



# Newsletter

American Society of Civil Engineers 7/1/2023

Issue 2023.1



## Director's Minute

**Erin Steever, PE**

Wow! We've had quite a first half of 2023, and I'm thrilled to have so many ASCE memories. Our newsletter recaps some of the highlights from 2023 so far. So, whether you are familiar with an event featured, attended it yourself, or it's brand new, I hope you enjoy reading about it!

I would also like to take a few minutes to congratulate our new President-Elect, Feniosky Pena-Mora! Feniosky has led our Society's Strategic Planning efforts over the past year and

impressed many with the quick turnaround on the fully overhauled plan for ASCE's vision of our future. I for one am excited to see where his vision will take us next! We'll also be welcoming Marsia Geldert-Murphey as President in October at the Annual Convention in Chicago, IL. For those that may not know, Marsia is one of our very own from Region 7. She's a native of South Dakota, growing up in Rapid City and graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University and earning her master's degree in Civil Engineering with a focus on geotechnical engineering at Missouri Science & Technology in Rolla, Missouri before moving to the St Louis area. We are so proud of her, she has achieved so much over her career within Region 7, and rising to society leadership is a first for a native South Dakotan!



As a region, we're working on updating our website, check it out here:

<https://regions.asce.org/region7/>. You can find more about our Grants program under the resources tab, celebrate with us those members who are being recognized in our Awards tab along with finding nomination forms for our Region 7 Awards program, among other information we think you'll find interesting and handy.

We've also launched a Region 7 Linked In account, if you aren't already, please follow us -

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/asce-region-7/>. We encourage you to share what's happening at the local level on our page by talking with your favorite Region 7 Governors. This is a fabulous way to shout out to your volunteers and might spark some ideas for others in the Region.

And finally, we've taken Society's lead and have been working on our own Region 7 Strategic Plan! We finished the draft last month and are moving into developing initiatives and board approvals. We look to  
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providing a welcoming, collaborative community that offers resources, professional growth, opportunity for leadership and sets the standard of success for all regions!

We've got a great second half of 2023 to look forward to – our Region 7 Assembly in Rapid City, South Dakota hosted by the Black Hills Branch is in July just before the infamous Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, and the Annual Convention October 18-21st (find out more and get registered here - <https://convention.asce.org/>) where *Cities of the Future: Reimagining our World* will be released (<https://www.futureworldvision.org/cities-future>), as well as many local events, meetings, and activities. I encourage you to find a way to become engaged in ASCE, bring your friends and colleagues to meetings and events to grow our membership, and encourage the future of the Civil Engineering pipeline through community outreach and telling everyone you know about this exciting profession.

## Spotlight on Annual Reveal Event at UMKC



UMKC engineers host an annual unveiling event, called the Reveal, as a way to present their year-long projects before competition. The event showcases their hard work, allows students to engage with their sponsors, and also introduces their projects to fellow students. This year it took place on April 7th.

While the evening is loosely planned and does not follow a strict schedule, the event starts as people file in, and food and drinks are provided. People mingled for about an hour or so then Kevin Truman, Dean of

the School of Science and Engineering at UMKC, provides a quick speech thanking the sponsors for attending. Finally, each team gives introductions before unveiling their project and speaking a little bit about what the club does and builds, then each team gave their respective sponsors gifts. Some examples of these gifts include the Concrete Canoe Team giving concrete coasters made from the same mix used to create the canoe, and Baja Team creating 3d printed race helmet trophies with signed autographs.





Cade was asked to provide some Best Practices with regard to the sponsors. He mentioned that generally, each team does its own outreach and advertising to their sponsors and it is not an organized group effort from all the teams for a mass announcement. Although there are plans in the future to brainstorm more ideas as to how the different clubs could work together, although, the individual club efforts provide a more personal note to the sponsors. So many more students and families showed up along with the sponsors, there were probably upwards of 30-40 people at this event.



For more on the event, visit UMKC engineers unveil their year-long projects before competition – Roo News ([kcroonews.com](http://kcroonews.com)). This article compiled information submitted by Cade Ferguson, Vice President for the University of Missouri Kansas City Concrete Canoe team and Student at UMKC and Ellen Beshuk, Co-News Editor for ROO News, The Student News Site of University of Missouri- Kansas City.

## Ridgway SDSU Chapter honored by ASCE President-Elect Geldert-Murphey

ASCE president-elect Marsia Geldert-Murphey returned to her alma mater Nov. 9, 2022 to recognize South Dakota State University as having the top ASCE student chapter in the nation.

Geldert-Murphey, a 1992 civil engineering graduate, presented the plaque to current and former officers and spoke on how the construction industry has progressed in the past half century. She also noted how she was first lured to ASCE club meetings by an offer of free pizza from adviser Chuck Tiltrum. While there, she took the challenge to get involved and continued to accept that challenge after becoming a professional engineer.

Geldert-Murphey has been the Missouri and Illinois regional director of Lochmueller Group, a transportation and geotechnical engineering firm in St. Louis, since 2019. She served on the ASCE board as a regional director from 2016 to 2019 and was a regional governor in 2009-13. Geldert-Murphey assumed her new role at the society's Oct. 23 business meeting.



Zach Gutzmer, who has served as club adviser since 2011, earned his bachelor's degree at State in 2006. He was a student member the last time SDSU won the Robert Ridgway Student Chapter Award for having the nation's single most outstanding chapter. That was in 2004. SDSU also won the award in 1999.

There are 407 student chapters in the American Society of Civil Engineering, which is the nation's oldest engineering society.

"The Ridgway is the pinnacle of ASCE awards. I am extremely proud of our students. They earned it and are well deserving of this achievement. This group of students has left their mark on SDSU history by adding another 'feather to the cap' of the ASCE student chapter," Gutzmer said.

Written by: Dave Graves, Information Officer, South Dakota State University





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## Region 7 Launches a Linked-In Page

Have you found us on Linked-In yet? If not, follow us by searching for ASCE Region 7. Below are a few highlights since we've launched our page. Reach out the Governors so we can share your news too!



Strategic Planning here at Region 7! We're excited to have finished with the full draft and will be moving into developing the operational steps. Reach out to your Region Governor for more information. We'd love to share what we're working on!!

The [ASCE Kansas Section](#) 2023 awards were presented last night. Congratulations to Dr. Scott Schiff Advisor of the Year, [Aaron Frits, P.E., M.ASCE](#) Member of the Year, and Dr. [Michael Berry](#) for a Lifetime of Achievement. You all are so deserving and thanks for all you do!



**ASCE** ASCE Region 7  
164 followers  
3mo •

This is fabulous! Congrats to all our ASCE Life Members.

**Kenneth Rosenfield, P.E.** • 1st  
ASCE Region 9 Director, State of California, ASCE Board of Direction  
3mo •

Congratulations to the ASCE Los Angeles Section for a great 2023 Life Member Induction Ceremony! The new class is so impressive and their advice freely given to students and younger members was terrific. Thank you to [Marsia "Mar"](#) ...see more



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How did you spend your weekend?

Here in South Dakota, we spent it wrapping up our 2023 E-Week Outreach ...see more



**Erin Steever, PE (She/Her) • You**  
Team Lead at Bartlett & West; Region 7 Board of Director ASCE  
2mo • 🌐

What? E-Week in April - An improvement project at one of our local libraries delayed our final E-Week outreach events to this past weekend...so much fun to bring civil engineering to these kiddos



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Congrats UMKC 🎉



**Nathan Unruh • 2nd**  
Student at University of Missouri-Kansas City  
2mo • Edited • 🌐

+ Follow

Hi everyone! I am very excited to announce that the UMKC Concrete Canoe team took first place at the ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium this past weekend! Thanks to all of our sponsors who helped us get here, and thanks to the amazing team of students who put in so many hours to put a canoe together! This was a great year for us in growing the team, and in refining and improving what we do. I look forward to seeing what the team does next year!

Huge thanks to K-State for organizing and hosting a great symposium, and shoutout to both K-State and KU for some very close competition 😊

#asce #concretecanoe #UMKC

**ASCE** ASCE Region 7  
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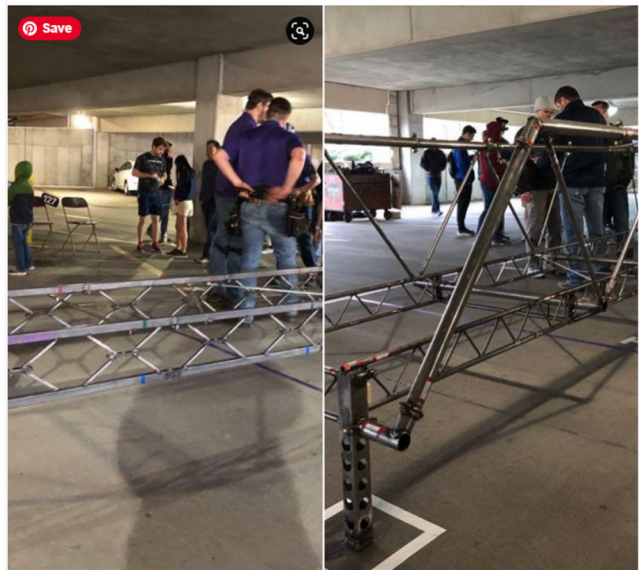


ASCE Region 7 is proud of all the students and university chapters that participated in the Steel Bridge Building Competition at the ASCE Mid America Student Symposium last weekend! #asce #studentsymposium



**Jennifer Jacka-Taylor, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE (She/Her) • 1st**  
Civil Engineer Project Manager  
2mo • 🌐

Congratulations to the 8 Universities that braved the cold weather and built amazing Steel Bridges for the ASCE Mid America Student Symposium. [Missouri University of Science and Technology](#) won 1st overall, [Kansas State University American Society of Civil Engineers](#) won 2nd place and [South Dakota State University](#) placed 3rd. #asce #civilengineering







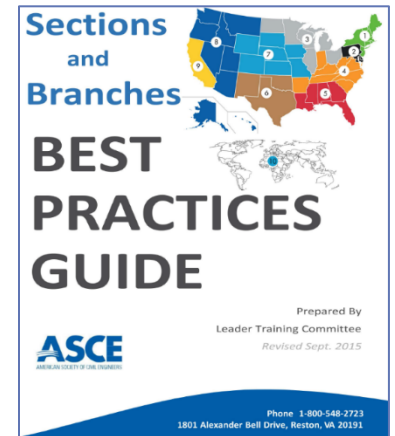
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## Section & Branch Best Practice Resources

Did you know that a Best Practices Manual is available at the Geographic Services Region, Section, and Branch Resources page, courtesy of ASCE's Leader Training Committee? A series of recorded webinars on [Best Practices](#) is available on the resources page (scroll down to "Best Practices") along with the [Section and Branch Best Practices Guide](#). Did you know that you can also submit your own best practices to be included in the guide by contacting [Nancy Berson](#)? This is a great way to share your successes with other Sections and Branches.



## 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 Tirza Austin, [taustin@asce.org](mailto:taustin@asce.org)

## 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 [SHakes@benesch.com](mailto:SHakes@benesch.com). Include R7 Newsletter in your subject line.



Are you future ready? Join us at the ASCE 2023 Convention Oct. 18-21 in Chicago to find out. See what's in store for you at [#ASCE23](#): <https://bit.ly/3od2JaS>.