

ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION



President's Message

By: Ken Mika, P.E.

Greetings fellow ASCE Wisconsin Section members. I am very excited to reach out to all of you with my first's president's message! I am honored to be the President of such a devoted group of engineers. Earlier this month, I attended the Committee on Professional Advancement and constituent committees' weekend as part of the Committee on Preparing the Future Civil Engineer. It was a great weekend talking about our plans and goals for 2020 around preparing the future civil engineer. One item that came up a lot in discussion is the ASCE *Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge* (3rd edition; CE-BOK), which outlines 21 foundational, technical, and professional practice learning outcomes for individuals entering the professional practice of civil engineering. I encourage all members to review the CE-BOK, which can be found [here](#).



I am looking to hear from members this year on what they would like to see more of from our Section. I am a believer that we can always improve. While I know the Section has been doing great work, there is always room for improvement. I am always looking for process improvements and if there is a process improvement that the Section could take on to better meet the needs of our members, I would love to hear about it. Please feel

free to reach out to me at my email address (KMika@Geosyntec.com).

I would like to thank Justin Bilskemper for all of his efforts that he has provided to the Section over the years. Justin was involved in the Section for many years and his energy will be missed. I would like to thank Jared Wendt for his leadership to the Section over the last year and I am looking forward to his mentorship as he serves as Past President.

[Read Full Article](#)



University of Wisconsin –
Madison

2020 Great Lakes Student Conference
2020 National Concrete Canoe Competition
Corporate Fundraising Package

2020 Great Lakes Student Conference and National Concrete Canoe Competition Sponsorship Invitation



To the ASCE Wisconsin Section,

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's American Society of Civil Engineers Chapter, we are excited to announce that we will be hosting both the Great Lakes Student Regional Conference (GLSC) and the National Concrete Canoe Competition (NCCC) in April and June 2020, respectively.

The Great Lakes Student Conference is an annual event that hosts approximately 600 engineering students, faculty and professionals from across the Upper Midwest. UW-Madison historically places highly in this competition, and we are excited to be hosting the event for the first time in 14 years. From April 2nd to 4th, 2020, the event's participants will have numerous opportunities to network and compete in a variety of events. These events include, but are not limited to: Concrete Canoe, Sustainable Doghouse, Steel Bridge, Geological Design, and Surveying.

The National Concrete Canoe Competition, hosted by a different university each year, regularly draws approximately 600 students and faculty from across the United States, Canada, China, and India. From June 12-15th 2020, the event will be coming to Madison for a competition that includes technical presentations, aesthetic displays and canoe races. UW-Madison's Concrete Canoe Team maintains a tradition of excellence and has been an attendee of the National Competition for five straight years. We are looking forward to applying our team's success and experience to successfully hosting an incredible national competition.

We hope that you will contribute to the engineering profession in the Midwest and across the nation by helping us fund these events. Through your support, you will help to expand the knowledge of young engineers while exposing your company to the talented pool of students that these events will draw to Madison. Full information that outlines sponsorship opportunities can be found here: <http://asceglsc.org/sponsorship>. All donations will be tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

Please feel free to reach us with any questions at asce-glsc2020@wisc.edu or the contact information listed below.

Thank you,



2019 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting: Recap

By: Terry Armstrong

The ASCE Southwest WI Branch hosted the 2019 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting on Friday, October 4, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison, WI. The event had over 200 people in attendance including ASCE members, presenters, award winners, and exhibitors. Overall it was a strong showing for our Wisconsin ASCE membership and the event was a big success!



The attendees were able to get firsthand knowledge of ASCE National's activities during the morning address by ASCE President-Elect Kancheepuram "Guna" N. Gunalan. Following Guna's address, we received our always welcome dose of ethics from Jon Schmidt, PE, SECB whom presented on *The Decline of Engineering Judgment* as the Conference Ethics Presentation. After lunch, attendees were engaged by our joint Keynote address presented by Chief Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier at WKOW 27 ABC and UW-Madison Assistant Professor Daniel Wright, PhD. Chief Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier's presentation *Solving The Climate Challenge* and Dr. Wright's presentation *The Effects of Extreme Storm Events on Future Civil Engineering Design* were engaging and informative.

The Wisconsin Section presented their annual awards to both individuals and to project teams shortly after lunch. There were five individual awards handed out in addition to five awards given to project teams of successful and innovative projects. Congratulations to all the individual and project award winners from the 2019 Annual Meeting, all the awards were well deserved!

[Read Full Article](#)



Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award Nominations

It's that time of year again when the Wisconsin Section is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award!

This award is given to an individual for achievement as a civil engineering student in their senior year. The student must be currently enrolled and a student member of ASCE. Basis for the award shall be "for individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession."

Award certificate as well as a monetary gift will be presented to the winning student(s) at the Spring Technical Conference scheduled for April 3, 2020 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI.

A copy of the WI Section description of the award/process is provided [here](#) for your reference.

Please submit nominations by February 14th in letter or email format to the Wisconsin Section of ASCE at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.

As an FYI, your submissions will be received and assembled for review by Jill Miller (at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com). Should you have questions, Jill may be responding to your correspondence.



SPRING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Save the Date

• APRIL 3RD 2020 •

BLUE HARBOR RESORT, SHEBOYGAN

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Report Card Committee is Working Hard!

By: Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika

We are still on track for our April 2020 release!

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Report Card Committee is currently working on the Infrastructure Report Card for Wisconsin. Currently our technical chapters are finalizing their Chapters and Chapters are under peer review of the Section. Once the peer review is complete, the Chapters will be sent to the Society for review and approval.

In the near future we will be looking to raise funds for the release event and for producing Report Card pamphlets to hand out to Section Members, Elected Officials, and other parties who we will be talking to about the Report Card. If you are interested in helping raise funds or helping with a different aspect of the Report Card, please reach out to Jennifer (Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com) or Ken (KMika@Geosyntec.com).

2019 ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum

By: Jennifer Schaff



On September 22-23, 2019, 107 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors and Society Directors from across the country and abroad attended the annual Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) in Reston, VA at ASCE Headquarters. This Leader Training Committee sponsored event provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, and develop skills that would benefit their Sections and Branches.

The program began on Sunday, with an icebreaker followed by several sessions including an “Introduction to your Presidency,” “How to Utilize your Governors,” “An Introduction to Region 10,” “Leadership in the Century of Disruption” by ASCE Distinguished Member Gerald Galloway, Ph.D., P.E., Hon.D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE; “Legal Issues for Sections and Branches” and the “Philadelphia Section Mentoring Program.” President-Elect Kancheepuram Gunalan, Ph.D., P.E., D. GE, F.ASCE and Executive Director Tom Smith, CAE, ENV SP, F.ASCE shared their thoughts and experiences on Society activities. On Sunday evening, the attendees attended a networking social and dinner in Reston Town Center.

[Read Full Article](#)

Region 3 Director's Report

By: Carl Sutter

The ASCE 2019 Convention went to sunny (for the most part) Miami in October for an excellent weekend of informative sessions, engaging speakers, and an inspiring launch of ASCE’s Future World Vision Floating City experience. Following the Convention, the Board of Direction had its final meeting of the year. It was a packed agenda and we took some exciting steps toward further improving the member experience in ASCE, while also strengthening the alignment between our many groups and programs.

Highlights from the Board Meeting:

- The Board voted to approve the proposed new Society-wide digital strategy project, which will help create an improved user experience that makes connecting with ASCE resources, programs, and members easier than ever.
- The Board received a membership update, specifically outlining ASCE’s new Forward Faster campaign to help attract and retain members. The Forward Faster campaign, emphasizing how ASCE is your direct path to the future of civil engineering, is an

exciting start.

- The Board also heard an update on Future World vision. The Floating City proof-of-concept was very well-received, and we're excited about the project's direction heading into 2020.
- Having charged ASCE executive staff at the July meeting to bring a three-year budget plan to the October meeting for review, the Board received the new three-year plan (including a balanced budget) and showed its support with an informal vote.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020 in Detroit.

ASCE & The Global Climate Threat

Opinion by Public Affairs Chairman, Gregory Schroeder, P.E., M.ASCE

In August, I promised that I would devote my valuable space in our newsletter to the topic of climate change and global warming. I sincerely want to hear from you, the membership, on your opinions. ASCE as a professional society and we as individuals should be leaders in engineering our world and making it a better place to live. If that is true we need to consider the forecasted risks and our actions with regard to climate.

First of all, let's establish if we have a common perspective on the current state of climate science. I welcome your views which you may provide via [ASCE Collaborate!](#) Your posts will help establish our starting point for future productive discussion and potentially for action.

In this short article, I hope to cover a lot. First, I wish to summarize some basics of climate change, and some of the reasons why the news seems to be getting worse. Then I will discuss the psychology of denial, and politics of inaction.

Here is my perspective. The world is warming. This is changing global weather patterns, melting glaciers and contributing to rising sea levels. The identification of extreme and historic weather events is accelerating. A few of the many extreme weather events will prove to be unrelated to the warming planet, but the acceleration of probable climate change events is alarming.

Human psychology tells us we are prone to denial of unwelcome facts. This has been and continues to be a real danger with respect to climate threat. Can you recall our history of ignoring pollution and creating environmental emergencies? It was a mere one hundred years ago that we believed that we could dump raw sewage into our waterways, and nature would clean up whatever quantities we could generate. Now we know that that is not so. Then we decided that the atmosphere could absorb all of the exhaust that we could generate from power plants and vehicles. Oops, we were wrong again! Do you see a pattern? It has been convenient to believe that we can increase greenhouse gases (GHG) without detriment. There is real risk in our resistance to new and unwelcome facts.

[Read Full Article](#)

You may not be aware, but the Wisconsin Section of ASCE stores records at the University of Marquette Library. We currently have 32 boxes of records sitting at Marquette



in the archives. We are looking for a volunteer or two to go through the information and determine what needs to be disposed of based on the [record retention policy](#)

Of the 32 boxes, some may contain records from the various Branches as well. These records would be isolated by Branch and the Section would cause follow up at the Branch level. Please contact Jennifer Schaff at Jennifer.schaff@countymaterials.com or Jill Miller at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com.

Membership At A Glance

Total WI section members: 1,992

Affiliate: 60

Associate: 337

Distinguished: 5

Fellow: 58

Member: 1,123

Student: 409

New Members (since August 2019): 60



Consider mentoring in this new year! ASCE Mentor Match connects ASCE members based on topics of interest and experience level.

<https://collaborate.asce.org/mentoring/home>

ASCE Leader Resources

Check out the Society's many resources – from webinars to publications to talking points and handbooks – [here](#).



ASCE Wisconsin Section 2019-2020 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

