December Branch Meeting

Speaker: David Howell, P.E. – Deputy Executive Director, Texas Board of Professional Engineers

Topic: Texas Board of Professional Engineers – Professional Practice Update / Ethics: Updates on Board rule changes within the last year, general updates on initiatives the Board is working on, information on enforcement statistics, and the engineering Code of Conduct.

Background:

David Howell has been the Deputy Executive Director for the Texas Board of Professional Engineers since November 2013 and served as Director of Licensing prior to that. He has over 25 years of engineering experience working for the State of Texas, twelve of them with the Board. As the Deputy Executive Director, he helps oversee all agency functions including Enforcement and Licensing activities. He is responsible for legislative reporting and implementation, rule development, budget and policy issues, and represents the Board at statewide and national functions. David has been selected to represent the Texas Board on several national taskforces and committees related to engineering licensure, public outreach and exams. He prepares and gives
Licensing and Ethics live and webinar presentations to engineering organizations, universities and other groups.

David has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. Prior to coming to the Board, his work was primarily in the field of environmental engineering.

Cost if Pre-registered by 12/15 at Noon:
• $30 - Member / Guest
• $20 – Gov’t / Life Members / Retirees
• $15 – Students

Cost if Not Pre-registered or Walkup:
• $40 - Member / Guest
• $30 – Gov’t / Life Members / Retirees
• $25 – Students

Meeting Information:
• Date and Time: December 19th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
• Location: Phillips Event Center, 8140 Exchange Drive, Austin, Texas 78754

Meeting Sponsor
By: Tyler Dube, P.E.

Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting, Inc., was founded in 1992 to serve government and industry. Over the last 25 years, we have grown our project portfolio, service lines, and partnerships in a way that allows us to offer the best services and the most knowledgeable and expert staff in the business. Our services include facilities, chemical, civil, water resources, and environmental engineering, as well as industrial hygiene, safety, and health services to institutional, governmental, commercial, and industrial clients. We also provide Historical and Cultural Resources services and staff two archaeologists. Our goal is always to promote sustainability through responsible engineering of the built environment.
Greetings all and Happy December!

With 2017 coming to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Austin Branch members, volunteers, officers, and committee chairs for making ASCE such a special organization to be a part of. Thank you for making this past year a success! I am grateful for the opportunity to be engaged in this organization and profession and will continue to work to advance our profession in 2018. As you think about upcoming New Year’s resolutions, please consider a professional one—becoming more involved with ASCE! It is easy, fun, rewarding and appreciated.

This past month brought great news for the Austin-area engineering and construction community. Results from this election saw many public investment bond packages passed including a $93 million upgrade for transportation and mobility projects. Many of the projects in the bond are being pushed to be completed within five years.

At this month’s Branch meeting, we feature our annual Ethics presentation conducted by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers. We are continuing to collect contributions towards the Capital Area Food Bank so be on the lookout for donation boxes at each table or donate using your credit card at the registration table. Thank you to everyone who contributed last month!

We continue our search for the individual who we will be honored to call the 2018 Civil Engineer of the Year. Nominations are open for a short time and this award will be presented during February’s Texas Society of Professional Engineers’ banquet. Look for nomination forms on our website.

The new year will bring a lot of new opportunities and activities at the Austin Branch including planning for our civil engineering conference in Austin, our student outreach activities, loads of events during Engineers Week in February and many more. Please contact me anytime (512-279-5437, glenn.goldstein@rsandh.com) or another officer or committee member if you like to be more involved in any of these activities. Share your talents and give back to the profession and community.

Have an excellent holiday season and a happy new year!

Glenn
Corporate Sponsorship
By: Tyler Dube, P.E.

The ASCE Austin Branch is seeking corporate sponsorships for our the 2018 calendar year. We are offering discounted rates for the remainder of the calendar year! Sponsor the branch for just $150 for the remainder of 2017 or $450 for the remainder of 2017 and all of 2018. Your generous support will allow us to continue to serve the engineering community of Central Texas and provide for a multitude of our programs and outreach initiatives. Please contact Tyler Dube at (512) 454-8711 or tdube@pape-dawson.com, visit our webpage, or click on the following link.

http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=h9o54mhab&oeidk=a07ee8oieys9fd7d280

YMF News & Events
By: Coby Gee, P.E.

ASCE Younger Member Forum (YMF) welcomes another great year and we are excited to serve the Austin YMF community. Keep an eye out for upcoming events this fall. Check us out at our website https://www.austinasce.org/younger-members/.

The Holiday Season is in the Air!
Please join YMF as we end 2017 with a Happy Hour and Trail of Lights tour! We will meet at Uncle Billy's for eats and drinks, then walk together through the Trail of Lights! This will be an ugly sweater event and the ugliest sweater will get a Holiday surprise!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asce-ymf-trail-of-lightsugly-sweater-party-tickets-40146969667
Spring 2018 PE Review Course
Calling all aspiring PEs! ASCE YMF is again offering a low-cost PE Review Course for Spring 2018. Registration includes unlimited access to ASCE webinars as well as problem solving workshops hosted by industry experts. See our website Contact Derek Stout for more information or to register: 512-202-4923 or dstout@terradyne.com.

Registration Fee: $500 for ASCE Members, $600 for non-ASCE Members
Registration Deadline: February 5th, 2018
Event Link: https://www.austinasc.org/younger-members-pe-review-course

ASCE YMF ATX
Friend us in order to interact with other young engineers, be kept up to date on current civil engineering issues and be notified of future YMF events. Find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ASCE.YMF.ATX

Interested in Joining ASCE YMF?
Interested in learning more about ASCE YMF and how to get involved? ASCE YMF welcomes and encourages young engineers to become actively involved in their local branch chapter. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the purpose of YMF, the group's goal is to direct ASCE's mission for engineers age 35 and younger. YMF Austin offers opportunities to network with peers, learn more about the profession, provide leadership experience, and encourage the full professional development of Younger Members. For more information contact our director Austin Helton, at Austin.helton@kimley-horn.com or our president Coby Gee, at Coby.Gee@freese.com.
Austin EWRI sponsored a rain garden project at Metz Elementary School this fall. Roughly 80 volunteers came out over 3 weekends in late October through early November to complete two rain gardens. Volunteers included folks from UT ASCE, Austin EWRI, Austin Youth River Watch, Metz Elementary, Austin Permaculture Guild, and Keep Austin Beautiful. The University of Texas Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering partnered with the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department to design the rain gardens. The projects received funding from the City of Austin Green Future School Grant.

Thanks to all who invested time and effort into planning and building these beautiful rain gardens! EWRI is already looking for the next rain garden project to support. Please consider coming out to volunteer at the next rain garden event. Please contact bmartin@bgeinc.com if you are interested in volunteering.

Last year Austin EWRI held our 12th Annual Continuing Education Workshop with over 160 attendees, hosted three rain garden build events, awarded $3,000 through our scholarship program, held quarterly happy hour events, and supported the National EWRI and Austin branch ASCE organizations.

Austin EWRI has met several times to plan 2018 activities and advanced outreach efforts. This coming year we are striving to increase our membership by reaching out to all professions/industries that have an interest in environmental and water resource practices. Our current membership is primarily engineers. Other members may include, but are not limited to, environmental scientist, hydrologists, geologists, landscape planners and architects, code enforcement, emergency management, etc. Continuing with this goal in mind, planning for next year’s annual continuing education workshop is underway. If you would like to get involved on the planning committee, please contact Kim Patak at kkp@freese.com.
Greetings from the SEI Austin Chapter! We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving, and we wish you and yours a very safe and blessed holiday season as we approach the end of the year. As we work to develop an exciting 2018 program, we are pleased to announce that we’ll be kicking off the new year with an exciting January Professional Meeting. We’ll be hearing from a cutting-edge engineering consulting firm specialized in high-rise building design and property loss consulting. More details to follow in next month's newsletter, so please stay tuned!

Structural Engineering Talks (SET) 2018
We are also excited to announce that we’ve begun planning activities with SEAoT for Structural Engineering Talks (SET) 2018. This will be our fourth year of SET, and every year it gets bigger and better. The continued success of this unique event can be attributed largely to our generous sponsors; support for which we are most grateful. If you’ve attended one of our past SET events and ever thought about sponsorship or wondered what all it entailed, we encourage you to get in touch to learn more. We would be delighted to have your support!

Stay Connected With SEI
As always, you can stay plugged into the SEI Austin Chapter via our NEW website https://www.austinasce.org/sei/, where you’ll find the latest and greatest on upcoming events and chapter leadership. We always welcome your thoughts on future technical and other special events. If there’s something you’d like to do, then we’d like to hear about it. Please drop us a line at sei.austin.tx@gmail.com.

2018 ASCE Forensic Engineering 8th Congress
8th Forensic Engineering Congress, Austin, TX | Call for Abstracts – The 8th Forensic Engineering Congress organized by the http://www.asce.org/forensic-engineering/forensic-engineering/ of ASCE is scheduled for November 29th to December 2nd, 2018 in Austin, TX. The call for abstracts and session proposals can be found https://www.conferenceabstracts.com/cfp2/login.asp?EventKey=ZBATOJGV and the technical program of the last congress can be found at http://www.forensiccongress.org/uploadedFiles/Forensic_Congress/Content_Pieces/technical-program-grid-forensic2015.pdf. The deadline to submit abstracts or session proposals January 11th, 2018.
The Texas Section is offering a webinar on December 12th at noon. This webinar is structured as a joint presentation with the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) and the Texas Section of ASCE to show members the tools and resources available to them for outreach. With information provided during the presentation, members will have the tools they need to be successful during Engineers Week in February. This webinar will be free. For additional information, go to the Texas Section website or contact Mike Sosa at msosa@texasce.org or 512-472-8905.

Key Texas Section Event Dates for 2018:

| January 2018 | Executive Committee Meeting - Austin, TX (January 19) |
| April 2018   | Student Symposium - Texas A&M University, College Station (April 11 - 14) |
|             | Board Planning - Mike Sosa (512) 910-2202 or msosa@texasce.org |
|             | Meeting Arrangements - Robert A. Appleton P.E.(979) 458-8217 or bob_appleton@tamu.edu |
|             | Competitions Coordination - Cynthia A. Syvarth PE or (512) 687-2185 |
|             | texmexjudge@gmail.com |
| June/July 2018 | Leadership Development Weekend - Location & Date TBD |
| September   | Executive Committee Meeting - Location & Date TBD |
|             | CECON 2018 - San Marcos, TX (September 18 - 21) |
|             | Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center |
|             | Conference Planning Committee Chairs: |
|             | Co-Chair - Kara J. Heasley PE (210) 850 – 1557 kheasley@jonescarter.com |
|             | Co-Chair - Melanie Gavlik PE (361) 814 – 9900 mgavlik@hanson-inc.com |

Key Texas Section Event Dates for 2019

| April   | Student Symposium - University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley (Date TBD) |
|         | South Padre Island, TX |

Key Society/Region 6 Events:

| January 2018 | ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference & Workshop for Section/Branch Leaders - Omaha, NE (January 26 - 27) |
| March 2018   | ASCE Construction Institute CI Summit - Fort Worth, TX (March 1 - 3) |
|             | 18th Annual Leadership Training in Government Relations (Legislative Fly-In) - Washington, DC (Date TBD) |
| April 2018   | ASCE Structures Congress - Fort Worth, TX (April 18 - 21) |
| January 2019 | ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference & Workshop for Section/Branch Leaders - Dallas, TX (Date TBD) |

Key National Events for 2018:

| February | Engineer’s Week (February 18 - 24) |
| May      | Infrastructure Week (May 14 – 18) |

If you have any questions or concerns you want relayed to the Texas Section, please let me help you. I may be contacted at david.matocha@forterrabp.com or 512-914-0674.
UT Mentorship for Spring 2018
By: Paul Hahn, P.E.

The Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering is recruiting volunteers from the ASCE Austin Branch to serve as mentors for seniors in the civil engineering program. Serving as a mentor is an excellent opportunity to assist with public service projects in our community, identify potential new hires for your company, get your company name out in the local community, and earn three professional development hours (PDHs) for licensure.

Students are organized into teams to work on real-world projects for real-world clients. Two mentors will be assigned to each team to support students in developing a sound technical approach, preparing an oral presentation for a stakeholder meeting, and delivering a brief written report to their client. While mentors are certainly asked to provide technical advice as the project develops, a very important component of this course is to expose students to the non-technical aspects of our work as we collaborate with team members, clients, and stakeholder communities.

Working with the mentors has been an extremely valuable experience for our students, and several are currently employed by their former mentors. Mentors of all experience levels and backgrounds are welcome! An orientation session will be held on campus in January (location and date TBD). Mentors will learn about their responsibilities and can select the project they would like to contribute to at the orientation session. Mentors will be asked to attend three classes during the semester (typically held on campus from 3:00-5:00 pm on Wednesdays, specific dates TBD).

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, or would like to learn more, please contact Paul Hahn at paul.hahn@aguirre-fields.com. Thank you Fall 2017 mentors for all the hard work and dedication; and a special thank you to Aguirre & Fields for providing the most mentors this past semester!

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Community Outreach

By: Linda Barlow, P.E. & Sharon Hamilton, P.E.

Central Texas Food Bank - Fund Drive

Members, as the holiday season approaches, we have a tradition of raising funds for the Central Texas Food Bank. This organization has been at the front line of hunger relief with the help of Partner Agencies in 21 counties across Central Texas, where they provided more than 38 million pounds of food to families in need during fiscal year 2015-16. For every $1 that is donated, the food bank is able to provide 4 meals to families in need in our area.

In November and December, you will see the donation boxes on the tables during our luncheons for the Central Texas Food Bank. Austin ASCE will match every dollar donated up to $200! We hope that you will help us reach our donation goals to the food bank this year.

Science Thursday @ The Bullock Museum – We Need Volunteers!

The Branch has once again committed to volunteering at The Bullock Museum for Science Thursdays! Please consider volunteering on Thursday, December 14th from 10:00am to 1:30 pm. Exciting activities include: Hair-Raising Experience with a Van de Graaff Generator, Boat Race, Don't Sink the Cargo!, Puff Mobile, and Float your Boat.

On Science Thursdays, students can drop in and explore the Bullock Museum, see demonstrations, and participate in hands-on activities with STEM experts from Central Texas Discover Engineering. Science Thursdays are FREE for all groups who have pre-registered for a Bullock Museum field trip. Please email Linda Barlow at lbarlow@hvj.com to volunteer.

Dream Big @ The Bullock Museum

Plan on seeing the movie “Dream Big” at The Bullock Museum now until March 31st, 2018. Narrated by Academy Award® winner Jeff Bridges, Dream Big: Engineering Our World is a first of its kind film for IMAX® and giant screen theatres that will transform how we think about engineering. From the Great Wall of China and the world’s tallest buildings, to underwater robots, solar cars and smart, sustainable cities, Dream Big celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels big and small, and reveals the heart that drives engineers to create better lives for people around the world.
Branch Engineer of the Year

By: Joe Goessling, P.E.

Do you know an ASCE Austin Branch member who has brought significant value and had a major impact on you or on others in our industry? If you do, please nominate them for the ASCE Austin Branch Civil Engineer of the Year award!

This award has been an Austin ASCE Branch tradition since fall of 1999 when the Austin ASCE Branch Board of Directors established the Branch Civil Engineer of the Year Award. This award is to be presented to a Branch Member who has distinguished themselves in the fields of service to the Civil Engineering profession, awards received, education, service to the Branch, service to the community, service to the student ASCE Chapter, etc. The award is presented during TSPE's Engineers Week Banquet in February 2018. Nomination forms will be available at the November and December branch meetings and also on our website at https://www.austinasce.org/announcements/2017/11/9/2017-asce-engineer-of-the-year-applications. You can also contact Joe Goessling at jgoessling@kfriese.com for an application packet and if you have any questions. This year the nomination submittal package is due by December 16th, 2017!

ASCE OPAL Award

By: Joe Goessling, P.E.

The ASCE Outstanding Projects And Leaders (OPAL) Awards honors a civil engineer’s entire lifetime of leadership and accomplishment. Sharon L. Wood, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, NAE, Dean, School of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin won the award for professors and deans whose careers are marked by achievements that direct or change the course of engineering education. Dr. Wood was one of four award recipients in different categories.

Dr. Wood is has been the Dean of the School of Engineering since 2014, prior she served as the chair of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. Her research focuses on the earthquake response of reinforced concrete structures.

Government Employee Grant Program

By: Kacey Paul, P.E., CFM

The Austin Branch encourages local Civil Engineers who are employed by government agencies to be active members of ASCE. The grant program will award up to two recipients reimbursement for a full year’s National and Local ASCE dues. Details can be found at the link below. For an application and/or questions concerning the grant program, please contact Kacey Paul at Kacey.Paul@austintexas.gov or (512) 974-1170. https://www.austinasce.org/announcements/2017/11/8/2018-government-employee-grant-program
Scholarship Committee
By: Genest Landry, P.E., PMP

Every year, Austin ASCE awards scholarships to deserving local civil, architectural, or environmental engineering college students. The Scholarship Committee is currently recruiting new members to help select the recipients for the fall of 2017 and to help update Austin ASCE’s scholarship application for the spring of 2018. For more information, contact Genest Landry at genest.landry@austintexas.gov.

Calendar of Events
By: Various

- December 14th, 2017 – Science Thursday @ The Bullock Museum
- December 16th, 2017 – Deadline for Engineer of the Year Nominations
- December 18th, 2017 – YMF Ugly Sweater Party @ Trail of Lights\Uncle Billy’s
- December 19th, 2017 – Branch Meeting @ Phillips Event Center
- January 16th, 2017 – Branch Meeting @ Phillips Event Center
- January 21st, 2018 – Deadline for Government Employee Grant Applications
- February 5th, 2018 – Deadline to Register for Spring 2018 PE Review Course
- April 27th, 2018 – YMF Golf Tournament @ Avery Ranch Golf Club

List of Branch Sponsors
By: Tyler Dube, P.E.

Thank You To Our Branch Sponsors!