



*Eastern New York Chapter*  
of the  
**ASSOCIATION FOR  
BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN**

NEWSLETTER

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*Presidents Message...*

I would like to welcome everyone to the start of an exciting new year for the ENYABCD. The board has already had one meeting and I am pleased to announce that our organization is growing and thriving going into 2003. The board along with the committees has a full agenda for the year ahead.

To start off the fall we will be having a dinner meeting in October being planned by the program committee. The ABCD will also be taking a role in sponsoring the local roads and bridges conference in Syracuse. We will also be providing a "Best utilization of a bridge" award for the future cities competition keeping the ABCD involved in industry related functions.

I am also pleased to announce that the membership of our organization is at a record high of 163 strong with a steady increase year after year. Last year we offered an incentive to get new members signed up and it resulted in 10 new members. This fall we will allow new members to sign up and have their membership go through 2003 as we have done the past few years. As our organization grows we are always looking for both new and past members to volunteer as the need for help arises. Please keep in mind that whatever time you can give it will make a difference. The board and committee chairs would like feedback from the members on any facet of our organization. Remember, it's up to all of us to keep our organization strong.

At the first board of directors meeting in August many topics were covered. One of the major goals set forth by the board is to have a ENYABCD web site up and running by early next year. We feel that this will be a great way to communicate for members and a vehicle to spread the word about our organization. The task at hand now is to make this a reality. Our first option is to see if anyone within our organization could take on this project. The next option would be to outsource this project. At this time I would ask anyone that may have interest at any level of being involved in this project to contact myself or any of the board members.

This year promises to be full of exciting and informative events and I look forward to serving as your president.

*Todd W. Brewer*

## Year End Dinner Meeting

The year end dinner meeting for was held in June 2002 at the Edison Club. The presidency was handed over to Todd Brewer (A.H.Harris) who will be taking over for Dom Izzo (Lancaster Development Inc.) Upon taking over as president, Todd handed out the annual Bridge Award. This year's award went to Harrison & Burrows for their project in Delaware Co. The project consisted of complete replacement of an existing 3 span bridge with a 2 span precast concrete beams that included precast arch fascia beams. The fascia beams, piers and abutments were faced with field stone. Todd Fancher, project superintendent was on hand to accept the award for Harrison and Burrows.

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## Hudson River Way Pedestrian Bridge and Waterfront Park Opens



The Hudson River Way Pedestrian Bridge crossing Interstate 787 and reuniting Downtown Albany with its once treasured resource the Hudson River opened to the public on August 10, 2002. Pedestrians using the Bridge have gained access to the Corning Preserve, which had been severed from downtown Albany with the building of Interstate 787 in the late 1960's. This 8.2 million-dollar multi-phase project consisted of a Bridge construction phase, which included the construction of a 575 foot long bridge, adjacent elevator structure, access ramp and a three level grand staircase, all of which complement the surrounding historic architecture of downtown. Phase 2 of the project consisted of the construction of a 2.5-acre waterfront park. The two phases were progressed concurrently in order to develop a *Destination Location* theme on the riverfront in Albany.

The concept of a connection between Downtown Albany and the Hudson River has been talked about for 15 years and with funds in place the idea became a reality in 1999. A design Team of Clough Harbour & Associates, LLP and Einhorn Yaffee Prescott provided design services and planning of the newly proposed structure and waterfront.

Harrison & Burrows Bridge Constructors, Inc. was awarded the bridge construction contract in February of 2001 and began work in early spring. The Project was progressed on an accelerated schedule in order to be completed by its August 1, 2002 deadline. Within this time period allowances for an archeological investigation, relocation of several utilities, including a main power feed for the Corning Preserve, and scheduling work around restricted lane closures of

Interstate 787 were a few of the many challenges. Sam Greco Construction was awarded the waterfront park project, Phase 2 in March 2002, and also had a similar accelerated schedule in order to be completed by August 10.



The structure consists of a 575 foot, 5 span, multi-girder steel bridge starting in Maiden Lane and crossing over Interstate 787 and into the Corning Preserve. In addition to the bridge, a grand staircase and an elevator structure had to be incorporated into the design in order for pedestrians to gain access to the bridge at Maiden Lane. The bridge has many unique features from personalized engraved granite pavers which are inlaid in the walking surface, 28 trompe l'oeil paintings found across the bridge depicting various aspects of the City's history, ornamental steel fencing, intricate concrete formwork, architectural barrier and a decorative lighting system. All are features which makes this structure unique. At the eastern terminus of the bridge pedestrians enter a newly constructed waterfront park, whose design complements that of the bridge. The primary features of the park include a 700-seat amphitheater and stage area, waterfront promenade, boat docking facilities, and landscape plantings which had been constructed under phase 2 of the project.



If you get a chance, take a visit to Downtown Albany and view the improvements and current projects.

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## ENGINEER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP STUDENTS BUILD FUTURE CITIES . . . AND MAYBE BECOME ENGINEERS THEMSELVES

In the *National Engineers Week Future City Competition*<sup>TM</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students create cities of tomorrow; however, the engineer-mentors who volunteer in this increasingly popular program say what's really being created are the engineers of tomorrow.

Now entering its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the *Future City Competition* invites students to design a city using SimCity3000 software and then transform their computer design into a three-dimensional model. Guiding the students are teachers and local volunteers (mentors) from every engineering discipline. Although, the immediate goal is to design a future city, engineers have discovered the program also introduces young people to the profession of engineering, a career they otherwise may never have considered.

While the *Future City Competition* was once primarily an extracurricular activity, more and more schools have found it to be a perfect fit for math, science and technology courses. Students start designing their cities at the beginning of the school year, working during and after school as well as through holidays breaks.

Engineer-mentors guide the students from beginning to end, offering solutions to the problems as they crop up, which can happen with alarming frequency without proper precautions. For example, build a factory and employment rises, boosting tax revenues. That same factory, however, may increase pollution, and force people to move away, thus decreasing tax revenues. By sharing real world experience with young people, engineer-mentors provide insights that help students face such challenges and resolve them. That encouragement often plants the seed of interest among students in problem solving, the heart and soul of engineering.

By giving a few hours a week to the *Future City Competition*, a mentor is doing more than advising youngsters on how to increase energy production or plan mass transit systems. They are also laying a foundation that could prove crucial in ensuring the strength of their profession.

The Capital District's regional competition will be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2003 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the first place team (including the engineer mentor) win all-expense paid trips to Washington, D.C., for the national finals during National Engineers Week, February 16-22, 2003.

Mentors are currently needed for schools that have already registered, and with the start of school just around the corner, additional mentors will be needed as more schools register. It is anticipated that we will have schools from as far west as Montgomery and Fulton counties and as far north as Warren and Washington counties. Ideally, a mentor is paired with a school in his or her home or work community. To become a mentor to a school in the Capital District, or for more information, contact Kevin Powers, Capital District *Future City Competition* School and Mentor Committee Chair, at (518)951-2288, or via e-mail at [kevin\\_powers@earthtech.com](mailto:kevin_powers@earthtech.com), or visit the national *Future City Competition* website at [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org).

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*We are continually seeking interesting ENGINEERING STORIES for future issues. Your experience in the bridge industry no doubt has provided some projects of interest to all ABCD members. Please email me at: [ethorkildsen@collinsengr.com](mailto:ethorkildsen@collinsengr.com). Special thanks to Scott Davis and Maggie for help in newsletter preparation.*

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The Ninth Statewide Conference on Local Bridges will be held on October 23 and 24 in Syracuse. There will be a Training Session on the afternoon of the 22nd covering Bridge Maintenance. Information on the conference can be found on the Cornell Local Roads Program's website: [www.clrp.cornell.com](http://www.clrp.cornell.com). Phone and fax numbers are provided on the website along with a tentative agenda. CLRP handles the registration.
- The next meeting of the Eastern New York Technical Council will be Monday -October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5 PM at Ryan-Biggs Office, 291 River Street, Troy.
- September 24th Albany Society of Engineers, Future of Civil Engineering, contact Euan Somerscales at 273-7034.
- September 26th Capital District Chapter NYSSPE Chapter Meeting, contact Tom McGrath 452-4352.
- September 26<sup>th</sup> Mohawk-Hudson ASCE Transportation Group Meeting, contact Bob Kamp 456-2052.
- October 5<sup>th</sup> Mohawk-Hudson ASCE Section Dinner Celebrating ASCE's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, contact Bob Kamp 456-2052.
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, NYACE meeting, contact Eric Thorkildsen 479-1430.
- LOOK OUT for notice of next ABCD meeting, coming your way in October.

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### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The public relations committee was started last year and is finding its way as we start this year. One thing we have started is putting announcements of upcoming meetings and events of the ABCD in the local papers. We are currently set up electronically to send information out for publication. We are also looking for ideas and help on this committee.

By Dominic Izzo

# ABCD

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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