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 in our local engineering community have held this title in the past. As such, it is a great honor to follow in their footsteps and serve one of the largest branches in the Texas Section.

On that note, I am thankful to Mr. Niraj Acharya, P.E. who just completed his term as Branch President and is now serving the most coveted role of Past-President. Through his leadership, our branch experienced growth and successfully planned several marquee events. During his presidency he achieved one of his personal goals of leaving the branch in a better position than when he became the president. I hope to lead this branch over the next year as successfully as he did.

I am also thankful to all of the 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. Also I would like encourage anyone who is interested to become more involved in the branch, whether it be a large or a small role, because it is through these efforts that we truly succeed both personally and professionally.

Our branch 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 invite engaging speakers that address and discuss the bevy of sub-disciplines in our field. This year our branch is in charge of hosting the joint Fort Worth/Dallas branch meeting this coming summer. This event is a great educational and networking opportunity that I believe provides tremendous value to members of both branches. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that through the efforts of the local branches, state sections, national organization, and ASCE foundation, ASCE Global has successfully raised enough money to provide a copy of Dream Big, the ASCE produced movie expounding on the values of civil engineering, to EVERY public school in the country.

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

Sincerely,

Austin Baird, P.E., M. ASCE
Meetings From the Previous Quarter

September Branch Meeting
Location: Reata
Speaker: Jerry Cotter, PE of USACE
Topic: Water Resources Program—InFRM

October Branch Meeting— Joint ITE Section Meeting
Location: Blue Mesa Grill
Speaker: Caleb Milligan, PE of Dunaway Associates
Topic: Power of Collaboration: Park Vista Case Study
Attendance: 80

November Branch Meeting— Joint UTA Student Chapter Meeting
Location: UTA Maverick Activities Center
Speaker: Dr. Stephen Mattingly of UTA
Topic: The Transportation Research Program at UTA: New Ideas and New Collaborators
Attendance: 95
**Treasurer’s Report**

As of November 2018, 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!

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**Fort Worth’s First CE Club!**

The Fort Worth Branch of ASCE has partnered with local O.D. Wyatt High School to bring the first Civil Engineering (CE) Club to the west side of the DFW metroplex. Starting in the spring 2019 semester, civil engineering professionals from a diverse range of industries will visit Rudy Cassol’s ninth grade engineering classes to share their experience with students. Are you willing to be a role model to these young prospective engineers?

Our CE Club sessions are every other Friday from 10am-noon in Rudy’s classroom at O.D. Wyatt high school. This time frame is made up of two back-to-back classes of 12 students lasting 45-minutes each. During each 45-minute class period, the CE professional speaker will be expected to give a 20-minute presentation about their career and path to engineering and provide a 25-minute hands-on activity for the students. Don’t worry! We have a template presentation to get you started and there are a variety of resources for activities that you can work with.

Ready to be a part of Fort Worth’s first ever CE Club? Reach out to Alexis Clark at alexis.clark@hilti.com for more information or to get signed up to be a speaker.

I look forward to inspiring the next generation of engineers with you!

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**Tarleton State University Update**

This semester has been very productive for the Tarleton State ASCE chapter. The Henderson Vision Bridge Tour had a great turnout and the students were enthusiastic to learn more about structural engineering. *(pictured left)*

The Tarleton State practitioner advisors from the Fort Worth ASCE branch have attended four of the student meetings this semester and helped the chapter host three guest speakers: Mark Schluter, Thomas Gessner, and Dr. Williams. The speakers focused on information about the civil/structural engineering practices. *(pictured right)*

Dr. Williams also spoke to the students about concrete canoe with the help of Derek Baker to answer questions about the competition and construction of a concrete canoe. The students are optimistic that they will compete in the spring concrete canoe competition as long as they can find enough sponsors to help with the cost of materials for the build. Tarleton is willing to provide transportation and lodging for the students competing.
The UT Arlington ASCE chapter has had a successful semester consisting of rooms packed full for general body meetings, hosting great events like a joint Bowling Night, volunteering at River Legacy Park for “After Dark in the Park”, as well as showing a great presence at CECON.

For the UTA students who attended, Texas CECON was fast paced and a one of a kind experience. The event was held from September 19th through the 21st in San Marcos, Texas. Professionals and students in the civil engineering community gathered to network and discuss topics concerning the civil engineering field. At CECON, UTA ASCE spread the word about the ASCE Student Symposium, since UTA will be the host school in 2020.

UTA ASCE hosted a joint bowling night with Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi in October. It was a great event for networking as students and professors from a variety of engineering disciplines had the opportunity to connect. The night consisted of good friends, good food, and good times. UTA ASCE plans to host similar joint social events in the future due to the event’s success.

In addition to their multitude of events, UTA ASCE volunteered alongside Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi at River Legacy Park in Arlington for “After Dark in the Park.” The event took place in October and is a family-friendly event aimed at supporting environmental education. Despite the bad weather, everyone who volunteered had a blast that day.

Overall, UTA ASCE had a very fruitful semester working hard to collaborate with the Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi chapters, maintaining a high member retention rate at events, and providing opportunities for professional growth. All while handling a tough, hectic semester.

Awesome job UTA ASCE! Go MAVS!

Continuing Education Opportunity

The ASCE Fort Worth Branch is planning to hold a one day conference regarding “Pipelines in Expansive Soils” on April 17, 2019. The possible venue is UTA. Once everything is finalized, details will be forthcoming.

Please contact Dorairaja Raghu (raghu@njit.edu) if you are interested.
REFLECTIONS ON THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY
by James S. Slater and Ronald P. Zunker

As Civil Engineers, our goals are to look ahead and meet new challenges. However, there are times for reflection, for looking back, and recognizing past accomplishments and honoring our predecessors for their contributions to our profession and our community. The Fort Worth Branch of American Society of Civil Engineers will do all of these when it celebrates its golden anniversary this year. A milestone of 50 years of contribution to Fort Worth, to North Central Texas, and to the State and Nation, is indeed an event to celebrate.

The Golden Anniversary is a good time to look back to the past and help identify those engineering achievements which should serve as an example of the insight and courage of Civil Engineers. Unlike the auto industry which can trace its history from year to year by the changes in its models, the civil engineering profession does not have discrete model years. We can only go from then, 1938, to now, 1988. The "then" and "now" are evident on the downtown streets in Fort Worth. Older buildings have been restored to capture the glamor of the past while across the street is a modern, glass-enclosed, high rise office complex. This is a real contrast by some standards, but, more subtly, reflect on the obstacles the designers and constructors had to overcome not only in initial construction, but also in the reconstruction of these structures.

Brick pavement was the state-of-the-art of road construction for city streets in 1938. Now, brick is used only for effect, to achieve the look of yesteryear. The cost of a square yard of a brick pavement, including materials, labor and without contractor's profit, was $3.62/sq. yd. during the early 1930's. Unfortunately like so many other quaint building materials and styles, brick pavement is no longer cost effective.

Organizations change too. In early years (1914 era), the Texas Section was officially known as the "Texas Association of members of the ASCE". By 1923 concern was expressed and discussions centered on the status of the engineer and his relation to the public. One of the points noted was that "The engineer should be a member of his local Chamber of Commerce", a noble and meritorious recommendation.

Fort Worth was a popular meeting place for the Texas Section ASCE, even before the Fort Worth Branch was organized. Section meetings are recorded for Fort Worth in 1915 (fall), 1919 (fall), 1922 (spring), 1925 (fall), 1928 (spring) and 1931 (spring).

Although the Fort Worth Branch was recognized by the Texas Section after the constitution was submitted, official recognition from National ASCE was not until 1938 when the Fort Worth Branch was first noted in the official yearbook/register. The constitution of the Fort Worth Branch was published in the "Texas Engineer" in 1934 as a model constitution. The publication stated that the Texas Section had adopted a policy of organizing Branch Chapters. Texas was the first section in the nation to organize in this manner.

From its meager beginning in 1932, the Fort Worth Branch has grown to one of the most successful in the state, if not the nation. With an annual operating budget of almost $7,000.00 and a normal branch meeting attendance of over 100 Civil Engineers, the Fort Worth Branch is able to support THE CHARLES M. MOORE SCHOLARSHIP FUND, THE MINORITY SUMMER INSTITUTE, THE REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR, UTA Student Chapter Activities, Continuing Education Seminars, and several more activities.

How do you say thanks to those pioneers whose excellence in their chosen profession nurtured the public confidence that enable us to construct highways four levels above grade and office complexes to towering heights with exotic materials? Maybe the restoration of the buildings and streets of the past are a way of expressing our thanks. Words have a hard time expressing our gratitude, but we will try by the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Fort Worth Branch, ASCE.
Section Director’s Report

Western Hills Elementary School will be hosting a College and Career Day on Friday, December 14, 2018, for elementary school students. Western Hills would love to have a civil engineer come out and speak to their students. Contact stephanie.vreeland@fwisd.org for more information.

The 2019 ASCE Texas Student Symposium is April 10th through the 13th in South Padre Island, TX. Visit https://www.texasce.org/page/studentsymposium for more information.

MRLC 2019 will be hosted in Dallas from February 8-9, 2019 by the ASCE Dallas Branch. Visit https://www.asce.org/regions-3-6-7-workshop-for-section-and-branch-leaders/ for more information and registration.

Younger Member Update

On September 18th the Younger Members from the Fort Worth and Dallas ASCE Branches and TexITE gathered together to celebrate UTA Ranger’s game night at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

On October 25th the Younger Members of ASCE and TexITE, along with students from Tarleton State and UTA took a tour of the TRV Bridges for the Panther Island Project. The tour was led by project managers from TxDOT, The City of Fort Worth, The Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and Freese and Nichols. Younger Members and students learned about the challenges overcome from design to construction.

Legislative Drive-In 2019

The 2019 Legislative Drive-In is scheduled for February 26, 2019 at the State Capitol Building.

The purpose of the drive-in is for ASCE members to meet state senators and representatives to promote ASCE as a trusted infrastructure advisor.

More information to follow as the details are finalized.

Look for registration to open soon and end in mid January.

Don’t forget to renew! Your ASCE membership benefits include five free on-demand webinars, discounts, and more! To see a full list of member benefits visit the ASCE website at http://www.asce.org/member-benefits/

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This newsletter is distributed quarterly on the first week of March, June, September, and December. If you have any information you would like published in the newsletter, please contact Lindsay Lafferty, Newsletter Chair, at llafferty@bhbinc.com.
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Branch Sponsors

For corporate sponsorships please contact Kameron Boggan, Treasurer, at kaboggan@transystems.com.
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