As the President of the American Society of Indian Engineers, I would like to extend my appreciation and warm welcome to all our members and supporters. ASIE is consistently offering professional development and networking opportunities to engineers, architects and scientists. ASIE also offers mentoring and scholarships to engineering and architecture students of Indian origin. We, with the help of volunteers, members and supporters, have been meeting our goals of increasing membership steadily; participating in social activities and community service initiatives, and interacting with other organizations for development and promoting Engineering and Architecture. ASIE appreciates efforts of our members, supporters and volunteers in its continued success. ASIE is delighted to issue its newsletter for the first six months of the year 2009. In the past six months, ASIE has participated in Indian Republic Day ICC celebrations, volunteered at Science Fair and Match Count Competition, conducted motivational, technical and health seminars, organized a picnic and a job fair.

Tanushree Hiremath, P.E., CFM
Monthly Activities

January

ASIE organized a booth at India Fair 2009, on January 25th, as part of the membership and awareness drive in the Indian community. Members and volunteers of ASIE have taken active role in explaining the role and activities of ASIE, and welcomed new members to the organization. India Cultural Center organizes the India Fair every year to celebrate Indian Republic Day, with a variety of social and cultural events.

ASIE organized an interesting seminar on "Continuity and Change - Redefining yourself for the future" on February 19th, 2009 at Bayland Community Center. Mr. Ofili Okechukwu, a Design Engineer with FMC Technologies was the guest speaker. He is currently a Toastmasters' Advanced Communicator Silver and uses his experience at Toastmasters to inspire hope in people. Mr. Okechukwu spoke about the difficulties faced by us during the tough economic times and the necessity of reinventing ourselves in order to face the future.

February

ASIE volunteered at the “Math Count Competition” held at Fluor Corporation, Sugarland, on February 14th, 2009. Five volunteers—

Raghavender Nednur, Chad Patel, Jay Patel, Tanushree Hiremath and Pranav Kulkarni served as proctors at the competition. Math Count is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics at every U.S. state and territory.

ASIE participated in the “Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH), 2009”. Chad Patel and Srinivas Chintalapati volunteered as judges at the SEFH on March 13, 2009 at George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall E. ASIE presented the following Awards at SEFH, 2009:
March

Dr. Srinivas Chintalapati at the Science Fair

Mr. Chad Patel at the Science Fair

Dr. Srinivas Chintalapati at the Science Fair

Mr. Chad Patel at the Science Fair

em, Nano Tubes

2nd - Jonathan Zapata, Academy Clear Brook High School, Hurricane Damage

3rd - Douglas Reyes, Harmony Science Academy, Carbon Paper

JUNIOR:

1st - Allison Scates, Harmony School of Excellence, Solar Water Heater From Recycled Materials

2nd - Tylor Gregory, McCullough Junior High School, Solar Water Desalination

3rd - Mehemet Civelek, Harmony School of Science, HHO Booster: A More Efficient Engine

On March 19th, 2009, ASIE organized a seminar on “Permitting Development in Special Flood Areas in the City of Houston” at Mayuri Indian Restaurant Conference Room. The speaker, Mark L. Loethen, P.E., City Engineer and Flood Plain Administrator for the City of Houston and Harris County, spoke about the recent developments in developing flood insurance rate maps, changes in code of ordinances for Houston, and changes in guidelines for new construction and existing residential and commercial structures. He stated that the city requires any new construction or improvements to existing structures to be at least 1 foot above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

Mr. Loethen elaborated on how the flood insurance risk is calculated and how substantial improvements to existing structures with regard to flood-proofing will bring down the flood insurance premiums. As an example, the annual premium for a structure at or below BFE is 3 to 5 times higher than a structure 2 feet above the BFE. Mr. Loethen also pointed out that home owners also have an option to freeze their flood zone, after getting their property evaluated by a licensed surveyor. Information on flood zone maps can be had from both Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA, http://www.fema.gov/) as well as City of Houston’s Geographic Information & Man-

SENIOR:

1st - Conrad F. Werzner, Bellaire High School, F.M. Radio Wave Power

2nd - Andrew Nassralla, Academy of Science & Health Professions, Nitinol Titan

3rd - Neriman Cavdar, Harmony Science Academy, Thermal Transport Phenomenon in Nano Fluids

9TH GRADE:

1st - Christian J. Urbina, Harmony Science Academy, Nano Tubes

2nd - Jonathan Zapata, Academy Clear Brook High School, Hurricane Damage

3rd - Douglas Reyes, Harmony Science Academy, Carbon Paper
April

On April 8th, 2009, ASIE organized a seminar on "Seven Steps to a Healthier and Younger Self" at Bayland Community Center. The speaker Dr. Shelena C. Lalji is the founder of Dr. Shel Wellness & Medical Spa, has served the greater Houston area for over 13 years. Dr. Lalji is a board certified physician who is devoting her full-time practice to aesthetics and wellness medicine.

With her thorough experience in medicine, aesthetics and alternative treatments, Dr. Shel believes in the strong connection between the art of beauty and the science of wellness. Dr. Shel Wellness & Medical Spa also serves as a national training facility for both innovative wellness and aesthetic technology and laser treatments.
April

India House hosted a day long job fair (IJOBFEST) led by ASIE on April 16th, 2009. Seminars and counseling on resume writing, job search strategies, networking and immigration issues by experienced managers, professionals and attorneys were organized. The event was well attended.

May

ASIE family had its annual picnic for its members and their families on May 17th, 2009. The event took place at Kitty Hollow Park in Missouri City. More than 40 members with their families had fun playing Softball and Cricket. This fun-filled occasion provided a good opportunity to network and understand our fellow Indian Engineers in a more casual setting. ASIE organized food on the house.

June

On June 18th, 2009, ASIE organized a seminar titled, “Residential Foundations - Distress Evaluations, Concerns, Questions and Preventive Measures” at Bayland Community Center. The speaker Mr. David Eastwood, Geotech Engineering and Testing, spoke about the basics and importance of conducting proper Geoforensic studies, focusing on construction in expansive soils, occurring extensively in Houston area. He
June

elaborated on the various distress conditions, causation for distress, such as design, construction, materials, maintenance and wear and tear of the foundations. Such studies will help to determine who is at fault for distress. Mr. Eastwood also discussed the geologic faulting, effects of trees on foundations, non-destructive testing, site characterization studies, rainfall effects, aerial photo review, allowable deflections and various repair techniques. The seminar was followed by short presentations from three companies dealing with foundation repair—DU WEST Foundation Repair, R.L. Nelson Construction, Inc and Ram Jack Foundation Solutions. The seminar was open for developers, engineers and home & property owners. Nearly 30 people attended the seminar. Attendees received PDH credit for the seminar.
The American Society of Indian Engineers (ASIE) was established in Houston in 1994 and its membership demographics include technical professionals of Indian origin in engineering, architecture, the sciences, construction and information technology. Our focus is on professional development and we aspire to position the Indian technical professional community to be a force to reckon with.

Re-Capture

ASIE members and supporters participated in Annual Sand Castle Competition, Galveston, held on June 2nd, 2007. The chosen theme was "World is Flat". Approximately 20 ASIE members, their families and friends arrived with lots of food and tools and made the event a great success & happy activity.

WORLD IS FLAT—A DEPICTION