

## Luncheon Hosts



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY  
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

### INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Industry Advisory Council Luncheon

#### IAC Members

<b>Robert J. Benz, P.E.</b> Texas Transportation Institute	<b>Regina Cassanova, P.E.</b> AECOM Water
<b>Ebow Coleman, P.E.</b> C3S Inc.	<b>Gregory D. Denby</b> HNTB
<b>Steve Fitzgerald, P.E.</b> Harris County Flood Control Dist.	<b>Johnny Gant, P.E.</b> JRSG & Company
<b>Steve Hrcncir, P.E.</b> HNTB	<b>Charles Nickson</b> The Warrior Group
<b>Pat N. Nwachukwu, P.E.</b> Texas Dept. of Transportation	<b>Sedrick D. Scott</b> Texas Dept. of Transportation
<b>Reginald F. Smith, P.E.</b> Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.	<b>Michael Sterling, Ph.D., P.E.</b> US Army Corps of Engineers
<b>Byron Williams</b> ExxonMobil Development Co.	

### MEETING INFRASTRUCTURE DEMANDS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN A CHALLENGING ECONOMY

**PVAMU Nursing School  
Houston Medical Center  
6436 Fannin Street  
Houston, Texas**

#### CEE Faculty/Staff

Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed, P.E., CPESC  
Dr. Raghava Kommalapati, P.E., BCEE  
Dr. Judy Perkins  
Dr. Ramalingham Radha, P.E.  
Dr. Hsiang Yeh, P.E.  
Ms. Sharon Gentry (Staff Assistant)

**March 4, 2010**

## Saluting Women

Today women are an intricate part of the civil engineering profession including transportation and public administration. However, many do not know that as early as the 19<sup>th</sup> century women played an important role in engineering and forming the transportation infrastructure as we know it.

### **Emily Warren Roebling**

First Woman Engineer

When the Brooklyn Bridge was opened on May 24, 1883, it was heralded as one of the most important construction projects of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Very few people realize the important role Emily Roebling played during the project. Colonel Washington Augustus Roebling, Emily's husband and chief engineer of the project fell ill to caisson disease leaving him virtually paralyzed, partly blind, deaf, and mute. Because Emily was the only one able to communicate with him, she served as his eyes and ears on the construction site and ultimately became the surrogate chief engineer for the bridge between 1872 and its opening in 1883. Colonel Roebling taught his wife higher mathematics, including the calculation of catenary curves, strength of materials, stress analysis, bridge specifications, and the complexities of cable construction. Although her training was informal, Emily Warren Roebling is considered the first woman engineer.

### **Carmen Turner**

First African-American Woman to Lead a Major Transportation Agency

In 1983, Carmen Turner became the General Manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and the first African-American woman to lead a major transportation agency. She joined the Urban Mass Transportation Agency in 1960 and became the Acting Director of Civil Rights for the US Department of Transportation in 1976 by special appointment of the Secretary of Transportation. Carmen was noted for her outstanding leadership in the transit industry earning the industry's highest honor, the 1988 American Public Transit Association Outstanding Achievement Award.

Women have not always been welcome in the field of transportation and have had to make their own opportunities and struggle to realize their career goals. However, much of that struggle has been reduced thanks to the early innovators, pioneers, adventurers and engineers. The efforts of these women have improved and brightened the future of transportation as well as women in this rewarding field; thus enabling them to continue making major contributions to our nation's infrastructure.

## Luncheon Program

Presiding: **Jackie Freeman, P.E.**, Harris County Deputy

Director of Public Infrastructure  
METRO Board of Directors  
Prairie View A&M University Alumnus

### **MORNING**

11:30 A.M. Registration Desk Opens

11:50 A.M. Luncheon Begins

### **NOON**

12:00 P.M. Lunch Served

12:10 P.M. Welcome: **Dr. Kendall Harris, P.E.**, Dean  
Roy G. Perry College of Engineering  
Prairie View A&M University

12:15 P.M. Luncheon Speakers

**The Honorable Ed Emmett**, Harris County Judge

**D. Wayne Klotz, P.E.**, ASCE Past President & President, Klotz Associates

1:15 P.M. Presentations and Remarks

**Dr. Raghava R. Kommalapati, P.E., BCEE**,  
Interim Head, Department of Civil & Environmental  
Engineering, Prairie View A&M University

**Robert J. Benz, P.E.**, President  
Industry Advisory Council  
Prairie View A&M University  
Texas Transportation Institute

1:30 P.M. Luncheon Ends

**Sponsors**

**Dean's Level (\$2,500)**

**HTNB**

**Roy G. Perry College of Engineering  
Prairie View A&M University**

**Doctorate Level (\$1,500)**

**Rich Engineering**

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