



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 97-9

Our 112th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

May 2025



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.



<http://www.asce-philly.org>

National ASCE Central Number:
1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free.

NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

LIFE MEMBERS – WELCOMING THE “CLASS OF 2025”

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 35 years in any membership grade above student, 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 our most recent group of incoming Life Members, 16 individuals who comprise our “Class of 2025”:

James Annett	Peter Karasik
Janet Cunningham	Harry Laspee
Russell Daniels	John Lowe
John DeLeone, Jr.	Mark Mayhew
Charles Dutil	Drew Mihocko
Darin Gatti (Past President)	Alex Rong
Karen Jehanian	Joseph Solimeo
Jian Jin	Carmen Valerio

Each of these individuals were invited to attend our April Section Meeting as our guest to be cited and awarded their Life Membership certificates. Ms. Cunningham and Messrs. Valerio and Jin were able to attend and be honored accordingly (pictured below with Membership Secretary **Katrina Budischak**).

We are proud to congratulate this esteemed group on this honorable accomplishment and thank them for their long-time support and involvement as Section members.



SPRING SOCIAL Thursday, May 15



We hope you will be able to join us at our Section’s annual Spring Social and Awards Banquet. At the Social we will salute another successful season for our Section as we enjoy drinks and dinner.

Our 2025 Section Awards recipients and the winners of our Delaware Valley Science Fairs Special Awards will be recognized and congratulated. 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.

DATE/TIME: Thursday, May 15

Networking/social hour: 5:30 PM; Dinner following (approximately 7:00 PM) Activities following dinner (until approximately 8:30 PM)

LOCATION: The Lucy, 231 S. Broad Street (at Locust Street), Center City

FEES: \$75 per attendee (“early bird”, available through April 26)

\$30 government agency employees and students

Prices will increase by \$10 for reservations received April 27 and after

RSVP: Please RSVP through our Section’s website (www.asce-philly.org)

Paypal is available for this event.

If you would like to reserve a table of 8-10, please indicate each table as a single registration.

Due to our commitment with our event venue, 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.

We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate another successful season.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Before you embark on reading my last President's message, I would recommend you check out "He Can't STILL Be A Younger Member...?" in the April Edition of *THE NEWS*.

Of course, this message, too, made it to the Editor's desk after a few reminders, but I figured there was no need to change up now.

Per the Society's definition, no, I am not a Younger Member, and given my memory isn't what it once

was (nor is the length of my hair), they got it right. Our Editor, however, must still be a Younger Member with a memory like that! After reading the article in the April edition, my first thought was, "do they keep a file on all the Section Presidents?" I will say that I'm happy that there weren't too many details given about the location of the free on-street parking I used to use, even though I've shifted more to paying for parking and complaining about the cost like normal people do.



It's hard to believe that my term as President is winding down; it feels like it was just yesterday I was inducted as President at the Downtown Club. Over this past year, I have been reminded that other organizations have two-year Presidential terms, and my response has always been, one year is the perfect amount of time for us! Within that year we were able to maintain our normal dinner meeting schedule while adding a lunch meeting with the

Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation, volunteer at the MANNA Kitchens, partner with Heights Philadelphia and the TGR Foundation, and we're hoping to squeeze a construction site tour in before my term ends. Don't forget, we also have our Spring Social coming up on May 15th at The Lucy!

I have to credit this successful year to our amazing Board and Honorary Board

Continued on page 5

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED

It is pretty much a tradition at this point that we invite our Past Presidents to our April meeting as guests of our Section to be cited for their contributions and service. Many of them continue to assist our Section in several ways on committees and involvement in activities, with some of this also at the National level. We are always pleased to see them. We also know the offer of a free dinner doesn't hurt getting them out (after all, they are engineers and therefore enjoy free things...).

We were pleased that 15 Past Presidents were able to participate. Shown below, left to right, are Membership Secretary Katrina Budischak (who will be entering the presidential rotation next season), Bill Malarkey (1983-84), Ann Tomalavage (2011-12), Chris Rood (2001-02), Cathy Farrell (2017-18), Bob Wright (1993-94), Joe Syrnick (1980-81), Ruben David (2002-03), Tom Brady (2010-11), Allan Moore (2003-04), Mark Tiger (2008-09), Joe Platt (2014-15), Joe Natale (2023-24), Jen Reigle (2020-21) and Kazi Hassan (2019-20). Kristen Bowman

Kavanagh (2009-10) attended the meeting as well but arrived after the photo was taken (not that we're counting, but this was the second year in a row that Kristen managed to miss the photo...).



Thanks to Membership Secretary **Katrina Budischak** for coordinating this, and thanks to our Past Presidents who were able to make this event.

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

TREASURER

Thomas Kulesher, HNTB

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Timothy Abel, Amtrak

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Katrina Budischak, McCormick Taylor

DIRECTORS

Darren Black, Jacobs, 2024-26

Nooraldean Dabdoub, TPD, 2023-25

Ajin Fatima, Amtrak, 2023-25

Archie Filshill, Aero Aggregates, 2024-26

Sean McCreesh, STV, 2024-26

Caroline Voigtsberger, Pennoni, 2023-25

PAST PRESIDENTS

Joseph Natale, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

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:

President—Kevin Brown, PE

Gannett Fleming TranSystems
1717 Arch Street, Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19103
kbrown@transystems.com

Secretary—Danielle Schroeder, PE

Gannett Fleming TranSystems
10 Penn Center
1801 Market Street, Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19103
dani.civileng@gmail.com

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

**COPY DEADLINE FOR SUMMER EDITION 2025 ISSUE
JUNE 27, 2025**

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

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

Spring Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup with ASHE DelVal

May 3

Join members of YMF and American Society of Highway Engineers Delaware Valley to help keep our 2 miles of adopted roadway clean! The roadway segment is Bethlehem Pike between Lafayette Avenue Connector and Butler Pike in Ambler. Vests and supplies from PennDOT will be provided for the cleanup. Volunteers must be 18+ to attend. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

Join us at Fireside Bar and Grille afterward for lunch and drinks provided by ASCE & ASHE! Fireside Bar and Grille is accessible by the Lansdale-Doylestown Regional Rail line, and Bus Routes 94 and 95. The effort will start at Fireside at 11 AM. RSVP's are due May 2.

Executive Board

Currently, we invite nominations from our members for the YMF Executive Board. Nominees must meet the eligibility requirements detailed in our Constitution and Bylaws, including at least two years of service on the YMF Board in an appointed position. If you are interested in serving on the YMF Executive Board and you meet the eligibility requirements described in our guiding documents, please email Assunta Daprano (Assunta.Daprano@aecom.com) by April 28.

Nominations received by this time that meet our bylaw requirements will be included in our upcoming YMF Executive Board election, which will commence virtually in May and continue with in-person voting at the Election Happy Hour (May 12 at Brauhaus Schmitz in Center City). More information on candidates and voting will be included in a future email blast. The following members have thus far been nominated for Executive Board positions:

President – Kevin Walsh, HNTB

Vice President – Christopher Medora, AECOM

Secretary – Kayla Nelson, Schnabel Engineering

Treasurer – Christian Antisell, PhilaPort

If you are interested in serving as an Appointed Officer on the YMF Board, current positions, excluding the Executive Board, are appointed by the current, past, and incoming YMF President. Every effort is made to give motivated individuals roles aligning with their passion.

If you would like to be considered for the 2025-26 term year, please email Assunta Daprano (Assunta.Daprano@aecom.com) by May 23. In the email, please rank your top three preferred YMF Board roles and why. Let us know if you have any questions about Appointed Officer positions!

APRIL SECTION BREAKOUT TOPICS MEETING

April 10, 2025

Inn at Swarthmore

By Robert Wright, Editor

Somehow we managed to get to our last meeting of the 2024-25 season very quickly, as we know how time flies, and many comments at the meeting revolved around many of us finding it hard to believe we were at the end of another season. The meeting was at a new venue for us, with nice accommodations and a good meal at the Inn at Swarthmore, and over 100 in attendance, including an unusually large contingent of students as we featured three Student Chapters at the event. The weather outside was anything but springlike both temperature-wise and dreary, but our healthy turnout was there to participate in three interesting breakout topics once the formalities and dinner were enjoyed.

President Kevin Brown opened the event and reminded the crowd he was presiding over his last dinner meeting (and as many of us, he found it hard to believe as well). After a few announcements, he welcomed the representatives of the featured Student Chapters in alphabetical order, with Swarthmore College, which was within sight of the venue, first up, offering Student Chapter President Ben Aaron and Vice President Elijah Dillow for its presentation. Villanova University Student Chapter co-presidents Jordyn DiGiaimo and Joseph Armstrong brought all up to speed on its recent activities. Widener University Student Chapter President Garrett Kluthe and Vice President Ashleigh Stehr came to front and center to update the crowd on what it was doing.

SEI Chair Keith Merl was on hand and brought to the podium to recognize the recipients of SEI's annual scholarship.

Next up was Membership Secretary Katrina Budischak who recognized the incoming "Class of 2025" Life Members (see the separate article on this) as well as the many Past Section Presidents in attendance (see another separate article on this).

As dinner wound down President Brown wrapped up the evening and dismissed folks from the dinner space for a short break to have the room prepared for two of the evening's breakout sessions, with the third in an adjacent room. In closing the meeting, he thanked those present for their help in making this another successful season for the Section and dismissed folks to the breakout rooms to continue the evening with the three separate technical modules:

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 and Jeffrey Konrad, PE, Project Manager, Hardesty & Hanover

Construction Dewatering: Controlling Groundwater for Excavations and Maintenance

Sponsored by the Delaware Valley GeolInstitute

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

Joel Cummings, PE, Project Manager, AECOM and Michael Altomari, Jr., PennDOT

With that, the breakout meetings got started and another successful Section meeting season wrapped up.

Science Fairs – Projects Reviewed, Winners Selected

Our Section once again participated in the Delaware Valley Science Fairs this year. Our Special Awards are available for student projects that involve or touch on civil engineering topics and concepts, and we have managed to find and highlight a number of interesting and commendable efforts over the years. We have consistently found in our over 30 years of being part of the Fairs and offering our Special Awards that evaluating and picking the top projects is consistently a difficult task given the quality and interesting subject matter of the offerings. It was not made any easier this year with a record number of participants (close to 1000 students).

The plural in the Science Fairs title is not a typo, as the event is a compilation of 13 separate science fairs/events 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.

Our judging "contingent" included six volunteers this time, with four of the judges having done this

Continued on page 7

2025-26 SLATE OF SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION

The incoming slate of Section officers and Board members for the coming season has been developed by our Section's Nominating Committee has been formally adopted. These individuals have accepted their respective appointments and 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 service and wish them well in their spots.

N-ASCE*

SEPTA RE-DESIGNATES SOME BUS AND RAIL TRANSIT ROUTES, AND HOPEFULLY CONFUSION DOES NOT RESULT...

In mid-February, SEPTA completed the rebranding process for several bus routes and all of its rail transit services. Until that point some bus routes had letter designations, with seven of these holding on until six of them were changed to numbers. When the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company added bus services to its already extensive system of streetcar routes and the Market-Frankford El (and bus operation has been around for 100 years this year, the first routes starting in 1925), it gave the new routes letter designations to set them apart from the streetcar lines which had route numbers. This was additionally a key delineator as the fare to ride a bus was slightly higher (10 cents) than the 7½ cents one was charged to ride a trolley (8 cents cash fare, two tokens for 15 cents). As the bus network grew, with 26 letters, possibilities soon ran out, and new route designations such as C-1, D-1, H-1, R-1, Wa, XA, XB, XH and XO were used, in addition to numbers 83 and above as the letters were getting exhausted (and the system had a Route O but did not use it).

Conversion of trolley routes to buses after World War II and similar route consolidations muddled up this division and a system with mostly bus routes which evolved in the late 1950's merely carried the legacy designations forward. Over time since then, letters have been phased out as route restructurings occurred. One issue



ERIC L. FLICKER

Longtime Section Member and Life Member Eric Flicker passed away peacefully on March 31 in Savannah, GA, where he had relocated several years ago following his retirement.

Eric earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University along with his subsequent MBA. His professional career started at Spotts, Stevens, and McCoy in Reading in 1968 where he rose through the ranks and eventually became President. After several years locally at Woodward Clyde, he joined Pennoni, where he served as the Chief Financial Officer for 10 years and then moved into a Senior Consultant role prior to his retirement.

Eric's career was rewarding and his impact vast as a Civil Engineer with extensive background in developing municipal infrastructure projects, his service to the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) family serving as a national Chairman, and in Pennsylvania. He was additionally an active member of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, where he served as Club President in 2008-09, as well as our Section. He received our Section's Civil Engineer of the Year award in 2006 after having been cited as the Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year earlier that same year. He was active in several community service organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Philadelphia Education Fund, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, and Philadelphia Scholars, and helped to lead local Math Counts efforts.

An avid sports fan, Eric enjoyed Phantasy camp with the Phillies and was in the stadium when the Phils won both World Series titles in 1980 and 2008. He also closely followed the Eagles and was an avid golfer, but unfortunately never had a hole in one.

Eric is survived by his wife Gerry Ann, two sons, two stepdaughters, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A celebration of his life was conducted on April 12.

became apparent when two-way radios began to be used on transit vehicles in the mid-1980's and the lettered routes had to be given internal number references to be able to use the radio network, as only numbers were able to be used and displayed on the radio receivers.

When the letters finally went away, the last seven were G, H, J, K, L, R and XH, which morphed into 63, 71, 41, K, 51, 82 and 81 respectively, filling in gaps in the current number scheme. Route K will remain as the lone holdout until an anticipated route revision is put into effect in the next year or so. The destination signs on the buses will show both letter and number pulsing between the two for a transition period yet to be determined to help riders acclimate to this change.

On the rail transit side, the Market-Frankford Line becomes the L (makes sense, as most Philadelphians call this the El already), the Broad Street Line is now the B (with B1 local, B2 express and B3 Ridge Spur), and the Norristown High-Speed Line (once known as Route 100) is changing to the M. Trolley routes have new designations – 10 to T1, 11 to T4, 13 to T3, 34 to T2 and 36 to T5 for the subway-surface lines, 15 to G, 101 to D1 and 102 to D2.

Regional Rail remains as it has been with names of lines as the designations. You may recall a time not that long ago when these were R routes, and despite continued existence of references to

Continued on page 6

MEMBERS/SPONSORS IN THE NEWS

Cunningham Receives ACEC Distinguished Award of Merit

Early this year, the American Council of Engineering Companies of PA hosted the 2025 Diamond Awards of Engineering Excellence.

Janet B. Cunningham, PE, President of JBC Associates, Inc., was honored with the **Distinguished Award of Merit**, the organization's most prestigious award, for her leadership and contributions to the consulting engineering profession.



A product of the Philadelphia public schools, Janet's journey began with a Civil Engineering degree from Penn State University. In 1988, she founded JBC Associates, which has grown into one of Pennsylvania's largest and most respected women-owned construction management firms. Through her mentorship of young professionals and active advocacy for underrepresented groups, Janet has created lasting opportunities and fostered growth within the industry.

"You will find obstacles in life, but you can't give up. Don't let people discourage you," said Janet, speaking at a seminar in 2017 on the Importance of Women and Diversity in the Fields of Transportation, Engineering, and Public Service at Penn State University. She was humbled by the award presented to her. As she concluded her acceptance speech on stage, she declared a call-to-action to her industry peers, "Here is my ask to all of you tonight, be a mentor. Encourage the next generation of young professionals to get involved in organizations where they can make a difference. Help others shape the future of the profession."

We congratulate Janet on this achievement!

JBC Welcomes Davis

JBC Associates, Inc., welcomes **Thomas Davis, Jr.**, as Senior Vice President, Transportation Services. With an impressive 37 years of experience in the transportation construction services industry, Tom will oversee the firm's transportation construction management and inspection operations, ensuring projects align with client expectations and JBC's performance goals. Additionally, he will play a crucial role in business development and provide strategic leadership for JBC services across PennDOT Districts 4-0, 5-0, 6-0, and 8-0, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and other local agencies.

Prior to joining JBC, Tom worked in a similar capacity for a local engineering and construction management firm. He credits a former firm supervisor as his biggest inspiration in his career. While working as a construction inspector, he aspired to take on the role of a Project Manager and he approached said supervisor, who took an interest and mentored Tom, helping him grow into a successful manager and leader – a lesson not lost on Tom when it comes to mentoring others.

One of Tom's proudest achievements is his role as construction supervisor for the SR 33 – Lehigh River Bridge project involving construction of a simple-span approach and a four-span haunch truss structure with a total span of 1,869 feet, standing 180 feet above the Lehigh River, Oberly Island, Lehigh Canal, Canal Towpath, and Norfolk Southern Railroad. "We're very fortunate to have Tom join the JBC management team. He is a recognized leader in the industry and his knowledge of managing construction services in Pennsylvania will be invaluable as we continue to grow," says JBC President, Janet Cunningham, PE.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

As you have seen, the Section Sponsorship Program was once again popular this season, with 17 firms taking part and supporting us, the highest this level of participation has been for some time. 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.

In addition to our Section Sponsorship Program, the **Delaware Valley Geotechnical 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 42 (!) firms are the following:

AECOM	Keller
Aerix	Kleinfelder
Aero Aggregates*	Lafayette College
American Geotechnical and Environmental Services (AGES)	Langan Engineering and Environmental Services*
Colliers Engineering	Lehigh University
CGS	Menard Group USA
ConeTec	Michael Baker International
Drexel University	MRCE
Earth Engineering	Peirce Engineering
ECS	Pennoni*
Gannett Fleming TranSystems	Rimkus
GEI Consultants	Rowan University
GeoStructures	Schnabel Engineering
GeoStructures, Inc.	Subsurface Contractors
GRL Engineers	Temple University
GZA	University of Delaware
Haines & Kibblehouse	University of Pennsylvania
Hillis-Carnes Engineering Associates	Verdantas
HNTB	Villanova University*
Inova Geosynthetics	Widener University
James J. Anderson Construction	WSP

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

Members whom I've had the honor to work alongside to serve an even more amazing community of Civil Engineers. In addition to the Section Board, I must recognize the leaders who make up the Section's Younger Member Forum's Board, the Chairs of our Tech Groups, our committee members, and the student chapter leadership and advisors at Drexel, Swarthmore, Temple, Villanova, and Widener as their contributions are what drive the success of the Philadelphia Section.

Before I wrap up here, I want to congratulate my successor, and good friend, Jesse Gormley on his upcoming role as Philadelphia Section President. Trust me, you all will be in great hands!

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



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.



2025 Section Awards Recipients

Maybe our version of the Oscars, Emmys, Golden Globes, or even the Razzies, but let's hope something even better and more important – our Section Awards. These will be presented at our **Annual Spring Social** on **May 15**. More information and details on the Social are provided separately in this edition.

As usual, we received a number of strong nominations for Section Awards this year and the Awards Committee had the unenviable task to review the submissions and prepare a recommended slate of Award recipients. The recommended recipients have been approved by our Section Board of Directors. They are:

- *Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year* – **Sarah McInnes**, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
- *Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year* – **Briana Pampuch**, Langan
- *Geotechnical Engineer of the Year* – **Michael Giovannitti**, American Geotechnical and Environmental Services
- *Young Government Engineer of the Year* – **Christian Antisell**, PhilaPort
- *Government Service Award* – **Leslie Richards**, University of Pennsylvania (previously SEPTA)
- *Community Outreach and Service Award* – **Elvira-Marie Mikhael**, TPD

We hope you will be able to join us at the Social to honor our Awardees for this year.

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

NATIONAL REPORT CARD RELEASED

The grades are officially in, with the 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure awarding an overall grade of C. While this is the highest grade that's been given since ASCE's first Report Card, there's still much to be done to ensure infrastructure systems and communities thrive. Please visit www.infrastructurereportcard.org to view the new grades and accompanying reports.

As a reminder, the Pennsylvania Report Card will be issued next year. If you would like to be part of this effort, please see below on how you can help.

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

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

SEASON 112 SHORTLY IN THE "BOOKS"...

Following our April meeting, our Section Dinner series wraps up, with only the Spring Social remaining as a full-Section event. 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. With our Section's extended summer vacation nearly upon us, that means that *THE NEWS* goes away for a few months. (Please try to contain your disappointment...) Thus, this marks the last edition of the current season. We will return with new issues starting in September. As we have done over the past several years, we will additionally likely take a respite from our respite in early July and crank out a short summer edition.

Until then, it's time to shut down the "machinery" and take what we at *THE NEWS* will call a well-earned break after this edition is complete. We have a feeling some of you might be wondering that taking a break from something means that that something resulted in accomplishments or useful products, and we'll certainly leave that to individual opinion and judgement. You are welcome to direct any outrages to newseditor@asce-philly.org. We aren't sure when we'll read these (after all, it is our break), but we promise that we will read them at some point.

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'll be here to welcome you back in September, when you will once again wonder where the time went and try to remember what you did all summer...

N-ASCE – SEPTA RE-DESIGNATES SOME ROUTES

Continued from page 4

them on occasional signs and in the minds of many, it may be hard to believe that the R designations have been gone for nearly 15 years. Despite that, many riders still call them by their former R numbers. One of our Section's Life Members, Dr. Vukan Vuchic, developed the R system for the opening of the Center City Commuter Connection in 1984 (41 years ago...!) as trains which previously terminated or started in Center City were now able to run through the Tunnel and to new outlying endpoints. The R numbers helped to simplify the new through operation (as opposed to all routes terminating and starting at Reading Terminal or Suburban Station) for users.

If you remember the R numbers, you may have been around for the ill-fated renaming of the Subway and El as the Orange and Blue lines (along with the subway-surface cars as the Green Lines). This somewhat mimicked the very successful rebranding of Boston's rapid transit system in the mid-1960's that remains today. It never quite caught on locally.

Just in case you were wondering where that G bus went and why it's now a streetcar...

* N-ASCE – not always something concerning engineering...

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Continued from page 3

for many years. The group, led by Past Section President **Chris Rood**, included Past Presidents **Ruben David**, **Chris Menna**, **Briana Pampuch** and **Bob Wright**, and **Sharon Dotts**. The judges evaluated roughly 25 engineering-related projects to develop a short list of candidates to interview 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.



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 nature of civil engineering. Sometimes these projects cross different disciplines, and sometimes they are merely misclassified. Thus, this evaluation and review involves a bit of "legwork" and searching among the many project displays, often with at least glance at each of the individual (non-team) offerings to develop their candidate short-lists.

After considerable review and discussion, 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 9-12 1st place

The Perfect Curve: Arch Bridges Rise-to-Span Ratio

Adelina Cutrona

Souderton Area High School, Schwenksville, PA

Grades 9-12 2nd place

The Optimization and Performance of Custom Structural Joints

Selena Zhang

Souderton Area High School, Souderton, PA

Grades 6-8 1st place

Water You Waiting For? How Filters Affect Dirty Water

Emma Frank

Cedarbrook Middle School, Cheltenham, PA

Grades 6-8 2nd Place

How Does a Bridge Design Affect its Ability to Hold Weight?

Kaito Kiuchi

Moravian Academy, Easton, PA

The First Place winners will be invited to attend the Spring Social so they can share their projects and knowledge 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.

SPONSOR PROFILE

ARM Group's Comprehensive Engineering Solutions

ARM Group LLC is a nationally recognized engineering and science firm supporting clients across a variety of industries throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Our team includes highly skilled engineers, geologists, hydrogeologists, CAD technicians, and other professionals. We serve clients in industries including energy, construction, industrial, solid waste, water, mining, and transportation, just to name a few. With a focus on innovation, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness, we deliver tailored solutions to meet our clients' needs.

ARM Group is consistently recognized as a top engineering firm in the nation. Our *Engineering News-Record (ENR)* rankings include:

Top 500 Design Firms in the U.S.

Top 200 Environmental Firms

Top Mid-Atlantic Design Firms



Additionally, ARM Group has been recognized as the **#1 Energy Consultant** by the *Central Penn Business Journals* as well as named one of the **Best Places to Work**.

At ARM Group, we provide a full range of engineering and consulting services. Our integrated approach allows us to manage projects from initial site assessments through design, permitting, and construction oversight, streamlining the process and maintaining the highest standards of quality, safety, and efficiency. This allows our clients to focus on their projects with confidence, knowing they have a trusted partner handling every aspect of the work.

Our service areas include civil, geotechnical, environmental, and water resources engineering, along with waste management, site development, and energy infrastructure solutions. We



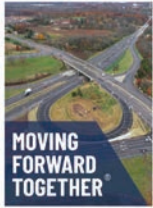
collaborate across service areas to address every aspect of a project. For example, our civil and geotechnical teams work closely to design site layouts, foundations, and earthwork solutions that ensure stability and long-term performance. Meanwhile, our environmental specialists handle regulatory compliance, sampling, permitting, and remediation, keeping projects moving forward smoothly. To round it all out, our field services teams provide testing, monitoring, and construction support, making sure everything stays on track and meets industry standards.

Beyond ARM Group's core services, our clients benefit from the broader capabilities of ARM Group Enterprises — including expertise in energy and power systems engineering, automation, panel building, electrical repair, and field testing. These entities include ARM EnerTech, which delivers custom automation solutions and control panel manufacturing, and ARM CAMCO, which provides electrical repair, maintenance, and testing services to support power systems and infrastructure. These enterprise-wide synergies allow us to deliver end-to-end solutions for projects, reducing the need for multiple vendors and ensuring seamless project execution.

By combining engineering expertise within ARM Group and the extended capabilities of ARM Group Enterprises, we offer a truly integrated approach that drives innovation, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness.

At ARM Group, we don't just deliver technical solutions—we care deeply about the success of every project and the people behind them. From concept to completion, we're here to support your goals with dedication, expertise, and a genuine commitment to doing what's right. At the end of the day, we bring both strategy and execution under one roof—helping clients prevent risks, control costs, and deliver stronger project outcomes. Discover how we can help bring your vision to life at www.armgroup.net.

VIP Title Sponsors



An ENR 500
Top Design Firm
serving the
eastern United
States since 1989
TPDinc.com



**GANNETT
FLEMING**

TRANSYSTEMS



ARM Group
Engineers and Scientists

Precise. Responsive. Solutions.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

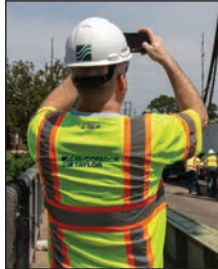


VILLANOVA URBAN
STORMWATER PARTNERSHIP

Advancing the evolving field of sustainable stormwater
management and fostering the development of public and
private partnerships through research.

BECOME A MEMBER

www.villanova.edu/vusp



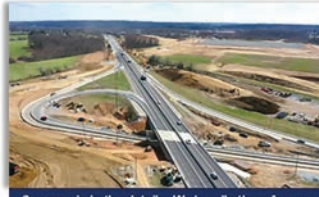
**McCORMICK
TAYLOR**

SHAPING OUR
COMMUNITIES FOR
OVER 75 YEARS

Proud to be named a Top
Workplace in the Philadelphia/
Delaware Valley Region
mccormicktaylor.com



ASSOCIATES, INC.
Project
Management
Construction
Management
Construction
Inspection
Disputes
Resolution



Success is in the details. We handle them for you.

610-992-9090 www.jbcassociates.com WBEDB



**URBAN
ENGINEERS**

urbanengineers.com
215.922.8080

HNTB

The HNTB Companies
Infrastructure Solutions
www.hntb.com



Allentown | Harrisburg | King of Prussia
Philadelphia | Pittsburgh

Integrated Engineering and
Environmental Solutions

LANGAN

ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

215.491.6500 www.langan.com

Michael Baker
INTERNATIONAL



Bowman

1515 Market Street
Suite 1360
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.433.1660

Transportation Solutions
for Better Communities

bowman.com



**CDM
Smith**
cdmsmith.com

listen. think. deliver.

HARRISBURG
3605 Vartan Way,
Suite 202
Harrisburg, PA 17110
1.717.541.4001

WAYNE
993 Old Eagle School Road,
Suite 408
Wayne, PA 19087
1.610.293.0450

PHILADELPHIA
Two Penn Center Plaza,
1500 JFK Boulevard,
Suite 1208
Philadelphia, PA 19102
1.215.636.0600

**YOUR CARD
CAN BE HERE!**

CONTACT US AT
newseditor@asce-philly.org

WILKINSON
DESIGN GROUP, LLC