

Official Newsletter of the
American Society of Civil Engineers
Southeastern Michigan Branch



February 2020

In This Issue

Upcoming Events

2020 ASCE Annual Meeting

20th Annual Student
Scholarship Competition

Call for Award Nominations

A Successful MRLC!

Our Very Own Award Winner -
Amber Spears

Looking for Committee Chairs!

Allen Creek Berm Opening
Presentation

ASCE Member Brahim
Benhamida Named
Shareholder with Mannik &
Smith Group

Learn More about CYM

About ASCE

Greetings!

Happy New Year to all our members - from our family to yours! We hope everyone's new year is off to a great start - and we promise ASCE has many great things in store for you in 2020!

Stay tuned to your emails for more information on our upcoming Annual Meeting as well as scholarship information, award nominee information, and presentation announcements.

We are looking forward to an awesome 2020!

Sincerely,

Crystal A. Kozak, PE
President-Elect
ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch
kozakc@macomb-mi.gov

Upcoming Events

March 4, 2020
ASCE Monthly
Branch Meeting

April 1, 2020
ASCE Monthly
Branch Meeting

ASCE 2020 Annual Meeting

This year's ASCE Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth.

More information to follow - stay tuned!

The 20th Annual Student
Scholarship Competition is Here!

April 25, 2020
ASCE Annual Meeting
Fox Hills
Golf & Banquet Center

May 6, 2020
ASCE Monthly
Branch Meeting

May - Date TBD
Tokyo Rope Presentation
Lawrence Technological
University

Monthly Branch Members Meetings take place the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15am at Nello's Restaurant in Royal Oak, unless otherwise indicated (reach out to a Board Member to verify date, time and location). As always, all members are welcome to attend to discuss ideas and get involved with Branch activities.

Featured Links

Click here to visit the [ASCE SE Michigan Branch Website](#)

CYM Facebook 

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Please continue to update your e-mail address and always contact ASCE National for any changes to your contact information.

The time to apply for the annual scholarship competition is upon us!

Undergraduate students enrolled in the colleges listed on the application for the Fall 2020 term and are registered ASCE student members by Fall 2020 are eligible. Winners will be announced at the SE MI Branch Annual Meeting on April 25, 2020 at Fox Hills in Plymouth.

Applications must be completed and submitted no later than 5pm on Friday, April 3, 2020. [Find the scholarship application here!](#)

Please encourage any civil engineering students that you may know and are eligible to apply!

Call for Award Nominations

The ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch is currently seeking nominees for the following award categories:

Young Civil Engineer of the Year Award

The Franklin D. Meyers, P.E.
Outstanding Civil Engineer of the Year Award

Outstanding Civil Engineering Project of the Year Award

The James F. Bliskey, P.E.
Quality of Life Project of the Year Award

More information as to the qualifications of each award category as well as the nomination forms can be found [HERE!](#) once they become available. Award winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting on April 25, 2020.



The Multi-Region Leadership Conference - One for the History Books

On Thursday, January 9 through Saturday, January 11, 2020, the ASCE Southeast Michigan Branch hosted the 2020 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) for ASCE Regions 3, 6, and 7 in Detroit. The honor of being selected

as the host city with the positive reception of our presentation to the Central Region Younger Member Council (CRYMC) at the 2018 MRLC in Omaha, Nebraska. What began as a humble beginning as the winning bid for the host city, ended with an outstanding and successful conference thanks to our local planning team.

The conference was held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. Nearly 350 of ASCE's top leaders from the middle-third of the United States attended the conference. The attendees were comprised of leaders from ASCE regions, sections, branches, younger member groups, and student organizations. ASCE leaders met with attendees in joint sessions and discussed common issues and concerns impacting the engineering profession. Attendees had the opportunity to develop leadership skills, learn about new industry technologies, gain exposure to the operations and resources of ASCE, network with colleagues, and advocate learning and advancement in the profession.

The conference kicked off with the ASCE Pre-College Outreach Workshop, centered around the future of civil engineering. The session hosted by Jeannine Finton engaged the outreach group with tips and techniques designed to reach students in grades K-12.

Following the Outreach Workshop, the Southeast Michigan Branch held its annual Civil Engineering Career Fair at Wayne State University. Due to the event coinciding with the MRLC, student participation was at a record high. The event hall was packed with potential employers and career-seeking individuals, and the event was well-received overall. The evening ended with fun and socializing at the conference Welcome Social located at the Garden Bowl.

The leadership conference allowed the attendees to receive an inside perspective into the workings of ASCE and how the organization functions. Attendees engaged in discussions on leadership and encouraging new faces in the ASCE organization. Breakout sessions during the conference included ASCE related topics such as boosting attendance and membership, transitioning within the society, developing social media, encouraging outreach, and other topics to aid in the success of leading a section, branch or group.

The key speaker for this year's conference was Mike MacKool, co-founder of Slow Roll Detroit. His idea of community started as a small bicycle group riding through the city, but the impact on people allowed his idea to roll into a large organization attracting thousands. The conference also headlined Carrie Warren and Kim Nowack, both MDOT representatives for the Blue Water Bridge and the Mackinac Bridge, respectively. Understanding the challenges involved with maintaining such large and vital infrastructure was an eye-opening experience.

Following the conference sessions, the Central Region Younger Member Committee held the annual awards ceremony to recognize outstanding ASCE younger members at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn. Featuring innovations from America's greatest makers, thinkers, and doers, the Henry Ford Museum was a fitting venue to announce awards highlighting the results of hard work, dedication, and innovation. Five awards were presented as follows:

- Outstanding Younger Member in the Private Sector: Alexa Nichols (Houston Branch)
- Outstanding Younger Member in the Public Sector: Sarah Alvarez (Houston Branch)
- Outstanding Younger Member in Community Activities: Mariah Schroeder (Kansas City Section)
- Outstanding Practitioner Advisor: Amber Spears (SE Michigan Branch)
- Outstanding Younger Member Group Project: Cleveland Section Younger Member Group (Cleveland Section)

Post-conference events included a tour of some very unique construction projects throughout the city. Although the Gordie Howe Bridge project could not be seen due to the weather, stops were still made at the Ford Michigan Station Renovation Project, the I-94 Corridor Project, and the Hudson's Site Development Project. Attendees had the opportunity to see the transformation of Downtown Detroit first-hand, and the collaboration of engineers, consultants, and contractors throughout the region that make the dreams of a new Detroit a reality.

With the spotlight on Detroit, many ASCE leaders left inspired by the City's resurgence, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Special thanks to our MRLC Planning Team for organizing a fantastic conference. Great work team!

- Article Written and Provided by Kevin Brown, PE, Southeast MI CYM Vice President and MRLC Chair



The MRLC Planning Team!

From left to right: Michael Michalak, Amber Spears, Ashley Lesser, Kevin Brown, Xiyun McNamara, Rebecca Walters, Ottavio Palazzolo

Our Very Own Local Award Winner!



The Southeastern Michigan Branch would like to congratulate our very own Amber Spears on winning the Outstanding Practitioner Advisor award at the Multi-Region Leadership Conference! We are very proud to have Ms. Spears as a leader in our organization and community.

Ms. Spears was nominated by the Southeast Michigan Branch CYM for this award due to her outstanding support in an ASCE student chapter. Amber has previously served as the student liaison between the University of Michigan and CYM where she took on a very tough role - bridge the gap between the university's civil engineering ASCE chapter and our organization. Although she no longer serves in this role, Ms. Spears continues to stay connected with the students at the University of Michigan as a mentor. Amber also helped plan and lead our 2018 construction tour in Detroit as well as many other events and tours through our organization.

Ms. Spears is involved in the 50K Coalition, an organization with a goal to graduate 50,000 underrepresented minority engineers annually by 2025.

Amber is currently an EIT working as a Project Engineer for a local firm.

Congratulations Amber! We are so proud of you and look forward to your many accomplishments!

Interested in Becoming More Involved in Local ASCE?

If so, we want you! We are currently looking to fill a few Committee Chair positions, including:

- CYM Web and Social Media Chair (contact Kevin Brown at kbrown@somateng.com)

- Structural Engineering Chair (contact Bryce Burkett at Bryce.Burkett@hdrinc.com)
- Project Management Chair (contact Tavio Palazzolo at Tavio.Palazzolo@ohm-advisors.com)

Being a Committee Chair is a cinch! The main focus of these roles is to find professionals in these areas of the industry to present to our organization. We are always looking for new faces to join our organization and this is a great way to stay involved.

Feel free to contact the individuals listed above or any Board Member for more information.

Allen Creek Berm Opening Presentation

On January 27, 2020, the ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch organized an event at Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti to learn about the Allen Creek Berm Opening Project. The event included a presentation by Jeremy Hedden, P.E. (Project Manager) and Katie Hoensheid, P.E. (Project Engineer) of Bergmann from Lansing. The presentation detailed the Allen Creek Berm in the area of Depot St. and Main St. which now blocks the overland drainage flow pattern resulting in local flooding as deep as 10-feet. The presentation detailed the many challenges associated with the design of the project as well as the extensive collaboration between the City, County, MDOT, MDEQ (now EGLE), FEMA, USGS, Amtrak, utility providers, trail advocacy groups, private developers, and nearby landowners to overcome the berm opening challenges. The event gathered 25 ASCE members from the area for dinner, beers, and networking.

Thanks to all the ASCE members and professionals that attended this event!

- Article Written and Provided by Bryce Burkett, PE, Director of Technical Activities, Southeast MI Branch Board



Allen Creek Presentation at Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti

Mannik & Smith Group Names
ASCE Member Brahim Benhamida
as New Shareholder



Photo of Brahim Benhamida, courtesy of Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. (MSG) has named Brahim Benhamida, PhD, PE, as a Shareholder and Senior Associate in the firm, effective January 1, 2020. Benhamida specializes in Geotechnical Engineering at MSG and has 35 years of experience.

In his position as Chief Geotechnical Engineer, Benhamida oversees geotechnical field investigations, performs geotechnical analyses and design, and provides geotechnical recommendations, geotechnical consultations, and constructability reviews. He has conducted geotechnical design and oversaw the construction of various water and wastewater treatment plant improvement projects throughout southeastern Michigan, Ohio, and Toronto, Canada. He was also involved with the geotechnical investigation for transportation projects throughout Michigan and Ohio. Recently he served as the geotechnical engineer of record for the \$400 million, 13-story ProMedica Toledo Hospital Generations of Care Tower project in Ohio. In all these diversified projects, Dr. Benhamida used his education, research, and experience to help establish quality assurance and quality control procedures for the private development projects and the Federal Highway Administration and the Michigan Department of Transportation funded projects.

MSG recognizes Associates as accomplished senior level professionals who have demonstrated leadership in technical, business development, and/or project

management excellence. Candidates are nominated by MSG Shareholders and elected by the Board.

Benhamida earned his doctoral degree in Geotechnical Engineering from Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees in Paris, France. He also has a master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Ecole Nationale Polytechnique in Algiers, Algeria. He has served as a lecturer and professor at all three institutions.

A registered professional engineer in Michigan and Ohio, Benhamida is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, the Engineering Society of Detroit, and the Association of Drilled Shaft Contractors.

Congratulations Brahim!

- Press Release Provided by Mannik & Smith Group

ASCE Committee on Younger Members

If you would like more information about the Committee on Younger Members or want to learn ways that you can get involved, contact Rebecca Wolters, CYM President, at rwolters@conteches.com.

Or join our Facebook Group to stay up to date on what's happening

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/25583413455/>

About ASCE

Southeastern Michigan Branch

We are the Southeastern Michigan Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a non-profit national organization. ASCE's mission is to provide essential value to our members, their careers, our partners and the public by developing leadership, advancing technology, advocating lifelong learning and promoting the profession.

Our Southeastern Michigan Branch serves members of the civil engineering profession in greater Lenawee, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne counties.

<http://branches.asce.org/michigan-se/>

ASCE Southeastern Michigan Branch

