From the President

As we march into a new year in 2022, we have occasion to look back and look ahead. Looking back on the recent holiday season, it was a time of relative peace and calm for many as family visited, we had 2 holidays within a week, and many deadlines and stresses are put off for a few days. For some it may have been a time of increased stress or depressing thoughts over what used to be or what might have been. This is not to encourage or disparage, merely acknowledging that we may pass through similar experiences and still have a different perception or experience from others. We are in a world that is at once more connected than ever and more isolated than ever, and our future as civil engineers and a larger society continues to be intertwined with that of others around us. Regardless of where we have been or our current situation, let’s look forward with hope that there are good opportunities ahead for all of us.

- Chad Johnson, PE, PMP, CFM

Last Chance

Register for the 2022 Annual KCGI Specialty Seminar, hosted by the Geo-Institute Kansas City Chapter this Friday!
Geo-Institute Scholarship Programs

Did you know ASCE Geo-Institute Kansas City Chapter funds student scholarships at both the University of Missouri - Kansas City and the University of Kansas?

Our Geo-Institute chapter funds endowment programs at both schools with income generated from local technical events. The endowments earn sustained annual cash flow, typically about 5%, which is used to support students.

The “Peck-Williams-Garstang Scholarship Endowment Program” was initiated at UMKC in 2001, named after that year’s annual conference keynote speakers. It was established as a joint effort between ASCE, Kansas City Section; Associations of Engineering Geologists, Kansas City-Omaha Section; and UMKC. The endowment funds scholarships for both Civil Engineering students with geotechnical interests and Earth and Environmental Science – Geology students. It has now grown to over $200,000 and has provided scholarships to dozens of students.

The Geo-Institute Kansas City Chapter initiated a similar program with the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering at the University of Kansas, and formally established the “Kansas City Geo-Institute Student Support Fund” in 2019. The fund is targeted towards scholarships for Geotechnical Engineering Students. It has already grown to over $50,000 and has begun to provide scholarships over the last few years.

UMKC Civil Engineering students Joseph Caiharr and Nathan Unruh were awarded this year’s scholarships. They were recognized last April at the Geo-Institute Annual Geotechnical Conference. Hao Liu was awarded this year’s KU scholarship. Mr. Liu is a PHD candidate and was recognized at the KU Annual Geotechnical Conference on November 10, 2021. Congratulations to all three recipients.

The Geo-Institute Kansas City Chapter enjoys strong relationships with local universities and considers both of these programs a huge and lasting success. We welcome you to keep in touch with our Geo-Institute specific events by emailing GI@kcengineers.org.
ASCE Younger Member Group Recap

In September, the Younger Member Group hosted a professional development tour of the Briarcliff Trail Project in Kansas City, Missouri. The tour was sponsored by MegaKC and CFS Engineers. Thank you to Andrew Robertson, one of our Professional Development Co-Chairs and CFS Design Engineer for the project, for leading the tour.

Our Community Service Co-Chairs hosted monthly trail cleanups through the end of the year. Thanks to those volunteers who came out to work alongside KC Parks and Rec and Parks and Rec Ambassadors.

In October, we hosted the kickoff Mentorship Event with UMKC’s ASCE Student Chapter. We look forward to another year of successful mentor–mentee relationships.

ASCE YMG Upcoming Events:

01/29 - FIRST LEGO Robotics Volunteer Opportunity
02/04 - Virtual Game Night
02/22 - KCI Tour and Happy Hour
Another professional development was held this fall at Simpson-Strongtie’s facility in Kansas City, KS. Thank you to Nehal Patel, ASCE KC Board Member, for hosting a facility tour and demonstration of post-installed mechanical and adhesive anchors at the facility.

The YMG has continued to host monthly meetings in-person in outdoor venues. In October, the monthly meeting was hosted at KC Bier Co. in the biergarten and November’s meeting was held at J. Rieger & Co. A big thank you to Advanced Drainage System (ADS) for sponsoring the November meeting.
ASCE YMG Charity Spotlight

The YMG continued the tradition of giving back to Toys for Tots around the Holidays. We hosted a joint holiday bingo fundraiser alongside DBIA-MAR Next-Gen Professionals at Homes Murphy in Kansas City, Missouri.

![Image of YMG members holding toys]

![Image of a holiday bingo fundraiser]

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Missouri State University Student Chapter Update

The student chapter at Missouri State University is going through a major transformation. We have a few changes to our officers. Jason Coleman who was the interim president over the fall semester and oversaw the recovery from the pandemic has graduated. Luther Harris has assumed the role of the chapter President. The chapter has a representative to the student government council now. Below is the updated list of our officers. Some organizational changes are planned and will be announced later. The Steel Bridge team is working hard and planning to compete at the student symposia. The design, fabrication, and assembly of this year bridges is coming along nicely.

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Sanjay Tewari, Assistant Teaching Professor, Cooperative Engineering Program, Missouri S&T and Missouri State University
tewarisa@mst.edu, stewari@missouristate.edu
Upcoming community engagement
The MSU ASCE student chapter will also be holding its bi-annual Stream Cleanup of Jordan Creek in the spring semester. A date is still being planned.

Upcoming and finalized events / technical talks / interaction with industry
- On January 27, at noon, the chapter will welcome Becky Baltz P.E. of TREKK Design Group, and Laurel McKean P.E. of MODOT. They will be giving a presentation to students on I-44 Corridor Bridge Bundle Design Build
- On February 10th at noon, the chapter will welcome Shawn Berry, Vice President of Toth & Associates.
University of Missouri – Kansas City Student Chapter Update

UMKC’s new Concrete Canoe team has been hard at work preparing their first concrete canoe, Blue Phoenix, for competition. Over winter break the team has focused on creating a high-quality mold (see photo 1), refining the concrete mix design (see photo 2), and writing a solid technical report. The regional concrete canoe competition is scheduled to be held in Ames, Iowa, from the 22nd to the 24th of April. Hoping to cast their debut canoe by February 11th, the team is excited for the competition and the future of UMKC Concrete Canoe. If you or your company is interested in supporting this great extracurricular team, please go to www.umkcalumni.com/concretecanoe or email Sean Purdue at srpkqm@umsystem.edu.