

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2014-2015

President

Jared Wendt, P.E.

414-847-0487

Past President

Bridget Schuh Henk, P.E.

920-242-2252

Secretary

Jerry DeMers, P.E.

414-263-8594

Treasurer

Ryan English, P.E.

262-746-1113

Directors

Michael Arnold, P.E.

414-831-4100

Kerry Meyer, P.E.

414-847-0326

Ken Mika, P.E.

414-837-3607

YMG Director

Brad Seubert, P.E.

414-475-5554

Website:

www.ascewise.org

The Southeast Branch News is published monthly by the Southeast Branch of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE. Change of street and/or e-mail address should be sent to ASCE, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston VA 20191 (800/548-ASCE). You may update your own information at the Members Only page of WWW.ASCE.ORG

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is the first of the month.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear ASCE Members,

Greetings fellow members. There is only so much time in the day and it seems like we're always reminded of that, especially when things fall onto our plate causing other things to start falling behind. Sometimes this means we need to take a step back and allow others to run with something that we had originally wanted to do. This happens to be the case with our ASCE Branch Presidency. I regret to inform you that earlier this month our ASCE Southeast Branch President, Jeremy Hinds, resigned as the President. I would like to thank Jeremy for his work on the Board of Directors. Moving forward, I have moved from my role as President-Elect to be the current President of the Southeast Branch. I am confident that my past experience on the Board of Directors and my involvement on multiple ASCE Southeast Branch committees will help me jump right in and continue helping to grow our branch of ASCE. I look forward to stepping into this position and am excited about the upcoming year!

For this President's message I would like to share some thoughts on infrastructure funding. Since I am a transportation engineer with WisDOT as my primary client, news of transportation funding and the state budget always catches my attention. If you're signed up to receive the ASCE SmartBriefs or the ASCE Government Relations emails, you have probably seen plenty of articles relating to transportation funding bills. For years the ASCE report cards have pointed out the shortfall in infrastructure funding versus needs. The nation's infrastructure is aging and in many cases needs to be updated to meet current safety standards. With rising fuel efficiencies for modern vehicles, the traditional funding model of using a gas tax and registration fee is not able to keep up with the growing infrastructure needs. For most of us, hearing this is nothing new.

In November, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation released a revised budget request for the next biennium. I would like to share a few things that I've taken away from the budget since transportation funding is vital to the work that many of us do. In short, this proposal is looking to grow the transportation fund through seeking revenue from additional user fees and increased contributions from the general fund. Some of the bigger proposed fee increases include a new fee on the sale of new vehicles, changing the fuel tax, increasing the oversize/overweight permit fees, and increasing the annual registration fee for hybrid and electric vehicles. These increases would allow the core highway programs to meet their needs while keeping many projects on schedule. As civil engineers, we are all very aware of the effects that transportation projects have on overall safety, increased mobility, and the economy. Finding ways to shore up the current funding shortfall is very important for our future. This proposal provides a foundation for modifications to the current funding model. If you have a chance, I would encourage you to learn what is all included in the budget.

Lastly, I wanted to quickly mention some of the great work that we've done as the year is coming to a close. I was helping to pull together an award nomination a couple of weeks ago and was reminded that we have great volunteers that help keep our organization rolling. We are very involved in the community and in the promotion of STEM fields in our schools. Whether it's being involved in the Future Cities or Rube Goldberg competition, helping to gather food for a food drive, participating in a river clean up, or running through activities with kids at the STEM Expo, I want to thank everyone that has donated time over the past year. We had a strong 2014 and am looking forward to an even better 2015. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

-Jared Wendt,
ASCE Wisconsin Southeast Branch

Scholarship Dinner – Save the Date

Article By: Ken Mika

The scholarship dinner will be held at UWM on Thursday January 29. Milwaukee writer and historian John Gurda will be presenting "Milwaukee: A Region Built on Water." Additional information forthcoming.

Call for Future City Mentors

Article By: Tony Castle

Future City is in need of volunteers to help judge essay and narrative papers, presentation, and models. This is a super easy and fun way to support future STEM professionals.

To register as an essay and/or narrative judge go to www.futurecity.org and "Register" as a Regional Competition Judge (upper right corner of the page). You can then select how you would like to volunteer. Essay/Narrative judging will take place between **December 19 - January 16th**. What a useful way to spend some cold winter evenings!

The ASCE SE Branch and YMG will once again be sponsoring special awards at the Regional competition. Please contact me, Tony Castle, at acastle@emcsinc.com if you are interested in being a special award judge for either the SE Branch and/or the YMG.

Having been involved in the Future City Competition last year as an engineer mentor, I can tell you how fun it is to see the kids stretching their imaginations and increasing their interest in engineering. If you have any questions about Future City please feel free to call or email me.

Scholarship Update

Article By: Ken Mika

This year the Branch received a number of great scholarship applications from the our local universities. The winners selected this year are:

- Nicole Przybyla – UWM
- Andrew Sinko – UWM
- Javier Porras – Marquette
- Zack Regnier – MSOE

The winners will be recognized at the scholarship dinner at UWM on Thursday January 29.

YMG Outreach Wrapup

Article By: Tony Castle

Hunger Task Food Drive:

ASCE YMG had a decent turnout at Leff's Lucky Town on November 20th for the Hunger Task Force food drive. Over 230 pounds of food and \$200 were collected from members and their offices. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped feed local families this Holiday Season.

Boy Scout Engineering Merit Badge:

On December 6th, ASCE members Mike Arnold, Kevin Wood, and Sue Rasmussen provided merit badge counseling and assistance for Boy Scouts earning their Engineering Merit Badges. There were 14 scouts that earned badges at the event which was part of the NovaCon STEM Fair at WCTC. Some of the activities included a Traffic Trivia contest, experimenting with different materials and observing their properties, and discussions of different engineering careers. It was great to see the scouts actively engaged and excited about engineering!

Upcoming YMG Events

Article By: Brad Seubert

Ski/Sledding event:

YMG is in the process of planning a ski/sledding event towards the end of January. More information will be provided as details are known.

Admirals Hockey Game:

ASCE YMG is planning a 2nd annual Admirals Hockey game sometime in February, your ticket will include food before the game. More information will be provided as details are known.

Branch member Ken Mika is a “New Face of Engineering”

Article By: Brian Gendusio

The following is a press release from the national office of ASCE. One of our branch members, Ken Mika, has received a national award recognizing young civil engineers who have actively contributed to society. Only two other Wisconsin professionals have previously earned this honor, Nahid Keltner and Bridget Schuh Henk. Please join me in congratulating Ken!

Reston, Va. – Kenneth Mika, P.E., 30-year-old environmental engineer at Natural Resource Technology, Inc. in Milwaukee, Wis., was named one of 10 New Faces of Engineering by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Award recipients will be recognized during Engineers Week, which starts Feb. 16, 2015.

The New Faces recognition program promotes the achievement of young civil engineers by highlighting their contributions to and impact on society. Mika, highlighted in this video, will be honored at ASCE’s annual Outstanding Projects and Leaders (OPAL) Gala on Mar. 26, 2015, in Arlington, Va.

Mika first began at Natural Resource Technology as an engineer intern, but quickly joined the staff as an environmental engineer, where he has worked on several multi-million dollar projects including a \$77 million sediment restoration and habitat revitalization project in northwest Indiana, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes National Program Office and the State of Indiana.

“When it came time to pick a major for college, my cousin suggested engineering and I haven’t looked back since,” says Mika on what inspired him to pursue engineering.

Currently Mika is working on an in situ solidification/stabilization (ISS) project solidifying impacted soils at a former manufactured gas plant in eastern Wisconsin, where he serves as the project manager and design engineer.

On what motivates Mika about working in civil engineering, he says, “I get excited that I can work with other people who share my ideals. It’s very gratifying.”

Mika promotes his enthusiasm for the profession by participating as Secretary of the ASCE’s Wisconsin Section and as Scholarship Director of the Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch. He is also involved in the Western Dredging Association (WEDA).

In addition to his professional involvement, Mika spends time participating in activities like the annual Corporate Capers Soccer Tournament. He is also actively involved in the Milwaukee Public Schools and surrounding private schools promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), raising awareness about the importance of these fields to middle- and high school-age children.

Mika was raised in Milwaukee, Wis. and received his bachelor’s in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Geotechnical and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville. He is currently pursuing his Master’s in Engineering at the University of Wisconsin focusing on Applications of Engineering Management.

ASCE names New Faces of Civil Engineering each year, some of whom will be submitted to the national New Faces of Engineering program run by DiscoverE, formerly the National Engineers Week Foundation. This program includes representatives from civil, mechanical, chemical, industrial, and manufacturing engineering professions. Selected New Faces profiles will be featured in February 2015 in a *USA TODAY* advertisement during Engineers Week and profiled on the DiscoverE website.

2015 AEI Professional Conference to be Held at MSOE

Article By: Chris Raebel



The Architectural Engineering Institute (AEI), in partnership with the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE), is pleased to announce the 6th Biennial Professional Conference for 2015. The theme of the conference is the "Birth and Life of the Integrated Building."

The conference offers an opportunity for members of the building construction industry, including structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers, construction management professional and architects, to learn about and discuss advanced strategies and state-of-the-art practices of building technology. The conference offers a balance between academics and practice and will offer presentations, panel discussions, workshops, technical paper sessions, keynote presentations, local tours of technical interest, a student competition and professional practice awards. In addition, MSOE will be hosting a career fair the night before the conference that is open to all Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management employers and students.

Visit www.asce.org/aeiconference2015 for more information and registration.

Visit www.msoe.edu/careernight for information on the career fair.

Upcoming Event Listing

Article By: Bridget Schuh Henk

January 7	SE Branch Board Meeting
January 8	WI Section Board Meeting
January 14	WI Section Annual Meeting and Spring Technical Conference Planning Template Meeting
January 21	WI Section Sustainability Committee Meeting
January 24	Future City Competition at MSOE
January 29	ASCE Scholarship Dinner
February 12	Engineers Week Banquet
March 6	Regional Rube Goldberg Competition
March 12	WI Section Spring Technical Conference – LaCrosse, WI
May 23	Wisconsin GEMS Conference

Welcome New Members

Article By: Mike Arnold

We are very excited to welcome three new members to ASCE Wisconsin Southeast Branch! Miya Preston, Benjamin Peiffer and Duncan Parham joined our ranks in November.

I encourage everyone in our membership to take your ASCE experience to the next level and get involved with an outreach activity, attend a YMG social outing, or even become part of our leadership! Upcoming opportunities for involvement include Future Cities Judging and the annual YMG Admirals hockey game. Stay up to date by visiting our website: www.ascewise.org. We look forward to meeting you!

Don't let your 5 free PDHs for 2014 go unclaimed!

Article By: Brian Genduso

Many ASCE members remain unaware of one of their greatest benefits: getting as many as 5 PDHs free toward license renewal. Your membership entitles you to choose from up to five ASCE On-Demand Webinars a year that **reward you with free PDHs** for each one you complete and pass! Choose from more than 60 archived webinars. The offer is good during the calendar year, so why not take an hour or two during the holidays to take advantage of this great offer?



Below is a small sample of available webinars:

Environmental

- Navigation Engineering - Understanding the Basics
- Sustainability in Biosolids Treatment - San Antonio's Commercial Biosolid Solution

Geotechnical

- Design of Erosion Control Measures for Small Channels
- Earthwork 101
- Sustainable Geotechnical Applications: Construction Using Recycled Materials – Part I of VI
- Unsaturated Soil Mechanics in the Laboratory: Measuring Suction and the Soil-Water Characteristics

Hydraulics and Water Resources

- Advanced Culvert Hydraulics with HEC-RAS
- Creating Design Storms for Rainfall-Runoff Models
- Culvert Design for Fish Passage - Concepts and Fundamentals
- Storm Water Management Alternatives for Small Commercial Sites

Management and Practice

- Critical Path Method
- From Project Engineer to Project Manager – Look Before You Leap
- Marketing 101 - Sleazy Activity or Mutually Beneficial
- What's Your Business? the Art of an Elevator Pitch

Structural

- ASCE 7-10 Snow Load Provisions
- Introduction to ASCE 7-10 Windloads - Part I of III
- Structural Thermal Bridging in the Building Envelope
- Wind Design for Non-Residential Wood Structures

Transportation

- A Closer Look at Road Diets
- Bus Rapid Transit - A Viable Alternative - Part I of III
- Engineering Treatments and Design Development Strategies for Creating Safe Routes to Schools
- High Capacity Transit Alternatives

'Get to Know Your Board' – Tony Castle

We continue this series by getting to know Tony Castle, Co-Outreach Chair for the Southeast Branch Board of Directors, Young Members Group.

Tell us about yourself: As a structural engineer at EMCS Inc, I primarily design bridges, culverts, retaining walls, etc. I also have experience with the structural design of buildings, wastewater and food processing tanks, and various machine foundation systems. I am happily married to my high school sweet-heart Kimberly and we have a house in South Milwaukee with two beagles.

Where did you go to school? I received my bachelors degree from UW-Milwaukee in the spring of 2009 and I just finished my masters degree in Structural Engineering at MSOE this last spring.

Do you have any hobbies? My wife and I have become avid runners in the last year and a half. I also enjoy golfing, bowling, and kickball.

What is your favorite television show(s)? Now that Breaking Bad has been over for quite a while, I enjoy watching mostly comedies like Modern Family, New Girl, and Brooklyn Nine-Nine.

What is the highlight of the past year? It's been a big year for me, with getting my PE last fall and getting my masters in the spring. I would have to say, being involved in a 9-member 200 mile relay race from Madison to Chicago was really an awesome experience this summer.

What did you want to be when you grew up? Probably a professional athlete... I think at some point I wanted to be an astronaut, but then I realized I'm not the greatest with heights.

What is the best place that you have visited? Last spring I went with my wife and some friends to an all-inclusive resort in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. My honeymoon in the Bahamas was pretty fun too. If you have never been to an all-inclusive resort I highly recommend splurging and trying it at least once in your lifetime.

A place you would like to visit before you die? I would love to take a trip somewhere in Europe. I believe I have distant family in Germany and Italy, it would be fun to visit one of those countries.

How did you get involved in ASCE? Some co-workers and friends of mine were involved and it seemed like a great organization to be a part of. I've joked that since I no longer have to go to graduate school once a week, I needed something to take up my time.

What do you like best about ASCE? I really enjoy the outreach activities and events. I have always thought it is important to give back to your community. I am also passionate about teaching and mentoring. Programs like Future City and Rube Goldberg are awesome opportunities to help use the talents and skills you have to inspire the future generations. I think we all remember someone in our life that inspired us at one point on our paths to becoming engineers.

What advice do you have for ASCE members? Don't just be an ASCE member in name, get involved. My biggest regret of college was that I wasn't more involved in a society like ASCE. It really is a great organization and we are so lucky to have such a strong section and branch. Take advantage of the many outstanding out-reach activities and social events.

Newsletter Publication

We welcome your articles, letters & news items for publication in the ASCE SE Branch Newsletter.

Advertisements and job postings are also accepted by contacting:

Brian Genduso, P.E. – 414.278.9200 – bjg@spireengineer.com

Deadline for next issue is the first of the month.