

October NEWSLETTER



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tyler Dube, P.E., M. ASCE

This is an exciting time of year for many of us volunteering for the ASCE Austin Branch. October is the first month many of your board and committee members are executing their new roles – myself included! So we might have a few kinks to work out as we put on our next luncheon and fall events, but rest assured we have a lot in store this year with some really talented engineers leading the way. A few upcoming events:

- Andrew Domke, P.E. is leading our first Community Service event for Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Aiming for the week before Thanksgiving, Andrew and about a dozen ASCE volunteers will contribute their time to this wonderful organization. If you'd like to extend some good will around this time of giving thanks, he's collecting names of volunteers at this month's luncheon or you can ping him directly at adomke@ferrovial.com
- Nick Richman, P.E. and Brent Edwards (EIT) are organizing our 5th annual Kealing Engineering Blitz for the week after Thanksgiving – this is a fast-paced STEM activity with over 400 6th-graders to get them excited about Civil Engineering with a hands-on activity. We'll need ~40 volunteers to make this successful, and it's way more fun than your 9am Zoom meeting you'd be doing otherwise. Help these guys out with an hour of your workday to inspire tomorrow's engineers! Volunteer signups opportunities will be announced at the luncheon, email Nick at nrichman@HNTB.com for details.

As your president this year, my mission is to build momentum on some initiatives that have gained steam at the local and Society levels over the last few years, including:

- Roll out a new communications platform for our Branch – ASCE has invested in some new e-blast tools that integrate directly with our membership database, facilitate event registration, payment processing, and provide analytic tools. We'll be retiring the hodge-podge of systems we've used in the last several years for these functions for something that will hopefully make it easier for you to get the info you need (and for us to get better at giving it to you).
- Promote ASCE's next IMAX film, Future World Vision. If you saw ASCE's 2017 Dream Big film, this is a bigger and badder version of that! It represents ASCE's next big push into inspiring tomorrow's engineers to think forward to how our cities and society will function in 2070. Six key trends are explored in a compelling storyline – alternative energy, autonomous vehicles, climate change, smart cities, advanced materials, and policy and funding – that challenge the traditional approach to how we design and build our environment. Wouldn't it be cool if we had a weekend where Austin Branch engineers and their families went to the Bob Bullock museum to see the film and support our profession? I think so. We'll be talking more about this when the film comes out in 2024.

There's plenty of other exciting things we hope to accomplish this year, stay tuned for details in our next newsletter. In the meantime, join us on October 17 at Balcones Country Club for our next luncheon where we will hear from Matt Hollon & Pamela Abee-Taulli with the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department on updates to the landscape code.

Tyler Dube, P.E., M.ASCE
President, Austin Branch



CALENDAR

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

10
OCT

EWRI Open Lunch Meeting
12 PM | FNI (Capital of TX Conf. Rm.)

EWB Halloween Social
6-8 PM | Pease Park Picnic Tables

ASCE Austin October Branch Meeting
11:30 AM - 1 PM | Balcones Country Club

17
OCT

24
OCT

EWB Year in Review
6-7:30 PM | Central Machine Works

HALLOWEEN
ASCE Texas OCEA Nominations Deadline

31
OCT

Fall Volunteer Events

18
NOVEMBER
9 AM - 12 PM



Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Serving Goodness.

Bring your families and come play in the dirt! This thanksgiving holiday give back to your community by joining the ASCE Austin Branch for an outdoor hands-on community service event with Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

Each ASCE member volunteer will receive a t-shirt!
Email communityoutreach@austinasce.org to register!

29 & 30
NOVEMBER
8:15 - 11 AM




KEALING MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUSTIN Independent School District

Save the date for the Kealing Engineering Blitz! Volunteers will host a competition to see which team of 6th graders can build the tallest tower out of cups and popsicle sticks or the strongest paper bridge that will hold bolts and washers. Teachers will be present in the classroom to help facilitate. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be provided.

Volunteers will need to register and sign up for a background check! Choose the STEM Enrichment Category when prompted.

Registration coming soon!

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

 October 17, 2023

 11:30 AM - 1 PM

 Balcones Country Club



Matt Hollon
COA Watershed
Protection Department

Matt Hollon and Liz Johnston (Watershed Protection) and Pamela Abee-Taulli (Development Services) will provide an overview of work to develop three Land Development Code (LDC) ordinances.

A June 2022 Council Resolution called for a number of environmental protections. Many changes were passed by Council in Oct. 2022, but several of the more complex proposals were flagged for a “Phase II” for more analysis and stakeholder input. The three ordinances to be discussed are: (1) Colorado River Shoreline Protections (looking at increased Critical Water Quality Zone buffers & Erosion Hazard Zone setback protections along the Colorado River downstream of Lady Bird Lake); (2) Functional Green Landscape Ordinance (proposing a point-based system with a menu of options to create more healthy, comfortable, green spaces in urban places); and (3) Stormwater Management for Redevelopment.



Liz Johnston
COA Watershed
Protection Department

[Register Here!](#)

Thank you
TO OCTOBER'S SPONSOR!



Pamela Abee-Taulli
COA Development
Services Department

GUEST SPEAKERS

 October 17, 2023

 11:30 AM - 1 PM

 Balcones Country Club

[Register Here!](#)

Matt Hollon and Liz Johnston (Watershed Protection) and Pamela Abee-Taulli (Development Services) will provide an overview of work to develop three Land Development Code (LDC) ordinances.



Matt Hollon
COA Watershed Protection Department

Matt Hollon is an environmental planner for Austin’s Watershed Protection Department. He has a Masters in Planning from UT-Austin and has worked in both the public and private sectors since 1990. His focus has ranged from watershed regulations to stormwater control design to watershed strategic planning. He is currently working on potential changes to Austin’s Land Development Code to increase green infrastructure, protect the Colorado River, and improve flood management.



Liz Johnston
COA Watershed Protection Department

Liz Johnston is an Environmental Program Coordinator with the City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department. She has a Masters of Landscape Architecture from Texas A&M University and over fifteen years experience working on issues related to environmental policy and urban ecology. Along with her duties coordinating environmental issues related to Austin’s lakes, she is currently managing a research project that examines the status and distribution of native freshwater mussels in Austin’s eastern creeks.



Pamela Abee-Taulli
COA Development Services Department

Pamela Abee-Taulli is Environmental Program Coordinator with City of Austin Development Services Department. She has a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas and has worked in watershed planning and environmental development regulation for 13 years at the City of Austin. Pamela’s focus is on integrating nature into equitable urban design in a manner that maximizes ecosystem services.

SEPTEMBER MEETING RECAP

Austin Water has now started the process to complete the first 5-year update to the Water Forward plan and is targeting plan completion by 2024.

Check out the live recording of September's meeting [here!](#)

Thank you
TO SEPTEMBER'S SPONSOR!



Marisa Flores Gonzalez
Program Manager
Water Resources & Supply
Austin Water



Congratulations

ASCE TEXAS SECTION 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS



David Matocha, A.M.ASCE

David Matocha has been a constant presence, leader, and benefactor for the ASCE Austin Branch and Texas Section since the mid-1990's. When David joined ASCE, the Austin branch was characterized as a small branch (20-25 people attending regular events) with little financial resources. His gregarious personality and professional network as a material supplier helped grow interest in the branch activities. After 3-4 years he was elected president for 2000-2001 and served an additional term in 2004-2005. In each of those terms the Austin Branch was awarded the Certificate of Commendation for Outstanding Large Branch, a testament to the growth in membership and member participation under his leadership.

More than just a participant in ASCE activities, David got his company to sponsor Branch and Section events almost every year since 1996 which shows he believes in the ASCE mission and has been consistent in finding the financial resources to achieve it. It was in David's years of branch leadership in various board and committee roles that set the foundation for the group's current financial security with approximately \$90k in reserves accumulated. Currently, the Branch is organizing an upcoming scholarship endowment and annual event to support the endowment's growth that will leverage those resources.

David recently took over for the late Honors committee leader Garo Harutunian whom the Austin Branch's annual Engineer of the Year Award is named after. The current board leans on David from time to time to understand the Branch's history, past successes and challenges, and ideas for events to promote the civil engineering profession. Recently, David identified an unmet need for more professional-student-faculty interaction at UT Austin, which the Branch is now exploring as a possible new annual event to increase interest and awareness of the scholarships awarded annually to civil engineering students.

David Matocha has been a constant presence, leader, and benefactor for the ASCE Austin Branch and David has also been very active in the Texas Section, serving as the Austin Branch representative for 2 terms and as Treasurer for 2 terms. His most notable achievement is the vision and inspiration for CECON, which he and Ron Reichart were early organizers and champions in the first several iterations of what is now the Section's premier annual event. David's active involvement in Texas Concrete Pipe Association concurrent to his ASCE volunteer efforts has led to a successful recurring major sponsorship of the opening BBQ dinner at CECON. It was David's vision for engineers to bring their family to an exciting evening to relax, eat, and enjoy the fellowship of other engineers without needing to bring their wallet. He has been an exhibitor organizer and participant for CECON for multiple years.

David received the Lifetime Service Award from the Texas Section at this year's CECON for his enduring contributions over the last 27 years. He is not just a participant. He truly understands the value of civil engineers coming together to discuss issues important to the profession through technical and non-technical events; working with other professional societies on common issues; leveraging private sponsorship of events to help the Society achieve the ASCE mission locally and regionally. And his tangible contributions for event creation, planning, and execution serve as the basis of what we all enjoy now as highly successful and important aspects of current civil engineering professional society activity.

David Matocha, A.M.ASCE
Senior Technical Services Manager
Rinker Materials



Congratulations
ASCE LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Augustine Verrengia III, P.E., M.ASCE

Augustine is the Civil Market Leader at WGI. He graduated from the University of Texas – San Antonio, specializing in Civil and Environmental Engineering. In his current, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing and coordinating complex land development projects. His portfolio includes a diverse range of large-scale commercial, residential, and mixed-use developments. With capabilities that allow him to work on projects ranging from high-rise towers within Austin’s urban core to master-planned communities in the Texas Hill Country.

Augustine has an unwavering commitment to advancing civil engineering, consistently demonstrating exceptional leadership, technical expertise, and a profound dedication to improving the infrastructure in Texas. His achievements and impactful projects have left an indelible mark on the industry and have significantly contributed to the growth and development of civil engineering in our region.

Throughout his career, Augustine has served as a mentor and inspiration to countless professionals, from those just starting out to the more seasoned. He has played an instrumental role in shaping the careers of numerous individuals by nurturing their talents and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement among his peers. Augustine’s ability to lead by example and his passion for guiding the next generation will continue to leave a lasting impact on the profession.

Augustine’s dedication to infrastructure advocacy is a notable accomplishment within his career. Through his participation in ASCE at the National, State, and Branch levels, Augustine has actively participated in initiatives aimed at raising awareness about critical infrastructure issues. He participated in the production and communication of the 2021 Texas Infrastructure Report Card as a vital tool for legislators and decision-makers. Augustine has played a key role in organizing State legislative Drive-In events, presenting testimonies in legislative committee hearings, and producing technical reports following natural disasters.

Augustine led these efforts as the Texas Section Government Affairs Committee Chair and most recently as the Texas Section VP for Professional Affairs.



Martha Juch, P.E., CFM, M.ASCE

Martha is a Portfolio Project Manager in the TxDOT Center of Excellence, Professional Engineering Procurement Services Division. She retired from a water resources consulting career in 2014 and joined TxDOT in 2015 to pursue a second career in the Public Sector.

Martha has been involved in ASCE for over 40 years, starting as a student at Texas A&M University. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering from TAMU in Civil Engineering, and a Master of Science from Rice University in Environmental Engineering.

She served in numerous committee chair and officer positions at the Houston Branch and Texas Section, becoming the first female President of each in the 1990s. She was also the first female Region 6 Director on the ASCE Board of Direction in 2010-2013 and served on the ASCE Strategic Planning Committee, Energy Environment and Water Policy Committee, Program and Finance Committee, Infrastructure Report Card Advisory Committee, and Committee on Licensure. ASCE appointed Martha twice to serve as the liaison to the Federal Advisory Committee on Water Information, a federal advisory committee. She currently is a member of the ASCE Committee on Professional Conduct.

Martha has received numerous awards and recognitions from ASCE, including the Texas Section Government Civil Engineer Award, the Houston Branch Award of Honor, the Texas Section Award of Honor, the Texas Section Professional Service Award, the Texas Section Best of Session Technical Paper Award, and the first Zone III Citizen Engineer Award (now the John A Focht Jr. Citizen Engineer Award).

Augustine Verrengia III, P.E., M.ASCE
Civil Market Leader | *WGI*



Congratulations
ASCE AWARD OF HONOR RECIPIENT

Martha Juch, P.E., CFM, M.ASCE
Portfolio Project Manager | *TxDOT*



Congratulations
ASCE LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

Leadership



Katherine Smith, PE
Director
Halff Associates



Matthew Gaal, PE
President
Kimley-Horn



Clint Smith, PE
Vice President
Halff Associates



Hope Newton, EIT
Treasurer
Kimley-Horn



Casey Schneider, PE
Secretary
Kimley-Horn



Erin McDuffie, EIT
Social Chair
Jacobs



Abel Rodrenche, EIT
Social Committee
Kimley-Horn



Kristen Van Hoosier, PE
Social Committee
Cobb, Fendley & Associates



Aleesha Toteja, EIT
Scholarship Chair
Halff Associates



Griselda Quintero, EIT
Scholarship Committee
Miller Gray



Sebastian Sampayo, EIT
Service Chair
Alliance Transportation Group



Lexie Garcia, EIT
Golf Tournament Chair
JMT



Joseph Banda, EIT
Social Media Chair
Alliance Transportation Group



Dulce Trejo, EIT
Student Chapter Liaison
Research Assistant - UT Austin



Clint Smith, PE
Texas Section Liaison
Halff Associates

UPCOMING YMF EVENTS

Austin ASCE YMF is in the works planning upcoming service events, happy hours, as well as holiday events this year and can't wait to see everyone there!

For event details see our calendar: <https://www.austinasce.org/calendar>

CONNECT WITH US!



@ymfaustin



ASCE YMF ATX



[austinasce.org/
younger-members](https://austinasce.org/younger-members)

ASCE REGION SIX UPDATES

Region 6 is comprised of all the Sections and Branches within the states of Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas as well as the Country of Mexico.

One of the initiatives of Region 6 is to be a resource to our membership by fostering collaboration between the various groups within the region including Sections, Branches, Student Chapters, and Younger Member Groups. If your local group has an idea, program, initiative, or suggestion, please share with your Region 6 Contact so that other groups within the region can benefit and/or hear the news!

ASCE TEXAS SECTION UPDATES

Submit Your Nominations Today!

2024 Texas Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Annual Project Award

The Texas OCEA Award may be given on an annual basis to a completed project, built and/or designed in Texas, that demonstrates the greatest contribution to civil engineering progress and to society. See the link below for more information on the nomination process.

Please send all Texas OCEA nominations to office@texasce.org by October 31.



EWB UPDATES





ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER U.T. UPDATES

The UT Student Chapter held their third general meeting on Wednesday, September 27th. They invited a panel of past alumni to share insights about their experience in college and life in the industry.



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15), we're spotlighting a fellow engineer's podcast as he provides his perspective on "Hispanic Heritage Month and What it Means to be a Latino in STEM."



Episode 052 // Hispanic Heritage Month and What it Means to be a Latino in STEM

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

BY BRANDON ESSLER, P.E., RAS

\$300
Annual Sponsors

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

\$350
Monthly Meeting Sponsors

- Company highlight in event and promotion emails.
- Special recognition at monthly Branch Meeting.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.

\$300
Continuing Education Event Sponsors

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

\$850
Bundle Sponsors

- Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three levels!
- Includes Annual Sponsorship.
- Includes one (1) credit for Monthly Branch Meeting sponsorship.
- Includes Sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

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 or to sign up, visit www.austinasce.org/sponsors.

If you have any questions please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.



2023-2024

THANK YOU

TO OUR BRANCH SPONSORS!



STAY CONNECTED!



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2023-2024

ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH

Officers & Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT

Tyler Dube, P.E.
Pape-Dawson Engineers
president@austinasce.org

PRESIDENT - ELECT

Kat Lauer, P.E.
Garza EMC
presidentelect@austinasce.org

VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMS

Augustine Verrengia, P.E.
WGI
vicepresident@austinasce.org

SECRETARY

Michael Chavez, P.E.
Binkley & Barfield
secretary@austinasce.org

TREASURER

Lily Aung, P.E.
WSP USA
treasurer@austinasce.org

TREASURER-ELECT

Andrea Bryant, P.E.
Freese and Nichols
treasurerelect@austinasce.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Griselda Quintero, E.I.T.
Miller Gray
communications@austinasce.org

SECTION DIRECTOR

Austin Messerli, P.E.
K Friese + Associates
texassection@austinasce.org

YOUNGER MEMBER DIRECTOR

Katherine Smith, P.E.
Halff Associates
ymfdirector@austinasce.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul Hahn, P.E.
Aguirre & Fields
pastpresident@austinasce.org

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Brett Noble, E.I.T.
Garver
scholarships@austinasce.org

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Brandon Essler, P.E., RAS
Pape-Dawson Engineers
Greg Garced, P.E.
Michael Baker International
sponsorship@austinasce.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cassandra Prince, E.I.T.
Payton Nunez, E.I.T.
STV Inc.
Dannielle Middleton, E.I.T.
Pape-Dawson Engineers
membership@austinasce.org

WEB PAGE COMMITTEE

Brissa Rodriguez
BGE
webmaster@austinasce.org

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Dannielle Middleton, E.I.T.
Pape-Dawson Engineers
socialmedia@austinasce.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Paul Hahn, P.E.
Aguirre & Fields
nominating@austinasce.org

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Andrew Domke, P.E.
Ferrovial Construction
publicrelations@austinasce.org
communityoutreach@austinasce.org

STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Nicholas Richman, P.E.
HNTB
Brent Edwards, E.I.T.
Pape-Dawson Engineers
e-week@austinasce.org

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Travis Isaacson, P.E.
The Rios Group
strategicplanning@austinasce.org

HONORS COMMITTEE

David Matocha
Rinker Pipe
Glenn Goldstein, P.E.
RS&H
honors@austinasce.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Steve Zobal, P.E.
MWM DesignGroup
continuingeducation@austinasce.org

HISTORY & HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Swamy Pati, PhD, P.E.
Jacobs
historyheritage@austinasce.org

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Vacancy
governmentrelations@austinasce.org

STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Sam Shorter, P.E.
Miller Gray
stakeholder@austinasce.org

UT AUSTIN MENTORING COMMITTEE

Marcelo DaSilva, PhD, P.E.
Burns & McDonnell
utmentoring@austinasce.org

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STUDENT CHAPTER CONTACT COMMITTEE

Andrea Sandoval, E.I.T.
Aguirre & Fields
Hayden Humes, E.I.T.
Garza EMC
utstudentoutreach@austinasce.org

TEXAS STATE STUDENT CHAPTER CONTACT COMMITTEE

Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T.
Aguirre & Fields
Mohammed Musa, PhD, P.E.
DCS Engineering
txststudentoutreach@austinasce.org

Thank
you

2022-2023
ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH
Leadership

