



2021 SECTION AWARD NOMINEES

Our Section Awards will be presented at our Annual Spring Social on May 13. More information and details on the Social, which will be a virtual event, are included elsewhere in this edition.

As we announced in the April edition of *THE NEWS*, this year's Awards recipients are:

- **Archie Filshill**, Aero Aggregates – Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Timothy Abel**, Pennoni – Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- **Richard Martino**, Modjeski & Masters – Structural Engineer of the Year
- **Frederick “Rick” Brinker**, Pennoni – Geotechnical Engineer of the Year
- **Donald Gusic**, CDM Smith – Engineering Manager of the Year
- **Mohamed Elghawy**, Traffic Planning & Design – Construction Engineer of the Year
- **Andrew Bechtel**, College of New Jersey – Educator of the Year
- **Lindsay Chateauvert**, Amtrak – Young Government Engineer of the Year
- **Elizabeth Baldwin**, City of Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections – Government Service Award
- **Sean McCreesh**, Pennoni – Community Outreach and Service Award

We hope you will be able to join us at the Social to honor these deserving individuals.

More information on our awardees will be included in our October edition of *THE NEWS*.

**Too often we enjoy
the comfort of opinion
without the discomfort
of thought.**

– John F. Kennedy

SPRING SOCIAL & DINNER DANCE

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

We hope you will be able to join us at our **Section's Spring Social**, which will be conducted virtually. Breakout rooms for networking and meeting/greeting our various award recipients and incoming officers/directors will be available before the start of the festivities, as noted below.

At the Social we will salute another successful season for our Section. Our **2021 Section Awards** recipients and the winners of our **Delaware Valley Science Fairs Special Awards** will be recognized and congratulated. Our incoming **Life Members** from this year, as well as those who were inducted into Life Member status in 2020, will be cited. We will welcome and install our incoming **Officers** and **Board of Directors** and thank those who have served in these positions over the past year. As always it will be an enjoyable and memorable event, and we hope you can join us to share in the festivities.

If you need any additional information or have any questions on this, please contact **Briana Pampuch** at (215) 491-6548 or by email at bpampuch@langan.com.

The Social will be conducted on **Thursday, May 13**. Networking and breakout rooms will be available starting at 6:30 PM, with the formal activities and program beginning at 7:30 PM.

The event will be available virtually on a Zoom platform. There is no fee for attendance. Access information will be provided to all registrants.

Reservations can be made through our website (www.asce-philly.org). The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, May 12**.

We hope to see you there!

SEE YA LATER...

And the correct response to this may be “alligator”, but, in any event... (after while, crocodile...)

It seems as though every time we write this, it's too soon for us to be writing it. But the calendar tells us otherwise, along with the warmer weather and longer days. And despite how things have been very different this past year, with another successful season nearly wrapped up, our Section's extended summer vacation is nearly upon us, which means that *THE NEWS* goes away for a few months. We will return with new editions in September. Most likely, we'll take some time off from being off to put together a short summer edition, probably around Independence Day.

Until then, our intrepid and dedicated staff, somehow led by our mediocre Editor, will take a well-earned break, as is our tradition. Just like teachers, we get the summer off, and just as many folks think about teachers, you may wonder if we have accomplished anything to have

earned the opportunity to take a break from it. (Outrages can be directed to newseditor@asce-philly.org.)

Thus, this will be the last full edition of *THE NEWS* until our new season starts up in the fall. We wish you a good summer and we are keeping our fingers crossed that things start to edge back toward some semblance of normal and we'll welcome you back in September.

ASCE VISION

*Civil Engineers are global leaders
building a better quality of life.*

ASCE MISSION

*Provide essential value to our members
and partners, advance Civil Engineering,
and serve the public good.*



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

So here we are at the end of the 2020-2021 ASCE year...I know, I feel like I just wrote my first President’s Message! Obviously, this past year has been quite different from our previous 107 ones. I am still not used to addressing a “room” full of attendees via Zoom when I only get to see a few faces (presenters and moderators). Our incredible Section members, Board, presenters, and volunteers have stepped up to make this year more successful than any of us imagined.

First, we all pivoted and learned how to navigate a virtual world. By doing so, we were able to host over 50 events, including technical sessions, networking events, student outreach and community service:

- ASCE Section Monthly Meetings, featuring our Student Chapters at each one
- Multi-Technical Meeting – not 1 but 2!
- ASCE Welcome Back Social & Awards Ceremony
- DVGI Student Night
- ASCE Section Trivia Night
- SEI, EWR, Construction, DVGI and TD&I Technical Webinars
- YMF Engineering Your Mind
- YMF Critical Issues Seminar

One may have thought that all the above could have been enough for a year, however, it is exciting to know that we went beyond this. We can all take pride in knowing that we are part of a group of committed and dynamic people that continue to rise to the challenge and foster an engaging environment for the advancement of our goals. Other noteworthy highlights from the past year include:

- Section Board members developed and launched our Webinar Library that allows Section members to obtain PDHs by viewing recorded webinars and answering a brief form.
- The Transportation & Urban Development technical group pursued and obtained institute status to officially become T&DI
- SEI Philadelphia has been named the 2021 SEI Local Chapter of the Year Award. Congratulations on this honor!
- Our very own **Bill Thomsen** and **Kevin Brown** were named Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year, respectively.

Thank you to an incredible Board! You all take time out of your days, and often times nights and weekends, to make our Section run seemingly effortless. I encourage those reading this to get to know who these Officers, Directors, Appointees and Honorary Members are by checking them out on our website. These are the folks you can reach out to say “thanks” and express any ideas on how to make our Section even better next year and beyond!

Before I wrap up my farewell message, I want to take a moment to highlight the fact that for the first time in the Section’s history we will have women in consecutive leadership terms. **Briana Pampuch**, I wish you all the best next year! I am eager to see the strides the Section will take next year with her leadership and the support of an amazing Board and membership.

Thank you again to all of the support of our sponsors and membership this past year. We look forward to your continued support in the 2021 – 2022 year.

Best,
 Jen Reigle, PE
 President, ASCE Philadelphia Section
 jreigle@pennoni.com | 215-254-7723

THANKS AGAIN TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 14 firms taking part and supporting us. We extend our special and collective **THANKS** to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor logos have also been included in a special Sponsors section of our website, where a direct link is provided to each sponsor’s website to allow folks to easily visit and review potential employment openings and positions. In addition, their business cards are published in each edition of *THE NEWS* to show their commitment and support.

As usual, we will be contacting current sponsors later this summer (after our hiatus) to see if

they will be returning as sponsors for next season. And, if you’re not among this group but would like to be, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details and information.

**An expert is
 someone called in
 at the last minute
 to share the blame.**

– Sam Ewing

**ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION
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- Kazi Hassan, CDM Smith
- Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc
- Cathy Farrell, HNTB

**In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.*

Contact Us:

President—Jennifer Reigle, PE

Pennoni
 1900 Market Street, Suite 300
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 215-254-7723; jreigle@pennoni.com

Secretary—Jesse Gormley, PE

Pennoni
 1900 Market Street, Suite 300
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 215-254-7876; jgormley@pennoni.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

Section Outreach Coordinator

Jeanien Wilson

Staff Writers

Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateaubert

SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.
 530 Walnut Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

**COPY DEADLINE FOR
 SUMMER 2021 ISSUE
 JULY 2, 2021**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Assunta Daprano, Forum Editor

Katrina Lawrence, Forum President 2020-21
Pennoni, klawrence@pennoni.com

K-12 OUTREACH RECAPS

APRIL

STEPPINGSTONE SCHOLARS ACADEMY GRADES 10-11

YMF K-12 Outreach Chair **Chris Antisell**, was joined by **Kevin Brown** of Urban Engineers, Inc., **Assunta Daprano** of AECOM, **Mohammed Alsalihi** of NJDOT, and **Dan Bhaumik** and **Sabrina Mamo** of Carroll Engineering Group. The volunteers spoke to students about Civil Engineering and conducted a panel for the students to ask questions. Thank you to our volunteers for taking the time out of their Saturday morning to volunteer!

CHESTER COUNTY FUTURES – PHOENIXVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADE 9

YMF K-12 Outreach Chairs **Chris Antisell** and **CJ Medora** were joined by **Katie Berrillo** of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and **Lizzy DeMarshall**, **Amy Kovach**, and **Caroline Voigtsberger** of Pennoni for this event. The volunteers spoke to the after-school program students about Civil Engineering and answered questions during the panel session. Thank you to our volunteers for taking the time out of their Tuesday afternoon to volunteer!

NEW SERIES: LUNCH BREAK!

APRIL 7

YMF held its second **Monthly Lunch Break** event in the four-part series. During the 40-minute event, attendees enjoyed their own lunches at home while listening to four entertaining and informative presentations.

Assunta Daprano opened the floor with a presentation on *A Brief History of Railroads in the United States*. She took us from the construction

of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the 1800's, through the race to complete the transcontinental railroad, and concluded with an overview of the railroads we know today!

Mohamed Asker followed with *A Supreme Court Case Discussion*. As a Civil Engineering graduate in his third year of law school at Villanova, Mohamed engaged the audience with a presentation on the ongoing Supreme Court case, *NCAA vs. Alston*. He impartially reviewed the arguments on both sides of the case, explaining how the compensation of Division 1 men's and women's college athletes might alter the world of sports.

Next, we heard from **Ben Deatrich** on the *Ultimate Life Hack: Setting Up Your External Brain*. During his presentation, he reviewed *Getting Things Done* by **David Allen**, highlighting the key points Allen makes throughout the book, as well as how it changed his personal organization system.

Lastly, we closed out the afternoon with an entertaining presentation by **Caroline Voigtsberger** on *A Definitive Ranking of All Quarantine Hobbies*. Applying the marry, date, or dump system for groups of three related activities, Caroline had the participants laughing as she determined the fate of each one. While Caroline chose to dump "Making Sourdough", with a few minutes left, the audience chimed in with their own personal experiences. We would like to thank our four presenters for their outstanding slideshows and for sharing their experiences and wisdom with the ASCE community!

LOCAL STUDENT CHAPTERS RECOGNIZED BY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT MEMBERS

Congratulations to the **ASCE Student Chapters** at **Temple University** and **Drexel University** on their recent recognition by the Committee on Student Members for outstanding activities in 2020. The Committee on Student Members awarded each student chapter a Letter of Honorable Mention for outstanding activities as recorded on each Student Chapter's respective annual reports. This is recognition received by only the top third of all Student Organizations in ASCE!

SCIENCE FAIRS – PROJECTS REVIEWED, WINNERS SELECTED

We know we've been doing this for quite a while – as near as we can tell, our Section has been participating in the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs** for 28 years to date. Last year, the Fairs was a very much reduced event, with no Special Awards available, so we had to sit that one out, but we were once again able to be part of the event this year, albeit virtually. Our team of judges, led as always by Past President **Chris Rood**, included **Michael Lembo**, President-Elect **Briana Pampuch**, and Past Presidents **Ruben David**, **Chris Menna** and **Bob Wright**. With no in-person opportunity available, the squad had to review candidate projects virtually over the course of several days starting on March 31 with the goal of identifying candidates for our Section's Special Awards, which recognize a first and second place finisher in individual projects in the Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 categories.

The plural in the Science Fairs title is not a typo, as the event is a compilation of 13 different science fairs across a fairly large geographic area, stretching to the Jersey Shore, all of Delaware, and the Lehigh Valley, bringing students whose projects have won school district and local contests to compete on a regional level. The top medal winners at the Fairs can move on to the **International Science and Engineering Fair** later this spring.

We always are hopeful that we are able to recognize and encourage some future Engineers who we believe are deserving of special honor. Our judging team evaluated most of the over 700 individual student efforts (down from nearly 1000 in past years) to find those with some engineering potential. Despite the projects being classified into various science disciplines, including engineering, our judges often find that they must review many projects in other areas such as physics, earth sciences, environmental sciences, and mathematics that may touch on the ubiquitous nature of Civil Engineering. Sometimes these projects cross different disciplines, and sometimes they are merely misplaced. The high quality of many of the entries only serves to complicate the decision-making process.

After considerable review, our team sorted through and short-listed several projects and came up with two winners in each of the categories of Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12.

The winning students and their projects were:

Grades 6-8 First Place

Ka Yin Wendy Lam

8th Grade

McCall School, Philadelphia

"Keeping You in Suspens(ion)"

Grades 6-8 Second Place

Leon Huang

8th Grade

McCall School, Philadelphia

"Are Storm Drains Capable of Keeping Oceans Clean?"

Grades 9-12 First Place

Sunskriti Gupta

11th Grade

Methacton High School, Collegeville, PA

"Bridges: Weight Bearing Capacity"

Grades 9-12 Second Place

Annabel Bornebusch

11th Grade

Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Sciences, Strafford Township, NJ

"Evaluation of Common Solutions Utilized to Reduce Wave Power in Marinas"

The First Place winners will be invited to attend the Spring Social so they can show off their work and "rub elbows" with Engineers. We hope they will be able to participate so the rest of us can see the Engineers of the future and allow them to display their winning efforts.

Thanks to the students and to those who participated in this event.

More information on the Fairs can be found at www.dvsf.org.

N-ASCE*

THE TOWN IN TWO PROVINCES... (OR YOUR CANADIAN GEOGRAPHY LESSON FOR TODAY...)

If you look on a map of the prairie region of Canada, you will see a town called Lloydminster that sits on the border between Alberta and Saskatchewan. You may wonder which province it is in (actually, both) and how this happened (read on).

The town was founded in what was the North-West Territories of Canada in 1903 and located on the Fourth Meridian of the Dominion Land Survey, which coincided with 110° west longitude. It was intended to be a British Utopian settlement centered on the concept of sobriety and the first settlers came directly from the United Kingdom. The town developed rapidly and the railroad came to the area in 1905, making it easier for new arrivals to get there.

The railroad brought more settlers to the area and Canada decided that it should become a full-blown province carved out from the Territories, while representatives of the area felt that there should be two provinces. After some heated discussions, the two-province argument won out, which resulted in the creation of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905. The border between the two was designated as aligning with the Fourth Meridian, which put Lloydminster right on the boundary. Its citizens petitioned for the revision of the provincial border to put the town entirely in Saskatchewan, but the national government proceeded with its plans, and the town was separated into two. Things remained this way until 1930, when the provincial governments agreed to amalgamate the two towns into a single municipality under shared jurisdiction, and reincorporated it as a city with the same shared status in 1958.

Lloydminster's distinctive situation is reflected in other legal matters, including its time zone. Since the Alberta-Saskatchewan border is also a time zone boundary, the city has chosen to be in the Mountain Time Zone (Alberta side). However, Saskatchewan does not observe daylight saving time, so for most of the year the city, along with the remainder of Alberta, is effectively in the Central Time Zone. Telephone area codes and postal zone codes are broken up along the provincial boundary as well.

Commemorating Lloydminster's distinctive bi-provincial status, a monument consisting of four 100-foot survey markers was erected in 1994 near the city's downtown core. Although the majority of Lloydminster's population once lived on the Saskatchewan side, that ratio has long since been reversed, as according to the latest census (2011), nearly two-thirds of the city's population lived in Alberta. In 2000, the city hall and municipal offices were relocated from Saskatchewan to Alberta. The provincial border runs north to south, falling directly on 50th Avenue (Meridian Avenue), with addresses to the east in Saskatchewan and those to the west in Alberta.

Thanks to the *American Public Works Association* for this information.

A TRAFFIC SIGNAL THAT'S BOTH INTERACTIVE AND JUDGMENTAL...?

In Mumbai, India, a new police program has focused on curbing one of the city's most incessant background sounds, blaring car and truck horns. Drivers honk at other drivers even when they are legally sitting still at an intersection, waiting for the traffic signal to change.

The local police have devised a setup for curtailing this annoyance, being rolled out in a pilot program hilariously

SECTION COMMITTEES

Our Section runs very well and it is mainly a result of the dedication and service of our many volunteers, both our Officers and Board Members as well as our various Committees. While many of you know the former group well, you may not be all that aware of the latter. Our Committees address many of our regular and ongoing issues and keep our Section vibrant and in the forefront of service to our membership. A list of our Committees and members for this season is provided below. We would like to thank all of these folks for their contributions and diligence in helping our Section do what it does.

Additionally, if you have a particular interest in helping the Section as a Committee volunteer, please reach out to us at info@asce-philly.org or through our Section Secretary, **Jesse Gormley** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee assignments may change for the coming season and this will be sorted out over the summer.

Audit – Mohamed Elghway (chair), Cathy Farrell, Pat McCourt, AnnMarie Vigilante
Awards – Bob Wright (chair), Carol Martsolf, Allan Moore, Joe Natale

Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition – Ruben David

Budget and Finance – Joe Natale (chair), Cricket Schreppler

Civil Engineers in Government – Jeanien Wilson Wilson (chair), Ruben David, Bob Wright

College Scholarship – Scott Cepietz (chair)

Communications – Jesse Gormley (chair)

E-mail Outreach – Jeanien Wilson

Webmaster – Greg Dunn

Facebook – Joe Natale, Michael DeVuono

Newsletter – Bob Wright (editor), Assunta Daprano, Lindsay Chateauvert

Sponsorship – Bob Wright

Continuing Education – Mohamed Elghawy (chair)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Jen Reigle (chair)

Humphrey Fund – John Zarsky (chair); Ruben David, Joe Platt (trustees); Jesse Gormley, Jen Reigle (members)

Membership – Andrew Bechtel (chair)

Mural – Angelo Waters (chair), Ruben David, Bob Wright

Nominating (for Board Positions) – Jen Reigle (chair), Mohamed Elghawy, Kazi Hassan, Briana Pampuch, Bob Wright

Program – Briana Pampuch (chair)

Venue Coordination – Troy Illig

Society Relations – Cathy Farrell (chair)

Region 2 Director – Jack Raudenbush

Region 2 Governors – Carol Martsolf, Joe Platt, Jack Raudenbush

Region 2 Younger Member Representative – Joe Natale

PA Council – Cathy Farrell, Bob Wright

Legislative Affairs – Spencer Finch

Spring Social – Troy Illig (chair), Kevin Brown, Briana Pampuch, Jen Reigle, Bob Wright

Subsidiary Groups – Mohamed Elghawy (chair)

Construction Management – Bob Wright

Delaware Valley GeoInstitute – Russ Preuss

Environmental and Water Resources – Eric Lindhult

Structural Engineering Institute – James Deeney

Transportation and Development Institute – Bill Thomsen, Kazi Hassan

Younger Member Forum – Katrina Lawrence

Virtual Social Programming – Tania O'Kane (chair)

dubbed "The Punishing Signal." This links certain traffic signals to sound sensors that listen for the honking of horns (or at least sounds exceeding 85 decibels). If it detects honking when a light is red, the system will ensure everyone stays stuck, at least until everyone lays off their horns. Signs near the intersections with the system note that honking will delay the changing of the light (they read "Honk More Wait More"). To ensure widespread public awareness, the police filmed the system in action shortly after its installation and put it on social media, where it quickly went viral. In it, a bunch of confused, angry people freak out when a traffic light stays red entirely too long.

Did it work? The police think so, although the social media response might be greater than that from the streets where the program was actually in effect. Even so, that viral video has other municipalities throughout India interested in adopting the tech on their own streets. If they do, maybe, just maybe, your next trip to India might be slightly quieter.

Thanks to the *New York Times* for this information.

*N-ASCE – Not always something concerning Engineering...

DUES – IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YET, YOU'RE LATE...

Retaining membership in ASCE allows you to stay connected to the latest industry trends and keeps you linked to the best professional development programs and engaged with a worldwide network of peers. Your continual involvement builds a solid foundation to keep your career on track and moving toward achieving your professional and personal goals.

Dues for the current year were payable by January 1, but, if for whatever reason, you have not renewed, please avoid an interruption in your benefits and renew now. Choose the renewal option most convenient to you: online at asce.org/renewal (the quickest and easiest way), by phone at 800-548-ASCE (-2723), or by mail, using the invoice sent to you last fall (if you still have it). Ensure a positive return on your investment in a Civil Engineering career by renewing with ASCE.

LOOKING TO REFER A NEW MEMBER? OR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AN ENGINEER?

There is a friendly competition happening among all ASCE Sections called the **Section Member Drive**. Each Section will be competing to refer the most new members this year. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers (\$1000, \$500, \$250). Please visit asce.org for some tips and valuable resources that can be used to make this a successful effort.

Also, please keep in mind that ASCE isn't just for Civil Engineers. While you may be surprised to learn this, ASCE allows Non-Engineers to be members as well, with a specific grade of membership – **the Affiliate Member grade** – available for this purpose. While those with Civil Engineering degrees and backgrounds can usually join ASCE right out of school as Associate Members (and are eligible for reduced levels of dues if they have been Student Members), the Affiliate Member grade is available to anyone having “an interest in the advancement of the purposes and objectives of the Society”, as stated in the definition provided in the ASCE Register, who may not have been eligible for Student Membership and/or do not meet the criteria for Associate Membership.

Thus, the Affiliate Member grade is ideal for those who work in related fields who may have an interest in Civil Engineering but do not have a Civil Engineering degree. Affiliate Members enjoy the same benefits and perks of ASCE membership as do other member grades above Student. Additionally, you may want to let some of your colleagues and friends know about this so they can consider ASCE membership and you can get some cash for the referral.

At the other end of the “spectrum”, for those of you more senior and experienced members, the Fellow grade of membership is worth consideration. This is the highest level of membership one can attain on one's own and is a laudable and esteemed achievement. The specific requirements for application for this grade of membership are listed on asce.org.

AND THANKS TO OUR OTHER SPONSORS!

In addition to our Section Sponsorship Program, our Technical Group for the geotechnical specialty, the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI), has established a sponsor network of its own to help support its programs, student awards and scholarship. Its sponsors' cards are included in each edition of its newsletter, which can be accessed at the Group's website, www.dvgi.org.

These 32 (!) firms are the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACF Environmental | Golder | Peirce Engineering |
| AECOM | Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates | Roll-off Dumpster Direct |
| Aero Aggregates* | Inova Geosynthetics | Rowan University |
| Aerix Industries | James J. Anderson Construction | Schnabel Engineering |
| CMT Services | Keller | Solnick & Associates LLC |
| Drexel University* | Kleinfelder | Temple University |
| Duffield Associates | Lafayette College | University of Delaware |
| Earth Engineering | Langan* | University of Pennsylvania |
| ECS | Lehigh University | Villanova University* |
| Gannett Fleming | Menard Group USA | Widener University |
| GeoStructures | | Williams Form Engineering |

Those marked with * are also Section sponsors. We extend our THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2021-22 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

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Joseph Natale, DVRPC

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Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

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Caroline “Cricket” Schreppler, Advantage Engineers

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Kevin Brown, Urban Engineers

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- Assunta Daprano, AECOM, 2021-23
- Michael DeVuono, Arcadis, 2020-22
- Daniel Gleason, PennDOT, 2021-23
- Thomas Kulesher, JMT, 2020-22
- Katrina Lawrence, Pennoni, 2021-23

PAST PRESIDENTS*

- Jennifer Reigle, Pennoni
- Kazi Hassan, CDM Smith
- Angelo Waters, Urban Engineers, Inc.

**In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.*

In addition, these folks will serve in appointed positions:

Assistant Secretary

Gregory Dunn, Michael Baker International

Assistant Treasurer

Patrick McCourt, Jacobs

We wish these brave and generous folks our collective good luck for the coming season.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for this slate – **Jen Reigle** (chair), **Mohamed Elghawy**, **Kazi Hassan**, **Briana Pampuch** and **Bob Wright**.

If once you forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem.

– Abraham Lincoln



LIFE MEMBERS - CLASS OF 2021

Life Membership in ASCE is a major milestone in a member's tenure. To achieve Life Membership, one must have reached the age of 65, paid dues for a minimum of 30 years, and have 10 years' continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Membership. And, even better, Life Members are exempt from dues and need only pay a small service fee to receive *Civil Engineering* magazine.

This year, we welcome a relatively small (or maybe "exclusive" is a better term...) group of newly-minted Life Members in our "Class of 2021:"

**John Caruolo; Ronald Flegel;
Charles Sutphen**

We had intended to cite these esteemed individuals in person, as we usually do, at our April Section Meeting. We have revised this to honor them at our Spring Social (details are provided elsewhere in this edition) and will also intend to have them as our guests to cite them when our in-person meeting program is once again up and running and allows this opportunity.

We congratulate our incoming Life Members on this honorable accomplishment and thank them for their long-time support as Section members.

WEBINAR/MEETING LIBRARY

Please don't forget that you are still able to catch the Section virtual meetings and presentations you may have missed this season and potentially earn a PDH if the particular session offered this. The **Webinar Library** on teach:able is available at <https://virtual.asce-philly.org/>. The best part is that it is **FREE** to all dues-paying Section members as an added benefit of membership in our Section.

But, keep in mind, your free access will have ended on March 30 if you have not renewed your Section dues for 2021.

YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!

CONTACT US AT
newseditor@asce-philly.org
FOR DETAILS

Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; argument an exchange of ignorance.

— Robert Quillen

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Dr. Charles Ebas, F.ASCE
Head, Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering
ebas@drexel.edu

Dr. Michael Ryan
Graduate Advisor
(215) 373-4779
mryan21@drexel.edu

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APRIL SECTION BREAKOUT TOPICS MEETING

April 15, 2021

Virtual

By Robert Wright, Editor

For our last meeting of the 2020-21 season, we once again scheduled the traditional multi-topic event that we have conducted over the past several years and offered the choice of three “break-out” presentations for attendees to select. Having gone the entire season without an in-person event, it did not seem all that strange to have one more “computer screen” meeting, and the inclusion of the **Philadelphia Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS)** as an event co-sponsor was an added “attraction” for attendees. And it was quite an attraction, with a crowd of over 250 registrants anticipated to be part of the event, deciding to spend a somewhat dreary and cool mid-April afternoon in front of their computers and not spending this time completing their tax forms given the month reprieve granted for that.

President **Jen Reigle**, presiding over her last Section meeting, got things underway with a few announcements and a running powerpoint with various information. She handed off to **James Deeney**, Chair of our Section’s Structural Engineering Institute (SEI), who recognized three students who have been awarded SEI scholarships, all from Drexel University – **Katherine Wade**, **Myrlie Taylor** and **Nicholas Paparo**. President Reigle then cued up **Widener University’s Student Chapter** update, provided via video and presented by Chapter President **Randy Bachman** and Chapter Vice President **Aiden DiPietro**. Following this segment, President Elect **Briana Pampuch** instructed all on the process to continue to the breakout rooms for the different offerings, which included:

Geotechnical Aspects of Earthen Construction and Soil-Based Construction Methods

This module covered earthen construction and soil-based construction materials that are used worldwide. This encapsulates many different and varied forms of techniques and applications.

As a vernacular solution, it has developed over many thousands of years in all inhabited continents of the world. In many rural regions of Africa, Asia and South America, it remains the predominant building solution. Recently its popularity has increased as it offers the potential for a low carbon footprint and sustainability benefits through recycling and as an alternative to high energy materials such as fired masonry. Earthen materials including adobe and rammed earth are manufactured using local base soils and empirically based manufacturing techniques. These materials have rarely been studied using a geotechnical approach, and there is a general lack of recognition of the key mechanisms at work mechanically and hydraulically.

This was presented by **Miguel Pando, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Geotechnical Engineering, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering, Drexel University, and sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geo-Institute (DVGI).

The Capitol Visitor Center Construction

This session outlined the proposal for a National Capitol Visitor Center from its early concepts in the mid-1970’s, arising from the Architect of the Capitol’s report, “*Toward a Master Plan for the United States Capitol*.” In 1991, Congress authorized funding for conceptual planning and design of a visitor center. In 1995, the design report was issued. Changes in security needs and other safety and accessibility considerations required revisiting and revalidating the 1995 report. The updated plan was presented to the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission in October 1999. Decisions by the Capitol Preservation Commission led to the start of pre-construction activities in the fall of 2001. The events of September 11, 2001 necessitated additional design changes and prompted Congress to provide the necessary funding to move the project into construction. Actual construction

began in 2002. By the fall of 2003, excavation was essentially complete and build-up of the structure began. Personnel began to occupy the building in July 2008 and it was dedicated and opened to the public on December 2, 2008.

This was presented by **Luca Barison**, Nicholson Construction Company, and **Giovanni Bonita**, Ph.D., GEI Consultants, Inc, and sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI).

SEPTA 5th Street Station Restoration

The 5th Street-Independence Hall Station of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority’s (SEPTA) Market-Frankford Line was part of the original Market Street Subway-Elevated, Philadelphia’s first rapid transit line, and was opened to passengers in 1908. It was extensively rehabilitated for the nation’s bicentennial in 1974-76, with elevators added to make it accessible to riders with disabilities in 2003. Recent improvements, constructed between April 2019 and March 2021, include new head-houses and curb bumpouts at street level, waterproofing, structural repairs, system upgrades and updates, and new architectural finishes at the platform level. This presentation highlighted the project’s challenges and lessons learned during the design and construction phases on this 110-plus year-old facility.

This was presented by **John McElwee**, Senior Program Manager, SEPTA, and **Erica Antoine**, Engineer of Record, Burns Engineering, Inc., and jointly sponsored by the **Philadelphia Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS)**, the **Construction Technical Group**, and the **Transportation and Development Institute (TDI)**.

Thanks to **Joe Natale** and **DVRPC** for assistance with the Zoom arrangements and process.

2022 REPORT CARD UPDATE

The 2022 PA Infrastructure Report Card effort is now underway. Several Category Champions are needed at this point. Category Champions are responsible for leading the volunteer effort of grading and writing their chosen Report Card category with the support of our Report Card co-chairs, category volunteers, and ASCE HQ. The effort is 9-12 months long with an intended release date of May 2022. Champions for the following categories are needed:

- Dams
- Drinking Water
- Energy
- Inland Waterways
- Levees
- Parks & Recreation
- Solid Waste
- Transit
- Wastewater

For more information and to volunteer please e-mail our co-chairs, **David DiGioia** and **Michelle Madzellan** (ddigioia@mcmahonassociates.com, memadzellan@elagroup.com).

INSTITUTES IN THE NEWS

HOT OFF THE PRESSES –

SEI SELECTED FOR CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Our **Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)** technical group was recently advised by National SEI that was selected to receive the 2021 SEI local professional Chapter of the Year Award in recognition of its exemplary activities and efforts to advance the structural engineering profession. National SEI noted that “The SEI Philadelphia Chapter, your officers, and members are commended for their dedication to advance and serve structural engineering through actively engaging and reaching out to members and the community, especially in adapting to the challenges of COVID-19 through virtual programming to increase member participation, and through a new student event and scholarship.”

The formal Award recognition and ceremony are being planned to be included at the Structures Congress in April 2022 in Atlanta.

We congratulate SEI Chair **James Deeney** and members of the Institute on this esteemed honor!

**To invent, you need a good imagination
and a pile of junk.**

– Thomas Edison