

## Director's Corner

**Marsia Geldert-Murphey, PE, F.ASCE**



It is a privilege to serve as your ASCE Region 7 Director through 2019. Our Board of Governors' mission is: Foster Communication between Society and Local Geographic Units, Help Implement Society's Strategic Objectives, Promote Leadership Development, Support Local Geographic Units and Improve Service within the Society through Engaging and Serving Members in the Region.

In the spirit of fostering communication between Region 7 and the Board of Direction I wanted to provide an update on the highlights from our October Board of Direction meeting.

1. We approved six goal statements. They are:
  - Civil engineers develop and apply innovative, state-of-the-art practices and technologies
  - All infrastructure is safe, efficient, and sustainable
  - ASCE advances the educational and professional standards for civil engineers
  - The public values civil engineers' essential role in society
  - An ever-growing number of civil engineers are members of, and engage in, ASCE
  - ASCE excels in strategic and operational effectiveness

More information about this process and framework can be found here: [ASCE Six Goal Statements to Achieve our Vision](#)

2. The Board welcomed guest Patrick Tami, PLS, the president of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. This is the start of a conversation about licensure issues and ways our two organizations can continue to successfully collaborate.

## Region 7 Board of Governors



Our Region 7 Board of Governors is here to connect you, the ASCE members of Region 7, to ASCE at the Society level. You can learn more about each of us on the "Contacts" tab of our [Region 7 Website](#), and you can contact us via the contact form at the bottom of the "About" tab on the website. Please contact your Governors; we want to hear from you!

- Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE, Director/Chair
- Scott Asher, P.E., M.ASCE
- Aaron Frits, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
- Melantha Norton, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
- Serkan Sengul, P.E., M.ASCE
- Erin Steever, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
- Marlee Walton, P.E., P.L.S., M.ASCE
- Jeffrey Young, P.E., M.ASCE

3. The Task Committee on Governance Structure recommended a modified Board structure. After a considerable amount of discussion and debate the BOD elected to stay with the current structure. I was the only Geographic Director to vote in favor of this recommended modified board structure. And in terms of full disclosure I want to share I was also a member of this task committee. Our hope was this new structure supported a more sustainable future for our Society, however, I respect the decision of the BOD. The final report can be viewed here: [TCGS Final Report BOD October 2017](#).

In other Society news, the BOD recently received the list of declared candidates for President-Elect; their Biographical and Vision Statements can be found here: [Declared Candidates for President-Elect](#). The BOD election committee met two weeks ago at the BOD meeting and determined which names will be put forth for the election.

If you haven't downloaded the Civil Engineering Magazine app I highly recommend it! [ASCE Magazine Digital Edition](#). You have the ability to search current and past issues. The November issue features the La Seine Musicale, a world-class concert hall construction in Paris and the replacement of the Fox River Bridge in Elgin, Illinois building the substructure underneath the existing bridge using an innovative gantry system.

Another benefit to our members is the 2017 ASCE Civil Engineering Salary Report. All members receive two free uses of the new salary calculator. All you need is your ASCE username and password to login. Go here to [find out your worth today](#).

I also want to mention that our Region feels deep sympathy for the hardship that has been experienced by many of our members in southeastern Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico by the extreme weather events from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Our sympathy also goes out to our members in Mexico from the recent earthquakes. We have many ASCE heroes who stepped up and are still assisting in the aftermath of these events. We are very humbled and grateful for their efforts. For more information regarding ASCE's response and efforts go here: [ASCE's Resilience Team](#), [Hurricane Harvey Response](#), [Younger Member in Puerto Rico Reflection](#), [ASCE Disaster Response Page](#).

At ASCE we truly show that when you lean on each other, you become better than you ever believed possible, that is the power of our community. ASCE provides many benefits to all of our members at various stages in our careers. From our member Anthony Fasano's podcast [The Engineering Career Coach](#) to ASCE's [Career Connections](#) where employers can post positions and job seekers can post credentials and apply for jobs, to our wonderful cadre of [technical institutes](#) where members can interact with a network of Civil Engineers focused in their specialty area.

Please let I or any of our Board of Governors know what we can do to support you, your geographic unit or student chapter to achieve your professional mission and goals.

Respectfully,  
Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE

## REGION 7 ANNUAL MEETING

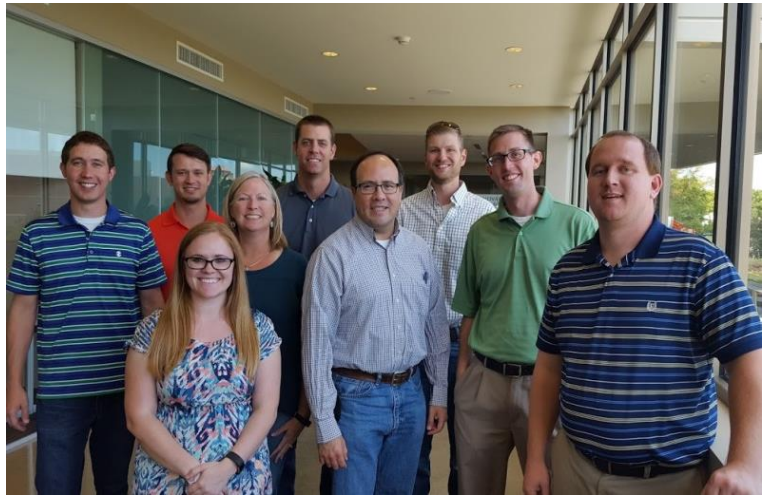
This year's ASCE Region 7 Annual Meeting was held in Lawrence, KS on August 4-5, 2017. Our Sections and Branch sent delegates to the meeting for collaboration and information sharing.

On Friday afternoon, the assembly delegates met to discuss issues and concerns they have experienced with their Sections and to provide topics for discussion with the Region. The Region 7 Board of Governors concurrently had their Board meeting on Friday afternoon, followed by a social gathering with the Delegates.

On Saturday, presentations on the role of Region 7 and resources available through Society's Geographic Services Team were given. Assembly delegates shared the highlights of their Section/Branch with the Board and delegates as well. This was followed by a roundtable discussion of successes and struggles throughout the Region. The goal was to provide a venue for Society Leaders and the Section and Branches to discuss issues of concern and to develop action items for improving ASCE at the local level.



At left:  
Region 7  
Board of  
Governors at  
Annual  
Meeting



At Right:  
Region 7  
Delegates at  
Annual  
Meeting

Below: Plaques presented to outgoing Governors – Gene Rovak, Elise Ibendahl, and Edward Stafford  
Thank you for your service as a Region 7 Governor!





## DREAMING BIG!

### This Is How the South Dakota Section DREAMS BIG!

South Dakota's *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* Viewing Party was a big hit on October 27! "A rousing call-to-engineering arms for future generations received a welcome reception from its youth target audience" - well said by Nick Schager of Variety. But the adults, engineers or not, also enjoyed the film. Fifty engineers, family and friends attended the viewing party celebrating engineering. Popcorn and soda were provided by the Eastern Branch, and the tickets were complementary as a benefit of the South Dakota Section's \$1,000 donation to bring the film to the Wells Fargo Cinedome.

The giant-screen movie about engineering and those who apply it in awe-inspiring ways surpassed the 1 million-viewer mark nationwide in September, and did so in less than six months. In Sioux Falls, more than 2,500 individuals have seen the film since it began playing in the Wells Fargo Cinedome in June.

On October 28, 23 Eastern Branch and SDSU Student Chapter volunteers spent 184 volunteer hours with after school program students and their families from The Washington Pavilion Action Arts and Science Program (AASP). AASP partners with more than 20 after school programs in Sioux Falls. Their mission is to bring high-quality art and science experiences to children with limited access to extracurricular activities. Approximately 168 students and family members participated in a penny boat float competition and gumdrop bridge building before seeing the *Dream Big* film. Our volunteers helped them investigate these engineering challenges, learn about engineering careers, and asked engaging questions following the film while distributing *Dream Big* tech tattoos and bookmarks.

The Eastern Branch also participated in four Question & Answer sessions with 5th Grade students from an underserved school in Sioux Falls. Lowell Elementary is a Title 1 school where 100% of the students in this district are on free or reduced lunch programs. A Society Grant was awarded to South Dakota to cover field trip expenses and ticket costs for the Lowell Elementary students to see the film and supplement their science education. Volunteers from the Eastern Branch engaged with the students before and after the film, asking what they knew about engineers, telling them a little about what we do as engineers, and discussing the movie. By interacting with the students directly after the film, we are able to move their experience from the theater into real life, encouraging each of them to envision their own future as an engineer. *Dream Big* tech tattoos and bookmarks were also given to the students.



ASCE professional and student members attending the DREAM BIG Viewing Party

## **ASCE Northern Colorado Branch Dream Big Event**

The North Colorado Branch held a *Dream Big* event on Saturday, April 22, at Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, renting the dome theatre and two additional classrooms. Two showings of the *Dream Big* film were held. Five different *Dream Big* and/or DiscoverE educational activities in the classrooms were available.

The event was seen to be truly a team effort. The following people were on the planning team of the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Dream Big Event: Nathan Alburn, Jason Cumbers, Lauren Meyer, Victor Sam, and Caleb Stock. There were also an additional 14 volunteers, nine of which were college students from Colorado State University. Over 155 slots were filled for this private viewing, with estimated 140 – 150 attendees. There were approximately 45 - 50 children below the age of 16, the majority of whom were between the ages of 8 and 13. The Northern Colorado Branch is considering partnering with Fort Collins Museum of Discovery again to show a film about Pompeii and Roman aqueducts.

## **IOWA SECTION ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS**

The ASCE Iowa Section annual meeting and conference was held September 7-8 in Ames. The first day of the conference kicked off with the Board of Director's meeting and continued with a full day of informative sessions. Program highlights included an update on ASCE leadership and initiatives from Region 7 Director Marsia Geldert-Murphey, a presentation on "How to be a Great Leader - at Work and in ASCE" by ASCE Managing Director Jim O'Brien, the Annual Business meeting, and a project presentation about the 2016 Iowa Section Project of the Year, the Mehaffey Bridge Replacement Project in Johnson County.

The evening banquet included recognition of the section award winners and life members, and the installation of new officers. The second day of the conference started with a virtual reality tour of the I-74 Bridge Replacement Project in the Quad Cities, which was hosted by the Iowa Department of Transportation in Ames. The virtual reality tour was followed by the annual golf outing sponsored by Central Iowa YMG, which was held at Veenker Golf Course in Ames.

The following awards were presented at the evening banquet:

- Outstanding Associate Member: Nathan T. Hardisty, P.E.
- Outstanding Government Civil Engineer: Gary A. Novey, P.E.
- Outstanding Civil Engineer: Jason L. Holdorf, P.E.
- Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement: Lake Delhi Dam

The following officers were installed at the evening banquet:

- Vice President: Joshua Trygstad, P.E.
- Membership Director: Mike Barkalow, P.E.
- Associate Director: William Mabuice, P.E.
- Financial Officer: Jeff Fadden, P.E.
- Communications Officer: Stephanie Then, E.I.T.

## **KANSAS CITY SECTION SUPPORTS NSBE CONVENTION**

On Wednesday, March 29, over 12 ASCE volunteers from the Diversity and Inclusion Committee in Kansas City assisted at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. There, they provided mentoring to at least 100 college students attending the 43rd Annual National Society of Black Engineers Convention in Bartle Hall. An article featured on the ASCE Kansas City website can be found here:

<http://www.kcengineers.org/2017/03/30/1073/>

## **STUDENT CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIONS IN REGION 7**

### **Student Conferences**

Student conferences include a business meeting, professional/technical presentations, competitions (technical papers, concrete canoe, geowall, steel bridge), social activities, and an awards banquet. Visit [www.asce.org/student\\_conferences/](http://www.asce.org/student_conferences/) to learn more and to find contact information for volunteering!

Conferences in or near Region 7 that include our very own Region 7 Students include:

**Mid-Continent:** Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, April 19-21, 2018

**Midwest:** University of Iowa, March 29-31, 2018

**Midwest Concrete Canoe:** Minnesota State University, Mankato, April 13-14, 2018

**Rocky Mountain:** South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, April 5-7, 2018

### **Call for Concrete Canoe Judges**

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is hosting this year's Mid-Continent Student Conference April 19-21, 2018. We are in search of engineers within the St. Louis ASCE section that might be willing to donate their time and expertise in judging the student competition. We welcome all professionals, especially those with past concrete canoe judging experience. **Please email Addison Jobe at [jobey248@siu.edu](mailto:jobey248@siu.edu)** with any interest or questions regarding the canoe competition.

## **2017 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD**

ASCE recently released the 2017 Infrastructure Report Card on America's Infrastructure. The report card is prepared by the ASCE Committee on America's Infrastructure and the ASCE Infrastructure Initiatives staff with input from many other technical and industry experts. The report card evaluates 16 important categories of America's infrastructure and rates the each category on an A to F scale. A grade of A indicates that infrastructure in that category is "Exceptional" and "Fit for the Future," while a grade of F indicates that infrastructure in that category is "Failing" and "Unfit for Purpose." The 2017 report card gives America's infrastructure an overall grade of D+. Check out the full 2017 report card [here](#).

## **2017 NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS**

The 2017 national election concluded on June 1. Results of this years' election are listed below. Publication of the election results will be provided on the Society's web page, ASCE *SmartBrief*, and in *ASCE News*.

### **President-Elect (2017-2018):**

Robin A. Kemper, P.E., LEED AP, F.SEI, F.ASCE

### **Region Directors (2017-2020):**

**Region 1:** Anthony L. Cioffi, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region 5:** Peter M. Moore, P.E., F.ASCE

**Region 9:** Kwame A. Agyare, P.E., MBA, ENV SP, M.ASCE

**Technical Region:** Marsha Anderson Bomar, AICP, ENV SP, F.ASCE

### **Region Governors (2017-2020)**

**Region 1:** Danielle H. Spicer, P.E., LEED AP, ENV SP, M.ASCE

**Region 2:** Khaled Alamdeen, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region 3:** Therese R. Kline, P.E., M.ASCE, Christopher J. Rousseau, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region 4:** Christina L. Ammens, P.E., M.ASCE, RD Odell, P.E., M.ASCE, Brian Reynolds, P.E., AICP, M.ASCE

**Region 5:** Ali M. Mustapha, P.E., F.ASCE, Shelly Brock Watson, EIT, M.ASCE

**Region 6:** Steven P. Johnson, P.E., M.ASCE, Tim C. Newton, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region 7:** Serkan Sengul, P.E., M.ASCE, Melantha D. Norton, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE

**Region 8:** Florence M. Ching, P.E., M.ASCE, Fred M. Nelson, P.E., L.S., F.ASCE

**Region 9:** Yazdan T. Emrani, P.E., M.ASCE

**Region 10:** G.L. Sivakumar Babu, Ph.D., F.ASCE

## **WELCOME TO OUR INCOMING GOVERNORS!**

Congratulations to the Region 7 incoming Governors!

### **Governor At-Large**



**Marlee Walton, P.E., P.L.S., M. ASCE**

Marlee Walton, P.E., PLS., is a senior lecturer in the Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Department of Iowa State University (ISU) - also her alma mater. Marlee has been with ISU for nearly 17 years teaching courses in the civil engineering curriculum.

Marlee also has many years of industry experience in the transportation area of civil engineering, working in both the public and private sector. She has functioned as a researcher, planner, designer, program manager, project manager, and company president. She has provided management and leadership services in surveying, photogrammetry, program management, transportation research, and transportation engineering.

Marlee is an emeritus member of the Iowa Engineering and Land Surveying Licensing Board and has served on numerous National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) committees and ASCE committees and roles (Curricula Committee, Past President of the Iowa Section, Past Chair of Transportation Committee in the Iowa Section).



In addition to serving as the Region 7 Governor At-Large, she currently serves on the NCEES Bylaws Committee, NCEES FS Exam Development Committee, ASCE Committee on Advancing the Profession, and ASCE Raise the Bar Committee.

Marlee resides in Ames with her husband Jay. Now that their four kids have grown, they enjoy traveling, golfing, fishing, hiking, and biking.

## St. Louis Governor



### **Melantha Norton, P.E., ENV SP, M. ASCE**

Melantha is a Civil Engineer with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District. She holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Missouri- Kansas City. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of MO and is a certified Envision™ Sustainability Professional.

Prior to joining the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, she provided leadership as the Regional Water Protection Unit Manager for the MO Department of Natural Resources in Kansas City. She developed compliance inspection protocol for State Revolving Fund facilities, and oversaw compliance inspections and water protection policy enforcement. At the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Melantha spearheaded the continued development and implementation of the Post-Construction Stormwater BMP Inspection and Compliance Enforcement Program, as part of the District's Phase II Stormwater Program. She currently works in the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's Program Planning Division and is responsible for stormwater planning tasks, including evaluating stormwater problems and developing capital improvement plans for stormwater infrastructure. She is also responsible for managing the MSD's CSO Volume Reduction Green Infrastructure Program Plan.

Melantha is an active member of the Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is a Scholar Mentor and member of the Associate Board of Directors for Boys Hope Girls Hope St. Louis. She currently serves as Director of Administration for the ASCE St. Louis Section Board.

## Colorado Governor



### **Serkan Sengul, PE, M. ASCE**

As a Principal Engineer, Serkan is responsible for the oversight and management of the geotechnical engineering services provided by Ninyo & Moore's Colorado offices. As a registered professional engineer, Serkan conducts forensic evaluations, investigations and analyses for geotechnical projects, directs and guides engineers and technicians in compiling and analyzing geotechnical data, provides supervision of construction materials testing projects, authors and reviews geotechnical reports, and provides technical guidance and support to the professional staff.

Serkan has over 15 years of experience providing geotechnical engineering, forensic evaluations, consulting, and construction materials testing and inspection services to commercial, industrial, municipal, public



works, and other private entity clients. He has completed thousands of geotechnical studies, and worked on a broad range of projects including wind and solar power projects, dams, interchanges, bridges, airports, high-rise structures, brownfield redevelopments, commercial/residential/retail developments, and landslides.

Serkan received his Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from University of Colorado, specializing in Soil Suction Applications and Soil Heave Prediction in Colorado Front Range. Mr. Sengul served as the President of American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Colorado Section in 2015-2016. He is currently serving as a Governor of American ASCE Region 7, which oversees society activities in Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and the St. Louis and Kansas City areas of Missouri. In addition, he continues to serve as the Co-Chair for the ASCE Colorado Section Geo-Institute (G-I), and is a member of the Colorado Association of Geotechnical Engineers (CAGE).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON REGION 7 GOVERNOR ERIN STEEVER**

You may have asked yourself “What does a Governor do?” Governors strive to be the link between Sections, Branches, and Student Chapters to Society. Region 7 Governors are busy professionals and volunteers working to ensure this job is done. Check out this highlight of what Governor Erin Steever has planned and what she has been up to so far this year in her service to Region 7 ASCE members.

### **ERIN STEEVER, REGION 7 GOVERNOR, SERVING SOUTH DAKOTA & IOWA SECTIONS**



#### **September/October:**

South Dakota – Steever participated in the Section Board monthly conference call, ran the Photo Booth for a *Dream Big* Viewing Party in Sioux Falls, was the “gumdrop bridge” engineer at a *Dream Big* Outreach Event in Sioux Falls, lead a question and answer session with 5<sup>th</sup> Graders following their viewing of the *Dream Big* film, and presented awards at the Annual Meeting & PDH in Pierre.

Iowa – Steever attended the Western Iowa Meeting with a *Dream Big* Viewing at Dort College, and Iowa’s Annual Meeting and Conference at Iowa State University.

#### **November/December:**

South Dakota – Steever attended the SDSU Engineering Scholarship Banquet, Beers with Engineers at SDSU tailgating, Speed Interviews with SDSU, and recognized Fall ASCE Student Chapter Graduates at SDSU. She is planning to recognize Fall ASCE Student Chapter Graduates at SDSMT and attend the SDSU Fall Commencement Ceremony and Order of the Engineer.



Director Marsia Geldert-Murphey and Governor Erin Steever attend the SDSU engineering Scholarship Banquet.



Governor Erin Steever with SDSU students and SD ASCE members at the Beers with Engineering SDSU tailgate.

## **JOIN US ON ASCE COLLABORATE**

ASCE Collaborate, a new online forum exclusively for Society members, is now live and starting to percolate with member comments, questions, and networking. ASCE Collaborate allows members to connect with other members, participate in discussions with subject matter experts, access a library of resources, and post images, videos and documents to share with others.

ASCE Collaborate's success hinges on member participation. Please explore the forum and its benefits. Logging in is easy – members just input their ASCE username and password at [asce.org](http://asce.org) or directly at [collaborate.asce.org](http://collaborate.asce.org). For questions about the ASCE Collaborate experience, contact ASCE Online Community Manager Veronique Nguyen at [vnguyen@asce.org](mailto:vnguyen@asce.org).

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO REGION 7 SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS!**

**Mr. Zachary D. Gutzmer**, A.M. ASCE from the South Dakota Section has been selected to receive one of three Certificates of Commendation for the 2017 Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members.

The **University of Wyoming ASCE Student Chapter** has been awarded the 2017 ASCE Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 7 by the ASCE Committee on Student Members. The University of Wyoming ASCE Student Chapter has also been designated a Ridgway Finalist.

The **South Dakota School of Mines & Technology ASCE Student Chapter** has been designated a Ridgway Finalist.

The **Wichita Branch** and **St. Louis Section** are recipients of the 2016 ASCE Section and Branch Diversity Award.

The **University of Wyoming Student Chapter** has been awarded the 2017 Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 7 and the Ridgway Finalist Award.

**Dr. Bruce Ellingwood** from Colorado State University was awarded the 2017 Alfredo Ang Award on Risk Analysis and Management of Civil Infrastructure

**Dr. Shideh Dashti** from University of Colorado at Boulder was awarded the 2018 Arthur Casagrande Professional Development Award

### ***We want to hear from you!***

To contribute to the Region 7 newsletter, send articles edited exactly as you'd like them to appear, in Microsoft Word format, to [mnorton@stlmsd.com](mailto:mnorton@stlmsd.com).