



# SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION

**ASCE SC Section**

**FY2022-2023 Newsletter**

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**FY22-23 President's Pen**

**Dear ASCE SC Section Members:**

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is with great pleasure that I write to you today as the President of the SC Section. As we embark on this exciting journey together, I want to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and share our vision for the future.

My vision for the 2022-2023 fiscal year was to continue to advance the goals the Board defined in previous years - keeping the Infrastructure Report Card front and center, build on the success of reinvigorating the Fall Conference, promote ASCE SC Section through the use of social media (website and LinkedIn) and update the Operations Manual to aide Board members in understanding their leadership roles. Even with the ongoing responsibilities of the Board it managed to accomplish these tasks and then some.

At the beginning of 2022-2023 the position of treasurer transitioned from our long serving volunteer, Michael Zavislak, to our newest Board member, Grant Hollis. Grant performed a remarkable job getting up to speed with the financial standing of the Section. He transitioned idle funds in the checking account to CDs so the Section's funds are earning a modest amount of interest and laddered the maturity dates so the funds are earning interest and the Section is not ever in a position that it cannot access funds when needed.

However, our journey is far from over. The challenges we face are ever-evolving, and it is our duty to adapt and innovate. I am confident that with our collective wisdom, dedication, and creativity, we will continue to make a significant difference in the engineering profession.

The COVID pandemic negatively impacted face to face meetings. And as members became accustomed to meeting virtually, they networked and volunteered less. Volunteering does not have to be a time-intensive task, but to distribute the work load there must be volunteers serving at the Section level.

The Section's role is to support the success of the Branches. SC Section has six (6) branches across the state and includes three (3) counties in GA. I encourage you to seek out an opportunity to give back. There are lots of opportunities for building leadership skills by volunteering to serve the profession in which we earn our living.

Throughout this newsletter you will see the various responsibilities of the SC Section Board as it fulfills the mission of advancing and serving the profession of Civil Engineering in South Carolina.

I also want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our dedicated members, and volunteers. Your hard work and passion are the backbone of our success, and I am honored to work alongside such exceptional individuals.

Warm regards,

***Renée S. Gardner, President ASCE SC Section***

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## **FY22-23 Events**

### **October 2022: Officer Installment**



Oath of office was administered by Jonathan Thrasher.

Incoming officers assumed their new role:

*Past President:* Ryan Harvey (Grand Strand Branch)

*President:* Renée Gardner (Midlands Branch)

*President Elect:* Chris Mack (Eastern Branch)

*Vice President:* Bailey Lively (Midlands Branch)

*Secretary:* Cherri DeFigh-Price (CSRV Branch)

*Treasurer:* Grant Hollis (Upstate Branch)

*At-Large Director:* Mark Lorah (CSRV Branch)

### **November 2022: SCESS Annual Appreciation Dinner**



Each year the *South Carolina Council of Engineering and Surveying Societies (SCCESS)*, of which ASCE SC Section is a member, hosts the SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors in appreciation for their contributions to the profession. Pictured Vice President, Bailey Lively and President, Renée Gardner represented the ASCE SC Section by attending this event and shared a moment with Chimin “Jimmy” Chao, Board Chairman.

### **December 2022: SCESS Interviews**

The *SC State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors* had two seats turning over this past year (engineer and surveyor). ASCE has 3 votes for these positions. Past President, Ryan Harvey, President, Renée Gardner, and President-Elect, Chris Mack along with representatives from the other professional organizations who have a vote, spent some quality time getting to know the candidates via a zoom meeting.

### **October 2022 - March 2023: Update Operations Manual and Travel Reimbursement Policy**

The Secretary, Cherri DeFigh-Price, led the charge on getting the Section's Operation Manual and Travel Reimbursement Policy up-to-date. This was a time-consuming task as neither document had been updated in several years. It will now be an annual task to review and update the Operations Manual.

### **January 2023: Legislative Reception**



Each year the Design Construction Partners, of which ASCE SC Section is a member, hosts a legislative reception.

President, Renée Gardner, pictured with Representative Robb, represented the SC Section.

## January 2023: MRLC



The *Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC)* is three conferences combined into one. It includes the Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBL), Eastern Region Younger Member Council (ERYMC), and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL).

Over 400 Civil Engineers and Civil Engineering students were expected to attend the conference from ASCE Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5. The span includes the eastern part of the United States from Louisiana to Florida and up to Maine. These regions also include Puerto Rico and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.



This year the conference was held in Charlotte, NC. Our very own Meghan Franco (Midlands Branch) and John Scott (Upstate Branch) served on the planning committee.

Pictured attending the conference and accepting the award are (left to right) Ryan Chmielewski, Meghan Franco, Grace Porter, and Lydia Mignogna.

### **February 2023: Engineers Day on the Hill**



ASCE SC Section members joined with several other engineering societies to be recognized by the SC Legislators. Pictured are some attendees with the Proclamation.

### **March 2023: Legislative Fly-In**



Attended by Jonathan Ard, & Jonathan Thrasher (pictured). Met with Senator Lindsey Graham's office, Senator Tim Scott's office, Representative Joe Wilson's office, and Representative Duncan's office.

### **June 2023: SC Engineering Conference & Trade Show**



Presenting from the ASCE SC Section was Mark Lorah (pictured).

**September 2023: SC Section Fall Conference**



The Conference Committee worked hard to bring back this one-day conference. It offered three tracks and attendees had the opportunity to earn 5.5 PDHs. In addition, the keynote speaker was Brian Klauk, SCDOT Program Manger with SCDOT providing an update to the Carolina Crossroads project. Committee members were Lydia Mignogna (Chair), Cherri DeFig-Price, Meghan Franco, Renée Gardner, Kevin Krick, and Kevin Morgan.

## Award Winners



### LeTellier Cup:

*For Outstanding lifetime contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering*



**Jeff Mulliken, PhD., PE**



**SC Civil Engineer of the Year:**

*Engineer that has demonstrated the most outstanding contribution to the profession in South Carolina*

**Paul Ziehl, PhD, PE**

**SC Young Civil Engineer of the Year:**

*Member under the age of 35 who has demonstrated the most outstanding*



*contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering in South Carolina in Fiscal Year*

**Laura Boisclair, EIT**



**Section Leadership Award:**

*Member of the ASCE South Carolina Section or Local Branch that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and/or service during the past fiscal year.*

**Ryan Mattie, PE**

**Section Educators of the Year:**

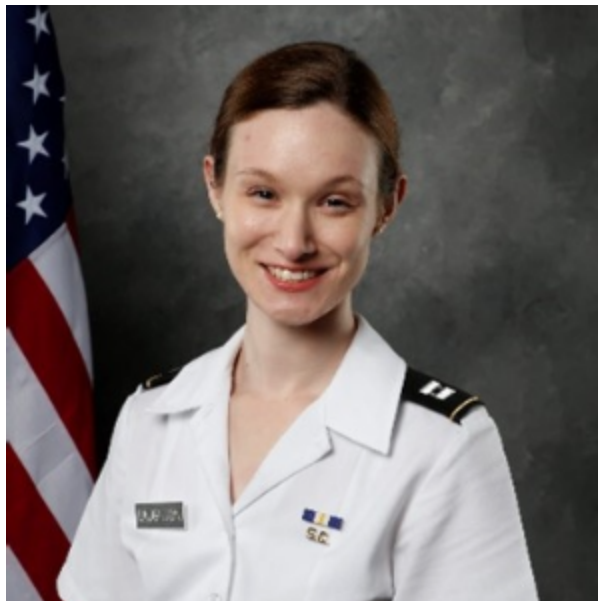
*Educator within the South Carolina Section Boundaries that has*





*demonstrated excellence at developing the next generation of Civil Engineering Students.*

**Dr. Sarah Gassman, PE (University of South Carolina)**



**Section Educators of the Year:**

*Educator within the South Carolina Section Boundaries that has demonstrated excellence at developing the next generation of Civil Engineering Students.*

**Dr. Stephanie Laughton, PE (The Citadel)**

**President's Award:**

*Person, group or firm that has demonstrated significant contributions to*

*the ASCE South Carolina Section by the  
ASCE SC Section President.*



**Cherri DeFig-Price, PE**

### Flood Evacuation Tool

The screenshot displays the 'FLOOD EVACUATION TOOL' interface. It features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Flood Planning', 'Portfolio', 'Team', and 'Contact'. The main content area includes a 'Machine Learning Simulation' section with a 'USGS Gaging Station' dropdown. Below this are three line graphs showing 'River Discharge (cfs)', 'River Velocity (ft/s)', and 'River Depth (ft)'. A 'Road and River Inundation Mapping' section shows a map of a river area with a color-coded legend for 'Height above nearest drainage (ft)'. The interface also includes a 'NSF Grant #CMMI 2125283' logo.

A portrait of Vidya Samadi, Ph.D., M.ASCE, a woman with dark hair, wearing a red top.

**Vidya Samadi  
Ph.D., M.ASCE**



**Technical Merit Award:**

*Recognition for an outstanding project (does not need to have completed in the year) or technical innovation toward the profession of Civil Engineering.*

**Dr. Vidya Samadi (Clemson University)**



**Project of the Year Award:**

*The most outstanding civil engineering project completed within the state of South Carolina in the Fiscal Year.*

**Great Falls Dearborn Diversion Dams Project**

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## Outgoing President Message

It has been a pleasure to serve as President this past year. The Board has accomplished much under this year's board of direction. It improved the understanding of its responsibilities. It improved the financial well-being of the Section by structuring the money to work for the Section with ladder CD's. The Operations Manual and the Travel Reimbursement documents were updated and stored on the ASCE Collaborate file library. And the Board has a better understanding of the relationship with the other professional organizations. Serving as President this past year has expanded my leadership skills. I can only hope that my contribution has helped those with whom I served as much as they have helped me. I look forward to continuing to advocate for membership in ASCE SC Section.

## Incoming President Message

Building on the legacy of outgoing ASCE SC Section President Renee Garner and fellow selfless Section Board members, Chris Mack intends to continue the build upon this great success. Together, our vision for this coming year includes several goals, which are:

- Prepare the 2025 ASCE Report Card for South Carolina and expand infrastructure focus areas.
- Deliver the 2024 ASCE SC Section Conference.

- Present 2024 ASCE Awards.
- Unify Branch and Section communications and social media platforms (e.g., websites, LinkedIn, Facebook, etc).
- Create a unified distribution of Branch budgets guided by Branch leadership.
- Identify next generation of ASCE leaders for future Branch and Section board positions.
- Identify new STEM opportunities within SC for Branches and the Section to support/promote.
- Expand ASCE membership in SC.

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## **ASCE Section Branch, Younger Member, and Student Content**



Midlands Branch Younger Member Fireflies Game



Grand Strand Branch Volunteer at a Veteran Tiny Home Project



Citadel Student Chapter compete at the Carolinas Conference





Eastern Branch Lunch and Learn

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## ASCE South Carolina Branch Board Members 2023-2024





**President**  
**Chris Mack**



**President-Elect**  
**Bailey Lively**



**Vice President**  
**Gwen Sollenberger**



**Past President**  
**Renee Gardner**



**Secretary**  
**Cherri DeFig-Price**



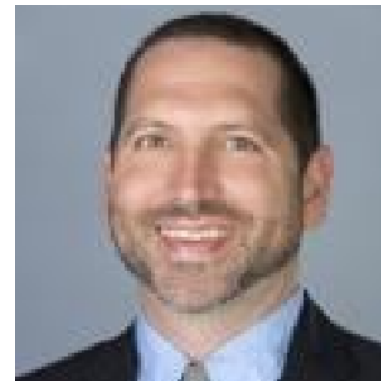
**Treasurer**  
**Grant Hollis**



**At-Large Director**  
**Mark Lorah**



**Midlands Branch Director**  
**Theo Deligiannidis**



**Eastern Branch Director**  
**Jonathan Ard**



**Younger Member**  
**Lydia Mignogna**



**Grand St. Branch Director**  
**Eric Sanford**



**Catawba Branch Director**  
**Brad Ross**

SC Section Website

