

The Purpose of Region 5 is Advancing the Profession by:

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Peter Moore, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE
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Three years? Where did the time go? After three years as serving as the Region 5 Director, my term has come to an end. At times like this, I always wish we accomplished more, but we did a great deal, and we have lots of important

things coming up.

In my very first meeting as a member of the Board, the Puerto Rico Section was moved from Region 1 to its rightful home in Region 5. That day, I made the inclusion of that Section a true focus point for my time as Director. Of course, this meeting was far from that beautiful island which had just been ravaged by Hurricane Maria. That combination made the task all the more difficult, but the Section Board, with a bunch of great leaders led by the energy of Hector Colon De La Cruz was able to install a full Board, revise their bylaws (which are inches away from final approval) and, most remarkably, release the first Report Card for the Section. This is just one of the success stories that I had the privilege to witness and assist with in my three years.

We still have a number of challenges today, but we did before the soon to be infamous pandemic reared its head. Using requirements of the pandemic as a reason for change, we must find a way to simultaneously get more members to join and participate in ASCE while operating in more efficient (and often virtual) ways. How do we collaborate and train in new ways?

From Student to Life Member, the one thing that 2020 must have taught us is that civil engineering is essential. By understanding the essential nature of our work, we must make the proper investments in time and money to prepare us to resume a position of leadership in society and along with that, proudly shout from the rooftops about our successes.

I may no longer be serving as your Director, but I will certainly be standing each of you as your biggest cheerleaders! May I see you again soon in this long and wonderful ASCE life. Thank you,
Peter

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!

- **Peter Moore, P.E., ENV SP, F. ASCE,**
R5 Director, Florida Section
pmoore@chenmoore.com
- **Marta P. Alonso, P.E., ENV SP, M. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Florida Section
malonso@hazenandsawyer.com
- **Sarah L. Matin, P.E., M. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Florida Section
sarahl.matin@rinkerpipe.com
- **Ali Mustapha, P.E., F. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Louisiana Section
alimm@bellsouth.net
- **Lawren Pratt, P.E., LEED AP, M. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Alabama Section
lawren.pratt@bargedesign.com
- **Ronald L. Schumann, Jr., P.E., M. ASCE**
R5 At Large Governor, Louisiana Section
rschumann@ilsengineering.com
- **Rebecca Shelton, P.E., F. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Georgia Section
rebecca.shelton@gwinnettcounty.com
- **Shelly Watson, E.I., M. ASCE**
R5 Governor, Mississippi Section
sbwatson@ara.com

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Region 5 Website

Visit us at <http://regions.asce.org/region5/>

*Note: R5 Board of Governors listed is for the 2019-2020 term.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Jeff Earhart, P.E.



Jeff served as your Region 5 Governor from Florida for the 2016-2019 term. He was born in Fort Myers, Florida, and earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, and his master's degree in Water Resources and Engineering Management at the University of Central Florida (UCF), in Orlando,

Florida, where he now resides.

Jeff currently works for the Lake County Public Works Department as Engineering Manager. Jeff's areas of professional expertise include municipal engineering, water resources and parks.

Upon completion of his term as Region 5 Governor, he served as President-Elect of the Florida Section (2019-2020) and is currently serving as Florida Section President (2020-2021). He is also a member of the ASCE Committee on Education and is a corresponding member of the ASCE Committee on Pre-College Outreach.

Jeff's initial involvement with the UCF student chapter was attending state conferences. His involvement continued with the East Central Branch as a member of the Water Resources Committee, which he later chaired. He served through Branch, Section and Region leadership. For Jeff, the best part of serving as Region 5 Governor was meeting so many great people from around the Southeast and throughout the country.

In his free time, Jeff enjoys going to church and amusement parks, as well as attending cheerleading competitions with his daughter.

Welcome 2020-2021 Region 5 Board Members!

Rudy Simoneaux, P.E. M.ASCE – R5 Governor, Louisiana Section, rudy.simoneaux@la.gov

Brad Williams, P.E., M.ASCE – R5 Governor, Alabama Section, williamsbr@alabama.asce.org

Jennifer Sloan Ziegler, Ph.D., P.E. ENV SP, M.ASCE
R5 Governor, Mississippi Section
jennifer.s.ziegler@gmail.com

REGION AWARDS UPDATE

2020 Region 5 Wall of Fame

Dr. Dennis Truax, Ph.D., P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F. ASCE, F. NSPE



Dr. Dennis D. Truax, from the Mississippi Section, is the James T. White Endowed Chair, Department Head and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Mississippi State University and is the Director of the Mississippi Transportation Research Institute.

He is a licensed professional engineer and holds national certifications as an environmental engineer with the American Academy of Environmental Engineering and Scientists and as a water resources engineer with the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers. He was elected a Fellow of American Society of Civil Engineers in 1999 and Fellow of the National Society of Professional Engineers in 2016. He will serve as the 2022 ASCE President.

2020 Region 5 Civil Engineer of the Year

Dr. Prasad Chittaluru, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, PMP, BCEE, GIPS

Dr. Chittaluru, from the Florida Section, is Principal EPIC Engineering and Consulting Group, LLC and Vice President of Technology, ECHO, UES, Inc. Dr. Chittaluru is an active member of the ASCE Florida

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Section East Central Branch. He actively supports ASCE Florida Section and the ECB in various educational outreach activities and professional presentations.



Prasad is an entrepreneur at heart, with a passion for STEM education and for bringing high-paying technology jobs to Florida. Prasad founded EPIC Engineering in 2006, with the vision to deliver innovative solutions to the infrastructure industry.

With a team of almost 40, EPIC is now proudly serving many public clients in Utilities, Transportation, Public Works, and Government, delivering innovative solutions that help our communities and infrastructure. In 2017, Prasad joined four of his friends to start ECHO Utility Engineering & Survey, Inc., with a vision to deliver world-class SUE and Survey services to the industry, leveraging the innovations in information technology. ECHO has grown over the past two years to over 40 team members who are serving various public and private sector clients. Both companies are earning industry recognition for their commitment to delivering high quality services and both companies are creating jobs in our community.

2020 Region 5 Younger Civil Engineer of the Year

Ms. Jennifer Smith, P.E., M. ASCE



Ms. Smith, from the Florida Section, is a Senior Engineer at Chen Moore and Associates, leading the company's community service committee, participating within Leadership Broward, and serving on the Florida Atlantic University (FAU)

Department Advisory Committee.

Ms. Smith is an active ASCE Broward Branch member

and has led the Branch through two separate presidencies since becoming involved as a professional member. During her Presidency, she worked to reorganize the board, adding new board positions, and increasing PDH classes to increase member benefits. Ms. Smith is an example of what we envision every leader to be: motivated, visionary, and ready to lead for the betterment of the Branch.

2020 Region 5 Civil Engineering Student of the Year

Ms. Gabriela Yáñez Gonzalez, S.M. ASCE



Ms. Yanez Gonzalez, from the Puerto Rico Section, has demonstrated outstanding leadership as ASCE University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) Student Chapter member, document manager, and president.

Under her leadership, the ASCE UPRM chapter has achieved the first overall place in the ASCE Southeast Regional Student Conference competitions for the third year in a row. She is also a member of the Board of the ASCE Puerto Rico Section. Through her leadership skills she has motivated students to find their passion in civil engineering and help shape the professionals of tomorrow. Her contributions go beyond her studies in civil engineering, such as several social aid projects.

SECTION ROUND UP *Alabama*

Alabama Section awards scholarships each year to college students majoring in civil engineering at one of the six programs in Alabama. The primary award is the Alabama ASCE Student Civil Engineer of the Year Award that recognizes the student that receives the highest total score by the judges. This year the award

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will be presented to Ms. Jordan Blackmon (University of South Alabama).

Nominees from each of the other schools receive a secondary award named the Outstanding ASCE Student at Other Student Chapters. These award recipients are Ms. Mariam O. Massoud – University of Alabama at Birmingham, Mr. Connor Moore – University of Alabama in Huntsville, Ms. Olivia Unseld – The University of Alabama, Ms. Tanya Williams – Alabama A&M University, and Mr. Tristan Wilson – Auburn University. Each of the six nominees were selected by their faculty advisor for nomination for the primary award.

The annual Alabama Section summer conference, which was scheduled to be conducted September 30 – October 2, 2020 at the Lodge in Gulf Shores, Alabama, was cancelled. On September 16, 2020, Hurricane Sally made landfall in Gulf Shores directly impacting the Alabama Gulf Coast. As recovery efforts were underway, the City of Gulf Shores extended visitor restrictions through October 2, 2020.

Florida



In light of the ASCE Florida Section's 2020 Annual Conference being cancelled due to COVID-19, the Section hosted its first virtual Past President's Virtual Coffee Hour. More than 20 Florida Section and South Florida Section Past Presidents participated and gave advice to newly installed 2020-2021 President Jeff Earhart, PE, F.ASCE.

Georgia

The Georgia Section has been holding monthly meetings virtually. This format has been very successful, with increased attendance over in-person meetings. The October speaker was Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the November speaker was Chris Novack, Director of Engineering and Facilities Maintenance with the Georgia Port Authority. The Savannah Branch and Northeast Georgia Branch have also held several meetings virtually, though they are not yet back to a monthly basis.

The 2020 Georgia Section Annual Meeting, normally held in late August, was delayed to spring 2021. Officer transition has been delayed to May 2021 to ensure continuity during this difficult time.

Louisiana

The Louisiana Section held their 2020 Spring Conference which was scheduled in late April 2020 and was re-scheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic virtually in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on September 17-18, 2020. The Acadiana Branch hosted the conference which offered 12 PDH's for the ASCE members in the State. The conference was very successful, and the presentations included excellent civil engineering topics that are valuable to the members. At end of the conference, the new Section officers were installed, and Section's Annual awards were presented to award's recipients nominated by the branches and selected by the Section's Awards Committee.

Louisiana-Region 5 Governor, Ali Mustapha, PE, F. ASCE, attended the virtual conference and installed the new officers. The 2020-2021 Executive Board Officers are: Butch "Joe" E. Ford, PE, President, Tonja Koob Marking, PhD, PE, President-Elect, Kirk Lowery, PE, Vice-President, William A. Cenac II, PE, Secretary-Treasurer, and Beau Tate, PE, Past President.

The Awards were presented virtually by Brant Richard, PE, Chairman of the Awards Committee and Joe E. "Butch" Ford, PE, Section President. The Section's 2020

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Awards recipients were: Alicia Sellers, PE, Outstanding Young Civil Engineer; Rudolph A. Simoneaux, III, PE, Outstanding Civil Engineer; Charles W. Nelson, PE, Life Achievement; Anna Doucet, PE, Outreach, Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, Ph.D., PE, Educator of the Year; Jacob A. Neu, EI, President's Medal, Oliver Delery, PE, James C. Webb, PE, and Thomas R. Carroll III, PE, Wall of Fame Awards.

At the July 31, 2020 Section meeting, the Board approved the Bylaws to establish the ASCE Geo-Institute - Louisiana Chapter ("GI-LA). With the establishment of this ASCE Institute, Louisiana Section will have 5 active ASCE Institute Chapters in the State, T&DI, COPRI, UESI, GI, and SEI-New Orleans Chapter.

Mississippi

The Mississippi (MS) Section board voted unanimously to rename the Mississippi Section Student Scholarship to the Shelly Brock Watson Student Scholarship for the coming three years. The Mississippi Section wanted to recognize Shelly for her dedication to the Section, most specifically to recognize her time as Region 5 Governor over the last three years as well as for her outstanding commitment to the MS Section.

The MS Section held its annual meeting virtually on September 17-18, 2020. Awards were announced and new officers were installed by President Elect 2022, Dr. Dennis Truax. The recipients of the Sections' 2020 awards were:

- Engineer of the Year: Jacob Forrester, P.E.
- Young Engineer of the Year: Ben C. Cox, Ph.D., P.E.
- Civil Engineering Student of the Year: Jessica V. Lewis
- Shelly Brock Watson Student Scholarship Winners: Emily Goss and Jessica V. Lewis

Puerto Rico

In June 2020, the Puerto Rico Section (ASCE PR) nominated Mr. Carlos Arboleda to become an ASCE Fellow. He is the second member to be nominated as

ASCE Fellow by the current Section board. Dr. Benjamín Colucci was the first nominated ASCE Fellow.

ASCE PR Continues its Legislative affairs. The 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden included the ASCE Puerto Rico Infrastructure Report Card as key reference in the Biden-Harris plan for Recovery, Renewal and Respect for PR. Later in October, the ASCE PR section presented the ASCE PR Infrastructure Data Sheet on the "Jugando Pelota Dura" TV show. Hector Colon, Benjamin Colucci and Edwin Vargas had the opportunity to discuss on primetime tv the document to raise awareness of the current state of the infrastructure. Moreover, the document was sent to elected officials and the TV show reached out to at least 58,000 viewers.

ASCE PR Section funded the participation of 3 ASCE PR student members (Gabriela Yáñez, Alexander Cruz, and Adriana Ramirez) in the ASCE 2020 V-Tech Conference. This initiative had the purpose of promoting student participation at a professional level and strengthening the Section's ties with student chapters.

ASCE PR also updated its website, www.ascepuertorico.org, which contains relevant information about the Section, it's legislative affairs documents, collaboration agreement with the United Nations Foundation UNA-USA Puerto Rico Chapter, and other supporting information.

2020 Presidents and Governors Forum

By: Greg Kuklinski, P.E., M.ASCE, Lehigh Valley Section, Leader Training Committee

On September 10-12, 2020, 147 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors, Society Directors, Board Members, and Institute Leaders from across the country and abroad attended the annual Presidents and Governors Forum (PGF) held virtually.

This Leader Training Committee sponsored event

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provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, and develop skills that would benefit their Sections/Branches, Regions, and Institutes.

Since we were all meeting virtually this year, the PGF planning committee of Greg Kuklinski, P.E., M.ASCE, Tony Akel, P.E., M.ASCE, Lauren Swett, P.E., M.ASCE and Nancy Berson, Aff.M.ASCE combined concurrent sessions in years past into one session which included General Orientation on Thursday, Region 1-9 Governor Orientation and Institute Leader Orientation on Friday and the Presidents and Governors Orientation on Friday and Saturday.

All attendees were invited to any of the sessions. By having the PGF virtually, it was open for more members to have the opportunity to attend that would not have normally traveled to ASCE HQ in Reston, VA.

The program began on Thursday with General Orientation with a Welcome and Society Overview by ASCE President Kancheepuram Gunalan, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE, Executive Director Tom Smith, CAE, ENV SP, F.ASCE, and ASCE President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud, P.E., Ph.D., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE. We then heard ASCE CFO Pete Shavalay speak about Fiscal Responsibilities.

In the afternoon, Jean-Louis Briaud led a session on Fostering Relationships with Institutes, Regions, Sections and Branches and then the afternoon concluded with Tara Hoke, Esq (ASCE General Counsel) speaking about Fiduciary Responsibilities and Loretta Cranborne, CAE, ASCE Managing Director of Membership, Marketing and Sales speaking about Membership Recruitment & Retention. After the sessions were complete, Matt Roblez, P.E., Region 8 Governor organized a networking session which included the game Scattegories.

On Friday, LTC members spoke to the new and existing Governors after the new Governors got sworn in. Some of the topics discussed were Expectations of Governors, Governor Roles & Responsibilities and

Region Best Practices. Concurrently, the Institutes Leaders Orientation was held moderated by Technical Region Director David Odeh, SE, PE, SEBC, F.SEI, F.ASCE and Jim Rossberg, P.E., F.SEI, M.ASCE, Managing Director of Engineering Programs. At the end of both sessions, both groups met together to speak about future collaboration and working together to set goals.

The Presidents and Governors Orientation began on Friday afternoon with many of the topics that the committee felt were the most important from years past including an Introduction to Your Presidency by LTC's Lauren Swett, P.E., M.ASCE and Aaron Frits, P.E., M.ASCE. We then heard our keynote speaker of the day Blaine Leonard, P.E., D.GE, Pres.10.ASCE speak about Generational Differences and the different groups currently in our workforce. The afternoon was concluded with Breakout Discussions into 12 groups to speak about Section/Branch Challenges and creating a Presidential Plan.

On Saturday afternoon the PGF resumed with Nancy Berson, Aff.M.ASCE, celebrating her 41st Anniversary at ASCE, speaking along with Hannah Clark, Aff.M.ASCE about the ASCE Resources available to the attendees. Our keynote speaker of the day was the energetic James O'Brien, P.E., M.ASCE, President and CEO of O'Brien Associates to speak about Being a Great Leader.

After a short break, the group was broken out into 5 Best Practices Breakout Sessions discussing, Membership during COVID-19, Infrastructure Report Card, Virtual Platforms, Student Transition Strategies, and Struggling Sections/Branches/Institute Chapters. The day concluded with Tara Hoke, Esq, speaking about Legal Issues for Sections/Branches and Closing Remarks by President-Elect elect Dennis Truax, Ph.D., P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE.

For more information about the PGF, please visit LTC's website at: <http://regions.asce.org/leader-training-committee/pgf>

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Region 5 Younger Member Advisory Council

The Region 5 YMAC serves to provide information and to offer recommendations and advice to the Region on matters of interest to the objectives, goals, and needs of Younger Members in the Region.

Currently, the YMAC is determined to complete and distribute Resources Guides for Student and Younger Members and a Best Practices Guide for Younger Member Groups in the Region with the help of our newly onboarded representatives. Please welcome:

Katelyn Finnorn, E.I.T. – Alabama Section
Amrithraj Anand, E.I.T. – Georgia Section
Katie Swank, E.I.T. – Georgia Section
Anna Paddock, E.I.T. – Louisiana Section
Mariette Wientjes, E.I.T. – Mississippi Section
Christopher Rodriguez Flores – Puerto Rico Section
Nicole Bohaczyk, E.I.T. – Florida Section

Please contact the YMAC for more information at asce.r5ymgcouncil@gmail.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7-11, 2020 - Geo-Institute, 5th Annual Web Conference, Technical Case Studies (Virtual)

February 21-27, 2021 - Engineers Week

March 3-4, 2021 - Legislative Fly-In (Washington, DC)

March 10-13, 2021 - Structures Congress 2021 (Seattle, WA)

March 25-27, 2021 - Carolinas Student Conference (University of South Carolina)

March 25-27, 2021 - Southeast Student Conference (Vanderbilt University)

April 7-10, 2021 - AEI Conference 2021 (Denver, CO)

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

May 24-26, 2021 - World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2021 (Milwaukee, WI)

June 6-9, 2021 - International Conference on Transportation and Development 2021 (Austin, TX)

June 6-9, 2021 - International Airfield and Highway Pavements Conference 2021 (Austin, TX)

June 10, 2021 - Region 5 Assembly (Charlotte, NC)

June 11-12, 2021 - Regions 1, 2, 4, & 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (Charlotte, NC)