

# ASCE

## WISCONSIN SECTION

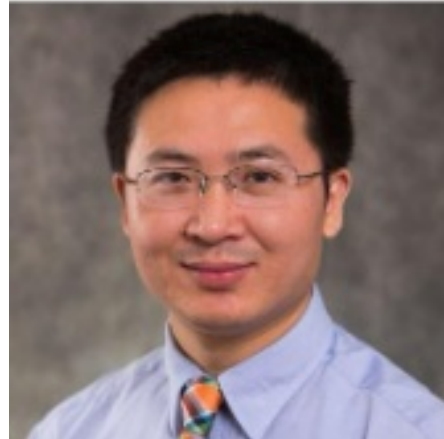
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### President's Message

By: Danny Xiao, ASCE Wisconsin Section President

Dear fellow Wisconsin Section members,

I believe many of you are feeling the same as I do: where did the holidays go?! Preparing for Christmas felt like yesterday and suddenly February is here. Nevertheless, I hope you had a joyful and relaxed holiday with your family and friends.



2023 is a special year for ASCE Wisconsin Section: we celebrate 100 years of engineering! The Centennial Celebration Committee is planning several events throughout the year to celebrate our history and envision our future. Please read more details in this newsletter and mark your calendar to attend.

The 2023 Spring Technical Conference will be Friday, March 31. Utilizing the convenience of technology, in particular during winter season, the Conference will be virtual. Hope you can join us to learn the behind-the-scene story of several amazing projects in structural, transportation, geotechnical, municipal, and environmental engineering.

Included in this newsletter is also an article titled “*Creating Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Wisconsin*”. You may be shocked, as I did, to hear the news about the deadly flooding in California last month, because I heard many times about wildfire and drought in California but not flooding. Even worse, some scientists warned that this deadly flooding might lead to an intense wildfire season in California this year. Here in Wisconsin, we all heard the news of increased frequency and intensity of flooding in recent years. For example, Madison 2018, Darlington 2019, St. Croix County 2020, Manitowoc County 2021, and Waukesha County 2022. Therefore, the need has never been stronger for civil engineers to create resilient and sustainable infrastructure. “*Members of The American Society of Civil Engineers conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism, and above all else protect and advance the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the practice of Civil Engineering*” (ASCE Code of Ethics).

Lastly, please take a minute to review the names of our new ASCE Wisconsin Members, located later in this newsletter. If you recognize, work with or see these folks at an upcoming meeting, please welcome them and help them make the most of their

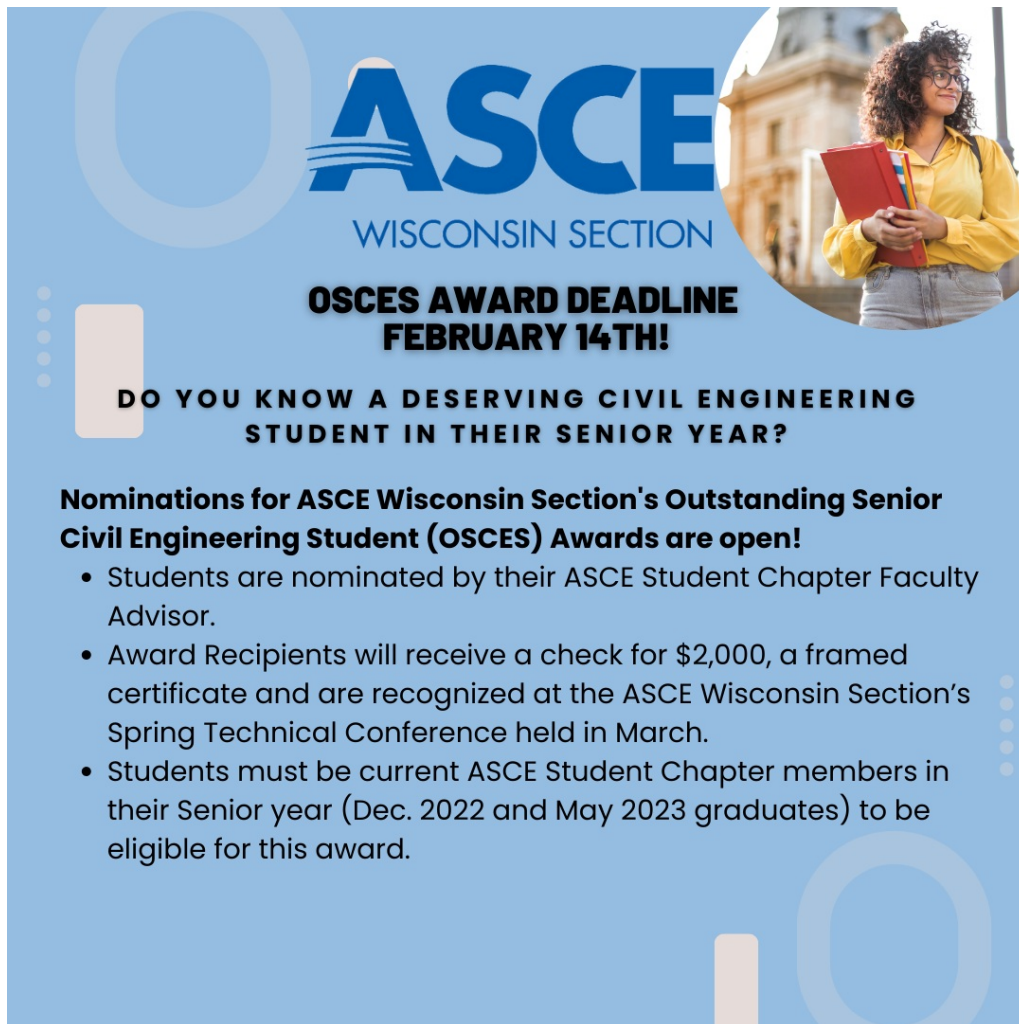
membership. The Engineers Week will be February 19-25, 2023. Hope you can take a break from your busy schedule and feel proud of your hard work. Or you can volunteer your time to bring engineering to kids, educators, and parents.

<https://www.asce.org/education-and-events/events/virtual-meetings/engineers-week-2023>

Thank you for being a member of the ASCE family!



Danny X. Xiao, Ph.D., P.E., M. ASCE, ENV SP  
ASCE Wisconsin Section 2022-2023 President



**ASCE**  
WISCONSIN SECTION

**OSCES AWARD DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 14TH!**

**DO YOU KNOW A DESERVING CIVIL ENGINEERING  
STUDENT IN THEIR SENIOR YEAR?**

**Nominations for ASCE Wisconsin Section's Outstanding Senior  
Civil Engineering Student (OSCES) Awards are open!**

- Students are nominated by their ASCE Student Chapter Faculty Advisor.
- Award Recipients will receive a check for \$2,000, a framed certificate and are recognized at the ASCE Wisconsin Section's Spring Technical Conference held in March.
- Students must be current ASCE Student Chapter members in their Senior year (Dec. 2022 and May 2023 graduates) to be eligible for this award.

Email the Secretary and Nominate a Deserving Student Today!

## New Life Members

We congratulate our newest Life Members for 2023, listed below.

To obtain Life Member status, individuals in the grade of Fellow, Member, Associate Member, or Affiliate must be at least 65 years old and have paid dues in any

membership grade except student for at least 35 years, as well as had ten years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member. 2023 is the year in which our new Life Members satisfy these criteria.

Ronald G. Becker, P.E., M.ASCE  
Richard Henry Weber, P.E., M.ASCE  
Steven Mark Cramer, P.E., F.ASCE  
Allan Eugene Erickson, I, P.E., M.ASCE  
Jerome Alan Hutzler, P.E., M.ASCE  
Kenneth Edward Grebe, P.E., M.ASCE  
Mark John Rapant, P.E., M.ASCE  
Carl C. Sutter, P.E., D. WRE, F.ASCE  
Rick L. Hopke, P.E., M.ASCE  
Mafizul Islam, P.E., M.ASCE  
Van E. Komurka, PE, D.GE, F.ASCE.

Our newest Life Members will be recognized during the 2023 Virtual Spring Technical Conference on Friday, March 31. Each new Life Member will receive a certificate from ASCE and a Life Member pin.



Six Section awards recognize civil engineers who advance the profession either through achievement or published papers. These honors exist to award students, younger members, career professionals, projects, and journalists. The nominations window is announced in the Spring and closes June 1 of each year.

Section awards are given annually to individual Wisconsin Section ASCE members for

achievement in one of the below particular areas.

- Engineering Achievement Awards - Project Awards
- Thomas Walther Distinguished Service Award
- Excellence in Journalism Award
- Individual Merit Awards - with awards categories including Education, Consulting, Government and Private Practice
- Young Civil Engineer of the Year

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## ASCE National's Concrete Canoe Competition



The University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers will be hosting the newly named ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships (ASCE Championships) again, but in person! This is a huge opportunity for Platteville's Student Chapter of ASCE, UW-Platteville's Department of Civil Engineering, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, the city of Platteville, the State of Wisconsin, and finally displaying how proud we are to be Pioneers at our own campus.

The ASCE Championships is hosted by a different university each year and regularly is attended by 400 students and faculty from across the United States and some foreign countries. Platteville will be hosting the ASCE Championships from June 10-12th, 2023. The competition is comprised of the concrete canoe competition, sustainable solutions, and surveying.

We hope that you will help contribute to the engineering profession, and inspiring students by helping fund this wonderful event. Your support will help students expand their engineering knowledge, will help further teach students, and will also be a way to get your company's name to a group of talented students from all across the country and the world, that will be coming to Platteville.

You can support the ASCE Championships by going to our event website [here](#)

If you or any of your employees are interested in volunteering, fill out this form here:

[Volunteer In This Event](#)

[Become A Sponsor For This Event](#)

## Spring Technical Conference



The Northwest Branch and the Wisconsin Section invite you to attend the 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference on Friday, March 31, 2023. This day-long conference will be presented virtually.

Join us in listening to our Keynote Speaker, Dave Williams, present "50 Leaders in 5 Years". Don't miss our exciting Ethics Session: "Climate Change, Infrastructure Design, and Ethics," presented by Austin Polebitski. Breakout session options will offer a range of discipline options, including Environmental & Water Resources, Construction, Structures, Transportation, Geotechnical, and Leadership & Management. Up to Six PDH's will be available from this program.

Registration opening soon!

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## Spring Technical Conference: Sponsorship Opportunities



The American Society of Civil Engineers, Wisconsin Section - Northwest Branch invites you to sponsor our 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference. This year's virtual event will provide exceptional content delivered by Civil Engineering professionals throughout the day-long event.

The Northwest Branch appreciates your support in helping us make the 2023 Virtual Spring Conference a success!

## 2022 Annual Meeting - Fehr Graham Sponsor Spotlight



Fehr Graham is more than an engineering and environmental consulting firm. We are a team of experts across many disciplines who work together to solve problems and improve the quality of life in the communities in which our clients live, work, and play. As a premier provider of engineering, environmental, and funding solutions for commercial, industrial, institutional, and governmental clients, we can help solve some of your toughest challenges by providing collaborative, insightful, results-driven solutions.

Visit [fehrgraham.com](http://fehrgraham.com) to see how we've helped communities across the United States find effective solutions.

## 2023 ASCE Wisconsin Centennial Celebration

By Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

The 2023 Centennial Celebration Planning Committee is continuing to plan for the ASCE Wisconsin Section's Centennial Celebration in 2023. Current activities related to the Celebration include:

- Converting ASCE Wisconsin Section and associated Branch paper archives to digital archives at Marquette University for easy digital access for ASCE members. The current paper archives are being stored at Marquette University and are only accessible in-person at the University. The Wisconsin Section leadership would like to digitize the archives to allow our members to access to the archives from anywhere where they have an internet connection. – **The first batch has been completed!**
- Producing a multi-media document of the first 100 years of the ASCE Wisconsin Section for members. This document would highlight the history of the Wisconsin Section and would utilize information from both our paper and digital archives.
- In person events for members to attend to celebrate engineering achievements.
  - Preliminary plans include having three promotional events at Wisconsin based ASCE Historic Landmarks.
    - Jones Island (MMSD, Milwaukee) – April 2023
    - Marshall Building (Milwaukee) – May 2023
    - Vulcan Plan (Appleton) – August 2023
- Celebrating 100 years at the international level
  - 2023 ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships (formerly Concrete Canoe Competition and Student Steel Bridge Competition)
    - University of Wisconsin – Platteville, June 10 – 12, 2023

- Grand Celebration to celebrate 100 years of ASCE in Wisconsin, recognizing past Society leaders and award winners of ASCE from Wisconsin, Wisconsin Section leaders and award winners, and recognize the future opportunities for civil engineering in Wisconsin. The Grand Celebration is being combined with the 2023 Annual Meeting and is tentatively scheduled for September 28, 2023 at Discovery World in Wisconsin.
- Limiting the financial impact of the 2023 Wisconsin Centennial celebration activities on the Wisconsin Section finances.

We are still seeking sponsorship support for this incredible year from either yourself or your company. Fundraising funds will be used for 2023 Wisconsin Centennial celebration activities. Below are some of the opportunities available for sponsors.

- Official branding as an exclusive ASCE Wisconsin Section Centennial Year Sponsor across digital and physical materials
- Sponsor spotlight mentions within the Centennial Event promotional articles included within the ASCE Wisconsin Section Quarterly Newsletter – reaches audience of approximately 2,000 Wisconsin Section members.
- Social media mentions with tags leading up to the 2023 Centennial Event
- Promotion at Centennial Events:
  - Branding as Exclusive sponsor for one promotional centennial event
  - Logo recognition on marketing materials
  - Verbal acknowledgement
  - Event tickets
- Promotion at Grand Centennial Event:
  - Opportunity to provide a 60-minute presentation related to the history of civil engineering in Wisconsin at the Grand Centennial Event
  - Logo recognition on marketing materials
  - Event tickets
- Company name and logo listed on ASCE newsletter
- Company name and logo listed on website

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2023 Centennial Celebration, click on the link below.

Thank you to our current Sponsors:

- Exclusive Sponsorship - \$2,500
  - Advanced Drainage Systems
- Champion - \$1,250
  - County Materials
  - Davy Engineering
  - Fehr Graham
  - GRAEF
  - McMahon
  - Mead & Hunt
- 1923 Grand Celebration Event Sponsor - \$1,000
  - ASCE Foundation
- Gold - \$750
  - (no sponsors)
- All Star - \$500
  - Collins Engineering
  - ECS Midwest
  - RA Smith
- Leader Sponsor - \$250

- Delta 3
- Trio Engineering
- Member Sponsor - \$100
  - (no sponsors)
- Friend Sponsor - \$50
  - (no sponsors)

<https://sections.asce.org/wisconsin-section/2023-centennial-year-celebration>

If anyone is interested in participating on the 2023 Centennial Celebration planning committee or sponsoring the Celebration, please reach out to Ken Mika at [ken.mika@tetrattech.com](mailto:ken.mika@tetrattech.com).

Become a Sponsor Today!

## 2023 Centennial Celebration Sponsor Highlight



### Davy Engineering

Davy Engineering is a consulting engineering and surveying firm that partners with clients to provide cost-effective engineering services. Their mission is to provide clients with efficient, cost-effective, quality services founded upon integrity, professionalism, and commitment to long-term relationships.



### Mead & Hunt

Mead & Hunt is a national, full-service architectural and engineering firm that has been serving markets for well over a century. The firm was established by hydroelectric and hydraulic engineer Daniel Mead in 1900. Since its founding, Mead & Hunt has grown significantly in size and diversity. The growth of the company has mirrored the changing markets of the country—as infrastructure needs expanded, so did we. Today, the firm provides services nationwide and employs 950 people. Our purpose is to shape the future by putting people first.



### Kapur

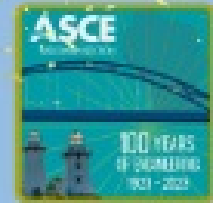
Kapur is a multi-disciplinary civil engineering firm headquartered in the metro Milwaukee area. Through 40 years of growth, Kapur has expanded across county and state lines thanks to our accomplished staff who elevate our services through their hard work and commitment.

Thank you, Davy Engineering, Mead & Hunt, and Kapur for your support of ASCE Wisconsin's 2023 Centennial Year Celebration!

# Thank You Sponsors

of the ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION

## 2023 Centennial Year



# *Sponsorship Opportunities Available for the* **2023 Centennial Year** ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION



*Planning is underway for:*

- Multiple in-person celebratory events
- Highlights of our ASCE National Civil Engineering Landmarks
- One in-person Grand Celebration Event



Thank you to our exclusive event sponsor:



## **ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Advocacy Update**

By Jennifer Schaff, PE M.ASCE and Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

The ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Advocacy Committee is now planning our 2024 Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card. The Committee has selected the following Chapters for 2024.

2024 Report Card	
1. Aviation	10. Ports
2. Bridges	11. Rail – NEW <sup>1)</sup>
3. Broadband – NEW*	12. Roads*
4. Dams*	13. Schools – NEW*
5. Drinking Water*	14. Solid Waste <sup>1)</sup>
6. Energy*	15. Stormwater
7. Hazardous Waste	16. Transit*
8. Inland Waterways	17. Wastewater*
9. Public Parks - NEW	

\*Indicates a volunteer has already stepped up to Chair.

1) Indicates volunteers have already stepped up.

We are also accepting volunteers who are willing to support the 2024 Report Card effort. As with the 2020 Report Card, we are looking for chapter writers, chapter leaders, independent chapter reviewers, fundraising support, release event planning, and overall planning support. A kickoff meeting is being planned for 2024 Report Card in Quarter of 2023.

Please reach out to Jennifer Schaff ([jennifer.schaff@countymaterials.com](mailto:jennifer.schaff@countymaterials.com)) and Ken Mika ([ken.mika@tetrattech.com](mailto:ken.mika@tetrattech.com)) if you would like to know more or would like to dive right in on the Report Card effort.

# Creating Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Wisconsin

By Dea Larsen Converse

Rural roads, highways, airports, ports, dams, stormwater, and wastewater systems – everything that supports our lives and livelihoods – have been designed using rainfall statistics that are out-of-date for current conditions and will become increasingly inaccurate in the future. According to the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts \(WICCI\)](#), the last two decades have been the warmest on record in Wisconsin and the past decade has been the wettest.

“Changing climate conditions and uncertainty in the climate change projections available to local officials is leading to inefficient planning and expenditures. This situation makes urban flooding worse and puts investment at risk.” Robert Montgomery, WICCI Infrastructure Working Group Chair.

Current climate conditions in Wisconsin include more frequent and intense precipitation, higher annual precipitation amounts, earlier thawing in the spring and more freeze/thaw cycles, higher water table elevations, extreme variation in lake levels, and more humid heat waves. As the climate continues to warm, each additional degree of warming will intensify these conditions and accelerate wear and tear on infrastructure. New approaches to funding, designing, building, and maintaining infrastructure are needed to make communities more resilient to climate change impacts.

Local governments are essential in effecting climate change response by reducing greenhouse emissions and adapting sustainable practices. With new federal funding directed towards accelerating the pace of climate resilient practice, many locals are starting to examine their vulnerabilities. However, institutional barriers such as current regulations that mandate the use of outdated climate data impede progress.

The infrastructure sector also has a role in decarbonizing our communities. Currently greenhouse gases released during the process of creating the most common construction materials, like concrete and steel, as well in all phases of an infrastructure project, are a substantial source of greenhouse gas emissions. New materials, manufacturing techniques, and reuse programs can reduce emissions and benefit the regional economy.

The [WICCI Infrastructure Working Group](#) is actively working to help local governments with initiatives such as the Wisconsin Rainfall Project that provides updated rainfall statistics to aid in the design of new infrastructure.

[Read more](#)

[Click here to read about the ASCE Policy 360 on Climate Change](#)

[ASCE 360 Policy](#)

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## Get to Know: Dan Wittier

Dan is a Professional Engineer with Curva

Consultants, LLC. Not being his first business venture, he says with a confident smile, "it can take a little time to put all the chess pieces into place." If the company had a theme, it would be international. Offices are adorned with international symbols, pictures, etc. not because it operates internationally, but because other cultures have been so influential in company culture.



After enjoying studying in Latin America, Dan sought international work experience. His goal? Work internationally by the time he graduated with his Bachelor's Degree. The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience caught his attention. He started small, volunteering to lead a small group. He had no more experience than those he led, but he was the one to step forward and take a chance to lead. The task sounded simple enough. Cold call companies to host students from other countries as interns in the United States. It was his unconventional techniques that quickly made his team the most successful. This resulted in him being given his choice in working basically anywhere in the world to be an intern himself. Facing college tuition and living expenses, it was hard to turn down a fairly lucrative position working for an engineering firm based out of France. Years later, what is one of his favorite pictures adorning an office wall? A collage of photographs of the Eiffel Tower while it was under construction. Like many of his trinkets, he found it second-hand. What cost \$10, symbolizes so much more.

If Dan is anything, he is creative to get results. If there is anything he is not, it is scared to put himself out there to reach big picture goals. He would encourage anyone interested in ASCE to ask themselves, what is your endgame? Set your sights on it, come up with a plan, and make it happen!

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## Welcome New Wisconsin Section Members!

The Wisconsin Section would like to welcome our newest members, who have joined since our last quarterly newsletter. We are excited that you've joined us!



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## Membership at a Glance

**Total WI section members: 1,867**

**Affiliate: 93**

**Assoc: 452**

**Distinguished: 3**

**Fellow: 52**

**Member: 1,034**

**Student: 233**

**New Members since last Newsletter  
(November): 10**

# Board of Directors

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Danny Xiao, P.E.  
University of Wisconsin-Platteville  
[xiaoxi@uwplatt.edu](mailto:xiaoxi@uwplatt.edu)

## **President Elect**

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## **Past President**

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## **Branch Director, Southwest Branch**

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## **Branch Director, Fox River Valley Branch**

Joe Zellmer  
Outagamie County  
[Joseph.Zellmer@outagamie.org](mailto:Joseph.Zellmer@outagamie.org)

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