

### President's Message

By Androush Daniellans, D.Sc, P.E.,  
MLAB President

**M**LAB held our annual awards and officer installation banquet on September 18th. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, there was a change of guard during our banquet and our new officers were sworn in. I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's Board of Directors and the Committee Chairs who helped us have a very successful year. In particular, my sincere thanks go to the following individuals:



- **Karen Sepulveda**, who served as the President and whose passionate involvement with MLAB affairs helped us achieve numerous goals that set the future path for the branch.
- **Serge Haddad**, who served as our vice president, and is our current President-elect. Serge brought in special youth and vigor to the board. His extensive involvement with our Younger Members Forum (YMF) was an asset to us to better address the needs of our younger members and expand our efforts in reaching out to the general branch members.
- **Andy Doung**, who, as the board secretary, so very patiently drafted the meeting minutes, helped in publishing the newsletters, and was the main person in getting our election process done electronically. This year Andy will be our Vice President.
- **Steve Milewski**, who has been our treasurer for several years now, and will continue serving as the treasurer in the current board. I have seen remarkable improvements in our bookkeeping since Steve took over this responsibility.

I would also like to welcome our new board member, Ms. Julia Moye, who will be our Secretary. We are fortunate that many of the committee chairs have agreed to continue working

at various levels for MLAB. The effort that all these volunteers put forth and amount of work that they get done is simply amazing. Let us not forget that this is an organization that serves over 3,500 ASCE members. Since we have a large number of members in our branch, we do need an equally larger effort to meet their needs.

To do this, we have made our government and student outreach programs our priority this year. By getting involved with government agencies and meeting with law makers we are able to bring the state of our aging infrastructure and the issues that directly affects our profession to their attention. By working with the students we not only attract new talent to our profession, but also keep the folks who study civil engineering from moving to other professions. We all know the nation is about to face a very large shortage of engineers. Therefore, it is up to us to work with students early on to introduce them to this great profession of civil engineering.

One such direct interaction is the bridge building competition for the high school students that was being organized and conducted by City of Los Angeles Bureau Engineering. The required mentorship was being provided to the students entirely by the City staff. This year, to help the effort, MLAB has agreed to provide volunteers to work with City staff. It is here that we need you, the ASCE members, to put a step forward and volunteer and be a part of this exciting experience of introducing high school students to the profession of civil engineering. In general, we do need volunteer to help out in all of our everyday activities but will specially need volunteers to help us reach out to high school students. There is a form at the end of this newsletter, and I urge you to fill out the form, and let us know how you can participate in the branch activities.

We do have a great year planned for you and hope to see you actively involved in the programs that we organize.

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New President

Awards Banquet

Air Transport

Forensic

Ethics

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## MLAB YMF Activities

By Cesar Moran

It is my pleasure to report that the Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch Younger Member Forum (MLAB YMF) has concluded an extremely successful year, hosting more than 32 activities and events throughout the year ranging from teaching elementary school children about civil engineering to informing our government officials about the importance of caring for our infrastructure. We are also proud to have hosted increasingly popular networking events, professional/personal development workshops, and a highly successful PE review course program that has a passing rate twice that of the State average. The successes of this year have increased our membership, thanks in great part to an outstanding Board of Directors that was able to work in unison toward the goals we set at the beginning of the year.

As we look toward the future, I am excited to see so many Younger Members eager to join our Board of Directors. We have now concluded our elections, and I congratulate those who made it onto the Board.

To continue the success of YMF, our current and future officers convened for our yearly officer retreat this September to map out our strategic plan for the coming year, identify areas for improvement, and establish the personal bonds that allow us to work well as a team. As a result of this retreat, our members can rest assured that there will be plenty of events in which to participate. A tentative calendar of events is posted at [www.mlab-ymf.org](http://www.mlab-ymf.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

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### MLAB Awards Dinner Banquet with Guest Speaker Will Kempton

By Serge Haddad, P.E., M. ASCE

On Thursday, September 18th the MLAB ASCE 2007-2008 fiscal year came to a close. Caltrans Director William Kempton flew down from Sacramento to celebrate with us the induction and to speak on the latest developments for Caltrans. The induction ceremony and Awards dinner was held at the Omni Hotel. Approximately eighty students

and professionals attended the event. Several engineers and projects were awarded and recognized. The winners include the following:

- Outstanding Public/Private Sector Civil Engineering Project – **LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project (Los Angeles County, Department of Public Works)**
- Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project – **Las Vigenes Creek Restoration Project (City of Calabasas)**
- Outstanding Private Sector Civil Engineering Project – **South Airfield Improvement Program LAX (HNTB)**
- Technical Excellence – **Customer Service Survey System (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)**
- Student Chapter Practitioner Advisor – **Thomas Poyer (Moffat & Nichols)**
- Outstanding Younger Civil Engineer – **Megan Patterson (Geosyntec Consultants)**
- Outstanding Civil Engineer in Government – **Joe Billy Hawkins, Jr., P.E. (City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering)**
- Outstanding Civil Engineer in Private Sector – **Tony Velasquez, P.E. (Parsons)**



*Director of Caltrans - Mr. Will Kempton  
(Guest Speaker)*

Mr. Kempton praised MLAB for its work in attracting young leadership and working to serve their profession at a local level. Mr. Kempton explained the importance of Proposition 42 and why it was one of his major priorities to protect. The funding generated from Prop 42 will guarantee hundreds of millions of dollars a year

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in transportation projects. Mr. Kempton also urged engineers to support Design-Build legislation. Design-Build is a cost-effective method for time-sensitive large projects.

The night concluded with an induction ceremony bringing in the new officers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The newly elected board members will continue in the tradition of delivering professional and prestige to the Branch. Outgoing Karen Sepulveda's leadership has created the foundation on which incoming Androush Danielians can build. Branch Bylaws have been revised, the website has been revamped to become more user-friendly, prominent leaders in the Civil Engineering profession have given strong presentations to Branch membership. The bar has been raised and the new board is ready for the challenge.

The Branch looks forward to your active involvement.

***President***

Androush Danielians, D.Sc., P.E., M.ASCE

***President-Elect***

Serge Haddad, P.E. M.ASCE

***Vice President***

Andy Gerald Duong, P.E., A.M.ASCE

***Past President***

Karen Sepulveda, A.M.ASCE

***Treasurer***

Steve Milewski, P.E. M.ASCE



*Front Row L to R: Karen Sepulveda, Jay Higgins, Cung Nguyen, Androush Danielians, Serge Haddad, Andy Duong, and Stacie Takeguchi*  
*Back Row L to R: Hector Bordas and Steve Milewski*

**Air Transport Group Luncheon with  
Guest Speaker Gina Marie Lindsey**

By Charles Adams, P.E.

The last ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch Air Transport Technical Group Luncheon Meeting was held on September 16, 2008 at the Proud Bird Restaurant at Los Angeles International Airport. The guest speaker was Ms. Gina Marie Lindsey, Executive Director, Los Angeles World Airports. Ms. Lindsey's presentation was on the latest developments at Los Angeles World Airports with an emphasis on the Capital Improvement Program for LAX.

Ms. Gina Marie Lindsey gave an overview of the status of the four airports owned and operated by Los Angeles World Airports and the current passenger volumes at the two commercial airports, Los Angeles International and LA/Ontario International Airports. She stated that the capacity of the Ontario Airport is 12 million passengers per year, but is currently averaging about 7 million passengers per year. Once the passenger volume at Ontario nears 12 million passengers per year, then LAWA will begin to expand the capacity of the Palmdale Airport. She also said that LAX is currently the largest origination-destination airport in the world and is the 5th busiest airport in terms of total passenger volume. The passenger volume of LAX has decreased after the September 11, 2001 attacks from 68 million passengers per year to almost 62 million passengers per year.

Ms. Lindsey said that although the LAX Master Plan is finalized, the Capital Improvement Program has not been finished. LAWA has recently completed a needs assessment that has resulted in a list of \$14 billion of potential projects that could be part of the Capital Improvement program. LAWA has received acceptance from the airlines that all of these projects represent work that is needed to be completed in the near future. This needs assessment list will be presented to the Mayor and Board of Airport Commissioners to determine which projects will be part of the Capital Improvement Program. The list of projects will be made public in approximately two months.

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*From L to R: Jeffrey C. Smith (Director at Large), Gina Marie Lindsey (LAWA Executive Director), Ryan O. Damery (Treasurer), Lilith Terry (Director at Large), Craig Halvorson (Vice Chairperson), and Ralph J. Taber (Secretary)*

Ms. Lindsey said that an important part of the Capital Improvement Program will be to ensure that LAX will have twelve (12) contact gates for New Large Aircraft, including the Airbus A380, by January 2012. This will be accomplished through the "Bradley West" project. This project is also known as "the backside of TBIT" and will add passenger gates on the west side of the Tom Bradley International Terminal concourse. Ms. Lindsey provided some interesting details regarding the two options being evaluated to add gates on the west side of the concourse. The first option is to expand the existing concourse to the west and the second option is to build new concourses with a phased demolition of the existing concourses. These options are being evaluated by LAWA and the Program Manager by the use of a methodical "Analytical Decision" process.

The attendance at the luncheon meeting was 128 persons.

### Forensics Technical Group Meeting with Guest Speaker Michael Wolder

By Allison Faris

The presenter at the September meeting of the ASCE Forensics group was Michael Wolder, one of the founding partners of Pistone & Wolder LLP of Irvine. His areas of specialty are engineering and construction litigation, real estate development, public works, and general business litigation. Michael's presentation (posted on the

group's website at [www.asceforensics.org](http://www.asceforensics.org)) on the common mistakes made by experts at deposition and trial was a broad look at pointers to experts from the point of view of an attorney with a technical background. Michael was trained as a mechanical engineer prior to entering the legal profession which provides him with a unique perspective on an engineer's role as an expert. His presentation included "practice pointers," areas of concern and common blunders that those interested in entering the practice of expert witnessing and those with experience as an expert witness will find useful to review. The meeting included an engaging, and ongoing, discussion about the advocacy role an engineering expert plays in a case. This topic will surely be continued at future meetings. Stay tuned for details on the next quarterly meeting of the forensics group.



## Ethics - The Road Engineers Must Follow

By Stan Horwitz, P.E., President of California Society of Professional Engineers

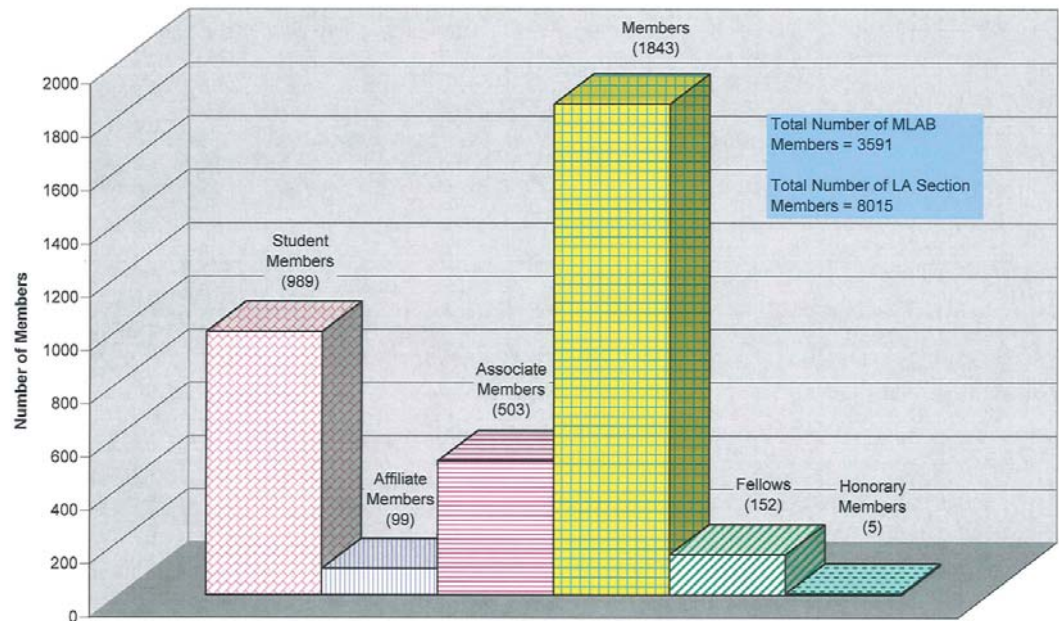
On September 30, 2008, 20 engineers attended a live, nationally viewed American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) webinar at the Public Works Building. This was a pay-for-connection class, funded by local chapters of the California Society of Professional Engineers (CSPE) and ASCE. The topic of the webinar was "Ethics: The Road All Engineers Must Follow". The speakers discussed everyday concerns all engineers encounter during the course of their jobs, such as avoiding conflicts and ethical dilemmas caused by inside or outside pressures.

ASCE speakers presented background and details of the progression of their code of ethics, how it was impacted by engineering disasters in

the past, and details of the code's present content. Then comments by the attendees, organizers and live ASCE presenters focused on what to do when presented with different situations, and what types of situations pertain to all public works engineers. This was a valuable experience and future webinars may again be hosted jointly by CSPE and the local ASCE Branch.

ASCE posts a schedule of webinars at [www.asce.org/webinar/list](http://www.asce.org/webinar/list), which will be reviewed for possible future classes. Watch your newsletter for notices

### Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch (MLAB) Member Grades for Breakdown



### Newsletter Information

Please send articles or advertising information to the editor

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**JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST!**

Keep up to date with all the current events and announcements. Join our e-mail list by updating your e-mail address on your membership profile on [www.asce.org/membersonly](http://www.asce.org/membersonly)

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.ascemlab.org](http://www.ascemlab.org)



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## 2008-2009 New ASCE MLAB Board Members



**Androush Danielians, P.E., D.Sc., President**

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## New ASCE MLAB Members

Abrahamsen	Celena	Legnos	James
Aiu	James	Magcale	Ronald
Aposhian	Lysa	Manuel	Sarah
Arnst	Maarten	Menat	Priyankan
Avila	Frank	Minasyan	Arthur
Avina	Eduardo	Mira	Kellen
Bageris	Emmanuel	Neary	Colleen
Bell	Nicholas	Patron Gallardo	Diana
Bluiett	Deseanae	Patterson	Megan
Bochkis	Linda	Pedroza	Steven
Calistro	Joshua	Perrine	Richard
Centeno	Noel	Petithomme	Robert
Chaudhuri	Mickey	Prakash	Arun
Cortez	Joel	Ravid	Arie
Cruz	Mario	Rhodes	Craig
Dominguez	Mario	Sam	Daleo
Ewing	Andrew	Sanchez	Karla
Flores	Laura	Silverman	Rachel
Frick	Michael	Sovich	Timothy
Galicia	Christian	Terry	Lilith
Garay	Sergio	Toprakci	Tuncer
Gomez	Adolfo	Tsukayama	Shane
Harris	Joel	Valle	Michael
Hickey	Katie	Vantassel	Crista
Hudson	Ryan	Velazquez	Nicolas
Hughes	Timothy	Warner	Ray
Irisarri	Nicolas	Wong	Melissa
Johnston	Kevin	Yang	Richard
Kaddorah	Salim	Yokota-Joshi	Aditi
Krikorian	Raymond	Zazirski	Krzysztof
Lee	Jerry (Yajie)		

The Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch is looking for interested members to serve on the following Committees:

- |   |                                     |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awards             | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs           | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Public information | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Groups   |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in serving on a Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch committee, please check the appropriate box, fill in necessary information below, and return to: Karen Sepulveda, Phone: 818-309-9649, Fax: 818-840-0651,

E-mail: [kar@sepulvedas.net](mailto:kar@sepulvedas.net)

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## Executive Board Members and Committee Chairs

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## Membership Information

National Membership Rates (Please verify rates and grades at <http://www.asce.org/membership>).

<b>Student:</b>	Free
<b>Associate Member:</b>	\$50 year of baccalaureate degree and first year after, then incremental increase to \$180 over five years
<b>Member:</b>	\$180 annually
<b>Affiliate Member:</b>	\$180 annually
<b>Fellow:</b>	\$215 annually
<b>Section (Branch) Dues:</b>	\$45/year

(1) National ASCE Student Membership is FREE! Contact your Student Chapter leaders or Faculty Advisor for additional information.

(2) Online membership renewal available, go to [www.asce.org/renewal](http://www.asce.org/renewal). For non-members, dues for MLAB Newsletter only \$45/year.

Please contact the Membership Chair for application forms, change of address and additional information. To update your information online, go to [www.asce.org/myprofile](http://www.asce.org/myprofile).

For questions on national ASCE membership contact [member@asce.org](mailto:member@asce.org).

## Advertising Rates

All advertising fees fund Branch Student Scholarships.

### Business Card:

\$20/individual issue or \$100/6 issues

- Please send all business card Ads to the News letter Editor.
- Scanned business cards may be e-mailed to the editor at: [jpark@tecolote.com](mailto:jpark@tecolote.com)
- Cards are due by the 15th of each month.
- Please send all checks (made payable to "ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch") to the Branch Newsletter Editor - Julia Park at Tecolote Research, Inc., 3601 Aviation Blvd., Suite 1600, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

### Job Listing:

Please forward job listing to the editor through e-mail to: [jpark@tecolote.com](mailto:jpark@tecolote.com)

**Full Page:** \$150/issue

**Half Page:** \$100/issue