



## YPG Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2013

ACEC-BC has had a great year with many changes and enhancements to our programs. The Young Professionals Group (YPG) has moved forward with a number of new initiatives, while maintaining our commitment to education through our Breakfast Seminar program. This newsletter focusses on wrapping up the 2012 - 2013 year and providing a taste of what's in store for the 2013 - 2014 year.



This newsletter also ends my term as ACEC-BC Provincial YPG Chair and Lower Mainland YPG Chair. It has been my great pleasure to work with these committees this year. The YPG is successful because of the great work of our many volunteers and the leadership of the Steering Committee. Many hands, minds, and hours of effort go into each YPG event and publication. I would especially like to thank Joel McAllister, the outgoing Past Chair for his guidance and advice. I also owe much thanks to the staff at ACEC-BC. Keith, Brian, Alla, and Dave make all of our events and communications possible with their commitment to the success of ACEC-BC and to the YPG program. I have enjoyed getting to know them as we have worked together over the past two years. The YPG also owes our success to a supportive and engaged Board of Directors who understand that building the skills and networks of our YPs is essential to the future success of our industry.

Next years' Provincial and Regional Committees have already been elected. This dedicated group of YPs will bring energy, enthusiasm, and great ideas to the 2013 / 2014 year. I have handed over the reins to incoming Provincial YPG Chair Mark Byram and incoming Lower Mainland YPG Chair Charlie Yao. I am excited to see the great things they accomplish with these committees over the next year. I know they have wonderful ideas brewing for 2013 -2014. Inside this newsletter, they will introduce their committees and provide a small preview of the plans for next year.

Being involved with the ACEC-BC YPG has been a wonderful experience. I learned so much from the Board, from the committees, and from fulfilling the requirements of the chair role. I have also enjoyed meeting and getting to know many YPs across the consulting industry. My time over the past two years has reinforced my belief that volunteering pays dividends well beyond the investment in time and energy. I encourage everyone reading this to find a way to get involved in your community and your industry. As always, you can find the ACEC-BC YPG on Facebook, Twitter, or through email at [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca).

### Also in this edition:

- YPG Year-in-Review
- Meet the 2013 - 2014 Committee
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Looking forward

Allison Clavelle, Past Chair, ACEC-BC Provincial YP Steering Committee

## Lower Mainland Regional Steering Committee - Year in Review

The Lower Mainland Region had a busy year. In addition to supporting the priorities of the Provincial Committee with respect to communications and volunteer recruitment, the region also hosted six breakfast seminars and was the home of the first annual Consultants' Contraption.

### **Lower Mainland Region Professional Development 2012/2013**

*Siobhan Holladay, E.I.T., Hatch Mott MacDonald*

This has been a very successful year for the Vancouver Area with respect to professional development activities. We have successfully run 6 scheduled ACEC BC Young Professionals Group (YPG) breakfast seminars in the 2012/2013 program. The goal of these seminars is to provide networking and 'soft skills development' opportunities to young consulting engineering professionals (defined as having less than 10 years of experience). The ACEC-BC Board identified three categories of skills that they would like to see young professions develop:

1. Communications (meetings, presentations, technical writing, teamwork)
2. Legal and financial competency (professional liability, successful budgeting, developing finances to benefit the firm and understanding and developing the firm's profits)
3. Leadership and project management (management skills and lessons learned, creating teams, developing leadership skills)

Through this year's program we have touched on all of the above categories. We started the year with an inspirational presentation from this year's ACEC-BC President, Steve Fleck, who challenged us to get engaged, to connect with people in order to become leaders in our personal and professional lives. We then bridged the gap between communications and legal competency when we learned about privileged communications, record keeping and technical writing from a legal perspective with Marina Pratchett from Fasken Martineau DuMoulin.

Continuing in the legal competency vein we learned about the life of a lawsuit with Kerry Short from Twinning & Short Law Corporation then connected communications, leadership and project management when we learned about how personality types can affect communication, leadership and management styles with Russell Cullingsworth from EQ Advantage.

To cap off the year we focused on mentorship, first by learning about the APEGBC mentorship program and meeting a successful APEGBC mentor-mentee pair. We will finish the series with a panel discussion on internal mentorship programs with a focus on identifying the key elements of a successful mentorship program. Hopefully attendees will leave with some tools and ideas to either establish or improve mentorship programs in their own firms.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue to build the professional development program in the Vancouver area and across the province. Our goal is to empower young professionals and help them develop a good foundation for a successful career in consulting engineering.

## **Consultants' Contraption 2012/2013**

*Patrick Ho, E.I.T., Levelton Consultants*

"Consultants' Contraption" was a charity event involving various member organizations making donations to "Geering Up!" through the creation of a Rube Goldberg (chain reaction) machine. The goal of the event was to raise the profile of ACEC-BC to the public and to pique interest of children for the future of consulting engineering. The event took place on November 10, 2013 at Park Royal Centre in West Vancouver.

A total of 6 member companies participated (Aplin & Martin, Hatch Mott MacDonald, Levelton Consultants, Opus Dayton Knight, Urban Systems and Worley Parsons) in the event, in addition to EBA who was a sponsor of the event. Each of the participants designed and built a "contraption" that needed to transport a golf ball from one side to the other in the most complicated fashion possible. These "contraptions" were then joined end to end along with a ACEC-BC end "contraption" that would raise a ACEC-BC banner at the end of the run. The event also raised a total of \$3,250 for "Geering Up!" for education tools and bursaries.

After a successful first year, the Local Community Involvement Committee of the YPG plans to make the Consultants' Contraption even bigger and better next year. There will be lots of opportunity to get involved with this event at varying levels of commitment. Contact Patrick Ho at [pho@levelton.com](mailto:pho@levelton.com) for more information.

## **Lower Mainland Communications 2012 / 2013**

*Joanne Slazyk, P.Eng.*

The primary roles of the Local Communications Director are to advertise events organized by the ACEC BC Young Professionals Group, provide content for ACEC BC media, and promote strong communication between ACEC BC and young professionals. The Communications Director also attends monthly ACEC BC YPG committee meetings and liaises with other committee members.

This year begot much success for the position. We documented ACEC BC YPG events with photographs and event summaries to share event experiences in ACEC BC Newsbriefs and YPG Newsletters. We were able to use social media outlets such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn to promote and discuss ACEC BC YPG events and engage young professionals in the lower mainland. Moving forward, social media will be an instrumental communication tool.

A future opportunity for the position involves working with the Local Professional Development and Education Director to develop communications based educational seminars that cover topics such as giving effective presentations, technical writing, proposal writing, and verbal communication. An opportunity also exists for cross promotion with other engineering and professional groups and committees to increase the ACEC BC YPG audience.

## **Vancouver Island Committee - Year in Review**

*Mark Byram, P.Eng. - Metro Group of Companies - GOAL Engineering Ltd.*

### **Professional Development / Education Year in Review 2012/2013**

At the beginning of the year the executive met to review the breakfast seminar topics of the past three years to determine which development categories to target for the coming year. The executive has favored a balanced approach to cover all of the development categories. From this speakers were contacted and arranged prior to the start of the ACEC year. This facilitated the excellent line up of speakers that we had this year.

The five breakfast seminars on Vancouver Island covered Client Relationships and Management (Peter Furgeson, P.Eng.), Conflict Resolution (Ann Ovstaas), Major Project Delivery (Steve Fleck, P.Eng), Transitioning from Engineer to Manager (Mike Currie, P.Eng. FEC) and one talk about Legal Aspect of Record Keeping (Neil Carfra, LLB).

All talks were very well received by the Young Professionals in attendance. The Executive would like to thank all of the speakers for their time and enthusiasm in sharing their valuable materials and experience with us.

Internally the Vancouver Island Executive has made a great effort to use the remote file sharing system to store files for collaboration and future use. The registration lists, event itineraries, feedback form summaries are stored in the cloud system. After every seminar one executive member volunteers to summarize the event and highlights key components of the talk. Photographs of all breakfast seminar events and socials are taken and saved to the communal file management system.

I would like to thank Brian S. White, P. Eng. of McElhanney and Warren Wunderlick, P.Eng. of Thurber Engineering for their help with the planning and execution of our ACEC events this year. You will be missed on the Executive Committee in the coming year.

This year saw our first ever ACEC BC Ping Pong Champion crowned. This title will be up for grabs again next year. One additional highlight for the year has been the strong sales of annual passes for the breakfast events.

I look forward to working with the current and new members to come for the Vancouver Island Executive in the coming year. We will strive to continue to build on the strong foundation of the YPG Program.

## **Okanagan Committee - Year in Review**

The Thompson-Okanagan ACEC YPG held three breakfast seminars in Kelowna over the past year which covered the following topics:

- Advocacy and the Importance of Being Engaged (Steve Fleck, P. Eng., MBA, Vice-President, Stantec Consulting, President ACEC-BC)
- Empowering Young Professionals Through Communications: Effective Communications Through Technical Writing (Leonard Firkus, MBA, P.Eng., Partner, Bellrock Benchmarking Inc.)
- Creating a Culture for Success - How YPs can Improve their Work Environment through Openness (Steve Frith, President, Urban Systems)

The Committee also made connections with the newly formed Okanagan Young Professionals Collective (OYP), a non-profit group organized through the Central Okanagan Economic Development Committee. This group aims to connect young professionals in the region from different organizations to streamline efforts and resources put towards young professional initiatives. On October 25th, Jono Lowe from our Steering Committee spoke about ACEC and our YP group at a gathering of approximately 150 young professionals and 14 active young professional groups.

Thank you to Garrett Hamilton-Smith (Eaton) and Jono Lowe (Urban Systems) for their help with the planning and execution of our ACEC events this year.

The Thompson-Okanagan Committee is still looking for Steering Committee members for the upcoming year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Anne Girtz.

Finally, we are planning a year-end social in mid-July; look for details to be announced shortly.

Anne Girtz, P.Eng.  
Thompson-Okanagan ACEC YPG Chair

## Looking Forward - What's in Store for 2013 - 2014?

The upcoming year for ACEC BC will be unique in that the Young Professional Group Provincial Chair (Mark Byram - Victoria, BC) and the Chair of the ACEC BC Board (Cameron Gatey - Kamloops, BC) both reside outside of the Lower Mainland. The coming together of Consulting Engineers from all parts of the province will be a theme that will be carried into the upcoming year for the Young Professionals. Our aim for the year is to spread the reach of the YP Program geographically and within our member organizations.



We will be promoting events outside of the usual venues. For example, one breakfast seminar is scheduled to be held in Nanaimo in the coming year. Additionally, we will aim to connect our members by promoting individual involvement in both planned events and on our online forums (LinkedIn and Facebook).

The YP Program has seen a significant transformation through the guidance of Allison Clavelle (Past Provincial Chair), with the help of the Executive, ACEC Board and staff. A strong foundation has been established for all YP's in the province since the founding of the group in 2006.

All of us that have volunteered our time with ACEC BC *"To promote and empower the development of Young Professionals' careers in the Consulting Engineering Business"* have found that you get more out than you put in.

Our hope for the coming year is that we can involve as many volunteers as possible in achieving our goals. This will reinforce the YP Program and connection between members.

One of our objectives will be to strengthen the relationships of our YP's with Young Professionals in other organizations. Our aim is to develop lasting relationships between future leaders in our client groups through our Young Professionals.

It is my personal goal to begin developing a long-term plan for the YP Program that sets the path for the program to become the foundation for our members for their professional business development.

This year we will aim to maintain the high level of service the program has offered in the past and will rely on the efforts of the provincial and local volunteers, ACEC BC staff and guidance from the Board.

I hope that you are able to attend the seminars and social events in the upcoming year and most importantly become involved in "your" YP Program.

Below you will find a list of our executive volunteers for the year with three position vacancies that might be your opportunity to get involved. Please send us an email if you would like to volunteer for these roles or if you would like your name added to the volunteer bank.

I am looking forward to another exciting year for our Young Professional program starting in the fall.

Have a great summer,

Mark Byram  
ACEC BC - YPG Provincial Chair  
[mbyram@goalengineering.com](mailto:mbyram@goalengineering.com)

**2013 - 2014 YPG Steering Committee**

<b>Provincial Steering Committee:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Mark Byram</li> <li>• Vice Chair: Charlie Yao</li> <li>• Okanagan Chair: Anne Girtz</li> <li>• Vancouver Island Chair: Mark Byram</li> <li>• Past Chair: Allison Clavelle</li> <li>• Lower Mainland Vice Chair: Graeme McAllister</li> <li>• Communications: Tijana Smiljanic</li> <li>• Professional Development / Education: Siobhan Holladay</li> </ul>		
<b>Lower Mainland</b>	<b>Vancouver Island</b>	<b>Okanagan</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Charlie Yao</li> <li>• Vice Chair: Graeme McAllister</li> <li>• Past Chair: Allison Clavelle</li> <li>• Communications: Justin Cheng</li> <li>• Professional Development / Education: Zaid Azaizeh</li> <li>• Networking: Zahra Pirani</li> <li>• Volunteer Management: <b>to be determined.</b></li> <li>• Student Outreach: Raj Sandhu</li> <li>• Community Involvement: Patrick Ho</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Mark Byram</li> <li>• Vice Chair: Lisanne Naeth</li> <li>• Communications: Lisanne Nath</li> <li>• Student Outreach: Irvin Naidu</li> <li>• Networking: Craig Appelman</li> <li>• Networking: <b>to be determined</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Anne Girtz</li> <li>• Vice Chair: Garrett Hamilton-Smith</li> </ul>
<b>Young Professional Committee Representatives</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FIDIC: Selena Wilson</li> <li>• ACEC: Charlie Yao</li> <li>• Municipal Engineering: Stuart Nash and Andy Ngae</li> <li>• Business Practice: Graeme McAllister</li> <li>• Transportation: <b>to be determined.</b></li> <li>• Building Committee: Charlie Yao</li> <li>• Resource and Energy: Zahra Pirani</li> <li>• Membership Affairs: Simon Lee</li> </ul>		