

ASCE SEATTLE HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

As of June 1, ASCE Seattle has transitioned to a new website platform. You can find all the information about our upcoming events, current job openings, volunteer opportunities, technical and standing committees, scholarships, awards, and more at:

<http://sections.asce.org/seattle/>

June 2019

June ASCE Seattle Section Dinner Meeting **Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievements**

Wednesday, June 12

This special dinner program will feature Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (LOCEA) presentations and awards, and celebrate ASCE Life Members.

The annual LOCEA awards recognize outstanding projects in the categories of Geotechnical, Structural, Ports and Waterways, Water Resources, Transportation and Development, and Small Project and Non-Construction Studies. Eligible projects are those that: have been accomplished by a civil engineer who is a member of the Seattle Section; is located within the Seattle Section (includes the counties of King, Snohomish, Kitsap, Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Clallam, and Jefferson); was substantially completed in the calendar year 2018; and is predominantly civil engineering-related work.

[Read about the projects being recognized this year here.](#)

Please come to celebrate everyone's achievements!

Mirabella
116 Fairview Ave N
Seattle, WA 981019

5:30pm Social Hour
6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Program

\$45 (\$40 early bird) for Members

\$55 (\$50 early bird) for
Non-Members & Guests

\$35 (\$30 early bird) for
Government Employees

\$25 (\$20 early bird) for students

Early Bird Registration
ends after June 5

[Click Here to
Register](#)



June President's Column

By Eset Alemu, PE, CFM, Seattle Section President

We are excited to welcome summer and enjoy the beautiful Seattle weather. Summer is also a time where the Section Leadership hosts a retreat to brainstorm on how best to serve our members in the greater Seattle area and plan activities for the coming fiscal year. Other exciting events over the summer includes the launch of a new Section [website](#) which will be more interactive and provide more resources such as discussion boards and job opportunities.

[Section Officers](#)

At this month's dinner meeting, we recognize outstanding local

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projects that showcase the achievements and contributions of the Seattle engineering community, and the fruits of collaboration of interdisciplinary teams. These projects highlight the interesting shift that has come into the forefront of how engineering projects are designed and delivered. This new design paradigm places a greater emphasis on community input and applies community-centered design as one of the driving forces of project delivery. In this approach the core values of residents, community groups and stakeholders are identified; and get incorporated that into the engineering solution being developed while strong relationships are fostered with communities. It is meant to design projects WITH communities than FOR communities. Increasing number of cities and municipalities are now using this approach to identify and focus on projects that provide more value to their residents and ratepayers and to invest in solutions that enhance public health and the environment.

Our work as civil engineers embodies this philosophy as we develop solutions that can be scaled and customized to meet the community's needs. This process requires engineers to be innovative and flexible as they adapt their solutions based on community feedback and to be more thoughtful about how the community uses the final product. Most of you would agree that engineers are at times more excited and focused on the technical aspect of their work, but I challenge you to think about how your work interfaces with communities and stakeholders alike and how it feeds into the general well being of the community.

Please [join us on June 12](#) to celebrate the notable local projects this past year and meet the talented teams that made it possible.

SEPTEMBER 2019
NEWSLETTER
CONTENT DEADLINE:
August 20, 2019

2019-2020 ASCE Seattle Officer Elections

The 2019 Election of the ASCE Seattle Section Board of Directors will take place between June 5 and June 24, 2019. Online ballots will be emailed to Section members on June 5th. If you are a Section member and do not receive a ballot please contact Paul Fikse at secretary@seattleasce.org.

The following nominees are put forth by the Nominating Committee for Section Board positions starting in October 2019:

- **Mari Otto for Secretary**
- **Mark Rohrbach for Director of Technical Committees**
- **Homero Flores for President-Elect**

Nominee bios provided at the end of this newsletter.

Not an ASCE member yet? [Become a member today](#) !

Already a member? [Upgrade](#) or [renew](#) your membership!

ASCE Seattle Membership Survey Results

ASCE Seattle recently requested feedback from our members on everything from programming logistics to communication preferences and we received some great responses. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey. After reviewing the survey data and insightful comments, ASCE Seattle would like to share the following insights based on the survey results:

- ASCE Seattle membership has broad interests. Historically we have offered a broad variety of section and committee event topics to reach this audience. **To have a better idea on what we're**

planning, ASCE Seattle will publish an annual calendar of the topic “themes” planned for the year and will create opportunities to solicit topic ideas from our members. *Coming soon.*

- Although the survey did not capture all of our members, the consensus in the responses indicates that Wednesday evenings are the preferred time for section dinner meetings. **Section dinner meetings in 2019-2020 will remain on Wednesday evenings as often as they can.**
- Survey responses and [ASCE Seattle Section membership heatmap](#) indicate that most of our membership is in the greater Seattle area. According to the survey there is interest in having ASCE Seattle events on the eastside, Bellevue-area. **ASCE Seattle is looking into hosting at least 1-2 meetings per year on the eastside in 2019-2020.**
- ASCE Seattle membership has questions about how the Section is run, how event topics are selected, and how they can get involved in volunteering. **This summer/fall, stay tuned for a NEW ASCE Seattle event to “Kick Off” the 2019-2020 year, where members can meet the new board of directors, learn about committee events and volunteer opportunities, have a voice in planning our event topics, and mingle with fellow members and ASCE Seattle leadership! *Coming soon.***
- ASCE Seattle members deserve up to date and easy to find information on ASCE Seattle events and announcements. **As of today, ASCE Seattle has transitioned to [a new website platform](#) that allows for easier access to our events and section information. The event calendar will always be up to date with [upcoming events](#) and we will strive to post new events several weeks in advance.**
- ASCE Seattle members want to connect with each other!**We are exploring options for an online forum or discussion board for ASCE Seattle members to connect and share ideas. *Coming soon.***

These highlight some of the primary takeaways from the survey responses. We are closely reviewing each comment and plan to address them all in the coming year. Our Section relies on volunteers and voices from our membership, so we thank you for taking the time to help guide the direction of ASCE Seattle.

If you have any questions about the survey or have an interested in volunteering to support our new or ongoing initiatives, please contact [Henry Haselton](#), Incoming President of ASCE Seattle.

ASCE Urban Development & Transportation Group Tour of Mt. Baker & Beacon Hill Stations

When: Wednesday, June 19, 5:30pm

Transit Orientated Development and Link Light Rail go together like Seattle and salmon. For our second UD&T Subcommittee adventure, co-chairs Mike Bjork and Patricia Bennett will lead a visit to Mt. Baker Station and Beacon Hill Station to review various TOD projects around the stations, discuss the Accessible Mt Baker Plan, enjoy the curious art inside Beacon Hill Station, and check out a street designed for the community. To join our evening of adventure, we'll be meeting on Wednesday, June 19th at 5:30pm at the old customer service kiosk on the mezzanine level of Westlake Station. Be sure to bring your ORCA card and an appetite; our final stop at Perihelion Brewery at Beacon Hill has the best brussels sprouts in the city while providing a wide variety of food, beer, non-alcoholic drinks, and an excellent view of nearby transit operations. Should there be enough interest post-Perihelion, we can ride Route 36 together back Downtown.

Please contact [Mike Bjork](#) if you have any questions.

May Student Presentations Recap

On May 15, ASCE Seattle joined the University of Washington and Seattle University for student presentations. Both schools held competitions for students, teams, clubs, etc. to present their work to a panel of judges. The winning team from each school presented at the section meeting.

The presentations gave students in the civil

and environmental engineering department an opportunity to showcase their work.

This year's **Seattle University** winners are:

- Romina Guibao, Jorge Lara Alvarado, Rio Sano, Kalei Sur. Topic: Ross Powerhouse seismic evaluation



This year's **University of Washington** winners are:

- Jason Wells and Ben Long. Topic: Concrete Canoe

Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Urban Development & Transportation Committee

The Seattle Section is currently searching for two motivated members to lead and revamp the Urban Development and Transportation Committee take charge of the committee. The purpose of this committee is to provide a forum for engineers and designers to discuss the intersection between transportation and urban planning and network with professionals with similar interests. This committee intends to. The committee will host monthly or bimonthly meetings and/or site visits. It can also get additional support from ASCE National's Transportation and Development.

This is a forum for ASCE members and non-members to discuss the issues facing the city and the world today, and how engineering and design are influencing the change. Seattle is going through a rapid and huge transformation of its urban fabric with the arrival of thousands of new employees every month. This has created traffic on the streets and highways, apartment and office space buildings popping up left and right around the city, and new rail systems and bicycle friendly infrastructure.

Please contact [Homero Flores](#) if you are interested in leading or participating in this group.

Legislative Committee

ASCE Seattle Section is searching for volunteers to assist with the Legislative Affairs Committee. The level of Involvement can vary and can include providing engineering judgement on current legislative issues to assisting with lobbying.

The Legislative Committee functions in the political arena with focus on federal, state, county or other governmental issues that are of interest to the civil engineering profession; such as university engineering budget considerations, issues that affect the practice of or employment of civil engineers, and environmental issues of significance to the profession. The committee reviews proposed legislation and comments on it with regards to its effect on the civil engineering profession and may also be called upon to testify at Legislative hearings or for other governmental committees. It is also responsible for disseminating information from the Architects and Engineers Legislative Council (AELC) pertaining to state legislation. The committee typically sends at least one representative to the Society's annual Legislative Fly-In in Washington D.C.

Please contact the Legislative Chair [Mark Koelling](#) for more information.

Current Job Openings

- Water Resources Engineer - Mead & Hunt
- Water Resources Engineer - Mead & Hunt
- Project to Senior Level Civil Engineer - Airport & Port Infrastructure - Reid Middleton
- Construction Program Manager (Sanitary Sewer) - Clark Regional Wastewater District
- Capital Program Manager (Sanitary Sewer) - Clark Regional Wastewater District

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ENGINEERING
PROFESSIONALS**

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Section Website**

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Advertise your current open positions to ASCE Seattle members today for only \$75 for the first month and \$50 for each subsequent month.

Emailcommunications@seattleasce.org to [learn more.](#)

**Click to View Job Descriptions
& Apply!**

2019-2020 ASCE Seattle Officer Elections

Mario Otto for Secretary

Mari Otto is a geotechnical engineer at Aspect Consulting, a multi-disciplinary firm that specializes in geotechnical engineering, environmental services, water resources, stormwater, and data + mapping. Mari earned her BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and her MS in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Washington. She is currently registered as an EIT and plans to take her professional licensing (PE) exam in 2020.



In her two years at Aspect, Mari has supported roadway stabilizations, culvert and bridge replacements, and other public infrastructure improvements in both urban and rural settings. Her focus has been on analysis for retaining wall design, including spiral nail walls. She has also performed design and analysis for geotechnical elements of structures including shallow foundations, deep foundations, landslide repair systems, and temporary shoring. Mari's deft problem-solving skills enable her to work with clients and contractors to overcome issues, deliver required field data, and complete analysis and design tasks on schedule.

Mari has been the chair of the ASCE Seattle Section House and Hospitality Committee since 2017, in addition to attending numerous meetings and events for the ASCE Seattle Geotechnical Group and the Younger Members Forum. She enjoys being an active member of Seattle's engineering community and making genuine connections with fellow professionals in Seattle and around the world. Mari is proud to be a part of ASCE Seattle Section and will bring her enthusiasm for interacting with others in the engineering profession, her effective organizational skills, and a positive can-do attitude to the Secretary role.

Mark Rohrbach for Director of Technical Committees

Mark Rohrbach, PE, GE, P.Eng. is a professional engineer with 21 years of experience in geotechnical engineering and geo-structural engineering. Mark has served as the geotechnical engineer or design engineer of record for very large (>\$300M) commercial and infrastructure projects as well as routine to small residential projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. Mark's technical areas of expertise include all aspects of geotechnical engineering: landslide identification and mitigation; liquefaction triggering and mitigation; ground improvement design; temporary and permanent earth retaining wall design; deep foundation design (piles, micropiles, drilled shafts, etc.) and non-destructive foundation integrity testing.



After high school, Mark served as an Army Airborne Ranger (Sniper and Team Leader) at what was then Fort Lewis, WA and was eventually awarded a direct commission as an officer. After his military service and before entering professional practice, Mark earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE) and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering – Geotechnical (MSCE) from the University of Washington in 2000 and 2002 respectively.

Mark began his professional career in 1998, as a traditional consulting geotechnical engineer. In 2008 he transitioned to provision of contractor-side design services for regional geotechnical specialty contractors. Mark is currently a Senior Engineer at Hayward Baker, where he oversees design-build construction projects in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In this capacity, he routinely oversees ground improvement, shoring, micropile, slope stabilization and liquefaction mitigation projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. Several of Mark's projects have been published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at peer-reviewed technical conferences. One was used as a case history example for the effective use of advanced numerical modeling in geotechnical engineering and ground improvement design, by an international software company.

Mark has been very active within ASCE. As a ten-year board member (2002-2007 and 2014-2019) and past-president of the ASCE Seattle Section Geotechnical Group (Seattle Geo-Institute chapter), he was influential in the establishment of the Robert D. Holtz Graduate Fellowship at the University of Washington and was the chair of the group's 2005 Spring Seminar on "Tunneling in the Pacific Northwest" which attracted more than 330 attendees and 30 exhibitors. During his time with the Seattle Geo-Institute, Mark also served on several special technical committees (geotechnical reports, pin-piles

and ground improvement). Between his terms of service with the Seattle Geo-Institute, he served as a two-term president of the Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE (2012 – 2014).

The breadth of Mark's experience has allowed him to see the practice of civil engineering from several perspectives and apply those perspectives to his individual projects, often providing unique and cost-effective solutions to complex technical and regulatory issues.

Outside of his professional practice, Mark is the proud father of 5 sons, a FIFA certified soccer referee and has served Pierce County as a foster parent to abused and neglected children for more than 7 years.

Homero Flores for President-Elect

Homero Flores is a civil and environmental engineer who began his career as a research scientist before transitioning to applied engineering in the water sector. He is currently a senior wastewater engineer for King County, where he works on the conveyance aspect of Seattle's combined sewer system. Since arriving to Seattle nine years ago, he became involved with the local ASCE Section as a Sports Chair for YMF and then as a Co-chair of the Water Resources and Environmental Engineering Committee. For the last three years he has held the position of Director of Technical Committees. Throughout his experience it has been his pleasure to learn from other Section leaders about conflict resolution and engagement to make great things possible within ASCE. He is very excited about the opportunity to be the next President-Elect of the Section and give continuity to Henry's mission; to 'expand the engagement of its members beyond their workplace, encourage engineers to take on leadership positions in our community, and to mentor the next generation of civil engineering leaders in our community'. Homero also emphasizes the power that civil engineers have to direct society's interactions with the planet, and the consequences that our designs and solutions will have not only in the immediate future, but in one hundred years or more.



Homero studied civil engineering because he wanted to have an impact on how humans transformed the landscape. The landscape around his home country, Mexico, was rapidly changing in the short period of his childhood, and not for the better. He particularly remembers one example of a clean creek he played in as a child becoming polluted and piped. This experience along with others led to his interest in maintaining the beneficial services of the natural landscape while satisfying human needs. In graduate school he studied geomorphology and hydrology at the landscape scale. Now he contributes to keep our local bodies of water clean. He imagines a future with more green and open spaces inside cities, as well as cleaner and healthier landscapes all over the world.

Homero holds a civil engineering degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a Master's in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT, and a Ph.D. in Hydrology also from MIT. He is a professional engineer registered in the State of Washington.



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