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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

## SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2024-25 – ALMOST OUTTA HERE...

The April meeting closes our Section Meeting/dinner season.

The **Spring Social**, scheduled for **May 15**, will be our last Section event for this season. It will be conducted at The **Lucy** in Center City. Details are being finalized and more information will be provided in the May edition of *THE NEWS* as well as in upcoming e-blasts.

## He Can't STILL Be A Younger Member...? Our 2024-25 Section President

It's always interesting to see how life and things are cyclical and how those in times gone by figured this out and created a calendar that remains very accurate to this day. Yes, we know there's an atomic clock and all that now, but those in olden times had very little of such technology and basically went by their observations. With, we will add, no concerns on things they knew little about like servers going down, software upgrades, or any of that "fun" IT stuff that advances in technology have brought us.

We do know that the passage of time and the cycle of the calendar is very much predictable and expected. We appear to be coming out of a colder winter than we've experienced in a while and a little more snow than we've seen in some recent winters but when New Orleans had more total snow than us something is not quite right. And our "telltale" of spring's arrival, the Flower Show, did what it did to make us think about the oncoming warmer weather. With that, and the birds returning, and trees starting to bloom, we indeed have hope that spring is almost here.

We didn't look to get into a weather story or predictions or anything like that, but we did want to set the stage to remind you when we turn the calendar page to April, we know to expect the usual year-end summary of our current Section President in *THE NEWS*. We do this because we have to, not because we want to (our story and we're sticking to it...). This has been done for a number of years and was started before your Editor took over this spot, and we have kept it going during our time at the Editor's desk, so we're in no position to stop this and risk calamity, curse, trivializing a tradition, etc. at this point. We have at least changed the nature of it from the approach taken by our esteemed predecessor, who was always respectful but at the same time pushed the limits of this in his attempt to poke fun at the President. Not to say we won't do that, but we'll do it carefully (and if you know your Editor you can hardly wait to see the results of that, knowing how capable he is with pushing the limits and boundaries as well). If nothing else we will be honest.

*Continued on page 5*

## APRIL DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025**

Inn at Swarthmore, 10 S. Chester Road, Swarthmore, PA

Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Breakout Sessions Following (approximately 7:30 PM)

This meeting will follow the "breakout" format used that has been the theme of our April event for over the past ten years. Attendees will assemble for dinner and announcements, then move to other rooms depending on which topic they want to hear. There will be a choice of three separate modules/topics as described below.

**RESERVATION DEADLINE – MONDAY, APRIL 7.** The cost per attendee is \$75, with a reduced (\$50) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline. Reservations received after the deadline and "walk-ups" without prior reservations paying at the door will be subject to an increased charge and will be accepted as space permits. Please note that electronic payment will NOT be an available option after the reservation deadline.

*There is NO guarantee that space will be available if you do not reserve a space.*

**All registrations are final.** Due to commitments with our event venues, cancellations or no-shows will be invoiced for the full cost of the event. Registrants are able to transfer their registrations to others without penalty.

As always, guests will be welcome to attend the presentation without dinner at no charge. The individual modules will be subject to room capacity constraints.

The Inn is accessible by SEPTA Regional Rail (Media-Wawa Line, Swarthmore Station is within a short walk). Free parking is available and can be accessed from Fieldhouse Lane, which intersects Chester Road at the roundabout just south of Swarthmore Station.

### SPECIAL FEATURES:

**Life Members Night** – Newly-inducted Life Members will be featured and honored at this meeting as guests of the Section.

**Past Presidents Night** – Past Presidents will be invited to attend this meeting as guests of the Section in appreciation of their service and assistance.

**Villanova University Night** – The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of Villanova University will be highlighted at this meeting. All Faculty, Alumni and Students are cordially invited to attend and participate.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Section's Nominating Committee recently completed its task and developed the proposed 2025-26 Board slate and that served as a reminder that my term as President is quickly coming to an end. While there are only a couple months left in this term, we still have a substantial amount of programming left to offer. Don't forget to register for our annual **Multi-Technical Topic Dinner Meeting** which will take place on **Thursday, April 10** at the **Inn at Swarthmore**; we'll be honoring our new **Life Members** and our **past Presidents** at this event, too. We're planning our next student outreach event which involves the Section working with the **TGR Foundation** and we're working on a construction site tour to offer you before the end of the term. Also, be on the lookout for when the registration opens for the **Spring Social** which will take place on **May 15** at **The Lucy**.

I also wanted to take this time to remind you of the many opportunities ASCE gives us to explore our interests beyond what we offer on at the Section Level. For example, the **PA Infrastructure Report Card Committee** is currently recruiting members from across the Commonwealth to help with the 2026 PA Report Card. While the application period has passed for Society-level committees, it may be worth checking out the committees on a Society level, as they provide opportunities to connect with members from all over the world! As part of my involvement with the Society's Committee on Student Members (CSM), I recently had the opportunity to speak with students that participated in the Gulf Coast Student Symposium at Mississippi State University in Starkville, MS.



Also, be on the lookout for when the registration opens for the **Spring Social** which will take place on **May 15** at **The Lucy**.

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If you haven't had a chance to engage with ASCE locally, on a state level, or at the Society level, there are still plenty of opportunities to do so.

Kevin Brown Jr., PE, M.ASCE  
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

## CALL FOR 2026 PA INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD CATEGORY CHAMPIONS & VOLUNTEERS:

**Category Champions** are responsible for leading the volunteer effort of grading and writing their chosen Report Card category with the support of our co-chairs, volunteers, and ASCE HQ. **Category Volunteers** are responsible for researching, grading, and writing a Report Card category. The effort is 12-14 months long with an intended release date in November 2026. The report card categories are:

- Aviation
- Bridges
- Broadband
- Dams
- Drinking Water
- Energy
- Hazardous Waste
- Inland Waterways
- Levees
- Public Parks
- Ports
- Rail
- Roads
- Schools
- Solid Waste
- Stormwater
- Transit
- Wastewater

For more information and to volunteer please email our co-chairs  
Paul Ackerman and Justin Komp at [packerman@ycp.edu](mailto:packerman@ycp.edu) and [jkomp@langan.com](mailto:jkomp@langan.com).

## ASCE, PHILADELPHIA SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION — 2024–25 SEASON

### PRESIDENT

Kevin Brown, Gannett Fleming TranSystems

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Jesse Gormley, Pennoni

### VICE PRESIDENT

Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor

### SECRETARY

Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming TranSystems

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### ASSISTANT TREASURER

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Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2023-25

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Mohamed Elghawy, TPD

Briana Pampuch, Langan Engineering & Environmental Services

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.

*We thank these folks for their commitment and service.*

### Contact Us:

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#### Secretary — Danielle Schroeder, PE

Gannett Fleming TranSystems  
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### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

#### Editor of *THE NEWS*

Robert Wright

#### Section Outreach

Jesse Gormley, Dennis Wilson

#### SEND COPY TO:

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

**Things turn out better by accident sometimes. But you can't organize accidents.**

— Jeff Beck

**COPY DEADLINE FOR MAY 2025 ISSUE  
APRIL 11, 2025**

# YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor  
Assunta Daprano, Forum President 2024-25  
AECOM, adaprano.outreach@gmail.com

## YMF Wins the Coveted Peers Group Award!



Congratulations to YMF for receiving the **Peers Group Award** presented by the Eastern Region Younger Member Council (ERYMC). This award is judged by all Younger Member Groups in ASCE's Eastern Region and awarded to a group that has made the most notable achievements in the past year. Attendees at the event included **Assunta Daprano, Kayla Nelson, Elvira Mikhael, Kerianne Chen, Anthony Rizzo** and **Noor Dabdoub**.

## ACCT Shelter Volunteer Event

February 22



YMF visited **ACCT Philly** for a day of service. Nine volunteers worked to improve a dog yard used for dogs recovering from illness. They repaired a fence that had been blown over in a storm and cleaned up debris. As a result, the dogs can now enjoy the yard off-leash! ACCT Philly provided an informative tour of their expansive facility and answered many great questions. After the event, volunteers enjoyed pizza and helped name incoming animals by filling out naming sheets with their favorite engineering terms.

## Girls Inc — Juniata Park Academy

February 24

YMF joined the **Girls Inc** afterschool program at **Juniata Park Academy**.

For this event, our volunteers talked with the



students about how Civil Engineering is all around them each day. The students then worked in teams to design, construct, and test straw bridges. They learned that time constraints are difficult to manage and had a great time. Thanks to Girls Inc. for having us back to share Civil Engineering with more students!

# MARCH SECTION JOINT MEETING

March 13, 2025

Maggiano's Center City

## Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA) Capital Program and Projects Update

For our fourth and last Section meeting at Maggiano's for this season, we managed to pick a typical March day weather-wise, with the advantage of the extended daylight which started earlier that week, to schedule our somewhat-regular update from the Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA). While we had planned to have three meetings at Maggiano's at the outset of the season, the "surprise" lunchtime meeting in late January added another opportunity for us to gather there and enjoy the fine offerings. The combination of the topic and the expected large quantities of Italian goodies no doubt enticed a full room of nearly 100 attendees to partake at our next-to-last dinner meeting of the season (hard to believe, but we know time flies). As well, after two meetings fairly closely spaced (within two weeks) in January, many were pleased to see friends and colleagues after over a month and a half with no ASCE events.

**President Kevin Brown** corralled folks from their networking and chats to get the evening underway. As the first course of dinner started, he made several announcements on upcoming happenings and events. He wound things up and brought the representatives of the featured Student Chapter for the evening, **Temple University**, to the podium. **Matt Hendrickson**, Chapter President, and **Morgan Birney**, Chapter Vice President, gave a short update on current activities in the Chapter.

Shortly after the arrival of the second course of dinner, **President Elect Jesse Gormley** took the podium to introduce the evening's speaker, **Michael Venuto**, DRPA Chief Engineer. Mr. Venuto gave a short background and introduction of DRPA's functions and responsibilities on the PATCO rapid transit line and its four Delaware River crossings, the oldest of which, the Ben Franklin Bridge, will have a celebration event for its 100th anniversary in 2026. He presented the Authority's planned 2025-29 Capital Program, with a total value of just over \$800 million, and noted that the focus of the funds was primarily facility upgrades and system preservation.

In particular, the Commodore Barry and Betsy Ross Bridges, each of which has been in service for roughly 50 years, being the "youngsters" of the Authority's structures, were in need of overhaul and restoration work. The Barry Bridge in particular has the Authority's largest project to date with work now underway for complete structural painting, deck repairs and resurfacing, and related work. This will no doubt result in traffic backups as lanes will need to be closed to facilitate the work, even with work restrictions to nights and weekends to minimize the traffic impacts (although with summer shore traffic, backups will be a reality).

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Delaware River Bridge	\$31,425	\$33,900	\$35,625	\$33,600	\$43,150	\$166,500
Ben Franklin Bridge	\$8,900	\$14,650	\$18,625	\$18,625	\$13,000	\$74,400
Commodore Barry Bridge	\$43,750	\$45,900	\$55,450	\$50,400	\$40,250	\$235,350
Betsy Ross Bridge	\$25,500	\$23,900	\$14,000	\$3,250	\$2,000	\$68,950
PATCO	\$29,340	\$28,175	\$23,455	\$21,265	\$15,925	\$116,160
Other DRPA Costs	\$45,380	\$77,100	\$28,205	\$19,775	\$20,825	\$139,371
<b>Total DRPA Costs</b>	<b>\$175,891</b>	<b>\$171,505</b>	<b>\$173,260</b>	<b>\$146,615</b>	<b>\$136,150</b>	<b>\$801,731</b>

With last year's ship strike event at the Key Bridge in Maryland, Mr. Venuto related the concerns and press inquiries about how the Authority's bridges are protected from such a mishap. It was able to respond well as it had installed rock islands and dolphins around bridge supports in the river at some locations several years ago and will continue to assess the vulnerability of some of these supports where necessary. With larger ships traversing the Delaware River as a result of the channel deepening effort several years ago this remains a concern.

Mr. Venuto reported that PATCO, which celebrated 55 years of service last year, has been targeted for facility upgrades and modernization. In many cases this work will address components and items that date to the original construction of the line in the 1960's and have reached the end of their expected service lives. This includes the original "Bridge Line" segment in Philadelphia and Camden, the oldest portions of which have been in use since the mid-1930's. Additionally, ADA access improvements have been enhanced and elevators have been provided at a number of stations along with related power and infrastructure improvements and escalator replacements. Extensive work, with a price tag of \$30 million, has recently been completed to permit the reopening of the Franklin Square Station, planned to happen this spring after being closed in the late 1970's.

A few questions were posed to Mr. Venuto and he ably responded to them. President-Elect Gormley closed the evening and thanked Mr. Venuto for a job well done with his always welcome and informative presentation and provided him with the Section's speaker gift for his effort.

## 2025-26 RECOMMENDED SLATE OF SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION ANNOUNCED

The recommended slate of Section officers and Board members for the coming season has been developed by our Section's Nominating Committee and was announced in the running slide show at our March Dinner Meeting. This slate will be recommended for adoption by the Board at its April meeting. Assuming that happens, these individuals will be officially inducted and sworn in at the Spring Social. They are as follows:

President	Jesse Gormley, Pennoni
President-Elect	Dennis Wilson, McCormick Taylor
Vice President	Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor
Secretary	Danielle Schroeder, Gannett Fleming TransSystems*
Treasurer	Timothy Abel, Amtrak
Assistant Treasurer	Ajin Fatima, Amtrak
Membership Secretary	Thomas Kulesher, HNTB
Directors	Darren Black, Jacobs, 2024-26*
	Nooraldean Dabdoub, TPD, 2025-27
	Robin Dominick, CDM Smith, 2025-27
	Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2024-26*
	Sean McCreesh, STV, 2024-26*
	Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2025-27
Past Presidents	Kevin Brown, Gannett Fleming TransSystems
	Joseph Natale, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
	Mohamed Elghawy, TPD

Those positions indicated with \* have two-year terms and have one year remaining in their current terms.

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.

We thank these folks for their anticipated service, of course once this slate is adopted. We will provide an update on this in the May edition of *THE NEWS*.

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

We are pleased to report that we have 17 firms committed as our Section Sponsors, the largest this has been for quite some time. We thank our sponsors for their financial commitment and support.

Sponsor's business cards are printed in each edition of *THE NEWS*. Their logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website, where we provide direct links to their own sites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We also offer sponsors the opportunity to have a "spotlight" article in an edition of *THE NEWS*, one of which you will find elsewhere in this edition.

If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at [newseditor@asce-philly.org](mailto:newseditor@asce-philly.org) for more details.

## SCIENCE FAIRS – SEEKING JUDGES – LAST CHANCE!

As we have for many years, our Section will be offering Special Awards at the **Delaware Valley Science Fairs**. The Fairs will be held on **Wednesday, April 2** at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. Four Special Awards for individual student projects that have a Civil Engineering theme will be awarded, with two prizes for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

**Volunteer judges are needed for this effort.** The judging will require you to spend most, if not all, of your day (approximately 8 AM to 3 PM) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. A short orientation session will be provided immediately before the judging begins to get one familiar with the process and procedure. It is always a very interesting and enlightening experience.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge please contact **Chris Rood** ([chris.rood@aecom.com](mailto:chris.rood@aecom.com)). You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website [www.dvsf.org](http://www.dvsf.org).

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us for a rewarding and interesting day.

### APRIL DINNER MEETING

*Continued from page 1*

The featured "breakout" sessions will consist of the following:

#### **Amtrak North Portal Bridge Construction Update**

Co-sponsored by the Construction Management and Engineering Technical Group and the Transportation and Development Institute

**A. J. Nayee, PMP, MBA**, Project Director, Amtrak

#### **Construction Dewatering: Controlling Groundwater for Excavations and Maintenance**

Sponsored by the Delaware Valley Geoinstitute

**G. Richard Bird, PE**, Senior Project Manager, AECOM

#### **Design and Construction of the Schuylkill River Trail Christian to Crescent Segment**

Sponsored by the Structural Engineering Institute

Attendees will be able to earn one Professional Development Hour (PDH) at this meeting.



**ASCE 2025  
CONVENTION**  
SEATTLE | OCT. 8-11

Mark your calendar for the ASCE 2025 Convention for three-and-a-half days of multi-disciplinary technical sessions covering the most critical issues facing civil engineering today!

Here are a few key reasons you need to attend the ASCE 2025 Convention:

- Learn about the wide-ranging impact of AI on civil engineering from opening keynote speaker Ayanna Howard, Ph.D., dean of The Ohio State University College of Engineering.
- Get the latest insights on life-cycle cost, resilience, workforce, energy, extreme weather, and more.
- Learn the Envision process through real-life examples in the Envision World Cup of Sustainable Infrastructure session.
- Discover bike boulevard design elements and sustainability benefits in the AASHTO Bike Guide Design Standards session.
- Hear from senior leaders on construction safety and how civil engineers can enhance industry health and welfare in the Construction Industry Safety & Well-Being session.
- Celebrate industry luminaries and groundbreaking projects at the prestigious OPAL Gala.
- Earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

**STILL A YOUNGER MEMBER?***Continued from page 1*

One thing we have changed, however, was that we give the President a chance for rebuttal by doing this in April. Before your current Editor's occupancy of this position, *THE NEWS* closed its season with a combined April-May edition. Thus, assessing the President's accomplishments was the final word as far as any reporting on this as well as any chance for objections from the standing President. (And maybe there was a method to that madness...) Thus, we are just a little more kind with our addition of a May issue and allowing the now-penultimate one (April) to provide this "roast" thus giving the President a chance for response in May. (Your word for today, penultimate...) Thus, with that background firmly established, let's get into the details.

Now that you've invested four paragraphs and a few minutes in this, some specifics are in order, as it took a while to get here and you may have forgotten why you started down this rabbit hole... (and your Editor will simplify things and go to the first person tense...) Our Section has had the pleasure of having **Kevin Brown** as our leader and President for this season, the 112th President we've had in our history. Kevin's paying job is with the combined Gannett Fleming TranSystems, with his "lineage" at the TranSystems half of this recent conglomeration, as a Construction Services Manager, and he is in charge of several local efforts both big and small. Kevin clearly has many more hours in his day than the rest of us given his many volunteer undertakings and efforts in addition to his busy "day job", but he's not letting on about how many hours or his secrets in being able to balance all of what he does. Like how sausage is made, some things are better off not known...

I met Kevin likely well before many of you did, upon his arrival at Urban Engineers in the 2008-09 timeframe to work as a co-op student. Kevin proved to be a good and diligent worker, very willing to learn, but also very quiet. The quiet part changed a little over time as we got to know each other and he revealed a few things, such as he was a West Philadelphia resident and he attended Carver High School of Engineering and Science, and, maybe most importantly, how he would walk many blocks to work since he didn't want to pay for parking and would find free on-street spots that were often fairly far from the office. Given his status as a student at Widener, he was no doubt trying to save money as he could (we have heard college can be expensive...). Or maybe he was learning one of those traits that engineers are supposedly known to have, being frugal... Somehow we maybe scared him out of design, as upon his graduation he returned to Urban to work in the construction services group.

From there Kevin started getting involved in things, with ASCE and the Younger Member Forum, the Architecture-Construction-Engineering (ACE) Mentoring Program and its scholarship efforts, and the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia. It was good to see his enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer and I thought maybe some of this rubbed off from me onto Kevin, but... Kevin admitted in one of his President's messages that, while he was not all that involved in the ASCE Student Chapter at Widener, the Construction effort kind of led him into YMF and he went back to Widener after graduation to help mentor and speak to students about society involvement. He will tell you he wasn't sure he would be going to college in his youth and managed to get the engineering "bug" once he arrived in high school while still not sure he would be going to college.

Over the years we would run into each other at various functions and meetings and I was able to observe Kevin's growth as a professional. While he still remained basically quiet and unassuming, more of that dry sense of humor he has was becoming evident (another similarity between us... this was getting a little scary between this and his getting into more volunteer work, maybe something else that somehow rubbed off, but maybe that's a good thing...). He soon added teaching to his growing resume as he landed some adjunct work at the College of New Jersey as well as coursework at Widener, in pursuit of his Master's degree.

Kevin continued his involvement in YMF as well as the Engineers' Club with attempts to get a younger member group established there, again putting those extra hours and days he seems to have to good use. Hence the title of this piece, since he seems to have been a Younger Member longer than he

should have... (and we at *THE NEWS* are not looking to check ID's or anything like that...). On the employment side he left Urban, then returned, only to leave Urban again to arrive at TranSystems, where he has found fame and fortune (?). And he also began to rise out of the YMF and into the Section proper in several capacities, going through the Section Board ranks and soon landing in the presidential succession.

His well-thought-out and well-written President's messages this season have chronicled Kevin's recent activities and work. In November he cited World Mental Health Day and offered a few pointers on how to enhance our mental health (there may be some hope for some of you, but for me, well...). He organized an afternoon at MANNA locally in December and recruited a few of us to help prepare meals to be delivered to those in need, and his January message cited this and thanked those who helped. (While I enjoy stewed tomatoes, I found myself slinging these into meal containers and wondering if I had ever seen this large a quantity of these in my life.) February gave him a chance to show a much younger group, including himself, at a past Multi-Region Leadership Conference. In March, he noted his work with the Engineering Club at Northeast High School, little surprise he is once again working with students. Yes, those longer days.... Kevin got his year off on a different foot, proposing and then moving forward with a two-tiered sponsorship offering to allow firms to go the extra step and get additional recognition for this. It seems to have worked out well and we look forward to continuing this effort.

Early in his presidency, though, we proposed an opportunity for him to be on a radio program focusing on infrastructure that was being developed by one of my pals. We thought with our PA Report Card and all that, this would be good for us and help the public's understanding of what civil engineers do. Kevin, as our newly-minted Section President, went along, basically being volunteered for it by me, but we found that it was not something at which he thought he would do well, thus he did it reluctantly. While he did a good job with this, he remains unconvinced that he did well, and we have learned to accept that this is merely Kevin being Kevin. Since then he has done well as our President and has led us through yet another successful season.

Kevin gets extra credit/points in my book as he usually had his President's messages ready to go or at least on his mind before he had to be reminded they were due. Of course, me being me, we (mostly me) managed to forget to post the current message on our website, so it looked as if his message from early last fall was stagnating there, until we remembered (and it took until February) that we should be updating this. (Please keep in mind that a polite way to express that I have trouble remembering things on occasion is that it's been a long time since I've been a Younger Member...).

We do hope we have been able to give you a little insight on our outgoing President, who, as a soon-to-become Past President, may have some time to relax after a busy year. We are very grateful for what Kevin has been able to implement and accomplish, and even merely keeping our Section viable and active are notable tasks given how busy we all seem to be these days. And we know Kevin will be among the first to let you know that his tasks have been made very easy with him having the support and backing of a great group of Officers and Directors. And, despite this, you know we'll still follow tradition next year and give incoming President **Jesse Gormley** our assessment when the time comes.

**I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers which can't be questioned.**

— *Richard Feynman*

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Brown, Falcone Honored by PSPE Delco

The Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE) conducted its annual Engineers Week Dinner on February 20. Two of our Section members were honored at that event.

**Vicki Brown**, Professor Emerita of Civil Engineering at Widener University, was cited as the Chapter's **2025 Engineer of the Year**. The award is given each year to a candidate who resides or is employed in Delaware County or southern Chester County, and is evaluated against a rigorous criterion including professional achievement and contributions to community. This award is among the many accolades that Vicki has earned throughout her career for her academic, scholarship, and community engagement work. She earned emerita status in December after service more than 40 years in Widener's Civil Engineering department.

**Frank Falcone, PE**, director of Professional Development and Experiential Education for Villanova's College of Engineering, was recognized with the Chapter's **2025 Lifetime Achievement Award**. His career at Villanova University spans over 50 years, beginning in 1974. In his role, Frank leads the College's award-winning professional development program, Career Compass. He is also a veteran, having spent 30 years of combined active and reserve serving in the US Navy, where he earned the rank of captain and retired in 2000.

We congratulate Vicki and Frank on their honors.

### Gormley Recognized by ASCE National

Section President-Elect **Jesse Gormley** was cited as one of three recipients of the **William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award**. Jesse was nominated for this honor by National Past President **Marsia Geldert-Murphey**, who thanked him for his creative and inspirational approach in developing groundbreaking initiatives geared toward ASCE Sections, Branches, Younger Member Groups, Regions, and Institute Chapters ultimately contributing to member retention and growth. This was presented to Jesse by ASCE Executive Director Tom Smith at the recent Multi-Region Leadership Conference in Memphis.

The William H. Wisely American Civil Engineer Award,



instituted in 1983 is only one of two awards personally conferred by the ASCE President. It recognizes ASCE members who have made continuing efforts to promote appreciation for the history, tradition, developments, and technical and professional activities of the Society.

Jesse is a Senior Engineer with Pennoni at its headquarters in Center City. He holds both a BS in Architectural Engineering and an MS in Structural Engineering from Drexel University. We congratulate him on this recognition.

### Reese Receives Honors

We congratulate Section Member **Matthew Reese**, who was recently named ASCE's **Outstanding Younger Member in Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Activities**. This award recognizes Matt's leadership and efforts to promote diversity and inclusivity in Civil Engineering. Matt is a planner with Urban Engineers at its headquarters in Center City. Among his current projects, which reflect his dedication and commitment to these initiatives, are the FDR Park Nature Phase (enhancing wetlands and restoring natural habitats), PHL Wetland Mitigation (blending climate resilience with community access), and the Wissahickon-Cross County Trail (connecting communities through outdoor recreation).

Congratulations to Matt on this award.

### Filshill Part of Temple's Gallery of Success

Section Board Member **Archie Filshill** was recently cited as one of 17 alumni honored by Temple University in its **Gallery of Success** for 2025. The Gallery of Success celebrates outstanding professional achievement, inspiring students toward their future. Archie received his Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering from Temple in 1988. He is the founder and CEO of AeroAggregates, a company dedicated to sustainable innovation in aggregate fill which he established to develop and produce ultralightweight foamed glass aggregate from recycled glass. This innovative material offers numerous benefits for construction and environmental applications.

With over 25 years of experience in the geotechnical industry, Archie has held leadership positions in international companies, overseeing operations, engineering and project management in various roles, including regional manager for an environmental products company and managing director of European operations for a global manufacturing company. He also founded an international contracting company focused on environmental remediation and infrastructure projects. In concert with his commitment to education and industry advancement, he has served as an adjunct professor at Temple's College of Engineering.

We are proud to share this information on Archie's achievement.

## SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a Section Sponsorship Program to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves

a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits.

Additionally, we have established an informal

recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us, through volunteer assistance and award recognition among other things. Our Agency Partners' logos are shown below.



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