. "I found out that YMF plays a significant role in the life of young engineers and students. When I was a college student, I paid most of my tuition through financial aid and scholarships. I understand the student's need for financial support. So I decided to join

Leah is more than a coworker, she is a close friend. Her wedding date is in November, but I'm sure her new love won't take her away from her love for engineering. In the meantime, if you're a student and low on cash, look for Leah, she just might have the right scholarship for you.

ASK YMF

Question:

My supervisor has requested I look for a set of plans he needs to sign. I recall that I gave him the set of plans earlier in the week. He stated that he searched everywhere for them and was unable to find them, implying that I must have been mistaken. After a thorough search at my desk, I had no luck. So I decided to wait for my supervisor to leave his office. When he left, I went in to search for the plans, and guess what? I found them. Right there in drawer all rolled up. What should I do?

Anonymous

YMF Answer:

That is a very good question. First of all, I would not recommend searching through your supervisor's desk without his permission. You are just asking for trouble.

My advice is to figure out a way for your supervisor to open the drawer in front of you. Ask him if you could borrow a pen, scratch paper, or whatever you know is in that drawer. Perhaps he will open it and see that the plans are in there and your problem will be solved. If that doesn't work, I would print out a new set of plans and hand it to him.

Good luck and please tell us what happens.

YMF

PLEASE SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

c/o "Ask YMF"
ASCE Office
P.O. Box 3193
Alhambra, CA 91803

RECENT YMF EVENT

Segway Event

By Ana Bosin—SB/VC YMF

Riding Segways in Santa Barbara- August 2005 The Santa Barbara community was accosted on a sunny Saturday morning by raging segway riders hyped on coffee and crack laced scones. The sleepy community, trapped by the mountains and ocean, had no where to run or hide when the segways attacked. Armed with lithium battery packs and a 20 minute lesson, the "newly wed and nearly dead" citizens were no match for these alternate transportation riders of doom.

If you aren't familiar with this "alternate transportation device", Segways are unique self-balancing, electric-powered transportation device. Using gyroscopes and tilt sensors, they emulate human balance. Lean forward, and you move forward. Lean back, and you move back.

Our group took off with a vengeance after our training session up and down the beach boulevard and in between unsuspecting Santa Barbara Tourists! It was in fact so much fun our group plans to ride again soon! We heard that the rental company "graduates" us from 8 MPH to 10MPH next time for being returning customers. Look out!



Monthly YMF Board Meetings

SB/RC – Every first Monday
SB/VC -- Every first Wednesday
MLAB – Every second Tuesday
OC – Every third Tuesday

For locations, please contact a board member from bottom page 1.

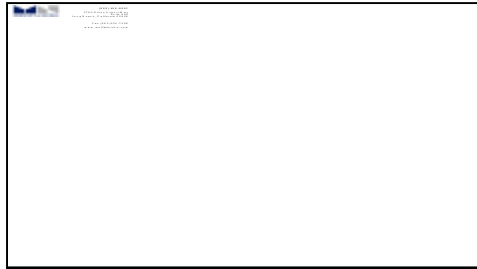
Everyone is welcome!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT & ADVERTISEMENTS

NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!!!

Attention all YMF members. This newsletter will be the last printed newsletter issued. The next newsletter and those following will be issued electronically via email. A digital archive of newsletters will be made available on LA-YMF's website. This website is currently under construction but will be online shortly. The address for the website will be announced as soon as it is online and posted in the next newsletter issue. If your email address has changed or if you would like to continue to receive paper copies, please contact Greg Sommer at gsommer@ladpw.org to ensure that you receive the next emailed newsletter.

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The MLAB YMF sponsors a 9-week, PE Review Course for the April 2006 exam. Classes are held two nights a week (Tuesday and Thursday), from 6:30pm to 9:30pm, at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Headquarters Building in Alhambra. Classes begin on January 17th, 2006 and end mid March, 2006. The course is taught by professional engineers and university instructors. The class is open to all civil engineers preparing for the exam. Course features include:

- Comprehensive coverage of all subjects addressed by the eight-hour exam as well as those covered by the California Special Survey and Seismic portion of the exam.
- Course fees includes several textbooks, lecture notes, and practice problems.
- Enrollment is usually around 20 students.

Course fees are \$600 for the Overall PE Review Series, \$500 for the 8-Hour Exam Section only, and \$300 each for the Seismic and Survey Review Section. For more information or to obtain a review course application, please contact Melissa Murphy at (626) 300-2025 or by e-mail memurphy@ladpw.org or Nickolas VanGunst at (626) 300 2022 or by e-mail ngunst@ladpw.org. Application must be postmarked by December 15, 2005 to avoid late registration fee.

EVENTS CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
11/7/2005	SB/RC YMF General Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
11/8/2005	UCI Affiliates Career Night	TBA	Irvine, CA
11/8/2005	MLAB YMF Board Meeting	6:30 PM	Los Angeles, CA
11/10/2005	OC YMF Happy Hour	TBA	TBA
11/15/2005	OC YMF Board Meeting	6:00 PM	Santa Ana, CA
11/17/2005	OC Branch/OC YMF Student Night and Job Fair	6:00 PM	Irvine, CA
11/18/2005	MLAB Technical Presentation (USC Med-Center)	TBA	TBA
11/21/2005	SB/RC YMF Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
12/5/2005	SB/RC YMF General Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
12/10/2005	OC YMF Human Broom Beach Clean Up with ERF	7:00 AM	Huntington Beach, CA
12/13/2005	MLAB YMF Board Meeting	6:30 PM	Los Angeles, CA
12/15/2005	OC YMF Joint Meeting with OC Branch	11:00 AM	Irvine, CA
12/17/2005	OC & LA YMF Christmas Boat Parade & Toys Drive	TBD	Balboa Island, CA
12/19/2005	SB/RC YMF Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
12/20/2005	OC YMF Board Meeting	6:00 PM	Santa Ana, CA
1/2/2006	SB/RC YMF General Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
1/10/2006	MLAB YMF Board Meeting	6:30 PM	Los Angeles, CA
1/13/2006	Western Regional Younger Member Council	N/A	Salt Lake City, UT
1/16/2006	SB/RC YMF Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Riverside, CA
1/17/2005	OC YMF Board Meeting	6:00 PM	Santa Ana, CA
1/16/2006	Ski Trip - Tentative Date	N/A	Mammoth, CA
1/24/2006	New sletter SUBMITTAL deadline	5:00 PM	N/A
1/31/2006	OC YMF Speaker Series	TBA	TBA

For extended calendar of events, please visit the ASCE Los Angeles Section website at www.ascelasection.org/calendar.cfm

RECENT YMF EVENTS

ASCE National Conference – Los Angeles, CA

By: Greg Sommer, Serge Haddad, and Cesar Moran



Over 1000 civil engineers attended the 2005 ASCE National Conference in Los Angeles California, October 27-29, 2005. Students, Younger Members, Professional Engineers, and Life Members came together to celebrate civil engineering. The conference theme was "Next Generation Infrastructure: Projects that Create the Future!" The experimental new format for the annual conference faced some initial resistance, but in the end proved very successful.

The Younger member pre-conference program, organized by the Committee on Younger Members (CYM) focused on developing leadership and communication skills. Jon Walters of Nolte Associates gave an excellent talk on being an effective visionary leader. A CEO panel discussion allowed for the young engineers to interact with experienced professionals, as they shared their trials and challenges as well as lessons learned. Lastly Daniel Turner shared thoughts on developing communication skills, explaining the importance of listening to complete the communication process.

The National Conference officially opened with the plenary session on October 27, 2005. ASCE President William Henry welcomed all members, and spoke on major issues that affect today's society. Corruption and global ethics, as well as sustainability and our nation's dilapidated infrastructure became sub-themes of the conference. Blaine Leonard, ASCE Vice President – Zone IV, then spoke about the Infrastructure report cards; a tool to inform the public and politicians of the dire state of our infrastructure. This information was valuable and timely, as earlier that afternoon Los Angeles County unveiled their infrastructure report. (The report may be viewed online in the near future). The session closed with a special presentation on Hurricane Katrina. The seven member panel, many of whom were from the devastated areas shared their personal accounts of the storm.

The next day was started with an overview of the profession, "Civil Engineering – Past, Present, and the Challenges Facing Us in the Future." California State Assembly member Todd Spitzer then spoke on what engineers need to do to become more involved in government, challenging us to take on a more effective leadership role. A "Visionary Leaders Forum" provided personal visionary experiences of leaders in our profession.

The program then split into breakout forums, focusing on water and transportation. In the water forum, leaders from various public agencies throughout California spoke about some of their successful projects. It was apparent that the key to their success was listening to what the public wanted, providing a good engineering solution, and incorporating the public's feedback into the project. By doing all of the above from the beginning of the project, all agencies received great public support. This made it easier to approve funding, work with together with other agencies, and give the citizens a sense of ownership of the project. This was especially important in Orange County, where there has been a 10-year long campaign to get people to support the treatment of sewage for use as potable water. The transportation forum concentrated on the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach as well as the Alameda Corridor project. It is estimated that in 2000, nearly \$200 billion in trade passed through the San Pedro Bay ports. The forum was highlighted with a land-sea tour.

The Los Angeles Section YMF groups organized social events for the evenings. Activities included a bonfire at Dockweiler beach, partying at the bars on Hermosa Pier and in downtown LA, and a trip to Universal Citywalk using the Los Angeles Metro Redline. Utilizing our transit system kept pace with one of the conference themes and provided a safe alternative to driving.

The ASCE National Steering committee set an original goal of 800 conference attendees. Instead, over 1000 civil engineers and students attended the conference. This new conference format will now be the example for and foundation of all future ASCE national conferences.

"Rebuilding Together" – 3rd Annual Community Day

By: Julian Garcia – MLAB YMF

Active involvement in our communities is one of the basic tenets of our Younger Member Forum. Civil engineering, after all, is all about improving the quality of life. MLAB YMF, along with the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (MLAB), and the Los Angeles Section partnered up with "Rebuilding Together", an organization dedicated to rehabilitating the houses of low-income homeowners, to repair and improve the facilities of the Tom Bradley Multipurpose Senior Center.

More than one hundred volunteers donated their time and efforts on Sunday, October 30, to help out with projects like building a handicap access ramp, installing automatic door openers, repairing and refurbishing picnic tables, extending sidewalks, etc. The event was a complete success as volunteers bonded and worked together to help improve our community.

MLAB YMF would like to thank all of our volunteers from Rebuilding Together, L.A. Co. Dept. of Public Works, KPFF, Cal State LA, CSUN, UCI, and from all the ASCE groups from throughout the nation that were there to help out. We would also like to thank BFI for donating the waste disposal services; E-Recycling of California for helping us dispose of electronic waste properly, and Beto's Lighting & Outlet for providing all the electrical services. Lastly, a special thank you also goes out to the Watts Labor Community Action Committee, operators of the Tom Bradley Center, for providing all the volunteers with an absolutely delicious breakfast and lunch!!

SPECIAL PROJECT



Site Assessment Trip and Project Planning – Prompted by the December 2004 Tsunami Prakasam District of the State of Andhra Pradesh, India



Abstract

In Prakasam, the tsunami's primary effect was on the fisherman village communities' source of income because it destroyed many of their boats and nets.

The tsunami also brought to light the preexisting conditions of poverty these villages faced. The villagers need more than boats and nets to break out of this poverty.

Potential initial projects include fixing broken water pumps, replacing failing concrete roofs, and developing programs for micro-finance.

Partners

Society for the Development of Rural Women and Children (SDRWC), affected fishing village communities, and EWB-USA, including the Los Angeles and San Francisco chapters.

Project Description

Prompted by the December 2004 tsunami, SDRWC sent EWB-USA an application for aid. EWB-USA

began communications with SDRWC, and organized a group of five engineers and one health professional to assess the village conditions and needs.

The SDRWC application for help included 45 disadvantaged fishing villages in the Prakasam District. The team traveled to 14 villages and spoke with representatives of 30 villages during the trip.

Findings

The villages have many basic needs. They lack the facilities to provide treated water, proper sanitation, acceptable health care, long-distance transportation, and sustainable housing.

Beyond fishing, the villagers have explored few options for income generation. Women's groups are present but have minimal success because of accounts bearing no interest and because of lack of education. The villagers' economic status depends on fishing, a meager resource made worse by the tsunami.

Children rarely receive education beyond age twelve, as

EWB – USA coordinated the efforts of the Los Angeles and San Francisco Professional Chapters in sending a site assessment team to Andhra Pradesh to assess the damage from the December 2004 tsunami. The Society for the Development of Rural Women and Children (SDRWC) hosted the team of volunteers during the weeklong visit in early July 2005.

The funding for the trip came primarily from donations to EWB-USA for tsunami relief, along with a sizable private donation from PBS&J to the EWB-Los Angeles Chapter.

they are needed for domestic and income-earning chores. A daily government-provided meal to all students is all that keeps most parents from taking their children out of school at a younger age.

Initial Projects

The roadmap for the future includes working with SDRWC and the fishing village communities on environmentally and economically sustainable projects. All projects are evaluated based on their effects on health, education and economy.

The first projects, which are short-term in length, are designed to meet the more critical needs of the villages visited by EWB-USA. These include providing systems to collect clean water, repairing roof slabs that are about to collapse, and developing micro-finance ventures. These projects are in their design phase, and will be implemented in India by the end of 2005.