

## News & Notes...

### Community Involvement: ASCE Committed to Rebuilding Together...

For the 5th consecutive year ASCE is sponsoring a project with the nonprofit organization Rebuilding Together Metro Denver. Rebuilding Together rehabilitates the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled, so that they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence.

The scope of work for Rebuilding Together also includes community centers providing housing for at-risk youth, the mentally disabled, and support services for seniors. In 2005 alone, more than one thousand volunteers came together in Denver to repair 35 homes and 1 community facility. Details about the organization can be found online at <http://www.rebuildingdenver.org/>



With your help, we can do more. Each and every donation of time and money is important. All funds are tax-deductible and go directly to the local Rebuilding Together. We encourage you to make a difference by getting involved. Additional information about ASCE's project will be published in future newsletters.

Contact Gary Brierley, President, Brierley Associates LLC, [GBrierley@BrierleyAssociates.com](mailto:GBrierley@BrierleyAssociates.com) 303-703-1405.

### Engineers Week Dinner Planned for Friday, February 24, 2006...

The 2006 National Engineers Week Dinner will be held on Friday, February 24, 2006, at the Doubletree Hotel by old Stapleton. The evening's presentation will be by a Lockheed Martin Vice President on space exploration. Cost is \$40 per person. Details on reservations will appear in the February newsletter. Plan on celebrating your profession with your colleagues!



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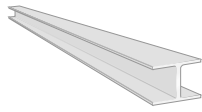
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## Joint Structures & Transportation Group Meeting

Transportation facilities are directly related to our economic health and quality of life. The demands on transportation facilities in the State of Colorado continue to grow, along with the competition for available funding and expectations of quality and higher levels of service. To ensure timely, efficient and effective responses to these demands innovative contracting methods must be considered. **Gary Meacham**, the Branch Manager for CDOT's Innovative Contracting Unit (I.C.U.) will provide insight to design-build and the expanding responsibilities of the Design Professional. Gary will discuss **design-build projects in Colorado, federal initiatives and regulations, state initiatives, and future use of design-build at CDOT.** Gary's presentation will also include a general discussion about design-build, how it compares to design-bid-build, when it should be used, and the general process that it follows.

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Short Course on Finite Elements In Geotechnical Engineering

The Colorado School of Mines is offering this 3-day short course March 27-29, 2006. It is based on *Programming the finite element method* by I. M. Smith and D.V. Griffiths, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Wiley, 2004, and combines lectures with supervised desktop computing sessions in which participants will learn to run a powerful suite of finite element programs relating to practical geotechnical engineering. It will cover classical geotechnical applications (settlements, seepage, consolidation and slope stability). Participants will receive a copy of the course textbook and all source code for over 50 programs covering a wide range of engineering analysis applications. Attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops so the programs can be installed during the course. See more at [http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont\\_Ed/fege.htm](http://www.mines.edu/Outreach/Cont_Ed/fege.htm) or contact Melody Francisco at the Office of Special Programs and Continuing Education, 303-273-3321, Email: [mfrancis@mines.edu](mailto:mfrancis@mines.edu). For questions relating to course content or materials contact the course instructor Vaughan Griffiths, 303-273-3669, Email: [d.v.griffiths@mines.edu](mailto:d.v.griffiths@mines.edu).

## Geotechnical Group Meeting



**Rich Tocher**, a principal with Tech Tetra, will present a **history of the development of the Howelsen Hill Ski Area** in Steamboat Springs. The area has been a ski jumping facility since 1914 when the hill was first cleared of trees. The original skiers had no idea of the geotechnical challenges that lay ahead. The area is underlain by hot springs, shallow groundwater and landslides. The hill now has five ski jumps including a new world class year round jump. The new jump required a wide range of geotechnical solutions including micropiles, soil nail walls, ground anchors, reinforced soil slopes and underdrains to provide a stable structure.



## Joint Environmental & Water Resources Group Meeting

January's joint topic is "**Sex, flies and water supplies**" or "**Endocrine disruptors in wastewater and their implications on fish and you.**" There has been a growing interest in recent years about the impact on the environment of the array of chemicals that pass through our water and wastewater treatment facilities. One group of chemicals that has been studied are those that disrupt the endocrine systems of vertebrates such as fish and alligators in water bodies below wastewater treatment plant discharges. These chemicals make up birth control pills as well as other pharmaceuticals in common use. The impacts documented on fish and other animals include changes in the reproductive organs, changes in gender distribution, and physical appearance. The questions yet to be answered are: what impacts do these substances have on people and what is being done to address this issue? Two speakers are planned. Dr. **David Norris** of the Integrative Physiology Department at CU Boulder has studied impacts in Boulder Creek and the South Platte. **Steve Loman** heads up the Denver Water Department laboratory and will update us on how the DWD is looking at this issue.

## Rich Weingardt Book Signing at January's Section Dinner Meeting

Rich Weingardt, PE, Hon. M. ASCE, and member of the Colorado Section ASCE, has written another great book of our profession. *Engineering Legends: Great American Civil Engineers*, ASCE Press, ISBN 0-7844-0801-7, explores the personal lives and professional accomplishments of 32 great American civil engineers from the 1700's to the present. The book provides an in-depth look at the people behind remarkable engineering achievements.

Rich will be with the Section during its January 19 dinner meeting to autograph copies of his book for those wishing to purchase one. The books will be on sale that evening for \$35 (a savings over the normal \$37.50 plus shipping from national ASCE).

Plan to join your colleagues as they start the new year with dinner, Rich's book signing and the three great technical sessions described on Page 3 of this newsletter.

## Younger Member Group

Get ready to start off the new year with your ASCE friends! The 2006 ASCE YMG Kickoff Party will be held Thursday, January 26, at Breckenridge Brewery. The party starts at 6 PM, and we're looking forward to seeing you there. Food will be provided, and a drawing will be held for door prizes such as lift tickets, Nuggets tickets, and gift certificates. New members, coworkers, and other civil engineers are welcome!

Other upcoming events include volunteering at the Urban Peak Youth Shelter and the Denver Rescue Mission, and tutoring 6–12<sup>th</sup> graders in math. If you're interested in any of our activities, or if you would like to learn more about the Colorado Section Younger Member group, come to one of our happy hours on the second Thursday of each month or join us at the Kickoff Party in January. Please visit our website at

**<http://www.ASCEcoloradoYMG.org>**

and click on the "Newsletter" tab for more information.

Questions or comments? Feel free to contact Laura Conyers at [lconyers@geiconsultants.com](mailto:lconyers@geiconsultants.com).



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