

ASCE

TEXAS SECTION
Austin Branch

ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

November 2020

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRADLEY L. EAST, M.S., P.E.



Fall is officially here! And that means football, family and colder weather. I hope everyone enjoyed a spooky and safe Halloween. And I hope everyone is looking forward to the upcoming holiday season as much as me.

Thanksgiving is on the horizon and fast approaching. And with it comes a time to reflect and be thankful for the special things in our lives, such as family, friends, health and happiness. Even though our current climate might make it challenging to reflect on some of these special things, I encourage everyone to find something to be grateful for.

In keeping with the giving spirit, the ASCE Austin Branch is committed to being as charitable as possible throughout the 2020-2021 fiscal year. As you may have noticed, we will be accepting donations at each of our upcoming luncheons and we want to encourage everyone registering for our luncheons to give a little.

The encouraged donation amount is \$10, but any amount (from \$0 to \$1,000,000) is acceptable. \$5 of each donation amount will be directed toward funding branch operations. The remaining donation amount will be given to the Central Texas Food Bank (throughout the rest of the calendar year).

I want to share that ASCE celebrated ASCE Day on November 5th. ASCE Day is a celebration of the rich history, collective impact, and limitless future of our profession. ASCE members are devoted to serving the public good every single day. Every year, we take this one day to celebrate when we were founded in 1852 and reflect on the joy and pride of being civil engineers. Please visit the official [ASCE Day page](#) for more information.

I also want to share that CECON was held virtually from November 4-6th, thank you to everyone who attended. This is the preeminent Civil Engineering Conference in the State of Texas. This year's theme was be "Envisioning the Future" and featured speakers from TxDOT, Texas Water Development Board, United States Air Force Academy, various academic institutions, as well as various well known and established statewide engineering firms. More information about CECON can be found at <https://texascecon.org/>.

If you have not renewed for 2021, take the time to complete the membership process. Encourage your peers to join ASCE as a way to stay plugged into the profession. Remember that in most cases, individuals nominated for Branch awards and scholarships must be current ASCE members. If you're not feeling the benefits behind membership, let us know - we're here to help you get plugged in!

Are you looking for additional ways to be more active in ASCE, get involved and stay connected in 2021? Get a head start and jump in now! There are a lot of great opportunities that fit into every schedule and interest level and we'd love to have you! Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at me at (512) 971-3911 or beast@polarisforensics.com.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) for event recaps, upcoming events, relevant news, and updates. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you at the next Austin Branch luncheon.

Bradley L. East, M.S., P.E.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/3	U.S. Election Day
11/4-11/6	CECON
11/5	ASCE Day
11/12	ASCE YMF Virtual Scavenger Hunt
11/17	ASCE Austin Branch November Mtg
11/17	EWB Trivia Night
11/18	YMF Mental Health Seminar
11/19	SEI Professional Meeting
11/23	Legislative Fly-In Application Deadline
11/26	Thanksgiving



NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS GREATER AUSTIN IN TANZANIA

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

Please join us for November's Virtual Branch Meeting. We will receive a presentation from Lizzie Wilson, EIT and Mazen Zee Alameddine of Engineers Without Borders - Greater Austin (EWB Austin). This presentation will delve into EWB Austin's water system improvement project in Biharu, Tanzania.



LIZZIE WILSON, EIT

Lizzie Wilson is an EIT at BGE, Inc. in Austin Texas. She has a BS and MS in Environmental Engineering and a BA in French from SMU. She conducted her masters research on soil and water in the Bolivian Altiplano.

Professionally, she has largely worked on stormwater related projects, and really enjoys the modeling aspects of engineering. She has lived in 7 different states, but Austin is one of her favorite places to live. She has been involved in Engineers Without Borders since 2011, initially as a student and now as a professional.

In addition to engineering and volunteering, she enjoys cooking, tennis, philosophy, learning how to create music and being outdoors.



MAZEN ALAMEDDINE

Mazen is a Mechanical Engineer with an extensive background in the Oil & Gas industry. After graduating with a BSME from the University of Texas at Austin, Mazen gained a variety of experience from working as a Field Engineer, a small business owner, and as a senior test engineer. In 2016, Mazen and his spouse moved back to Austin where he joined EWB Greater Austin as a member on the instrumentation team. In 2019, he became the president of the chapter.

These days you can find Mazen dividing his time between his work as a business growth consultant at his family business, Protech Body Shop, spending time with his one year toddler, Zane, and attempting to make things out of wood or metal at his workshop. Mazen is passionate about volunteerism, technology, humanism, and advancing the welfare of humans around the world.

REGISTRATION LINK

(\$10 suggested donation)

DATE 11/17/2020, 11:45 am - 1:00 pm
LOCATION Zoom Virtual Meeting



EWRI UPDATE

BY TRAVIS KAATZ, P.E.

EWRI-Austin voted in the new 2020-2021 board!

- **President** *Travis Kaatz (EDGE Engineering)*
- **President-Elect** *Sarah Davis (HDR)*
- **Treasurer** *Spencer Schnier (FNI)*
- **Treasurer-Elect** *Jenna Roa (HDR)*
- **Past-President** *Sunit Deo (HDR)*

The following 2020-2021 Chair positions have been filled:

- **Social Chair** *Sam Paul (HDR)*
- **Community Outreach Chair** *Eduardo Perez (COA)*
- **Continuing Education Chair** *Kayla Swedeen (LAN)*
- **Scholarship Chair** *Kelley Rich (COA)*
- **Communications Chair** *Haytham Oueidat (LAN)*

EWRI is still in the planning and budgeting phase but be on the lookout for upcoming community outreach events in the coming months.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

BY AUSTIN MESSERLI, P.E.

NOVEMBER 3RD ELECTION DAY

As November 3rd came and went, I am sure there were countless feelings across the board about this election. It was tough not to get bogged down from either side of the aisle on the Federal level. However, there were multiple Propositions cross Central Texas related to infrastructure. From Counties and Cities, many desires to be proactive in improving their infrastructure and proposed plans to help their constituents. Plans were prepared and presented to citizens for a vote, and many of them passed with a resounding agreement. The passing of the City of Austin's Alternative Transportation Bond and Project Connect to Pflugerville and Hays County Bonds Initiatives reinforces the encouraging view society holds on our work and its positive impacts on people's everyday lives.

LEGISLATIVE FLY IN APPLICATION

The 2021 Legislative Fly-In applications are Open! This is an outstanding opportunity to join and be proactive on the public policy process and a chance to interact directly with Capitol Hill staff. While this year's event is tentatively scheduled to occur at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on March 3 & 4, 2021. We are monitoring CDC and D.C. Department of Public Health guidelines and will adjust plans accordingly. The 2021 Fly-In program includes:

- Meetings on the Hill with your Members of Congress or their staff
- Exclusive briefing sessions on key legislative activities in Congress and ASCE's legislative priorities.
- Interactive training on lobbying and influencing your elected leaders – including pre-event webinars
- Networking with your ASCE peers from across the country
- A Younger Member Program designed to prepare you as an emerging leader
- Tips on continuing relationships with your elected officials once you return home

If you are interested here is a link to the application: [2021 Legislative Fly In Application Survey](#). Just make sure to complete your application by November 23rd, 2020.

Also, if you or someone you know would be interested in being part of the Government Affairs Committee, do not hesitate to reach out the GovernmentRelations@austinasce.org

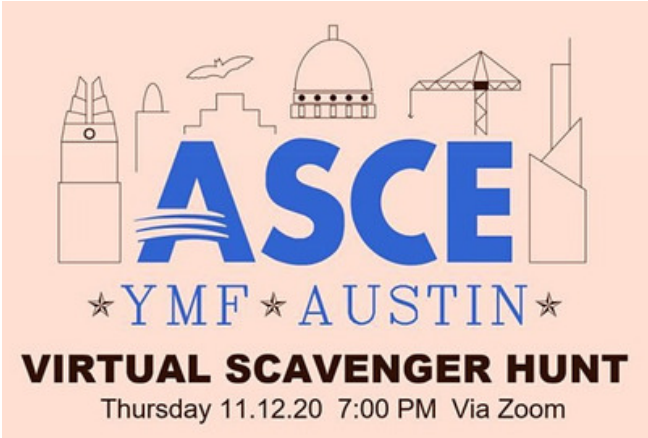
BY KATHERINE SMITH, EIT

ASCE YMF is excited to kick off another year! We have lots of fun (virtual) plans for this fall. Keep your eye out for Bingo nights, Happy Hours, and fitness groups. We look forward to (virtually) meeting you!

We are still looking for a Texas Section Liaison and Scholarship Committee members, so let your friends and coworkers know! This is a great way to meet fellow young engineers.

If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF Austin, please contact our president Kaylyn Hudson at Kaylyn.hudson@freese.com.

UPCOMING YMF EVENTS



ASCE
★ YMF ★ AUSTIN ★
VIRTUAL SCAVENGER HUNT
Thursday 11.12.20 7:00 PM Via Zoom

WHEN
November 12th, 7pm-9pm

REGISTRATION LINK
www.eventbrite.com/e/asce-ymf-austin-virtual-scavenger-hunt-tickets



Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Seminar

Please join us for a virtual seminar on Mental and Emotional Wellbeing. Attendees will take away methods to improve their mental wellbeing and understand how quarantine (working from home, not going out, etc.) specifically has impacted our mental health.

WHEN
November 18th, 12 pm – 1 pm

REGISTRATION LINK
www.eventbrite.com/e/mental-and-emotional-wellness-seminar-tickets

PRESENTER
Katy Redd, MPH, MSW Associate Director for Prevention, Development & Media Relations at UT Austin

Stay up to date by following us on our social media platforms 

 [@ymfaustin](https://www.instagram.com/ymfaustin)

 [ASCE YMF ATX](https://www.facebook.com/ASCEYMFATX)

 www.austinasce.org/younger-members

ASCE JOB BOARD

Attention ASCE Austin Branch sponsors! Did you know the ASCE Austin branch has a [JOB BOARD](#)?

If you're looking to add new talent to your team, consider advertising on our website. Public entities (cities, counties, TxDOT, etc.) are also invited to post job openings.

If you're interested, please contact Lily Aung at webmaster@austinasce.org.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS UPDATE



BY LIZZIE WILSON

Join the Greater Austin chapter of Engineers Without Borders on Tuesday, November 17th at 7PM for a virtual trivia night! The winning team will receive a prize.

Invite your friends, families and coworkers. Max team size is 6 people. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per individual, but all are welcome to participate. Please consider donating to benefit the Tanzania water rehabilitation project and to help us host more fun trivia nights like this!

If you are interested in sponsoring a trivia night or have any other questions, please email Lizzie Wilson, projects@ewbgreataustin.org.

Please see our latest blog post for more information: ewbgreataustin.org/2020/10/20/trivia-night-11-17/

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS
Greater Austin Chapter
PRESENTS
VIRTUAL
TRIVIA
NIGHT

Tuesday, November 17th 7:00-8:30PM	Suggested donation of \$5 per individual to benefit the Tanzania water rehabilitation project.
	Donations in greater amounts are warmly accepted!

PRIZES AWAIT OUR WINNERS!
Register online or by using the QR code

www.ewbgreataustin.org

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY AYAH ALOMARI

CENTRAL AREA FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERING



Consider volunteering as an individual, with friends, or with family members for this month of November!

Volunteers are needed almost every day sorting food in warehouses or in serving food in community kitchens.

Central Area Foodbank is taking extra steps to be COVID safe at all of their events! Check out these opportunities at the link below.

Please note this is not an ASCE Austin sponsored event.

VOLUNTEER LINK

centraltexasfoodbank.org/get-involved/volunteer

\$1 = 4 NUTRITIOUS MEALS

COMPANY COLLABORATIVE VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING

If you and your company are interested in participating in a friendly competition for charitable cause, then we have the event for you!



From December 1st - January 31st, ASCE Austin is going to join the local community in the Central Area Food Bank Holiday Fundraiser!

Create a team through your company and try to raise as much as you can through ASCE. The firm to donate the most money will be granted free sponsorship! Fill out the form below if you are interested in learning more!

INTEREST FORM

<https://forms.gle/uD5HrAbAik62bDjr8>

HONORS COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY DAVID MATOCHA

Congratulations to Garabed Hartunian for earning the Texas Section Lifetime Achievement Award. This is the highest award given to an ASCE Texas Section member and is awarded only on special occasions.

For those that attended CECON this year, you had the opportunity to see the Texas Section President presenting Garo with his award. Garo has been a long-time member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and particularly the Austin Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers where he served as Branch President from 1998-1999. He has earned numerous prestigious professional awards such as the ASCE Austin Branch – Civil Engineer of the Year Award in 2000, the ASCE Texas Section – Service to People Award in 2001, the ASCE Texas Section – Professional Service Award in 2005, the ASCE Texas Section –John A. Focht, Jr., Citizen Engineer Award in 2010; and the City of Austin – Distinguished Service Award in 2014.



The graphic features the ASCE Texas Section logo on the left, which consists of a white outline of the state of Texas with the letters 'ASCE' in blue and 'TEXAS SECTION' in smaller blue text below it. To the right of the logo, the text 'ASCE TEXAS SECTION' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the words 'LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD' are displayed in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath the award name, the message 'Congratulations Garabed Hartunian!' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. On the far right of the graphic is a portrait photograph of Garabed Hartunian, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red vest, smiling slightly. The background of the photo shows a Christmas tree with lights.

Nominations for the 2021 Austin Branch Engineer of the Year Award are due January 8th, 2021. The winner will be announced as part of the Engineer’s Week festivities in February. It is never too early to start thinking about the many wonderful engineers that serve the Austin Branch and the civil engineering profession. The past winners of this award are literally a “Who’s Who” of the Austin civil engineering community. Surely you know someone deserving to be considered for this award. Please reach out to me at david.matocha@forterrabp.com for a nomination form or if you have any questions.

CHRISTMAS IN MARBLE FALLS

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS FULL OF SMALL TOWN CHARM IN MARBLE FALLS

BY ERIN BURKS

Make your holiday bucket list and check it twice.

This season, Marble Falls magic is sprinkled all throughout the town, with the Walkway of Lights in Lakeside Park, plus the Downtown Sip N’ Shops, a Christmas parade, live music, and the soon-to-be family tradition of the Winter Ice Skating Rink.

For more information, please visit VisitMarbleFalls.org/Christmas





Greetings from the SEI Austin Chapter Board! Although the calendar has turned again and we are still adjusting to the restrictions of the pandemic, we are continuing to push forward on our Mission to advance and serve the Structural Engineering profession. Toward that end we have re-organized our Board and are providing some opportunities to engage “virtually”. See details below.

The Board that will lead us into the future includes: Eric Sammarco (President); John Holt (Past-President/Support); Scott Walton (Past-President/Web Master/SET Chair); Sumanth Cheruku (Treasurer); Johnathan Terrazas (Sponsorships/Facilities); Blake Staton (Program Coordinator) and Scott Wallace (Past-President/Communications)

PROFESSIONAL MEETING, 11/19/20

This month we are offering a virtual Professional Meeting on Nov 19th. This meeting will feature Assistant Professor Cameron D. Murray, Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. He will be discussing the latest advancements in the use of Belitic Calcium Sulfoaluminate (BCSA) cement as an alternative to portland cement in precast, prestressed concrete. It features rapid strength gain exceeding 4,000 psi in two hours, very low shrinkage and several durability benefits. Dr. Murray will trace the history of BCSA cement and include ongoing research at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas. Specific focus will be given to the feasibility of using BCSA cement in prestressed concrete members and flexural performance of members using it. Additional information will be provided in the upcoming SEI e-blast and at the [SEI website](#) where you can register.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TALKS (SET) 2021

Planning continues for SET 2021. We hope to hold it next Spring, but will adjust based on the continued impacts of the COVID disruption. Updates and all available information will be maintained at <https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set>



ADDITIONAL ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

1. Past favorite SET presentations

Although SET 2020 has been cancelled, you can catch up on some of the favorite SET presentations from previous events at: <https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set> This is also the sight to use to keep up with developments on SET 2021.

2. Career Path Series: Insights with Glenn Bell and SE Industry Leaders ([link](#))

Two monthly discussions remain for every level of structural engineer: from where to begin to possibilities beyond principal. Live sessions are free for ASCE/SEI Members, but space is limited. \$35 registration fee per session for nonmembers. Members will be able to access the recording after the event, as well as resource links specific to each session.

3. SEI Structures 2020 Virtual Event ([link](#))

This recoding is free and open to all. It features content on Generations@Work, Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety CROSS-US, and Performance-Based Design taken from the recently canceled Structures Congress.

4. SEI Structures Congress 2020 Proceedings ([link](#))

This site provides access to the papers that were to be presented at the Structures Congress.

5. ASCE Collaborate ([link](#))

This is a collaboration page normally reserved for ASCE members, but now open to all. It contains several events that can be joined. Most events are free of charge.

6. ASCE free virtual lectures

Center for Buildings, Infrastructure and Public Space (CBIPS) at Columbia University offers lectures on COVID-19 and technical topics. [Register here.](#)

As always, you can stay plugged into the SEI Austin Chapter via our [website](#), where you'll find the latest and greatest on upcoming events and chapter leadership. We always welcome your thoughts on future technical and other special events – particularly during these challenging times. If there is something you would like to do, then we would like to hear about it. Please drop us a line at sei@austinasce.org.

ASCE AUSTIN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more. If you are interested in any of our committees, please contact our and our Nominations Committee Chair, Travis Isaacson, at tisaacson@rios-group.com.

2020-2021 ASCE AUSTIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Kacey Paul, P.E., C.F.M.
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The Rios group

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Coby Gee, P.E.
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City of Marble Falls

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Forterra Pipe & Precast
Garabed (Garo) Harutunian, P.E., F.ASCE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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MWM DesignGroup
Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T.
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STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Tony Buonodono, P.E.
MWM Design Group

UT AUSTIN MENTORING COMMITTEE

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Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc.
Paul Hahn, P.E. (Practitioner Advisor 2)
Aguirre & Fields

STUDENT CHAPTER CONTACT COMMITTEE

Jacob Gay, P.E.
Dashiell Corporation

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY AUSTIN HELTON, P.E.

2020-2021 ASCE Austin Branch Sponsorship Opportunities are STILL Available!

We ask that all members consider supporting your local ASCE branch during these uncertain and difficult times. Almost all the functions of the organization are dependent upon these sponsorships and we cannot do all the great things that we do, without YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information about the benefits of sponsorship visit:

<https://www.austinasce.org/sponsors>.

If you have any questions or for more information please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$300 | ANNUAL SPONSORS

- Valid for 1 Year after date of purchase.
- Company logo is displayed on newsletters, mailers, and at ASCE branch meetings.
- Free postings on the ASCE job board.

\$350 | MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING SPONSORS

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Special recognition at branch meeting event.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.

\$300 | CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2021)

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

\$850 | SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE

- Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three!
- Includes Annual Sponsorship
- Includes one credit for monthly branch meeting sponsorship.
- Includes sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

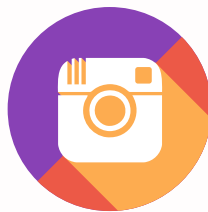
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