

## APWA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Since the 1999-2000 school year, APWA members have been sponsoring a scholarship program to assist junior and senior level civil engineering students at Kansas State University (KSU) and the University of Kansas (KU) with tuition. Including this school year, 26 students have received a total of \$30,000. Thanks to the generous bidding and donations of APWA members and many others at APWA scholarship auctions, and participants in our chapter golf tournaments, funds have been available to provide these scholarships to deserving students at both KU and KSU. Thanks to everyone for being a part of this scholarship program!

In the summer of 2006, the Scholarship Committee members (Terese Gorman, Andy Haney, Jeff Hancock, Ron Seitz, Brett Letkowski, Cecil Kingsley, Dr. Tom Mulinazzi, Dr. Robert Stokes) determined that it would be beneficial to the students and financially feasible for the scholarship fund to increase the amount of the scholarships due to the escalating cost of college tuition and books. So, beginning in the fall of 2006, the scholarships at KU and KSU were each increased to \$2,000 per school year. This action was approved by the Executive Board on February 8, 2007.

Tuition continues to increase at both universities. Tuition this school year for an engineering student is approximately \$4600 for 15 credit hours which is a typical semester class schedule. From meeting and talking to some of our scholarship recipients, our scholarship provides them necessary financial assistance to complete their education.

The 2009-2010 winner from Kansas State University of our \$2,000 annual scholarship is Stephen Austin. Stephen is from St. Mary's, Kansas and is entering his senior year with plans to graduate in May 2010. He worked this past summer as an undergraduate research assistant in the Kansas State University Transportation Center on wireless bridge health monitoring research. The previous summer he worked at Olsson Associates in the municipal water/wastewater division designing water and wastewater piping for various projects including a stadium, housing developments, and business developments. Stephen has also been involved with various activities at KSU including ASCE, Chi Epsilon, and Engineers Without Borders.

The 2009-2010 winner from the University of Kansas of our annual \$2,000 scholarship is Micah Pattison. Micah is from Tonganoxie, Kansas and is a senior in civil engineering planning to graduate in May 2010. He is a non-traditional student who worked for a number of years as a plumber after graduating from high school and eventually became a master plumber. Micah is married with 5 children and spends any free time coaching his kids in baseball and basketball.

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Recession? In August Riley County, Kansas was identified as the least economically challenged county in the United States of a poll of counties with populations greater than 25,000. Good thing I live here. Really, though we're all Kansans and at this time we're darn lucky to be in Kansas. The Kansas population in general has seemed to skirt a lot of the hardships that other state populations are experiencing. Why is that? A lot of it has to do with you. You make sound decisions on how to utilize millions of dollars of revenues and expenses. One of the ways you do this is by collaborating with your peers in the same profession. Because you are a Kansan you're neighborly; and neighbors help each other out. Help has many forms whether it's help with recovery from a tornado or help with trying to figure out how to do things better. I travel all over the State of Kansas whether it be work or play related. I've also traveled all over the country. One thing I know is that there is no match for the people of

*(Continued on page 2)*

Kansas. Wherever I go in Kansas I feel welcomed...just like a neighbor. It is this feeling of goodness and welcome that I think makes Kansans more resilient to the fluctuations of things that can make life less enjoyable for the rest of the country, like economic downturns. We work together, we work with common purpose, and we respect the knowledge and experience of our neighbors. We're not too proud to shun good advice in the interest of pride. The Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) is a great breeding ground for the collaborative nature of the people of Kansas within the public works profession. This year's spring conference was the apex of that collaborative nature. Whether you gained knowledge through professional presentations or through a cup a coffee with a neighbor, good information was had by all. Don't stop there continue your collaborative adventures by attending the Fall Conference to be held in Topeka or even the APWA National Congress in Columbus, OH. As you continue to progress through these tough times remember it could be much much worse. You could be without APWA or worse yet you could be saying "Gee Toto, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore".



Stephen Austin accepts scholarship check from Dr. Najjar



Micah Pattison receives his scholarship check

# Annual Fall Meeting



October 6, 2009

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hosted by City of Topeka: 620 SE Madison

The annual fall meeting will be hosted in Topeka, Kansas by City of Topeka.

The Fall Meeting program is designed to be convenient for those attending the League Conference as well as members who would like to join us for just this meeting. Please join us October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. APWA Members are encouraged to register and bring non-members.

The format of the meeting will be casual and interactive. Please enjoy this opportunity to network with colleagues, share your challenges and successes, and gather ideas, information, and energy from this professional development opportunity.

- 9:30                                **Pre-meeting break** (coffee & snacks)
- 10:00                                **Annual Fall Business Meeting**  
Jeff Hancock, P.E.  
Committee Reports and Election of Officers
- 10:30                                **APWA – What Your Membership Can Do for You**  
Brian Van Norman, Director of Chapter Relations, APWA
- 11:00                                **Topeka River Front Project**  
Neil Dobler, P.E., Bartlett & West
- 12:00                                **LUNCH - will be provided**
- 1:00                                **Future Funding Prospects for Local Projects –  
Federal Fund Exchange Program**  
Ron Seitz, P.E., KDOT Bureau of Local Projects  
**(Time at the end will be allowed for open discussion)**
- 2:00                                **Practical Improvements – How they can apply to Local Projects**  
Amy Rockers, P.E. Bureau of Design
- 3:00                                **Dismissal**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration by check only, mail to:

**Kansas Chapter of APWA**  
c/o Tamara Bennett, City of Lawrence  
PO Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044-0708

Registration fees are \$35 per person. Registration  
for this event is not related to the fall  
League of Municipalities meeting.

# Delegate's Corner

Hello fellow Kansas APWA Chapter members. My name is Mike McGee, Deputy Public Works Director in Topeka. Brian Clennan, City Engineer in Hutchinson and I serve as your representatives to the national House of Delegates. As delegates, our role is to represent the chapter position on various issues being pursued by the APWA National Board of Directors. It is also to act as a liaison from the House of Delegates and share information on policy/direction being pursued by APWA. Recently the Region VI delegates met in Colorado with delegates from regions VII, VIII and IX to discuss the recently updated APWA strategy document and to review the top ten trends and action steps from the "America 2050" report. A number of other topics were discussed including advocacy efforts, technical committee reports, asset management strategies and the many opportunities afforded on the APWA Info Now website.

- 1) **Strategic Document** – the National Board of Directors is planning to conduct a webcast in the future to roll out the APWA strategic position and receive input from the membership. The objective is to develop a more detailed strategy and priorities for the next five years. Please watch for this important opportunity to participate in defining the future direction of our organization.
- 2) **America 2050 Report** – the following highlights include the Top Ten Trends and action steps identified from the report. The notes include current efforts or planned work in the near future on several of the action steps. The entire report can be found on the APWA website at:  
<http://www.apwa.net/documents/email/2008AnnualHOD/America2050prospectus.pdf>

## **America 2050 Report Top Ten Trends and Action Steps Response April 2009**

### **Trend: Aging infrastructure with limited funding for rehabilitation and investment**

#### **Action Steps:**

- \*Continued advocacy and education on the part of APWA  
*A key mission of the organization that will be continued/enhanced*
- \* Partner with other organizations to increase awareness of need (ASCE Report Card)  
*Seek to strengthen existing and add new partnerships to focus on needs*
- \* Identify new technologies and efficiencies to address issue  
*No specific tactics at this time*
  - Need to link infrastructure demands to economic development to attract support  
*Economic recovery advocacy debate highlights job creation and economic development*
  - Re-engage and educate the finance/budget communities to attract support for funding  
*Seek to expand partnerships in this area*

### **Trend: Opposition of environmental groups to support public works/infrastructure development needs**

#### **Action Steps:**

- Establish a Technical Committee (task force, working group) on environmental advocacy  
*New APWA Center for Sustainability created*
- Develop specific means of streamlining environmental process  
*Center for Sustainability to address with input from all technical areas*
- Partner with environmental groups to develop policies and determine how to address issues.  
*Center for Sustainability and Government Affairs Committee working jointly Addressed under APWA 's values in the Strategy Document*

**Trend: Lack of public perception and response to the failing infrastructure and the need to fund improvements**

**Action Steps:**

- Step up the collection of relevant data to add validity to public education process as to an individual's daily cost  
*No program or research component currently in place*
- Engage in the legislative process to keep issue in the minds of residents  
*Federal affairs will continue; additional emphasis on chapter taking stronger role with state and provincial advocacy*
- Develop collaborative partnerships with other professional organizations  
*Ongoing and will continue*
- Develop strategies to maximize the formation of a joint public and private collaboration  
*No strategies or tactics in place at this time*
- Emphasize how failing infrastructure affects "green" and "sustainability" — what these terms mean in relation to costs  
*APWA Center for Sustainability agenda*
- Increase efforts to educate at a younger age as to the cost of infrastructure and the effects on their future  
*Current outreach programs; expansion to focus on costs to be considered*
- Define the terms of "our" marketplace (i.e. capital costs v. life cycle cost; tax v. user fee and sustainability)  
*No strategies or tactics in place at this time; potential focus on asset management*

**Trend: Water resource shortage in growing areas**

**Action Steps:**

- Define and outline the issues relating to this topic  
*Potential Water Resources Committee project; collaboration with national water groups required*
- APWA Education — promote SMART development  
*Professional development programs and Sustainability Center work*
- Work with other organizations to address issue — WEF, AWWA, EPA, Corps of Engineers  
*Continue and strengthen/enhance partnerships and collaborative approaches*

**Trend: Need to identify alternative energy/fuel sources**

**Action Steps:**

- Investment in technology
- Create environmental policy and position statements
- Produce manual on alternative energy options  
*These topics are appropriate for Technical Committee consideration*
- Career awareness programs in schools  
*Current outreach programs and products are geared toward K-12)*
- Participate in review of immigration policies to attract international work force  
*No specific strategy or tactics at this time*
- Additional efforts on outreach to students to pursue technical college/training
- APWA scholarship program for undergraduate students who pursue engineering  
*Chapters are primary source of scholarship programs at this time*

**Trend: Lack of trained North American workforce to meet need for technical and professionals — low number of US engineering graduates**

**Action Steps:**

- Targeted outreach to promote pursuit of math and science academic fields *Partner/collaborate with other organizations to address issue*
- Promote public works as career option in colleges — use ASCE student chapter as model system  
*Chapters have been encouraged to promote APWA student chapters or partner with other organizations at the local university/college/junior college level*
- APWA to take national position to help with the inequality of supply and demand for technical and professional training offered — provide assistance to provide training to those where local training is not offered  
*Emphasis on education is referenced in the Future Profile*

**Trend: Lack of trained "front line" work force**

**Action Steps:**

- Promote training of staff through HR offices
- APWA provided sponsored training in partnership with community colleges for technical skill workers  
*APWA will concentrate on training the "front line" work force through continuing education programs and certificate programs*
- APWA target mayors/city councils with a campaign addressing the issue and offering suggestions for action where to turn for training  
*No specific strategy or tactics at this time*
- Advocate at the federal level the need for skilled workforce and training *Technical Committees and Government Affairs Committee will need to develop policy as first step*
- Define public works career path opportunities for front line staff  
*Body of Knowledge project to develop generic public works job descriptions and training/education will be developed to fill voids after assessment*

**Trend: America & Public Works is flying blind**

**Action Steps:**

Educate citizens and elected officials on relevant public works issues

*Media and public relations training, resources and contacts addressed through Future Profile*

APWA needs to develop its own long range plan for sustainability — including strategic, tactical and operational planning

*Board of Directors responsibility*

APWA to create a system to have experts available to respond when disasters occur — need to be the voice for public works to enhance credibility

*Media and public relations training, resources and contacts addressed through Future Profile*

Create a Public Information Officer staff position to respond and work with media to deliver APWA position on industry issues

*APWA has a media affairs professional staff person*

**Trend: Over taxing highway transportation system — as population shifts to “mega regions” larger regions will have growing number of commuters on the road, with inadequate highway system to efficiently move traffic**

**Action Steps:**

Establish partnerships and coalitions with planners and local/regional governments

*New partnership with National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) established in 2009*

Advocacy efforts targeted to political leaders to educate them on the issue *Continuation of advocacy, outreach and coalition programs*

Educate the public as to issue, need for change and options

*No strategy or tactics in place at this time*

Prepare position statements for alternative modes; financing; land use and impacts of environmental process

*Joint effort needed among Technical Committees, Government Affairs Committee and Center for Sustainability*

**Trend: Baby Boomers will soon be retiring and there will be a shortage of trained and qualified applicants to take over as public works leaders**

**Action Steps:**

Develop mentoring template (BMP) on use of retirees and benefits to retirees and agencies

Identify future leaders and focus on providing ongoing training — leadership forums

*APWA has established the Emerging Leaders Academy; chapters are continuing and creating Public Works institutes.*

APWA to provide education for all levels of workers in public works

Blueprint outlines future direction for certification and certificate programs

3) **Technical Committees** – The purpose of the committees is to provide a mechanism for members in the Public Sector of both large and small communities with responsibilities to receive information and share their knowledge, experience and expertise with their APWA colleagues. It is a tremendous networking tool and a rewarding opportunity to assist one another. There are ten functional area committees that meet regularly to provide technical reports for members. They can be found on the APWA website at [www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net). Liaisons are needed at the chapter level to help transfer information from the committees to the membership. If you are interested please give me a call to discuss.

4) **Asset Management** – an interesting discussion was held to discuss asset management methodologies that would define short term versus long term prioritization using whole life costing methods to help develop ten year funding strategies. A presentation on international asset management methods used in Australia, New Zealand and Canada was provided during the meeting. A topic of importance to all communities as we seek to ensure our resources are sustainable into the future.

5) **2010 North American Snow Conference** – next years conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska. A great opportunity to attend as it is close to home!

If you have questions or are interested in more information about APWA please feel free to contact me by email at [mmcgee@topeka.org](mailto:mmcgee@topeka.org) or call (785) 368-3801.

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Scholarship winners since 1999 are as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>University</u>	<u>Amount (\$)</u>	<u>Home Town</u>
1999-2000	Andrew Morrow	KU	1,000	Eudora, KS
1999-2000	Brian Austin	KSU	1,000	Manhattan, KS
2000-2001	Jennifer Distlehorst	KU	1,000	Lawrence, KS
2000-2001	Wayne E. Nelson	KSU	1,000	Manhattan, KS
2001-2002	Timothy E. Lietzen	KU	1,000	Kansas City, KS
Fall 2001	Justin Mader	KSU	500	(western KS)
Spring 2002	Tricia L. Petr	KSU	500	Blue Rapids, KS
2002-2003	Bradley M. Johnson	KU	1,000	Chapman, KS
2002-2003	Jennifer Hancock	KSU	1,000	Manhattan, KS
Fall 2003	Aaron Schwerman	KU	500	Beloit, KS
Spring 2004	David Lady	KU	500	Abilene, KS
2003-2004	Kelly Blackwell	KSU	1,000	Kansas City, KS
Fall 2004	David Lady	KU	500	Abilene, KS
Spring 2005	Tony W. Shaw	KU	500	Lawrence, KS
2004-2005	Stephen Mazouch	KSU	1,000	Great Bend, KS
2005-2006	Charles Woods	KU	1,000	Lawrence, KS
2005-2006	Scott Moeder	KSU	1,000	Oakley, KS
2006-2007	Philip Brown	KU	2,000	Kansas City, KS
2006-2007	Ryan Williams	KSU	2,000	Manhattan, KS
2007-2008	Colby Farlow	KU	2,000	Tecumseh, KS
Fall 2007	Ryan Williams	KSU	1,000	Manhattan, KS
Spring 2008	Ross Davenport	KSU	1,000	Manhattan, KS
2008-2009	Becky Anderson	KU	2,000	Lecompton, KS
2008-2009	Stephen Austin	KSU	2,000	St. Mary's, KS
2009-2010	Micah Pattison	KU	2,000	Tonganoxie, KS
2009-2010	Stephen Austin	KSU	2,000	St. Mary's KS

**APWA Scholarship funds given to date: \$30,000**

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee members and particularly to Jeff Hancock who volunteered to become the chief organizer of the auction when Andy Haney "retired". Jeff successfully completed his first auction last May in Wichita when we had our joint conference with the Kansas County Highway Association. During this conference, a total of \$11,400 was raised for the scholarship fund by the auction, golf tournament, and other donations.

Please plan to attend our next Kansas Chapter spring conference in May 2010 in Hays, Kansas. Our first scholarship auction was held in May 2000 in Hays where we raised \$5550, so we are returning to our roots! Please plan to participate in another successful auction as we help develop and guide the next generation of engineers. Thank you for your continuing support of the scholarship fund!

# Congratulations

to all of this years project award winners.





### **Get Involved in Your Chapter**

APWA is a highly participatory organization with many growth and leadership opportunities. Individuals and organizations can serve on committees, attend seminars and workshops or share ideas with an elite public works community. Members not only take the profession seriously, but also are committed to each other and to advocating for increased investment in public works. Membership in the association is open to anyone with an interest in public works and the membership has been a driving force in APWA's growth and development for more than 60 years. Whether through service on the national or local levels, members have shaped the direction of the Association and the public works profession in several, noteworthy ways.

If you would like to serve the Kansas Chapter, contact an Executive Committee member and make your wishes known. There's always room for one more.

### *From the Editor*

My name is Jeremy Jones and I'm the Director of Public Works for the City of Wellington and the new editor for the newsletter. This is also my first opportunity to serve on the Executive Board. I'll be the first to admit I have a lot to learn about publishing a newsletter and making sure all the great chapter events and news are included. I'll continue to use the same format that Randy created a couple of years ago. Please feel free to send recommendations, news, questions, and articles to me for the next issue. There's a lot going on in the world of politics that will have a huge impact on our budgets and how we operate in the near future. If anyone has come across any new techniques or products that will help their departments through this crunch, let us know. Likewise, if you have questions about products, another member might have some useful information to share.

Information can be emailed to me at [jeremyjones@cityofwellington.net](mailto:jeremyjones@cityofwellington.net) or mailed to 317 South Washington, Wellington, Kansas 67152.

**KANSAS CHAPTER  
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION  
2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Newsletters are posted on the web at  
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Share your announcements and happenings with chapter members in upcoming newsletters.  
E-mail to Jeremy Jones at [jeremyjones@cityofwellington.net](mailto:jeremyjones@cityofwellington.net).

## Upcoming Events

Annual Fall Meeting-Topeka	October 6
Executive Committee Meeting and Roundtable-Salina	December 3
Annual Spring Conference-Hays	May 2010

More information about these events can be found on the Chapter Website at [www.kansas.apwa.net](http://www.kansas.apwa.net)

## 2009 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

March 5	Arkansas City
April 2	Junction City
June 4	Lawrence
August 20	Junction City Milford Reservoir
October 6	Topeka
November 5	Wellington
December 3	Salina

Dates may be subject to change. For specific locations and meeting times, contact an Executive Committee member.