

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to start by thanking the members of the Fort Worth Branch of ASCE for letting me become their President. I am excited to have this opportunity and see how we can better advance the engineering community. I consider it a humbling experience to be the president of an ASCE branch that has had so many great leaders in the past.

I am extremely thankful to our Past President Kameron Boggan for the outstanding work and care she put into our branch. I definitely have big shoes to fill. Kameron led us well as we had the unfortunate experience of navigating the rise of COVID-19 and how it affected the branch. I can say with confidence that she led us well. She was successful at co-hosting the joint meeting with the Dallas branch as the first online conference, and she also represented the branch well with our involvement in Engineer's Week. Even though we had to cancel the annual golf tournament, we were still able to ensure funds were set aside for student scholarships. It is my hope that I can continue leading as well as she did. Kameron truly deserves our gratitude, so make sure to drop her an email expressing that.

I am also grateful for the individuals that are volunteering this year as branch board members and committee chairs. Each of these individuals have a desire to serve and see the branch improve year to year. Their efforts do not go unnoticed. These efforts are aimed at helping the members of the Fort Worth branch interact with each other, learn as they receive continuing education, read our newsletters, and so much more. There is always room for volunteers, so if anybody is interested in an opportunity to help the branch, please reach out to myself or any of the branch staff. It is because of their efforts that this branch thrives. We want to continue to do our best to serve the members of the branch and always provide engaging content during our meetings and social content after hours. It is our hope that you continue to support us with your feedback, involvement, and attendance. We are always looking for new and better ways we can reach our members, so please let us know if you have an idea.

Who knows where 2020-2021 will take us? We have another joint meeting, golf tournament, E-Week, scholarships, and a few other social events in the works. So, thank you for coming along this year with us; we look forward to it all.

Regards,

Andrew Wilson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Branch Meetings:

November 16th, 2020

Virtual Meeting  
Speaker TBA

December 2020

Virtual Meeting  
Speaker TBA

January 2020

Location TBA  
Speaker TBA



# Meetings From the Previous Quarter

## September Branch Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Speaker: Susan K. Roth, PE, 2019-2020 ASCE Texas Section President  
Topic: Developing Regional Water Infrastructure Projects  
Attendance: 50

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## October Branch Meeting

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Speaker: Christopher Seman, PE, of Transystems  
Topic: TxDOT Tunnel Inspections  
Attendance: 52

## Mentor's Minute: Andrea Taylor, PE

**Where and in what field of civil engineering do you work?** I work at mma in the land development field.

**What is your role in ASCE?** I am currently the Treasurer/Vice President of the Fort Worth Branch.

**What college did you attend?** UT Arlington—Go Mavs!

**What brought you to the civil engineering profession and ASCE?** I originally wanted to be an environmental engineer to 'save the world', but I quickly realized I was not only terrible at chemistry—I also didn't like it. I ended up by chance in land development and LOVE it. I joined ASCE a little late; I started concrete canoe my junior year and I kick myself for not doing it earlier. I continued volunteering with ASCE through my professional career for networking and leadership training opportunities. It is never too late to join or step up into a volunteer role. You will gain more than you think.

**What are some lessons learned in your career you wish you knew earlier on?** I wish I learned to be a better marketer. While I still do design work and review plans, a large portion of my day is interacting with clients and potential new clients.

**What software/ programs do you frequently use or recommend for young engineers to learn?** Daily I use a host of Microsoft products, but design-wise AutoCAD Civil 3D is the main program I use.

**Is there a project in your career you would like to share?** There are so many, but the one I am most excited about is Marine Creek Ranch. It is a multi-phase subdivision, and it was the first project I started learning grading design on many years ago. I have been involved with, as an EIT and later as the responsible engineer, the development of 741 single family lots, two major thoroughfares, an amenity center, and a 7-Eleven in this community. While I couldn't save the world as an environmental engineer, I can design a sustainable world for many people to live, work, and play.

**Do you have any guidance you would like to provide to others?** Technology is always evolving. Stay current on the updates, however make sure you understand the underlying design methods that are used.



# University of Texas at Arlington Update



The UTA ASCE student chapter has held two virtual general body meetings so far this semester, with guest speakers from RH&S, Inc. and HR Green Company. Additionally, the concrete canoe team has met and organized their equipment storage area to have a clean, fresh start.



## Tarleton State University Update

The Tarleton State ASCE student chapter held their first meeting of the semester in October. The meeting was virtual and had great turnout! The TSU student chapter also held a movie night/watch party with their members and had a great time! The new student chapter officers are getting to know each other and are ready to start prepping for concrete canoe.



### Legislative Drive-In

The Legislative Drive-In will take place in February 2021! Mark your calendar and check back for more details. The committee has planned an excellent panel for CECON, and will have more details for the drive-in coming soon. <https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/legislative-drive-in/>

## ASCE YOUNGER MEMBERS



# WE MISS YOU!!

We hope you all are staying safe! We can't wait to start planning our Younger Member events! If you have any virtual event ideas or if you would like to showcase the fun, creative ways you, your pets, or family and friends are surviving the pandemic, send your pictures to [allison.stamper@pelotonland.com](mailto:allison.stamper@pelotonland.com). Also, follow us on social media for details on upcoming events. We're on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram!

# EIT Spotlight: Maria Sanders, EIT

**Where and in what field of civil engineering do you work?** I work at Baird, Hampton & Brown in the land development field.

**What is your role in ASCE?** I am currently the Fort Worth Branch Social Media Chair and Meeting Arrangements Coordinator.

**What college did you attend?** UT Arlington

**What brought you to the civil engineering profession and ASCE?** I really enjoyed building things when I was younger, and during the summers I would attend STEM based summer programs. Those programs helped guide me into the engineering field, and eventually to civil engineering.

**What is something you see changing in the industry?** I think optimization will continue. To think that it wasn't too far in the past that construction plans were done by hand, is amazing. I think the level of optimization in software will continue.

**What would you like to learn from PE's or mentors?** Hearing from mentors about different challenges in the industry at different levels in your career would be interesting to know.

**Did you have any internships? How did that aid your career?** I had one internship, and it helped give me insight on different types of interactions engineers have (with surveying) and the overall day-to-day aspects of office life.

**Do you have any ASCE stories you would like to share?** Symposium is something I look back at fondly. It was so much fun competing as a team with people who I built relationships with throughout the year, and to know there was a common goal while still having fun was some of the best memories I have.

**What is a fun fact about you?** I am 2/3rds done with my masters!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Happy **ASCE Day!**

*A Celebration of Civil Engineers*

**November 5, 2020**

Celebrate ASCE Day this year by having your company post a video of their ASCE members saying "Happy ASCE Day!" with the hashtags #ascefortworth and #asceday. ASCE Day supports ASCE Younger Member programs to provide leadership training and advanced technical skills.

## ASCE's 2021 President— Ask Him Anything!

Join the incoming 2021 ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud PhD, PE, D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE as he answers members' questions monthly in a virtual town hall. Every first business day of the month, Dr. Briaud will field questions. The first Ask the President town hall will be held Monday, November 2 at Noon CT. Follow the Zoom meeting link to tune in: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OOzMYHhRTmaouQZPXHl9w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OOzMYHhRTmaouQZPXHl9w)

# In Memoriam

Charles Grattan Starnes was born July 22, 1936 to Clara Irma Smith and William Grattan Starnes in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He spent most of his youth in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Webster Groves high school in 1954. He entered Texas A&M University, and after his junior year he served in the U.S. Air Force. In 1960 he married Priscilla Ann Broughton. He graduated from TAMU with a degree in civil engineering in 1961, and eventually founded Starnes and Associates, a prominent civil engineering firm in the 70's and 80's.

Charles passed from this life Saturday, August 22, 2020 after suffering three strokes on April 12.

He is survived by Priscilla; daughters Sally Metcalfe of Austin, Rebecca Bruning of Southlake, and Carrie Starnes of Arlington; grandchildren Charles Schragin, Lily Schragin, Emily Metcalfe, and Ben Metcalfe. He is also survived by his sister, Jean Franchell and husband Jim of Albuquerque; his mother-in-law, Mary Nell Broughton of Arlington; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Charles' life will be held at an appropriate time after the COVID-19 pandemic ends.



Walter Chiang, Founder of CP&Y and nationally known leader in civil engineering, passed away on Friday, August 7 after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Walter was an extraordinary man who lived a life devoted to the improvement of environmental services and the civil engineering discipline. He had a passion for teaching and mentoring others and helped to inspire countless individuals throughout his distinguished 50-plus year career. His area of expertise was in water and wastewater treatment plants.

Walter received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1967 from Chung Yuan Christian University in Taiwan. He came to Texas in 1968 where he was an Engineering Research Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin and went on to receive his Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering in 1970. He also served as a long-time adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and was a member of its Civil Engineering Advisory Board.

On October 1, 1980, Walter started his own firm, Chiang and Associates, Inc., where it would later become known as CP&Y, Inc., located in Dallas, Texas. Under Walter's leadership, CP&Y flourished and has grown to nearly 400 employees across 15 different locations. He will best be remembered by his colleagues for his kindness, his warmth, his humility, his dedication, and his passion for teaching others.

Walter is survived by his wife, Sylvia; his son Darrell and wife Trisha; and his grandson, Ethan. A virtual memorial service will be planned in the future to celebrate Walter and his extraordinary life.



# Company Corner: Halff Associates

Halff has a long history of solving stormwater drainage issues through tunnel solutions. Their most recent tunnel project, the \$320 million City of Dallas Mill Creek/Peaks Branch/State-Thomas Drainage Relief Tunnel, is the largest tunnel currently being constructed in the United States and the first of its kind in Dallas. Once complete, the 5-mile-long tunnel will sit 70 to 150 feet below ground to provide 100-year flood protection for nearly 2,200 commercial and residential properties in the east Dallas area, including Baylor Medical Center and Fair Park. This Halff interdisciplinary project includes Water Resources, Water/Wastewater, Structural and MEP Engineering, Architecture, Environmental, Right of Way, Surveying and Planning. Learn more about the Mill Creek Tunnel project here: <https://bit.ly/3d96g3L>



## Continuing Education Opportunities

Obtaining Professional Development Hours to maintain PE licensure will be challenging for many of us as we face the continued uncertainty and social distancing regulations associated with COVID-19. Below are a few continuing education opportunities currently available:

- **Texas CECON 2020**—Texas ASCE will host its flagship conference, CECON, virtually from November 4-6. This forum presents a great opportunity to gain industry insights, network, and obtain continuing education credits. Check it out here: <https://www.texasce.org/event/cecon-2020/>
- **Virtual ASCE Branch Meetings** – The Fort Worth and Dallas branches are offering monthly virtual branch meetings to provide their membership with continuing education opportunities. Visit <http://branches.asce.org/ft-worth/events> or <https://dallasce.org/news.php>. Stay tuned to branch emails and social media accounts for more details.
- **ASCE Texas Section** – The Texas Section routinely hosts webinars which can be found here: <https://www.texasce.org/events/category/webinars/list/>
- **ASCE National Webinars** – ASCE National allows all paying members access to 10-hours of PDH webinars with over 200 on-demand webinars from which to choose. This material can be accessed here: <https://sa360.asce.org/ASCEWebApp/Benefits/Membership/Freeondemandwebinars.aspx>
- **Risk Management for Underground Construction**—The Texas Section is hosting a webinar on tunneling: <https://www.texasce.org/event/webinar-nov-2020/>

# Section Director's Report

## Treasurer's Report

As of October 2020, the Fort Worth Branch has an account balance in good standing. Please note that the Fort Worth Branch is a Section 501.3(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We encourage all members to pay for meetings online. Doing so automatically enters you into a drawing for a \$25 gift card.

We appreciate and thank all of the members and firms that continue to support the Fort Worth Branch!

The ASCE Texas Section is kicking off a Strategic Plan update. Strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats were analyzed during the development of this strategic plan. Infrastructure and associated outreach was identified across each category of the SWOT analysis. We are well on our way to the forefront of infrastructure discussions with the general public and elected officials by leveraging the Report Card for Texas Infrastructure. Members have the opportunity to discuss infrastructure and other industry matters with elected officials during the biennial ASCE Texas Legislative Drive-in.

If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact the Section office.

# My STEP

Service through  
**Technical,**  
**Educational,** and  
**Professional** experiences



# ASCE TEXAS CECON2020 CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE



**YOU'RE INVITED!** Join your colleagues November 4-6, 2020 as we Envision the Future through PDHs and relationship building across the state and beyond, all while contributing to the industry's technical diversity as never before. View the CECON 2020 program at [www.TexasCECON.org](http://www.TexasCECON.org).

Don't forget to renew! The perks of being an ASCE member have gotten better! Now your membership includes **10 free PDH** on-demand webinars. To see a full list of member benefits visit the ASCE website at <http://www.asce.org/member-benefits/>

<a href="http://www.asce.org/myprofile">www.asce.org/myprofile</a>	Update your contact information
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<a href="http://www.asce.org/cemagazine">www.asce.org/cemagazine</a>	<i>Civil Engineering</i> magazine online
<a href="http://blogs.asce.org">blogs.asce.org</a>	ASCE news online

This newsletter is distributed quarterly on the first week of February, May, August, and November. If you have any information you would like published in the newsletter, please contact Lindsay Lafferty, Newsletter Chair, at [llafferty@hbhinc.com](mailto:llafferty@hbhinc.com).

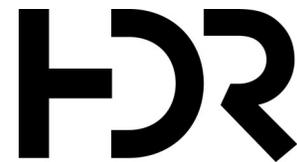
## Member Referral Program

All you have to do is click the link and refer five people to be members in ASCE. ASCE will do the rest. If they join, they get 25% off of initial membership and you get a \$50 Amazon gift card. At the end of the year, the member with the most successful referrals will get a \$500 Amazon gift card! Refer a friend here: <http://message.asce.org/mgam>

# Branch Sponsors



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# Branch Sponsors



For corporate sponsorships please contact Jeff Philipp, Treasurer, at [jphilipp@tnpinc.com](mailto:jphilipp@tnpinc.com).

**2020-2021**

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