

*ASCE's mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.*

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**Interested in submitting an article for the ASCE newsletter or becoming a Board Member next year?**

**Contact Joe Butler  
(newsletter editor)  
for information at  
218.624.4967 or  
[jbutler@braunintertec.com](mailto:jbutler@braunintertec.com).  
Thanks.**

Greetings!

First, as point of clarity, I will ask you to notice that this newsletter is quite long and it contains a significant amount info. As you may have noticed, this is the first newsletter since February. We are provided a single large newsletter to document the boards activities, as newsletters were not submitted in March, April, or May due to several factors. The board apologizes for this lack of communication.

Moving forward, I want to thank the members of our section for allowing me to be your president this past year. Also to all of the past presidents for your words of wisdom and experience as I have worked my way through being the Younger Member Chair and subsequent Section Board positions. I could not have done it without your leadership.

At our past meeting we voted in a new board, and I am confident that Joe Butler will be an excellent leader for the membership. This year's board consists of a very dedicated and diverse group of individuals. The success of the section depends upon people like this who give their time to represent and serve the members of the Duluth Section.

If you are interested in getting involved with ASCE we have several opportunities for you to do so. There are currently two board positions available, Secretary and Treasurer.

- Board Secretary - This individual is the record keeper for all correspondences and active section files. Their primary role is board meeting minutes, this is a low stress position and allows you to learn futures roles on the board.
- Board Treasurer – This individual is responsible for maintaining the sections checking and savings account. Their role includes preparing a budget and reporting the months activities to the board.

You may contact me or any board member (either through our contact information at the left or at the next luncheon) if you are interested in becoming involved.

Thank you,

Tom DesMarais, PE  
Duluth Section President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017-2018

### President

Tom DesMarais, PE  
Northland Consulting Engineers  
(218) 727-5995  
tomd@nce-duluth.com

### President-Elect

Mary Christiansen, Ph.D.  
University of Minnesota Duluth  
(218) 726-7810  
muchrist@d.umn.edu

### Vice President

Joseph Butler, PE  
Braun Intertec  
(218) 624-4967  
jbutler@braunintertec.com

### Treasurer

Andrew Kilpo, PE  
Minnesota Power  
(218) 355-2437  
akilpo@mnpower.com

### Secretary

Rose Henkel, EIT  
SEH, Inc.  
218.249.1558  
rhenkel@sehinc.com

### Past President

Nick Patterson, PE  
Marine Tech  
(218) 720-2833  
npatterson@marinetechduluth.com

## BOARD CHAIRS

2016-2017

### Younger Member Chair

Peter Demshar  
Barr Engineering  
(218) 788-6309  
pdemshar@barr.com

### Membership Chair

Tom Donofrio, PE  
Minnesota Power  
(218) 355-3313  
tdonofrio@mnpower.com

### Government Relations Chair

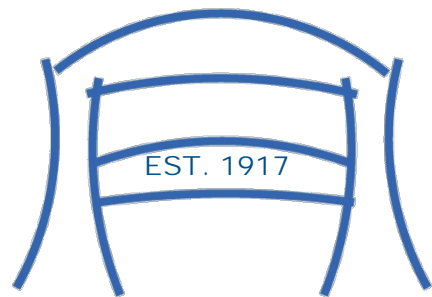
Craig Bursch, PE  
Meyer Borgman Johnson  
(218) 722-1056  
cbursch@mbjeng.com

### Toothpick Bridge Chair

Chris Morris  
Minnesota DOT  
(218) 725-2734  
christopher.morris@state.mn.us

### Web Updates

Lisa Karlgaard, PE  
LHB, Inc.  
(218) 279-2486  
Lisa.Karlgaard@lhbcorp.com



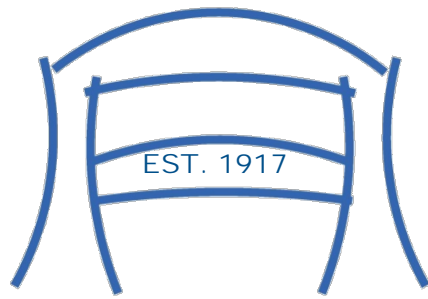
## Membership and Board Meetings for 2018-2019

### Membership Meetings

October 30, 2018  
November 13, 2018  
December 4, 2018  
January 15, 2019  
February 19, 2019  
March 19, 2019  
April 16, 2019 (Awards Dinner)  
May 21, 2019

### Board Meetings

October 25, 2018  
November 15, 2018  
December 13, 2018  
January 24, 2019  
February 28, 2019  
March 28, 2019  
April 25, 2019  
May 23, 2019



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## **ASCE Duluth Section March Board Meeting Minutes**

March 1, 2018

Meeting Attendees were Joe Butler, Nick Patterson, Tom DesMarais, Tom Donofrio, Andrew Kilpo, Rose Henkel

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. A quorum was present.

Motion was made to approve January meeting minutes. Motion by Nick, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**UMD Student Update:** Ongoing clothing fundraiser was emailed to members. Tom and Pete attend some student chapter meetings.

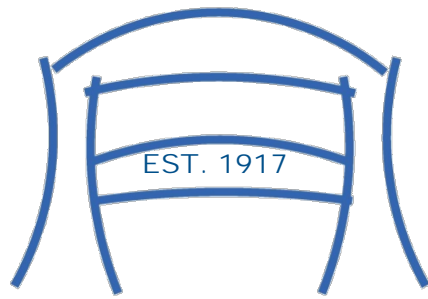
### **YMG discussion:**

1. Mock Career Fair was 2/1/18. 25 professionals attended. Student attendance was the same as last year. Good attendance at the happy hour at Crooked Pint.
2. Ethics Presenter scheduled for March 7, 2018 from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Duluth Depot. Will take place in The Underground with a social hour to follow. 74 people have registered. The room, hotel, and speaker have been confirmed. The room has a 100 person capacity. DesMarais to send invite out to the Minnesota Section. DesMarais did send to architect and mechanical engineer groups. DesMarais to send invite to sponsorship list. Not planning on catering food for the happy hour. DesMarais to send out a Monday and Wednesday reminder from Constant Contact.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking: \$11,966.81, Savings: \$6,974.16, Paypal: \$1,003.24

1. Printing nametags has been going well. Need to create a new event to have line for company name.
2. Received \$697 check from Rose for conference reimbursement from National.
3. Upcoming expenses are \$450 for the report card.
4. Andrew to contact National for W-9 information.

**Speakers:** Looking for speakers for May and September. Possibly have someone present on Sky Harbor. Nick to contact Brandon Tvedt.



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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board March Meeting Minutes (continued)**

**Newsletter Update:** Submissions due to Joe on 3/9. The newsletter to be sent to members on 3/13. Have a section on Toothpick Bridge results with pictures. Chris M. to send to Joe. Include member statistics from Donofrio. DesMarais to send an example from Dave. Include member profile of Donofrio. Include report card write up from Craig.

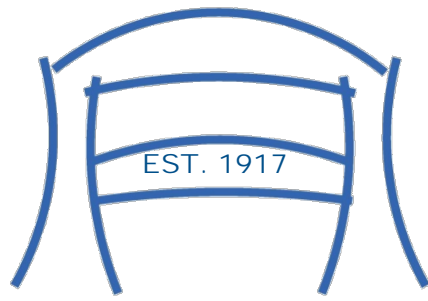
### **Ongoing Business:**

1. Report Card Update
  - a. Email coming out tomorrow announcing event.
  - b. Need to get more interest.
  - c. Send to sponsorship list.
2. Duluth Section Scholarship
  - a. Have Mary forward application around UMD.
  - b. Applications due to Rose Henkel at [rhenkel@sehinc.com](mailto:rhenkel@sehinc.com) by March 22, 2018.
  - c. Rose to redact and distribute.
3. Toothpick Bridge: Moved to Fieldhouse on 3/8/18. Chris M. to request volunteers.
4. April Dinner Banquet (April 17, 2018):
  - a. Blackwoods has been reserved for 80 people.
  - b. Need to pick menu items.
  - c. Room rental is free.
  - d. Section will pay for 1 free drink ticket.
  - e. Banquet attendance is free.
5. Community Involvement Project
  - a. Playground in Superior: Rich is working with the City of Superior. Looking to have a fiberglass bridge. The project is active, but they don't know how many volunteers they need yet.
  - b. Playground in Proctor: No update.

Carrie Clement to have a booth for ASCE at the Lester Park Elementary Science Fair on April 12, 2018.

### **New Business:**

1. Radisson Update: They charged us for 50 people for the February Luncheon when we only had 28 attendees. Andrew checking to see if we can get a refund on some of those meals. The Radisson has new leadership again. The Friday before we are supposed to give a head count and have a final head count on the day before the luncheon. President Elect's job to give the count to the Radisson.



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### **ASCE Duluth Section Board March Meeting Minutes (continued)**

**Next Board Meeting:** March 29, 2018 at 4:30 pm at Blackwoods (in the bar).

**Meeting adjourned:** 5:49 pm.

### **ASCE Duluth Section Board April Meeting Minutes - May 2, 2018**

Meeting Attendees were Andrew Kilpo, Tom DesMarais, Pete Demshar, Joe Butler, Randy Paul, and Rose Henkel

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm. A quorum was present.

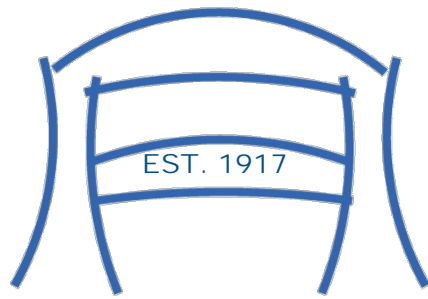
Motion was made to approve April meeting minutes. Motion made by Joe, seconded by Andrew. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**UMD Student Update:** The Section hasn't sent \$1000 reimbursement check for attendance at the Multi-Region conference. Tom/Andrew to determine who should receive the check. The Section acknowledged the student section at the awards banquet for their recent awards. UMD apparel got ordered. Should start thinking about mini golf to get better advertising and sponsorship visibility.

**YMG Update:** Had escape room event with 8 attendees. Randy emailed receipt for reimbursement from Section. YMG willing to coordinate apparel ordering for the Section. Still planning on taking a tour of the Minnesota slip led by AMI in May. Planning to have a BBQ in June. Potentially a golf outing or tournament in August. YMG to send out next year's budget in advance of next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking: \$10,295.15, Savings: \$6,974.51  
Recently paid: \$1000 for banquet, \$2000 for scholarships, and Pete Fly-in/career fair reimbursement.  
Upcoming expenses: YMG Escape room reimbursement to Randy. Still need to get depot invoice.  
Upcoming inflow: Section reimbursement from Tom. (3 checks)  
Andrew provided a statement of year to date expenses.  
Discussion about Section dues. Board decided to not change the dues for the Section. Tom to send in form to National.

**Speakers:** No update.



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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board April Meeting Minutes (continued)**

**Newsletter Update:** Luncheon May 22, 2018. Submissions due May 4, 2018. Will include: President's message (Tom DesMarais), speaker info (Mary), Fly-In (Pete - received), Toothpick Bridge (Chris - received), Membership info (Tom Donofrio), Membership profile (Tom Donofrio), and Report card (Craig – received)

Tom to send Pete the YMG event picture. Tom to send Joe Annual Meeting picture.

**Membership:** No update.

**Ongoing Business:** May Luncheon: Need to make announcement looking for members to fill the open board position(s).

**Matrix:** Reviewed.

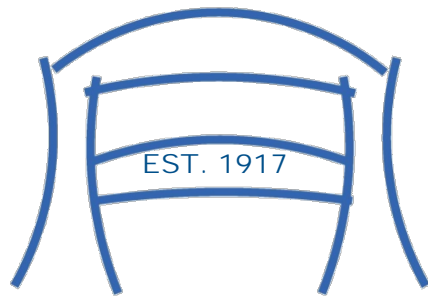
### **New Business:**

Region 3 Governor requested that those that worked on the report card or board members attend the Region 3 Assembly August 17-18, 2018 in Chicago.

Joe hoping to get past presidents together for a meeting to get recharged for the next year and gain momentum.

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, May 24, 2018 @ 4:30 pm. Plan on meeting lasting 2 hours at Grandma's in Canal Park. Hoping to have all board members there to discuss transitioning roles, and reviewing budgets. Andrew to bring last year's banquet expenses to compare to this year's.

**Meeting adjourned:** 5:15 pm



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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board May Meeting Minutes - May 29, 2018**

Meeting Attendees were Tom DesMarais, Andrew Kilpo, Joe Butler, Pete Demshar, Randy Paul, Ben Helmer, Nick Patterson, Rose Henkel

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm. A quorum was present.

Motion was made to approve May 2, 2018 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with changes as discussed. Joe made a motion to accept and Pete seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**UMD Student Update:** Pete to send out request to have student officers come to the August Section board meeting and meetings continuing forward. Tom to become more involved as the practitioner advisor in the upcoming year.

**YMG discussion:** Sent their updated bylaws to National. Haven't heard back yet, but don't technically need National's approval to move forward with the bylaws. Pete to ask National about review timeline. YMG added an Outreach and Social Media board member position. Ben Helmer is the Membership Chair. Randy is the Vice President Chair. Planning to stay with the same leadership for the next year.

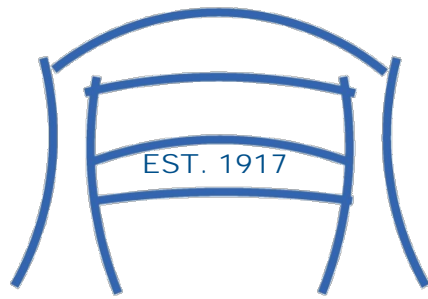
YMG funding starts every year in September and should be given to Randy. Last year the Section gave \$1500 to the YMG. Andrew talked to Wells Fargo about creating a linked YMG account. Andrew and Tom to sign minutes approving a linked account between the Section and the Younger Member Group. Joe made a motion to approve and Pete seconded it.

Section to give check for 2018-2019 in September and what was raised from the ethics presentation. YMG to submit receipts from summer events. These will not need approval. Upcoming events include a MN Slip tour in June and a BBQ in July.

Next year the YMG plans on having a clothing fundraiser. Potentially having a sponsor option for the YMG when signing up for ASCE.

The proposed budget includes 10 tours/events per year at \$150 per event, \$600 surplus from the ethics presentation, and \$600 deficit from the Mock Career Fair. Joe made a motion to approve the proposed budget as amended. Pete seconded it and it passed unanimously. The Section requested that the YMG report the number of attendees at each event.





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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board May Meeting Minutes (continued)**

YMG to come up with a marketing campaign by September. Looking to retain more members from college to the YMG. Lisa to add YMG leadership board information to website. Section board emails to be sent to YMG board leadership. Other ideas to retain members include making an announcement at luncheons, talking to younger staff at work, and including a message in the newsletter. YMG looking to take on the Community Involvement project. Pete to get contact information.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking: \$11,354.75, Savings: \$6,917.16

Upcoming expenses: Depot invoice and last luncheon invoice. Tom to send checks. We have included the ethics presentation in our budget this year. Tom to contact the Depot for the invoice. The scholarships have been paid.

Attendance has been down at luncheons at about half of goal set. Will keep the same goal for next year at \$8,000. There were 47 attendees at the May luncheon.

Having difficulties getting company name to work with the nametags. Andrew to contact Constant Contact for a solution. That's the only complaint with printing the nametags. Potentially getting more permanent nametags for the board members that say "Duluth Section Board Member". Ben to check with Helmer Printing on prices.

**Speakers:** Mary to set up September luncheon meeting speaker.

**Newsletter Update:** Submissions due: 6/5 and to be sent: 6/8. Everything to be included from the newsletters that didn't go out including the board meeting minutes. Tom to write up a new message. Ben to send the date of the upcoming events for the newsletter.

**Membership:** No update.

### **Ongoing Business:**

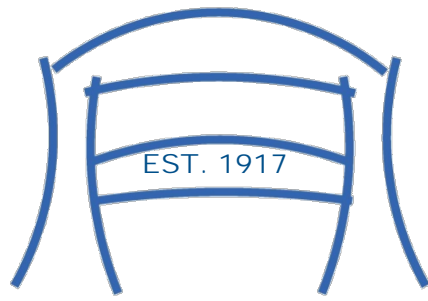
Board position turnover: Tom to be Past President, Joe to be President, Andrew to be President Elect, and Rose to be Vice President. The Treasurer and Secretary positions are vacant. Tom to send a separate email looking for people to fill those roles.

Past President's meeting: Planning to invite past presidents to a meeting in October to get ideas for the coming year and to increase engagement. Joe to send email to past presidents.

Region 3 Assembly: August 17-18 in Chicago – Rose volunteered to go. Tom to send info.

ASCE Apparel – YMG to run. Used On the Limit before. Would be ordering polos, t-shirts, and potentially a quarter zip depending on price.





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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board May Meeting Minutes (continued)**

**Matrix:** Reviewed.

**New Business:** Presidents and Governors Forum: Joe to review.

**Next Board Meeting:** August 15, 2018 at Bent Paddle's new taproom @ 4:30 pm.

**Meeting adjourned:** 5:58 pm.

## **ASCE Duluth Section Board August Meeting Minutes**

August 15, 2018

Meeting Attendees were Tom DesMarais, Andrew Kilpo, Joe Butler, and Rose Henkel

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm. A quorum was present.

Motion was made to approve May meeting minutes. Motion made to accept by Andrew and seconded by Joe. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**UMD Student Update:** Received AISC letter from National. Tom to forward to board members. *Tom to check with National to see if we can put in newsletter.*

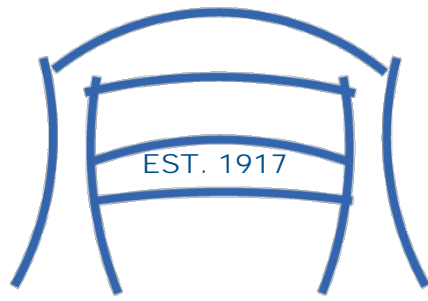
**YMG Update:** No update.

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking: \$10,798.17; Savings: \$6,975.04  
Section to refund Randy for YMG event. Refund from Tom still needed.

### **Speakers:**

The September speaker will be Brock Hedegaard from UMD.

Starting in October, Andrew will be lining up speakers. Potential ideas are Essentia Hospital project, Blatnik Bridge, County projects, a speaker from ASCE National, Sky Harbor project, and Government relations. Get input from members on what presentation topics they would like to hear.



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## **ASCE Duluth Section Board August Meeting Minutes (continued)**

### **2018-2019 Board/Lunch Schedule**

#### **Membership Meetings**

September 18, 2018  
October 16, 2018  
November 13, 2018  
December 4, 2018  
January 15, 2019  
February 19, 2019  
March 19, 2019  
April 16, 2019 (Awards Dinner)  
May 21, 2019

#### **Board Meetings**

September 27, 2018  
October 25, 2018  
November 15, 2018  
December 13, 2018  
January 24, 2019  
February 28, 2019  
March 28, 2019  
April 25, 2019  
May 23, 2019

**Newsletter Update:** Submissions due September 4, 2018. Newsletter to be sent September 7, 2018.

1. Will include President's message, potentially AISC letter, YMG information, UMD mini golf (?), and all previous information that hasn't been sent in a newsletter.
2. Will need to send out 10 days ahead of time.

**Membership:** *Tom to get updated membership info from Tom Donofrio.*

#### **Ongoing Business:**

1. Community Involvement Project – idea of a playground of some sort. Project has stalled at WisCorps.
2. Board Position Turnover – Contact the person of the position you are going into.
3. Past President Meeting – Possibly October.
4. Region 3 Assembly – August 17-18 in Chicago – Nobody could attend.
5. ASCE Apparel – Need to order T-shirts for toothpick bridge volunteers. Need to make a separate order for polos, etc.

**Matrix:** Reviewed. *Rose to check with Lisa on what has been filed with Higher Logic this year.*

#### **New Business:**

1. PE study groups – material probably outdated. *Pete to look into.*
2. *Tom to send out email to fill the treasurer and secretary positions.* Looking for government, education, and/or construction members preferably; but all members are welcome to volunteer.
3. *Andrew to send Radisson luncheon dates for the year.*

**Next Board Meeting:** September 27, 2018 @ 4:30 PM at Mr. D's

**Meeting adjourned:** 5:41 PM

# YMG Update

Duluth Section Younger Member Group

June 2018

## *The YMG Rundown*

For the second consecutive year, we arranged a mock career fair at UMD. The mock career fair is designed to allow students an opportunity to test their interview skills and receive a resume critique prior to the actual civil engineering career fair. With the help of several local industry professionals, we were able to assist approximately 20 UMD students. Based on the feedback, we plan on organizing this for a third consecutive year next winter.

We also organized the fourth annual curling event in late February. While attendance was less than expected, a great time was had by all! We certainly plan on continuing this event next winter as well.

Most recently, we had a happy hour followed by an adventure at "The Wheelhouse" Zero Hour Escape Room. Our group (pictured below) managed to make it out with minutes to spare! See the upcoming events to the right as we finish off the spring/summer season (invitations to follow). Hope to see you there and have a great summer!



## *YMG Board Member Wanted!*

...

The YMG Board is looking to expand our outreach, specifically using social media platforms. If you have experience with any specific social media platform, as well as an interest to participate in regular YMG activities, please reach out to Pete, Randy and/or Ben (contact information below).

## *Upcoming Events*

...

Tour of the Minnesota Slip  
• June (Exact Date to Follow)

Summer BBQ  
• July (Exact Date to Follow)

## *Like the YMG FB Page!*

...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1574852259492720/>

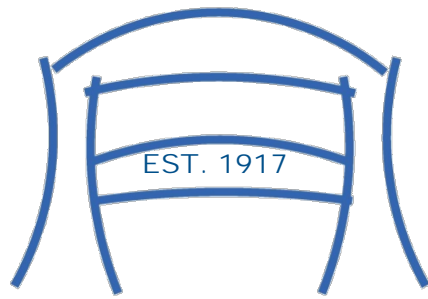
## *Current YMG Board*

...

Chair – Pete Demshar  
Barr Engineering Co.  
([PDemshar@barr.com](mailto:PDemshar@barr.com))

Vice Chair – Randy Paul  
Barr Engineering Co.  
([RPaul@barr.com](mailto:RPaul@barr.com))

Membership Chair – Ben Helmer  
Meyer Borgman Johnson  
([bhelmer@mbjeng.com](mailto:bhelmer@mbjeng.com))



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**2018 ASCE Toothpick Bridge Contest Recap - March 8, 2018**

On Thursday March 8, 2018, the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Toothpick Bridge Competition was held at UMD in the Ward Wells Field House.

114 toothpick bridges arrived on contest day made by over 180 students from the following high schools: Superior, Cromwell-Wright, Duluth Denfeld, South Shore, Vermilion, Eveleth Gilbert, Bayfield, Deer River, Carlton, Duluth East, Hermantown, Cloquet, & Harbor City International. The bridges needed to span at least 55 cm and weigh no more than 90 grams.

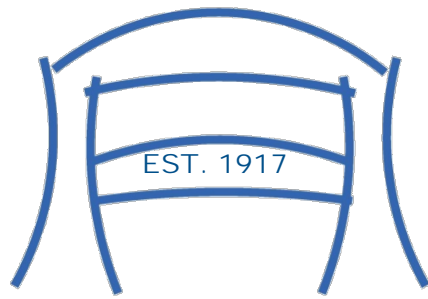
Dr. Rebecca Teasley, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering & Associate Dean of Swenson College of Science & Engineering, welcomed the students and teachers and spoke about UMD's Civil Engineering program.

Dr. Rebecca Teasley & Rob Ronning Judged the Most Aesthetically Pleasing category and presented the awards.

Most Aesthetically Pleasing			
1st	Duluth Denfeld	Gien Carlo Enriquez & Dawson McIsaac	
Reid			
2nd	Duluth East	Hayden Stanius	
3rd	Bayfield	Ashton Chambers	

Then we broke the bridges and weighed and recorded the loads.

Strongest Bridge			
1st	Hermantown	Vera Scott	held 69.50 kg
2nd	Bayfield	Savannah Deragon	held 63.40 kg
3rd	Hermantown	Kadin Graves	held 57.90 kg



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## **2018 ASCE Toothpick Bridge Contest Recap - Continued**

Most Economical Bridge (Lightest bridge to hold 10 kg)

1st	Cromwell-Wright	Gage Jones, Micah Pocernich, Benjamin Hansen
		Bridge weighed 35.0 g and held 21.24 kg

2nd	Duluth East	Grent Ellis Canete
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Bridge weighed 46.6 g	and held 26.95 kg
-----------------------	-------------------

3rd	Carlton	Liz House, Angel Schroeder, Jaryd Soukkala, Tiara Larson
		Bridge weighed 50.7 g and held 24.00 kg

Thank you to the following people & sponsors: John Saunders –TKDA, Jason DiPianna – MSA Professional Services, Doug Grindal – Erickson Engineering, Carrie Clement – WLSSD, Tom DesMarais - Northland Consulting, Nick Patterson - Marine Tech, Caitlin Johnson, Cody Desmedt, Cole Metzold, John Hinzman, Chris Morris – MnDOT, Mark Roberts - UMD staff, Tom Donofrio - Minnesota Power, UMD Civil Engineer Department, Brock White, & MnDOT.

Sincerely,

Chris Morris, P.E.  
ASCE Duluth Section  
Toothpick Bridge Chair



July 31, 2018

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Dear ASCE Colleagues:

As many of you are aware, the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) recently issued a statement advising ASCE faculty advisors and other recipients of its decision to terminate its partnership with ASCE on the National Student Steel Bridge Competition. We understand that this announcement has caused great surprise and consternation for many within the ASCE community, and this letter is intended to offer our perspective on this unfortunate circumstance, and to offer guidance as to our expected path forward.

Last month, ASCE staff was advised that the AISC board had voted to require fundamental changes to the Competition's eligibility standards. The substance of those changes focused on two aspects: 1) a prohibition of university teams from outside the United States from competing at the national level, including teams that had participated in the competition for more than a decade, and 2) removing the requirements for Steel Bridge teams to participate in ASCE student conference activities.

Consistent with our vision of civil engineers as global leaders, the eligibility standards for the competition were designed to ensure that all students participating in ASCE-affiliated competitions benefit from educational and professional development that they will carry forward into their careers. ASCE strongly believes that ASCE-affiliated competitions should be open to all ASCE student chapters that meet eligibility standards for national competition. ASCE also feels that participation in the full schedule of conference activities is critical to that professional development.

In discussions with AISC over the proposed rules changes, it became evident that the dispute reflects a critical difference in philosophy between our two organizations over the purpose and scope of the competition. Nevertheless, in light of our long-standing partnership with AISC and the impending start of the academic year, the ASCE Committee on Student Members, its Steel Bridge Competition subcommittee and senior staff had hoped to reach a resolution that would, at a minimum, limit disruption for the 2018/2019 academic year. Regrettably, any such compromise appears to be unworkable based on AISC's recent announcement.

Recognizing the 2018/2019 academic year begins in less than one month and many students and conference host schools have begun fundraising and organizational activities, ASCE has immediately shifted its focus to assessing the impact of AISC's decision on our student chapters and regional competitions. ASCE's Executive Committee has appointed a Student Competition Task Force that is working on strategies that address the short-term challenges associated with the 2019 Steel Bridge Competition, and the longer term needs for innovative, global student competitions. By the end of August, that task force will submit its first interim report addressing short term plans, and we will keep you apprised of plans moving forward.

ASCE is deeply committed, as ever, to supporting the faculty, regional conference hosts, student leadership and others who are dedicated to the continued educational and professional growth of civil

engineering students, and we will remain in close communication. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we work to address your concerns and we welcome your input and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristina Swallow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kristina" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Swallow".

Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE  
2018 ASCE President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Smith III". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Thomas" and the middle initial "W." being clearly legible, followed by "Smith III".

Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE  
ASCE Executive Director



August 13, 2018

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Dear ASCE Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to share your thoughts and concerns with the changes to the Steel Bridge Competition. We understand and share your disappointment about the change taking place, and we thank you for your patience while ASCE leadership determines a path forward. This letter serves as our next step in providing guidance for ASCE student chapters and AISC bridge teams during the transition and moving forward.

As you are aware, in late July, AISC announced that, effective immediately, AISC would be the sole sponsor of the Student Steel Bridge Competition. In a subsequent letter, ASCE informed its student chapters and faculty advisors of this unexpected development and outlined the differences that led to the change. Last week the ASCE Board Executive Committee approved recommendations from the Committee on Student Members establishing new protocols for the relationship between ASCE student chapters and AISC steel bridge teams.

The following guidance statements refer to fundamental relationship changes. They are followed by specific Questions and Answers to the most common concerns we have heard. Both the relationship guidance and the Q&A are being added to our website.

In addition to providing guidance about the immediate impacts of the dissolution of the AISC-ASCE National Student Steel Bridge partnership, ASCE has established a Student Competition Task Force to develop and implement short- and long-term strategies for including new, innovative, and inclusive competitions in future Student Conferences. We will keep you informed about the recommendations and outcomes of this task force in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you again for your patience as we navigate the transition. While this was not anticipated, and we understand that it will prove challenging, we are looking forward to working with you during the transition. We are true believers in the phrase "when one door closes, another opens" and we are excited to work with you to see what opportunities may develop.

#### **Guidance relating to ASCE Student Conferences:**

The AISC Steel Bridge Competition will only be sponsored by AISC and therefore is no longer recognized as an official activity of ASCE Student Conferences. If host schools desire to have an AISC Steel Bridge Competition, hosts should treat this as a separate event from the ASCE Student Conference, which will require separate funding, registration, and liability coverage for the AISC competition.

### Guidance relating to ASCE Student Chapters:

AISC bridge teams are no longer official activities of ASCE Student Chapters. Individual students may be members of both the AISC Steel Bridge Competition team and the ASCE Student Chapter, but all recruiting, fundraising and preparations for the Steel Bridge team must be kept entirely separate from ASCE student chapter activities. All civil engineering students are encouraged to maintain their individual membership in their ASCE Student Chapter.

Questions concerning this information may be directed to:

[student@asce.org](mailto:student@asce.org)

[Ryan Kobbe](#), Chair, Committee on Student Members

[Leslie Payne](#), Director, Student and Younger Member Programs

Sincerely,



Kristina L. Swallow, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE  
2018 ASCE President



Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE  
Executive Director

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**AISC Bridge Competitions will no longer be recognized by the Society as official ASCE sponsored activities at Student Conferences**

### **Q: DOES ASCE CARRY LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR AISC BRIDGE COMPETITIONS?**

ASCE does not carry liability coverage for involvement in organizing, planning, or running non-ASCE sponsored events. Universities that wish to host an AISC bridge competition must ask for a certificate of insurance from AISC. If the Steel Bridge contest will be held at the same time and place as an ASCE Student Conference, the host must provide to ASCE a Certificate of Insurance naming ASCE as an additional insured, and the Host must agree to hold ASCE harmless from any and all liability related to the Steel Bridge contest.

**Q: WHAT IS THE CONFERENCE HOST'S RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING AISC BRIDGE COMPETITIONS?**

ASCE Student Conference hosts bear no responsibility for AISC Bridge Competitions, judges or awards ceremonies hosted in coordination with Conference locations. Hosts that have reserved venues for steel bridge competition activities, but now choose not to host bridge competitions, should examine their facilities contracts and take appropriate action to avoid any cancellation fees that may be incurred related to steel bridge competitions.

**Q: WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON CONFERENCES WHERE HOSTS ELECT NOT TO HOLD A SEPARATE BRIDGE COMPETITION?**

2019 Student Conferences will go on as planned without AISC Steel Bridge competitions. Conference activities will include the business meeting, paper presentation contest, as well as Concrete Canoe Competition and any other official activities outlined in the Conference Constitution or chosen by the ASCE Conference Host.

**Q: WHICH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE ASCE BANQUET AWARDS PRESENTATIONS?**

Awards Banquets should include awards given to official ASCE sponsored events.

**Q: WHAT IMPACTS DOES THE SPLIT HAVE ON CONFERENCE CONSTITUTIONS?**

ASCE Student Conferences should review Conference Constitutions for language stating that the AISC-ASCE Student Steel Bridge Competition is an official activity of the conference and correct all references at the ASCE Student Conference business meeting.

**Q: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION EQUIPMENT?**

All steel bridge competition equipment is the property of ASCE Conferences according to prior Conference member agreements and/or Conference Constitutions, and may be sold, donated, or retained by the Conference at its discretion. Decisions about what to do with equipment should be discussed at the ASCE Student Conference business meeting.

**Q: CAN AISC BRIDGE TEAM MEMBERS STILL ATTEND THE ASCE STUDENT CONFERENCE?**

AISC bridge team members who maintain their ASCE Student Chapter membership are encouraged to register and attend ASCE Student Conferences for additional opportunities to network with their peers, support other civil engineering students, and participate in competitions and technical activities available through ASCE.

**Q: WHERE WILL BRIDGE TEAMS COMPETE IF THERE IS NO STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION AT CONFERENCE?**

ASCE student steel bridge teams should contact AISC regarding questions they have about AISC bridge competitions.

AISC Bridge Teams are no longer official activities of ASCE Student Chapters.

**Q: AREN'T AISC AND ASCE PART OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION?**

AISC and ASCE are different professional organizations, in the same way that SWE, ASME, and APWA are different professional organizations from ASCE. Until recently AISC and ASCE had a joint agreement to collaborate on the National Student Steel Bridge Competition, but because of differences in approach to core requirements, most importantly AISC's desire to prohibit university teams from outside the United States from competing at the national level, the competition will now be conducted exclusively by AISC.

**Q: CAN AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAMS REPRESENT A STUDENT CHAPTER?**

AISC bridge teams will represent their universities, not ASCE.

**Q: HOW DO WE ESTABLISH AN AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAM?**

Students interested in participating in AISC competitions should reach out to AISC and their university for further information.

**Q: CAN FACULTY ADVISORS CONTINUE TO ADVISE AISC BRIDGE TEAMS?**

ASCE Faculty Advisors may advise AISC bridge teams in addition to their ASCE Student Chapters but are not obligated to do so.

**Q: WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP OF ASCE AND AISC STUDENT BRIDGE TEAMS?**

ASCE Chapters are no longer the umbrella organizations over AISC teams. ASCE Chapters bear no financial responsibility for AISC teams, including travel expenses to bridge competitions.

**Q: CAN OUR ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER RAISE FUNDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AISC STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION?**

ASCE funds are intended for use by ASCE student members participating in ASCE-sponsored activities. Fundraising for AISC activity should be conducted separately from ASCE fund raising, and prospective donors should be clearly advised that funds will not be used for ASCE activities.

**Q: DO RULES BAR ASCE FROM SPONSORING BRIDGE TEAMS?**

AISC bridge teams may request sponsorship from ASCE entities, and ASCE entities are free to support them. ASCE should receive appropriate sponsor recognition, including inclusion of the ASCE logo on team clothing for the competition.

**Q: MAY AISC BRIDGE TEAMS HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN ASCE STUDENT CHAPTERS?**

Civil engineering students benefit from holding individual membership in ASCE Student Chapters (free membership, free SEI membership, professional activities, networking with local professionals, peer support, community service activities, etc.). ASCE encourages the recruitment of, retention of, and the development of all civil engineering students as members and leaders of ASCE Student Chapters.



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