

# February 1999 Newsletter

## THE NEBRASKA CIVIL ENGINEER

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### Meeting Information

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 1999

**HOST:** Geotechnical Group - Nebraska Section ASCE

**TOPIC:** "Wetlands Management in Nebraska"

**SPEAKER:** J. David Aiken, Water and Agricultural Law Specialist, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

**TIMES:**

5:30 - 6:30.....Social Hour

6:30 - 7:30.....Dinner

7:30.....Meeting and Program

**LOCATION:**

House of Hunan

2405 South 132<sup>nd</sup> Street

Omaha, Nebraska

**MENU:** Family-Style Dinner, (\$11.50 incl. Tax & Tip, checks payable to House of Hunan)

### J. David Aiken

A native Nebraskan, Professor Aiken graduated from Hastings College *cum laude* in 1972, and received his law degree *cum laude* in 1975 from the George Washington University in Washington D.C. While attending law school, Professor Aiken worked in the U. S. Department of Agriculture on a study of western water rights laws.

After his graduation from law school, Professor Aiken joined the University of Nebraska Department of Agricultural Economics staff in 1975. Mr. Aiken, an attorney, is a member of the District of Columbia and Nebraska bar associations, and is past Chairman of the Natural Resources Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association.

Professor Aiken has published over 100 technical and popular publications dealing with water rights and environmental and agricultural law. His talk on wetlands management in Nebraska will discuss the Federal 404 program generally, the State of Nebraska 402(d) program relative to wetlands, and

current wetlands issues, including wetlands conservation easements and wetlands banking.

## **National Engineers Week**

**February 21 - 27 1999**

National Engineers Week will be celebrated February 21 to 27, 1999. The Engineer's Roundtable, a committee composed of representatives from twenty-five engineering organizations, is already planning the activities for that week. One of the activities during this week will be displays on engineering at the Oak View Mall, 3001 S. 144<sup>th</sup> Street in Omaha, on Friday, February 19 through Sunday, February 21, 1999. This has been done in past years. Displays consist of small manned or unmanned booths provided by engineering organizations, consulting firms, engineering construction firms, universities, etc. The purpose of the displays is to inform the public about engineering. If your organization is interested in having a display at the Mall, contact Ed Mead at

697-2576 (V), 697-2595 (FAX), or

s.ed.mead@usace.army.mil.

In addition to providing displays at Oak View Mall, the Roundtable works with the Nebraska Society of Professional Engineers to develop a supplement on engineering to appear in the **Midlands Business Journal** during Engineers Week. This will be the eleventh year for this supplement. Ideas for articles are needed to continue making this a success. If you have ideas for articles or need additional information about the supplement, contact Daniel Owens at 496-2498 (V), 496-2730 (FAX).

### **Balsa Wood Truss Competition**

One of the activities sponsored by ASCE during Engineer's Week is the metro area High School Balsa Wood Truss competition. The competition will be held at the Oak View Mall. The testing machine that will load the trusses to failure will be set up on the main level just south of the glass enclosed elevators. The testing will start at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 20, 1999 and run most of the afternoon. So, if you like to see the creativity of high school students, or just hear and see things get broken, join us at the mall. For any questions or further details, please call Bruce Harris at 221-4440 (W) or 498-0296 (H).

## **1999 E-Week Banquet**

**Saturday, February 27, 1999**

**TOPIC:** "Innovative Solutions to Recruit and Retain Technical Employees"

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Uma Gupta, Information Systems Technology Dept., Creighton University

**TIME:**

6:00 – 7:00 P.M. ....Social Hour

7:00 P.M.....Banquet and Speaker

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn – Central  
3321 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha

**MENU:** Roast Strip Loin Steak; Breast of Chicken in Lemon & Caper Sauce (*Incl. mixed green salad, veg., potato, roll, dessert, beverage*)

**PRICE:** \$25.00 per person (checks payable to E-Week Roundtable)

Send reservations, menu choices and payment by **noon, Thursday, February 25** to:

Phil Rossbach, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
8404 Indian Hills Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68114-4049

### **Dr. Uma Gupta**

Dr. Uma G. Gupta is the Jack and Joan McGraw Endowed Chair in Information Technology Management in the College of Business at Creighton University. She was hired in a national search because of her distinguished career in information technology management. Dr. Gupta has authored three books and has published more than 60 journal articles in her field. She is an expert on recruitment and retention issues and has served as a consultant to several Omaha companies on this issue. She has been invited to address several professional organizations in the area of recruitment and retention. Dr. Gupta is the lead researcher in a regional survey that was conducted recently on recruitment and retention in the Omaha area. More than 500 employees from different companies participated in the survey. She is the founding member of Women in Technology, a group of more than 140 IT professionals in the area. She is also the Founder and Co-Chair of the First Midwest Conference of IT in the Workplace: Recruitment, Retention, and Career Development, to be held in September 1999.

## **1999 Geotechnical Seminar**

### **"Coexisting With Wetlands"**

More and more civil engineering projects are being done in areas where wetlands may occur. Although wetlands are usually thought of as being located in areas next to creeks, they can occur at any location where natural formations or man-made structures cause environmental conditions for formation of the specific water levels, soil development and plant growth which define wetlands. Many engineers and developers do not have an understanding of the definition of wetlands or how to use them to their advantage. Misunderstanding and misinformation cause costly delays and redesign of construction projects where wetlands are not delineated early in the design process. In some cases, the presence of

wetlands is not known until after the site has been disturbed by soil exploration or construction. However, wetlands should not be a hindrance to development, but only one item in the normal list of considerations reviewed for any development project. The next annual ASCE Nebraska Section Geotechnical conference confronts the issue of wetlands and engineering. This program will be presented on February 19, 1999 at the Kiewit Conference Center in downtown Omaha, Nebraska.

Presentations include the definition of wetland and government regulations pertaining to wetlands. Other presentations will show how natural and constructed wetlands can be used to enhance development projects. We urge geotechnical, environmental and planning engineers along with developers to attend.

A brochure with registration information is included in this issue of the newsletter.

## **National Engineers Week Future City Competition™**

### **Regional Competition**

A city of the future -- "Earth View," located on the moon and set in the year 2752 -- designed by students from Saint Wenceslaus Catholic School in Omaha, has won the Omaha Regional National Engineers Week Future City Competition™. The students -- Marty Ertz, Dan Feuerbach, and Glenn Zimmerman -- worked with their teacher, Joan Ertz, and volunteer engineer mentor David Meier, Vice President of HDR Engineering Inc., to create and build their city.

Teams from schools throughout eastern Nebraska and western Iowa participated in the competition, held on Saturday, January 30 at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and coordinated locally by our section, with support from various area corporations and engineering societies.

The competition asks students to create -- first on computer and then in large three-dimensional scale models -- their visions of the city of tomorrow. Students work with volunteer engineer mentors who help guide these youngsters through the rigors of building a functioning city. Using the award-winning SimCity 2000™ software -- donated by Maxis, a software firm based in Walnut Creek, Calif.—the students tackle politics, transportation, budgeting, energy needs, and other difficulties, and then defend their city to engineer judges at the competition.

The Saint Wenceslaus team, along with the winners of thirteen other regional competitions across the U.S., receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. for national finals during National Engineers Week, February 21-27. The national winning team receives a free trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

Second place in the competition went to Lewis Central Middle School in Council Bluffs, Iowa--mentor ASCE Nebraska Section President Brad Chambers. Third place honors went to Mission Middle School in Bellevue, Nebraska--mentor Mike Riva.

### **A Note from the Editor**

The deadline for the March 1999 newsletter is Friday, March 5, 1999.

Send articles, information or photos to:

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Feel free to contact me if you have any ideas for newsletter items or comments.

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS?**

Please notify ASCE national of any address changes by calling 1-800-548-ASCE (2723) or contact them through their web site at <http://www.asce.org>. Address changes made at national ASCE are updated monthly at your local Nebraska section.

### **President's Comments**

I would like to thank Mark Wagner, Chair – Water Resources Group for coordinating an enjoyable joint meeting last month with the UNL student section. Mr. Grams Region Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency gave an interesting and informative talk on EPA. And as usual, it is always nice and rewarding to interact with the students.

The third annual Regional Future City Competition was a success. I would like to thank all the individuals who volunteered, especially Kirby Woods and Lisa Richardson, who coordinated the event. Nearly twenty junior high school teams from eastern Nebraska and Council Bluffs competed in the Section-sponsored competition on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center. The St. Wenceslaus Catholic School team, with their future city, "Earth View" (set on the moon), will be competing in the national finals in Washington D.C. (See Story Inside).

It is now time to turn our support to other E-Week related activities. Bruce Harris is once again coordinating the Nebraska Section's Annual "Truss Bustin'" competition for area high school students. The competition will be held in the afternoon at the Oak View Mall in Omaha on Saturday, February 20. Please stop by and show your support. You will be amazed at the quality and load capacity of some of the balsa wood trusses. I hope to see you there. Also, the Annual E-Week banquet is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 1998 and will be held in Omaha at the Holiday Inn – Central. Please plan on attending.

Also this month is the Nebraska Section 1999 Geotechnical Seminar. The topic is "Coexisting with Wetlands" and is planned in conjunction with the Environmental Group. Please plan on attending the Seminar on February 19, 1999 at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center.

Thanks for your continued support of Nebraska Section activities and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming E-Week activities and our next monthly meeting.

Brad Chambers  
Nebraska Section President

### **Upcoming Meetings**



Date	Group	Location	Organizer
2/18/1999	Geotechnical	Lincoln	<a href="#">Loras Klosterman</a>
3/18/1999	Environmental	Lincoln (Honor UNL Graduates)	<a href="#">Bob Kalinski</a>
4/15/1999	Transportation	Omaha (Honor UNO Graduates)	<a href="#">Massoum Moussavi</a>
5/13/1999	Annual Meeting	To Be Announced	<a href="#">Daryoush Razavian</a>