

CALIFORNIA ASPHALT INSIDER

The latest news and views from the California Asphalt Pavement Association
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CALENDAR

(Always on-line [HERE](#))

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SIGN-UP NOW!
Southern California Paving Contractor Mixer
Thursday, Nov. 15, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
J.T. Schmid's Restaurant & Brewery, 2610 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim
Flier [HERE](#). Register [HERE](#).
Contact: Sophie You (916) 791-5044

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SAVE THE DATE!
CalAPA Annual Dinner
Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019
Jonathan Club, 545 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles
Details soon!

Greetings!

This weekly bulletin contains the latest news and information of interest to the asphalt pavement industry in California. Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested in asphalt pavements.

→ Southern California Paving Contractor networking event set for Nov. 15 in Anaheim

The next opportunity for blowing off some steam and reconnecting with colleagues in the asphalt pavement industry will take place Nov. 15 in Anaheim.

The Southern California Paving Contractor Committee has set that date for its next industry contractor mixer, to be held at J.T.

Schmid's Restaurant & Brewery in Anaheim, right across the street from the Honda Center arena. The event will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Click [HERE](#) to view the event flier.



Attendees at a recent CalAPA Southern California Paving Contractor mixer.

Although the event is designed to be a social event, CalAPA's Technical Director, Brandon Milar, P.E., will be on hand to answer questions about recent developments with regard to pavement smoothness, including efforts underway at Caltrans to change the department's pavement smoothness specifications.

Space is limited, and tickets sold quickly for the last event held at this location, so early registration is strongly recommended. Click [HERE](#) to register on-line. Act now and save -- the deadline to receive discounted early-bird pricing is Monday, Nov. 5.

For more information, contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044.



We'll see you at the next CalAPA Southern California Paving Contractor mixer, which will be held Nov. 15 in Anaheim.

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SAVE THE DATES!

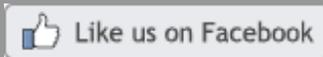
Spring Asphalt Pavement
Conference & Equipment
Expo

Wednesday & Thursday,
March 20-21, 2019

DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N.
Vineyard Ave., Ontario
Details soon!

For exhibitor and sponsorship
information, contact Sophie
You at (916) 791-5044

SOCIALIZE

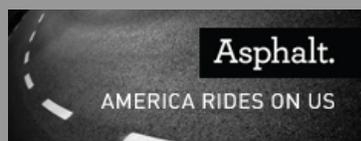


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CHOOSE ASPHALT

Asphalt is used on about 93 percent of paved roads in California and across the U.S. Why? Because it's smooth, quiet, safe, durable and 100 percent recyclable. Visit the [Asphalt Pavement Alliance](#) website learn more about why asphalt is the right choice now more than ever.



GET TECHNICAL

Are you an engineer, designer or technical professional who makes decisions on pavement type

→ Women take center stage at CalAPA Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference in Sacramento

At a packed hotel ballroom in Sacramento last week, former CalAPA Technical Director Rita Leahy took to the stage, adjusted the microphone, and got right down to business.

"We have," she said slowly, "not only a very talented panel of women from the asphalt industry, but also a group of very accomplished, successful women in the asphalt industry."

And so began the marquee event at this year's CalAPA Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference. Along with the technical and practical presentations and educational sessions on asphalt design, specifications, testing and paving, the conference held Oct. 24-25 at the DoubleTree Hotel also spotlighted critical future trends, with none more pressing than the work-force recruitment, development and retention challenge facing the asphalt pavement industry and public works agencies. Particularly acute is the lack of women in the field, and what to do about it, which was the focus of the panel discussion.

In addition to Leahy, the distinguished panel moderator with a Ph.D., engineering degree and years of research and practical experience in her background, the speakers included Amy Miller, P.E., national director, the Asphalt Pavement Alliance; Amy Epps Martin, Ph.D., P.E., research engineer with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute; Mary Teichert, chief operating officer of Teichert, Inc.; Corina Borroel Wong, P.E., Quality Control Engineer, Granite Construction; and Toni Carroll, Quality Control Manager for Graniterock and a member of the CalAPA Board of Directors and Executive Committee.



The "Women of Asphalt" leadership panel at the CalAPA Fall Asphalt Pavement Conference last week in Sacramento.

Miller, who took over the key position helping to market asphalt nationally after having worked many years in the concrete industry, noted that "What's been most interesting about this position is that I still work with a lot of the same companies, and they really are like kissing cousins" while maintaining competitive positions and promoting the merits of each pavement type.

Wong, daughter of working-class parents, told the audience of how she knew at the age of 10 that she wanted to be an engineer.

"I know that's kind of weird -- how do you know that's what you want to do? But my family was immigrant workers and at a young age they told me, 'You need to figure out what you want to do, because this is not the life we want for you.'" Her interest in math and science, and analytical mind, led her to pursue an engineering degree at the University of California at Davis, and the passion of those specializing in construction materials further attracted her to the asphalt industry.

Carroll explained how her interest in mining and geology led her to pursue a geology degree, and the construction materials industry catering to urbanized areas was deemed more family-friendly than working in a distant coal or metals mine.

selection? The DriveAsphalt website has technical reports and other resources may be just what you're looking for. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



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BACK ISSUES

Did you miss an issue of the *California Asphalt Insider*? No problem! Past editions of the newsletter are available at the CalAPA newsletter [archive page](#).

MAGAZINE



CalAPA produces a highly regarded magazine, *California Asphalt*, and an annual membership directory. To view current and past

"I got my first job with Granite Construction, fell in love with rock, and with Granite Construction in California comes asphalt, so I also just kind of fell into it," she said. "I had a mentor back then who said, 'asphalt is black and sticky, and once you get into it, you're stuck.'"

Perhaps the most unconventional route to the asphalt industry was taken by Teichert, who holds a master's degree in business from Harvard University and was once director of product strategy for Apple Computer. When she was asked to return to the business that bears the family name, she said, "Initially trying to discover if this was a fit was interesting, because this was a little different than working at Apple. But pretty soon I figured out, this is a business, and like most businesses we have to make a good product and sell it for more than it costs us. And, furthermore, it's a really exciting business, because the good product we are making you can see for decades."



Participating in the "Women of Asphalt" event were, from left: Corine Borroel Wong, Amy Miller, Amy Epps Martin, Rita Leahy, Natasha Ozybko with Road Science (event co-sponsor) and Mary Teichert. Not pictured: Toni Carroll.

She recalled her work on an Apple digital music player called the "iPOD Shuffle," a tiny device not much larger than a pack of gum that stored thousands of songs. Although enormously popular when it made its debut, it was quickly supplanted by the multi-functional iPhone and are rarely seen these days. She contrasted that experience with her current job.

"There's roads that Teichert built in the 1930s that people are still driving on, so the product that we are making is very satisfying."

Perhaps the most surprising comments from the panelists were elicited by a question about what surprised them most about the industry. Several mentioned the close-knit relationships, the family-owned businesses, and even the cordial relationships among competitors.

"I think the most surprising thing to me," Carroll said, "is that I thought that any business, any type of industry, would be ... cutthroat and (people) would be competitive with each other. I think the thing that surprised me the most is that, although I have several mentors who have mentored me from the companies that I have worked at, I've had more mentors from other companies. I go to industry events like this one and I have mentors and people I can go to, even from my competitors."

To cite a specific example of this phenomenon, she continued, "We'll run out of liquid anti-strip or something, because a supplier is short, and you call around to the guy down the street that's a competitor and really shouldn't want to give you their liquid anti-strip, and they will let you borrow it until you get your shipment. I think that has surprised me that it is such a good community and people really look out for each other and care about each other."

The diversity and inclusiveness of

issues of the magazine, click [HERE](#). For advertising sales information, click [HERE](#) or call Kerry Hoover with Construction Marketing Services at (909) 772-3121.

STAY INFORMED



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GET CERTIFIED!



The Caltrans-industry Joint Training & Certification Program (JTCP) for materials technicians is holding classes in Northern and Southern California. Click [HERE](#) to visit our JTCP resource page to learn more.

DESIGN!



To visit the PAVExpress website, click [HERE](#). To view the companion website, PaveInstruct, click [HERE](#).

LEARN!

We can bring CalAPA's popular training classes to your facility at a date and

the industry was noted by Wong, which ran counter to some assumptions she had in mind when she entered the workforce. "As you can see across the room," she said, "there is room for a number of people who have an interest in the industry."



Toni Carroll with Graniterock.

She also said her reception in the male-dominated industry ran counter to some commonly held stereotypes. "When I first got the job, my parents said, 'Oh, they are men, they are going to be aggressive to you, they're not going to listen.' And I will say, that was not the case. In fact, I feel like, if anything, they've been respectful, or more respectful, because we are women. There is a deferential treatment in some ways. They mind their P's and Q's a little bit more, although there will be the exception -- the guy that just won't listen. But I want to say usually that guy doesn't want to listen to anybody, not specifically because you're a girl. I was expecting more resistance, but you never know until you get there, right?"

Coming over from the tech industry, Teichert spent time working in plants and materials testing labs, which she said gave her an even greater appreciation for what it takes to deliver a high quality product on a consistent basis.

"One of the things that I think is most surprising is that asphalt is really an art as well as a science," she said. "When I first started at Teichert I began in the QA (Quality Assurance) lab, since I didn't have a background in this, doing material science, and looking at the qualities of rock and thinking, well, there's a lot of engineering, there's a lot of science and math. But then my next job was working in a rock plant and realizing there's just a lot of art to this, also, trying to figure out, why is this not working? Why is this not as straightforward as just creating a formula in a lab and having it exactly go down that way?"

"I think it is fascinating (with) the production of asphalt," she added. "I'm blessed that Teichert is a vertically-integrated business, so you get to see it going down through the paver as well and see all the different things it takes to make it work and they are not all totally predictable all the time. So all those different pieces about what's the temperature, what's the material, what part of the pit were you in, it's pretty neat to me to see that people have to have some knack and intuition and creativity as well as some solid, excellence science that goes into this. So the combination is really amazing."



Mary Teichert, COO of Teichert Inc.

Representing the perspective of academia, Martin discussed the importance of mentors in her development, and how she is also mentoring others.

"I feel like being a female in a male-dominated industry, we're role models whether we want to be or not," she said. "We don't really have a choice. But there are some people that you have a relationship with, and you really do mentor them, and you do serve as

time convenient to you! Click [HERE](#) to view our "hosted" training class flier, or contact CalAPA at (916) 791-5044 for details. This service is available to public agencies and CalAPA members only.



a role model and you enjoy that relationship."

In the academic world, she said, "Part of the thing I enjoy about this job is seeing students and those entering the industry behind me succeed, and seeing them develop, and hopefully you've had some part of that."

A video of the full Women of Asphalt panel discussion will be posted on-line and excerpts will be published in an upcoming issue of *California Asphalt* magazine, the journal of the California Asphalt Pavement Association. Photos from the conference and conference-related events are posted on the CalAPA Facebook Page [HERE](#). Presentations from the conference will be posted on the CalAPA SlideShare page [HERE](#). To learn more about the national Women of Asphalt initiative, click [HERE](#).

The Spring Asphalt Pavement Conference & Equipment Expo will take place Wednesday and Thursday, March 20-21, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel, 222 N. Vineyard Ave. in Ontario. For exhibitor and sponsor information, contact Sophie You at (916) 791-5044.



Sallie Houston with George Reed Inc. / VSS (seated in foreground) poses a question to the Women of Asphalt panel.

→ Fact of the Week

There were 298,000 job openings in construction at the end of August in the United States, which was 39 percent higher than the August 2017 total of 215,000, and the highest August total in the 18 years the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has been compiling such data.

Source: *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Oct. 16, 2018 "Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey."*

→ Tech Term of the Week

Each week we highlight a word, acronym or other reference commonly used in the asphalt pavement industry in California.

AASHTO: The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. AASHTO is an organization of highway engineers from the 50 states that develops guidelines and standards.

→ Paving Pointer of the Week

Each week we highlight a key point or best practice of interest to asphalt paving crews, inspectors and others working in the field. We welcome suggestions. More tips can be found in our Asphalt Parking Lot Construction Checklist [HERE](#).

TONNAGE CALCULATION: Ask yourself: Are there enough trucks on the run to haul the mix needed to complete the job? If you have five trucks on the round each carrying 25 tons = 125 tons per round. If each round takes one hour to make, then the production rate is 125 tons per hour. If the job requires 1,000 tons at 125 tons per hour = eight hours to get the mix to the job.

→ Quote of the Week

"A year from now you will wish you had started today."

Karen Lamb

We hope you enjoy CalAPA's *Asphalt Insider*. We are committed to providing you with the most up-to-date information on technical issues, regulation, news, analysis, events and trends in California that may impact the asphalt pavement industry. Click [HERE](#) to contact us with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Snyder, CAE
Executive Director
California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA)

The *California Asphalt Insider* is an official publication of the California Asphalt Pavement Association. For more information or to inquire about membership, call (916) 791-5044, or click [HERE](#) to send us an e-mail.

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