



May 2026  
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ASCE’s mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.

# GREETINGS DULUTH SECTION!

Happy Spring Duluth Section!

Our last luncheon will be at noon next Tuesday, May 19th, at the Barr Duluth Office. Our speaker will be Larry Sutter of Sutter Engineering of Houghton, MI. Please use the collaborate link (coming soon) to RSVP so we can plan for food. If you cannot use the collaborate link, please send me a message.

Our UMD student section announced that they recently competed in Minneapolis at the symposium. The Geowall team took 1st place, the Steel Bridge took 6<sup>th</sup> place, and the Concrete Canoe was DNF due to technicalities with the paper. So overall the teams did well and are looking forward to competing again next year.

We are currently looking for a secretary for next year and a few chair seats to keep our momentum rolling. Please let me or another board member know if you are interested. We meet once a month during the months of August to May.

Finally, I want to thank all the current Board Member’s for their continued dedication to the management of our section. It has been great to work everyone and I appreciate all of the support.

Pete Demshar, PE

Duluth Section President

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Interested in submitting an article for the ASCE newsletter or becoming a Board Member?

Contact Tyler Yngsdal (newsletter editor) for information at 218.279.3001 or [tyngsdal@sehinc.com](mailto:tyngsdal@sehinc.com)



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2025-2026

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Date:** May 19, 2026

**Speaker:** Larry Sutter – Sutter Engineering

- Topic: Recent Changes in Specifications and Tests for Cements and Supplementary Cementitious Materials

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Location:** BARR Engineering

**Presentation Information:** ASTM International writes standard specifications and test methods used widely in the concrete construction industry. Over the past few years there have been numerous changes in



these standards that address shortcomings for testing and specifying traditional materials but also to accommodate new materials. These new materials include alternative supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) primarily intended to substitute for fly ash, and new blended cements designed to reduce the clinker content of cement. This talk will provide an overview of these changes and introduce some of the new materials entering the concrete construction industry.

## MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2025/2026

### Membership Meetings

- May 19 – 12:00 (noon) @ BARR
  - Larry Sutter (Speaker)

### Board Meetings

- May 21, 2026



## END OF THE YEAR BANQUET

The Duluth Section of ASCE recently gathered for its Annual Banquet at Tavern on the Hill, bringing together members from across the Section for an evening of connection, celebration, and professional engagement. The event provided a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and reflect on the accomplishments of the past year.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation from members of the Student Section, who shared an overview of this year's ASCE student competitions. Their presentation showcased the dedication, creativity, and technical skills of our future engineers and offered insight into the work being done at the student level. It was encouraging to see the strong involvement and enthusiasm from student members and their continued connection to the Duluth Section.

The banquet program also included discussion of the newly released **ASCE Infrastructure Report Card**, reinforcing the importance of continued advocacy and investment in our nation's infrastructure. The report card serves as a valuable tool for engaging with the public and decision-makers and aligns closely with the work our members support every day.

The Duluth Section was also pleased to recognize **Bryan Kukacka** as this year's ASCE Student Scholarship Award recipient. The Section is proud to support students like Bryan as they prepare to enter the civil engineering profession and continue ASCE's tradition of excellence.

In addition to the formal program, the banquet served as a meaningful social event, bringing together members from the Student Section, Younger Member Group (YMG), past Section presidents, and current professionals representing a wide range of experience levels and disciplines. The diversity of attendees highlighted the strength of the Duluth Section and the value of building connections across career stages.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the Annual Banquet a success. Events like this continue to strengthen our professional community and support ASCE's mission at the local level.



Past Presidents Group Photo



Scholarship Award Winner: Bryan Kukacka

# STUDENT SECTION UPDATE

The University of Minnesota Duluth ASCE Student Section continues to be actively engaged both on campus and with the professional community. Several students attended the Duluth Section's annual banquet, where they had the opportunity to connect with practicing engineers and share updates on their academic and extracurricular efforts. Student leaders also provided a brief overview of recent spring competitions for Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, and Geowall. These hands-on experiences continue to provide valuable real-world application of classroom concepts and help students develop technical, leadership, and collaboration skills that will serve them well as future civil engineers.



## ASCE Student Chapter

-42 Attendees Total



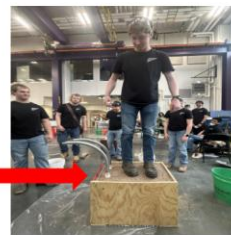
## Concrete Canoe

-DNF  
-Weather Delays



## Steel Bridge

-1st place Stiffness!!  
-3rd place Efficiency  
-5th place Cost Estimate  
-5th place Speed  
-5th place Aesthetics  
-6th place Overall



## Geowall

-1st place Overall!!!



# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Duluth Engineers' Club\*

## UMD Engineering Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing

**\*The Club is also  
celebrating our  
108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



# Fore!!

- 
- **When:** WEDNESDAY, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2026
  - **Where:** Nemadji Golf Course
  - **Format/Time:** Shotgun Start @ 9:30 AM  
(Everyone starts at the same time on different holes. Arrive by 9:00 to check in.)
  - **Cost:** \$100 per person (includes 18-holes of golf, lunch, cart, and UMD donation)
  - **Hole Sponsorship:** \$300 for a “25<sup>th</sup> Annual / 108<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” sign.  
\$650 for sign plus 4 golfers (you get the sign for \$250)
  - **Reserve:** 4-person teams by contacting [Ryan Thorson](mailto:ryan.thorson@lhbcorp.com) at [ryan.thorson@lhbcorp.com](mailto:ryan.thorson@lhbcorp.com) or phone: [218.310.2794](tel:218.310.2794). Singles or Doubles are welcome; we will do our best to build compatible & enjoyable foursomes.
  - **Games:** We are looking for companies to staff a fundraiser game of your choice (e.g. Chip for a beverage, Putt for Prizes, etc.) Contact [Ryan Thorson](mailto:ryan.thorson@lhbcorp.com) if your company is interested in staffing a fundraiser game. Clients & guests are encouraged to attend. [Bring cash for the 50/50 raffle and mulligans.](#)
  - **Prizes:** [Donations for proximity prizes are welcome.](#)

To [prepay](#) for the hole sponsorship and/or golfing, please send a check payable to:  
Duluth Engineers Club c/o Sam Talarico, Secretary  
1426 Swan Lake Road, Duluth MN 55811  
[Samuel.Talarico1953@yahoo.com](mailto:Samuel.Talarico1953@yahoo.com) or Cell/Text/Voicemail: 218.481.5046  
Or VENMO to [@Ryan-Thorson-12](https://www.venmo.com/@Ryan-Thorson-12)

To pay at the event, please bring payment (cash or check) with you to the event.



## RESEARCH SURVEY OPPORTUNITY

### UMD Research Survey Opportunity – Construction Safety Technologies

ASCE Duluth Section members are invited to participate in a University of Minnesota Duluth research study focused on the adoption of safety technologies for managing physical and mental fatigue in the U.S. construction industry. The study is being conducted by **Rezaul Karim**, a graduate student in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UMD.

The survey is intended for construction professionals, including project managers, safety supervisors, and civil or project engineers with hands-on industry experience. Participation is voluntary, and responses will be used to help identify real-world barriers to adopting safety technologies in the construction industry.

**Survey link:** [https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8kqlkEeL14vM6we](https://umn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kqlkEeL14vM6we)

**Survey deadline:** May 30, 2026

**IRB Approval Number:** STUDY00027839

**IRB Approval Date:** March 4, 2026

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Minnesota Institutional Review Board.

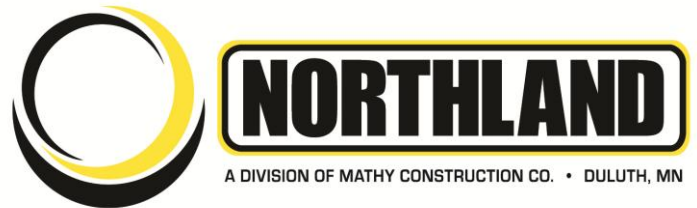


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