

The image is a vertical rectangular cover for an e-newsletter. It features a dramatic sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with wispy, white and light blue clouds, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. The sun's reflection is visible on the dark blue water in the foreground. The text 'ASCE FLORIDA' is in the top left, and 'e-newsletter' is in large white letters across the middle, with the sun acting as the letter 's' in 'newsletter'.

ASCE FLORIDA

e-newsletter

A Message from the President

Dave Crombie, PE

It's hard for me to believe, but this is my final communique message as your Florida Section President. This year has flown by! I've been honored to represent you as President and look forward to continuing to serve the Florida Section and its members in new roles in the future. Upon reflection, I am continuously amazed at what the member and Board of Directors of this great Section are able to accomplish together. We truly are one of the premier Section's in the country and I hope that you feel the same amount of pride in that as I do.

It's a great time for the profession; infrastructure is historically well funded, the level of comradery within the civil engineering profession

is high, and we are in the midst of a true “boom” for the state of our Country’s infrastructure. Let us continue to prosper as an industry and as a Country. Again, I have been honored to serve as your President and I look forward to seeing you at the annual conference in July! Cheers!

Thank you for your continued involvement in ASCE!

Dave Crombie, PE
2022-2023 President





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ASCE FLORIDA 
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hope to see you there!



Become A Top 10 FLASCE Student Scholarship Sponsor

E. Bruce Lawson, PE, Chair - Scholarship Committee

In 2017, the ASCE Florida Section awarded the first two endowed scholarships to undergraduate student Nicole Miller of the University of North Florida, and graduate student Trang Luong of the University of South Florida. Since that first year, 7 new scholarships have been added, and in 2022 a total of 9 scholarships were awarded.

Becoming a member of the **Top 10 FLASCE Student Scholarship Sponsors** is a great way for a company, family or individual to celebrate a milestone or create a permanent memorial and is not as difficult as one may think. There are several ways to fund a new scholarship endowment in partnership with ASCE Florida Section and Florida Engineering Foundation. The most popular is using the 5-year funding period. Pending approval by the Board of Directors, the Florida Section is offering a new \$1,500 annual scholarship fund. The scholarship endowment is \$7,000/year to fund the endowment with \$1,500 contribution each by ASCE and FEF the first year, and \$1,000 each by ASCE and FEF for years 2-5.

FLASCE has worked with a group of individuals to fund the scholarship such as with the Kathy J. Caldwell Women in Engineering where 14 individuals are funding the endowment.

We look forward to announcing your endowed scholarship in our next Communique.

To join the Top 10 contact [E. Bruce Lawson](#), Scholarship Chair at by email or 386-688-2864, or [Judy Nichols](#), Executive Director.

Government Relations Update

Nick Karpathy, PE, Chair - Government Relations



Pictured above is the Florida delegation to the 2023 ASCE Fly In (left to right: Marta Alonso, Venessa Benzecry, Fiorella Asturizaga, Matthew Uva, Kathi Ruvarac, Tzufit Boyle, Tonya Mellen, Sarah Matin, Rob Best, Nick Karpathy and Eric Czerniejewski

The Florida Legislative session came to a close on May 5th, leaving behind a series of impactful decisions that are shaping the state's future. The session was successful in establishing the state budget with a total of \$113,665,523,805 in funding allocation via SB 2500. Aside from this, many other bills significant to

the engineering industry were passed including:

- **SB 7026 (Higher Education Finances):** eliminated the requirement for state universities to follow Contractors Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA).
- **HB 85/SB 360 (Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real Property):** reduced the statute of limitations on design defects from 10 to 7 years.
- **HB 1395/SB 154 (Condominium and Cooperative Associations):** amended language from SB 4 passed during the 2022 Special Legislative Session to allow contractors and government building officials to conduct inspections under the supervision of an engineer or architect.
- **HB 7027/SB 7002 (Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection):** ratified FDEP rules with updates to OSTDS requirements but did not include the anticipated language to modify nutrient loading reduction requirements for development.
- **HB 327/SB 408 (Fire Sprinkler Systems):** revised requirements for fire sprinkler systems and granted contractors limited authority to modify systems without engineer verification.
- **HB 425/SB 64 (Transportation):** impacted FDOT in multiple ways including requirements to set standards to evaluate roadway compatibility with autonomous vehicles and allocated funds to the workforce development program.
- **HB 23/SB 162 (Water and Wastewater Facility Operators):** allows treatment plant operators from other states to receive reciprocity.
- **HB 1191/SB 1258 (Use of Phosphogypsum):** approved the study of using phosphogypsum, a byproduct of fertilizer production, as a roadway base.
- **HB 111/SB 1170 (Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies):** expanded the Resilient Florida Grant program and revised sea-level rise study requirements.
- **HB 1379/SB 1632 (Environmental Protection):** brought about significant changes to environmental regulations from addressing aquifer recharge to adjusting land acquisition thresholds and expanding the prohibition of conventional septic tank systems within areas with BMAPs.

On the federal front, conversations on the budget have begun as the Biden administration has shown a FY2024 budget blueprint which totals \$1.7 trillion including \$668 billion in non-defense and \$886 billion in defense spending. Meanwhile, the EPA has made several notable announcements including PFAS limits in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, proposed regulations on discharge from coal-fired power plants, release of the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs and Assessment, and proposed emissions standards that impact the transition to electric vehicles. FEMA has also released the “Planning the Mitigation Consultation: Resources for States, DC, and Territories and the Enhanced State Validation” toolkits which provide guidance for state governments in weighing mitigation activity performance. Several projects in Florida have recently received federal funding including the terminal expansion at SRQ, the terminal C pedestrian bridge at MCO, and the MicroFreight Approach for Safer Streets project in Miami-Dade County. Many funding opportunities have also been recently released in the resilience and transportation fields such as the Department of Energy’s notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for research into clean hydrogen and hydrogen recycling (\$750 million) and the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (\$8.9 million).

Overall, the activity on the state and federal levels in conjunction with participation in annual advocacy events such as the FES PE Legislative Days (Tallahassee, FL) and ASCE Legislative Fly-In (Washington, D.C.) has kept the GRC busy. If you are interested in joining the committee, please reach out to Nick Karpathy (Chair) at n.karpathy@outlook.com, or 386-688-2864, or [Judy Nichols](#), Executive Director.

ASCE 2023 Election Results



Feniosky A Peña-Mora
President Elect



Sarah L. Matin, PE
Region 5 Director

ASCE Recognizes Florida Section Members



Madasamy Arockiasamy, Ph.D., P.E., P. Eng., F.ASCE

Florida Atlantic University

2023 ASCE State of the Art of Civil Engineering Award for the paper "Behavior, Performance, and Evaluation of Prestressed Concrete/Steel Pipe/Steel H-Pile to Pike Cap Connections" awarded by ASCE Society Awards Committee



Prakash A. Arvan

Florida Atlantic University

2023 ASCE State of the Art of Civil Engineering Award for co-authoring the paper "Behavior, Performance, and Evaluation of Prestressed Concrete/Steel Pipe/Steel H-Pile to Pike Cap Connections" awarded by ASCE Society Awards Committee



David L. Kriebel, Ph.D, PE, D.CE, M.ACE
rsity of Florida

2023 John G. Moffatt-Frank E. Nichol Harbor and Coastal Engineering Award for a career dedicated to coast and harbor engineering research, education and professional service. awarded by ASCE COPRI

Student Chapters Shine!

University of Florida

UF three-peats at 2023 Student Steel Bridge Competition National Finals that took place June 2-3, 2023, at the University of California San Diego. Go Gators!



Florida Tech

Florida Tech was the only team in Region 5 to compete. Way to go Panthers!



Pictured from left to right are Gavin Olsen, Cole Stubbe, Travis Rembrandt, Callie Seiring, Alex Knodel, Victoria Ramos and Ella Young.

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. If there is someone you know that has made a great contribution to our field, please nominate them by emailing [Judy Nichols](#).



Vishal Verma, EI
RK&K

Why did you join ASCE? I joined ASCE back in college because I was interested in learning more about the Civil Engineering field and the ASCE competition was super interesting.

What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member? The best benefit of being a member of ASCE is the connections that you get to make with other professionals from not only your discipline of engineering but the entire industry. One can always find another ASCE member in any city you go to.

What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization? The advice that I would give others about joining a professional society is firstly networking with people from all backgrounds and people at different stages in their careers. I believe that this gives a huge insight into the industry and where it is heading.

What do you like best about being an engineer? What I like best about being an engineer is having a great work/life balance.

What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share? I was born and raised in Denmark and have been in America for the past 9 years.

What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer? When I got a hydraulic model to work using a software that I didn't know how to use previously and accomplishing it faster than anyone had expected.

Vishal is the current president of the Ridge Branch.

Gabrielle Carthy-Pierre

Student, University of South Florida

Why did you join ASCE? I was initially interested in joining ASCE to have



the opportunity to connect with other Civil Engineering students and make friends.

What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member? The best benefit of being a member is not only getting to be a part of a community of people that are similar interests, but to also to be able to create great friendships and relationships with students from other universities as well.

What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization? My advice would be to put yourself out there and try new things. By doing so, it will open a whole new door of different opportunities and experiences.

What do you like best about being an engineer? I love the fact that I am able to learn why our world is constructed the way it is, and how I am able to actually create something that may help people one day.

What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share? I have over 30 pairs of shoes.

What was your first experience joining ASCE? My first experience was attending the quarterly branch meeting at the University of Miami last year and meeting other executive board members from different universities. We were able to collaborate and discuss how we can make our chapters better.

What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer? When I was able to fix a drainage issue on a project with one of my supervisors during my internship. It was nice to help out with the limited knowledge that I have to fix an actual real-life issue.

Gabrielle is the new president of the University of South Florida student chapter.



In Memoriam

Kenneth S. Todd, Jr., PE

Kenneth S. Todd, Jr. has passed away June 29, 2022. A staple to the Palm Beach County community, he was an active member of the Branch. He also served on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers.

Fondly known as Ken, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Florida. In his career, Ken Todd worked as a design engineer and Project Manager for several engineering consulting firms. He spent 2 years of his career as the Assistant County Engineer for Martin County and spent

11 years with SFWMD, as a Senior Supervising Engineer within the Regulatory Department. Ken Todd retired from Palm Beach County as the Water Resource Manager where he coordinated water resource efforts with county departments and other government agencies.

News You Can Use

Trending articles on current affairs

[ASCE Updates ASCE/SEI 7-22 Standard to Protect Against 500-Year Flood Events](#)
Stormwater Solutions

[What We Know About the Ukraine Dam's Catastrophic Breach](#)
NPR

[New Website Maps Out 32,000 Infrastructures Projects](#)
Transport Topics

[How to Properly Assess Structural Wind Damage](#)
Building Design + Construction

[How Recent Research on rising Sea Levels Could Impact Coastal Designs](#)
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