LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am grateful and excited to serve as President of the Fort Worth Branch of ASCE. Several individuals that I consider to be great leaders and innovators in our industry have held this title in the past. As such, it is humbling to follow in their footsteps and serve one of the largest branches in the Texas Section. On that note, I am thankful to Mr. Clint Hoover, P.E. (City of Fort Worth) who just completed his term as Branch President and is now serving as both the Past-President and Texas Section Director. Through his leadership, our branch has experienced great growth and successfully planned several marquee events. I am grateful to Clint for the leadership he has provided and the time he has volunteered to ASCE.

I am also thankful for the twenty-three individuals that fill the various branch leadership and chair positions. Many of these people also serve on subcommittees that are aimed at advancing the initiatives of our branch. Their efforts, all volunteered, ensure that our branch is able to continue to serve the needs of our membership. I encourage all members to visit our website (http://branches.asce.org/ft-worth), view our organizational structure, and personally thank these individuals for their efforts.

Our branch continually strives to provide continuing education and networking opportunities that bring value to our members. We hope that our branch members will continue to attend and enjoy the monthly lunch meetings. Our goal is to continue to invite engaging speakers that can address and discuss the bevy of sub-disciplines in our field. This year our branch will be in charge of hosting the ASCE Golf Tournament for the Metroplex area. This event is a great networking event. Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

We continue to relay our sincerest thoughts and prayers to those that have been affected this hurricane season. As many of you may know, we called our membership to action to assist with the Hurricane Harvey relief effort. Through the monies pledged by the branch and by our members, we will be sending nearly $1,500 to the United Way Houston Relief Fund. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you that supported relief efforts either through ASCE or other great organizations.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Tarleton State University (TSU) has joined the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) as a sanctioned ASCE student chapter within the Fort Worth Branch umbrella. We are excited to know that more students will have the opportunity to reap the many benefits that ASCE has to provide both at the student and professional level. As we do each year, we will be awarding scholarships to individuals from both of our student chapters.

Cheers to the beginnings of another great year for ASCE Fort Worth!

Sincerely,

Niraj A. Acharya, P.E., M. ASCE

Branch President 2017-2018
Upcoming Branch Meetings

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

Location: Blue Mesa Grill
Speaker/ Presentation: Ms. Theresa Poer, Director of Transportation Operations, TxDOT Fort Worth District

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017

UTA-Ft. Worth Branch Joint Meeting
Location: UTA
Speaker/ Presentation: TBD

Meetings from the Previous Quarter

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

TexITE-Ft. Worth Joint Meeting
Location: Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse
Speaker/ Presentation: Jeffrey Taylor, P.E. (Dunaway Associates)
Topic: Dickies Multipurpose Arena in Fort Worth
Attendance: 135

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017

ASCE Dallas Branch-Ft. Worth Branch Joint Meeting
Location: Arlington Hilton, Arlington, TX
Speaker: Dr. Peter Crouch, Dean of the UTA College of Engineering
Topic: College of Engineering
Attendance: 125

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Speaker: Kara Shuror, City of Fort Worth Water Department, Acting Director
Location: Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse
Topic: The Current CIP Program Update
Attendance: 127
Thank you to Kimberly Cornett, P.E. for most recently serving as the Fort Worth ASCE Texas Section Director. CECON concluded just last week (Friday, September 22, 2017) and the Texas Section ASCE Board unanimously adopted the proposed operating budget for the upcoming year. Lawrence D. Goldberg, P.E., is serving as the Texas Section President and shared his vision for the Texas Section for the upcoming year.

Branch Reports were reviewed and the Section is pleased to announce that the Southeast Texas Branch of ASCE has been reinstated. The next big event for the Section is the ASCE Texas Student Symposium to be held April 12-14, 2018 at Texas A&M. Please consider supporting the event through attendance, sponsorship, or even participating in the Career Fair.

Several new people have recently joined the Texas Section Staff and are busily planning for a year of outreach to sister organizations to promote and bring a greater awareness to our profession. We look forward to the new operating year and are excited for what this year holds for the Texas Section of ASCE.

Clint Hoover, P.E.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all members! Calling all members! We need your help collecting information on upcoming Civil Engineering courses, seminars and presentation going on in the DFW area. If you come across anything, please send it on to our new Continuing Education Chair, Dr. Raghu, at raghu@njit.edu He will compile and update the list and then make it available to the membership. Also please send a wish list of topics on which seminars are expected.

ASCE Fort Worth branch is in the process of trying to organize a workshop on Rockfall Protection conducted by Geobrugg sometime during late January/February 2018. This will be a free seminar, probably half day duration. Please look for announcements in this regard.
Raghu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wedding
Johnathan Zimmerer and Lisa Weber are getting married on October 14, 2017 at St Patrick’s Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth.

Young Member Events
TSPE Young Member Leadership Forum will be held on October 19, 2017 from 3:00 pm-5:30 pm at Chimy’s 1053 Foch St, Fort Worth, TX 76107

ASCE YM Happy Hour Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 6:00pm to 9:00 pm at Varsity Tavern 1005 Norwood St, Fort Worth, TX 76107
Come out to enjoy food, drinks, games, and Thursday Night Football.
STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATE

WHAT HAS UTA BEEN UP TO???

- Organized science fair for 115 students to attend a special showing of Dream Big at the FW Museum of Science
- Participated (and heavily recruited) at UTA’s Activities Fair and Welcome Bash
- Volunteered at Trinity River Trash Bash (like we do every year)
- Our 1st General Body Meeting, Dunaway came and spoke over an array of topics. The big takeaway was that we had over 50 new students sign up for membership and had over 100 students in attendance. At one point, we had 4 laptops downstairs trying to get everyone signed up before the meeting and were still behind.

WHAT ELSE???

- Volunteered and presented to Woodrow Wilson High School’s Civil Engineering Club
- Canoe/Bridge Teams formed, issued rules and have begun work
- Participated in Engineering Saturday at UTA
- Had a Canoe/Bridge BBQ, fun tidbit: our bridge was DQ’d last year for us missing a bolt at the legs, we built it for fun and missed the exact same bolt on accident
- Participated in various Inter-Mural Sports

UPCOMING ITEMS ON AGENDA

- Next General Body Meeting is October 11, 2017
- Exploring Adopt-a-Drain possibilities and Habitat for Humanity
- Sponsorship Packets being mailed out

WAY TO GO MAVERICKS!!!
There are few things with such determination or unity as the Spirit of Texas. In times of chaos, Texans adapt and move forward with fearlessness. For the second year in a row, the ASCE Younger Members of the State of Texas carried on in their quest to unite YM’s across the vast state in a single weekend to enjoy one another’s company and bask in nature’s glory – despite nature’s plans.

In 2016, the inaugural camping trip was postponed and relocated as Lake Whitney’s shores were flooded and eroded in the spring. This year, our community was hit two-fold by the wrath of Hurricane Harvey. Many in our ASCE family were impacted in Harvey’s wake, as was the original location of our 2017 camping trip, Palmetto Springs State Park. After 5 months of preparation and registration of over 60 campers, the weekend was relocated with two weeks to spare to Garner State Park.

On Friday, September 22nd, thirty YM campers from Rio Grande Valley to Houston and from Fort Worth to Corpus Christi came together to enjoy a forecast of relatively nice weather. With plenty of camping spaces reserved in the Pecan Grove Camping Loop and the Group Dining Facilities reserved for the weekend, campers were able to mingle, network, and enjoy the great outdoors. Each branch was responsible for planning and cooking one meal for the entire group of campers to promote camaraderie with their fellow branch YMs and contribute to the group as a whole. Some of the YM campers stepped up to lead a hiking group along some of the different trails throughout Garner State Park. Despite some surprise rain showers, YMs enjoyed a group hike to the peak of Mount Baldy, an adventure to the park’s Crystal Cave, and floating on the Frio River. After an eventful Saturday, campers joined together for s’mores around the campfire.

Despite the obstacles throughout the development of this event and with some unexpected weather, the passion and determination of the YM leaders and campers are what brought this weekend to be. Without the collaboration of young talent across the Great State of Texas, this weekend of brotherhood and friendship would not have been possible.

Alexis Clark
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
CECON 2017...If you weren’t there, you should’ve been!

The CECON 2017 theme was Resiliency in Engineering and there was never a more appropriate theme with Hurricane Harvey hitting the Texas Coast this year. The Texas infrastructure faced head on an extreme event from Mother Nature and proved that infrastructure is the backbone of our state’s economy and daily lives. Speakers from the event included the Director of Regional Business for the USACE, speaking on the Integration of Resiliency in Military and Civil Works, and the “Flood Czar of Houston” who spoke on the resilience programs that Houston has integrated, with little cost to the taxpayer.

The highlight event of CECON was the release of the Texas Infrastructure Report Card in which the State earned a C−, slightly above the National average of D+. With testing the resilience of our infrastructure during Harvey, some pieces performed brilliantly while others showed their age. The City of Houston never lost their freshwater supply, there were no major bridge collapses, and the dams designed to offer flood protection to millions held, albeit downstream flooding occurred as designed. Other infrastructure did not fare as well with entire Cities being asked to not flush their toilets as the wastewater treatment plants were taken down by the storm. Millions of Texans lost power as poles snapped and transformers blew. Some roads remain unpassable as culverts have washed away, or nearly undriveable as water has eaten away at the pavement.

Highlights of the Report Card:
• The Report Card Committee studied 7 infrastructure categories in the 2017 Report Card.
• Of those 7, two infrastructure categories are in good condition and five are in poor condition.
• Overall, the state received a GPA of a “C−,” down slightly from a “C” in 2012.
• The 2017 report assessed slightly different categories than in 2012 as the intent was to focus on the most critical categories for Texas.
• For this report we removed Ports, Energy, Schools, Solid Waste, and mass transit categories
• Of the 7 categories assessed in both 2012 and 2017, 3 grades remained the same, 3 increased, and 1 decreased

The full report card is available at www.infrastructurereportcard.org/texas

In Texas Section Board news, the outgoing members endorsed the ASCE Texas Section budget for 2017-2018 and approved the CECON location for 2018-2020, with an option for 2021 in San Marcos. The ASCE Texas and CECON committee are excited to have a home base for CECON through 2020 and welcome you to join us!!!

– Kimberly Cornett and Travis Attanasio
THIS YEAR WE WOULD LIKE TO TRY TO COLLECT AS MUCH ASCE FORT WORTH BRANCH MEMORABILIA AS POSSIBLE. I AM ON THE HUNT FOR BROCHURES, FLIERS, NEWSLETTERS, PHOTOS – ANY AND ALL THINGS ASCE FORT WORTH BRANCH. THE AIM IS TO COLLECT AND SCAN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE IT FOR POSTERITY. SO WHILE YOU ARE CLEANING OUT YOUR DESK OR GOING THROUGH OLD BOXES PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THESE HISTORICAL TREASURES. WHEN YOU FIND THEM, PLEASE SCAN THEM AND EMAIL THEM TO ME. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS, PLEASE SCAN THOSE AS WELL AND IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THE PHOTOS IF YOU CAN.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

JENNIFER ROBERTS
JHROBERTS@LAN-INC.COM

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD OR SMART TO EXPAND YOUR STEM MIND

This past summer my daughter, Taylor (right), and I were chosen by the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains to represent them at the Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. We were chosen to train in Astronomy for one full week. My first thoughts were “Astronomy, what am I going to do with that?” After my week at NASA, I was amazed at what I learned. We made solar eclipse viewers, paper tube spectrometers, play dough planets, and so many other activities that could be taught to students of all ages. It was so much fun and each of the high school age girls had their own wonderful ideas. Taylor will be forming an Astronomy Club in the Fort Worth Area this fall. Thank you to the Girl Scouts for this opportunity.

-Kimberly Cornett, Fort Worth Branch STEM Outreach Coordinator
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

New! SPONSOR ALERT!!!

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ASCE SPONSOR! Find out more about Aerotech Mapping, Inc. find out more at: http://www.atmlv.com/
RECRUIT YOUR COLLEAGUES!

Earn rewards for recruiting new members! Use the ASCE Member Get a Member Page on the ASCE Website http://message.asce.org/mgam to enter your colleagues e-mails, who are not yet a member of ASCE, to join ASCE! You receive a $50 Amazon Gift Card for each new member that joins! The National ASCE member with the MOST new recruits will receive a $500 Amazon Gift Card. This promotion ends December 31, 2017.

MOVING???

PLEASE UPDATE ADDRESS @ WWW.ASCE.ORG

This newsletter is distributed quarterly, the first week of October, January, April and July. If you have information you would like to have published in the newsletter, please contact Morris Layton, Newsletter Chair, at mlayton@mv-engineering.com

For corporate sponsorships please contact Austin Baird, Treasurer, at abaird@bhbinc.com

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!