



ASCE Illinois Section

News

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INSIDE:

President's
Notes
2

The Opportunities &
Challenges of a
Project
3

105th Annual Awards
Dinner Highlights
4

Chicago: Leading the
way in Construction
7

News & Secretary
Report
10

Section Activities
12

Degrees of Success: Navigating the Civil Engineering Career Landscape

Written by Kaela O. Worman, P.E.

In the ever-evolving world of civil engineering, young engineers want to know if the pursuit of postgraduate degrees remains a strategic choice for professionals seeking to broaden their skill sets and elevate their career trajectories. There is some debate on the impact of postgraduate degrees, such as MBAs and technical master's degrees, on civil engineers' careers, and whether they are worth the time, effort, and financial investment required to obtain them.

MBA degrees are among the most expensive degrees currently available, ranging from \$30,000 to \$120,000, with an existing average near \$60,000. Therefore, the challenge of balancing coursework with a full-time career or the potential need to temporarily stop working for full-time studies is of significant consequence. These rising financial considerations

beg the question: When are these degrees worth it, and what is the ultimate professional return on investment?

The costs of a postgraduate degree should be weighed carefully against the potential benefits.

In an effort to combat these hesitations, many institutions now offer flexible options, including nights and weekends programs or fully online courses. This adaptability allows engineers to enhance their education without sacrificing valuable work experience. Even so, the time commitment for part-time coursework ranges from 10 to 30 hours per week, a considerable amount when considered in addition. (Continued on page 8)

President's Notes

Matt Huffman, P.E.



Greetings! I am honored and humbled to be serving you this coming year and I look forward to the opportunity to further connect, engage and support our nearly 3,000 Illinois Section members. Before I mention some of our focus areas for the year ahead, I would first like to thank and acknowledge our outgoing President, Sandra Homola, for her tremendous dedication and leadership to the Illinois Section this past year and to our outgoing Directors and Institute Chairs, as well as our various at-large members who serve on one of our 20+ committees. I look forward to working with our newly installed board to continue serving our local civil engineering industry. Several of our key focus areas for the year ahead will be to:

1. Support society events and initiatives
2. Enhance our STEM and Civil Engineering Outreach
3. Further support our Student and Associate members.

I hope many of you were able to take advantage and attend the ASCE 2023 Convention this past October in Chicago and I am glad to report back that it was a big success with attendance numbers approaching pre-pandemic levels with over 800 attendees. Thank you to the many Illinois Section local sponsors, exhibitors, speakers/presenters, panelists, technical tour organizers, student mentors, local social event planners, and volunteers who helped support the Convention. A job well done!!!

On April 4-6, 2024, our three local university ASCE Student Chapters

from UIC, IL Tech, and Northwestern will be co-hosting the Western Great Lakes Student Symposium. Approximately 500 students from 19 universities will be gathering in Chicago to compete in various competitions such as the Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, Surveying, Sustainable Solutions, Construction, and many more. Our support is needed in a variety of ways from judging to financial assistance. Fundraising is currently ongoing to raise approximately \$120,000 for this event and sponsorship information can be found [here](#).

K-12 outreach continues to be a big focus for ASCE and all the resources produced with the Dream Big feature film from 2017 are being leveraged and repurposed for us with the Future World Vision. Many may ask, what is the Future World Vision? The Future World Vision is a bold, comprehensive project to anticipate, reimagine, and prepare for the future changes that are hugely interconnected and will impact the design and built environments. ASCE has developed a multi-pronged approach, which consists of a virtual reality experience to immerse you in the future of infrastructure, development of big screen film *Cities of the Future: Reimagining our World*, and development of desktop apps for users to experience a 3D digital Mega City at human scale. The new movie is being formally launched during E-Week in February 2024.

On the local level, the Illinois Section Student Outreach Committee along with our Younger Member

ASCE Illinois Section News

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Group and Institutes, will help get these various resources into schools and teachers' hands for use (Continued on page 9)

The Opportunities & Challenges of a Project

Written by Steven M. Rienks, P.E., PMP

For those of us in the A/E/C industry... Imagine that you are a young, energetic civil engineer. You are a registered Professional Engineer working for a local Civil Engineering company. You have been tasked as the Project Manager (PM). (There's no written formal job description & you have had no training as a PM.) By the way, you have had no input on the scope, budget, or schedule. Your staff is in five offices in various states, and you have four sub-consultants to manage. The QA/QC process is not well defined, and the risks have not been discussed. This is a major project that is critical to your company's success. The fully executed Contract states that you have 12 months to provide the final deliverables consisting of the plans, specifications, and estimates. Finally, your Project Team that you are working with doesn't have any project management experience. Where do you start?

How to get started.

When asked to manage a project for the first time, you may begin to feel pressure—that there's no time to waste, that you'll learn through trial & error, that you should just get started. But what does get started really mean? What's your first step, and how do you know that it's the right one? Historically speaking, these have been difficult

questions to answer—in large part because beginner and/or “accidental” project managers have suffered from (a) an absence of quality materials to help them manage a project and (b) the pressure of learning the foundations of project management, quickly, without compromising the time needed to actually do the work. When an entire Project Team relies on its fearless Project Manager for direction, these shortcomings affect more than the Project Manager.

The value of Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK)

The Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) is a set of standard terminology and guidelines (a body of knowledge) for project management. The body of knowledge evolves over time and is presented in A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK Guide), a book whose seventh edition was released in August 2021. This document results from work overseen by the Project Management Institute (PMI), which offers the CAPM and PMP certifications. Much of the PMBOK Guide is unique to project management such as critical path method and work breakdown structure (WBS). The PMBOK Guide also overlaps with general management

regarding planning, organizing, staffing, executing, and controlling the operations of an organization. Other management disciplines which overlap with the PMBOK Guide include financial forecasting, organizational behavior, management science, budgeting, and other planning methods.

Being a Project Manager is not for the faint of heart!

My words... A project at its basic level: Getting things done through people. Your PM/people skills will be put to the test(s) multiple times thru your decades-long career as a Civil Engineer. Have attended Dr. Harold Kerzner's lecture & heard him say: “Being a PM is not for the faint of heart.” (Google: Dr. Harold Kerzner)

Author Bio: Steven M. Rienks, P.E., PMP is the Director of Engineering/Senior Project Manager at American Surveying & Engineering. He is a registered Professional Engineer in several states, certified Project Management Professional, qualified and/or experienced In Civil Engineering projects, but also mentors/coaches younger/enthusiastic Civil Engineers.

Steve is an ASCE Life Member, Past Chair for the UESI Illinois Chapter, Mentor in the ASCE Mentorship program, and Member at Large T&DI.

105th Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

Written by By Tina Revzin, P.E., S.E. and Saki Handa, P.E., ENV SP (Awards Committee), Irsilia Colletti, P.E., S.E. and Muhammad Ali, PE (Dinner Committee)

The ASCE Illinois Section celebrated its 105th Annual Awards Dinner in the Swisotel on the evening of October 5, 2023. With over 250 people in attendance, including consultants, contractors, local agency and city officials, and students from Chicagoland Universities, the event was a wonderful success. In addition to celebrating our Section award winners, we were also able

Special guests included staff from local agencies including the Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), Will County Division of Transportation (WCDOT), Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD).

while ensuring that the guests were engaged and entertained during the evening's program.

The ASCE Illinois Section honored 21 Life members at the 105th Annual Awards, 5 of which attended in person.

A Life Member is an individual who has made a lifetime commitment to ASCE and the civil engineering profession by remaining a member for the full length of their professional career and this status is bestowed on a member in recognition of his or her long-term support of the Society. Life Members are exempt from payment of membership dues.

Volunteers were recognized who gave their time and effort throughout the year by serving on various committees, technical institutes, and the Section Board. The ASCE Illinois Section Board is composed of a President, Past President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, six directors who serve staggered 2-year terms, and the six chairs from the technical institutes and Younger Member Group. ASCE Past President Sandra Homola welcomed all guests to the event, recognized the generous sponsors. President Matthew Huffman spoke of the initiatives he has for the upcoming year as President of the (Continued on page 5)



Life Members who were able to celebrate their achievement with us on the stage. From left, James Messmore, Theodore Georgas, Mark Toberman, Robert Mustari, Mark Lucas, and Past President Sandra Homola.

honor the new Life Members and ASCE Society-level award winners.

Pat Tomasulo returned as the guest emcee to the event. Mr. Tomasulo did a fantastic job keeping the awards presentation moving along

105th Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

(Continued from page 4)

Illinois Section.

The event included an open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, and a plated dinner. Individual ticket pricing was kept affordable to encourage attendance and relied heavily on the generous sponsorship of industry leaders in engineering and construction. The sponsors made a commitment to support the industry and the engineering community by making financial contributions to support the ASE Annual Awards Dinner at the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels as well as the program and cocktail hour sponsors. We would like to thank all our generous sponsors with the following recognition in this newsletter:

2023 Annual Awards Dinner Sponsors

Platinum (\$3,000): AECOM; Christopher B Burke Engineering; Collins Engineers, Inc.; DB Sterlin; EXP; GSG Consultants, Inc.; HNTB Corporation; Stanley Consultants, Inc.; TranSystems; V3 Companies, Ltd.

Gold (\$2,500): d'Escoto, Inc.; HDR; Jacobs, Michael Baker

Silver (\$1,800): Crawford, Murphy & Tilly; Gannett Fleming; WSP

Bronze (\$800): Horner Shifrin

Special Sponsors:

- Cocktail Hour - Christopher B Burke Engineering
- Programs - Apex Consulting Engineers



IL Section ASCE Past Presidents

The main event of the evening's program is the presentation of awards to the outstanding individuals and project winners in the Sustainability in Civil Engineering Achievement and Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award categories. There were many deserving nominations, and the Awards Committee wishes to thank all those that participated by submitting a nomination. The Awards Selection Committee includes a member from each technical institute, and a minimum of two representatives from the Illinois Section Board of Directors. All award recipients are chosen by a vote of the Selection Committee. Following this vote by the committee, a vote of the Illinois Section Board is required to ratify the committee's selections. Below are the 2023 award recipients:

- **Civil Engineer of the Year:** Jennifer Maercklein, P.E., CFM (V3 Companies)
- **Government Civil Engineer of the Year:** Brian Kuttub, P.E. (Illinois Department of Transportation)
- **Young Civil Engineer of the Year:** Stephanie Abezetian, P.E. (Gannett Fleming, Inc.)
- **Citizen Engineering of the Year:** Dr. Ahmad Hadavi, PhD., P.E., F.ASCE (Northwestern University)
- **Public Involvement Award:** IL Section Younger Member Group
- **Private Sector Employer Recognition:** Stanley Consultants
- **Sustainability in Engineering Achievement:** Green Street Infrastructure Program, Village of Kenilworth & TERRA Engineering, Ltd.

(Continued on page 6)

105th Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

(Continued from page 5)

- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (Under \$10 Million):** Central Street Bridge Replacement, City of Evanston, Stanley Consultants
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (\$10-\$25 Million):** Golf Mill Park, Village of Niles, Hey and Associates, Inc. (designer), Hitchcock Design Group (Landscape Architecture), Nova Engineering, PC (Electrical Design), Rubino Engineering, Inc. (Geotechnical Engineering) Claassen, White & Associates, PC (Surveying) and DiMeo Brothers Inc. (General Contractor).
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (\$25-\$100 Million):** Neighborhood Storage Project, Village of Wilmette, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Baxter & Woodman, Inc. and Stanley Consultants (engineering team), HMG Engineers and Testing Service Corporation (subconsultants) and DiMeo Brothers, Inc., Berger Contractors and V3 Construction Group (contractors).
- **Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (over \$100 Million):** Jane Byrne Interchange, Illinois Department of Transportation, AECOM and TranSystems Joint Venture (Designer).

Thank you to all who came to celebrate and support this very special Annual Awards Dinner and the exceptional people and projects

that were recognized at it. The support our members provide for the Illinois Section through the generous sponsorships and attendance at events held throughout the year allow for ASCE to recognize and honor the profession and the outstanding practitioners that advance it.

congratulations on the lifetime achievement with ASCE and in the civil engineering industry.

And finally, thank you to all the volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to the Board and the individual institutes and committees that make up the



IL Section ASCE 2023-2024 Executive Board

The Illinois Section also appreciates the Life Members who have committed themselves to the success of ASCE through their membership, support, and contribution to the Society, as well as the student members who keep the Illinois Section moving into the future as they enter the industry.

We also want to add a sincere apology to our 2023 Life Member Theodore Georgas whose name was missed during the Life Member presentation on stage. Thank you to Ted and his family for the continued support and

Illinois Section. Their energy, dedication, and commitment to ASCE are the backbone of the organization and how the Illinois Section provides value to our members.

Author's Bios: Tina Revzin, P.E., S.E. is a Project Manager and Structural Engineer at TranSystems. She served on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2023 and was Co-Chair of the 2023 Awards Dinner Committee.

(Continued on page 7)

Chicago: Leading the way in Construction

Written by David Lowery, P.E.

The construction industry in the Chicagoland area stands as a dynamic force, continuously evolving to meet the demands of a growing population and a thriving urban environment. With a legacy rooted in the city's history, recent years have witnessed significant road construction projects that have reshaped the region's infrastructure.

Two noteworthy projects are the Jane Byrne Interchange (I-90 / I-94 / I-290 / Ida B Wells) and the Central Tri-State Tollway (I-294) reconstruction and widening. These ambitious undertakings aimed to modernize some of the busiest sections of highways in the country. The completion of the Jane Byrne Interchange not only eased congestion for daily commuters but has also set a precedent for the scale and impact of infrastructure improvements in the Chicagoland area. The ongoing Central Tri-

State Tollway reconstruction, once complete, will alleviate congestion, enhance safety, and accommodate the growing traffic demands of the region.

Looking ahead, the Chicagoland area is poised for a wave of transformative projects that will reshape the region's infrastructure for years to come. The South Suburban Airport, a long-awaited development, will provide a new gateway for air travel and foster economic growth in the surrounding areas. The upcoming North DuSable Lakeshore Drive reconstruction project will reshape the vital and iconic stretch of roadway along Lake Michigan while acting as a key artery in connecting the city's vibrant neighborhoods. Additionally, the surrounding counties and municipalities have been hard at work putting the funds from the Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan to good use. While too many to list,

each agency's improvement plan is well underway by providing countless standalone projects that will enhance the lives of their residents and have both local and regional impacts.

This is an exciting time to be a construction engineer. Ongoing and upcoming projects underscore the significance of a well-developed transportation network, and the need for skilled engineers has never been more critical. There is no shortage of opportunities to serve our clients and communities in delivering essential infrastructure needs. The future is bright as Chicago continues to lead the way in construction.

Author Bio: Daniel Lowery, P.E. is an Assistant Vice President with TranSystems and he currently serves as Chair for the ASCE Construction Institute.

105th Annual Awards Dinner Highlights

(Continued from page 6)

Saki Handa, P.E., ENVSP is a Senior Optimization Engineer at Optimatics. She serves on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2024 and was Co-Chair of the 2023 Awards Dinner Committee.

Irsilia Colletti, P.E., S.E. is a Project Manager and Structural Engineer at HNTB Corporation. She serves on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2023 and was Co-Chair of the 2023 Awards Dinner Committee.

Muhammad Ali, P.E., is a Project Manager at EXP. He serves on the IS-ASCE Board as a Director to 2024 and was Co-Chair of the 2023 Awards Dinner Committee.

Photography By: Ashley Hamm Photograph

Degrees of Success: Navigating the Civil Engineering Career Landscape

(Continued from page 1)

tion to a working professional's 40+ hour work week.

Civil engineers often find themselves immersed in a technically focused education, leaving gaps in their understanding of a company's operations and the broader business landscape. Pursuing an MBA becomes a valuable solution, offering insight into the "why" behind business decisions and enhancing project management skills. For those eyeing management roles or seeking credibility while stepping into first-time leadership positions, an MBA can prove instrumental. Craig Turner, PE, PLS, the Deputy Commissioner of Electrical Operations at the Chicago Department of Transportation, expanded upon his positive experience pursuing an MBA part-time, stating that, "the courses I have completed thus far have been beneficial. I have been able to apply concepts immediately to my current role. Also, when I reflect on my career, I now understand better what Leadership was trying to accomplish."

However, choosing the degree that aligns with one's future career goals is imperative. For engineers who are more interested in the technical side of their work, a master's degree in engineering provides an opportunity to hone that technical knowledge or align their career trajectory toward a specific niche through the availability of specific technical electives otherwise inaccessible during an undergraduate education. A technical postgraduate degree helps pivot

more directly within the industry. For example, an engineer with experience primarily in water resources could smoothly pivot into a traffic role if they obtained an MS in Traffic Engineering.

Engineers should choose a postgraduate degree program that aligns closely with their career aspirations.

When considering a technical master's degree, understanding whether the knowledge gained is applicable within one's professional development should guide the decision. Although structural engineers traditionally obtain master's degrees more frequently than other specialties due to an increased requirement for structural applicants' continued education, some firms only encourage applicants to have an MS or do not prefer one whatsoever. The type of projects an engineer works on greatly impact the necessity of postgraduate education – designing single-family homes and small box-culverts may not benefit much from the additional knowledge obtained after the bachelor level, while the design of long-span, complex bridges or hi-rise buildings certainly would. In the more complex cases, having an MS in Structural Engineering could provide useful information that may give someone a head start compared to someone who is learning the same material on the job.

For engineers focused specifically on project management within the engineering discipline, specialized degrees like a Master's in Project Management (MPM) offer a targeted approach. These programs combine management principles with technical expertise. Thus, providing a more engineering-centric knowledge base than a standard MBA. Matt Huffman, PE, M.ASCE, received his MPM from Northwestern University as a part-time student while working full time. He believes someone interested in the intricacies of engineering project management, while wanting more technical experience in a particular discipline, may be interested in the MPM program.

Postgraduate degrees often do not have a direct impact on salary increases or promotions for civil engineers.

He emphasized, "you want to make it worth your time and money, for sure." He says that young engineers should give plenty of thought towards the value of each secondary degree.

Despite the evident advantages, it's critical to acknowledge whether a postgraduate degree aligns with individual career aspirations or whether it is financially advantageous. For those looking to progress their career, either on the technical side or the business and management side, there exists (Continued on page 9)

Degrees of Success: Navigating the Civil Engineering Career Landscape

(Continued from page 8)

other options outside of an expensive postgraduate degree. In addition to more complex technical knowledge, management and project management skills can often be acquired on the job, with experience serving as a potent teacher. A great mentor can be as effective, if not more so, than formal education. Additionally, many recruiters highlight that employers may not always view postgraduate degrees as significant factors for level changes or pay increases. Certifications such as PE, CFM, PMP, or

PTOE are often considered more impactful in this regard.

The decision to pursue a postgraduate degree should be a strategic one, aligning with an individual's career goals and their desired skill set. While postgraduate education can undoubtedly open doors, it's essential to weigh the potential benefits against the time, financial investment, and the practical experience gained on the job. While knowledge is never wasted, the same may not be true for an

engineer's time, money, and energy when not applied strategically. As the industry evolves, civil engineers must navigate these choices with a keen understanding of their unique career paths and aspirations.

Author Bio: Kaela O. Worman, P.E. is a Transportation Engineer at Civiltech in Chicago and currently serves as Secretary for the IL Section Younger Member Group.

President's Notes

(Continued from page 2)

in the classroom. We will collaborate with our other engineering and STEM related organizations and agencies whom are already conducting various type of student STEM outreach. Our end goal is to inspire the next generation of engineers.

I would like to leave you with a few thoughts I gleaned from ASCE's recently released 5-year Strategic Plan. There is no question the world around us is changing at an advanced pace, and requires our industry to innovate and accelerate infrastructure's transition into the

future. We, the engineers, are the champions of integrating sustainability, resiliency, and equity in infrastructure solutions. This requires us to step outside our comfort zone and advocate, promote, and facilitate civil engineering leadership in developing solutions to our many local, regional, national, and global challenges. We need to voice our opinions and engage in dialogue to shape forward-looking infrastructure policy, investment, and implementation. Our (ASCE's) mission is to lead the civil engineering profession to sustainably advance and protect

the health, safety and welfare for all. Our commitment to our members is to inspire, connect and serve you to maximize your professional and personal growth and amplify your lifelong professional impact.

I look forward to the year ahead leading the Illinois Section, serving our members, and supporting our local civil engineering community.

By Matt Huffman, P.E.
ASCE Illinois Section President
2023-2024

Winter 2023

To inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this article to the newsletter covering September 2023, October 2023, and November 2023. The Illinois Section Board Meetings offer in-person and virtual attendance options. Access to historical IS Board Meeting Minutes, Constitution, and Bylaws can be found on ASCE Collaborate at <https://collaborate.asce.org/home>. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome by contacting Secretary Monica Crinion at monica.crinion@aecom.com.

■ *Treasurer's Report & Meeting Minutes*

▲ A treasurer's report was presented and approved at the September 2023, October 2023, and November 2023 meetings. The August 2023, September 2023, and October 2023 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

■ *Highlights from Illinois Section Activities and Institute/Group Reports.*

▲ *Virtual Day of Action* – ASCE Society Headquarters led a Virtual Day of Action on September 21st. The day began with an Issues and Needs webinar in the morning followed by virtual advocacy meetings with U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senators in the afternoon. Illinois Section President Matt Huffman and Past President Pat Lach participated in virtual meetings with staffers from the offices of Senator Duckworth and Senator Durbin.

▲ *Annual Awards Dinner* – The Illinois Section held the 2023 Annual Awards Dinner at the Swisshotel Chicago on Thursday, October 5th. In addition to celebrating the Illinois Section member and project award winners, the section honored Society award winners and new life members. Congratulations to all the [2023 Award Winners](#).

▲ *Incoming 2024 IS Board Members* – Three director to 2025 positions (Brian Castro, Michael Kowalski, and Joe Wilk), the treasurer position (Kris Salvatera), and all new Institute/Group chairs were installed on October 5, 2023, at the Annual Dinner. ASCE Region 3 Governor, John Lazzara, installed the 2024 IS Board Members.

▲ *ASCE Society Convention* – The 2023 ASCE Convention was held at the Hilton Chicago from October 18th through October 21st. Many local Illinois Section members attended, and a dedicated group of volunteers participated on the Local Planning Subcommittee led by Karen Kabbes to organize tours and social events for attendees. The convention opening reception at the Museum of Science and Industry included an advanced screening of the Future World Vision IMAX film, *Cities of the Future: Reimagining Our World*.

▲ *2024 Budget* – A draft of the 2024 IS budget was presented at the November IS Board meeting. The final FY24 budget will be

discussed and voted on at the December 2023 Board meeting.

▲ *2024 Legislative Fly-In* – The 2024 legislative fly-in will be February 28th thru March 1st in Washington D.C. The Society will designate attendees from a pool of ASCE members who applied before November 17th. Several IS-ASCE members applied to attend on behalf of the Illinois Section.

▲ *Construction Institute (CI)* – The CI held their Board meetings on September 6th, October 3rd, and November 8th. A joint CI and T&DI luncheon presentation on the IDOT Research Track was held on November 2nd featuring speaker John Senger, Bureau Chief of Innovation at IDOT. CI and the Illinois Asian-American Civil Engineers (IAACE) organization co-hosted a site tour of the Red Purple Modernization (RPM) project on November 7th. For more information or if interested in joining this institute, please contact CI Chair Daniel Lowery at dlowery@omegaassociates.com.

▲ *Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)* – The EWRI held their Board meetings on September 12th, October 10th, and November 8th. Past EWRI Chair Joe Wilk attended the EWRI Leadership Council Meeting from October 6th to October 7th at the ASCE Society Headquarters in Reston, Virginia. A Green Infrastructure seminar was held on September 27th in Elk Grove Village. The all-day event included 8 pre- (Continued on page 11)

Secretary Report

(Continued from page 10)

sentations and 32 attendees. Please contact EWRI Chair Jimmy Canning with any questions or for information about EWRI activities at jimmy.canning@strand.com.

▲ **Geo-Institute (GI)** – The GI held a Board meeting on September 19th. Please contact GI Chair Jason Buenker with any questions or for information about GI activities at jason.buenker@shanwil.com.

▲ **Structural Engineering Institute (SEI)** – The SEI held their Board meetings on September 13th, October 24th, and November 15th. SEI Illinois Chapter hosted the 25th Biennial Lecture Series on September 9th, September 27th, and October 18th with over 90 attendees at each of the sessions. Please contact SEI Chair Justin Mickens with any questions or for information about SEI activities at justin.mickens@parsons.com.

▲ **Transportation & Development Institute (T&DI)** – The T&DI held their Board meetings on September 12th, October 10th, and November 14th. Luncheons were held on September 14th featuring IDOT Secretary of Transportation, Omer Osman and November 16th featuring CDOT Section Chief of Major Projects, Solomon Khudeira. Please contact T&DI Chair Sylvan Popovici with any questions or for more information about T&DI activities at spopovici@benesch.com.

▲ **Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI)** – The UESI held their Board meetings on

September 11th, October 9th, and November 13th. For more information or if interested in joining this institute, please contact UESI Chair Joel Koenig at jkoenig@cmtengr.com.

▲ **Younger Member Group (YMG)** – The YMG held their Board meetings on September 6th and October 11th. The group hosted a Student Firm Crawl on October 12th for 24 students from IIT and UIC where they visited 5 engineering firms in Chicago for networking and office tours. The YMG also hosted two younger member social events as part of the ASCE Society Convention. For more information about YMG activities or if interested in joining this group, please contact YMG Chair Hugh Regan at hregan@hntb.com.

The Illinois Section Board Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, except for holidays. The next board meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023 and will be in-person at Michael Baker International (200 W. Adams Street, Suite 1800). For any guests or Board Members that cannot attend in-person, a virtual option will be provided via MS Teams. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact President Matt Huffman at mhuffman@cbbel.com.

By Monica Crinion, PE
ASCE Illinois Section Secretary
2022-2024
monica.crinion@acem.com



Illinois Section

Activities

IL Section ASCE EWRI Jardine Water Plant Tour

Date: Tuesday, December 12

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Jardine Water Plant (1000 E Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611)

Registration: Contact Jimmy Canning at Jimmy.Canning@strand.com by Friday December 8th, 2023

IL Section ASCE T&DI Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 12

Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Contact: Sylvan Popovici, spopovici@benesch.com

IL Section ASCE & Institutes 2023 Holiday Party

Date: Tuesday, December 19

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Place: Haymarket Pub & Brewery (737 W Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60661)

Cost: \$60 per person
\$25 Student Member
\$250 Sponsorship (includes 2 tickets to event)

[Click here to register \(http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5vbor5kab&oeidk=a07ek3it9ho349d2374\)](http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=5vbor5kab&oeidk=a07ek3it9ho349d2374)

Please bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots. Beer, wine, and heavy appetizers will be served.

[Event Flyer](#)

IL Section ASCE T&DI January Luncheon

Date: Thursday, January 25

Time: 11:30am-1:30pm

Place: Maggiano's (1901 Woodfield Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60173)

Speaker: Manar Nashif, P.E. Chief Engineering Officer, Illinois Tollway.

[Register here](#) by 4pm, Monday, January 25, 2024.

IL Section ASCE UESI/EWRI Presentation "Bringing Lake Michigan Water to Joliet" SAVE THE DATE

Date: Wednesday, February 21

Place: V3 Companies (7325 Janes Ave, Woodridge, IL 60517)

Time: 5:30pm

2024 ASCE Western Great Lakes Student Symposium

Date: Tuesday-Thursday, April 4-6

Place: Chicago, IL

Estimated Student Attendance: 400

Competitions (11 Total): Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, Surveying, Sustainable Solutions, Construction Institute, Technical Paper, Concrete Cornhole, GeoWall, Engineering Quiz Bowl, Scavenger Hunt, and Volleyball

Events of Interest: Networking Night and Bags Tournament, Symposium Career Fair, Awards Banquet and Ceremony.

Sponsorship Portfolio: [Click here](#)

Judge Registration: [Click here](#)

Please note that sponsorship additions and competition judge slots are limited. Additional information about the symposium may be found on the [symposium website](#). Please reach out to wglc2024@gmail.com with any questions.

UESI Illinois Chapter – Strategic Plan

VISION - To be the worldwide leader in generating and promoting excellence in engineering, planning, design, construction, operations, and asset management for utility infrastructure and engineering surveying.

MISSION - Deliver value to our members, and advance utility engineering and surveying professionals.

DEFINITION - Utility Engineering is a branch of Civil Engineering that focuses on the plan, position, design, construction, operation, maintenance, and asset management of all utility systems, as well as the interaction between utility infrastructure and other civil infrastructure.

The UESI Illinois Chapter is currently looking for officers and directors. Also, any interested parties for Member at Large.

For additional information, contact either Joel Koenig, P.E. with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., at 630.907.7025 or by email (jkoenig@cmtengr.com), or Steve Rienks, P.E., PMP with American Surveying & Engineering at 708.997.1690 or by email (s.rienks@americansurveying.com).