

## ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

June 2021

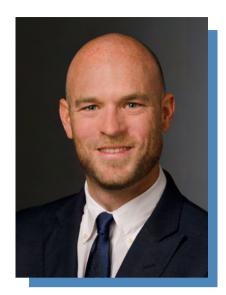
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY BRADLEY L. EAST, M.S., P.E.



It's hard to believe that Summer is upon us! A new group of engineers is entering the workforce and students are out for break. The only thing missing is the sun. Here's to hoping we catch a break from the rain in the near future.

This month, we will be voting on our proposed slate of officers for the coming year, as shown below:

- · President: Sam Shorter. PE
- President-Elect: Paul Hahn. PE
- Vice President-Programs: Tyler Dube, PE
- Secretary: Leanne Cantalupo, EIT
- Treasurer: Genest Landry, PE
- Treasurer-Elect: Augustine Verrengia, PE
- Communications Director: Austin Messerli, PE
- Section Director: Kat Lauer, EIT
- Younger Member Director: Kaylyn Hudson, PE
- Past President: Bradley East, PE

Keep in mind that ASCE-Austin Branch will not hold our monthly luncheons in July or August, as we will be on our summer break and working on officer transitions. But I am excited to announce that we are tentatively moving forward with hosting our September luncheon as an in-person event. To that end, we would like to get your thoughts on this. Feel free to send me an email and let me know how you feel, <a href="mailto:beast@polarisforensics.com">beast@polarisforensics.com</a>. We will also be conducting a quick survey during our June luncheon to gauge peoples comfort level with this.

Lastly, now is a great time to get involved! We are currently looking for committee chairs and members. If you've been wanting to contribute in any way to help make our branch the success that it is, please contact me (512-971-3911, beast@polarisforensics.com) or another officer or committee member. Thank you for everything you do to support ASCE!

Follow us on Facebook, Linked In and Instagram for event recaps, upcoming events, relevant news, and updates. I hope you all have a fantastic summer!

Bradley L. East, M.S., P.E.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER 2021

6/8	EWB June Virtual Meeting
6/10	ASCE YMF ATX June Volleyball Social
6/15	ASCE Austin Branch June Meeting
6/30	CECON Sponsorship and Exhibitor Sign Up Deadline
7/1	CECON Early Bird Discount Ends
7/30	EWRI Continuing Education Conference
7/30	ASCE YMF ATX Annual Golf Tournament
8/7	CECON Registration Deadline (without late fee applied)
9/15	CECON 2021 Begins
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## JUNE BRANCH MEETING

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

#### REGISTRATION REGISTER BY 6/15 AT 12PM

- **DATE** | 6/15/2021, 11:30am 1:00pm
- LOCATION | Zoom Virtual Meeting
- LINK | Click here to register

#### **MEETING TOPIC AUSTIN DISTRICT UPDATES**

Please join us for the last Branch meeting before our summer break. We are excited to have our Board of Directors election along with an update from TXDOT Advance Project Development Director Heather Ashley-Nguyen, P.E.

### ·MEET THE SPEAKER: HEATHER ASHLEY-NGUYEN, P.E. —

Heather received a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in 2001. Upon graduation, she joined the private sector for 12 years and built a solid technical foundation working as a roadway design engineer on schematic and PS&E, and design build (DB) projects.

Heather joined TxDOT in 2013 in a leadership role as a liaison to the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority and managed a program of projects totaling over \$3B. The program included aspects of funding, planning, design, construction, toll operations, and maintenance of major projects. In this role, Heather built on her DB experience through planning, procurement, and design/implementation for the Mopac Express, SH 71 Toll, 290E Ph3, and 183 South DB projects.

In late 2017, Heather was appointed the advance project development director and led the schematic, environmental, and survey sections for the Austin District's 11-county region. In her current role as TP&D director, she leads a team of over 100 and manages programming and delivery of projects including the \$7B Capital Express Program.



## THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR!



Aguirre & Fields, LP is an engineering design firm with offices in Houston, Austin, Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. The firm specializes in civil and structural engineering services for transportation and land development projects, including highways, bridges, water and wastewater structures, and individual building sites. They provide an exceptional blend of consulting civil engineering and land planning capabilities.

In addition to their broad design experience, Aguirre & Fields provides a full suite of Construction Phase Services for transportation and heavy civil projects of any size. The firm is precertified in all applicable TxDOT construction categories. Aguirre & Fields has experience on Design/Build and Design/Build projects, including Program Management, Project Management, Quality Control, Quality Assurance, and Independent Engineer.

Aguirre & Fields focuses on providing solutions that are sustainable, economical, with a goal of designing public infrastructure to last for generations. They have established a quality reputation and a level of trust that is unprecedented. Learn more about Aguirre & Fields here: www.aguirre-fields.com

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

BY AYAH ALOMARI, E.I.T.

#### ASCE NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

National ASCE has two featured volunteer opportunities due to express their need for volunteers!

#### **OPPORTUNITY #1**



The first opportunity is ASCE's Mentor Match. If you want to network with others in the ASCE community and volunteer as a mentor or be a mentee you can find more information at the link below or email Tirza Austin at taustin@asce.org.

Mentor Match:

collaborate.asce.org/mentoring/home

#### **OPPORTUNITY #2**

opportunity second is Community Engineering Corps. They require pro-bono engineering services for local community projects in your area. Check out the link below for more information.

#### CECorps:

www.communityengineeringcorps.org/volunteers



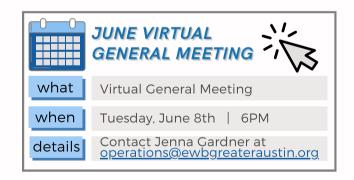


## **EWB - AUSTIN UPDATE**

BY JENNA GARDNER, P.E.

Join the Greater Austin chapter of Engineers Without Borders on Tuesday, June 8th at 6 PM for our virtual General Meeting!

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jenna Gardner for the meeting information, at operations@ewbgreateraustin.org





## EWRI - AUSTIN UPDATE

BY TRAVIS KAATZ, P.E.

The EWRI Annual Continuing Education Workshop will be held on Friday, July 30th at the Renaissance Hotel and the workshop them is **Resiliency for the Future - Planning for a Changing Environment**. EWRI is planning for both virtual and in person attendance. Keep your eyes out for our Save the Date and Workshop Agenda.

EWRI acknowledges that preferences can change as the situation evolves. Please use the link below to give us your feedback: Google Doc

## **ASCE AUSTIN YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

BY GRISELDA QUINTERO, E.I.T. & LEANNE CANTALUPO, E.I.T.

Did you miss a past meeting? Don't sweat it! You can now watch past virtual meetings on our YouTube channel. Click <u>here</u> to check out the YouTube page, and click below to view the following meeting recordings:

September 2020

"Geosynthetics: Tame Your Terrain" by Ashley Macmillan, PE

November 2020

"EWB Austin in Tanzania" by Lizzie Wilson, EIT and Mazen Zee Alameddine

December 2020

"Professional Practice Updates and Ethics" by Rick Valdes, PE

January 2021

"Use of Shared Automated Vehicles for First-Mile Last-Mile Service: Microsimulation of Rail-transit Connections in Austin, Texas" by Yantao Huang

February 2021

"TFC Capitol Complex - Reflecting on Phase I" by Paul Bielamowicz, PE

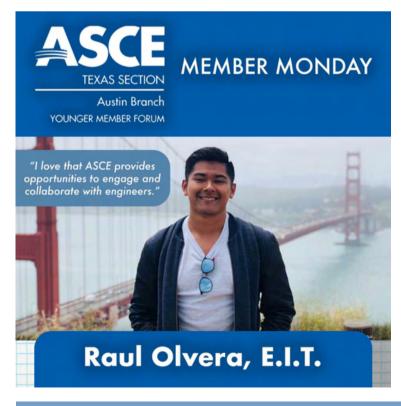
**May 2021** 

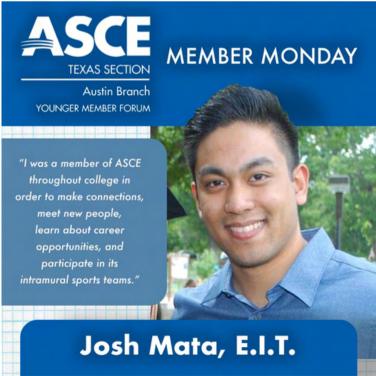
2021 Texas Section Government Affairs Update by Austin Messerli, PE



## YMF MEMBER MONDAYS

Did you know that YMF posts monthly "Member Mondays" on social media? Check out December and January's highlighted members below.







## YMF UPDATE

BY KATHERINE SMITH, EIT

#### 2021 YMF GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual ASCE YMF Austin Branch Golf Tournament will take place on Friday, July 30th, 2021.

This event is one of the organization's largest fundraising efforts. Participants of the event include members representing local and national engineering firms, public agencies, suppliers/vendors, contractors, and developers. This year's proceeds will be utilized to help fund various ASCE programs, including scholarships and a donation to Sammy's House (sammyshouse.org).

Thank you to those that registered or expressed interest last year and stayed with us as we changed the date of the tournament and eventually cancel, due to the pandemic. We have high hopes this year we will be successful in hosting the tournament and we hope to see you all there!



Sign-up/RSVP here: https://www.planmygolfevent.com/35713-2021ASCE\_YMF\_TOURNAMENT/

Have questions? Contact Golf Tournament Co-Chair, Sydnie Fiocca, at sfiocca@emailatg.com.

#### JUNE SOCIAL - VOLLEYBALL AT BALKAN CAFE

Join us for a couple of rounds of volleyball!



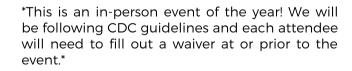
#### WHEN

Thursday, June 10 | 5 pm - 8 pm



#### WHERE

Balkan Cafe | 11800 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78753



Fill out the online waiver <u>here</u>.

Find the Facebook event here.

#### THANKS FOR COMING TO OUR MAY SOCIAL!

We had a great turn out at our May social at Easy Tiger. Thanks to everyone who came and brought a coworker! We missed y'all's faces!









#### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA









If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF ATX, please contact our president Kaylyn Hudson at <a href="mailto:Kaylyn.hudson@freese.com">Kaylyn.hudson@freese.com</a>.



## THE FAMOUS DRISKILL HOTEL

BY ASMITA RAUT



As a history and heritage committee, we always feel proud to present Austin's most iconic structures. In this newsletter, we are presenting historic landmark of Texas, famous for its hospitality: The Driskill hotel, located in the heart of downtown Austin, on the corner of 6th Street and Brazos Street.

In general, the Driskill is one of the best-known premier luxurious and one of the oldest operating hotels in Austin. It is also famous for most haunted hotels in the United States, featuring variety of supernatural activities including the spirit of Colonel Driskill himself.

The hotel was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 25, 1969.

The Driskill is composed of two interconnected buildings; the original four-story Romanesque Revival building constructed in 1886, and a 13-story annex constructed in 1930. The original building, designed by local Austin architect Jasper N. Preston, was constructed with over six million pressed bricks and white limestone accents. The building contains two porticos (entryway patios with roof) on the southern and eastern facades, which contain large Richardsonian-style arches that were reputed to be the largest in Texas. The facade contains three limestone busts of Driskill and his sons; J.W. "Bud" Driskill facing Brazos Street, A. W. "Tobe" Driskill facing an alley on the west side, and Jesse Driskill facing Sixth Street, whose bust is surrounded by decorative carvings including longhorns on the gable ends.

A few notable events happened in the Driskill:

- In 1908, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas met at the Driskill hotel to discuss the fate of the Alamo Mission in San Antonio. At the meeting, a divide between two factions of the group erupted over whether to demolish or preserve the structure.
- On October 12, 1931, Louis Armstrong opened a three-day performance at the Driskill Hotel. In attendance was Charles Black, a freshman at University of Texas at Austin at the time, who cited the performance as inspiration for his interest in race and civil rights.
- In 1934, future President Lyndon Johnson met his future wife, Claudia Taylor, for their first date at the Driskill dining room. It became his campaign headquarters during his congressional career, especially during his famous 1948 Senate race, and became a favorite place on return trips to Austin during his presidency. He watched the results of the 1964 Presidential Election from its presidential suite and addressed supporters from its ballroom after his victory.
- President Bill Clinton stayed in the 4-room Cattle Baron's suite when he visited Austin in 1999.
- On September 11, 2001, Jenna Bush, daughter of President George W. Bush, was relocated to the hotel by the Secret Service in the wake of the terrorist attacks earlier that day.

On March 17, 2018, actor Bill Murray and cellist Jan Vogler recited the poem "Dog" by Lawrence Ferlinghetti from the front steps of the Driskill Hotel to promote the film Isle of Dogs during the 2018 South by Southwest festival.

Photo credit: https://gov.texas.gov/film/trail/driskill-hotel

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Driskill Hotel#cite note-Dolce-6,



## SEI UPDATE

BY SCOTT L. WALLACE, P.E., F.SEI

This past year has been full of challenges. At SEI we've learned to provide our services virtually as we work to advance and serve the Structural Engineering profession. We'll now take a break for the Summer and begin again when the students return. In the meantime, below you'll find information on our Professional Meetings, Structural Engineering Talks (SET) and on-line resources to help you stay connected throughout the Summer.

#### PROFESSIONAL MEETING

SEI offers Professional Meetings every other month, September through May. It's been our practice to take July off and start in again when students return for the Fall semester. These meetings feature a presentation on some current projects, research, or developments in the Structural Engineering profession.

This past year was full of fascinating topics offered virtually. Included were Dr. Cameron Murray, Ph.D. from University of Arkansas discussing the advantages of using Belitic Calcium Sulfoaluminate (BCSA) cement in precast concrete; Nick Graziani, PE from Watson Bowman Acme presenting the evolution of and current innovations in bridge expansion joints; Mark Waggoner of Walter P Moore previewing the Q2 Stadium, home of the Austin FC MLS club; and Dr. Petros Sideris, Ph.D. from Texas A&M University presenting his research on innovative Hybrid Sliding-Rocking (HSR) bridge columns that move like human limbs to absorb seismic effects. It was an interesting year and offered a good way to keep up with your PDHs while working remotely.

Stay informed for next Fall through the SEI e-blast or by going to the following website: https://www.austinasce.org/.

#### STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TALKS (SET) 2021

Planning continues for SET. As Texas continues to open up and get back to in-person activities, we are watching what the experts are saying and our membership's comfort level for the right time to hold SET in person. Currently we are considering holding it either in late Fall '21 or Spring '22. Until then you'll find links to past SET presentation as well as updates at https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set



#### ADDITIONAL ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

#### 1. SEI Structures Virtual 2021 Conference

The virtual conference happened June 2-4, 2021. For more info see the technical program.

#### 2. New SEI Standards Series



Join live, virtual sessions for exclusive interaction with expert ASCE/SEI Standard developers on state-of-the-market updates. Participants will learn about technical revisions and review a design example. Attendees are encouraged to join and participate in Live Q&A. REGISTER NOW at https://cutt.ly/9hQDTEo

#### 3. SEI Structures 2020 Virtual Event

This recording is free and open to all. It features content on Generations@Work, Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety CROSS-US, and Performance-Based Design taken from the canceled 2020 Structures Congress. View the recording here.

#### 4. SEI Structures Congress 2020 Proceedings

This site provides access to the papers that were to be presented at the 2020 Structures Congress. View the papers <u>here</u>.

#### 5. ASCE Collaborate

This is a collaboration page normally reserved for ASCE members but now open to all. It contains several events that can be joined. Most events are free of charge.

Enjoy the Summer and stay connected to the SEI Austin Chapter via our website, where you'll find the latest and greatest on upcoming events. We always welcome your thoughts on future technical presentations and other special events - particularly during these challenging times. If there is something you would like to do, then we would like to hear about it. Please drop us a line at sei@austinasce.org.





EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR CECON 2021

Save \$50 through June when you register for ASCE Texas CECON. The conference will be held September 15-17, 2021 in San Marcos and offers a snapshot of the best in Texas civil engineering and beyond, while providing unique opportunities to learn and build relationships, contributing to the industry's technical diversity as never before. View program details and register today at www.TexasCECON.org. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

Sponsorship and Exhibitor opportunities are also available. Sign up by July 1 to maximize your benefits.



#### SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR TEXAS SECTION OFFICER NOMINEES >> VOTE TODAY

Please take a minute to cast your vote for the 2021-2022 Texas Section Officer candidates. Voting is the best way to show your support of these members who have expressed their willingness to continue serving ASCE. You can vote online by clicking here.

If you require a paper ballot, please send a request to office@texasce.org or call (512) 472-8905.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: MAKING THE MOST OF VIRTUAL MEETINGS & TEXAS SECTION OPERATIONS UPDATES

... A wide variety of educational programs are underway to meet the needs of members; and the recently released 2021 Texas Infrastructure Report Card educates the public and elected officials about the condition of our state's critical infrastructure systems. Both the Texas and National Infrastructure Report Cards were strategically timed to guide the conversations of the 87th Texas Legislature and 117th United States Congress. Civil Engineers are eagerly learning more about the American Jobs Plan...

... Holding an engaging virtual meeting takes some effort. It requires pre-meeting planning and while that requires more of your time, increased attendee engagement will provide a significant return on the time investment in the long run. The first step in planning is the agenda...

... read the full article here.



#### MORE NEWS FROM ASCE TEXAS SECTION: TEXAS CIVIL ENGINEER

View industry and Section news online, for free at <u>www.texasce.org/news</u>. Recent articles include a <u>message from</u> Section VP for Professional Affairs Griselda Gonzales PE, ENV SP on 21st Century Ethics; a fun get-to-know Bob Stevens PhD, PE, Pres.15.ASCE - one of three Section Vice Presidents; and an article on The Rehabilitation of the Waco Suspension Bridge.

Never miss a technical article by subscribing for monthly content releases at www.texasce.org/news/.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SPONSOR THE ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH FOR 2021!

BY AUSTIN HELTON, P.E.



We ask that all members consider supporting your local ASCE branch during these uncertain and difficult times. Almost all the functions of the organization are dependent upon these sponsorships and we cannot do all the great things that we do, without YOUR SUPPORT!

For more information about the benefits of sponsorship visit www.austinasce.org/sponsors.

If you have any questions or for more information please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### \$300 ANNUAL SPONSORS

- Valid for 1 Year after date of purchase.
- Company logo is displayed on newsletters, mailers, and at ASCE branch meetings.
- Free postings on the ASCE job board.

#### \$350 MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING SPONSORS

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Special recognition at branch meeting event.
- Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.

#### S300 CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2021)

- Company highlight in event promotion emails.
- Several additional levels of sponsorship available.

#### \$850 SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE

- Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three!
- Includes Annual Sponsorship
- Includes one credit for monthly branch meeting sponsorship.
- Includes sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!































## **ASCE AUSTIN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more. If you are interested in any of our committees, please contact our and our Nominations Committee Chair, Travis Isaacson, at <a href="mailto:tisaacson@rios-group.com">tisaacson@rios-group.com</a>.

## 2020-2021 ASCE AUSTIN OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### **PRESIDENT**

Bradley East, P.E.
Polar Forensics, Inc.
president@austinasce.org

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Sam Shorter, P.E.

Miller Gray

presidentelect@austinasce.org

#### **VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMS**

Paul Hahn, P.E. Aguirre & Fields vicepresident@austinasce.org

#### **SECRETARY**

Colton Fisher, P.E.
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Tyler Dube, P.E.
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treasurer@austinasce.org

#### TREASURER-ELECT

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City of Austin
treasurerelect@austinasce.org

#### **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

Leanne Cantalupo, E.I.T. Garver communications@austinasce.org

#### **SECTION DIRECTOR**

Kat Lauer, E.I.T. Sunland Group, Inc. texassection@austinasce.org

#### YOUNGER MEMBER DIRECTOR

Marita Moya, E.I.T. Halff Associates, Inc. ymfdirector@austinasce.org

#### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Travis Isaacson, P.E.
The Rios Group
pastpresident@austinasce.org

## EWEEK/STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T. Aguirre & Fields Kacey Paul, P.E., C.F.M. City of Marble Falls

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Kimley Horn

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Miller Gray

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Travis Isaacson, P.E. The Rios group

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publicrelations@austinasce.org

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

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David Matocha Forterra Pipe & Precast Garabed (Garo) Harutunian, P.E., F.ASCE

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#### HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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#### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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#### STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Tony Buonodono, P.E. MWM Design Group

#### **UT AUSTIN MENTORING COMMITTEE**

Robert Ramon, P.E. (Practitioner Advisor 1) Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. Paul Hahn, P.E. (Practitioner Advisor 2) Aguirre & Fields

## STUDENT CHAPTER CONTACT COMMITTEE

Jacob Gay, P.E.

Dashiell Corporation

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# Thanks for a great year.

