



ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

WISCONSIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

November 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014 – 2015

President

Dan Borchardt, P.E.
(715) 384-2133

President-Elect

Peter W. Nilles, P.E.
(414) 336-7940

Vice President/Newsletter Editor

Justin R. Bilskemper, P.E.
(608) 251-4843

Secretary

Ken Mika, P.E.
(414) 416-9619

Treasurer

Julie Hoppe, P.E.
(414) 221-0088 x3123

Past President

Mark Meyers, P.E.
(608) 342-1542

Directors-at-Large

Will Kratt, P.E.
(608) 789-2034

Matt Dahlem
(920) 892-2444

Jesse Jefferson
(715) 891-2078

Jennifer Schaff, P.E.
(920) 751-4200

Fox River Valley Branch Director

Dawn Rossmiller, P.E.
(920) 632-4086

Southwest Branch Director

Richard Stoor, P.E.
(608) 622-8900

Northwest Branch Director

Teresa Davis, P.E.
(715) 836-7277

Southeast Branch Director

Jared Wendt, P.E.
(414) 847-0487

Webmaster

Martin J. Hanson, P.E.

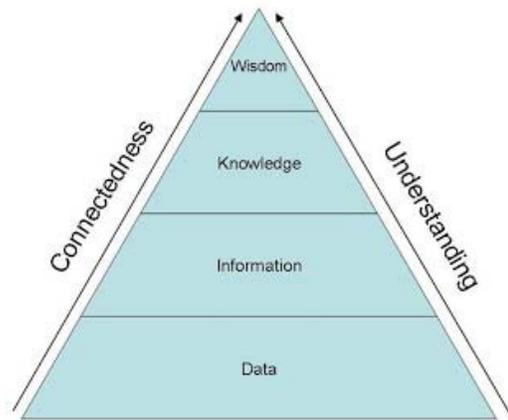
The civil engineering profession is based on relationships. How we are perceived as engineers depends on how strong of a relationship we build with the public, our coworkers and our colleagues. The development of a relationship is determined by three major factors: trust, respect, and the ability to work toward a common vision or goal. Relationships are strengthened by commonalities and life experiences and are one of the fundamental components that makes up our profession. Relationships are a catalyst for knowledge transfer.



How will engineers excel and build the reputation as the experts in the industry? Many of the skills that our profession and individuals need to know in order to be successful and to innovate, collaborate, solve problems, and identify new opportunities - are not learned through schooling, training, or personal experiences. In our knowledge-based work, much of what we need to know we learn from others' experiences, also called vicarious learning. This type of learning occurs when an individual interacts, watches, and hears about or reads about someone else rather than by personally experiencing something.

With the social world we are currently in, and the rate that problems arise, the speed of knowledge transfer becomes ever more important because we do not have the resources or time to recreate the wheel. As a result, we often repeat others' mistakes or waste time searching for specialized information or expertise. While formal text books and schooling might help to communicate established best practices (the what), they often don't explain how civil engineers should apply them to the problems we experience. Think about how much time and resources we utilize when knowledge fails to be transferred. The work of civil engineers is knowledge-based and done by people who are geographically dispersed, and success in this profession requires being able to adapt knowledge to complex, changing environments. Yet our profession's approach to vicarious learning has not kept pace; our ways of learning from others often assumes that work is still watchable and that unobtrusively imitating others is enough.

Knowledge transfer comes from interaction and formation of the whole, enhanced when civil engineers band together. That is exactly what ASCE is promoting with ASCE Collaborate. This program creates an environment for ASCE members to connect, engage, share experiences and best practices, seek and share advice, exchange resources, and build relationships. More details on ASCE Collaborate are to follow in this newsletter. How we communicate as a whole will allow us to reflect on situations, giving us the wisdom to create a sustainable future for our profession and as a society.



ASCE promotes vicarious learning through the following methods:

- 1) **Co-Cctive Vicarious Learning.** People can more effectively learn through collaborative, two-way interactions with others at work. The person learning and the person sharing knowledge work together to construct an understanding of an experience, which better equips the learner to apply it in their own work.
- 2) **Create a Designated Space for Vicarious Learning.** Our environments directly affect how we interact. ASCE believes it important to consider how physical space (or virtual space for geographically-dispersed members) can facilitate vicarious learning. ASCE has been split into sections and branches to help promote local interactions and has created ASCE Collaborate to improve interactions as a whole.
- 3) **Endorse Vicarious Learning.** ASCE is encouraging members to seek and share experiences at social events and younger member group functions.
- 4) **Starter Seeds of Vicarious Learning.** ASCE is the organization that is leading by example. We are proactively sharing experiences with members and creating the time to be politically connected. This process will allow members to discuss challenges and problem solve together. Even one-off efforts, such as a volunteer activities, K-12 Outreach, or "happy hour," can plant the seed for vicarious learning that can then grow into a more consistent practice.

Dan Borchardt, P.E., M.ASCE
ASCE Wisconsin Section President

PAST EVENTS 2015 WISCONSIN SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was held on Friday, September 25, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Madison. The conference was well-attended with over 150 total participants throughout the day. Secretary Stephanie Klett, from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, gave a rousing Welcoming Address to warm up the crowd. Kirk Contrucci from Ayres Associates and State Representative Adam Neylon (Pewaukee) then gave presentations regarding Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and the efforts currently being put forth by state and federal legislature as it relates to the use of UAS in the industry. Wisconsin also welcomed Dr. Vaughan Griffiths, P.E., F.ASCE, from the Colorado School of Mines who discussed his unique view on applying probabilistic methods and risk analysis to civil engineering as opposed to the more common factors of safety. Dr. Molly Gribb, P.E., Dean of the College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science at UW-Platteville, gave an interactive session on sustainability. The results from this session can be found here:

<http://www.ascewi.org/wp-content/uploads/Sustainability-in-Civil-Engineering-Curricula-Summary.pdf>



Keynote Speaker State Representative Adam Neylon (Pewaukee)



Featured Technical Speaker Dr. Vaughan Griffiths

2015 Project Achievement Award Recipients

Category B – Projects with Construction Cost over \$2 Million and under \$10 Million

Strand Associates, Inc. – Terrace Avenue Reconstruction, City of Middleton, WI

Category C – Projects with Construction Cost over \$10 Million and under \$20 Million

W.F. Baird & Associates – Restoration of the Cat Island Chain, Green Bay, WI

Category D – Projects with Construction Cost over \$20 Million

GRAEF – UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Science, Milwaukee, WI

2015 Individual Achievement Award Recipients

2015 Distinguished Service Award - This award recognizes the importance of service to the community and people in general, while attaining a high professional standard of civil engineering conduct, accomplishment, and service.

This year's award recipient is John T. McCarthy, P.E., M.ASCE.

2015 Matthew Thomas Rynish Honorarium - This award is a joint award sponsored by the NW Branch and the Wisconsin Section and is given in memory of Matt Rynish to a member of the NW Branch dedicated to Branch leadership and the Engineering Profession.

This year's award recipient is Kris Roppe, E.I.T, A.M.ASCE.

2015 Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer Award - This award is given to a member of the Section to recognize the individual's professional contributions and accomplishments as a Younger Member.

This year's award recipient is Kyle Bareither, P.E., M.ASCE.

2015 PRESIDENTS AND GOVERNORS FORUM

In September 2015, Peter Nilles attended the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum at ASCE Headquarters in Reston, VA. The forum included representatives of ASCE regions, sections and branches from around the country, and provided many opportunities to network and learn from others. Some of the issues we see in the Wisconsin Section, such as occasional struggles to recruit volunteers for Section activities, are encountered elsewhere. He also learned how ASCE is eager to provide assistance to the Sections, Branches, and Regions. Finally, he took a tour of the Headquarters building and met some of the staff. The picture was taken on the front steps of Headquarters - see if you can find him!



2015 Envision Training Session

The first Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) Envision Rating System Training Workshop was held on October 23, 2015, at the GRAEF office in Milwaukee. This event was co-sponsored by ASCE WI Section and the SE Branch and had 7 attendees. This full-day workshop was meant to equip participants to take the Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP) exam. The workshop presentations, discussions, and group exercises were facilitated by an ISI-approved Envision trainer, Bridget S. Henk, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP BD+C of the SE Branch.

Participants learned how to use the Envision rating system to aid in sustainable infrastructure planning and design. Participants also received access to the presentation slides, online training course, Envision guidance manual, references to additional resources, and links to social media venues for continued involvement in the Envision professional community.

The next training session is scheduled for September 2016. Please contact Bridget Henk at Bridget.Henk@graef-usa.com with any questions.



ASCE COLLABORATE

This past year, ASCE National has been rolling out a new communications tool called ASCE Collaborate, which is meant to replace eRooms. ASCE Collaborate combines the instant, active response features of e-mail with discussion forums. You can participate in discussion threads or start new conversations. You may receive real time, daily digests, or you may turn this feature off. You decide by customizing your settings. There are many added bonuses such as the ability to share large files without cluttering your inbox and instant access to your ASCE contacts and colleagues.

Here's how to get started!

1. Login at <http://collaborate.asce.org>, using your ASCE username and password by clicking on the 'Sign in' button located on the upper right of the page. You may look up your username and password at: <https://secure.asce.org/ascewebsite/Secure/SignIn/SignIn.aspx>. NOTE: You must be an ASCE member to login to the site.

2. **Complete our profile** (on the upper right-hand corner of the page). Your colleagues will want to know a little bit about you. Share something new about yourself and upload your photo. (TIP: If you have a LinkedIn® account, feel free to upload your info from LinkedIn®.)
3. **Post a new message.** Have a question or an issue to discuss? Your colleagues may have the answer! Go to the Communities tab at the top of the page and select My Communities in the drop down menu. From here, you can view the communities that you belong to. Select a community and check out the Discussion tab. You can begin to engage with colleagues by clicking on 'Post New Message' on the right-hand sidebar.

(TIP: Some companies have very strict firewalls that may interfere with your ability to receive messages. Please be sure to ask your IT department to "white list" <http://collaborate.asce.org>.)
4. **Engage in a discussion.** To reply to your ASCE Colleagues, simply click on the discussion under the Thread Subject and click 'Reply to Discussion' on the right hand sidebar.
5. **Share.** If you find something useful on ASCE Collaborate, we hope you will share something of your own! You might even ask colleagues for feedback on your shared resource. To share a document, go to Libraries, then Add a New Entry.

We are excited to utilize this member collaboration tool by providing ASCE members an environment to connect, engage and share experiences, best practices, seek and share advice, exchange resources and build relationships. We look forward to seeing **ASCE COLLABORATE** thrive!



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Are you looking to get involved in ASCE? How about joining an existing Wisconsin Section committee? There are plenty to choose from! In fact, we have one committee currently without any members, and need some new energy. If you are interested in revitalizing the Public Relations Committee, we could use your help!

As written in the Wisconsin Section Administrative Manual, the Public Relations Committee's charge is: "The Committee shall promote and advance the general public image of the civil engineering profession and the American Society of Civil Engineers by providing and arranging for dissemination of information about the Section and its members in technical and non-technical publications, newspapers, radio, and television."

More information on these and other Wisconsin Section committees, see the Administrative Manual on the Wisconsin Section website, at <http://www.ascewi.org/administrative-manual/>.

Please contact Justin Bilskemper at Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com if you are interested in increasing your committee involvement.



UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

2016 Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards

Individual civil engineering student achievement within the State of Wisconsin is recognized annually by awarding the "Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards." This cash award is offered to senior students currently enrolled at the following Universities or Schools:

1. Marquette University
2. University of Wisconsin - Madison
3. University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
4. University of Wisconsin - Platteville
5. Milwaukee School of Engineering

Basis for the awards shall be “for individual achievement/service that demonstrates excellence in engineering academic achievement and service to the profession.” Nominations are submitted by the Student Chapter Faculty Advisor and are due by February 14. The awards will be presented at the 2016 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference, held on Thursday, March 24, at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay.

Daniel W. Mead Prize for Younger Members

Younger members – please consider submitting an entry for the Daniel W. Mead Prize. This is a good chance to express your opinion on select topics commonly encountered in the civil engineering profession. This year’s topic addresses engineering design standards while working in a foreign location in regards to ethical obligation to provide a safe solution. The prize is awarded by ASCE at the national level, and submittals are due to ASCE by February 1. However, the process begins with submitting an entry locally, which needs to be endorsed by the Branch or Section President. The Section needs submittals by January 1, to meet the ASCE submittal deadline of February 1. Detailed submittal information is available on the ASCE website:

<http://www.asce.org/templates/award-detail.aspx?id=1487>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FIVE FREE PDHS!?!

Are you looking for some professional development opportunities to bolster your technical skills? Do you need continuing education credits? Have you taken advantage of your FIVE FREE PDHs for 2015?? Check out the programs being offered by ASCE’s Continuing Education Department. For more information, please see the ASCE website at http://www.asce.org/continuing_education/. The deadline for the free on-demand webinars is December 31, 2015.

FALL/WINTER SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

ASCE National Geographic Services is proud to announce the Continuing Education schedule of seminars and workshops for fall/winter scheduled in your geographic area. These seminars and workshops have been produced by ASCE’s Continuing Education Department with your members in mind.

Program	Dates	City/State
Earthquake-Induced Ground Motions	December 3-4, 2015	Chicago, IL
Project Management	February 25-26, 2016	Chicago, IL
Civil Engineering: Best Practices for Well Site Environmental Protection – NEW	March 10-11, 2016	Cincinnati, OH
Seismic Design of Highway Bridges	March 21-22, 2016	Chicago, IL



CALENDAR OF SECTION EVENTS

The calendar is simply a guide and may change throughout the year:

JANUARY

- ❖ January 1 - Nominations for the Daniel W. Mead Prize due from the Branches to the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors
- ❖ January 14 - Wisconsin Section Board Meeting
- ❖ January 15-16 - Regions 3, 6, & 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conferences, Chicago, IL

FEBRUARY

- ❖ February 14 - Nominations due for Outstanding Senior Civil Engineering Student (OSCES) awards

MARCH

- ❖ March 15-16 - Legislative Fly-In, Washington, DC
- ❖ March 23 - Wisconsin Section Board Meeting
- ❖ March 24 - Spring Technical Conference, Tundra Lodge, Green Bay, WI

APRIL

- ❖ April 15 - PE and SE Vertical Exams
- ❖ April 16 - SE Lateral Exam

MAY

- ❖ Wisconsin Section Board Meeting

JUNE

- ❖ June 1 - Nominations due for Individual Merit and Engineering Achievement Awards to the Wisconsin Section Secretary

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY REQUEST

If you have Involvement Opportunities (example - community service event or organization) for Wisconsin Section members that you would like featured in the Wisconsin Section Newsletter, e-mail Justin Bilskemper at Justin.Bilskemper@strand.com with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

UPDATE YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please update your ASCE online profile with current e-mail and mailing addresses to guarantee you receive ASCE newsletters and important information. As a reminder, those of you that have passed your PE exam, make sure to update your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to www.asce.org or call (800) 548-2723.

ASCE Wisconsin Section Website has been updated. Please visit it at <http://www.ascewi.org/> to stay up to date on events. There are also links to all of the four branches within the Wisconsin Section.