



A Message from the President

Dave Crombie, PE

Fall is finally upon us and tis the season for pumpkins, turkeys, family, and friends! While we celebrate recent and upcoming Holiday's, let us not forget the importance of selfless giving and comradery for those impacted by recent storm events Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole. We at the Florida Section thank those of you who have donated your time, effort, and resources to help aid in disaster relief for our great State. To quote one of my favorite lines from the Engineer's Obligation taken from the Order of the Engineer: "... As an engineer, I shall participate in none but honest enterprises. When needed, my skill and knowledge shall be given without reservation for the public good..."; what we do every day for ourselves and each other is important, but what we do every day for the public is even more important.

Your Florida Section leadership continues to move forward with new initiatives and ideas as part of our evaluation of membership expectations and identification of what our members truly value. The upcoming doubleheader events in Tampa and Ft. Lauderdale will provide members a great opportunity to obtain PDH's ahead of the 2023 renewal. We are planning first ever student mini-conference that will take place in January in Orlando. We are also working on creating the Florida Section's first ever Diversity Committee. It is certainly an exciting time to be an ASCE member and please, let's all do our part on recruiting the next generation of Florida Section leaders at the local and State levels.



Thank you for your continued involvement in ASCE!

Dave Crombie, PE
2022-2023 President

Sustainability Committee

Rex Robinson

As Floridians, born or settled, the unruly power of hurricanes is no bewildering thing. We have seen these storms wash away entire cities countless times, uplifting communities, and taking the lives of too many. Hurricanes are becoming forces more powerful than our infrastructure. Buildings, roads, and bridges

designed for greatness were no match for these recent storms. These failures by nature are moments we can learn from.

In the wake of the devastating impacts of Hurricane Ian, we, as a profession, must take responsibility to design and rebuild with more resilient and sustainable practices. The ASCE-7 is the world's standard for wind loads and was recently updated & released! Find out how these standards apply to designing for resiliency on your projects – [ASCE 7 standard](#) | [ASCE](#)

Below is a list of articles considered “lessons learned” in the hopes that we rebuild smarter and more resilient:

- **This 100% solar community endured Hurricane Ian with no loss of power and minimal damage** [Builder Magazine \(builderonline.com\)](#)
- **About a third of cloud users need to learn resiliency lessons from Ian** | [Network World](#)
- **Hurricane Ian Raises Questions of Risk and Resilience** ([governing.com](#))

The ASCE Florida Section's Committee of Sustainability is working towards educating and strengthening the engineering profession with the resources needed to prevent and withstand future disasters. Anyone interested in participating in the committee, please reach out to your ASCE Branch leaders for info on how to get involved!

Diversity Committee

Charmaine Emanuels, PE and Justin Tagle, PE

ASCE Florida Section has recently created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee. The goals of the committee are as follows:

1. Ensure inclusivity in ASCE Florida Events
2. Ensure that all the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical aspects of climate within ASCE Florida institutes, sections, branches, committees, and student chapters foster equitable opportunities for engagement and achievement for all
3. Collaborate with both internal (e.g., institutes) and external (e.g., other professional societies) partners to develop, formalize, and manage strategies to advance DEI initiatives.
4. Create metrics and provide oversight for the assessment, evaluation, and reporting of data on Section demographics, climate, and culture. It also includes guidance on DEI-related training considerations for ASCE Florida leaders, staff, and members.
5. Ensure that communications with members, partners, and the public are inclusive and from an asset-based, rather than deficit-based, point of view.

This committee is in the early stages of development, so if you have any ideas on where you believe this committee should focus its efforts please reach out to [Justin Tagle](#) or [Charmaine Emanuels](#).

Welcome New Branch Presidents

Welcome to our Branch Presidents who took office in October



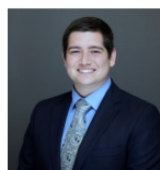
Jessica Diaz, PE
Broward



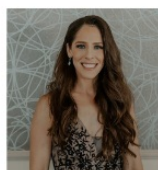
Tonya Mellen, PE
East Central



Vinny Spahr, PE
Gainesville



Edgar Garcia, PE
Jacksonville



Jennifer Borges, PE
Miami Dade



Phoebe Cuevas Molina, PE
Palm Beach



Julian Poole, PE
Pensacola



Vishal Verma, EI
Ridge



Angel Hernandez, PE
Southwest



Christopher
Peterson, PE
Space Coast



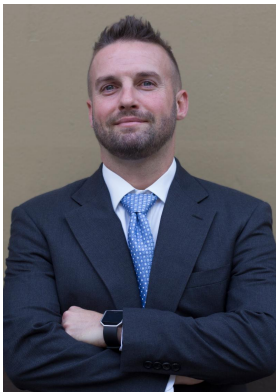
Wafa Mamoud, EI
Suncoast



Kristine Obenour, PE
Tallahassee



Sam Chiu, PE
West Coast



2023 Annual Conference Rob Best, Chair

After the success and feedback from the 2022 annual conference, we will be raising the bar for the 2023 annual conference, taking place July 12-14, 2023, back at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes. We are looking to outdo the phenomenal conference we held in 2022, which was the largest conference in the past 10 years! There will be more than 300 attendees, along with 90+ technical sessions across 7 tracks AND a student track. This year we will be hosting our first-ever student networking breakfast during Laws & Rules, as well as a FUN younger member event and technical tour.

A key component of our conferences is the variety, depth, quality, and volume of our technical sessions. As mentioned above, we are aiming to have 90+ technical sessions across 7 tracks. A large portion of our attendees want to stay up to date on the latest technical practices, solutions, and innovations in the Civil Engineering field (in addition to earning their PDHs). This cannot be done without the high-level presentations that our attendees have come to expect. In fact, we got many positive reviews on the technical sessions offered at the 2022 annual conference, and we would like to see that continue with the 2023 annual conference.

A call for abstracts is now being finalized and will be sent this month.

UNF to Host 2023 ASCE Southeast Student Symposium

The University of North Florida is so excited to be hosting the Symposium March 23 through 25, 2023. We plan to host the AISC/ASCE Steel Bridge and ASCE Concrete Canoe competition, as well as a handful of Society and Local competitions. The Steel Bridge display will be held on Thursday, March 23, and construction on Friday, March 24. The Concrete Canoe display will be held on Friday March 24, and the races on Saturday, March 25. Following the concrete canoe races, schools will be invited to the TIAA Bank Field Stadium for the Awards Banquet. For more details on the competitions and schedule, please visit our website: <https://studentsymposium.asce.org/southeast/>.



The Symposium is made possible by company sponsors, personal donations, and volunteers. Our company sponsorship information can be found on our website. Currently, all Local/Spirit competitions are exclusively sponsored by local companies, but we still have opportunities to sponsor the Society-level competitions at the Teal sponsorship level. Also, not included in the Sponsorship package, we are also offering tables during an all-day exhibitor style event on Friday, March 24, during the Symposium. This is a first come-first serve basis that requires a company to sponsor at the "Supporting Sponsor" level.

The Planning Committee is also running a Personal Donations drive that will be matched by 2022 ASCE Society President, Dennis D. Truax, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE, F.ASCE, and our very own Florida Section Board Member, Bruce Lawson, PE, by up to \$500. We recently met our goal of \$500 of personal donations but will always gladly accept generous offers by our engineering community.

For volunteer opportunities, please visit our website. Some volunteer spots are reserved for exclusive company sponsors, but if not filled by January 2023, will be open to the rest of the engineering community. For any questions, please email us at 2023sestudentsymposium@gmail.com.

8 PDHs Before License Renewal

The Florida Section is again offering 8 PDHs before license renewal at the end of February. Two in-person events will be offered in Tampa and Ft. Lauderdale with different agendas

February 1, 2023 - FDOT D7, Tampa

- What to Know About E&O - Megan Miller, FDOT, and Allan Urbonas, FDOT
- FDOT District7 Consultant Acquisition Plan Summary - Tracy Hood, FDOT D7 and Mary Lou Godfrey, FDOT
- Babcock Ranch Resiliency - Amy Wicks, Kimley Horn & Associates
- Smart Ponds - Mark Thomasson, National Stormwater Trust and Dave Kramer, SWFWMD
- Laws, Rules & Ethics with Ed Bayo

[Register here for Tampa on Wednesday, February 1, 2023](#)

February 3, 2023 - FDOT D4, Ft. Lauderdale

- Laws, Rules & Ethics with Ed Bayo
- Flood Protection Level of Service from a Water Management District Perspective - Akin Owasina, SWFWMD
- Flood Protection Level of Service - Laura Vogel, Chen Moore & Associates and Brent Whitfield, Chen Moore & Associates
- Living Shorelines - Jason Cummins, Cummins Cederberg
- Multi-Jurisdictional Sustainability Master Planning - Alec Bogdanoff, Brizaga
- Resilience Planning and Advancements: A Coordinated Approach in Broward County - Jennifer Jurado, Broward County

[Register here for Ft. Lauderdale on Friday, February 3, 2023](#)

Contact [Judy Nichols](#) for more information.

ASCE Awards Matthew Miller Geo-Institute Honor

ASCE has awarded Matthew Meyer, P.E., D.GE, M.ASCE, of the Miami-Dade Branch, the 2023 Geo-Institute Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award for “outstanding contributions in deep foundations and retaining structures, including innovative approaches to deep foundations.

The Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award is a memorial in recognition of the outstanding professional accomplishments of Martin S. Kapp, F.ASCE. The award is supported by the income from a fund contributed by the friends and professional associates of Mr. Kapp. The award was established by the Board of Direction in April 1973.



The award will be presented in-person at the Geo-Congress 2023 in Los Angeles, CA, March 26-29, 2023.

In Memoriam

Wil Beran, PE

Wil Beran passed away in July 2022. He was very active in the West Coast Branch and served as Branch President from 1995 to 1996. Will was born in Omaha, Nebraska to Victor and Julia Beran on January 9th 1949. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He married Claudia in 1980 in Omaha. Upon moving to Tampa in 1986, he worked as a Civil Engineer for AECOM (formerly URS) for 34 years. Previously, he was the Head of Lectors for many years at Incarnation Catholic Church in Tampa. He was also on the Scout Committee for multiple Boy Scout troops. Until his passing, he was actively involved with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Florida West Coast Branch. He was a parishioner at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Lutz, where he was a member of the Men's Club.



Student Chapters

Embry Riddle

The ASCE Student Chapters of Embry-Riddle, University of Florida, University of North Florida, and University of Central Florida all met up for a beach social. The social took place on Sunday October 9th at Flager Beach. It was so great to meet students from other schools and learn about their ASCE chapters. We are so excited to see everyone again at the Southeast Student Symposium this spring.



Meet the Members

Every quarter we focus on one of our outstanding active current members and one student member to highlight the benefits of ASCE and our profession. In addition, we have also added a new category for life members, with Ray Robayna being our first Life member to be introduced. If there is someone you know that has made a great contribution to our field, please nominate them by emailing [Judy Nichols](mailto:judy.nichols@asce.org).



Chris Rader, PE Atkins

Why did you join ASCE? One of my favorite things about the Civil Engineering profession is the diversity of technical areas in which our community serves. My time with ASCE started in college, as it does for so many and continues on today, as I find the interaction with such a broad range of the engineering community educational and rewarding.

What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member? The professional and personal relationships I have built with colleagues over the years are invaluable. From around town to across the state or even the Country, ASCE professionals have a unique bond through our profession and or Society. ASCE provides a diversity of opportunities and there is something for everyone. Whether it be industry leading technical standard development or driving the conversation on public infrastructure funding, members have the chance to affect the built world around them.

What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization? It's important to join and retain membership in a professional society or several – I personally maintain four association memberships, as each provides me a unique value proposition. For the students and young professionals, it is important to join, but it is more important to engage and be active. The relationships you will build and the skills you will develop are invaluable.

What do you like best about being an engineer? Solving problems is what we do best. From smaller, local opportunities to global initiatives that impact the future of the planet, engineers develop solutions using our creative, problem-solving approach.

What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share? In my copious free time, I also serve as an elected official for a small town where I am able to impact and make a difference to the course of my community. Engineers bring a unique and valuable perspective to politics, and I am pleased to have the opportunity.

What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer? Well, right behind that day the “PASS” arrived in the mail for that big test, I would say... during my time in the Navy, I was able to be part of the rebuilding efforts in Iraq in the early 2000s. During that time, I was able to interact with and work with locals and see the impact power and clean water have firsthand.

Chris is a new Region 5 Governor, and past president of the Florida Section and East Central Branch



Kwasi Badu-Tweneboah, Ph.D., P.E.¹, PE-GhIE, D.GE, F.ASCE

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

Why did you join ASCE? I joined ASCE so as to help advance my professional and personal growth as a civil engineer

What advice would you give our younger members about the benefits of ASCE? Take advantage of all the benefits – technical and professional conferences as well as continuing education courses or seminars that ASCE continually provides – to facilitate your growth. These conferences can also provide networking opportunities as well as mentoring.

What is one of the most memorable experiences associated with your career in engineering? Becoming a Fellow and Life Member of ASCE.

If you could turn back time, what would you change about your career in engineering? Probably got more involved in committees and subcommittees at the local, state and national levels.

What do you believe is your greatest accomplishment in your career? I have been blessed to have the opportunity to work on projects spanning four continents – North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. These have given me insights as to how the profession is perceived across the globe.



Alex Farfan

Student, University of North Florida

Why did you join ASCE? I joined ASCE because of the benefits I learned about during my first attended general body meeting. Benefits like the potential for personal growth and professional development.

What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member? Definitely the connections I've made with my peers. I have made such great friends since joining ASCE, and I'm delighted they will be the

colleagues I'll work with on projects in the future.

What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization? Everyone within this community is so insightful and helpful. Being part of a society of enthusiastic and passionate people makes one even more excited about being an engineer.

What do you like best about being an engineer? Being able to have a hand in improving the infrastructure around us and having a voice on making it sustainable for generations to come.

What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share? I was working as an associate at AMC during the largest premier nights ever: The Force Awakens, Infinity War, Endgame, and Deadpool to name a few. I no longer like popcorn.

What was your first experience joining ASCE? Eating pizza at a general body meeting and having a great conversation with the UNF ASCE President.

What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer? Working as a highway design intern at Chen Moore & Associates, I've been able to have a hand in designing driveways and curb ramps to be ADA compliant in downtown Jacksonville.

Alex is the current president of the University of North Florida student chapter and the co-chair of the upcoming 2023 ASCE Southeast Student Symposium.

News You Can Use

Trending articles on current affairs

Why Army Corps is 'lifting the bottom' of Mississippi River
CNN

Why the Unsexy Sewers Beneath Our Feet Are Key to Safeguarding the Future
Dwell

DOE to dispense \$43M of support to 23 clean energy, grid reliability projects
Daily Energy Insider

Family affair: 3 generations of engineers going strong
Civil Engineering Source



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