

# Fort Worth CIVIL Engineer

ASCE Fort Worth Branch Newsletter

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May Branch Meeting**  
May 16

**June Branch Meeting**  
June 20

**July Joint Branch Meeting with Dallas**  
July 8

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we make our way through the second quarter of 2022, I am proud and humbled to serve as the ASCE Fort Worth Branch President. In April, we hosted a successful Golf Tournament at Timarron Country Club where we raised \$4,000 to support the collegiate scholarships. We awarded scholarships this year to two UTA students. We hope next year we will receive applications from Tarleton State and Abilene Christian (if you have a connection at one of these schools, please reach out!)

Did you know that as a member of the Fort Worth Branch, you also are a member of ASCE Texas Section and Global which provide additional career and education support and access to technical resources? With this, I invite you all to the ASCE Texas 2022 CECON, hosted in almost our backyard, Frisco, on September 14th-16th.

I have a few meetings left to serve as the president and I hope to see you all there, as the luncheons are a great way to network and create connections. Mark your calendar for our monthly luncheons on May 16th and June 20th, with the last event of the 2021-2022 season being our joint meeting with Dallas on July 8th.

I look forward to seeing you at a future event.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Taylor, PE  
ASCE Fort Worth Branch President

# BRANCH MEETINGS

Here are a few highlights from our recent branch meetings!



## FEBRUARY

**Location:** *The Ashton Depot*  
**Speaker:** *Councilmember Carlos Flores*

The 2022 E-Week Banquet hosted by Fort Worth TSPE had a great turnout!

## MARCH

**Location:** *Petroleum Club*  
**Speaker:** *Bailey Muller from NCTCOG*  
**Topic:** *Charging into the Future - Navigating the Growth and Impact of Electric Vehicles & Charging Infrastructure in North Texas*



## APRIL

**Location:** *Reata*  
**Speaker:** *Paul Smith from Tensar*  
**Topic:** *Geogrids for Roadway Design Applications*  
**Attendance:** *62*



Each year, every branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers nominates and selects an individual for the Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award. This award recognizes a young engineer who is 35 years of age or younger who shows a will to service the advancement of the profession, technical competence, leadership, public service, and evidence of merit. Many of the past recipients of this award have gone on to be senior level employees and even owners of their respective firms.

# YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

## Derek Baker, PE

This year the Fort Worth Branch selected Derek Baker, PE! Derek works as a project manager in the Transportation-Roadway sector at Pacheco Koch. He attended UT Arlington and was heavily involved with ASCE as a student. This involvement ultimately led to his involvement with the Fort Worth Branch after graduation. Derek is an integral part of the branch, serving in multiple positions and most recently serving as Treasurer. There is no doubt that the advancement of the Fort Worth branch is in part due to his professionalism. Derek fully embodies the characteristics of who a young engineer should be. Congratulations Derek!



As of April 2022, the Fort Worth Branch has an account balance in good standing. Please note that the Fort Worth Branch is a 501.3(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We encourage all members to pay for their branch meeting registration online. Doing so automatically enters you into a drawing for a \$50 gift card!

The April Golf Tournament raised \$4,000 for student scholarships!

Thank you to all the branch members and firms that continue to support the Fort Worth Branch!

If your company is interested in becoming a branch sponsor, please contact Allison Stamper at [astamper@jonescarter.com](mailto:astamper@jonescarter.com).

## Upcoming Events

*Check our social media pages for more information!*

**May Branch Meeting:** May 16

**Younger Member Happy Hour:** May 2022 (Texas Live, Arlington)

**June Branch Meeting:** June 20

**Joint Branch Meeting (Dallas/Fort Worth):** July 2022

**CECON:** September 14 - 16 (Frisco)

## Refer Your Colleagues to ASCE!

Do you know a fellow engineer who would benefit from ASCE's technical resources? We'd love to have them join ASCE and take advantage of all the tools, groups, newsletters, and publications offered.

For each successful referral you make in the Member-Get-a-Member program, you'll receive a \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card. At the end of the year, the member with the most successful referrals will get a \$500 Amazon.com Gift Card!

## Section Director's Report

The ASCE Region 6 Student Symposium hosted by the ASCE Student Chapter at the University of Houston in March was great success. To read all about it and see who the winners are, please visit the ASCE Texas Section Website.

Volunteer opportunities are available with the ASCE Texas Section! The Texas Section loves fresh and new ideas that can help bolster its committees for 2022 and beyond. Join our team as we advance our communities through the development of civil engineers. This is a great opportunity to get involved with the Texas Section and have a hand in planning, executing, and celebrating all our programs. Please visit the link for all volunteer opportunities at the Texas Section:

<https://www.texasce.org/resources/volunteer/>

The ASCE Texas Section would like to remind members to "check the box" for Section/Branch dues when renewing your membership for 2022.

Save the Date: ASCE Texas CECON 2022 in Frisco, TX: September 14-16, 2022! Call for Topic Ideas and Speakers – Submit your idea or proposal today!

 **CALL FOR SPEAKERS**

**ASCE TEXAS**  
**CECON 2022**  
CIVIL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

**A UNIFIED COMMUNITY**

**September 14-16**  
**Frisco, TX**



## Member Spotlight: Ryan Alcala, PE

**What company do you work for?** I am a project engineer on the site development team at Quiddity Engineering.

**What is your role in ASCE?** I am a member of the Fort Worth branch.

**What college did you attend?** I received my undergraduate degree from Angelo State University and then attended Texas A&M University for my masters in engineering. WHOOP!

**What brought you to civil engineering?** When I was a kid I loved to put Legos together. I also spent summers with my grandfather who was constantly in his workshop, which made me appreciate creating something with your hands and mind. I also really enjoy the team aspect of civil engineering and that I am designing and constructing projects that will be used by the public.

**What do you wish you knew earlier in your career?**

**What's a project you've worked on in your career that you're proud of?**

Something I'm really proud of is how the Salad and Go development has blossomed. We started with an opportunity back in 2020 designing two of their stores in DFW and now it has grown exponentially into almost 50 stores, 11 of which are currently open. Not only am I proud of the Salad and Go program, I also enjoyed witnessing the growth and development of our team. They are all rock stars who display the same passion I have about collaboration and respect.

**What guidance do you have for others in the industry?** Be self-aware and don't take life so seriously. I know it's cliché, but our industry is fast paced and stressful. You are constantly making decisions and sometimes that can feel overwhelming. Please take time for yourself to enjoy what you love to do. Whether it's spending time with family and friends, or a hobby you are passionate about. Don't forget to have fun!

**What is a fun fact about you?** When I was in college I actually spent a summer up north working as a food concessionaire with the carnival. All I did was make french fries - definitely a learning experience!

**"Don't be intimidated if you don't know the answer, and always ask questions. Remind yourself you chose a career in which you are constantly learning, so be open to things you don't know and learn from your peers. Asking questions sets you and your team up for success."**



## OVER 45 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE PROJECTS & ENGINEERING EXPERTISE

Quiddity Engineering is an award-winning, full-service civil engineering, planning, surveying, and professional consulting firm assisting public and private sector clients in design, development, implementation, and execution of infrastructure projects.



**500+**  
EMPLOYEES

 **10** OFFICES  
IN TEXAS

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### Salad and Go

Our team has partnered with Salad and Go, a growing fast-food restaurant, to provide site civil services for nearly 50 locations across Texas, 35 of which are in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Collaboration was key to designing conceptual site plans and ensuring sites were configured to meet the needs of each location. Coordination with city staff was also crucial to streamlining the permitting process and ensuring compliance with jurisdictional codes.



### Buffalo Bayou Park Slope Stabilization & Bench Sediment Removal

The Buffalo Bayou suffered an unusually large amount of damage during Hurricane Harvey. Our team worked with the Harris County Flood Control District to design a three-phase improvement project that involved removing existing sediment, stabilizing slope failures, and installing preventative measures to reduce future erosion. The project received an Award of Merit in the Water/Environment category on Engineering News-Record's 2021 Best Projects list.

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in joining  
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## FORT WORTH SCIENCE MUSUEM 2022 E-WEEK VOLUNTEERING

### STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

The UTA ASCE student chapter had a great time at the Symposium! After COVID, the team had to start from scratch with recruitment, so the majority of UTA's team participants had no idea what to expect from the competition. Thirty-six students traveled to the Symposium and all enjoyed their experience.

Everyone was surprised at how easy it was to make friends with other schools and network. Participants talked to other student chapters about how they made their canoe, display, and bridge. More than half of the students also participated in the career fair and networked with companies they were interested in applying at.

After leaving, the UTA team is already fired up about next year's competition now that they know what to expect and what the judges are looking for. The team is already making plans on how to improve their design and fundraise for next year.

The team's biggest takeaway from the Symposium was how well they were able to team-build throughout their five days in Houston. The new student chapter officers and captains for both canoe and bridge are excited to be the next leaders for the student chapter because of the positive experience they had at the Symposium.



The Tarleton State ASCE student chapter earned second place in the concrete frisbee competition at the Symposium!

### Continuing Education Opportunities

*Here are a few options for obtaining your PDHs!*

May 9: ASCE Dallas Branch Meeting | In person | <https://dallasasce.org/news.php>

May 12: TSPE Fort Worth Chapter Meeting | In person | [www.tspefortworth.org](http://www.tspefortworth.org)

May 16: ASCE Fort Worth Branch Meeting | In person | <http://branches.asce.org/ft-worth>

Ongoing: TBPELS Ethics Webinars | <http://www.tbpe.texas.gov/webinars.html>

ASCE Texas Section Webinars | <https://www.texasasce.org/events/category/webinars/>

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.



## Member Spotlight: Austin Navarrette, EIT

**What company do you work for?** I work for Pacheco Koch, A Westwood Company as a project engineer in our TxDOT Transportation Team.

**What is your role in ASCE?** I am the Hospitality Co-Chair for the Fort Worth Branch.

**What college did you attend?** Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio

**What brought you to civil engineering?** My passion for civil engineering began when I was a sophomore in high school thanks to an architecture class within the engineering academy I was in.

I was first involved through attending meetings at the ASCE student chapter at my college, but upon graduation and the return to in-person meetings following COVID, I started attending Fort Worth Branch Meetings thanks to Derek Baker.

**What's a project you've worked on in your career that you're proud of?** Wurzbach Parkway in San Antonio, Texas. It was my first project after I graduated, and I stepped into helping with the drainage design when I had no real experience doing that during my internships. I was able to see it go from project kick-off on my very first day to signed and sealed the following spring. It was rewarding to learn new skills as well as finally see a project from start to finish design-wise.

**What have you observed within the industry that's changed over the last few years?** Since I graduated college in 2020, I haven't noticed a massive change within the industry other than the ability to work remotely because of COVID.

**What do you wish you would've known earlier in your career?** When you are in a difficult situation that is frustrating you it is always easier to take a step back, have a deep breath and try to look at your challenge from a different perspective.

**What is a fun fact about you?** I played college football!

**What software do you recommend young engineers to learn?**

**"I typically work with TxDOT plans, so I use Microstation daily. However, with the upcoming transition to OpenRoads, it will be helpful for anyone that works within the TxDOT realm to learn."**



Pacheco Koch, recently acquired by Westwood, a national multi-discipline engineering firm, was formed in 1990 and provides quality professional civil engineering, land surveying and landscape architecture services to a broad range of public and private sector clients. The goal of the company was, and still is, to combine the latest technology with a responsive, client-oriented staff to produce the best professional service possible. Pacheco Koch furnishes its clients with a unique, service-oriented product, stressing timeliness, responsiveness and communication. Pacheco Koch has full-service offices in Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Celina.

Pacheco Koch is proud that more than 90% of our business comes from repeat clients. We attribute this success to our unique approach that stresses continuous direct contact between our project management team and the client, which is coupled with our extensive experience in site development, master planning, traffic engineering, roadway and parking lot design, utility infrastructure and stormwater analysis. We are committed to long-term client satisfaction and delivering work in a cost-effective and timely manner no matter how large or small the project.



## Pecan Street

**Pflugerville, Texas**

Pacheco Koch analyzed the capacity issues at the intersection of Pecan Street and Dessau Road as a consultant for the City of Pflugerville. The intersection serves as a reliever route when SH 130 has increased congestion, while handling typically heavy traffic volumes, especially the westbound left turn. It was discovered that 71 crashes

had occurred at this intersection in the last three years. Based on these crash records, Pacheco Koch recommended changing the left turn signal phasing to protected only and re-evaluating the clearance intervals. An analysis determined that the displaced left turn would greatly decrease driver delay without requiring the bridges to be widened.

## Blue Mound Road

**Fort Worth, Texas**

Pictured above are the improvements of Blue Mound Road. The project scope included: traffic analysis of signalized versus roundabout for four intersections; civil engineering design of the four intersections; and approximately 4,000 linear feet of four-lane arterial roadway design. Based on future traffic counts, it was determined that roundabouts would provide a better level of service for two of the intersections.

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Thank you to our 2021-2022 branch sponsors!



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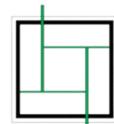


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