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We hope that you enjoy this new edition of the ASCE Wisconsin Section Newsletter.



ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION

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President's Message

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by: Justin Bilskemper

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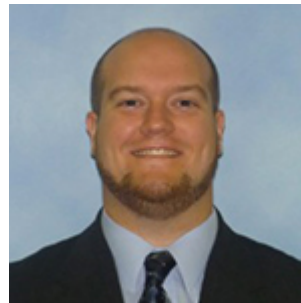
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Welcome to the fall 2017 issue of the ASCE Wisconsin Section newsletter! I would first like to thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your President of the Wisconsin Section. Secondly, I would like to thank Peter Nilles for the fantastic job during his tenure as President this past year. I definitely have some big shoes to fill! Luckily for us, Peter still has (at least) another year on the Section Board of Directors. Thirdly, and lastly, I would like to express how grateful I am for the current people sitting on the Section Board of Directors. This group is full of great ideas and I can't wait to see where that takes the Wisconsin Section in to the future.

If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting held in La Crosse back in September, I had alluded to the Section possibly hiring an association management firm to help with administrative tasks. Since then, I am excited to announce the Section has entered into a contract with Impact Virtual Services, located out of Madison. Jill Miller will serve as the Section's primary Virtual Executive Administrator. The

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past few weeks have been a flurry of e-mails and phone calls to help get Jill up to speed on the Section activities. So far, Impact has been helping the Section with newsletter and Section Board meeting agenda preparation, monitoring of social media presence and accounts, and assisting the conference planning committees to serve as a form of continuity and consistency between the Branches as they rotate hosting these conferences. With Impact taking some of this burden off the Section's shoulders, we are also hoping to further advance ASCE within the Wisconsin Section and increase the value of benefits already derived from having an ASCE membership. This won't happen overnight, but it is one of the Section's primary goals at this time.

Similar to other newsletter messages in the past, the Section is always looking to increase member involvement. This can be as simple as renewing your membership, attending local events sponsored by the Section or Branch, or becoming actively involved at the Section or Branch level.

Having volunteered for many years already at both the Section and Branch levels, I can see how much difference just one person can make with the right ambition and leadership. I am also a firm believer that you get as much out of a professional organization as you put into it. ASCE has provided me with ample networking and leadership opportunities that have helped shape my career in meaningful ways. I can't imagine where I would be without those opportunities.

Finally, I would like to borrow a portion of Bill Meyer's President's Message from October 2010:

"You may know from past editions of the Newsletter that I like to share my opinions, solicited or not. I don't insist that you agree with me. I actually much prefer active disagreement to apathy. I prefer almost anything to apathy, the greatest destroyer of professions and souls in the world."

Similar to Bill, if you know me at all, I typically have an opinion on most matters and I would really like to hear yours! E-mail wi.sec.asce@gmail.com to let us know what events, functions, or ideas that you would like to see implemented, changed, removed, etc. Again, you only get as much out of your ASCE membership as you put into it. So please help us make the ASCE Wisconsin Section better for everyone!

Justin R. Bilskemper, P.E., M.ASCE

2017 Annual Meeting Summary

by: Northwest Branch Board



The Northwest Branch hosted the 2017 Annual Meeting on September 28th, 2017 at the La Crosse Center South Ballroom in La Crosse, WI. Over 140 people attended the event including members, non-members, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and award guests.

The meeting started with an inspiring keynote address presented by Craig Schiefelbein, Co-Founder of Paragon Development Systems. The address focused on inspiration to innovation and was tailored to the engineering profession touching on the purpose of our role, how we can impact the quality of life of others, and the mindset that prompts innovation and building a legacy.

Three technical sessions were offered during the day with each having four topics pertaining to different civil engineering disciplines including construction, geotechnical, leadership, transportation, environmental, and water resources. Between sessions, attendees had the opportunity to network with fellow engineers and visit the many exhibitor booths to learn about the latest services and technologies available for the industry.



Tom Thibodeau, a distinguished professor of servant leadership from Viterbo University, gave an ethics speech over the lunch hour. He talked on how servant leadership is meaningful, ethical, and practical and when people incorporate this into their tasks, they can see the results of their good work. Following the speech, several award recipients were recognized. Awards

included project awards, individual awards, and outgoing section board members. The award recipients are listed below.

2017 Project Achievement Awards

Category A - Projects with Construction Cost under \$2 Million

Riverside Pump Station Project Green Solutions for Separate Infrastructure and Sewer Separation

Mead & Hunt, Inc., for Owner City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Water Works

Category D - Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million

SH 18/151 (Verona Road) Stage 1 Reconstruction

Strand Associates, Inc., for Owner State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Category D - Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million

Lakefront Gateway I-794 Ramps at Lincoln Memorial Drive

State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation and City of Milwaukee, GRAEF prime consultant

2017 Individual Achievement Awards

Engineer in Consulting Practice - Mike Arnold, P.E.

Engineer in Government Practice - Gerald DeMers, P.E.

Young Civil Engineer of the Year - Anthony (Tony) Castle, P.E.

Distinguished Service Awards (2) - Larry Ryan, P.E. & Jesse Jefferson, P.E.

Matthew Thomas Rynish Honorarium - Corona Woychik

2017 Appreciation of Departing Section Board Members

Kenneth Mika, P.E. - Secretary

Dan Borchardt, P.E. - Past-President

Peter Bielen, P.E. - Fox River Valley Branch Director

Dan Schrum, P.E. - Southwest Branch Director

Mike Binsfeld, E.I.T. - Northwest Branch Director

Mike Arnold, P.E. - Southeast Branch Director

The final technical session of the day was a unique opportunity to enjoy a La Crosse Queen Boat tour of the Mississippi River. The La Crosse Queen is a modern day replica of the grand river-boats which used to ply the Mississippi in the early 1900's and is one of the few 'true' paddle wheelers still in operation. The tour included narrated presentations of the twin 'Blue Bridges' in downtown La Crosse, the Canadian Pacific Railroad swing bridge, and the I-90 Dresbach bridge while traveling past each structure. Passengers also were able to experience locking through Lock and Dam #7 just north of La Crosse while learning about the history and fun facts of the Lock and Dam system.



The 2017 Annual Meeting was a great event! Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to the Northwest Branch planning committee, Technical Committee Chairs, and the Wisconsin Section Board for their efforts in putting this together.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS USA
Milwaukee School of Engineering Chapter

Engineers Without Borders - USA

by: Brad Hughes

MSOE's El Temal Tuk-Tuk Bridge is Part of a Rotary Trio

In March 2017 EWB-MSOE completed a unique bridge to serve the residents of El Temal, Guatemala, and surrounding villages. The cable-supported bridge spans 163 feet across a deep gorge, and, in addition to carrying pedestrians, horses, and motorcycles, carries the three-wheeled motor taxis known as "tuk-tuks." This gives the residents much improved access to the nearby city of Zacualpa's schools, markets, and medical facilities. The design has approximately half the sag of a typical pedestrian bridge, making the bridge stiffer and the end slopes less steep so the tuk-tuks can navigate safely.

EWB-MSOE's Temal Bridge, EWB-Marquette's footbridge at Aguacate, and EWB-UW's footbridge at Rio Lindo are a trio funded by a Rotary Global Grant. The grant is the latest manifestation of the great partnership we've developed with the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, other Milwaukee-area Rotary Clubs, and the Guatemala Vista Hermosa Rotary Club. It included key funding for the three bridges plus agricultural training - provided by the Guatemalan organization Tenamaste - that will increase the economic capacity of the farmers.

Gearing up for 2018 Aguacate Bridge

MSOE students and their mentors from the Wisconsin Professionals are entering the final design phase for a vehicular bridge at El Aguacate. The bridge over the Rio Coyoya will complete a section of road network for the villages to Joyabaj's southwest. With its 59-foot clear span, this will be our biggest vehicular bridge.

As with all of our projects, significant cost-sharing allows us to leverage our donors' funds. In addition to all the donated labor, the municipality and the cooperating communities will contribute approximately 35% of the cost for construction materials. That makes EWB-MSOE's share of the construction (not including travel costs and related expenses) approximately \$42,000.



Temal residents making their first walk across the gorge.



The first tuk-tuk crossing the bridge at El Temal.

Madison Area Opportunities - EWB USA

The Madison Area Professional Chapter (MAPC) of Engineers Without Borders USA continues to work closely with the UW Madison chapter on projects in Guatemala, Ecuador and Uganda, and is also developing a project in Guatemala.

Professionals interested in getting involved as mentors on student-led projects or working on the professional-led project should contact MAPC at ewbmapc@gmail.com and fill out the survey form found here: <http://www.ewbmapc.com/get-involved.php>

MAPC Project summary:

Guatemala - two schools are in need of retaining walls to allow safe access and sanitation systems to improve student health

EWB UW Madison Project summaries:

Guatemala - a water supply project for the community of Zapote across challenging terrain

Ecuador - a pedestrian bridge to provide safe access to a school in the community Tabuga, a water supply project to the community of Camarones, and wash stations for Tabuga which will improve surface water quality

Uganda - implementation of a ground-sourced water supply system for the Lweza Primary School.

For questions on Engineers Without Borders, please contact Brad Hughes at bhughes@flad.com or 608-509-8148.

Around the Section

This section will feature activities from the various Branches and Younger Member Groups around the Section.

Southeast Branch

Dream BIG Night at MPM in November

Join Milwaukee Public Museum on November 17 as they celebrate engineering and other STEM fields at this dynamic Overnight! Build your own earthquake-resistant structure out of marshmallows, enjoy an action-packed Dome Theater showing of Dream Big, and explore science with real engineers. For scout groups and families with children ages 6-12. Overnights begin at 6 p.m. on Friday evening and last until 8 a.m. the following morning. All overnights include Museum exploration, hands-on activities, a Dome Theater show, a self-guided flashlight exploration of the third floor, light breakfast, and all-day Museum admission for Saturday. [Click here](#) for more information.

The ASCE Southeast Branch will be sponsoring two hands on activities at the Dream Big Night. We are looking for volunteers. Please contact Kyle Bareither (kyle.bareither@obg.com) or Ken Mika (ken.mika@obg.com) if interested.

2018 Spring Technical Conference - Call for Volunteers

The Southeast Branch will be hosting the 2018 Spring Technical Conference this upcoming year, and the Younger Member Group will be managing it. The event is traditionally held in March/April. Tony Castle (ACastle@emcsinc.com) and Kyle Bareither (kyle.bareither@obg.com) will be co-chairing the event this year. We are still in need of a few volunteers to help plan the event. Please reach out to Tony or Kyle if you have interest in helping organize the Spring Technical Conference.

The Civil Engineer as Advocate

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

Civil engineers are uniquely qualified to provide advice to government at all levels. Civil engineers are tasked on a daily basis to select the best of any number of options. We are well practiced in a variety of logical techniques such as lifecycle costing and cost-benefit analyses to make the type of important decisions that our representatives must make on everyone's behalf. Even more importantly we make decisions that have very long range implications and consequences. Every day we are making decisions that we have to live with for the next 50 to 100 years or more. We select the width of roads, the size of the buried pipeline infrastructure, the bridge capacity, the treatment plant size.

Wouldn't it be great if every elected representative had a citizen engineer to offer input on key decisions? And, are we helping our representatives by raising the issues that we see coming in the future? We may be using our foresight in our designs, and yet fail to communicate to our representatives that these future considerations are important. I fear no one will even ask; where were the civil engineers when we needed their input? If we voice our opinions, did we do it loudly enough and effectively?

Planning and foresight are much needed by our government. Again, this is true at all levels. There is incredible waste because of poor planning resulting in crises management. Waiting for the crises and then trying to gear up to react in a short timeframe is incredibly inefficient and costly. Let's name a few recent crises. Puerto Rico's power grid is still a disaster. I fear the final analysis may be costly in lives as well as economics and resources. What if some key transmission lines had been buried or otherwise protected. Think back to the lack of preparation prior to Katrina in New Orleans. Rumors are that preparedness in New Orleans is lax once again. In southwest Florida, when Irma hit approximately 10% of the sewer lift stations had backup power. Of the over 800 stations, most overflowed. The contamination caused at least one death and a couple amputations from infections that could not be cured. All of these crises were foreseeable and to some extent avoidable.

These obvious examples make my point. We can even apply our logic and process thinking to other societal concerns. Opioids are now called a crisis. That we have a crisis is no doubt true, but it is a crisis that we all watched grow for year after year. Crisis management is seldom the best management, but often it is the only choice we have left for ourselves.

Is Wisconsin prone to crisis management? Perhaps the following qualifies as an example. Consider the arrival of Foxconn with hundreds of associated suppliers and related businesses. Suddenly there is greater interest in gearing up the education system and producing better

STEM educated students. Many of us knew of this need long before the Foxconn deal. What will be the other Foxconn impacts? What will be the environmental impacts? What about roads and other transit. Do we civil engineers know of initiatives that should begin soon in order to avoid management by crisis?

Fellow civil engineers, please join me in putting our skills and abilities to good use. Consider a societal concern. Apply your unique abilities. Then take your pen or keyboard in hand and have an impact. Get involved. Join ASCE Key Contacts. Get familiar with resources in ASCE Collaborate.

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

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. The ON Demand Webinar series can be accessed [here](#). Please note the 2017 PDHs must be utilized no later than December 31st.

Involvement Opportunities

2018 Future City Competition - Volunteers needed

by: Brian Genduso

The annual Future City competition is quickly approaching. It will be held on January 13, 2018 at the MSOE Kern Center. This year's theme is "Age-Friendly City" where students must identify an age-related challenge that exists in today's urban environments and engineer two innovative solutions that allow your senior citizens to be as active and independent as they want to be. To learn more about the essay topic or Future City go to <http://futurecity.org>.

Update Your ASCE Membership Information!

As a current ASCE member we thank you for your past support and hope you were able to take full advantage of your membership benefits. To encourage members to renew early this year we are offering some great Amazon gift card prizes*. You could be eligible for a \$100 Amazon gift card if you renew by November 14, 2017.

To sweeten the deal, we'll enter you into all of the drawings that occur after your renewal, so the earlier you renew the more chances you have to win. Everyone that renews by December 12, 2017 will also be eligible for our grand prize drawing for a \$1,000 Amazon gift card*.

Renew at: [here](#). Prefer to renew by phone? ASCE's Customer Service is available at (800) 548-ASCE (2723) between 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., E.T., Monday to Friday.



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!

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