January Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 28th, 2016

Host: Nebraska Section ASCE, Water Resources Technical Group

Spouses and Guests Welcome

Location: University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Nebraska Hall, Room W213B
17th & Vine Streets, Lincoln

Presenter: Gordon W. “Jeff” Fassett, P.E.

Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E., was appointed by Governor Ricketts, effective August 3, 2015, as the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. Prior to coming to Nebraska, Jeff had worked for HDR Engineering since 2006, and led the firm’s strategic program for water rights engineering from his base in the firm’s Cheyenne, Wyoming office. His responsibilities there included leveraging his 40 years of experience in water policy, water resources engineering and water rights, to provide advice, engineering and strategic planning to HDR clients.

Prior to joining HDR, Fassett managed his own consulting engineering firm from 2000 to 2006. Previously Jeff served three years as Deputy State Engineer (1987-1990). From 1990 to 2000, he was appointed by and worked for two different Governor’s as Wyoming State Engineer, where he led an agency involved with all aspects water rights permitting, adjudications and priority water administration, and represented the State’s interests for all Interstate Compacts, US Supreme Court Decrees, and for water resource policy matters for the State of Wyoming. He began his career in water rights in Colorado working for Denver Water, and subsequently for Leonard Rice Engineers, where he began his work on the Big Horn General Adjudication. In September 2002, Fassett was appointed by the President to be the Federal Representative and Chairman of the Red River Compact Commission involving the shared Red River water resources among Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Fassett is active in many organizations, including the Western States Water Council, National Water Resources Association and Interstate Council for Water Policy and has received awards from the Upper Missouri Water Users Association, 4-States Irrigation Council, and similar water resource management organizations. Mr. Fassett received his BS degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming, and is a registered Professional Engineer in Colorado and Wyoming.

Times:
6:15 pm Social and Pizza
6:40 pm Student Chapter Update
7:00 pm Meeting and Presentation

Menu/Price:
Pizza and Pop
$10.00 (with or without meal)—payable to NEASCE at the door (cash, check, or credit card).
Life Members and Students are FREE....but you must register.

Registration/Deadline: Register at http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/
Greetings Nebraska ASCE and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had the opportunity to relax and enjoy some time off with family this holiday season. The Nebraska Section has a lot coming up in 2016. January and February are typically full of events and 2016 is no exception.

Locally, in January we have our Water Resources meeting held jointly with the UNL Student Chapter, the Nebraska Future Cities Competition. Thanks to Matt McConville, the UNL Student Chapter and David Nielsen for organizing these great events. Regionally, the 2015 Central Region Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL) and Younger Member Council (CRYMC) will be held in Chicago on January 15-16. These two events are held simultaneously to provide attendees with a great opportunity to share and interact with other representatives and ASCE leaders. The Nebraska Section will be represented this year by Ryan Hanson (Truss Bustin’ Chair), Josh Frank (UNO Practitioner Advisor), Brandon Gardels (YMG Co-Chair) and Chris Podany (Newsletter Editor). For the second year in a row, these delegates will make a presentation in hopes of securing a future regional conference to be hosted by the Nebraska Section. Good luck to these delegates and thank you for representing the Nebraska Section.

In February, we have the 33rd Annual Geotechnical Conference, the Geotechnical Meeting and Short Course, the 2nd Annual E-Week School Blitz, and the annual Truss Bustin’ Competition. I would like to thank Kristle Beaudet and the Geotechnical Committee, John smith and Ryan Hanson for organizing these great events.

In addition to the slate of upcoming events, the Nebraska Section is also working with the University of Nebraska Foundation to expand the scholarship opportunities that Nebraska ASCE offers to the students at UNL and UNO.

Thank you all for supporting ASCE in 2015, and I look forward to successful 2016!
November Meeting Summary

The Nebraska Section’s Transportation Group hosted dinner and presentation on the Council Bluffs Interstate Improvement Program. A special thanks goes to Mark Pohlmann for speaking to the Nebraska ASCE section on this topic.

The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the October 22, 2015 meeting and presentation worth one (1) PDH credit.

- Daren Konda
- Doug Keliner
- Ryan Hanson
- Laura Rathe
- Loras Klostermann
- Caleb Beasley
- John Hill
- Jeff McClanahan
- Mike Sklenar
- Marie Stamm
- Mike Reif
- John Smith
- Greg Seib
- Ed Thiele
- Andres Torres
- Elizabeth Kreher
- Kortney Kosiski
- Rich Madson
- Gopala Allam
- Derek Schriner
- Megan Meyer
- Mark Nelson
- Ryan Gates
- Brandon Gardels
- Mark Pohlmann
- Ryan Duren
- Tyler Klosaw
- Patricia Rohan
- Jeffrey Mihulka
- Ed Prost
2016 E-Week School Blitz

In June, the Nebraska Section’s first ever E-Week School Blitz was showcased in the NEASCE newsletter. It was a great success with thirty volunteers presenting to 27 different classrooms and reaching over 700 students. As 2015 wraps up, we will begin planning another School Blitz with 2016 E-week on Feb 21st-27th. We are currently looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in presenting to a K-12 classroom about engineering, know a classroom or school that would want to participate, or even just have a good idea, please contact John Smith at John.Smith@hdrinc.com. ASCE has resources available to make this as easy as possible and this event has a real impact on students. Please consider participating in this worthwhile activity!
The 2015 ASCE Annual Convention was held October 12th through the 14th in New York, New York. As Vice President of the Nebraska Section of ASCE, I was lucky enough to attend the convention and represent Nebraska.

Civil engineers from ASCE branches all over the world came to New York to attend the convention. I met fellow engineers and students from all over the US, as well as London, Hong Kong, and Italy. It was appropriate for the convention to be held in New York, where some of the country’s largest and most ambitious infrastructure projects are under construction as well as being the home of some of the most iconic civil engineering projects in the world.

At this convention, we saw the end of Bob Stevens’s term as ASCE President as he handed over the gavel to the incumbent, Mark Woodson. In his inaugural address, new President Woodson outlined his vision for ASCE during his term. His focus will be on the updated strategic initiatives of ASCE, which are Infrastructure, Raise the Bar, and Sustainability. The NEASCE board hopes to bring Mr. Woodson to Nebraska during his tenure as president to speak with our local members about these initiatives. Stay tuned for updates!

During the convention, attendees were also given a sneak peek at ASCE’s upcoming IMAX movie entitled Dream Big. The final film isn’t set to debut until February 2017, but the footage we’ve seen so far looks incredible. All ASCE members have the opportunity to win a Dream Big experience by sharing how civil engineering has helped him or her “dream big.” The three main prizes are:

- A trip for 2 to an international location shoot for the filming of Dream Big
- A trip to attend an exclusive rough cut screening of Dream Big in Laguna Beach, California
- A Dream Big premiere event in your local community

I encourage everyone to visit www.asce.org/dream-big-contest/ and make a submission. The deadline for entries is February 1, 2016.

In between inaugurations and movie screenings, the convention provided a multitude of learning sessions for PDH’s. These sessions were all based on one of the following topics: state of the profession, professional and leadership training, cross-discipline technical projects, causes, effects, and mitigation of natural and man-made catastrophes, ASCE strategic issues and public policy, significant projects, and history and heritage. For example, I attended sessions on the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, the ASCE Report Card, Raising the Bar, and Engineering EQ.

My wife tagged along for the trip and while we were there we visited a few of the many tourist destinations in New York. We visited the American Museum of Natural History, the Brooklyn Bridge, Rockefeller Center, and Central Park.

Overall, it was a great experience and I thank NEASCE for giving me the opportunity.
In The News

January 5, 2016  By: Whitford Remer

2015 Federal Issues in Review
As civil engineers, ASCE works with federal lawmakers to pass legislation that will improve the nation’s “D+” infrastructure. In 2015, the federal government passed several notable pieces of legislation that will increase investment into our nation’s infrastructure and also prepare the next generation of civil engineers through STEM education. Here’s a review of the accomplishments.

Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act Passed
As a result of the ASCE’s continued federal advocacy effort on transportation, Congress passed and the President signed the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. FAST provides the first long-term transportation program in more than a decade with five years of increased funding for federal highway, transit and passenger rail programs. Highway investment from this bill increases by 15%, and transit spending grows nearly 18%. Hundreds of ASCE members made personal visits and calls to Congress and promoted the #FixTheTrustFund message making the FAST Act possible. The FAST Act is a step forward for America’s infrastructure.

Federal Water Infrastructure Funding Program Made More Flexible
ASCE joined with water sector partners to make a new loan guarantee program passed in 2014 more flexible for municipalities. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program previously prohibited combining federal low interest loan guarantees with tax-exempt municipal bonds which left local governments few options for borrowing additional money at low interest rates. ASCE worked to lift the prohibition, and this fix was achieved as part of the FAST Act.

Strong STEM Focus in the New Education Act
ASCE worked closely with Congress as a founding member of the STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) Education Coalition to ensure that the Every Student Succeed Act, the long overdue update of the No Child Left Behind Act (also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act) maintained a strong focus on STEM subjects. The Act promotes STEM education by:

- Maintaining standards and tests in math and science
- Expanding high-quality STEM courses
- Encouraging development of statewide assessments that integrate engineering and technology concepts
- Providing direct grants for students’ STEM educational enrichment activities
- Maintaining funding for teacher training

For questions, please contact ASCE Government Relations.
2016 Truss Bustin’ Competition

The 2016 ASCE Truss Bustin’ competition is right around the corner! This year’s competition will take place on Saturday, February 27th in the atrium of the Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI) on the University of Nebraska – Omaha campus. The competition challenges Omaha-area high school students to design and construct a balsa wood bridge, simulating the engineering design process from concept through construction. We will be using a brand new load testing machine at this year’s competition, which allows us create new design challenges with different load cases and truss geometry. This year, students have been asked to design an arch truss with a segmented bottom chord, a departure from past competitions. We will be looking for volunteers to help out at the competition! Volunteers help load the trusses, record data, set-up and tear-down the load testing machine, and more. Watch for next month’s newsletter and ASCE emails for more information.
NE-ASCE 2016 Short Course & Section Meeting
Scott Conference Center Omaha, NE

**Thursday, February 11, 2016**

- 8:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. NE-ASCE Short Course
  - Presented By:
    - Dr. Timothy D. Stark – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
    - Dr. Ning Lu – Colorado School of Mines
    - Dr. Kord Wissmann – Geopier Foundation Company & Tensar Corporation
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. Networking Cocktail Hour
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner followed by NE-ASCE Section Meeting
  - Topic: “Omaha CSO Deep Rock Tunneling”
  - By: Jim Theiler, P.E. City of Omaha Public Works, Civil Engineer IV/CSO Program Coordinator

Register for both Events Online:

Thank You!

Dear Members of the Nebraska Section of ASCE:

During the week of Thanksgiving I received a letter informing me of the thoughtful and generous contribution supporting the Peck/Benak Engineering Achievement Scholarship Fund from the Nebraska Section of ASCE.

It was the perfect time of the year to receive that letter. It was saying “thanks” to the memory of my beloved husband, Joe --- Dr. Benak, as his students called him.

Joe loved Engineering. After he retired, he kept coming back every day to an office that was set aside for him in the Engineering and Technology Building. He just couldn’t leave “cold turkey”, as I would say. When winter came and it was too dangerous to drive, he finally let go. He enjoyed teaching his students and was so proud of them.

Our family and I thank you sincerely for your contribution to the scholarship fund. This fund will help deserving students to attain their goals in Civil Engineering.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Margaret M. Benak and Family
33rd Annual Geotechnical Seminar

GEO-Omaha 2016
February 12, 2016
Scott Conference Center
Omaha, NE

LOCATION

The Scott Conference Center is located at 6450 Pine Street, on the University of Nebraska Omaha AKSARBEN campus, in Omaha, Nebraska. Travel directions and an area map are available online at www.scott-center.com. Complimentary parking is provided in Lot 9, directly across the street from the Scott Center.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The annual geotechnical seminar provides a forum for the presentation of a wide variety of geotechnical field, design, and construction-related topics. This year we are honored to have as presenters Tim Stark, Ning Lu, Kord Wissmann, Travis Deane, Bill Wegner, Brad Eifert, Amanda Grint, Bryan Kumm, David Anderson, and Brian Havens. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting and informative program. A certificate verifying 7.5 Professional Development Hours will be provided to registered attendees.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

All professionals who are involved in geotechnical exploration, design, construction, or observation. This would include:

- Engineers/Geologists
- University Instructors
- Technicians/Contractors

REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL GEOTECHNICAL SEMINAR

ADMISSION to the seminar is by registration. To ensure admission, complete the registration process early. To register, go to www.neasce.org and click on the GeoOmaha registration link.

REGISTRATION FEE is $175.00 on or before February 8, 2016, $195.00 after this date. Full time students pay $25.00. Proceeds benefit the ASCE funded Peck/Benak Engineering Achievement Scholarship, Future City Competition, and the local ASCE Student Sections.

THE REGISTRATION FEE covers coffee breaks, lunch and handout material.

REFUNDS will be made if the conference is canceled or if the applicant cancels no later than five working days prior to the conference date.

SPONSORED BY:

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, NEBRASKA SECTION

IN COOPERATION WITH:

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
AND THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
# 33rd Annual Geotechnical Seminar (Continued)

## MORNING SESSION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Institution(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:15</td>
<td>Welcome Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 - 9:45</td>
<td>“Expansive Soil Design, Case Histories, and Unsaturated Soil Measurements”</td>
<td>Dr. Tim Stark, PhD, PE Dr. Ning Lu, PhD</td>
<td>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO</td>
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<td>9:45 - 10:15</td>
<td>Break/Vendor Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15-11:00</td>
<td>“New Approaches for Everyday Ground Improvement”</td>
<td>Kord Wissmann, PhD, PE, D.GE</td>
<td>Geopier Foundation Company, Davidson, NC</td>
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<td>&amp; President of Geo-Institute</td>
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<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>“Building and Maintaining a Rail Yard on San Francisco Bay Mud, A Soft Marine Clay”</td>
<td>Travis Deane, PE, GE Shannon &amp; Wilson, Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>Shannon &amp; Wilson, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<td>Bill Wegner, PE HDR, Inc., Omaha, NE</td>
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<td>12:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Lunch/Vendor Displays</td>
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<td>(Special Recognition &amp; NEASCE Scholarship Awards)</td>
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## AFTERNOON SESSION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Institution(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:45</td>
<td>“HDD Consideration from a Geotechnical Perspective”</td>
<td>Brad Eifert, Michels Directional Crossings</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45 - 2:45</td>
<td>“Papillion Creek Watershed Flood Control and Construction of the Prairie Queen Dams”</td>
<td>Amanda Grint., PE, CFM Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, Omaha, NE</td>
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<td>2:45 - 3:15</td>
<td>Break/Vendor Displays</td>
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<td>3:15 - 4:00</td>
<td>“Design &amp; Construction of Excavation Support for the New Midtown Tunnel”</td>
<td>David Anderson, PE Kiewit Infrastructure Engineers (Retired)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00-4:45</td>
<td>“Arresting a Landslide in the Pierre Shale with Closely-Spaced Drilled Shafts”</td>
<td>Brian Havens, PE HDR, Inc., Omaha, NE</td>
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## VENDOR DISPLAYS

A display of products, equipment and services associated with the geotechnical, drilling, and construction industries will be provided by vendors and consultants. A variety of products and information on professional services will be presented. Firms that currently plan to attend include:

- Alfred Benesch & Company (Break sponsor only)
- A.S.P. Enterprises*
- Atlas Foundation Company
- Berkel & Company*
- Geoprobe Systems
- Geotechnology
- Ground Improvement Engineering*
- Hayes Drilling*
- Hayward Baker
- HDR Engineering, INC.* (Break sponsor only)
- Humboldt
- KC Piermasters*
- L.B. Foster
- Nicholson Construction Company
- Olsson Associates* (Break sponsor only)
- Shannon and Wilson
- Subsurface Constructors*
- Tensar
- Terracon* (Break sponsor only)
- Thiele Geotech* (Break sponsor only)
- Thrasher*
- *-Special Thanks to our Refreshment Break Sponsors!
### Upcoming Events and Seminars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Full Dates</th>
<th>City/State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HEC-RAS Computer Workshop</td>
<td>January 27–29, 2016</td>
<td>Colorado Springs, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Design and Construction of Launched Bridges</td>
<td>February 4–5, 2016</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>GEO-Omaha 2016</td>
<td>February 12, 2016</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Techniques for Pavement Rehabilitation</td>
<td>February 24–26, 2016</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Construction Dewatering and Groundwater Control:</td>
<td>March 10–11, 2016</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Design and Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pumping Systems Design for Civil Engineers</td>
<td>March 10–11, 2016</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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www.Primary Business Address

The Nebraska Section of ASCE is an active organization of over 600 members who are diverse in practice & geography. ASCE represents more than 140,000 civil engineers nationwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society.

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Thank you to the businesses that support this newsletter through their contributions.

For underwriting information, contact Chris Podany, Fundraising Chair, at 402-202-0719 or chris.podany@hdrinc.com

Deadline for articles to be published in the February newsletter will be February 1st. Email articles to Chris Podany at Chris.Podany@hdrinc.com