

February 2018

President's Message

By Derek McCoy



Hello! The first month of 2018 is already behind us and looks to be a banner year! While a furry expert purports that we have six more weeks of winter, we have managed to sneak in a couple of days of sunshine that I am sure everyone is looking forward to! I certainly hope that you will take the time to read through this newsletter and discover the great events and opportunities ahead in the coming months!

Last month, the joint meeting with the Land Surveyors' Association of Washington (LSAW) was another resounding success with the number of attendees once again topping all expectations. Pierce County staff gave an informative presentation on the use of its public and subscription GIS services, a topic that was of great interest to both the engineers and surveyors that were in attendance. In light of the success of this event, ASCE and LSAW have agreed that this should be considered for the future as an annual event. I strongly encourage you to attend the annual Engineering Banquet hosted by St. Martin's University on the 16th of February. This year's guest speaker is ASCE National President, Mrs. Kristina Swallow. Looking ahead, we have a joint meeting with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) in March. The Tacoma-Olympia YMG has also coordinated for a free FE Exam study session at St. Martin's University in Lacey on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30 PM. This will be an informal study gathering to work through practice problems and talk about how to prepare for the FE Exam. And if you're preparing for the PE exam, you'll want to check out upcoming study sessions for that exam, too! Be sure to check out our [events webpage](#) for more information as we continue to coordinate these events.

We still need our members to nominate projects and people for consideration in the awards process. If you know of an outstanding project or an engineer who went that extra mile this last year, let us know. Award recipients at the Section level can go on to receive nominations and awards at the regional and national levels as well. You can find out more information about the nomination requirements by visiting our new [awards page](#).

If you haven't yet renewed your ASCE membership, please consider doing so. Our section can only thrive with the support of its members. We use your support to put on our programs and deliver the benefits our members deserve. And remember that the benefits of membership aren't just local. The Society has a lot of great resources to offer to its members at the national level. We are always interested in hearing any feedback on what the section can do to better serve its members. Send this feedback to asce.tacoma.olympia@gmail.com. I hope we will see you at one of our events very soon!

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The cone at the Glass Museum rises against a cold winter night sky. Photo credit to Claire Mendenhall. Reach her on Instagram at Detailgirl253!

February 2018 Monthly Program

St. Martin's Annual Engineering Banquet



February is a big month for us engineers. It includes Engineering Week and Engineering Awareness Day. And for those of us in the Tacoma-Olympia Section, it also means the annual Engineering Banquet hosted by St. Martin's University. If you've never been, you won't want to pass up this unparalleled networking opportunity.

Each year, the banquet presents students, educators, professional engineers, and professionals from many related industries with an opportunity to engage in a formal social setting. The focus is on all the good work that engineers do and on the health of the local engineering community. Students attend to gain wisdom and connections, and educators and professionals can expect to make connections as well.

There is always a blockbuster keynote speaker as well, and this year is no different. Our very own Mrs. Kristina Swallow, PE, ENV SP, F. ASCE will be speaking. In case you didn't catch that, Kristina is the Society's president – the big kahuna, the head honcho, the fearless leader, the executive enchilada. You can't miss this opportunity! You can find an extended biography about her on our section's events webpage.

Registration is directly through the University, and RSVPs are due by February 7th – so don't wait to sign up! Your registration fee includes admittance and a top-notch catered dinner. See you there!

Date and Time	February 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm
Location	St. Martin's University Cebula Hall 5000 Abbey Way Southeast Lacey, WA 98503
Menu	The price of admission includes a complete, catered meal. Dietary accommodation is available on request – be sure to mark your preferences with your registration.
Price	Members and Guests: \$45 Students: \$15
Reservations	You can RSVP by clicking here!

Announcements

We have plenty of information to share and opportunities to engage coming up, so be sure to check in.

- ***Washington State Unification Effort***

The Tacoma-Olympia Section board would like your feedback on the idea of creating a Western Washington Section of ASCE. This section would combine the Tacoma-Olympia Section with the Seattle Section and the Columbia Section. The individual sections as they are now would become branches. You can provide your feedback by participating in our survey. The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. The survey will be available until February 16th, and we will share the results afterwards. This is not an official vote. The results will be used to evaluate whether further steps should be taken to develop governing documents for a combined section that would be voted on by all of our members later this year. [Click here to be taken to the survey.](#)

- ***YMG: Free FE Exam Study Session***

Are you or someone you know taking the FE Exam? If so, please join the Tacoma-Olympia YMG for a free FE Exam study session at St. Martin's University in Lacey on Thursday, February 8 at 6:30PM. The session will be in Room 204 of the Cebula Hall building. Visitor parking can be found in Parking Lots C and N. This will be an informal study gathering to work through practice problems and talk about how to prepare for the FE Exam. It is a perfect opportunity to enjoy **FREE PIZZA** and generate positive study energy. Carlyn Harlow will provide practice problems and candidates are encouraged to bring study materials and questions. Study packets will be provided to all who register which include tips and tricks to passing the FE Exam and practice questions to take home for additional studying. If you have friends studying for the exam, please feel free to forward them this invitation! Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to this event by [clicking here](#). The YMG requires a minimum of 10 registrants in order to hold the study session, so **PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 7TH!**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Carlyn Harlow at tacoma.olympia.ymg@gmail.com.

- ***Washington State Report Card Needs Volunteers***

Do you get excited about the idea of having your name as an author on a document used by legislators? Would you like to contribute to ASCE's efforts to lobby for improvements to our state's infrastructure? The Tacoma-Olympia Section has joined forces with the Seattle Section to update our state's infrastructure report card. There are opportunities for volunteers from all branches of the profession. If you're interested, [contact Frank!](#)

- ***ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Swag is Available!***

You can now sport a fancy new embroidered ASCE Tacoma-Olympia shirt while supporting our section! You can order a shirt by [clicking here!](#) If you ordered a shirt before, please do so again because our order was lost. If you need a refund from your previous order, let us know and we will issue it.

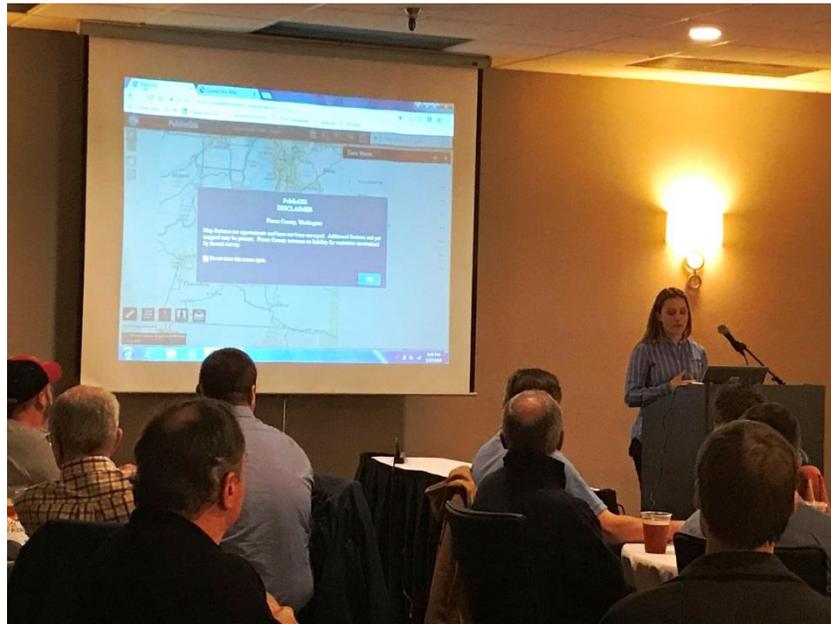
- ***OPAL Awards are Approaching***

As time marches on, our May awards ceremony is getting ever closer to us. Now that the reality of the new year has settled in, we sincerely hope you will consider participating in our awards program by nominating a worthy project or person. Members can get more information about the program by visiting our [awards page](#). Please take a moment to review the scoring criteria and think of some great projects or engineers who might be candidates for awards this year.

Recent Events

January saw the first-ever joint meeting between ASCE Tacoma-Olympia and the Southwest Chapter of the Land Surveyor's Association of Washington. The joint meeting was a major success with over 40 individuals in attendance, including great representation from both surveyors and engineers.

Pierce County staff presented on the use of its public and subscription GIS services. The ASCE and LSAW leadership put a sincere emphasis on finding a topic that would be of interest to both engineers and surveyors, and we are very thankful for their considerate efforts to develop the topic. We are looking forward to making the joint meeting a recurring annual program.



Why Water?

By Frank Marescalco



Last month, I went to visit the steam room at my gym. Like many of you, it was time for my body to adjust to the cold weather by – you guessed it – getting a nasty cold to start off the chilly season. As I sat in the steam room and pondered, I treasured the healing effect the steam had on my throat and lungs. Little did I know, I was in for an evening of deep thinking.

I often jest about what I would do with multiple lives. In my second life, I would be a carpenter. In my third life, I would be a singer in a heavy metal band. But I think when it really comes right down to it, I'd choose to be a water engineer each and every time. What draws one to water? What is it about such a seemingly simple liquid that engenders such a fierce commitment?

It's easy to get wrapped up in what we can see. We marvel at the cities we build, but we forget about the network of pumps, pipes, and treatment works below – akin to a beating heart with arteries and veins. We romanticize bridges as the engineering feats they are – but forget that there would be very few bridges in the world if not for water. One need not travel to the city to see the unseen effects that water has on our lives. In the country, there are pumps and pipes and pivots that deliver exact quantities of water to crops on command. There are wells and pumps thousands of feet beneath the surface shuttling water to the lifeless desert above.

To deliver clean water in the exact quantity in which it is needed at the exact time in which it is needed at the exact location at which it is needed – that is an astonishing feat that we take for granted. It is easy to see how clean water keeps people healthy and reduces the incidence and spread of disease. But so, too, does taking dirty water away. And what's more – collecting all the dirty water in one place and making it clean again. Who can say which is more important? Our control over water is, at times, all that stands between us and widespread disease. Clean water and modern sewerage enable us to consistently stave off potentially devastating illness.

But what water giveth, water taketh away. Water is a temperamental mistress. She finds every imperfection in our conveyance systems. She spreads silently, insidiously, in to the crevices and cracks of our buildings and the earth. She can be merciless and destroy much of what we create. But water is a teacher for those who listen. Through Harvey and Katrina, for example, water demonstrates that we shouldn't have cleared away the tallgrass prairies of the Midwest or channelized her rivers. She teaches us to treat water with respect and dignity, lest we be overcome by her. She reminds us that moderation is the key. Sometimes it's more important to be able to turn the water off than it is to turn the water on.

Yet for all its magnificence and maturity, water science is very alive and dynamic with untold potential for revolutionary changes on the horizon. At the intersection of water and technology we have found precision control of chemistry and distribution. We have achieved greater efficiencies. Advances in material science may someday render chemical treatment of water obsolete. Advances in bioengineering bring us tailored bacteria and special enzymes. And in the days of energy abundance, coastal deserts will be made a distant memory by desalination.

The control of water is the essence of civilization; I would even dare to draw a direct correlation between our understanding of water science and the overall quality of life that we enjoy. Without water, there is no life. Water is the solution in which life happens. It is the closest comparison to a soul that science has to offer. I don't think ten lifetimes as a water engineer would be enough for me.

Volunteering Opportunities

The Tacoma-Olympia section of ASCE needs all of its members to make our section all that it can be! We currently have positions to serve on committees, get involved with our Younger Members Group, and help coordinate events or give presentations. We also have volunteer opportunities for community-minded individuals. Here are some open volunteer positions we have available now. Our volunteer opportunities are always changing, so remember to check back next month if you can't join anything this month! Contact any of your board members if you are interested in serving.

Government Relations Committee Participants; *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 1 day per month.* The Government Relations Committee is a standing committee within the Section. The committee has a chair and is now in need of a co-chair and participants. The committee may write articles for our newsletter, mobilize members to action for important legislative events or bills, or coordinate with state lobbyists. Some ASCE members even participate in the annual fly-in to Washington D.C. Now is an excellent time to step up and serve the committee under our experienced committee chair's leadership.

History and Heritage Committee Chair; *Approx. time commitment: 0 to 2 days per month.* The History and Heritage Committee is a standing committee concerned with local civil engineering history. This committee position is an excellent fit for history buffs. The responsibilities include researching and dedicating historic works of civil engineering within our geographic area of coverage. The committee is also tasked with producing a quarterly newsletter article about a local work of civil engineering and what makes it historically significant.

Math and Science Tutor (Ongoing); *Approx. time commitment: varies.* Our Section members help local students with math and science tutoring through programs in our schools and colleges. If you have a knack for helping young people with their technical studies, our Section needs your help! You can volunteer for positions that are local and work within your time limitations.

Program Speakers; *Approx. time commitment: 2 days per event.* Our section is always looking for individuals willing to speak to the Section at our monthly programs. Topics pertaining to engineering are always welcome, but our Section has hosted speakers who have given presentations about a range of other topics as well. Speakers are provided with a meal and a small personal item as thanks for their willingness to contribute.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2018

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| 7 | ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
Three Magnets Brewing
600 Franklin Street Southeast
Suite 105
Olympia, WA 98501
RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members |
| 8 | YMG: FE Exam Study Session – 6:30 PM
St. Martin's University
Cebula Hall, Room 204
5000 Abbey Way Southeast
Lacey, WA 98503
RSVP using our events webpage! |
| 14 | Valentine's Day |
| 16 | St. Martin's University Engineering Banquet
Check out our Section's events webpage for details and a registration link! |

March 2018

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| 5 | GeoEngineers's Geotechnical PE Study Session: Tacoma – 5:00 PM
1101 South Fawcett Avenue
Suite 200
Tacoma, WA 98402
RSVP directly through GeoEngineers by clicking here! |
| 7 | ASCE Tacoma-Olympia Board Meeting – 6:30 PM
Location TBD – keep an eye out on our events webpage!
RSVP not necessary – open attendance to all members |
| 12 | GeoEngineers's Geotechnical PE Study Session: Redmond – 5:00 PM
17425 Northeast Union Hill Road
Suite 250
Redmond, WA 98052
RSVP directly through GeoEngineers by clicking here! |
| 13 | Annual Joint Meeting with SAME – 12:00 PM
Eagle's Pride Golf Course
Exit 116 on I-5
RSVP using our events webpage! |
| 14 | GeoEngineers's Geotechnical PE Study Session: Seattle – 5:00 PM
600 Stewart Street
Suite 1700
Seattle, WA 98101
RSVP directly through GeoEngineers by clicking here! |
| 22 | Water Resources and Environmental PE Exam Study Session – 5:00 PM
Attendance is free and there will be pizza 
City of Tacoma Center for Urban Waters
326 East 'D' Street, Tacoma, WA 98421
RSVP using our events webpage! |

Membership Information

National membership rates may be found at <http://www.asce.org/membership>.

Section membership rates

- Individual: \$25 per year
- Student member: free
- Life member: Free

Advertising Rates

Did you know you can purchase advertising space to promote your business, sponsor the section, and spread the word about job opportunities? Our newsletter is distributed to a growing membership base with about 500 viewers each month. We offer space in our newsletter at the following monthly rates:

- 1/4 page: \$25
- 1/2 page: \$50
- Full page: \$100

If you are interested in purchasing space in our newsletter, contact our treasurer Jessie Chen at (253) 310-6046 or Jessie.asce@hotmail.com.

If you're a member seeking employment, you can request space in our newsletter to run a short ad. All you need to do is contact us!

Connect with us on Facebook! [Click here!](#)
Check out our Instagram account! [Click here!](#)

Looking for a previous issue of the newsletter? You can find them all on our website at: <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/newsletter>.

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Visit us online at <http://sections.asce.org/tacoma-olympia/>.