President’s Message by Travis Isaacson, P.E.

Welcome back to the start of another exciting year with the Austin Branch of ASCE!

I am honored to serve as your Branch President for 2019/2020 and I’m excited to see what we can achieve as an organization in the coming year. I would like to congratulate my fellow board members and committee chairs and thank them for volunteering to give their time to our Branch. Their hard work and dedication are the fuel that drives the many great programs, events and opportunities for our members. I would also like to thank our outgoing President, Kacey Paul, for her leadership and commitment last year. She did an amazing job leading our board and steering our Branch in a positive direction.

My #1 goal for our Branch this year is to increase involvement and make ASCE Austin the top choice professional organization for Civil Engineers in Central Texas to volunteer in their community, network with their peers, and get their continuing education. I need your help to achieve that goal, and I challenge each one of you to get more involved and attend at least one extracurricular event this year outside of the monthly luncheon.

We have a number of exciting programs and events that are already taking shape, and I encourage you to explore all the ways we aim to provide value to our members: including monthly luncheons, community outreach events, networking events, golf tournaments, continuing education seminars, younger member events, technical institute meetings and more! Check out our calendar for details on all of our upcoming events.

Coming up in November we have the Engineering Blitz – Nov 13th & 14th at Kealing Middle School in Austin. This is a fantastic opportunity to get out of the office and inspire the next generation of engineers.

There are so many ways to get plugged in with our Branch, and we are always looking for more help on our various committees. If you are interested in getting involved, or even if you just have questions about our programs and events, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. You can easily get in touch with me at (512) 203-8767 or tisaacson@rios-group.com.

Please follow up on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram for event recaps, upcoming events, relevant news, and updates.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming luncheon on October 15th where we will hear from the City of Austin’s City Manager, Spencer Cronk.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Austin Branch President!

Travis
Speaker Bio

Spencer Cronk  
City Manager  
City of Austin

Before joining the City of Austin, Spencer Cronk was Minneapolis City Coordinator (City Administrator). He directed the management of Minneapolis city government by assisting the Mayor and City Council in defining City policy and establishing priorities, mobilizing department heads and staff to implement the Mayor and Council’s priorities, and working to strengthen the management and administrative systems of the City.

Mr. Cronk previously served as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration. Before joining the State of Minnesota, Mr. Cronk served as executive director of organizational development and senior advisor for the Department of Small Business Services for the City of New York, under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Mr. Cronk received his bachelor’s degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a graduate of Harvard University’s Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program and was a Public Affairs Fellow with the Coro New York Leadership Center.

October Branch Meeting by Sam Shorter, P.E.

ASCE Austin Branch is proud to host Spencer Cronk, City Manager of Austin, as this month’s luncheon speaker.

Date: 10/15/2019 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Location: Phillips Event Center, 8140 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX, 78754  
Topic: City Manager’s Update

Register here.

October Branch Meeting Sponsor by Augustine Verrengia, P.E.

Forterra Pipe & Precast is one of the largest manufacturers of concrete products in North America with Texas facilities in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Robstown, Lubbock, Waco and Grand Prairie. Forterra Pipe & Precast is your single source for everything from storm drainage / retention structures and gravity pipe to precast bridges, storm water BMPs, manholes and inlets. Additionally, Forterra is a long-time proud supporter of ASCE in general and the Austin Branch in particular. Forterra is a member of the Texas Concrete Pipe Association, which is a major sponsor of the annual ASCE Texas Section Civil Engineering Conference.

In an era of “we are just as good as concrete pipe” pipe companies, Forterra can point to its proven performance of serving the Austin area for well over a half a century under past names such as Hanson and Gifford-Hill. Why risk your professional reputation by specifying anything other than concrete pipe?

Our ability to provide the best in construction products, smart engineering advice and complete support means you can expect the highest standards whenever you see the Forterra Pipe & Precast name. Forterra Pipe & Precast – your source for permanent, long term solutions. For more information contact: David Matocha (technical) 512-914-0674 or Paul Thorburn (sales) 512-913-2946.

2020 ASCE Membership Renewal by Curtis Nunley, CAE

We don't want you to miss out on the many benefits and services that you've received all year long, that is why we are providing you with three easy ways to renew: by mail, by phone, or online.

Continue to be part of the 150,000+ members who benefit from access to:

- AccessEngineering, a vast reference hub featuring online calculators, tutorial videos, handbooks, guides, and other content.
2020 ASCE Membership Renewal Cont’d…

- 10 FREE PDHs per year for successfully completing on-demand webinars.
- Career resources:
  - Salary benchmarking tools
  - Career by Design
  - iLead

Everyone that renews by December 13, 2019 will be eligible for our grand prize drawing for a $1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card.*

Renew Your ASCE Membership Today »

This year we're giving you the ability to enable auto renew on your ASCE account when you go through the renewal process.

If you'd prefer to renew by phone, ASCE's Customer Service is available at (800) 548-2723 (ASCE) or +1 (703) 295-6300 (International) between 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., E.T., Monday – Friday to assist you through the process. Or you can simply mail your completed renewal package back to us at Membership Department, P.O. Box 79084, Baltimore, MD 21279.

Thank you in advance for renewing your 2020 membership, we look forward to another great year.

*Read the contest information and rules. *Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal.

SEI Update by Eric L. Sammarco, PhD, P.E.

Greetings from the SEI Austin Chapter! We hope everyone is having a great start to the fall season despite the record high temperatures in September. Thanks to everyone who made it out to our September Professional Meeting, where we heard from Ms. Stephanie Tsen, PE (President of Tsen Engineering) about honeycombing in concrete. Her presentation explored the occurrence of honeycombing in structural concrete members and how to determine if it is a structural or cosmetic defect. The references back to the ACI/ICRI Concrete Repair Manual were particularly interesting. A special thanks to Ms. Tsen for making time to join us!

Please stay tuned for future SEI-Austin events coming up this fall. We will be hosting additional Professional Meetings, and a fall site tour is likely in the works as well.

As always, you can stay plugged into the SEI Austin Chapter via our website, 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@austinasce.org.

Central Texas Discover Engineering (CTDE) Update
by Linda Barlow, P.E.

Linda Barlow provides ASCE representation on the CTDE Steering Committee to coordinate our ASCE engineering outreach activities/events with other activities/events in Central Texas. Central Texas Discover Engineering’s mission is to excite Central Texas K-12 students to pursue careers in math, science and engineering through in-class, hands-on engineering activities and collaborative, volunteer-driven initiatives of the engineering and education communities. CTDE has partnered with several organizations to create Texas STEM Connections, a web-based tool that makes it easy for STEM professionals to connect with K-
Volunteering Cont’d...
20 educators, classrooms, out of school time programs, and other volunteer opportunities. CTDE sends out a newsletter that summarizes various volunteer opportunities, which I will be including in ASCE’s monthly newsletters. Based on their first newsletter for the school year, the main volunteer opportunity is the Science Thursdays at the Bullock Texas State History Museum: October 17, November 21, December 19, January 16, February 20, March 12, April 16, and May 21. ASCE will be taking the lead for volunteer recruitment for the March 12 event, so mark your calendars!

ASCE Job Board

Attention ASCE Austin Branch sponsors! Did you know the ASCE Austin branch has a JOB BOARD? If you’re looking to add new talent to your team, consider advertising on our website. Public entities (cities, counties, TxDOT, etc) are also invited to post job openings. If you’re interested, please contact Lily Aung.

ASCE Austin Leadership Opportunities

If you’re looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you’re in luck! We’re actively recruiting for multiple open positions for ASCE Austin, EWRI, SEI, and more.

ASCE Austin Branch
Student Chapter Liaison Contact: president@austinasce.org

EWRI
Multiple Open Positions Contact: ewri@austinasce.org

SEI
Multiple Open Positions Contact: sei@austinasce.org

ASCE Texas Section
Board Positions Contact: txassection@austinasce.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 2019 Engineering Blitz
by Tyler Dube, P.E.

2018 Engineering Blitz Volunteers from ASCE’s Austin Branch

The ASCE Austin Branch is committed to providing ~40 engineers for our annual K-12 STEM outreach event at Kealing Middle School. Help us make an impact on Austin’s brightest students with your participation. The activities are easy to learn and are designed to be completed during a 26-min class period. You’ll be back at your desk by 10:00am!

Date: Wed 11/13/2019 and Thurs 11/14/2019
Time: 8:00am-9:30am
Location: Kealing Middle School (1607 Pennsylvania Ave Austin, TX 78702)

Signup for the event here

Complete online background check here

NOTE: the online background check is required to participate, allow a couple of days to process.

Early Bird Special: FREE Monthly Luncheon
The first person to sign up for the event and complete the background check this month and next month will receive a free attendance at a monthly branch luncheon of their choosing! Sign up today.

Event Contact: Tyler Dube (tdube@pape-dawson.com)

Engineering Blitz FAQs

What do I have to do beforehand?
Complete the volunteer background check online. This takes a couple of days to process. Otherwise, no studying or prep is required. Show up on the day of the event.

When do I have to show up?
Same time as you do for work. 8:00am
**What do I have to bring?**
Valid ID.

**What do I wear?**
Wear your “engineering” clothes. That can be a suit and tie, the PPE you wear in the field, or business casual slacks and collared shirt. You decide. Show the students what a real engineer looks like.

**Where do I go?**
Free street parking, head to the main entrance at 1607 Pennsylvania Ave Austin TX 78702. Sign in at the front desk, receive a visitor ID badge and join the group in the library.

**Will there be refreshments?**
YES! Free coffee and pastries will be provided.

**What am I going to be doing in the classroom?**
Volunteers will be assigned 2 per classroom and be given supplies and activity instruction sheets. The activities will be demonstrated to volunteers between 8:00-9:00am and you will be given an opportunity to ask questions and try the activity prior to meeting the students.

The activity is held during the students’ brief morning announcements and home room advisory period (26 min total). At the start of class, you will introduce yourself and tell the students what you do. Divide the students into small groups, pass out supplies, and describe the engineering problem at hand. Give them time to experiment with their designs and compete against one another for tallest/strongest designs. Collect the materials and evaluation form at the end of class, passing out small prizes as the students head to their next class.

**Why should I participate?**
Getting in front of students in their formative years to demonstrate what civil engineering is, the role of an engineer in society, etc. accomplishes our goal of garnering early interest in our field. By showing up, talking a little about yourself and what you do, you represent a tangible example and role model for those interested in STEM subjects. A little early exposure to civil engineering goes a long way in developing the stewards of tomorrow’s built environment.
**Engineering Blitz Cont’d…**

Students competed with plastic and wooden materials to build the tallest tower. Mid-way through the activity, a real life “Change Order” scenario was simulated with different sizes of cups required to be used in their design.

Students experiment with materials to build a sturdy base for their plastic cup tower.
Green Roof Symposium

Green Roof Symposium
November 5, 2019
Austin, TX

Presented By:

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities is hosting a one-day Living Architecture Symposium on November 5 in Austin, TX.

The event will feature industry experts and local policy and research leaders presenting design best practices for the harsh climate of Central Texas, the latest research findings, exceptional projects, and policies on green roofs and walls. You can find the agenda here. The Seminar will also feature a trade show showcasing innovative products, an interactive panel discussion on advancing green roof and wall policy, and a tour of the green roofs at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Engineering Blitz Cont’d...

One group stops to marvel at their completed tower in the ASCE 2018 Engineering Blitz.

Younger Member Forum News by Katherine Smith, EIT

YMF Announcements & Updates
Keep an eye out for more upcoming events this fall. We look forward to meeting you! If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF Austin, please contact our president Marita Moya at marita.moya@halff.com

Upcoming Event 2019 ASCE Younger Member Texas Section Camping Trip

Register now to join us for the 4th Annual Texas Section Younger Member Camping Trip! This year the camping trip will take place October 18 – 20th at Pace Bend Park near Lake Travis in Spicewood, Texas! Register here

Follow us on social media 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.
Highlights of CECON 2019 by Steve Zobal, P.E.

Thank You To Our Branch Sponsors!