

The Purpose of Region 5 is Advancing the Profession by:

- Inspiring Members
- Creating Excitement
- Promoting Excellence in Civil Engineering

## NEW BOARD MEETS TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AHEAD

By Ben Walpole, Aff.M.ASCE

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As a new year begins, cybersecurity has emerged as a vital concern in the civil engineering profession. The ASCE Board of Direction took steps during its quarterly meeting, held virtually Jan. 16, to ensure that the Society is working quickly to give its members the tools to protect themselves from cyberthreats. Or, as Region 7 Director Edward Stafford said during the meeting, "It's not just about technology or having the right patch. It's about people." ASCE's Industry Leaders Council convened a working group in 2019 to research cybersecurity threats and recommend potential Society action. And this month, the Board received the working group's report and voted to authorize further exploration of market needs and potential implementations of those recommendations.

"There is a need for all civil engineers to be trained to be vigilant and educated in what the threat is, what form it can take, how to recognize it, and how to take precautionary measures," said ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud. "I believe that ASCE has a responsibility to help our members be better prepared to defend against cybersecurity issues."

## President-elect official nominees

The Board of Direction Nominating Committee selected the official nominees for ASCE 2022 president-elect. They are Maria C. Lehman, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE, and Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE. The ASCE election runs May 1 through June 1, with the successful nominee set to serve as the ASCE president in 2023.

## Visualizing 2070

The Future World Vision project reached another funding milestone, as the Board voted to fully actualize the Mega City 2070 world. A prototype version of the Mega City debuted last fall at the ASCE 2020 Convention. "Future World Vision is our star project," Briaud said. "It impacts one issue where moving the needle is very difficult: the public image of civil engineers. It does that by being equally appealing to the 10-year-old youngster and the 70-

## Region 5 Board of Governors

Our Region 5 Board of Governors is here to connect you, the ASCE members of Region 5, to ASCE at the Society level. Please contact your Governors at the email addresses indicated below; we want to hear from you!

- **Lawren Pratt, P.E., LEED AP, M. ASCE**  
R5 Director, Alabama Section  
[lawren.pratt@bargedesign.com](mailto:lawren.pratt@bargedesign.com)
- **Bradley Williams, P.E., M. ASCE**  
R5 Governor, Alabama Section  
[williamsbr@alabama.asce.org](mailto:williamsbr@alabama.asce.org)
- **Marta P. Alonso, P.E., ENV SP, M. ASCE**  
R5 Governor, Florida Section  
[malonso@hazenandsawyer.com](mailto:malonso@hazenandsawyer.com)
- **Sarah L. Matin, P.E., M. ASCE**  
R5 Governor, Florida Section  
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- **Rebecca Shelton, P.E., F. ASCE**  
R5 Governor, Georgia Section  
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- **Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., P.E., M. ASCE**  
R5 At Large Governor, Louisiana Section  
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- **Rudy Simoneaux, P.E., M. ASCE**  
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[rudy.simoneaux@la.gov](mailto:rudy.simoneaux@la.gov)
- **Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, Ph.D., P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE**  
R5 Governor, Mississippi Section  
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- **Hector Colon de la Cruz, E.I., M. ASCE**  
R5 Liaison, Puerto Rico Section  
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## Region 5 Website

Visit us at

<http://regions.asce.org/region5/>

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year-old senior. It is equally appealing to non-civil engineers and experts in our field. It reaches across the masses. "It is an inverted time capsule that predicts what the world will be like 50 years from now. The younger generation will be able to look back when they are my age and decide if ASCE's Future World Vision was correct or not. In the meantime, Future World Vision helps us dream, be excited, plan, and create our future."

### Other highlights

- The Board authorized creating a new task committee to potentially expand ASCE's offerings to serve people who are a part of the civil engineering team but are not necessarily civil engineers. The Task Committee on Building the Civil Engineering Team of the Future will report back to the Board with recommendations in the next year.
- The Board approved three new public policy statements focused, respectively, on the importance of expanding access to broadband communications, supporting forward-thinking environmental policy, and a national energy policy that promotes the development of clean and renewable energy sources. See the complete list of ASCE's policy statements.
- Membership continues to be the central priority for ASCE. The Board received an update on the 2020 Section Member Drive, which rallied Society groups in a friendly competition to recruit the newest ASCE members. The Hawaii Section won the 2020 drive and the \$1,000 prize, followed by the Los Angeles Section (\$750) and the Philippines Section (\$500). The Philippines Section also generated the most member referrals among the sections.
- The Student Presidential Group, a group of ASCE student leaders that meets regularly with Briaud, updated the Board on the staff and volunteer feedback collected based on the recommendations it presented last fall at the October Board meeting. The group's ongoing work centers on developing Society programs and resources to help students, help student chapters, and improve student recruitment and retention.

- The Board approved on first reading several documents from the Governing Documents Committee, including amendments to the bylaws that would realign participation in the Society's annual student conferences along the geographic region lines. Each item will come before the Board again in the spring for second reading approval.

### MEET OUR GOVERNORS

*Sarah L. Matin, P.E.*



Sarah is your Region 5 Governor from Florida for the 2018-2021 term. Born in Winter Park, Florida, she has always lived in Central Florida. "I don't like cold weather!!" she says. She attended the University of Central Florida (GO KNIGHTS!), graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering and having served as captain of the Women's Golf Team. She started getting involved with ASCE as a student member and officer in college, even though she was only able to participate in the student conferences once because of her UCF golf schedule.

Sarah's advice to current students in ASCE? GET INVOLVED!!! Go to a chapter event, ask a question, reach out to an officer in your local branch. Most of us went to a school near where your university is located (or might be alumni of your school!) and love to help advance Civil Engineering! Don't be afraid to ask a question, others are probably wondering the same thing.

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“I have gone through the ranks of the East Central Branch Younger Member Group and the Branch positions, being President of both, then VP of the Florida Section and now a Region 5 Governor. I have a passion for Government Relations and plan to continue on a committee.”

“My favorite ASCE memories involve the East Central Branch Younger Member Group! We had a tight group of girls who volunteered together and went to the National Conference every year. Best time was when we all traveled to Los Angeles in 2005 for the conference. Best part of being a Region 5 governor is the passion each governor has for Civil Engineering and helping to promote the Society. Plus, I’ve made lifelong friendships!



Sarah works as the Client Development Leader for the Transportation Business Unit of S&ME. In her free time, Sarah is a soccer mom to her 4-year-old son Andrew, and plays golf with her family, sometimes in amateur events! Sarah can’t wait to see everyone in person and network!

## REGION AWARDS UPDATE

### 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Award



Puerto Rico Section

#### *Puerto Rico Section*

The Puerto Rico Section has been awarded *ASCE’s 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch for Small Sections and Branches* by the Leader Training Committee. Congratulations!



### 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Award



East Central Branch

#### *East Central Branch (Florida Section)*

The East Central Branch of the Florida Section has been awarded *ASCE’s 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Award for Large Branches* by the Leader Training Committee. Congratulations!



### 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Web Award



Montgomery Branch

#### *Montgomery Branch (Alabama Section)*

On January 6, 2021, the Montgomery Branch of the Alabama Section has been awarded *ASCE’s 2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Web Award for Small Sections and Branches*



by the Leader Training Committee. This is the fourth time in five years that the Montgomery Branch has been selected for the web award. Congratulations!

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### 2021 Wilbur S. Smith Award

***Dr. Benjamin Colucci-Rios, Ph.D., J.D., P.E., F. ASCE***

Dr. Benjamin Colucci-Rios of the **Puerto Rico Section** has been selected by ASCE's Transportation and Development Institute to receive the *2021 Wilbur Smith Award* for "unending leadership and dedication to action for the improvement of road safety in Puerto Rico and around the world." Congratulations!

### 2021 Margaret S. Petersen Award

***Dr. Berrin Tansel, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE, F.EWRI, F.ASCE***

Dr. Berrin Tansel of the **Florida Section** (Miami-Dade Branch) has been selected by ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the *2021 Margaret S. Petersen Award* for "her exemplary leadership and intellectual generosity for professional advancement of women, and outstanding contributions for pioneering research in water conservation, coastal water quality improvement and concentrate management." Congratulations!

### 2021 Julian Hinds Award

***Dr. Robert E. Pitt, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, M.ASCE***

Dr. Robert E. Pitt of the **Alabama Section** (Tuscaloosa Branch) has been selected by ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the *2021 Julian Hinds Award* for "his tireless endeavors in the field of water resources engineering and urban water resources research. Contributions include WinSLAMM (an urban stormwater model), implementation of green stormwater infrastructure, ASCE/EWRI activities, and development of the next generation of water resources professionals." Congratulations!

### 2021 Rudolph Hering Medal

***Dr. Boya Wang***

Dr. Boya Wang of the **Florida Section** has been selected by ASCE's Environmental and Water

Resources Institute to receive the *2021 Rudolph Hering Medal* as the author of the paper "Modeling Trichloroethene Reduction, Methanogenesis, and Homoacetogenesis in a H<sub>2</sub>-Based Film" that appeared in the February 2020 issue of the Journal of Environmental Engineering. Congratulations!

### 2021 Rudolph Hering Medal

***Dr. Youneng Tang***

Dr. Youneng Tang of the **Florida Section** has been selected by ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the *2021 Rudolph Hering Medal* as the co-author of the paper "Modeling Trichloroethene Reduction, Methanogenesis, and Homoacetogenesis in a H<sub>2</sub>-Based Film" that appeared in the February 2020 issue of the Journal of Environmental Engineering. Congratulations!

### 2021 Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award

***Dr. Hamid Moradkhani, Ph.D., P.E., D. WRE, F. EWRI, F. ASCE***

Dr. Hamid Moradkhani of the **Alabama Section** (Tuscaloosa Branch) has been selected by ASCE's Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the *2021 Arid Lands Hydraulic Engineering Award* for "numerous groundbreaking contributions in data assimilation, drought and water scarcity studies in arid and semi-arid regions." Congratulations!

### Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Honor Award

***Mr. John Proskovec, Kiewit Infrastructure South, South Central District***

Mr. John Proskovec, Kiewit Infrastructure South, South Central District, of the **Louisiana Section**, has been selected by ASCE to receive an *Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) Honor Award* for the "Permanent Canal Closures and Pump Project."

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### SECTION ROUND UP

#### Alabama

The Alabama Section held its first in-person socially distanced Winter Meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on March 10, 2021. Many of the branches around Alabama have successfully been conducting meetings both in-person and virtually reaching many members with great presentations and content. Additionally, the Alabama Section is planning their legislative Drive-In to the State Capital on April 7th and they are excited to find a way to continue to cultivate the relationship with Alabama’s lawmakers for future legislative priorities.

#### Florida

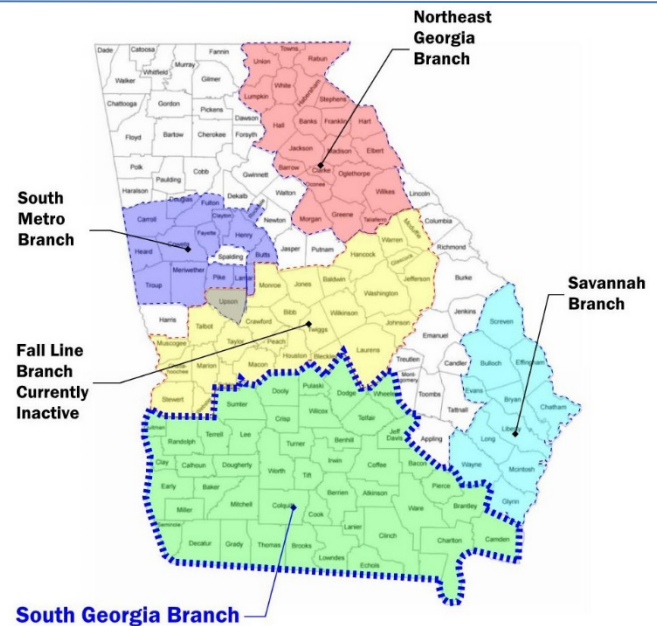
The Florida Section is proud to announce that the East Central Branch has received the *2020 Outstanding Section and Branch Award for Large Branches!* The award is anticipated to be presented at an upcoming Region 5 event. The Florida Section is planning and looking forward to meeting in person at the Florida Section Annual Conference on July 8-9, 2021 in Fort Lauderdale.

#### Georgia

##### New South Georgia Branch

The ASCE Georgia Section has added a New Branch of ASCE – The South Georgia Branch! The map below shows the geographical boundaries of the existing branches of ASCE within the Georgia Section. The South Georgia Branch is comprised of 45 South Georgia counties! We would like to extend a special thanks to Lisa Woods, PE for her great work in establishing this new branch.

Our section is very excited to have the South Georgia Branch and encourage our section members to spread the word among your South Georgia peers. It is our hope that this South Georgia Branch will improve our ability to provide member services for ASCE members throughout the state. If you are located in an area that is not currently served by an ASCE Branch and have interest in creating a new branch, please reach out to your Section Board.



The ASCE Georgia Section South Georgia Branch began holding virtual meetings in October of 2020. The October meeting featured a presentation on automating a utility by the City of Valdosta and the December meeting provided a look into engineering at Moody Air Force Base. The Branch is planning to meet every other month on the second Friday of the month at noon. Please contact Lisa Woods at [lisa.woods@arcadis.com](mailto:lisa.woods@arcadis.com) for more information and to be added to our email list.

#### Louisiana

The Louisiana Section has been conducting virtual technical seminars, including the Transportation and Development Institute’s *Moving Forward with LA-1, Phase 2*, conducted on February 23, 2021 and the Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute’s *Six Pillars of Utility Engineering*, conducted on December 17, 2020. The Section is also seeking volunteers for the preparation of the *2022 Louisiana Report Card*, please contact Government Relations Committee Chair Jan Evans at [jan.evans@volkert.com](mailto:jan.evans@volkert.com) if interested.

The Louisiana Section is currently planning on holding a virtual Spring Conference on May 6-7, 2021. The Section’s annual General Membership meeting will be

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held during the conference on May 7, 2021. There will be PDHs offered in the mornings on both days.

The ASCE Deep South Student Conference is being hosted virtually by Louisiana State University on April 15-17, 2021. LSU will also be hosting a career fair in conjunction with the student conference and have invited companies to interact with the students from Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

### Mississippi

In February, the Jackson Branch took a tour of the new Amazon Plant being constructed in Canton, MS. Jessica Lewis of Mississippi State University and CI member has been identified as one of the ten *2021 ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering: College!* This award recognizes and celebrates future leaders for their academic excellence and commitment to serving others.

Dr. Andy Martin of the Vicksburg Branch was named to the *2021 ASCE Fellow* class. ASCE Fellows have made celebrated contributions and developed creative solutions that change lives around the world. It is a prestigious honor held by 3% of ASCE members.

Multiple Mississippi Section members attended the 2021 Virtual Fly-In. They spoke to members of Congress about the importance of investing in America's infrastructure.

### Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico Section is proud to announce that Hector Colon De La Cruz, EIT, Section President and Region 5 Liaison, has been named one of the *2021 ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering!* Hector has also been selected to serve a second term as Section President.

On March 3, 2021, the Section met with the Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, Raul Marquez Hernandez, to discuss infrastructure initiatives. In addition, on March 3-4, 2021, the Section participated in a fly-in with the Honorary Jennifer Gonzalez and the Honorary Nydia

Velazquez, in which representatives discussed infrastructure initiatives and the report card.

The Section conducted an award ceremony to recognize Dr. Benjamin Colucci, Ph.D., P.E. F.ASCE as the recipient of ASCE's *Wilbur S. Smith* award.



Pictured above from left to right are Gabriela Yanez (Section Secretary), Edwin Vargas (Section Vice-President), Benjamin Colucci (Section Infrastructure-Transportation Commission Director), Lizette Bisot (Dr. Colucci's wife) and Hector Colon de la Cruz (Section President).

### Region 5 Former Directors and Governors Advisory Council

Many of your former leaders of Region 5 still share a passion for ASCE and seeing Region 5 succeed. To help accomplish this goal, a council has been developed to serve as a sounding board and resources for the Region 5 Board of Governors. The group is meeting monthly to supplement the Region 5 BOG's skills and abilities to help guide the organization toward its stated mission.

Currently, the council is developing bylaws and goals. The council looks forward to working together for the benefit of Region 5! Any questions can be directed to Melissa Wheeler Black, Chair

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([mwheele@southernco.com](mailto:mwheele@southernco.com)) or Eric Czerniejewski, Vice Chair ([eczerniejewski@gmail.com](mailto:eczerniejewski@gmail.com)).

### ASCE Members Take Infrastructure Investment Message to Congress

By Maria D. Matthews, CAE, Senior Manager, Grassroots Programs and State Relations  
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On Tuesday March 12th and Wednesday, March 13th, 258 ASCE members from 50 states, DC, and Puerto Rico, arrived on Capitol Hill to advocate for infrastructure and the civil engineering community.

Armed with everyday civil engineering experiences, issues briefings from the ASCE Government Relations team, and insight from keynote speakers, Fly-In attendees met with over 330 congressional offices on Wednesday afternoon. They advocated for a 25-cent per gallon motor fuels tax increase to help fix the Highway Trust Fund, fully appropriating key infrastructure programs in FY2020, and urged Members of Congress to follow ASCE's Principles for Investment as they draft a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Prior to educating Capitol Hill on the importance of and urgent need for infrastructure investment, ASCE members received advocacy tips and tools from notable guests. During Tuesday's programs members heard from Brad Fitch, CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation and Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), while Neil Pedersen, Executive Director of the Transportation Research Board shared details from their latest study "Renewing the National Commitment to the Interstate Highway System."

During Wednesday's advocacy session, Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Rodney Davis (R-IL) provided insights on what legislators hope to hear from constituents and the current status of a federal infrastructure package before heading out to make visits to Members of Congress.

You can check out pictures and see what attendees had to say by using #ASCE2DC on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

### ASCE 2021 Infrastructure Report Card Gives U.S. 'C-' Grade

By Kevin Longley, Manager, Media Relations  
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The American Society of Civil Engineers unveiled their 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure on Wednesday, March 3. The nation earned a 'C-', up from 2017's cumulative GPA of 'D+'. This is the first time since ASCE began issuing the report card that the nation's infrastructure has received a GPA outside of the D range.



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The highest grade was the 'B' in the rail category, while the lowest was the 'D-' for the nation's transit systems. The report finds that 45% of Americans lack reliable access to transit services. Eleven categories received grades in the 'D' range. The Report Card covers 17 categories of infrastructure pertinent to all Americans: including a new stormwater chapter, and a spotlight on broadband. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the need for national broadband infrastructure has become more apparent than ever during the last year.

Between 2017 and 2021, five category grades increased while only one—bridges—decreased. This, combined with state and local governments' commitment to improving infrastructure, indicate that infrastructure investment in the United State is trending upwards. However, 11 of the 17 categories received scores in the 'D' range: aviation, dams, hazardous waste, inland waterways, levees, public parks, roads, schools, stormwater, transit, and wastewater. This demonstrates that much more work is needed to be done to improve the overall infrastructure network.

Many sectors, especially those with lower grades, have staggering maintenance backlogs. Implementation of asset management can be helpful for these categories to ensure maintenance needs are taken care of when necessary. With such large backlogs, developing a clear understanding of where available funds are most needed is essential for protecting lives and maintaining a productive economy.

The country's total infrastructure needs over the next 10 years total nearly \$6 trillion, but after considering various sources of committed funding, the gap to meet those needs is \$2.59 trillion. If this is not addressed, America's overdue infrastructure bill will cost each American household approximately \$3,300 per year, or \$63 per week.

In order to close this gap, ASCE calls for strong federal, state, and local leadership and investment in infrastructure. Additionally, resilience must be a

priority, as the ability to withstand or recover from extreme events is key to infrastructure survival.

After the unveiling of the report card, ASCE hosted the virtual Solutions Summit, which included spotlights on various infrastructure topics such as energy, dams, levees, transportation, water, inland waterways, and ports. Speakers included a keynote speech U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and panels including notable names such as Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), and Representative Garret Graves (R-LA), among many others.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 15-17, 2021 - Deep South Student Conference (Louisiana State University/Virtual)**

**May 6-7, 2021 - Louisiana Section Spring Conference (Virtual)**

**July 8-9, 2021 - Florida Section Annual Conference (Fort Lauderdale, FL)**

**July 12-14, 2021 - Alabama Section Meeting (Orange Beach, AL)**

**October 6-9, 2021 - Annual Convention (Chicago, IL)**