



Alaska Designs

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The Official Newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council

Subject Matter Experts Complete AKLS Exam Review

Eleven subject matter experts representing the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS) gathered in Anchorage on June 17, 2011, for the annual Alaska Licensed Surveyor Exam (AKLS) review workshop. Their report to the ASPLS board listed the attendees and provided the following information.

Attendees included Gary Brown, Mark Hall, Nick Cline, Gene LeQuire, Amy Orange-Posma, Stanley Brown, Pat Kalen, Pat Kelly, Eric Gabrielson, Michael Fretwell and Ken Ayers.

Jack Warner of Test Inc led the exam workshop. Jack's brother Steve

passed away in March and will be missed at the exam workshops. The Warner brothers have been involved in the exam since 1994. Jack's participation will continue to be instrumental to the process.

We reviewed the 2011 exam, rated the questions that were in use for the first time and voted to drop two questions from scoring. The ratings will be used to set the passing score. We were told that 28 people took the exam.

We also reviewed the 2012 exam questions that will be in use for the first time and checked the exam for duplicate questions.

There was spirited debate on

a few items leading to removing a couple of questions from the item bank. A few questions were rewritten and a few new questions were added. Jack said our item bank is in great shape.

It was noted that our pending rewrite of the ASPLS Standards of Practice Manual will have a huge impact on the item bank. This will lead to the need for a complete review and rewrite of several sections of the content domain.

At the end of the workshop Jack responded to a question regarding computer-based testing. To his knowledge no other state has a state specific computer-based exam at this time. He thought that Alaska should take the cautious approach and wait before trying to adopt computer based testing. Jack's recommendation was in the 10 or more years range. ❖

Draft Available for Public Comment

Geospatial Strategic Plan Released

By Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

A Draft Geospatial Strategic Plan has been developed for Alaska as part of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) 50 States Initiative award. Participation of stakeholders in an online survey, executive management interviews, and workshops were critical to guiding the direction of this Plan.

This Draft Plan is now available for public review and comment at <https://sites.google.com/site/akgeospatialplans/AKGeospatialStrategicPlan-Draftv1.pdf>. We welcome you to take a look at the plan and provide any comments that you may have by email to Shane Engel, sengel@dewberry.com, by August 1, 2011.

This Geospatial Strategic Plan will be followed by a subsequent

Business Plan. As a key step in implementing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), these plans will facilitate the collaboration, coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources that support the collection and sharing of geospatial data across Alaska.

For more information, download the project fact sheet at <https://sites.google.com/site/akgeospatialplans/FactSheet.pdf>.

Stakeholder involvement is vital to the success of this effort. By sharing your experiences and ideas regarding future development of geographic data and technology, you can help ensure the effectiveness of Alaska's geospatial initiatives. We encourage your participation in order to produce the most benefit for all concerned. ❖



Best wishes for a safe, fun 4th of July celebration!

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Employee News: Shannn & Wilson

June 28, 2011 – Shannon & Wilson announces the appointment of Kyle Brennan, PE, to the Municipality of Anchorage Geotechnical Advisory Commission (GAC) by Mayor Dan

Sullivan. The GAC provides guidance to the Assembly, Mayor, municipal departments, Planning



and Zoning Commission, Platting Board, Building Board, Building Safety, and the professional design community on issues relating to natural hazards risk mitigation.

Kyle began working at Shannon & Wilson in Anchorage as a staff-level geotechnical engineer in May 2000, after completing an MS degree in Geological Engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is currently the Geotechnical Group Leader for Shannon & Wilson's Anchorage office.

In his 11 years with Shannon & Wilson, Kyle has provided geotechnical engineering for a wide range of projects throughout Alaska with a majority of that work focused on the Anchorage Bowl area. In that time, he has become well acquainted with the soil and rock conditions in the Anchorage area, and has developed a strong understanding of the challenging geotechnical environment in which Anchorage is located.

Kyle is looking forward to working with his peers in the geotechnical community to give back to the city that has provided the setting for the development and growth of his family and career.

Shannon & Wilson also announces the addition of two employees.

Lisa Heath recently joined Shannon & Wilson as Marketing Coordinator in the Anchorage office. She is responsible for marketing, proposals and technical writing. Lisa has over nine years of experience in project coordination, technical writing, and design of marketing materials within the Engineering and Architecture industry. Also prior to joining Shannon & Wilson, Lisa worked for a business resource non-profit, planning and organizing professional development activities. She holds a BS in Business Marketing from Montana State University.



Also joining Shannon & Wilson in Anchorage is Tanya Cabrito as Environmental Engineer II. Her duties include fieldwork; sample collection, data assessment, and reporting; Environmental Site Assessments; and technical reports. Tanya recently completed her Master's degree in Environmental Engineering with a focus on Environmental and Water Resource Systems Engineering at Cornell University.



While finishing her degree, Tanya worked as researcher and sub-team leader for AguaClara, a non-profit organization that designs small scale sustainable water treatment plants for small villages in the Global South including Honduras and Guatemala. ❖

Western Surveyors Recommend Trio of Scholarship Awards

The Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS) announced in June that three scholarship applications were received this year and the Scholarship Committee recommended awards of \$2,000 each. Two applicants are seniors at Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) in Klamath Falls, and one is a junior at New Mexico State University. All have been active in the student chapters of the state professional surveyor societies.

Jason Robert Weisz will be a senior at OIT and has an overall GPA of 3.82. He plans to graduate in June 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Geomatics, Land Surveying option and a minor in Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Lee Thomas Wilson will be a junior at New Mexico State University, with an overall GPA of 4.0. Lee plans to graduate in the spring of 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Survey Engineering. Lee was inducted into the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society in 2010.

Michelle S. McBride will be a senior at OIT with an overall GPA of 3.45. Michelle plans to graduate in June 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Geomatics, Land Surveying option and a minor in GIS.

The WFPS report includes more information about their college activities and other qualifications, and excerpts from the students' essays on their future plans and why they should receive the scholarship. Contact the ASPLS executive secretary for a copy at sterlingtouch@gci.net. ❖



From the Editor

This recent letter to ASPLS from a winner in the student TrigStar competition is a pleasant reminder of the value of professional outreach to students, from grade school through the university system. Your mentorship sparks interest, helps students learn how they can apply their education in math and science, and ultimately helps build your professions.



*To whom it may concern,
Thank you very much for allowing us to participate in the Trigstar Exam. It was a great opportunity, and I'm really thankful to have a bit of extra money. Thank you once again.

Mason Simmers
(Grace Christian)*

Thank you to all the ASPLS members and sustainers who contribute time and money to sponsor the TrigStar Program annually in Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage schools, and to all who support student outreach in their fields. I enjoy sharing your outreach activities in these pages.

I also wonder your opinions on issues such as the recent flap in Anchorage about how to teach math, or about zoning ordinance re-writes in progress or looming in several jurisdictions. I'm a "word person" – I read critically and *follow* technical arguments but in the two examples I cited – are my math skills lacking because of the way I was taught? How does what I might *prefer* in a zoning code affect cost or practi-

cality? I would enjoy hearing your opinions. Does the design community generally agree on an issue?

Letters to the Editor are welcome, and can help advance a debate and lead to a better decision. I look forward to hearing from you on current issues. ❖

Classified Ads

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

SEPTIC SYSTEMS, Coast Guard approved units. 60% discount from new. One unit uses ultraviolet light, the other uses chlorine tablets. Fast Model 1250 (ultraviolet), rated for up to 80 people/day, \$25,000. Fast Model 750 (chlorine tablets), rated for up to 35 people/day, \$18,000. Both can be used on a ship or on land in sensitive areas. Both units are unused and upgraded to 2005 electric code. (907) 235-8975 between 9 AM and 9 PM Alaska Standard Time. Specifications and manual available, plus details of testing and refurbishment. The Fast 1250 is equivalent to Fast Model D3 Micropho-MC-8000. Fast 750 is equivalent to Fast Model P2 & Microphor MC-6000.



The monthly newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council does not necessarily express the opinions of the Council, the member societies, or their members.

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AIA Alaska Announces 2011 Conference News

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Alaska Chapter annual conference will be October 6 – 8 at the Captain Cook Hotel. Conference information is available at www.regonline.com/AIAAlaska_Convention2011.

Sponsor opportunity is also available online at www.regonline.com/AIAAlaska_Convention2011_Sponsors. ❖

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Links to APDC Sustaining Members' web sites are available in the online directory at <http://www.apdc-ak.org>.

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The annual cost for sustaining membership is based on your listing in the Sustaining Member Directory: \$100 for the first line, \$40 for each additional line, and \$100 to add a logo. The listing is also placed on www.apdc-ak.org and logos include hyperlinks to your website.

Contact the editor to join: sterlingtouch@gci.net or info@apdc-ak.org.

Alaska Professional Design Council Calendar

Friday, July 1, 2011

PEPP, 11:45, BP Energy Center, Anchorage (1st Fri).

Monday, July 4, 2011

ASPE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon) (*check for date change*)

Thursday, July 7, 2011

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs).

APDC, Noon, CRW Engineering, 3940 Arctic Suite 300, Anchorage (1st Thurs).

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings at Noon at the AEL&P 2nd Floor Conference Room (2nd Wed).

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed).

Thursday, July 14, 2011

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs).

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., Michael Baker Corporation, Anchorage (2nd Thurs).

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose's Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues).

ASPLS Anchorage, Noon, Peanut Farm, (3rd Tues).

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

ASCE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed).

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed).

Deadline for the August issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday)

Thursday, July 21, 2011

AIA Alaska Board Meeting, 5:45 pm, UMIAQ, 6700 Arctic Spur Rd.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

ASPLS Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues)

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

ASPLS Valley, 12 Noon, Windbreak, Wasilla (last Wed)



Monday, August 1, 2011

ASPE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon).

Thursday, August 4, 2011

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs).

APDC, Noon, CRW Engineering, 3940 Arctic Suite 300, Anchorage (1st Thurs).

Friday, August 5, 2011

PEPP, 11:45, BP Energy Center, Anchorage (1st Fri)

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings at Noon at the AEL&P 2nd Floor Conference Room (2nd Wed).

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed).

Thursday, August 11, 2011

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., Michael Baker Corporation, Anchorage (2nd Thurs).

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs).

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose's Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues).

ASPLS Anchorage, Noon, Peanut Farm, (3rd Tues).

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

ASCE Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed).

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed).

Thursday, August 18, 2011

AIA Alaska Board Meeting, 5:45 pm, UMIAQ, 6700 Arctic Spur Rd.

Monday, August 22, 2011

Deadline for the September issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday).

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

ASPLS Fairbanks, 12 Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues).

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

ASPLS Valley, 12 Noon, Windbreak, Wasilla (last Wed).

Send calendar notices/updates by the 20th of each month to Vicky Sterling, sterlingtouch@gci.net, fax 345-1028, or call 644-9940.

When and Where



Always check locally to confirm meeting times and locations. Some organizations suspend or reschedule meetings in summer months. The newsletter publication calendar generally does not allow time to include holiday and last-minute schedule changes.

Alaska Designs Welcomes Articles

Alaska Designs welcomes articles and letters on subjects of interest to design professionals. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month's issue. Items may be edited for length or content and will be published as space is available.

Submit items to the editor, Vicky Sterling, at Sterling Touch, 11921 Nebesna Drive, Anchorage AK 99507, Phone 644-9940, Fax 345-1028, or email sterlingtouch@gci.net.