



## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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

*Science has never drummed up quite as effective  
a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day. ~  
W. Earl Hall.*

I hope you all are enjoying sunny spring days.

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 March Board of Direction meeting. It was a very full agenda, much progress was made. As always if you have any questions and desire additional information please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Region 7 Governors:

- The Board of Direction discussed and approved more than 40 strategies to implement as we work toward our six goals for the Society. (See story in [ASCE News](#).) These strategies were developed with all the feedback and member comments received during the three MRLC breakout sessions in January this year.
- The Board also acted to put ASCE at the forefront of the profession's future – exploring new credential and certification options to drive the Raise the Bar initiative forward, as well as approving an exciting new Industry Leaders Council program called Future World Vision. Stay tuned to this very exciting and forward-thinking initiative.

## 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

- The Board received an interesting presentation from Roy E. Wright, the deputy associate administrator for insurance and mitigation at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Building and rebuilding resiliently remains one of our profession's top priorities, particularly in the wake of the extreme events worldwide last fall, so it was good to hear how ASCE and FEMA can work in collaboration and alignment in the future.
- The ASCE Task Committee on New Revenue, (chaired by yours truly) reported to the Board, presenting some interesting options to consider, including potential leadership training courses, online streaming subscription options, and opportunities to monetize market intelligence.

ASCE has a new goal for 2018: placing a DVD copy of the documentary Dream Big: Engineering Our World in every U.S. public school. For only \$5 you can sponsor a school. Placing the film along with a toolkit of educational resources in every school will expand Dream Big's audience and support the growing need for curricula aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and promote greater interaction between engineers and educators. At the Board of Direction meeting Randy Perkinson, ASCE's treasurer, challenged everyone on the Board of Direction to donate the DVD and toolkit to every school in our respective Districts. I honored his challenge and donated to every school in the Edwardsville, Illinois school district and also to every school on reservation land in South Dakota, where I grew up. When the South Dakota Section heard about it they wanted the list of schools because they are working on donating the kit to every public school in the State. I hope all our other Sections and Branches follow suit. Let's make sure all the schools in Region 7 are taken care of, particularly schools in rural or economically disadvantaged areas. Using [the newly launched website](#) you can search for different schools with the menu on the upper right-hand side of the page. Or contact Jeannine Finton with pre-college outreach in Reston if you want to sponsor an entire geographic area and she will help you out. Other exciting news related to Dream Big the documentary will be released on Netflix in July!

Please be aware that voting for our Region and Society officers will be available May 1 – May 31. I would encourage everyone to vote and stay engaged in our governance.

On April 25, 2018, I will be represented ASCE as a witness to the Congressional Committee on Small Business hearing titled "American Infrastructure and the Small Business Perspective." The message I conveyed to Congress is businesses of all sizes are directly impacted by our nation's investment or lack thereof in our infrastructure.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> I joined our Kansas City and St. Louis Sections for the unveiling of the Missouri Report card in Jefferson City, MO. I want to commend Sheryl Gallagher, 2018 Missouri Report Card Chair, for her dedication and hard work to lead and coordinate the Missouri State Report Card preparation. It was quite an undertaking and with the increased interest in raising the [gas tax in Missouri](#) the fortunate timing of this report card release cannot be understated.

Please let me or any of our Board of Governors know what we can do to support you, your members or students to achieve your professional mission and goals. Also, please share your views or provide ideas on how ASCE can better serve our members and the profession, please [email me](#).

Respectfully,

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

## 2018 MULTI-REGION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2018 Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) was held in Omaha, Nebraska, on January 26 and 27 for Regions 3, 6, & 7. Attendance included 58 people for the Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders (WSBL), 37 people for the Central Region Younger Member Council (YMC), 169 people for Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL), and 4 Institute Members.

On Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, the conference started with a welcome session from Kristina Swallow, P.E., ASCE 2018 President and Tom Smith, ASCE Executive Director. After this opening session the three main groups (WSBL, YMC, and WSCL split into concurrent sessions. Some of these sessions included:

- “ASCE Live” to learn more about ASCE and the services provided.
- “ASCE Strategies” to allow participants to provide input on the new ASCE strategic planning efforts.
- “Region Breakouts” to discuss topics relative to Regions 3, 6, and 7 individually.
- “Lunch with the Society President-Elect Robin Kemper, P.E.”
- “Personality as it Relates to Leadership” to discuss the different personality types and how it impacts our leadership abilities.
- “Flip the Script on Networking” to encourage networking.
- “Community Service Give Back Event” to provide several services to a local Children’s Hospital.

On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, all attendees joined together for breakfast with the 2019 ASCE President-Elect nominees. Then a session entitled “YOU are our future...how can WE make you better in the future? Where could (should?) civil engineering education be headed?” was presented by Daniel G. Linzell, Ph.D., P.E., University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor and Department Chair, Department of Civil Engineering. The concurrent sessions which followed included:

- “Supercharge Your Leadership Skills” to learn more about the society’s leadership module.
- “Best Practices” to discuss some of the best processes and procedures used by other regions, sections, younger member groups, or student chapters.
- “Knowledge and Skills for the Professional Civil Engineer” – the efforts of the society to raise the bar for the profession
- “What Makes a Leader?” by Steven D. Murphey, A.M.ASCE, 777X Propulsion Structures Leader, The Boeing Company.
- “Professional Ethics” by Steven D. Murphey, Industry Leaders Council, and Tom Smith, ASCE Executive Director.

The conference, put on by the ASCE Leader Training Committee (LTC) was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the attendees.



Region 7 Board Meeting at the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference

## THE 2018 MISSOURI INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD RELEASE



Will the grade for  
Missouri's  
Infrastructure be  
better in 2018?

THE 2018 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL  
ENGINEERS (ASCE) INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT  
CARD FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI WILL BE  
RELEASED ON **THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018, AT  
THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL. THE PROGRAM  
WILL BEGIN AT 10:30 AM IN THE CAPITOL FIRST  
FLOOR ROTUNDA. A CATERED LUNCH WILL  
FOLLOW IN THE SENATE THIRD FLOOR ROTUNDA  
AND ALCOVE AT 11:30.**

**ASCE**  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

**WHEN:**

Thursday, April 26, 2018 from  
7:15 AM to 5:00 PM CDT

**WHERE:**

Metro Park and Ride  
500 NW Blue Parkway  
Lee's Summit, MO

You can check out the previous  
grades at

<https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/stateitem/missouri/>

- once the new grades are released, they can also be found at this website or attend the release event at the State Capitol on **April 26th!** For additional information about the event, click [here](#).

## KANSAS SECTION SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE - WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

The ASCE Code of Ethics requires civil engineers to strive to comply with the principles of sustainable development in the performance of their professional duties. Taking this to heart, the Kansas City Section of ASCE formed its Sustainability Committee in 2014. Doug Dietrich has been the enthusiastic champion of this committee ever since.

### **Wild and Scenic Film Festival:**

Doug saw an opportunity to partner with the Wild and Scenic Film Festival to inspire activism and grow ASCE's sustainability mission. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival commissions 125 films each year, covering a variety of themes such as:

- Energy, Water, Climate Change, Citizen Science
- Conservation, Wildlife, Migration Corridors, National Parks
- Community Activism, Environmental Justice
- Native Peoples and Cultural Heritage
- Youth Field Study, International Exploration, Adventure Sport

Partnering organizations select films for a personalized and unique event. Each event is up to 2.5 hours long and includes logos of the partnering organization and their sponsors in the film credits. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival planners will also provide the partnering organization a marketing toolbox with all the graphics and checklists to help plan the event.

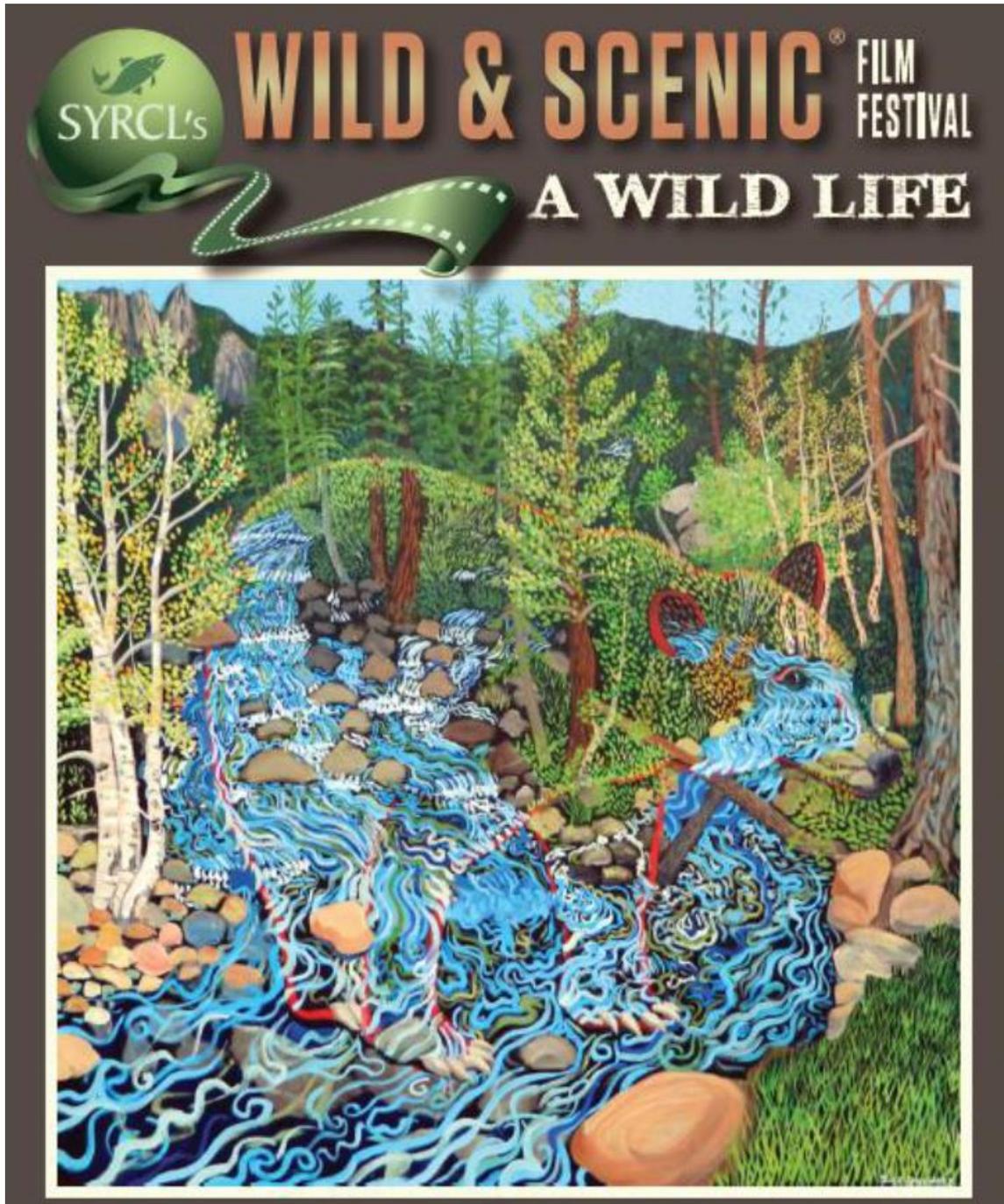
This festival could help ASCE raise funds, attract new members, build community, inspire solutions, and celebrate progress. So, the Sustainability Committee teamed up with Shawnee Mission East High School "Coalition Club" to help plan an event. The "Coalition Club" is a student led humanitarian group that focuses on awareness and fundraising for a variety of causes. Their goal was to raise funds for the Blue River Watershed Association (BRWA). The Coalition Club helped choose the films, sell tickets, and create a buzz on social media. In addition, the Club reached out to teachers at several schools to encourage those teachers to offer extra credit to their students for attending the Festival.

The KC Wild and Scenic Film Festival raised about \$3,500 to support BWRA. The BRWA's mission is to restore and protect watersheds through environmental education, community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration. They teach over 3,000 students in the Kansas City Region about water quality and environmental stewardship every year. They were a very worthy and like-minded partner for the event. This event was such a success that it has become an annual event enjoyed by hundreds each year.

The event has averaged about 400 attendees each year, most of which have been High School Students. The Festival is growing as the word gets out about these films. The Wild and Scenic Film Festival inspires people and transforms the audience into activists dedicated to environmental protection. Our next Annual Film Festival will be held in September 2018 in conjunction with a stream clean up and bike ride.

We will have showings on the Kansas and Missouri sides of state line this year and include even more local schools.

If you are interested in learning more about Partnering with Wild and Scenic Film Festivals for your section or branch, or helping out in KC, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jennifer Taylor [jctaylor@burnsmcd.com](mailto:jctaylor@burnsmcd.com) or Doug Dietrich [ddietrich@burnsmcd.com](mailto:ddietrich@burnsmcd.com).



# SDSU TEAM WINS REGIONAL GEOWALL COMPETITION

## **Not budging!**

Competing for only the second time in a regional GeoWall competition, a group of five civil engineering students from South Dakota State University (SDSU) won a regional contest at the University of Minnesota Feb. 24.

Sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the same folks who organize concrete canoe and steel bridge-building contests, the GeoWall contest has been going on since 2015. In 2017, SDSU sent an exploratory team to the contest, according to adviser Allen Jones, a professor in the civil and environmental engineering department.

In 2018, team captain Benjamin Hogen embraced the project and led an experienced quintet of civil engineering majors back to Minneapolis.

“The second goal (of the contest) is to have fun. The first goal is to develop technical skills and that’s exactly what Ben did,” Jones said. The wall students build is a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall using lightweight poster board for the face of the wall and kraft paper strips for internal reinforcing of the paper. It fits inside an 18- by 26-inch plywood box.

One side of the box has a removable panel. When that panel is removed, the wall is not allowed to deflect more than three-quarters of an inch, Jones said.

The SDSU team’s wall didn’t budge a bit, he said. The key to victory was pre-stressing the internal kraft strips by tugging on them a little bit as they filled the box with sand. “No other team did that and only a couple teams had walls that deflected less than three-quarters of an inch,” said Jones, whose expertise is in soil mechanics.

## **Performs as designed**

Hogen, a senior civil engineering from Sioux Falls, said, “Our team was fairly confident in the stability of our wall design. Since the main objective is to use the least amount of reinforcement, the wall was designed with just enough strength to remain stable. This did not allow much room for error and definitely caused a few tense moments.”

The strength of the wall is further tested when students are required to fill a 5-gallon bucket with 60 pounds of sand.

The team’s entry had stood up well in this phase during testing, but Hogen noted the exact composition of the sand was not specified in contest rules, so the team had to make an educated guess. It guessed right. The wall stood up to the added weight.

Students had to submit their design in January and build according to that design. “The trial-and-error method is not allowed. That’s not how engineers work,” Jones said. He did say the students meticulously practiced constructing their design, staying well into the evening many nights working in the geotechnical engineering lab.

### **Second SDSU team also competes**

Hogen said, “I really enjoy competitions like this because they allow a group of people to learn from one another and deepen their understanding of a mutual passion. Winning the competition provided a confidence boost in ourselves and each other, especially because the other teams represented such internationally recognized programs.

“Our success at competition demonstrated the strength and ability of the civil and environmental engineering department here at SDSU.”

His teammates were Matthew Warejcka, a junior from Platte; Josh Nelson, a junior from Stillwater, Minnesota; Austin Frosig, a junior from Cloquet, Minn.; Ted Sjurseth, a junior from Granite Falls, Minn.; and Emma Martin, a freshman from Madison. All are civil engineering majors. They walked away from the contest with a gold trophy in the shape of a sand cone, an apparatus frequently used to test soil compaction in the geotechnical engineering discipline.

A second SDSU team comprised of Alec Zimiga, Jared Rothmeier, Gunnar Kern, Matthew Buenger and Jordan Twedt placed seventh.

In addition to the Feb. 24 contest, all of the SDSU students attended the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Geotechnical Engineering Conference the day beforehand, also on the University of Minnesota campus. There the students were granted access to a wide range of technical presentations and the opportunity to network with area professionals.

SDSU’s winning effort doesn’t qualify the team for the national contest because those teams were selected in advance based on design reports.

*“Our success at competition demonstrated the strength and ability of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department here at SDSU.”*

*- Team captain Ben Hogen*



Team captain Ben Hogen holds the GeoWall trophy after SDSU won a regional competition at the University of Minnesota Feb. 24. Teammates are, from left, Austin Froisig, Josh Nelson, Ted Sjurseth and Matt Warejcka.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the South Dakota Student Section on taking first place in the Midwest GeoWall competition!**

## STUDENT CONFERENCES AND COMPETITIONS IN REGION 7

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:

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

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

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

## 2018 NATIONAL ELECTION

Voting will be open from May 1 to June 1, 2018. In addition to a new 2018-2019 Society President-Elect, this year members will be electing two governors from Region 7 and a technical regional director for Region 7. Your vote is important.

## 2018 REGION 7 ASSEMBLY –AUGUST 3-4, 2018

Region 7 Board of Governors and Delegates will meet in Saint Louis, MO for the Annual Assembly on August 3-4, 2018. Society President Kristina Swallow and Society Treasurer, Randy Perkinson will be presenting during the assembly. There will also be a tour of the Eads Bridge a CEE landmark.

## SPOTLIGHT ON REGION 7 GOVERNOR SERKAN SENGUL

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 Serkan Sengul has planned and what she has been up to so far this year in her service to Region 7 ASCE members.

### SERKAN SENGUL, REGION 7 GOVERNOR, SERVING COLORADO SECTIONS



#### **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.



## 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!

**Dr. Jay A. Puckett, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE** from the Nebraska Section on half of the University of Nebraska, School of Architectural Engineering and Construction has been selected by the ASCE Committee on Education to receive the 2018 Walter LeFevre Award Honorable Mention award in the small program category.

**Mrs. Amy Javernick Will, D.Eng., A.M.ASCE** from the Colorado Section has been selected by the Construction Institute to receive the 2018 Daniel W. Halpin Award for Scholarship in Construction “for outstanding scholarship in the areas of disaster recovery and enhancing the global quality of life through socially sustainable infrastructure and for your contribution to advancing construction engineering through scholarship, mentoring and a commitment to diversity.”

**Dr. Paul F. Boulos, Ph.D., Hon.D.WRE, Dist.D.NE, Dist.M.ASCE, NAE** from the Colorado Section has been selected by the Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the 2019 Simon W. Freese Environmental Engineering Award and Lecture for “his extraordinary accomplishments in using fundamental scientific principles and current research findings to solve the most challenging water quality problems.”

**Dr. Shideh Dashti, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE** from the Colorado Section has been selected by the Geo-Institute Board of Governors to receive the 2018 Arthur Casagrande Professional Development Award “For outstanding contributions to risk assessment and mitigation, including seismic soil structure interaction in urban areas, influence of liquefaction on structures, liquefaction mitigation strategies for structures and slopes, and interdependencies among the social, information, and physical infrastructures during floods.”

**Dr. Larry J. Weber, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE** from the Iowa Section has been selected by the Environmental and Water Resources Institute to receive the 2018 Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award for “his research in monitoring, modeling, and visualization of water quantity and quality at the watershed scale and for cofounding the Iowa Nutrient Research Center at Iowa State University.”

**The University of Wyoming Student Chapter** was selected as a Distinguished Chapter.

## **NOMINATE A WORTHY REPRESENTATIVE TO RECEIVE A REGION 7 AWARD BY APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>**

Region 7 would like to recognize those members for the categories of Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor, Younger Member, and Lifetime Achievement. Please submit a nomination for yourself or your peers.

**For more information contact:**

Scott Asher, P.E - ASCE Region 7 Awards Committee

[Scott.asher@wilsonco.com](mailto:Scott.asher@wilsonco.com) or 719-302-6743.

The nomination forms can be accessed at: <http://regions.asce.org/region7/awards>

### ***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 [diodonna@hotmail.com](mailto:diodonna@hotmail.com).