



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 97-2

Our 112th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

October 2024



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)

**SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE
2024–25**

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is currently in the very preliminary stages and our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. The information we have at this point is provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, this information will be “fine-tuned” to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program. As we have done, each month’s edition of *THE NEWS* will feature detailed information on that month’s meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month’s meeting, and the “look-ahead” schedule will show details that are available at that time for your advance awareness. E-mail blasts will be sent out on a regular basis to advise and remind of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

We also note the advantage of joint meetings with other societies and will continue to schedule these as we can.

Also, our Technical Groups and Institutes will have their usual programs of meetings and events which will be noted in e-blasts.

2024

December 10 – Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia Multi-Society Meeting

2025

January 15 (Wednesday) – joint meeting with American Society of Highway Engineers

February, to be determined

March 13

April 10

May – Spring Social, to be determined

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, October 10, 2024

Maggiano’s Little Italy, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th St.), Center City
Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

SUBJECT: Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project

SPEAKERS: Jen Reigle, Principal Design Manager, Amtrak

Pete Mazzeo, Project Manager, HNTB

Kevin Poad, Deputy Project Manager, Civil, HNTB

RESERVATION DEADLINE – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4. The cost per attendee is \$50, with a half-price (\$25) cost for government agency employees and students, for reservations received by this deadline.

Reservations can be made through our website (www.asce-philly.org) and paid via PayPal or by check. This option will NOT be available after the reservation deadline. Checks, made payable to “Philadelphia Section ASCE”, will be accepted at the reservation table at the door as an option to electronic payment. Reservations received after the deadline and “walk-ups” without prior reservations paying at the door will be subject to a higher charge and on a space-available/standby basis.

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. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.** Walk-ins and anyone without a reservation will be handled on a space-available basis.

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

ACCESS AND PARKING: Maggiano’s is a short walk from SEPTA’s Jefferson Regional Rail station and a half-block from bus routes, the Subway-Surface Trolleys and the Market-Frankford Line on Market Street. There is a parking garage directly above the restaurant for which validation can be offered for a reduced price.

Continued on page 2

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.

– Andy Rooney

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

American Society of Civil Engineers, Philadelphia Section

THURSDAY, November 14, 2024

Maggiano’s Little Italy, 1201 Filbert Street (corner of 12th St.), Center City
Cocktails 5:30 PM, Dinner 6:30 PM, Presentation Follows (approximately 7:30 PM)

Please hold the date and time for this. More information will be provided in the November edition of *THE NEWS*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Thinking back to how my ASCE journey began, I'd love to tell you that it began back in college, but it was when I responded to a request for volunteers to help with the Younger Member Forum's (YMF) CANstruction team. Prior to seeing the request for volunteers in the ASCE Philadelphia Section's newsletter, I had read articles and saw news stories on CANstruction competitions, and I had always thought it would be fun to be part of it. One would think I jumped

on the opportunity to volunteer, but that wasn't the case; I was self-conscious, and I was nervous to interact with other Civil Engineering professionals. My fear was that I wasn't smart enough and I wouldn't fit in. The reason I decided to volunteer was because I didn't want to let my fears keep me away from something I really wanted to do. I may be biased, but I'd like to think that the ASCE Philadelphia Section has something that is of interest to you whether it's the monthly Dinner Meetings; serving on one of our committees; Section socials; community service; student outreach; the Career Fair; or government relations, I'm confident there is something for you. If not, please reach out to us and let us know what programming you'd like to see.

This year I'll be working with the Board to try some new things and broaden our offerings to you, our members, and the community. Here are a few of those things:

We now have 2 tiers of annual sponsorship! Tier 1 is \$300, and Tier 2 is \$500. Please reach out to **Bob Wright** (rwright@bowman.com) for sponsor benefits and to sponsor

- We're working towards a partnership with the Heights Philadelphia program in efforts to connect with students in the Philadelphia Public Schools
- We're connecting with MANNA to plan a volunteer event in their local meal kitchen
- We're looking to plan at least one construction tour
- We're creating a Section JEDI Task Committee to review the Section's documentation and operations and provide recommendations on how we can be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. If you're interested in serving on this committee, complete the [Committee Interest Form](#)

I truly hope you can find the opportunity that allows you to start (or continue) your ASCE journey. Thank you for trusting me to lead the Section this year and I look forward to continuing my service to you.

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

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

Continued from page 1

Please join us as we return to one of our favorite locations for this at Maggiano's after our summer "vacation."

As part of investing in the New Era of Rail, Amtrak is modernizing infrastructure along the Northeast Corridor (NEC). The Susquehanna River Rail Bridge (SRRB) is a 117-year-old, two-track bridge spanning the Susquehanna River between the City of Havre de Grace in Harford County, MD, and the Town of Perryville in Cecil County, MD. It is a critical link and the longest moveable bridge along the NEC. The aging bridge will be replaced with two parallel new structures to maintain future rail services across the Susquehanna River while providing improvements to capacity, trip time and safety for commuter, freight, and intercity passenger rail services.

This project is supported by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) through a \$2.08 billion Fed-State NEC grant from the Federal Railroad Administration. The Project Team will provide an overview of this crucial transportation project including project benefits, design and construction challenges, and status to date. The team will also discuss innovations implemented to best optimize design, cost, schedule, and constructability.

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

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, JMT

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 NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE
OCTOBER 11, 2024**

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

AWARD NAMED FOR BEST

The **Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)** honored long-time member (and Section Life Member) **Susan Best** with the establishment of its Susan L. Best Legacy of Service Award. This award, established and first presented this year, recognizes a member of ITE's Mid-Colonial District (MCDITE) for years of exemplary service to ITE and the transportation profession in general. The award is named in honor of Susan to cite her dedication and several years of service to MCDITE and the Mid-Atlantic Section of ITE (MASITE).



Susan has served in several positions in the organization, including MASITE President in 1992, MCDITE President in 1996, MCDITE International Director from 2007 through 2009, and MCDITE Administrator from 2009 through 2024. Her volunteer services were critical in providing direction and guidance to the MCDITE board to serve its membership to the best of their abilities while adhering to ITE guidelines.

The inaugural recipient of Susan L. Best Legacy of Service award recipient is **Sidney New**. The award was presented to Sid at the ITE International Conference in Philadelphia in July. We congratulate both Susan and Sid on this honor. Congratulations, and thank you for many years of service, Sid!

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION NAMES KAVANAGH AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) has appointed Past Section President **Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, PE** as its next Executive Director, effective December 1, 2024.

Kristen has served as the DRBC's Deputy Executive Director for the past five years, during which time she has led the DRBC's technical and managerial teams in implementing the Commission's water resources programs, forged a partnership with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to advance hazard mitigation and climate resilience and secured grant funding from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund to advance scientific studies not otherwise feasible under current budgets, among other projects. Since 2020, she has served as staff liaison to the DRBC's Advisory Committee on Climate Change.

Prior to joining the DRBC, Kristen served as the President and Principal Engineer at Flow Science Incorporated where she led business operations and development and had significant roles in hydrodynamic and water quality modeling studies for use in adaptive management plans, spill response plans and long-term planning and operations. She holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and eight other states. We congratulate Kristen on this appointment.

TIGER NOW PRACTICE LEADER

JMT is pleased to announce that Past Section President **Mark Tiger** has stepped into the aviation practice leader role, bringing his extensive experience and vision to guide the practice forward.

With more than 35 years of engineering experience dedicated to airports across the country, Mark has become a well-known leader in the aviation engineering community in the Northeast and beyond.

Previously, as the deputy practice leader for aviation, Mark played a key role in marketing, strategic planning, business development, operational success, and the professional development of aviation staff across JMT's network. This background equips him to lead the practice toward ongoing growth and exceptional service.

We wish good luck to Mark in his new position.

URBAN MOVES MCBRIDE UP

Urban Engineers recently announced that **Brian McBride, PE**, received a well-deserved promotion to Deputy Practice Leader for PA East Region Construction Management. Nicely done, Brian!

NEWS FROM NATIONAL



Ignite Innovation. Forge the Future.

Election Results

The results of the recent election of National officers were announced in early June:

PRESIDENT-ELECT ELECT:

Marsha Anderson Bomar, Ph.D., AICP, ENV SP, F.ITE, F.ASCE

REGION 2 GOVERNOR-ELECT:

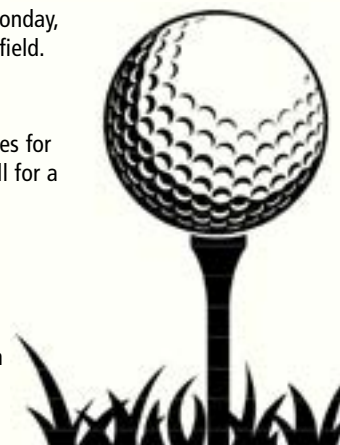
Elizabeth M. Wheeler, P.E., M.ASCE

THE MULFORD CLASSIC – GOLF OUTING

Once again, the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia will be conducting its annual Philadelphia Engineering Foundation (PEF)/Mulford Classic Golf Outing. This event, the 9th Annual Mulford Classic as well as the 25th Annual PEF Outing, will be held on Monday, October 14 at the Bala Golf Club in Wynnefield. Various sponsorships, foursomes, and individual play are available.

If you're not a golfer, volunteer opportunities for various event duties are available. This is all for a good cause – PEF funds and administers college student scholarships and prizes in conjunction with the Engineers' Club that are awarded during Engineers Week.

Please visit the Engineers' Club website (www.engrclub.org) for more information and registration.



THE 2024 SPRING SOCIAL – BACK TO “NORMAL” AND WITH A NOT-SO-NORMAL TURNOUT...

As in 2023, our Section conducted a single Spring Social event in-person to close out the 2023-24 season. Thus, on a nice spring evening on May 16, an almost room-filling crowd of about 140 gathered at The Cescaphe Down Town Club atop the Public Ledger Building in Center City to do what we do at the Social, i.e., get together, network, be social, thank our outgoing Officers and Board of Directors, induct the incoming slate of Officers and Board members, cite our Delaware Valley Science Fairs awardees and Section Scholarship winners, and recognize those who would be receiving Section Awards. As always, it was quite an agenda of things to do for a relatively short evening, but we did it.

President **Joe Natale** conducted his last official act in this capacity by opening the evening and getting all settled into their seats after a great networking/cocktail hour with a spread of appetizers that could have easily been one's meal. During the networking session many folks enjoyed the nice view of Old City and the historic area. Once all were seated dinner commenced, followed by the orders of business of the evening. The usual slide show/Powerpoint was presented to cite the Section Award recipients. This year's awardees are noted below.

Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year

The recipient of our highest honor, the Philadelphia Civil Engineer of the Year award, is **Harry Laspee**. Harry serves as a Senior Engineer in the Transportation Division at Pennoni at its headquarters in Center City. He has been with the firm for 45 years and started with the firm following his graduation from college. He manages the design and contract administration of public works improvement projects for both private and governmental agencies, including bridges, highways, water distribution systems and sanitary and stormwater conveyance systems. Over the course of his career, he has been in responsible charge of the design of public improvements with a combined construction cost of over \$1 billion. He has been involved in many aspects of work including administration of design activities, survey liaison, highway design, utility, and railroad coordination, permitting, preparation of specifications, cost and schedule estimates, and owner and construction liaison and engineering services. He has been available for construction engineering opportunities as well, including the review of shop drawings and responses to requests for information.

Harry has been a key part of many significant roadway, transportation and city utility improvement projects throughout the City and region during his career. Among these, most recently, he was heavily involved in the quick turnaround needed for protection and maintenance of critical sewer and water infrastructure as part of the I-95 emergency response and restoration of the Cottman Avenue interchange bridges that started last summer.

Harry earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering and Construction Technology from Temple University in 1978 and graduated cum laude. He is a member of the American Society of Highway Engineers in addition to ASCE and has professional engineering licensure in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He was previously recognized as our Section's Civil Engineering Manager of the Year in 1996 for his notable efforts and service. He and his wife live in Somerton.

Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer of the Year

Our Philadelphia Young Civil Engineer is **Kirsten Kennedy**. Kirsten is a Project Manager in the Aviation group at Michael Baker International at its offices in Center City and Hamilton, New Jersey. She has been with Baker for the past 2 years and has a total of 9 years of engineering experience. As project manager she has worked for a variety of aviation clients and providers ranging from small general aviation airports to large commercial and military facilities. She

is passionate about designing projects with constructability and airport operations in mind while providing a quality project with the best value to each client. She believes her achievements and recognition are most evident in the leadership responsibility that has been entrusted to her throughout her career. She was recently promoted to project manager and is most proud of the efforts she has been able to lead throughout her career. Prior to her joining Baker, she worked in both construction and design at two firms.

Kirsten received her Bachelors degrees in Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering from Drexel University in 2015. She is very involved in our Section's Younger Member Forum, where she served as last season's Forum President and has held various positions over the past 9 years, including service as the initial chair of DEI efforts. She is additionally very active with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar and the American Association of Airport Executives and leads several committees and activities in each of these groups. She has professional engineering registration in 3 states. In her spare time she enjoys staying active through yoga, dancing, running and taking workout classes. She and her husband live in Center City.

Government Engineer of the Year

Elias Issac was selected for our Government Engineer of the Year honors. Elias serves as an Engineering Project Design and Construction Project Manager for the Philadelphia Department of Public Property. He has been with City government in several capacities for the past 17 years and at his current position since 2015. His duties include project management in a supervisory role, which involves the design, construction, renovation and maintenance of City-owned buildings and facilities, and the related electrical, mechanical and water supply systems and equipment. This involves direction of both design activities through in-house forces and outside consultants through professional services contracts and construction contracts handled by contractors. Prior to his current appointment in the Department of Public Property he held several positions in the Department of Streets mainly related to construction and design review. Before his City career he was employed by government agencies in New York and the state of Kerala, India for 15 years, handling various engineering duties.

Elias received his Bachelors degree from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum, Kerala in India in 1987, and he obtained additional degrees from the Kerala Law Academy in Kerala and the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. He is a registered chartered engineer in the Institution of Engineers in India and holds several professional certifications as well. He and his wife are residents of Bustleton.

Geotechnical Engineer of the Year

Ernest Hanna is this year's recipient of our Geotechnical Engineer of the Year award. Ernie is a Senior Principal and Senior Vice President with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. in Center City and serves as President of Goldberg-Zoino Associates of New York. He has been with these firms for the past 38 years. His professional contributions have covered a range of environmental and geotechnical projects from multi-site due diligence to remedial action, and building foundations, to bridges, dams, and tunnels. He is generally responsible for data review, site investigation coordination/oversight, engineering design, and report preparation as the Principal-in-Charge or as an independent Consultant/Reviewer. In addition, he is involved with business development, professional development and staff training / mentoring. He began his career at the firm's office in Buffalo and moved to Philadelphia in 2009 to lead the company's presence in our area.

Ernie graduated from the University of Rochester with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and geology in 1979 and returned to graduate school to obtain his Masters degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin in 1986. He is a Life Member of ASCE, first becoming involved while a graduate student in 1984. He has remained an active member of ASCE both at the Buffalo Section as well in our area. He has been very involved in the Delaware Valley GeolInstitute in addition to being a member of the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia and several other professional

Continued on page 5

Spring Social

Continued from page 4

societies. He has served as the Chair for the STEM high school student and teacher recognition efforts for Delaware Valley Engineers Week for the past several years as well. He and his wife reside in Fairmount.

Civil Engineering Manager of the Year

Our nominee for Civil Engineering Manager of the Year honors is **Monica Trudeau**. Monica is the Vice President, Project Management and Engineering, with the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation. She has been with PIDC for the past 17 years and was promoted to Vice President in 2021. She is responsible for planning, managing and executing a range of projects in support of PIDC's real estate portfolio, including direction and management of capital projects both in design and construction, as well as concept development and asset management, and providing technical support to the corporation's real estate finance team as part of PIDC's role in promotion of commercial development and job attraction for Philadelphia. A particular focus of her duties concentrates on efforts at the Navy Yard, which the corporation manages and oversees development. She has been a key member of the update of the 2022 Navy Yard Master Plan document and managed the recently-completed Broad Street quay wall reconstruction as well as several projects on city streets implemented as part of the ReStore program for neighborhood commercial corridors.

Monica graduated with high honors from the College of Engineering at Rutgers University with her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1994 and worked with a consulting firm before joining PIDC in 2007. She is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She is a fan of all Philadelphia sports teams and enjoys traveling. She and her husband reside in Fox Chase.

Young Government Engineer of the Year

Our award for the Young Government Engineer of the Year for 2024 is presented to **Timothy Abel**. Tim is with Amtrak and holds the position of Manager of Mid-Atlantic Structures Production, where he is responsible for the complete technical and administrative oversight of the railroad's Mid-Atlantic Structures Production Division. This group is comprised of over 80 bridge workers, foremen, and supervisors, and 2 field engineering managers. It plans and executes the completion of priority maintenance work on culverts, bridges, passenger station platforms and track structure, bridge timbers, fencing and embankment slopes along the Northeast Corridor right-of-way between Philadelphia and Washington, DC as well as the Keystone Corridor between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. His duties include developing the Division's annual fiscal year program and managing day-to-day project schedules, scopes, fees, manpower allocation, material, equipment, and service procurement, track outage planning, and related activities. He has been with Amtrak for the past 2 years after several years service at a local consulting firm.

Tim earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware in 2015 and a subsequent Masters degree from Villanova University in 2020. He is active in our Section's Younger Member Forum and has been part of the Forum's Board as well as a past Forum President. His additional various volunteer activities outside of the engineering realm helped him to be cited with our Section's Community Outreach and Service Award in 2018 as well as our Young Civil Engineer honors in 2020. Tim and his wife are residents of Fishtown.

Government Service Award

We are pleased to cite **Charles Davies** as the recipient of our Government Service Award. Chuck is the Assistant District Executive for Design at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's District 6, located in King of Prussia. District 6 encompasses the 5-county Philadelphia metropolitan area and serves the most populous part of the Commonwealth and arguably has the busiest and most complex highway network of PennDOT's 11 Engineering Districts. In his position he directs all design activities undertaken by the District, both through in-house forces as well as in consultant contracts for the most major and involved efforts, for highway and bridge projects.

During his tenure in several positions, which included District Bridge Engineer prior to his promotion to Assistant District Executive, he was instrumental in leading the reduction of poor condition bridge area in the region from 24% in 2006 to 6% in 2024. He is particularly proud of his involvement and role in notable projects, including the reconstruction of the Gustine Lake interchange, the 30th Street Station Structure rehabilitation including the Porch, the Kennedy Boulevard bridges rehabilitation and street reconstruction, the Chestnut Street Bridge rehabilitation, the I-95 Girard Avenue interchange, the bridges over I-676 including the Ben Franklin Parkway, the Richmond Street reconstruction in Port Richmond, the US 422 bridges and interchange at Valley Forge, and the various Historic Stone Arch bridge rehabilitations throughout the District.

Chuck received his Bachelors degree in Fine Arts from Edinboro University in 1977, and returned to school to pursue a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Temple University in 1986 with a subsequent Masters in Structural Engineering from Drexel University in 1993. He and his wife live in Wayne.

Community Outreach and Service Award

We are pleased to recognize two individuals who are being cited for our Community Outreach and Service Award.

Kerianne Chen serves as a Highway Design Specialist with Traffic Planning and Design at the firm's Center City office and has been with TPD for the past 4 years. Her duties include development of horizontal and vertical design for driveway access, assistance with PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permits and DelDOT Entrance Permitting, design and analysis of roadway drainage, ADA elements, and multimodal shared-used path projects, and project design documentation and coordination. She received her Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 2020. She has been an active member of our Section's Younger Member Forum and has served in several positions including K-12 Outreach Chair, and has been a mentor in YMF as well as in WTS' TransportationYou program. She lives in Fairmount.

Martin Williams serves as a Senior Engineer at KMJ Consulting in Ardmore. He has been at his current level for the past three years with a total of thirteen years at the firm. He has responsibility for technical aspects of various projects, including traffic signal design, ADA curb ramp design, maintenance and protection of traffic plans, and signing and pavement marking plans. He received his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 2012, graduating with distinction from the Pennoni Honors College. He has been active with our Section's Younger Member Forum in several capacities and has been a member of the Forum's Board since 2019. He lives in Roxborough.

Per our tradition, we invited our First Place winners in the Delaware Valley Science Fairs to attend the Social and display their award-winning projects. Our 6th-8th Grade recipient, **Srinkkesh Senthikumar**, of the Valley Forge Middle School in Wayne, was able to be at the Social with his project, "'Truss' the Process: An Examination of Load Distribution". Additionally, the recipients of our Section Scholarships, **Paige Cutler** of Clarkson University (Section Member Scholarship) and **Kris Melag** of Drexel University (Section Student Scholarship), were present and honored accordingly.

Special thanks are extended to those who helped make the Social a success:

Spring Social Committee – Troy Illig (Chair), Kevin Brown, Assunta Daprano, Jesse Gormley, Thomas Kulesher, Joe Natale, Briana Pampuch, Bob Wright

Awards Committee – Bob Wright (Chair), Assunta Daprano, Carol Martsof, Allan Moore, Joe Natale

Awards Narrators – Carol Martsof, Bob Wright

We will begin planning for the 2025 Social later this fall.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS – 34th YEAR OF THIS PROGRAM!

At this early point in our season, we are proud to note that 12 firms have agreed to participate in our Section Sponsor program. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

And, as noted in the title, this is the 34th season of our sponsorship program. When this started in our 1991-92 season, there were nine firms that participated in it (one remains at present!). Thanks to all of you have participated in this over the years.

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors' own websites 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.

We *THE NEWS* contacted last year's sponsors in late August to determine their interest for this season, so if you were "in" last year but haven't yet renewed, we look forward to having you back.

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

We are also offering a higher level of sponsorship this year, which will offer an opportunity for a firm to be featured as the exclusive sponsor of our regular e-mail blasts. This would entail a sponsor to be highlighted in the Section blasts that will be going out for a particular month and would be limited to one month per sponsor. This will be available for a \$500 fee.

In case you were wondering, the nine "original" sponsors were the following. You are correct if you might think some of them no longer exist.

- BCM Engineers Inc.
- Drexel University (J. Richard Weggel, PhD, PE)
- Lippincott Engineering Associates
- National Timber Piling Council
- Pennoni Associates, Inc.
- Pickering Corts & Summerson, Inc.
- The RBA Group
- Reutter Engineering
- Temple University

2024 ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum and Leader Orientation

On September 15 and 16, over 100 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors, incoming Society Directors, Technical Region Leaders, Committee Members, and Presidential Officers from around the world participated in the 2024 Presidents and



Governors Forum and Leader Orientation at ASCE Headquarters. This event hosted by the Leader Training Committee provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, discuss best practices, and develop leadership skills that would benefit their ASCE groups.

The program began with a Welcome and Society Overview by President-elect Feniosky A. Peña-Mora and Executive Director Tom Smith. Following the welcome, the participants were engaged in a 2-part dynamic leadership session on "It's Not Where You Start, It's Where You Finish!" by COL Jim O'Brien, P.E., M.ASCE. Brock Barry, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE from West Point brought his expertise to the table with presentations on Nonverbal Communication Skills and Presentation Skills – How to Wow Your Audience! Afterwards our Section and Branch leaders shared successful programs and activities during our Best Practices sessions. ASCE's General Counsel Tara

ASCE Day – NOVEMBER 5

In 1852, twelve esteemed Engineers gathered in New York City to establish what would become the American Society of Civil Engineers. **November 5** will mark the Society's **172nd anniversary**, so mark your calendars for this ASCE Day. And with this being on a weekend, that keeps things wide open for extended celebrations, etc., as you may need... Hence our giving you a month's plus advance notice on this.

Also, we have heard there's some sort of election going on that day as well...

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.

SECTION COMMITTEES

If you have an interest in helping and/or would like to join a Committee, please reach out to us at an e-mail address we have set up for this, volunteer@asce-philly.org, or through our Section Secretary, **Dani Schroeder** (contact information is provided on page 2). Committee Chairs are being updated and this information will be made available shortly.

- ASCE Brochure
- ASCE National Conference (2026)
- ASCE Philadelphia Report Card Promotion
- Audit
- Awards (includes Engineers Week Hall of Fame Recognition)
- Budget and Finance
- College Scholarship
- Communications (includes E-mail Outreach, Newsletter, Sponsorship, Website)
- Continuing Education
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Humphrey Fund
- Membership
- Nominating (for Board Positions)
- Program (includes Meeting Check-in/Name Tags and Venue Coordination)
- Society Relations (includes Legislative Affairs, PA Council and Region 2)
- Spring Social
- Subsidiary Groups (includes Technical Groups/Institutes and Younger Member Forum)

Hoke capped off the day with a presentation on Legal Issues impacting ASCE's local groups.

On the second day attendees participated in an interactive session with President-elect **Feniosky Peña-Mora**, President-elect **Elect Marsha Anderson Bomar**, and Executive Director **Tom Smith**, followed by an engaging discussion on *Proposed Changes to ASCE Membership* from Society Director, **Ken Mika**. The day continued with attendees discussing Section/Branch Challenges and Brainstorming a Presidential Plan and Sharing Measurable Goals and Lessons Learned. And we ended the day with closing remarks by our 2025 ASCE President-elect, **Marsha Anderson Bomar**.

The overall sentiment was that the program was reinvigorating, energizing, and motivational.

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUMS NEWS – NEW OFFICERS

YMF met for a combined election/happy hour at Brahuas Schmitz on May 20. Younger members of the Section were able to vote to elect the upcoming year’s Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer).

Following the election, the incoming, current, and past Presidents met to appoint members to fill the other Board positions. These appointed individuals typically either held a Board position previously or reached out to express interest in serving on the Board. All elected and appointed Board members serve a one-year term, which began on June 1.

Please join us in welcoming the following members to the **2024-25 YMF Board:**

Assunta Daprano	President (AECOM)
Kevin Walsh	Vice President (HNTB)
Christopher Medora	Secretary (AECOM)
Kayla Nelson	Treasurer (Schnabel Engineering)
Kirsten Kennedy	Past President (Michael Baker International)
Timothy Abel	Second Past President (Amtrak)

COMMITTEE/GROUP CHAIRS

Awards	Katie Wade (JMT)
CivE Club	Nooraldean Dabdoub (TPD)
	Emma Youngs (Amtrak)
College Contact	Lexi Gawelko (GeoDecisions)
	Kris Melag (W.S.Cumby Construction)
Community Service	Christian Antisell (PhilaPort)
	Kevin Malley (Philadelphia Water Department)
Information Technology	Tyler Farley (TPD)
JEDI	James Stanton (Michael Baker International)
K-12 Outreach	Kerianne Chen (TPD)
	Elvira-Marie Mikhael (TPD)
Professional Development	Anthony Ableman (Keller)
	Cory Bogas (HNTB)
Public Relations	Laurel Welch (Urban Engineers)
Social Events	Zachariah Abbas (Gannett Fleming Transystems)
	Gina Venuto (STV)
Social Media	Alyssa Pizzi (J & M Preservation Studio)
Student Member Transition	Hannah Booz (McCormick Taylor)
Technical Events	Anthony Rizzo (Pennoni)
	Marty Williams (KMJ)

We thank these individuals for their willingness to serve and commit their time, as well as those who served this past year.

Event Recap: End of Summer Happy Hour

August 27

Almost 50 young engineers gathered at Urban Village for the YMF’s End of Summer Happy Hour and group photo. Those who attended networked with new faces and caught up with familiar ones over an assortment of appetizers and refreshing beverages. Thank you to all who attended!



ASCE YMF Mentor Program

Calling all college students and young professionals! The Philly YMF Mentor Program is now open for sign-ups. This program connects local ASCE students and young members with industry professionals in one-on-one relationships aimed at supporting the mentees’ career and professional development goals. Interest forms for both mentors and mentees can be found below. Sign-ups close September 30.

Mentor: <https://forms.gle/oMhwBuZwkkYdGnsl6>

Mentee: <https://forms.gle/hpZ3S4RpX8ADBLSU6>

N-ASCE*

WE’VE REACHED PEAK CIVIL ENGINEERING INNOVATION – BEHOLD THE CONCRETE CANOE CUPHOLDER

Civil Engineering history is a story of innovation – from the first roads and the genius of the arch bridge to the modern skyscraper and smart city. And now the students at Rowan University have added their own chapter to that book of Civil Engineering breakthrough, the concrete canoe cupholder. It’s an innovation elegant in its simplicity, as practical as it is brilliant. Four circular impressions made during casting day, two on each side of the canoe. Perfect to keep the canoeist refreshed and comfortable during the race.

“It was an idea I brought up in passing,” said Jake Block, captain of the Rowan concrete canoe team. “What if we put cupholders in our canoe? A member of our team had an empty water bottle, so during casting, he pressed the water bottle in one side, and it actually worked. So now we have a picture of our team with a drink in one hand and a drink in their cupholder sailing across the ocean.”

Rowan took its cupholders and its concrete canoe to the 2024 ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah in June. Unfortunately for the Rowan team the University of Florida rowed away with the title, winning the 37th annual Concrete Canoe Competition. Rowan was among 25 student teams that qualified for the finals. It was a great chance to compete but also connect with and learn from fellow students from around the country.

For the record, Rowan debuted the cupholders innovation last year. Their canoe that qualified to nationals in 2023 had two cupholders. This year’s canoe, though, is twice as good. “We do have four cupholders, yes,” Block said. “This is a big talking point. Whenever we bring it up to someone, we say, ‘Not only do we have two cupholders, we have four cupholders.’”

“We’re just looking for a good time,” Block said. “I think for most of us, this is our first time in Utah, so, on top of competing, we also want to explore our surroundings and see what’s out there. And it’s our second straight time to nationals, so we’re excited to see everybody, meet the other teams, and have some fun.”

The Rowan team’s canoe this year is named Chariot with a Roman Empire theme (switch the “w” for an “m” and Rowan becomes Roman, get it?). It begs the question: did the cupholder actually originate with the ancient Romans?

“I haven’t done my research, but we’re going to assume so!” Block said. “I can’t imagine they wouldn’t have cupholders. Where would they put their goblets and chalices?”

*N-ASCE – not always something concerning Engineering

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.



listen.think.deliver.

CDM Smith
cdmsmith.com

HARRISBURG	WAYNE	PHILADELPHIA
3605 Vartan Way, Suite 202 Harrisburg, PA 17110 1.717.541.4001	993 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 408 Wayne, PA 19087 1.610.293.0450	Two Penn Center Plaza, 1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1208 Philadelphia, PA 19102 1.215.636.0600

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/uvsp

HNTB

The HNTB Companies
Infrastructure Solutions
www.hntb.com

Allentown | Harrisburg | King of Prussia
Philadelphia | Pittsburgh

TFB

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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

TFBinc.com

McCORMICK TAYLOR

SHAPING OUR COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 75 YEARS

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

mccormicktaylor.com

Integrated Engineering and Environmental Solutions

LANGAN

215.491.6100 www.langan.com

URBAN ENGINEERS

urbanengineers.com
215.922.8080

Michael Baker INTERNATIONAL

JBC

Project Management
Construction Management
Construction Inspection
Dispute Resolution

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

610-883-1000 www.jbcconcrete.com

GANNETT FLEMING | **TRANSYSTEMS**

Pennoni SMART SOLUTIONS

Applying today's innovations to make tomorrow's world smarter.

YOUR CARD CAN BE HERE!

CONTACT US AT
newseditor@asce-philly.org

Bowman

1515 Market Street
Suite 1360
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215.433.1660
bowman.com

Transportation Solutions for Better Communities