From the President

Hello! My name is Ernie Longoria and I will be the Kansas City Section President through May of 2020. Feel free to approach me at a meeting if you want to get to know me better! Also, if you see Mohamad Ibrawish, Past President, be sure to say thank you. Mo helped keep the Section activities running with minimal disruption as folks dropped of the Board for various reasons.

First of all, congratulations to the new board officers for both the Section and the Younger Members' Group (under 35 years old). In case you didn’t know, the officers act as liaisons between the committees and the members to provide guidance to coordinate Section efforts. The committees are passionate about a specific activity and often times are a member’s first step in getting involved with ASCE. Even though we’re entering the summer, the Section has a lot of activities coming up. Life Members visited the new Johnson County Crime Lab on May 30th, The Annual Royals Tailgate took place on June 7th, and some members are going on the neighboring Kansas Section’s annual float trip on June 28th. Visit the Section’s webpage, the Younger Members’ Group (YMG) webpage, YMG Facebook page, or the Section’s LinkedIn group for more information or to sign up for the event.

Second, as we enter the peak of the construction / vacation season, remember to take time to attend an event or meeting. Summertime events are generally more relaxed and informal giving you the opportunity really network, meet new people, or introduce interns and other engineers to what we do. It’s also a chance to learn more about a different field of civil engineering that could lead to more. I know countless engineers that have changed jobs and advanced their careers by adding additional skills that they gained while getting involved with Section activities.

Lastly, if you want to take your involvement to the next level, join a committee or volunteer to take an open position. We’re still in need of a Membership chair, a Website manager, and could use help keeping the Section LinkedIn company page fresh. The History & Heritage Committee
is looking for members and will only need more help as they gear up to celebrate the Section’s 100-year anniversary in 2021. The Environmental and Water Resources Institute and Geotechnical Institute could use help planning meetings and activities. Feel free to reach out to myself, any of the board officers, or committee chairs if you have any interest or questions.

Have a great summer!

Ernie

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**2019 ASCE Board Election Results**

Ernie Longoria President  
Stephen Stinger President–Elect  
Chad Johnson 1st Vice President & Treasurer  
Meagan Malloy 2nd Vice President & Secretary  
Chad Charest Director III  
Mariah Schroeder Director II  
Tony Kulesa Director I  
Morgan Race Associate Member Director

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**KC ASCE Section Volunteer Opportunities**

Open Positions:

- **Webmaster**—provide consistent updates to content on the website. The time commitment is anticipated to be 2-4 hours per month.

- **Life Member** Involvement—chairing the involvement for Life Members of the Kansas City Section

Please contact Ernie Longoria at ernie.longoria@cityofshawnee.org or Joe Sturgeon, wsturgeon@hntb.com
GPR Committee

\textbf{Kansas City Section at the ASCE Legislative Fly-In}

Several members of the Kansas City Section attended the ASCE Legislative Fly-In in Washington, D.C. on March 13th-15th. The Legislative Fly-In brings ASCE representatives from every state and Puerto Rico together to visit their congressional members and advocate for funding and general awareness on key infrastructure issues. From the Kansas City Section Mariah Schroeder represented Kansas, while Sheryl Gallagher, Danny Hotson (UMKC Student Chapter) and Dennis Randolph represented Missouri and met up others from St. Louis in the effort.

Fly-In attendees were briefed on key infrastructure issues and trained on advocacy strategies by ASCE staff members, Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-LA, 3rd District), Representative Rodney Davis (R-IL, 13th District), and lobbying consultants.

All Fly-In delegates were asked to discuss the following with their elected officials:

- Appropriations request
- Principals for infrastructure investment
- Fix the highway trust fund
- 116th Congress legislative priorities

Missouri delegates met with staffers from the offices of Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO), Senator Roy Blunt (D-MO), Representative Sam Graves (R-MO, 6th District), and Representative Emanuel Cleaver II (D-MO 5th District).

The Kansas ASCE members met staffers from the offices of Representative Sharice Davids (D-KS, 3rd District) and staffers from the offices of Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS).

\textbf{Missouri Drive-In}

The Kansas City Section joined forces with the St. Louis Section, Missouri Society of Professional Engineers and Mercury Alliance on March 27. Danny Hotson, Bayley Brooks and Sheryl Gallagher started the day at the MSPE office in Jefferson City with a briefing from MSPE’s lobbyist and Executive Director, Travis Lowe and Jeff Glenn from Mercury Alliance. Briefings included:

- SB 509 - Waiving licensing of professional engineers and others for those employed by an electrical cooperative
- HB 1001 – law regarding balancing of funds that would sweep moneys from the professions regulatory activities
- HB 822/SB 430 – increase the fuels tax
• BD 472/SB 251 – known as the 2nd chance bill, a person cannot be disqualified from licensure because of a conviction of a crime

• SB 500 – occupational licensing consumer choice act – puts geologists at risk for licensure and could eventually lead to PE and PLS.

• SB 126/HB 717 – modifies provisions relating to guaranteed energy cost savings contracts

• SB 463 and HB 1168 – known as the Russian Spyware Bill, requires any contract in excess of $100k with a state agency be performed using a computer to run a work verification software program to verify billable hours.

Besides meeting with Senators Dan Hegaman and Representative Doug Richey, we met with several members of the Transportation Committee.

Kansas Home Connections

Mariah also joined the Kansas Section for their annual Legislative Update (joint with KSPE) in Topeka, KS. Mariah covered ASCE’s advocacy efforts on the federal level – including a recap of the 2019 ASCE Legislative Fly-In, ASCE’s Key Contact Program, and ASCE’s State Advocacy Captains Program. She also discussed important infrastructure issues currently in front of Congress like the Highway Trust Fund. Check out the ASCE Missouri YouTube Channel for more information on infrastructure issues affecting you:

Left: Kansas Advocacy Captains Mariah Schroeder and Tony Kulesa met with Representative Sharice Davids (D-KS, 3rd District) at her Kansas City, KS, District Office Opening.
Diversity Corner

“To increase awareness of the vast diversity amongst our members, opening the door for differences to be understood and valued, fostering a culture of acceptance and inclusion.”

– CDI-KC Mission Statement

Diversity and Inclusion is always in the news. Below are a few articles from around the web, including one from the ASCE Library (free!) detailing what organizations are doing to support the cause:

Diversity and Inclusion in Civil and Environmental Engineering – Yvette E Pearson, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE and Denise R. Simmons, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE

The paper discusses the adoption of Canon 8 of ASCE’s Code of Ethics. The canon was proposed by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in collaboration with the Committee on Ethical Practice. “The Guidelines to Practice for Canon 8 require civil engineers to treat all persons fairly and to avoid discriminatory and harassing behaviors. . . . Guideline 8 (c) requires civil engineers to “consider the diversity of the community, and … endeavor in good faith to include diverse perspectives, in the planning and performance of … professional services” (ASCE 2017). This guideline necessitates the inclusion not only of engineers with diverse perspectives and from diverse backgrounds in design and decision making but also of people from the communities they serve.”


The website also provides a link to ASCE’s Special Collection on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil and Environmental Engineering. This collection includes over a dozen papers written by civil engineers on the topics of diversity and inclusion in college and in the workforce.

5 Numbers that Explain Why STEM Diversity Matters to All of Us – Maeghan Ouimet

This short article briefly describes five statistics about the STEM workforce. The topics discussed include the size of the workforce, percentage of women, demographics and salary gap. It’s a brief but interesting read.

https://www.wired.com/brandlab/2015/05/5-numbers-explain-stem-diversity-matters-us/

“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.”

– Mahatma Gandhi
EWRI Committee

Board Member Changes

As we come to a close of the 2018-2019 year, we are undergoing some changes in the board member structure again. Below are listed the board members beginning in June 2019.

- Chairperson—Elangovan Thevar
- Chairperson-Elect—Anthony Sherman
- Secretary—Ryan Pohl
- Treasurer—Jeff Stacy
- Dinner/Attendee Chair—Takuya Jay Inoue
- Webmaster—Cody Porter
- Immediate Past President—Yanan Ma

Past Events

Last month, EWRI hosted a luncheon event at the Blue Moose in southern Kansas City. Our Chair, Yanan Ma, gave a presentation on the Middle Blue River Green infrastructure project and shared the results from a data-driven model comparing to the designed phase model outputs. You can read the book chapter here. We thank Dr. Ma for her contribution, and encourage all who would be interested in similar events to look out for fliers that are sent out to the EWRI mailing list. EWRI volunteered to join with the Missouri River Relief Organization on May 18th to do trash pickup along the Missouri River.
Past ASCE Events

2019 Annual Geotechnical Conference
“Geo-Innovations”

Was held Friday, April 5, 2019
At Black & Veatch – Overland Park, KS

90+ Attended
Student Poster Winners

(Left to right) KCGI Board Member Scott Anderson, Md Zahidul Karim, KSU, 3\textsuperscript{rd} place
Tanya M. Walkenbach, KU, 2\textsuperscript{nd} place
S. Mustapha Rahmaninezhad, KU, 1\textsuperscript{st} place

Speakers

IN-SITU GONE OVERBOARD AND OTHER INNOVATIONS

Roger A. Failmezger, P.E., F. ASCE, D. GE
Geo-Kansas City Annual Meeting
April 5, 2019
Speakers

Rex Buchanan

Recent Seismicity in Kansas: Events and Responses
Rex Buchanan
Director Emeritus
Kansas Geological Survey
University of Kansas

Timothy D Stark

Modified SPT Based Drilled Shaft Design for Weak Rocks
Timothy D. Stark & James H. Long - U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Moustafa Bahloul - Leegan Engineering
Mohammed Ouni - Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

Kansas City Geotechnical Conference 2019
Overland Park, Kansas
April 8, 2019
Speakers

Paul W Mayne

Paul Axtell
Speakers

Jeramiah Jackson

Real Time Monitoring, the Observation Method and Geotechnical Construction

ASCE Kansas City Section

Jeffrey Hill, PE

April 4, 2013
Speakers

Matthew Miller

Gold Sponsors

Ground Improvement Engineering

PTM

Leading. By Design.

Silver Sponsors

Subsurface Constructors Incorporated

AOG

Braun Intertec

DFI