



WISCONSIN SECTION

Fox River Valley Branch

Fox River Valley Branch Newsletter Fall 2020

2019-2020 President's Message

As the days continue to grow shorter, and long summer evenings continue to transition into ever-longer fall nights, I can't help but stop and try to recall what life was like one year ago, or even eight months ago! A "normal" work-life balance seems to be so far gone since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic that it's hard to remember what it was like to attend "normal" work, school, or other family and social gatherings. Ironically, we as engineers tend to have a general resistance to change, yet, many of us have been forced to immediately cease our typical work day as we formerly knew it, and have quickly transitioned to our new norm of hosting conference calls, preparing reports, and meeting with clients from our home offices, basements, dining rooms, or who even knows where. Yet, life goes on. We as engineers are also resilient, and will do whatever it takes to continue to meet deadlines, complete projects, and develop solutions as if it's "just another day at the office". Whatever the timeline is for returning to what we will know as our new "normal", I have sincere confidence that we will all be improved and farther ahead because of it.



As we look to begin our new ASCE year, we too are trying to figure out our "new norm" and need your help. We want to know how you would prefer us to transition our branch events from in-person meals and meetings to virtual events, at least for the near future. Please take a few minutes to fill out a brief survey to help us gauge your interest in topics, preferred meeting times, and preferred virtual platforms amongst other things. We too are "learning on the fly" during this new period, and are still looking to maximize the amount of value we can offer each and every branch member.

I hope to "see" many of you at upcoming events—see page 6 for our November meeting—even if it is temporarily thru my computer screen. Rest assured, we as civil engineers will continue to be creative, resilient, and responsive in adjusting to the new norm.

I also hope this newsletter finds you safe, healthy, and happy, and please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the branch officers identified on page 2 should you have questions, comments, or ways we can improve our branch offerings to you.

Best regards,

Joe Zellmer, P.E.
2020-2021 FRV Branch President

Please complete the brief branch survey here:

[2020-21 FRV Branch Survey](#)

Meet Your 2020-2021 Branch Officers

The new Fox River Valley Branch officers began their new positions in September. Their term will last one year and are completely voluntary. If you are interested in a branch leadership position, please reach out to any of the officers below. We are also actively seeking volunteers to serve as the Younger Member Group leader/President and branch liaison to the ASCE student chapter at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay.

Each officer was asked to provide a brief bio about themselves as well as answer the question “Name a new skill, pastime, interesting feat, or task that you accomplished due to Covid-19.”

President / Outreach Chair – Joe Zellmer, P.E.

Joseph.Zellmer@outagamie.org | (920) 680-7287

I originally became involved in ASCE during my freshman year at Michigan Tech, when my roommate and I thought it would be a great idea to join the Concrete Canoe team (*which it was...*). Over the past 15 years, I have come to learn that ASCE will give you everything “and then some” of what you put into it. Many of my most cherished friendships and experiences all trace their roots back to ASCE. I feel that my professional network was significantly expanded due to my ASCE network and I’ve had the opportunity to tour many great civil engineering feats in Northeast Wisconsin and beyond thanks my membership. I currently serve as the Outagamie County Highway Engineer, have been married to my loving wife Carla for ten years this past June, and have two children, Adelyn (age 8) and Mason (age 6).

My proudest Covid moment to date includes helping my wife land a 45-inch Mississippi River flathead catfish after it snapped her fishing pole into two pieces! I attempted to break her record on a return trip in early October, but was only able to land a 42-incher on my own while targetting Walleyes.



Vice President – Jennifer Liimatta, P.E.

Jliimatta@releeinc.com | (920) 544-4392

I have been in the civil engineering industry for over seven years and have experience in transportation, municipal, construction, and storm water management. My ASCE journey started after college when I moved to the Green Bay area from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I was excited to use this community to meet new people, expand my professional network, and stay up to date on new and exciting projects within the industry nationwide and locally. In my free time, I love spending time outside and love taking advantage of every season whether it’s skiing or hiking.

During Covid, our family welcomed our first baby. Warner Arthur was born in the beginning of April and we quickly adapted to many new norms. The whole situation taught me to look to the positives and really cherish the quality time we had with no visitors for an extended period of time.



Secretary/Treasurer – Daniel Witter, P.E.

Drwitter@uwalumni.com | (414) 218-9851

Daniel Witter is a Wisconsin native, enjoying the northeast part of the state for several years now so his wife could continue her career near her family. In his spare time he enjoys the great outdoors and while inside likes to read books and attend the symphony. He got involved with ASCE when someone asked him to be a branch director. Being active in other community volunteering efforts, Dan's time has been divided, and he hopes to contribute to the group more in the next few years. Typically quiet by nature, he has been commended on his thought-provoking questions that sometimes challenge others, but always in a spirit of constructiveness, finding the positive in any situation. As Voltaire suggested, *"Judge a man by his questions, rather than his answers."*



During the onset of the pandemic, Dan and his wife have enjoyed having more time to take walks together while appreciating their health, keeping in mind those less fortunate.

Branch Director / Webmaster – Luke Siebert, P.E.

Luke.Siebert@raSmith.com | (920) 843-5733

I have been an ASCE member off and on for the last 13 years and in the last two years I became more involved as a branch officer. I have been working as a civil engineer for the past 16 years in various areas including private land development and WisDOT construction and design projects. I currently work as a project engineer at raSmith in the Transportation Design division. I am married with a 5-year old son and 7-year old daughter. We like to build with Legos and spend time outside. I enjoy real life and fantasy football and baseball. My namesake is that of Luke Skywalker.



During Covid, my family stayed in the Caboose Cabin in Sparta, WI. It is an old caboose renovated into a cabin with normal hotel amenities. We were also able to bike on the Elroy-Sparta State Trail and walk through an old train tunnel. It is one of the first rails to trails projects in the country opening back in the late 1960s.

Branch Director – Tim Tomlanovich, P.E.

Tim.Tomlanovich@nwtc.edu | (920) 498-5672

My name is Tim Tomlanovich and I am a Geotechnical Engineer with over 20 years of experience. I am currently an instructor at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, Wisconsin where I teach Civil Engineering Technology. I have been involved with ASCE since I was a student at Michigan Technological University. I am actively involved with ASCE planning technical conferences, presenting at conferences and helping with outreach activities. I also actively engage my students to become more involved with ASCE. I am married and have a 13-year old daughter. My family loves to go camping and we now have taken camping to a whole new level since Covid. We decided to buy a 25-foot travel trailer and travel to different campgrounds with our travel trailer.



Branch Director / YMG President – Seth Johnson, P.E.

Seth.Johnson@jacobs.com | (563) 505-6989

My name is Seth Johnson and I am a structural engineer with over eight years of experience. I currently work as a Structural Engineer for Jacobs Engineering, where I work on projects all over the country. I originally became involved in ASCE during my freshman year at UW-Platteville, as a member of the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge teams. In addition to my branch leadership role, I am involved with ASCE planning technical conferences, working on the recent state infrastructure report card, and the branch Younger Member group. In my free time, I enjoy spending time on my sailboat, coaching soccer, and spending time outdoors.



The Younger Member Group Chair is responsible for leading the Younger Member group in planning activities for the members under the age of 35. They are typically social, outreach, and fun types of activities. We work with the branch and students to set up activities.

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Infrastructure Report Card Released!

By Jennifer Schaff, P.E., Wisconsin Section President-Elect

The 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card is now available [here!](#)

Over 50 ASCE members have voluntarily co-authored the report. The 2020 report issues grades for the following infrastructure sectors: Aviation, Bridges, Dams, Drinking Water, Energy, Hazardous Waste, Inland Waterways, Ports, Roads, Solid Waste, Stormwater, Transit, and Wastewater.

Access to reliable, resilient, safe infrastructure improves the quality of life and “sets the table” for sustainable economic growth. The purpose of the report card is to provide Wisconsin citizens and lawmakers with an updated assessment and list of priorities within the state. Additionally, it is intended to serve as an advocacy tool to encourage smart public and private investments in Wisconsin's infrastructure.

Now that the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card is released, however, we are not done. We will be starting the second phase of the Report Card. We will need volunteers to help us contact local officials to inform them about our infrastructure needs. If you are interested in helping inform local officials, please reach out to Jennifer Schaff (Jennifer.Schaff@countymaterials.com) or Ken Mika (KMika@Geosyntec.com).

2020 REPORT CARD FOR WISCONSIN'S INFRASTRUCTURE



P.E. Exam Preparation

Are you preparing to take the P.E. Exam in the future?

The Fox Valley YMG is seeking information and interest from those interested in a 2021 P.E. Roundtable event and/or Study Sessions. The Roundtable event provides younger engineers prepping for the P.E. exam to have the opportunity to discuss test content with engineers that have obtained their P.E. license and study sessions are intended to aid in test preparation. All events are likely going to be presented in a virtual format. If you are interested in either attended or contributing to either event, please contact Seth Johnson, one of the FRV Branch officers, or send an email to ymq.foxvalley@gmail.com.



STEM Innovation Center at UW-Green Bay

2020 ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum

By Greg Kuklinski, P.E., M.ASCE, Lehigh Valley Section, Leader Training Committee (modified)

On September 10-12, 2020, 147 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors, Society Directors, Board Members and Institute Leaders from across the country and abroad attended the annual Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) held virtually. This Leader Training Committee sponsored event provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, and develop skills that would benefit their Sections/Branches, Regions and Institutes. Joe Zellmer, *P.E., M.ASCE*, attended on behalf of the Fox River Valley Branch.

Since we were all meeting virtually this year, the PGF planning committee combined concurrent sessions in years past into one session which included General Orientation on Thursday, Region 1-9 Governor Orientation and Institute Leader Orientation on Friday and the Presidents and Governors Orientation on Friday and Saturday. All attendees were invited to any of the sessions. By having the PGF virtually, it was open for more members to have the opportunity to attend that would not have normally traveled to ASCE Headquarters located in Reston, VA.

The program highlights included General Orientation, Welcome and Society Overview by ASCE President Kancheepuram Gunalan, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, Executive Director Tom Smith, CAE, ENV SP, F.ASCE, and ASCE President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud, P.E., Ph.D., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE. The Presidents and Governors Orientation began on Friday afternoon with many varying topics including an Introduction to Your Presidency by LTC's Lauren Swett, P.E., M.ASCE and Aaron Frits, P.E., M.ASCE, and a keynote presentation by Blaine Leonard, P.E., D.GE, Pres.10 about Generational Differences and the different groups currently in our workforce. Saturday afternoon events resumed with Nancy Berson, Aff.M.ASCE, celebrating her 41st Anniversary at ASCE, speaking along with Hannah Clark, Aff.M.ASCE about the ASCE Resources available to all attendees and an energetic keynote presentation by James O'Brien, P.E., M.ASCE, about Being a Great Leader.

For more information about the PGF, please visit LTC's website at: <http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/pgf>. You can also reach out to FRV President Joe Zellmer to receive more information on current ASCE initiatives and resources available to current members.

November Meeting Notice

The FRV branch is excited to announce the first branch meeting of the 2020-21 ASCE year! It will also be our first attempt at hosting a virtual meeting event, so bear with us. Tim Tomlanovich will be presenting a virtual webinar regarding the recent changes to the ASCE Code of Ethics. It will be a great opportunity to brush up on engineering ethics and the impact it has on your everyday decision making and practice. We hope you can attend!

Meeting Overview:

First adopted in 1914, the ASCE Code of Ethics is the model for professional conduct for ASCE members. ASCE recently adopted new revisions to the code. This presentation will review the updated Code of Ethics and how to apply them to your occupation and every day practices. This presentation will also look at the history of engineering ethics and discover why it is important to practice sound engineering ethics and what to do when ethical issues get “gray” (*which seems to be quite frequently*). Inclusion of brief case studies into the discussion will be made if time allows as well as a brief Q&A session following the recorded presentation.

The previous update to the Code of Ethics was adopted on July 29, 2017. More information can be found here: <https://www.asce.org/ethics/>

UW-Green Bay Student Chapter Update

By Paul Gruenwald, S.M.ASCE, Chapter President

Our ASCE student organization at the University of Wisconsin - Green Bay is extremely excited for the upcoming year and the opportunities it will bring. While currently in unprecedented times, we are confident that we can still make the most of the situation and safely provide beneficial experiences for our student members. Before diving into the primary goals for our organization, we would like to introduce our UW-Green Bay Student Chapter officers for the 2020-21 academic year:

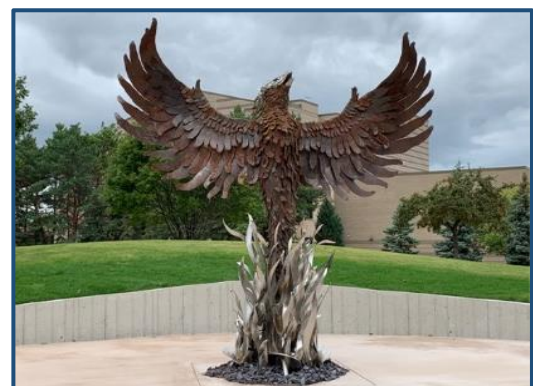
- Chapter President: Paul Gruenwald, S.M.ASCE
- Secretary: Miranda Esser, S.M.ASCE
- Treasurer: Richard Perschon, S.M.ASCE
- Executive Officer: Scott Grassmann, S.M.ASCE
- Chapter Advisor: Dr. Michael Holly, PhD, P.E., M.ASCE

Although faced with unexpected challenges this school year, we will strive to prioritize the well-being and success of our student members. Our organization plans to shift our annual meetings to a virtual environment, in which students can still connect with a variety of guest speakers/engineers and gain valuable insight. If successful, we wish to expand what we can offer to our members through virtual resume building sessions, mock interview sessions, virtual tours of facilities, and more. Beyond this semester, we wish to become more



involved with student conferences and competitions, whether taking part in the ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition this summer at UW--Platteville, or through numerous workshops for Student Leaders. ASCE always has a spectrum of resources and connections available to its members, and we will continue to work with the organization to help prepare our students for the future and whatever it may bring.

Any FRV Branch members should interested in helping out the UW – Green Bay student chapter are urged to contact a FRV Branch Officer for opportunities to get involved.



BLUE HARBOR RESORT & CONFERENCE CENTER



Save the Date!

The 2021 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference is scheduled for Friday, March 5th, 2021 at Blue Harbor Resort & Conference Center in Sheboygan. Stay tuned for more information.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE 2020 ASCE WISCONSIN SECTION VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Presented by the Wisconsin Section
Southeast Branch
Friday, September 18



THANK YOU

to the 2020 Annual
Meeting Planning
Committee for
coordinating a successful
event!

CO-CHAIRS:
Nick Bobinski
Tony Castle

Committee Members:

Mike Arnold
Kyle Bareither
Jake Brunoehler
Aaron Bubb
Larry Buechel
Wade Carter
Josh Mitchell
Aaron Schramm
Collin Smith
Neal Styka



Congratulations 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section
Award Recipients and New Life Members!

Wisconsin Section Awards: Individual Award Winners

Distinguished Service Award - Clark A. Wantoch, P.E., M.ASCE
Executive Director at Wisconsin Concrete Pipe Association

**Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Consulting Practice -
Christopher A. Robb, P.E.**
Senior Principal Engineer at Geosyntec Consultants

**Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Education - Dean John F.
Katers, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE**
Dean, College of Science, Engineering, and Technology, University
of Wisconsin-Green Bay

**Individual Merit Award for Engineer in Government Service -
William S. Mohr, P.E., M.ASCE**
Supervisor at Southeast Freeways at Wisconsin Department of
Transportation

**Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award - Jordan Adler,
P.E., A.M.ASCE**
Transportation Engineer at GRAEF

Wisconsin Section Awards: Project Award Winner

**Engineering Achievement Award - Category B - Ephraim WIS 42
Streetscape**
Nominated by Kenneth E. Nelson, F.ASCE, P.E., Trustee, Village of
Ephraim
Design Engineer: AECOM Technical Services, Inc.
Consultants: Baudhuin Surveying & Engineering and Subsurface
Exploration Services, LLC

Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Award Recipients

Amanda Kaiser, S.M.ASCE - University of Wisconsin - Platteville
Luke Royal, S.M.ASCE - University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

2020 Wisconsin Section New Life Members

Michael C. Felker, P.E., M.ASCE
John Robert Genskow, P.E., M.ASCE
Hans-Peter Huttelmaier, P.E., M.ASCE
William F. Kralj, P.E., M.ASCE
Susan Rasmussen, P.E., M.ASCE