



TEXAS SECTION  
Austin Branch

# ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

October 2020

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRADLEY EAST, P.E.

I am excited to welcome everyone back to another year of ASCE. My name is Bradley East and I am honored to serve as your ASCE Austin Branch President for 2020/2021.

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank our outgoing President, Board Members, Committee Chairs and volunteers. Everyone did an amazing job and stepped up during unprecedented times to continue to engage our membership.

We only missed one (1) meeting back in the Spring due to the lockdown and we were able to transition to hosting virtual meetings pretty seamlessly. That is an incredible accomplishment, and everyone should be very proud of themselves. Thanks again for all your hard work.

Quick COVID update. We have made the executive decision to put a hold on all in-person events for the remainder of the calendar year. And based on guidance from ASCE National, all in-person events will most likely remain on hold through most of Spring 2021. We look forward to the day when we can all gather again in-person.

But for now, out of an abundance on caution, it is imperative that we keep everyone healthy and safe and we ask everyone to embrace ASCE virtually.

Considering our current predicament, our main goal for the year is to keep our membership engaged in this virtual world. I have challenged our incoming officers and committees to not only engage you, our members, but also our younger student population. We should have some exciting activities in the works. Stay tuned.

We also recognize as a Branch that times our tough for a lot of folks right now. One of our other main goals for the year is to be as charitable as possible. To that end, we will be accepting donations for the Central Texas Food Bank and other organizations at each of our upcoming luncheons. Please consider donating. Every little bit helps and is much appreciated.

Our annual Continuing Education Conference was held on Friday, October 9, 2020. Thank you to everyone who attended this 1/2 day event (picking up 5 CE credits in the process!). Our planning committee did a wonderful job arranging for some interesting and diverse speakers/topics.

Lastly, we have an election fast approaching and I would like to encourage everyone to exercise their civic duty. PLEASE VOTE. Election day is November 3, 2020. For those interested in voting early, the early voting period runs from Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to Friday, October 30, 2020. Additional information, such as polling locations, voter registration, and what's on the ballot, among other items, can be found at [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov).

Bradley East, P.E.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 10/13 EARLY VOTING BEGINS
- 10/20 ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING
- 11/3 ELECTION DAY
- 11/4 CECON BEGINS
- 11/17 ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING
- 11/17 EWB TRIVIA NIGHT
- 11/18 YMF MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR

# OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

Please join us for our October virtual branch meeting. We will receive a presentation on Zebra Mussels and Water Quality in Central Texas from Stephen Davis, an Aquatic Biologist with the Lower Colorado River Authority.

**DATE** 10/20/2020 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

**LOCATION** Zoom Virtual Meeting



[REGISTER HERE](#)

[DONATE HERE](#)  
*Suggested Donation - \$10*

Stephen Davis is an aquatic biologist for the Lower Colorado River Authority. He received a BS in Environmental Science from TCU in Fort Worth, TX, and a MS from Texas A&M University where he conducted research in the Wildlife and Fisheries Department.

Since graduation, Stephen has worked for several natural resource management organizations including the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department, The Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and now the LCRA. Stephen's work has encompassed a range of projects involving water quality, riparian restoration, aquatic invasive species, and native species conservation.

He currently leads the LCRA's zebra mussel monitoring program. Whether it's during the work day or on the weekend you can often find Stephen near the water.



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[www.TexasCECON.org](http://www.TexasCECON.org)

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STUDENT CHAPTER  
University of Texas  
at Austin

**Save The Date**  
April 15-17, 2021 // Austin, Texas

For more information contact [utexas.asce@gmail.com](mailto:utexas.asce@gmail.com)



## 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)*

EWRI is accepting volunteers/nominations for the following chair positions:

- Continuing Education Chair
- Scholarship Chair
- Communications Chair

If you are interested in any of the above chair positions please contact Travis Kaatz at [tkaatz@civil-edge.com](mailto:tkaatz@civil-edge.com).

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## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

BY AUSTIN MESSERLI, P.E.

### 2020 CENSUS

Many of you have probably seen all the 2020 Census advertisements the past couple of months and have taken the time to complete the survey. This data is crucial for Texas and your local municipalities to secure future funding over the next 10 years. This is no different for federal infrastructure allocations. Every year Billions of dollars in federal funds for public transit, highway improvements, and education are distributed based on the Census data. October is the last month to complete this year's Census. If you have not taken the time to complete the Census, please take the short time to complete the survey. Here is a link to the national website (<https://2020census.gov/>).

### CONGRESS PASS ONE-YEAR SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION

Congress passed the continuing resolution extending then Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. This authorizes \$305 billion over fiscal years 2016 through 2020 for highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology, and statistics programs. ASCE appreciates that Congress ensured funding expectations for state DOTs and transit agencies as they strive to continue capital projects and critical programs. Many ASCE members helped reach out to federal legislature members to help reinforce the importance of this extension. Each correspondence from Key Contact members adds up to a louder and influencing voice, but we need your help to continue that effort. Visit ASCE's Key Contact Program page and get registered (<https://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>)

Along with the Key Contact Program, 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](mailto: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 have selected our leadership for this new 2020-2021 year. However, we are still looking for a Texas Section Liaison and Scholarship Committee members, so let your friends and coworkers know!

YMF is wishing the best of luck to all EITs who are signed up to take the PE the end of this month!

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

Keep up to date on our latest news by following us on any of our social media platforms, linked below:

- [Our Website](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [Instagram](#)



*In honor of ACL weekend, here is Phil enjoying the music a couple years ago 😊*



*Here is Phil carving a pumpkin to celebrate Halloween!*



## **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*

### **WHERE**

*virtual meeting link to follow*

### **PRESENTER**

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

## **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](mailto:webmaster@austinasce.org).



# ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS UPDATE

BY LIZZIE WILSON

This past Wednesday, we (the Greater Austin chapter of Engineers Without Borders) hosted our second Virtual Trivia Night.

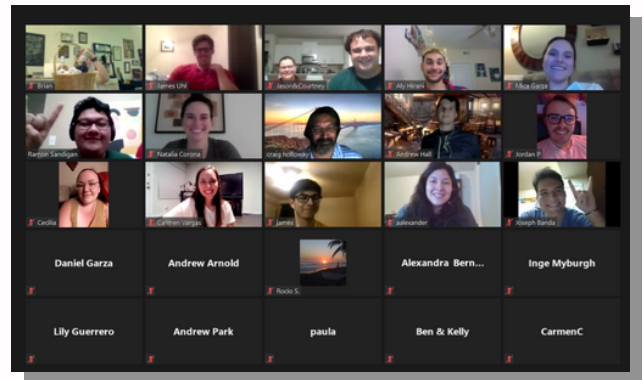
The virtual fundraiser raised nearly \$600 for our Tanzania project and we had a lot of fun! We had 13 teams compete this round.

Special thank you to Frankly Vodka for sponsoring our first-place prize. Mark your calendar for our next trivia night (Tuesday, November 17) and be on the lookout for sign up information on our website.

If you are looking for a way to get involved, we have two active projects: a water rehabilitation project in Tanzania and a solar/structural project in Puerto Rico.

These projects are still making progress, even virtually. Our Tanzania project is in the process of setting up some remote assessment work to hopefully occur within 2020, which means we will hopefully have some data soon to begin preliminary design.

Email [projects@ewbgrreateraustin.org](mailto:projects@ewbgrreateraustin.org) with any questions on the projects or how to get involved.



## UT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

BY ROBERT RAMON, P.E.

ASCE Austin Branch members have kicked off their participation as mentors to University of Texas Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering students for the senior-level Engineering Professionalism course. Contributions thus far include guiding students through field visits, kick-off meetings with their clients, and project development.

Students are organized into teams to work on real-world projects for real-world clients. Mentors are assigned to each team to support students in developing a sound technical approach, preparing an oral presentation for a stakeholder meeting, and delivering a brief written report to their client. While mentors are asked to provide technical advice as the project develops, another important component of this course is to expose students to the non-technical aspects of our work as we collaborate with team members, clients, and stakeholder communities.

Keep this opportunity in mind for the Spring semester which typically requires a greater number of mentors. Serving as a mentor is an excellent opportunity to assist with public service projects in our community, identify potential new hires for your company, get your company name out in the local community, and earn three professional development hours (PDHs) for licensure. New mentors are welcome – this semester we have 17 first-timers!



Greetings from the SEI Austin Chapter!

A big thanks to everyone who joined us last month for our virtual professional meeting, where we heard from Mr. Ryan Eaves of the Geotechnical Branch of the TxDOT Bridge Division on large diameter drilled shaft foundations and TIP testing. Mr. Eaves' discussion was thought-provoking and educational – thanks Mr. Eaves!

If you have a minute, please drop us a quick line at [sei@austinasce.org](mailto:sei@austinasce.org) and let us know your thoughts on our current “virtual” delivery strategy for our Professional Meetings. We plan to keep this mode of delivery in the near future as we continue to cope with the ongoing pandemic, thus we'd like to hear from you on how we can enhance your virtual experience until we can get back to the ole' in-person format. As we look to the month of November, we are considering another virtual Professional Meeting; however, these plans are not finalized yet.

Please stay tuned for additional details on a potential November Professional Meeting in next month's newsletter and in forthcoming SEI e-blasts.

## Structural Engineering Talks (SET) 2021:

The impact of the pandemic was originally thought to be short-lived but has resulted in 6 months or more of remote work for many of us. Originally, we had hoped to be able to provide SET 2020 in the Fall but have now concluded that it is in the best interest of the profession to cancel it all together. And so, efforts have begun to prepare for SET 2021 which we hope to provide in the Spring.



## Additional On-Line 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](mailto: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](mailto:tisaacson@rios-group.com).

## 2020-2021 ASCE AUSTIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### **PRESIDENT**

Bradley East, P.E.  
*Polar Forensics, Inc.*  
[president@austinasce.org](mailto:president@austinasce.org)

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Sam Shorter, P.E.  
*Miller Gray*  
[presidentelect@austinasce.org](mailto:presidentelect@austinasce.org)

### **VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMS**

Paul Hahn, P.E.  
*Aguirre & Fields*  
[vicepresident@austinasce.org](mailto:vicepresident@austinasce.org)

### **SECRETARY**

Colton Fisher, P.E.  
*Aguirre & Fields*  
[secretary@austinasce.org](mailto:secretary@austinasce.org)

### **TREASURER**

Tyler Dube, P.E.  
*Pape-Dawson Engineers*  
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### **TREASURER-ELECT**

Genest Landry, P.E.  
*City of Austin*  
[treasurerelect@austinasce.org](mailto:treasurerelect@austinasce.org)

### **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Leanne Cantalupo, E.I.T.  
*Carver*  
[communications@austinasce.org](mailto:communications@austinasce.org)

### **SECTION DIRECTOR**

Kat Lauer, E.I.T.  
*Sunland Group, Inc.*  
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### **YOUNGER MEMBER DIRECTOR**

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Travis Isaacson, P.E.  
*The Rios Group*  
[pastpresident@austinasce.org](mailto:pastpresident@austinasce.org)

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*Aguirre & Fields*  
Kacey Paul, P.E., C.F.M.  
*City of Marble Falls*

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*Carver*  
Andrea Bryant, P.E.  
*Aguirre & Fields*  
[scholarships@austinasce.org](mailto:scholarships@austinasce.org)

### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE**

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*Kimley Horn*  
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### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

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### **WEB PAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE**

Lily Aung, P.E.  
*Web Master*  
*Jacobs Engineering Group*  
[webmaster@austinasce.org](mailto:webmaster@austinasce.org)  
Griselda Quintero  
*Social Media Chair*  
*Miller Gray*

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Travis Isaacson, P.E.  
*The Rios group*

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*DCI Engineers*  
Coby Gee, P.E.  
*Freese and Nichols*  
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Kacey Paul, P.E., C.F.M.  
*City of Marble Falls*

### **HONORS COMMITTEE**

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

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*MWM DesignGroup*  
Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T.  
*Aguirre & Fields*

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

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### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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*Carver*  
[governmentrelations@austinasce.org](mailto:governmentrelations@austinasce.org)

### **STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE**

Tony Buonodono, P.E.  
*MWM Design Group*

### **UT AUSTIN MENTORING COMMITTEE**

Robert Ramon, P.E. (Practitioner Advisor 1)  
*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](mailto:sponsorship@austinasce.org).



## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### ANNUAL SPONSORS \_\_\_\_\_ \$300

- 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.

### MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING SPONSORS \_\_\_\_\_ \$350

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

### CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2021) \_\_\_\_\_ \$300

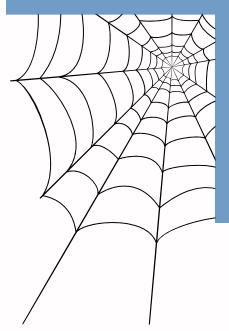
- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

### SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE \_\_\_\_\_ \$850

- 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.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!





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