

# Civil Engineer<sup>KANSAS CITY</sup> THE NEWSLETTER

May 2020

## CHECK OUT THE NEW ASCE YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_aovGv4hqW6wbx2JBbFi1Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_aovGv4hqW6wbx2JBbFi1Q)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

May

14<sup>th</sup>—ASCE YMG  
Election Meeting

28<sup>th</sup>—ASCE Election  
Meeting

## From the President



We're all working under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic and no one knows when things will return to normal. In the meantime, ASCE and its members continue to advance Civil Engineering and support the public good.

The Section has transitioned from in person meetings to conference calls and virtual meetings. Our March joint luncheon with APWA was presented on

Microsoft Teams about ongoing Johnson County Wastewater's Indian Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements. Our April meeting with ASCE Society President-elect Jean Louis Briaud was held online with over 60 'attendees'. In May, the Younger Member's Group will hold a virtual happy hour meeting and later that month, the Section is holding elections online. If you'd like to find out about these and other events, follow the Section on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn) and be sure to update your email's spam settings to receive announcements and newsletters.

Treatment plants are still being built, roads are being constructed, storm sewers repaired, and the KCI airport renovation is still underway. All these things support people working remotely, first responders acting selflessly, and businesses delivering goods. Resilient infrastructure is helping us endure this pandemic and will help spur our recovery afterwards. Thank you for all that you do and for being an essential part of the community.

- Ernie

## 2019-2020 ASCE Directors

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## KC ASCE Section Volunteer Opportunities

Open Positions:

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

Please contact Ernie Longoria at [ernie.longoria@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:ernie.longoria@cityofshawnee.org) or Joe Sturgeon, [wsturgeon@hntb.com](mailto:wsturgeon@hntb.com)



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## Free ASCE Webinars

With the recent cancellations of many conference, events, and large gatherings, options to earn PDH credit necessary for licensure are more limited in 2020.

In addition to the free ASCE membership benefit of 10 free PDHs through on-demand webinars, ASCE is also offering several virtual events in May. See the [link](#) for more information!

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## 2020 ASCE Elections

With Next month, the Kansas City Section will hold its annual Board of Directors Elections. We have three nominees for the three open board positions: Katie Handley Stucky, Nehal Patel, and Tom Greer. See the following pages for bios of each candidate.

The three open positions are:

Director II - oversight and coordination of the following committees: Continuing Education, Diversity & Inclusion, and Sustainability.

Director I - oversight and coordination of all technical committees.

Associate Member Director - represents the interests of younger members and students and shall have primary responsibility for oversight and coordination of the Younger Member Group and Student Chapters.

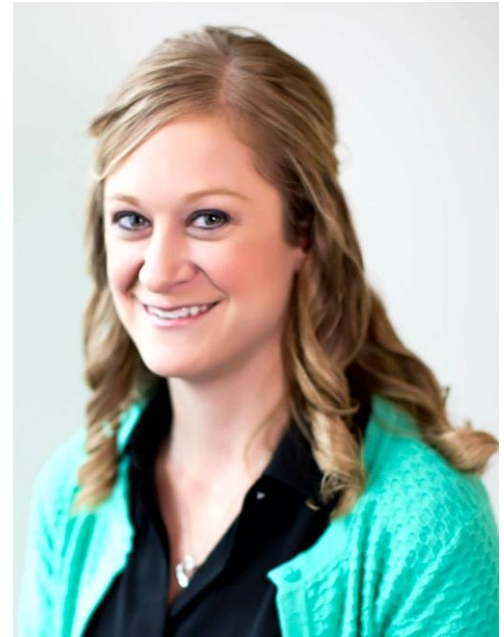
## Katie Handley Stucky

### About Me:

- GBA Senior Water Resources Engineer (2011-Present)
- Kansas State University, MS in Environmental Engineering
- Kansas State University, BS in Biosystems Engineering

### Service to the Profession

- Envision Sustainability Professional
- Certified Floodplain Manager and Member of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and Kansas Association of Floodplain Managers (KAFM)
- ASCE Member (Awards Co-Chair 2019, 2020)
- EWRI Member
- Engineer's Club of Kansas City Member
- Active in discussions on updates to APWA 5600 and the BMP Marc Manual



I've enjoyed my past involvement within ASCE, helping as the Awards Co-Chair, attending events, meeting peers and discussing current issues/topics, and sharing my passion for engineering and sustainability with others. I would love to increase my involvement in the ASCE community and bringing my unique perspective and experience by serving on the Kansas City Section Board.

## Nehal Patel



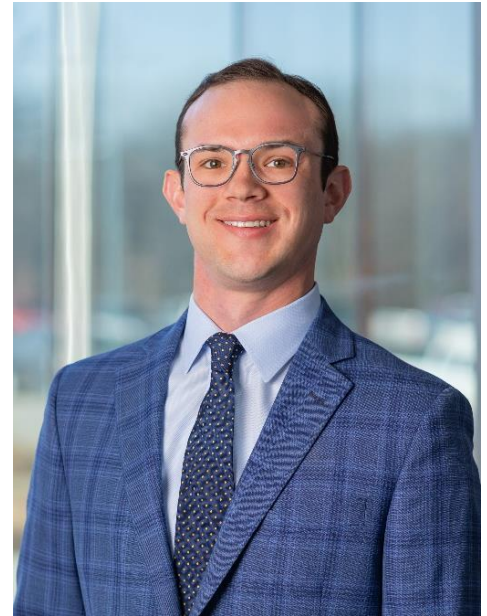
Nehal Patel is a field structural engineer with Simpson Strong-Tie company and is a licensed PE in the states of Missouri and Oklahoma. Nehal is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and started his engineering career in Tulsa, Oklahoma designing structural pipe racks and equipment support structures for Linde Engineering North America where he spent over 9 years in various roles including design engineer, field construction engineer for a project in North Dakota and project engineer over pre-engineered metal buildings. During his time at Linde, Nehal also designed underground storm-water drainage systems as well.

Following his time at Linde and in Tulsa, Nehal took the position with Simpson Strong-Tie and moved to Kansas City, MO with his wife where he quickly fell in love with the city and everything that it has to offer. Nehal has been in the same role for over three years now and is involved in several local organizations including ASCE/SEI and SEAKM along with a few other. Nehal has served on ASCE's YMG Professional Development role in the past and hopes to keep up with ASCE's activities being a board member on the KC Section. Nehal's hobbies include playing soccer on the weekends along with biking and running when the weather permits and spending time with his wife and baby girl who is 10 months old now.

## **Tom Greer**

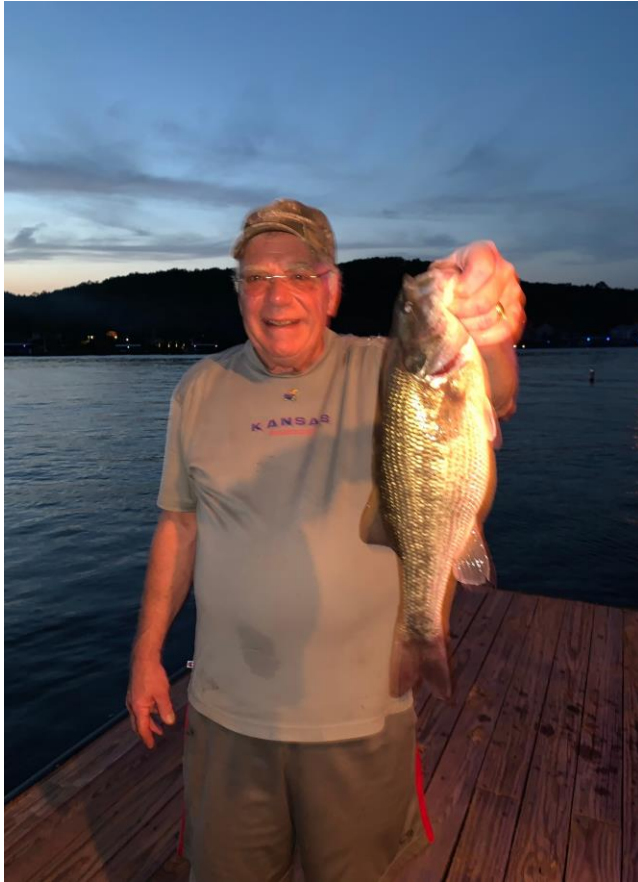
Tom Greer is a Bridge Engineer at Burns & McDonnell where he leads major tasks including development of design, plans, reports, specifications, cost estimation, scheduling, and planning for Transportation Global Practice clients. Tom has experience with all stages of a project from conception through final construction as well as maintenance and operation on both traditional and alternate delivery projects. Tom received his B.S. & M.S. engineering degrees from Kansas State University. In his free time he enjoys the outdoors, fishing, running, reading, live music, volunteer activities, and visiting with family/friends.

Tom has previous experience in the ASCE Kansas City Section since 2013, with consistent service in various roles in the Younger Members Group. He has a strong commitment to the organization. With collaboration of a 19-person officer group during Tom's tenure as YMG President in 2018-2019, the Project Lead the Way Engineering & Architecture Day was introduced, UMKC Mentorship program initiated, Professional Development committee reinvigorated, numerous monthly activities executed and many new energetic faces attracted to the organization. More recently Tom has served on the KC Section Centennial Committee. He also has other Board of Directors experience with the Western Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers. If elected, Tom would bring experienced insight, fresh ideas and community commitment to the board.





## ASCE Kansas City Centennial Interviews



### Terry L. Johnson

**1. Tell me about yourself, what are some interesting things or fun facts about you and your family?**

I love to bass fish and my family immensely enjoys our house at Lake of the Ozarks. That family includes 3 sons and their wives with 10 grandkids who all live (we are blessed) in Johnson County, Kansas where we live.

**2. Where have you worked throughout your career (states/countries), in which states do/did you hold licenses and in what discipline?**

My entire career was spent in Kansas City at Black & Veatch, although I had a few extended stays of a few weeks on project assignments in other locations. I held licenses in Missouri and Ohio in Civil Engineering. I was licensed originally in Missouri in 1975.

**3. In which companies have you spent most of your career and which roles do/did you have (technical, crew lead, management, etc)?**

I was with Black & Veatch for nearly 44 years. I started out on a design crew where I worked primarily in the first year on new sewers, force mains, pumping stations and wastewater treatment plants in Independence, KS. I became focused on wastewater treatment process conceptualization and design for most of my career and retired as a Senior VP, Global Technology Leader for the water business. In that position, I managed over 100 professionals world-wide.

**4. What motivated you to pursue your career?**

I pretty much knew from the time I was in junior high school that I wanted to be an engineer due to my science and math aptitude plus I was raised in the construction industry. Initially, I was most interested in structures, but morphed into environmental work during my early working years.

**5. What is the most memorable job you have worked on?**

The most memorable project I worked on, although there were truly many over that many years of professional work, was application of a new technology in Broomfield, CO. Many wastewater treatment plants were faced with implementing nitrogen removal yet were

saddled with facilities that were not suitable for achieving that in the absence of expensive, major reconstruction of their biological treatment facilities. This technology, integrated fixed film activated sludge (IFAS), allowed achievement of efficient removal of nitrogen biologically in existing tankage, and, therefore, saved major capital expenditure to meet the new nitrogen standards. Broomfield was the first US site to institute this technology.

**6. What is your greatest achievement, what are you most proud of in your career?**

My proudest achievement is the success of many younger engineers who professionally matured into prominent roles in the engineering community and who made, and continue to make, contributions to our profession.

**7. How did ASCE impact your career?**

As president of the student chapter of ASCE at Iowa State University, I learned some valuable leadership principles. In that role, I was also introduced to Black & Veatch where I spent my entire career. Early in my professional career, local ASCE meetings provided opportunities for networking with other professionals and provided camaraderie with my fellow professionals.

**8. How do you give back to the community?**

My community service centered primarily on local planning and zoning. I was on a township zoning board for 17 years and served as its chairman for several years. I was also on the Overland Park Planning Commission for 3 years.

**9. What lasting impression did/do you want to have?**

My mentoring skills as they contributed to the success of others in Civil Engineering and in management.

**10. What advice do you have for new professionals in the Civil Engineering industry?**

Stay focused on your tasks at hand and think outside the box. It's too easy to apply "formulas" to resolve challenges. Instead, use your incredibly sharp minds to innovate.

**11. What advice do you have for policy makers regarding our infrastructure?**

Relative to environmental issues, policies need to be developed on sound scientific principles rather than the Al Gore-type environmental sensationalism. The big issue today seems to be global warming, or more politically correct – climate change. Of course the climate is changing and always has. Had it not, we'd still be in the ice age. View potential climate change solutions in light of the overall, life-cycle climate impacts. Our superficial zeal for things like wind power are based on what appears to be environmentally friendly in the absence of evaluating the overall environmental impacts of developing that wind power. In this example, a wind turbine can never recover, over its lifetime, the power it took and the production of global warming emissions for its implementation, but no one ever looks at that carefully.

## GPR Committee Update

We started off strong by attending the MSPE Capitol Day on February 11 in Jefferson City. ASCE members will joined the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), and the Missourians for Transportation Investment to advocate for issues at the 2020 Capitol Day. We started with briefings at the MSPE office then attendants as a group met with Senator Hegeman (appropriations Chairmen); Governor's Office; House Speaker Haahr and Senator Libla (champion for increasing the gas tax). Several attendees also met with their Senators and Representatives.



From left to right - Bayley Brooks and Danny Hotson (UMKC Student Chapter), Dennis Boll and Greg Hempen (St. Louis Section)





Thomas Hart Benton mural room next to the office of Elijah Haahr, Speaker of the House



Senate Chambers



Unfortunately, the 2020 Legislative Fly-In that was to take place March 11-12 in Washington, D.C. was cancelled at the last minute due to the Congressmen cancelling appointments ahead of the looming pandemic. We encourage you to write your Congressman to support funding for Fix America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) and Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Transportation needs a sustainable solution and WRDA needs reauthorization of this successful program. More information can be found at:

[https://www.asce.org/issues\\_and\\_advocacy/](https://www.asce.org/issues_and_advocacy/)

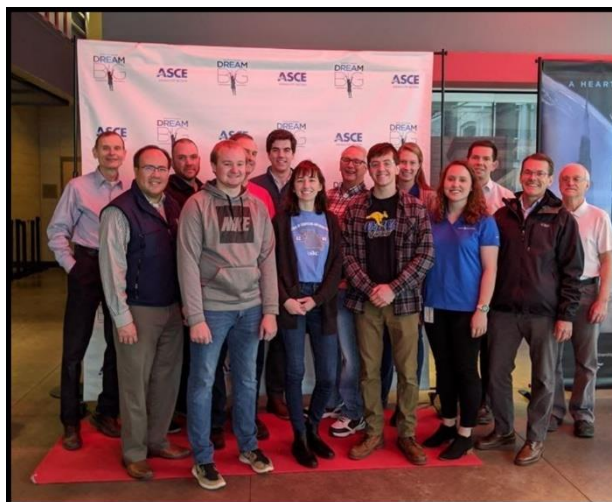
We attended the KSPE Statehouse Visit and annual luncheon on February 24. The restart of KDOT's 10-year transportation plan looks like it's unopposed. There are a number of licensure bills introduced, one by ALEC and Americans for Progress viewed as neutral from KSPE as it puts reciprocity for military spouses on a fast track review from KSBTP. Another bill will exempt PAs and PEs from additional continuing education board review to be a Home Inspector (introduced by Realtors). One bill that was introduced, but has no support, was from the Livestock Association to not require the Water Resources Chief Engineer to be a PE or even have an Engineering degree (pretty important since they oversee levees and dams in the state).

Be a squeaky wheel about infrastructure funding. A great way to get involved is to sign up to be a Key Contact. As a Key Contact you will receive notifications about upcoming legislation as well as pre-drafted emails to make it easy for you to contact your elected officials. Sign up here at <https://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>!

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## ASCE Younger Member Group Update

On January 14, the YMG Officers met at Blade & Timber for some officer team building activities as well as planning for the rest of the semester. We all had the opportunity to throw an axe and had a bunch of fun. Call for Nominations for this coming year 2020-2021 is out and elections are coming up May 14th! Let us know if you're interested!



On January 22nd, we had a lot of volunteers help out and support the Dream Big festivities at Union Station.

On January 24th, the YMG, sponsored by Emery Sapp & Sons hosted our Annual Mavericks Night. We started off at Buffalo Wild Wings, and as is tradition, shared delicious wings then enjoyed the game as a group and got into the chanting!



On February 12th, the YMG, joined by the Missouri Section of the AWWA Young Professionals hosted a brewery tour and happy hour at Stockyards Brewing Co. We had a great turnout and were able to make some new connections.





On February 20th, the YMG got to participate in a "spicy" professional development presentation from Kat, a marketing and presentation coordinator with Burns & McDonnell, about "Top Five Best Practices for Creating Effective Presentations," we had a full house and got to hear updates from our officers.



Upcoming Events:

- 05/14 - ASCE YMG Officer Elections (Virtually) 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM.
- 06/05 - Royals Night 2020 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.
- Summer Intern Welcome Meeting - TBD
- 08/31 - Sporting KC Game & Tailgate 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.