



TEXAS SECTION
Austin Branch

ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

September 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Welcome back to the start of another year with ASCE Austin Branch! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. I also hope everyone is as excited about the upcoming football season as I am. Hook 'Em Horns!

September is our first month back after our summer break and our transition to our new board. At our September meeting we will welcome the incoming ASCE Texas Section President, Patrick Beecher, to install our new President and Board members. I'll be handing the president's gavel off to our incoming President, Mr. Sam Shorter, and I know he will lead our Branch to great things in this coming year.

We had every intention of hosting our September luncheon as an in-person event. Unfortunately, because of the recent surge in COVID cases both nationally and locally, we have made the executive decision to conduct our September meeting virtually. And at the guidance of ASCE National, we will continue to operate virtually through the end of the calendar year. I'm saddened that the entire 2020-2021 branch year was virtual. I very much look forward to the day when we can all gather again safely in-person.

The ASCE Texas Section is hosting CECON this month! On September 15-17, engineers from across the state will congregate in San Marcos for collaboration, training, networking, hearing about the latest projects and technologies, and building relationships. If you haven't had a chance to register yet, it's not too late! You can still register for the last day by visiting <https://texascecon.org/>.

It has been an honor to serve as your Austin Branch President and I have greatly appreciated the opportunity. Thank you to all of the board members and committee chairs who have served alongside me this past year. It was definitely a challenging year, and I am so proud of all that we were able to overcome and accomplish as a team of dedicated volunteers in spite of this global pandemic.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

9/14	EWB Monthly Meeting
9/15-9/17	CECON
9/16	CECON Legislative Panel
9/21	ASCE Austin Branch Luncheon
9/25	EWB Creek Cleanup
9/28	ASCE Texas Section Trinity Railway Express Webinar

SEPTEMBER BRANCH MEETING

BY PAUL HAHN, P.E.

REGISTRATION

REGISTER BY 9/21 AT 12PM

- ▶ **DATE** | 9/21/2021, 11:30am - 1:00pm
- ▶ **LOCATION** | Zoom Virtual Meeting
- ▶ **LINK** | [Click here to register](#)

MEETING TOPIC

PROJECT CONNECT

Please join us for our September virtual branch meeting. David Couch, Project Connect Program Officer at Austin Transit Partnership, will be giving a presentation on Project Connect.

MEET THE SPEAKER: DAVID W. COUCH SR.

David Couch is an accomplished executive with over thirty years of management experience in transit. He has a track record of establishing, managing, and completing projects on schedule and within budget utilizing design-bid-build, design-build and guaranteed maximum price contract formats with a combination of financing methodologies.

These projects include heavy rail, light rail and commuter rail from the environmental phase through design, construction, and placing into revenue service.

David Couch is currently the Program Officer for Project Connect in the Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority in Austin.



BECOME A SPONSOR

SPONSOR THE ASCE AUSTIN BRANCH FOR 2021-2022!

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.

\$300 | CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT (2022)

- 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.

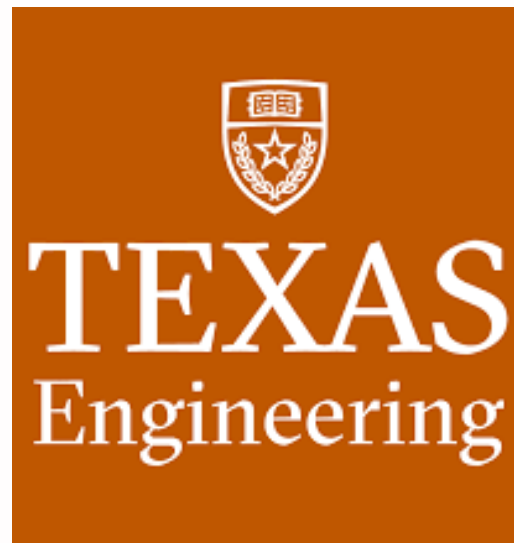
MENTORING OPPORTUNITY

MENTOR CIVIL ENGINEERING SENIORS AT UT-AUSTIN - FALL 2021 SEMESTER

BY ROBERT RAMON, P.E.

The Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering is recruiting volunteers from the ASCE Austin Branch to serve as mentors for seniors in the civil engineering program. Serving as a mentor is an excellent opportunity to assist with public service projects in our community, identify potential new hires for your company, get your company name out in the local community, and earn three professional development hours (PDHs) for licensure.

Students are organized into teams to work on real-world projects for real-world clients. Multiple mentors will be assigned to each team to support students in developing a sound technical approach, preparing an oral presentation for a stakeholder meeting, and delivering a brief written report to their client. While mentors are certainly asked to provide technical advice as the project develops, a very important component of this course is to expose students to the non-technical aspects of our work as we collaborate with team members, clients, and stakeholder communities.



Working with the mentors has been an extremely valuable experience for our students, and several are currently employed by their former mentors. Mentors of all experience levels and backgrounds are welcome!

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, or would like to learn more, please contact Robert Ramon (r.rramon@jmt.com).

Thank you Spring 2021 mentors for all the hard work and dedication. And a special thank you to Alliance Transportation Group for providing the most mentors (4) this past semester!

HONORS COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY DAVID MATOCHA

Now is the time to think about the many wonderful engineers that serve the Austin Branch and the civil engineering profession and show them your appreciation by nominating them for the Austin Branch Engineer of the Year Award. The past winners of this award are literally a "Who's Who" of the Austin civil engineering community. The only requirement is the nominee must be a member of the Austin Branch. Surely you know someone deserving to be considered for this award.

Please reach out to me at david.matocha@forterrabp.com for a nomination form or if you have any questions. I am happy to help you with your nomination.



Thanks everyone for a great summer! We were so happy to see everyone at our summer events!

2021 YMF GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thanks to all the participants, sponsors, and YMF planning committee for making the 2021 ASCE YMF Golf Tournament a great success! A record 22 teams had a hot but eventful day of golf at the beautiful Avery Ranch Golf Course on Friday July 30th.

Kimley Horn was the winning team. Blayne Parishar had the longest drive, and Todd Sands and Randy Lueders were closest to the pin.

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 for supporting ASCE YMF and stay tuned for next year's tournament details!

The picture below is of the winning team from the Golf Tournament.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2021 YMF Golf Tournament - Kimley Horn!



Pictured from left to right: Sam Lundquist, Santiago Araque, Austin Helton, and Travis Ola.

ANNUAL PARTY BARGE

Thank you to everyone who came out to our 2021 annual summer party barge with YPT and ASHE. We had a blast networking, swimming, and soaking in the summer sun!



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF Austin, please contact our president David Contreras at dcontreras@gad.co.



[austinasce.org/
younger-members](http://austinasce.org/younger-members)



[ASCE YMF ATX](https://www.facebook.com/ASCEYMFATX)



[@yymfaustin](https://www.instagram.com/yymfaustin)

BY SARAH DAVIS, PE, CFM

CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP

EWRI Austin successfully hosted its 16th Annual Continuing Education Workshop on July 31st focused around "Resiliency for the Future - Planning for a Changing Environment". We had 10 speakers and over 150 attendees across virtual and in-person platforms. Thank you to our sponsors and all of those who supported the event.

RAIN GARDEN EVENT

EWRI Austin's community outreach chair, Jose Eduardo Perez, helped coordinate a last-minute community event at Garza High School on August 28th.

With help from AISD and Concordia University students, they worked on the construction of a swale to support their rain garden.

EWRI Austin will be coordinating additional rain garden events with a spring build tentatively set for Matthews Elementary. More details to follow.



GET INVOLVED

EWRI Austin is transitioning to new leadership and is looking for nominations to fill the following roles.

Board Members:

- President-Elect
- Treasurer-Elect

Committee Chairs:

- Continuing Education
- Social
- Community Outreach
- Communication
- Scholarship



Email ewri.presidentelect@austinasce.org to nominate by Sept 13.

EWB - AUSTIN UPDATE

BY JENNA GARDNER, P.E.



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA
GREATER AUSTIN CHAPTER

Join the Greater Austin chapter of Engineers Without Borders on Tuesday, September 14th at 6 PM for our virtual General Meeting! Kathryn Bergmann, an engineer with Well Aware, will be speaking about the incredible work that the organization does overseas to address growing water scarcity issues and the process of designing and implementing a well internationally.

Additionally, EWB - Greater Austin will be doing a creek cleanup event on September 25th if you would like to volunteer your time to Keep Austin Beautiful.

If you are interested in attending either of these events, please contact Jenna Gardner for the meeting information, operations@ewbgreataustin.org or visit our website: <https://ewbgreataustin.org/events/>



Summer has flown by, but SEI returns rejuvenated and we hope you are as well. A special welcome is extended to the Structural Engineering students returning to campus. As we all continue to operate in a world impacted by the pandemic, we are committed to advancing and serving the Structural Engineering profession in a format that is respectful of the ever-changing health challenges. We will still offer virtual opportunities and will work towards being able to come together again as soon as practical. Below you'll find information on our 3 main offerings planned through next spring: Professional Meetings, Structural Engineering Talks (SET) and on-line resources to help you stay connected.

PROFESSIONAL MEETING

SEI offers Professional Meetings every other month, September through May, which feature a presentation on some current projects, research, or developments in the Structural Engineering profession. We plan to continue taking advantage of our current virtual format by bringing you exceptional technical guests from around the country.

In August John R. Wolosick, PE, D.GE, F.ASCE, a Senior Advisor at Keller North America, presented on the Design and Construction of High Capacity Micropiles. He provided an overview of what they are and how they are constructed, and he highlighted special applications including challenging ground conditions, high groundwater conditions and low-headroom areas where micropiles provide an excellent foundation solution. Drawing from his 40 years of experience, including 35 published technical papers and multiple awards, John provided many fascinating insights.

Information on additional Professional Meetings will be announced throughout the year using the SEI e-blasts that Austin Chapter President Eric Sammarco sends. They can also be found at: <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 in Spring 2022. Until then you'll find links to past SET presentations as well as updates at <https://www.austinasce.org/sei/set>



ADDITIONAL ONLINE OPPORTUNITIES

1. New National SEI Website

Take a look at the new more user friendly design: [Visit SEI Now](#)

2. 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. The next one is on Sept 16th and will focus on ASCE/SEI 59 Blast Protection of Buildings. REGISTER NOW at <https://cutt.ly/9hQDTEo>

3. Structures Congress 2022

To be held in person in Atlanta April 20-23, 2022. Registration and additional info will be available mid-September [here](#).

Scholarships are available through the SEI Future Fund for students or young engineers. To apply or get more information go [here](#).

4. SEI Structures Congress 2020 Proceedings

[This site](#) provides access to the papers that were to be presented at the 2020 Structures Congress.

5. Free Collection of Articles

In response to the Champlain Towers South collapse in Surfside, Florida, The ASCE Library has assembled papers highlighting the importance of condition assessment of buildings that are available for free through September 16th here: [Available for free](#).

6. 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.

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.

CECON LEGISLATIVE PANEL

BY AUSTIN MESSERLI, PE



One of the most anticipated events at the annual CECON conference is always the Legislative Panel. The ASCE Texas Section is especially excited to host this panel this year as we continue the process of returning to in-person events. This year the Legislative Panel is scheduled for Thursday, September 16th at 4:15 pm and will be moderated by ASCE National President Dr. Jean Louis Briaud. We will have a full slate of both State Representatives and State Senators from across Texas to answer questions related to sustainability, infrastructure and general topics concerning the Civil Engineering community. The anticipated attendees include

- Sen. Kel Seliger
- Rep. Dennis Paul PE
- Rep. Alex Dominguez
- Rep. J.M. Lozano

If you have any questions that you would like to ask the legislators send them to governmentaffairs@texasce.org.

Lastly, we are always looking for ASCE members to join in our efforts so if you or someone you know would be interested in being part of the Government Affairs Committee, do not hesitate to reach out the committee at do not hesitate to reach out the GovernmentRelations@austinasce.org

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 [here](#) 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: Micro-simulation 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

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ASCE TEXAS SECTION UPDATE

BY SEAN MERRELL, P.E., ASCE TEXAS SECTION PRESIDENT



CECON 2021 PROGRAM UPDATE

The in-person, 2021 Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) will be held this month in San Marcos, Texas! The focus is Civil Engineering: Laying the Foundations of Sustainability. The 3-day, jam packed program is posted on the Texas CECON website. We welcome Adam Payne PE, CCM and Steve Long PE as our Wednesday Keynote speakers giving us an exciting virtual tour and overview of the \$1.6B Bois d'Arc Lake Program. Our Thursday Keynote speaker is Houston Public Works Director Carol Haddock PE, presenting Houston Takes Action: Sustainability & Resiliency Planning. The conference also has a fantastic lineup of panel discussions that you do not want to miss, including:

- AGC-ASCE Panel
- TxDOT Divisions Town Hall
- Legislative Panel with Texas Senators and Representatives
- Infrastructure Panel with leaders from TCEQ, TWDB, and Trinity River Authority



Last but not least, we welcome back Carlos Betha PhD of the U.S. Air Force Academy for an engaging discussion during the Ethics Breakfast: Developing Your Moral (or is it "Ethical?") Vocabulary.

The conference takes place September 15-17. Engineers from all disciplines are invited, as well as students. Attendees will be a mix of public and private sector representatives. The SafeEvent policy & FAQs as well as online registration are available at www.TexasCECON.org.

TEXAS CIVIL ENGINEER: HOT TOPICS

Don't miss the most recent technical article, ASCE news, and much more!

- [*Advances in Bridge Evaluation Using Digital Image Correlation \(DIC\)*](#) by Principal Investigator Dr. Wassim Ghannoum, Co-PI Dr. Manuel Diaz, and UTSA Students: Shima Rajaei, Suman Banjade, Graham Hogsett, and Biswash Chapagain
- [*Steel bridge returns to roster of ASCE student competitions*](#)
- [*UT Tyler's ASCE Student Chapter wins the 2021 Distinguished Chapter Award for the second year in a row*](#) by Luisa Cardona Suarez
- [*New El Paso Younger Member Group hits the ground running*](#) by Daniel Carrera, PE

We invite members and non-members to subscribe to the Texas Civil Engineer for monthly content releases at www.texasce.org/news/.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Join us from your home or office for technical and power skills topics! Upcoming webinar sessions, include:

- September 28 - [*Trinity Railway Express: Crossing the Trinity River*](#) by Fadi Faraj PE. Mr. Faraj is Vice President at HVJ Associates and currently serves as the Chair of the ASCE Texas Geo-Institute Chapter.
- October 12 - [*Bioengineered Living Shoreline Erosion Control Technology*](#) by Sam Cocke, Sales Manager, Double Oak Erosion



>> If you are interested in presenting a Texas Section Webinar, please contact Texas Section VP for Technical Affairs, Robert Stevens PhD, PE, F.ASCE at vpotech@texasce.org.

>> If you are interested in hosting a group viewing for your Branch, please contact office@texasce.org. Each Branch is provided one complimentary connection per webinar to facilitate group viewings.

ASCE AUSTIN LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with the ASCE Austin Branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more. If you're interested in any of our committees, please contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Bradley East, at beast@polarisforensics.com.

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