

President's Message

by: Justin Bilskemper

I would say “Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of the ASCE Wisconsin Section Newsletter,” but I’m not sure the weather has been cooperating recently to make that statement! Only in Wisconsin do I have the air conditioning on one day just to turn on the heat the following...

But with spring comes construction season! Unfortunately for me, half of my daily commute seems to be under construction. Fortunately for me, my son loves to watch those big yellow machines move soil around, which warms my civil engineering heart! I optimistically hope he continues to have a passion for building and constructing things. What are some ways to keep kids interested, engaged, and inspired in civil engineering? Besides taking out a second mortgage for LEGO sets, I believe the answer is outreach, which will be the focus of this newsletter.

Why should kids be introduced to STEM (particularly Engineering) at an early age? According to this extensive [study](#), published by the National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council, incorporating engineering education in K-12 schools can result in the following potential benefits:

- Improved learning and achievement in science and mathematics

- Increased awareness of engineering and the work of engineers
- Understanding of and ability to engage in engineering design
- Interest in pursuing engineering as a career
- increased technological literacy

From my personal experience, I did not know what an engineer really did until near the end of college. Throughout middle and high school, all the aptitude testing results said I should become an engineer of some sort because science and mathematics were my strongest subjects. The dismal English and Reading scores from my ACT testing also pushed me into a more analytic field. Therefore, I truly believe implementing pre-college outreach would build interest in engineering careers and better inform the general population about the essential role of civil engineering in society.

ASCE has also taken this stance and has several [outreach programs](#) and resources available for members. Did you know ASCE also has a [catalogue](#) of subsidized/free outreach supplies to support members working with K-12 students? These supplies include age-appropriate handouts, brochures, and turn-key career fair kits. If you are interested in wanting to volunteer or mentor at a local school, please contact your local Branch to see if they already have a program established.

From a Section level, we are proud to announce that we are going to send a free copy of the [Dream Big Film](#) to every middle school in the Wisconsin Section geographic region. This toolkit will contain the full-feature film, complete teacher's guide, companion videos, and downloadable files for classroom use. We hope this film will excite and motivate students about STEM subjects.

Finally, I'd like to take this time to recognize and congratulate the Southeast Branch for their focus on pre-college outreach, particularly for its Younger Member Group hosting the annual STEM [Expo](#) each year and volunteering their efforts at other STEM-related functions.

Hope to see some of you at the upcoming Annual Meeting on September 21, 2018 at the Fox Cities Exposition Center in Appleton!

Justin R. Bilskemper, P.E., M.ASCE
ASCE WI Section President

2018 ASCE Legislative Fly-In

The 2018 ASCE Legislative Fly-In was held in Washington DC over March 13 and 14th. Representing Wisconsin were Bob Bryson, Jennifer Schaff, and Ken Mika (photo to right). The days were jam packed with content from government insiders and Congressional Representatives.



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The well-spoken Garrett Graves, US Congressman representing the 6th Congressional District in Louisiana, talked about flooding issues leading to lively discussions amongst his constituents. This communication has led to changes in their approaches to resiliency. He urged our group to participate in government and share our knowledge and expertise, we can't afford not to invest in our infrastructure. He asked us to be innovative in what we do!

Elizabeth Esty, US Congresswoman representing Connecticut's 5th Congressional District communicated the need for real funding and a multi-faceted approach of "carrots and sticks." She called all engineers to come forward with knowledge but "NOT TELL!" Rather, she urged us to SHOW what happens when infrastructure is done right and even more importantly SHOW what happens when it's done wrong!

Several speakers presented current legislation on the table regarding infrastructure including Derek Kan, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, US DOT (Photo 3), Jeff Davis, Senior Fellow at the Eno Center for Transportation as well as ASCE Staffers.

In the afternoon of the second day, ASCE members went to meet with their elected officials to discuss the following topics; President Trump's Infrastructure Plan, Water Resources Development Act of 2018, Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act, and Federal Aviation Authorization Reauthorization. Provided are handouts that were provided to our representatives on the subjects. Bob, Jennifer, and Ken were able to meet with Meris Petek, Legislative Assistant to Senator Ron Johnson and Katie LaTour, Legislative Aide to Tammy Baldwin. Bob was able to connect with Representative Gwen Moore and Jennifer and Ken connected with Matthew Tucker, Legislative Director for Representative Mike Gallagher.



Derek Kan, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, US DOT



Garrett Graves, US Congressman representing the 6th Congressional District in Louisiana

A Florida Perspective on Wisconsin Public Affairs

Opinion by: Gregory Schroeder, P.E., Public Affairs Chair

It is May in Wisconsin, and the beautiful days are finally outnumbering the not so beautiful; however, today I find myself in hot, humid south Florida caring for my elderly parents. While I was doing just that my wife found out about an event sponsored by the local press called "Save Our Water." It was a collaboration of conservationists, the press, and agribusiness. While there was participation by the Army Corp of Engineers, there was no other mention of engineers, or involvement by ASCE (which would have been awesome). We decided to attend.

At the event we learned about federal, state and local cooperation to bring many huge projects to fruition. We also learned about the impact of those projects on the environment of the Everglades and the coastal communities. Because so many of your federal tax dollars are being spent there, I will share a bit more with you.

Problems in Florida began after eighty years of draining the land, first for agriculture and later for development. Drainage blocked the flow of water to and through the Everglades. As far north as Orlando, the Kissimmee River was straightened into a thirty foot deep canal. The Tamiami Trail across south Florida was built like a dike, with water routed to more canals. The negative impacts on the environment have been worsening ever since, especially with the population growth in Florida, which is now at a rate of approximately 5000 people per day. Water quality has deteriorated, and algal blooms have become frequent.



President Clinton signed the Everglades restoration bill, but funding of that bill from eighteen years ago has fluctuated, causing delays. In 2016, releases of nutrient rich water from Lake Okeechobee caused algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie river systems that flowed to both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The algae fouled beaches and caused great economic and environmental harm. At the same time, a lack of water flowing through the Everglades caused 40,000 acres of marshes to die from salt water intrusion. Since the events of 2016, many millions of dollars of large scale infrastructure projects have been expedited.

What does this have to do with the Wisconsin section ASCE? Florida and Wisconsin both have amazing natural resources. Events like “Save our Water” can be an example for future collaboration. Like Florida, Wisconsin also has environmental issues. For example, how will we control the invasive species in the Great Lakes, Mississippi River, and other bodies of water?

When there are discussions and events related to our natural resources, let’s make certain that engineers are at the table. We can also be the ones to identify emerging issues for both natural resources and infrastructure, and then support appropriate action. What are our issues? We can all participate in identifying issues. Then we can begin discussions on ASCE Collaborate. I am also hopeful that the Wisconsin Section will have enough energy and participation to move forward with updating the Wisconsin infrastructure report card. The report card is the key to our greatest influence in Madison and throughout the state.

This article is posted to ASCE Collaborate in the Wisconsin Section community. Please comment there. If you have topics for discussion, feel free to email me at gregory.schroeder@we-energies.com or make your post on ASCE Collaborate in the Wisconsin Section community.

The opinions expressed here are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Wisconsin Section or ASCE.



ASCE Membership At-A-Glance

- Total Members 1,903
- New Members* 58
- Affiliate Members 53
- Associate Members 337
- Distinguished Members 4
- Fellows 55
- Members 1,074
- Student Members 380

* Number of members who joined since February Section Newsletter



2018 Wisconsin Section Engineering Awards Nominations

There is still time to submit nominations for the below ASCE Wisconsin Section awards! Awards available for nomination include:

- o Distinguished Service
- o Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- o Excellence in Journalism Award
- o Individual Merit Awards
- o Engineering Achievement Awards

Nominations must be submitted by **June 1, 2018**. Click [here](#) to access further information and nomination forms.

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2018 Spring Technical Conference Highlights

by: Tony Castle, P.E.



Spring Technical Conference Planning Committee and Volunteers (Not pictured: Jake Brunoehler)

On March 16, the annual ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical conference was held at the Country Springs Hotel. The 200 plus conference attendees enjoyed various presentations throughout the day including topics ranging from the status of transportation funding in Wisconsin, to the potential impacts of Foxconn's new proposed Wisconsin facility on surrounding infrastructure, to an interactive ethics case study session.

Congratulations to the new life members that were honored as well as the Outstanding Senior Student Civil Engineering Award winners. Kyle and I would also like to sincerely thank our event sponsors for their support, technical committee chairs for organizing the great lineup of technical speakers, and all the attendees who braved the cold to make it to the event.

Lastly, we would like to thank our planning committee for a job well done! We had a talented team working behind the scenes to make the event go off without a hitch. Thanks again to everyone who made the event a success!

Just a reminder to all conference attendees to please keep the PDH self-tracking form that was in the day of the event brochure for your record purposes. No PDH certificates will be distributed. If there are any questions about this, please feel free to reach out to [me](#) or [Kyle](#).



New Life Members honored at the 2018 Spring Technical Conference



Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Award Recipient with Section President Justin Bilskemper



GEMS Day

by: Pat Flaherty

On Saturday, April 7th the Southeast Branch YMG once again hosted their Egg Cantilever Challenge at UWW for the university's GEMS workshop day! The annual GEMS program brings together middle school girls, teachers, and professionals in an effort to encourage interest in areas of math, science, and engineering.

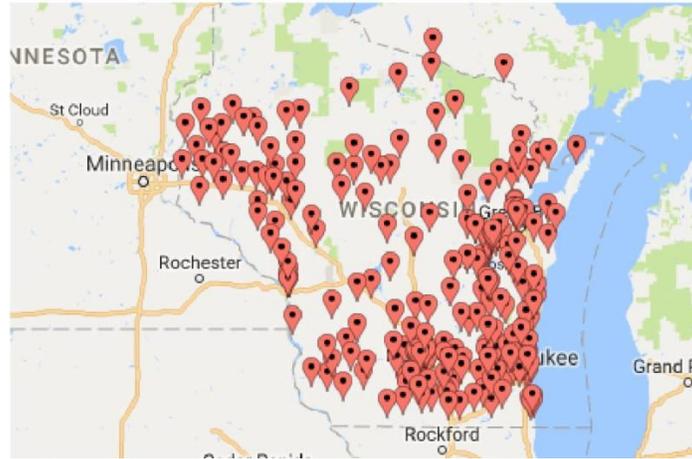
The conference featured workshops and presentations that offered the participants hands-on learning and team building experience. Ryan Flores, Genevieve Stollenwerk, and Pat Flaherty all took time out of their Saturday to volunteer and help out with this event and ensure its continued success; and we thank them for their efforts. Special thanks goes out as well to UWW for continuing to host these awesome workshops where kids come to enjoy themselves and learn about STEM at the same time!

STEM Day

by: Jordan Adler

UW Waukesha's annual STEM Day was held on March 17th where some members of Southeast Branch YMG were on hand to host an "Egg Cantilever Challenge." Throughout the day the group presented the basics of cantilevers and then helped the middle school students in attendance build their own using paper, string, and tape. A fun time was had by all and the competition was fierce. At the end of the day, the longest cantilever was 51 inches and held 4 eggs before failing! Special thanks goes out to Aaron Schraam, Genevieve Stollenwerk, and Jordan Adler for spending their Saturday helping out with this event!





ASCE-Wisconsin Section Dream Big DVD Distribution for Public Schools

ASCE has set a goal to put a copy of the acclaimed documentary into every public school in America beginning fall 2018 and has enlisted the help of the Sections and Branches. The ASCE Wisconsin Section is helping put a copy of the acclaimed documentary *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* in every public middle school in within the ASCE-Wisconsin Section!

Each two-disk toolkit will include the full-length feature film *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*, licensed for educational use, available in English, Spanish, French, and closed-captioning. A second DVD will contain the educational webisodes and other videos, as well as the complete Educator's Guide containing lessons for Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Wisconsin Section has committed to assisting in the distribution of DVD's for 350 middle schools in 66 Wisconsin Counties. The distribution will occur in fall of 2018.

About Dream Big: Narrated by Academy Award® winner Jeff Bridges, *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* will transform how we think about engineering. From the Great Wall of China and the world's tallest buildings, to underwater robots, solar cars and smart, sustainable cities, *Dream Big* celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels big and small, and reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives for people around the world.

Photograph: 350 Public Middle Schools within the Wisconsin Section will receive the Dream Big Documentary DVD



ASCE Recognizes University of Wisconsin – Platteville as 2018 ASCE Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 3

by: Justin Bilskemper, P.E.

The University of Wisconsin - Platteville ASCE Student Chapter was recently awarded the Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 3 by the ASCE Committee on Student Members. This award is made annually to the most outstanding Student Organization in the Region. Region 3 covers 6 states and 4 provinces and consists of 14 Sections and 16 Branches. The UW-Platteville Student Chapter was recommended for this award based on its 2017 Annual Report. As a 2006 graduate of UW-P and former Student Chapter officer, it's my personal pleasure to congratulate the Student Chapter officers and members, Faculty Advisor (Dr. Philip Parker), and Practitioner Advisor (Noah Hofrichter)!

Around the Section

Save the Date: ASCE 2018 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting

The ASCE Fox River Valley Branch is hosting the 2018 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting on Friday, September 21 at the new Fox Cities Expo Center in Appleton.

This section features activities from the various Branches and Younger Member Groups around the Section. If you would like to have your event included, please email details and a description of your event to wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.



Professional Development Opportunities

5 FREE PDH hours through ASCE!
Don't forget your annual ASCE membership includes five free professional development hours (PDH). Those PDHs can be redeemed using the On Demand Webinar offering available on the ASCE website.

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2018-2019 Board of Directors

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Join the Discussion on Collaborate!

There is a new website for ASCE members to discuss important issues surrounding the profession. Participate in various "communities," such as the Wisconsin Section and your local branch.

You can access Collaborate by logging in with your current ASCE credentials.
Check it out and start collaborating!

ASCE Wisconsin Section | www.ASCEWI.org

