

ASCE Lebanon Section presents to ASCE National Capital Section: Beirut Blast Wave

November "Lunch" Meeting, November 17th at 1 PM

At 6:08 PM, on Tuesday 4 August 2020, a catastrophic explosion took place at the Port of Beirut caused by the detonation of about 2,750 metric tons (3031 US short tons) of ammonium nitrate (equivalent to around 1.1 kilotons of TNT) that had been stored in a warehouse at the Port for over 6 years. The explosion, which is considered to be one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosions in history^[1], was equivalent to about a tenth of the intensity of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb, and was detected by the United States Geological Survey as a seismic event of magnitude 3.3^[2], despite inefficient transmission of the shock waves into the ground. The seismic waves were recorded by seismographs in Syria, Israel, Palestine, Turkey, and parts of Europe. The explosion was heard in Cyprus, more than 250 km (160 mi) away. The explosion resulted in the obliteration of the Port of Beirut, which is situated in the heart of Beirut and is responsible for about 70% of the maritime trade in Lebanon, leaving a crater



roughly 124 m (407 ft) in diameter and 43 m (141 ft) in depth. It also flattened nearby buildings, severely destroyed three major hospitals and many schools in Beirut, resulted in at least 230 deaths, 6,700 injuries, US\$10–15 billion in property damage, and left an estimated 70,000 homes damaged and 300,000 people homeless.

In the wake of the explosion, and in response to the unprecedented magnitude of the devastation that affected homes and infrastructure, the Federation of Lebanese Engineers called upon volunteers to help with the assessment of the safety of the homes affected by the explosion. Members of the board of the ASCE Lebanon Section as well as many student chapters supported this volunteer effort in different ways.

The presentation will give a brief history of the ASCE Lebanon Section, elaborate on the explosion and its aftermath, and will briefly describe the efforts undertaken by volunteers from the ASCE Lebanon Section. [Read more about their efforts here.](#)

About the Speaker

Michael Bouchéid, MS, P.E., M.ASCE, Operations Manager, Bouchéid Contracting and Development and President-Elect, ASCE Lebanon Section, has over 20 years of experience in all phases of project delivery.

Please join us virtually on **Tuesday, November 17th** at 1 PM for a modified ASCE National Capital Section November Lunch Meeting! The program will approximately consist of a one-hour presentation with a webinar format and one (1) PDH credit will be awarded. The cost will be \$5 for all members, non-members, and students. For questions, please contact president@asce-ncs.org. Please [click here](#) to register by **Monday, November 16th**.



He obtained his BS in Civil Engineering from Notre Dame University, Lebanon in 2001, MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Maine with emphasis on Geotechnical Engineering in 2004, and an MBA from the University of Washington in 2013.

During his 10-year career with CH2M HILL (currently Jacobs) in the USA, he worked on numerous projects including highways and bridges, ports, tunnels, airports, light rail, wastewater treatment plants, and water conveyance systems. He started his career as a geotechnical design engineer and his latest assignment before leaving CH2M HILL was Program Support Manager working directly with the Executive Program

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Region 2 Director's Report: Revised Code of Ethics highlights busy board meeting

Jack A. Raudenbush, P.E., M.ASCE, your Region 2 Director, is a member of the Central Pennsylvania Section. Jack represented you at the Oct. 26–27 board meeting.



This has been a year few of us will likely ever forget. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live, but as an organization, we were quick to pivot to virtual platforms and digital communication so that our essential ASCE work could continue. Our October board virtual meeting went off without a hitch, and we had a very productive week. First and foremost, the board voted to approve the proposed update to the ASCE Code of Ethics. The new code is clearer, more concise, and organized by stakeholder priorities. (Learn more about the new code in the [ASCE News](#) story.) The board also voted to approve on second reading a proposed amendment to the ASCE Constitution that would give voting rights to student

members. The amendment goes before the membership for a vote in the 2021 Society election. (Learn more about other Board decisions in the [ASCE News](#) story.)

Highlights from the board meeting:

- After considering extensive feedback from current Life Members, the board voted last week to rescind its July decision to change Life Member criteria and fees. As a result, the terms, criteria, and dues structure for Life Membership will remain exactly as they have been in recent years.
- The board voted to officially establish the Government Engineers Council as a standing board committee effective January 2021 for a three-year period. The move finalizes a process begun last January when the Board approved the creation of the GEC. (Read more in [ASCE News](#).)
- The board received updates on the digital strategy project, which includes

the forthcoming launch of the *Civil Engineering Source* news and information website and AI-driven newsletter, and a draft Region 10 strategic plan.

- The Board Strategic Advisory Council delivered updates on its 2020 strategic priorities, and the board voted to approve the proposed 2021 strategic priorities, which include the budget, member value and engagement, as well as eight other focus areas.

- In an ongoing push to identify and develop new revenue streams, the board received a final report from the Task Committee on Implementing Revenue Generation. The project will continue under the watch of the Program and Finance Committee.

The first Board meeting of 2021 is scheduled for Jan. 16–17.

To share your views or provide ideas on how ASCE can better serve its members and the profession, please email email@Jack. ■

ASCE Lebanon Section presents to ASCE National Capital Section: The Aftermath of the Beirut Port Explosion

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Manager for the delivery of the \$30 Billion King Abdulaziz Project for Riyadh Public Transport, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During his career in the USA, Michel was heavily involved with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), serving in multiple officer positions in his local Section in Seattle including the

President of the Geotechnical Group. Currently, Michel is serving as the president-elect of the ASCE Lebanon Section and the president of the NDU Engineering Alumni Group. ■

Upcoming Events

Until further notice, all in-person ASCE NCS events have been cancelled. Opportunities for virtual events will be announced as they are planned.

Newsletter

Maria Raggousis, Editor

January 2021 Issue Deadline: December 14, 2020

To Submit Articles: newsletter@asce-ncs.org

NCS eNewsletter Archives: go to www.asce-ncs.org and view along the sidebar.

Address Changes: Call 1-800-548-ASCE, e-mail member@asce.org, visit www.asce.org, or write: ASCE – Membership, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Include your membership number.

National Capital Section

Officers (2020–2021)

Mike Venezia, President
Jameelah Ingram, Vice President
Vic Crawford, Treasurer
Norine Walker, Secretary
Kelly Cronin, Past President
Emily Dean, Previous Past President
Maria Raggousis, Newsletter Editor
Ariana White, YMF President

Lisa Anderson, Director
Elizabeth Wheeler, Director
Tricia Wolfbauer, Director
Joseph Whartenby Jr., Director
Shainur Ahsan, Reston Branch President

Committee Chairs

Please refer to the [NCS website](#) for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.

The Abridged Calumet “K”: Episode 2

The fascinating novel *Calumet “K”* by Samuel Merwin and Henry Webster was published in 1901. Its hero? A civil engineer!

An 8-episode condensed edition with text by Ranjit Sahai © 2020. All Rights Reserved. [Photos are from the websites credited.]

Next morning at eight, Bannon walked into the office of the manager of the Ledyard Salt and Lumber Company and followed him out into the yard. The cribbing made a pile more than three hundred feet long. Its bulk was impressive. Bannon measured it with his eyes and whistled. “I wish it had been on our job ten days ago.” “G&M have tied us up for these two weeks. I’ve kicked for cars, and so has old man Sloan, but here we are – can’t move hand or foot.”

“Who’s Sloan?” “Oh, he’s the whole thing. Owns the First National Bank, the trolley line, Ledyard Salt and Lumber Company and most of the downtown real estate.” “Where can I find him?” “He’s got an office across the river. Just ask anybody where the Sloan Building is.” Bannon slipped his watch into his pocket. “Much obliged,” he said, and turning, he walked rapidly away down the plank wagon road.

“We can’t make the G&M give us cars. I guess we’ll have to wait,” said the magnate. “I can’t wait. There’s a reason why our job’s got to be done on time. I want to know the reason why the G&M won’t give you cars. It ain’t because they haven’t got them.” “What makes you say that?” “Because there’s three big

strings of empties within twenty miles of here this minute. I saw them when I came up this morning.” For a minute Sloan said nothing, only traced designs on the blotter with his pencil. Bannon saw that there was no longer any question of arousing his interest. “Where can I find anybody that knows anything?” “The G&M division offices are in Blake City. The train leaves in fifteen minutes. I’ll drive you down.”

Bannon came in about eleven o’clock. A telegraph operator outside the superintendent’s office asked what his business was, but he answered merely that it was with the superintendent, and went in. “I’m Bannon, of MacBride & Company. All I want is cars.” “I haven’t got ‘em.” “There’s a big string of empties on the siding at Victory.” The superintendent looked out of the window and drummed on the desk. “Victory isn’t in my division anyway.” “Then wire the general manager and ask him if we can’t possibly have those cars.” The superintendent nodded to the operator. Momentarily, the telegraph receiver began giving the general manager’s answer, which, knowing Morse code, Bannon decoded: “Obey previous instructions. Do not give Ledyard cars in any case. We don’t help put up any grain elevator in Chicago these days.”

This confirmed what Bannon had suspected. Someone wanted to prevent Page & Co. from delivering the vast amount of December wheat it had sold and would store in *Calumet “K”* before January 1.

Bannon had nearly an hour to wait for the next train back to Ledyard. He telegraphed MacBride & Company: “G&M wants to tie us up. Find out if Page will OK any bill of extras to bring cribbing down. If so, can they have one or more steam barges at Manistogee within forty-eight hours?” Two telegrams awaited Bannon when he arrived at Ledyard an hour later: “Get cribbing down. Page pays freight.” and “Barge leaves Milwaukee tonight for Manistogee.”

Novel’s condensed text by

Ranjit Sahai, ASCE-NCS Past President (2013–14), is a principal with RAM Corp serving State DOTs on projects in traffic engineering design, stormwater facility inspections, and information technology. ■



The cribbing made a pile more than three hundred feet long.

[Photo credit: mbglick.com]



Two telegrams awaited Bannon when he arrived at Ledyard.

[Photo credit: telegraph-office.com]

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE): Exam Day Experience

In this month's article we answer many of our readers' questions regarding the Fundamentals of Engineering (F.E) exam and what you are expected to do that day.

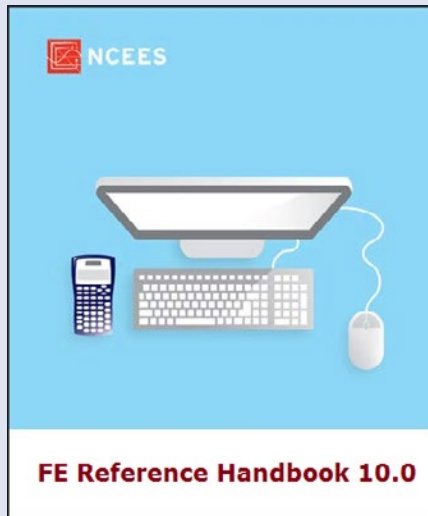
The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam is generally your first step in the process to becoming a professional licensed engineer (P.E.). It is designed for recent graduates and students who are close to finishing an undergraduate engineering degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program. FE exam is a computer-based test (CBT) administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Last year about 3700 students took the FE-Civil Engineering exam and the passing rate was about 73%.

When approaching the FE Exam for the first time, it's natural to feel a bit overwhelmed. The best way to build your confidence is to prepare for the test and familiarize yourself with the FE Ref. Handbook 10, the only official reference material for the computer-based FE exams. Review the latest version of the handbook (currently v.10) prior to exam day. Most importantly, familiarize yourself with the charts, formulas, tables, and other reference information provided. An electronic version will be available onscreen during the actual exam. Printed copies will not be allowed in the exam room.

Once your registration is approved, you will receive an email notification that you have been authorized to take the exam and are eligible to schedule your exam appointment. NCEES computer-based tests (CBT) are offered in testing windows throughout the year during the following months: January, February, April, May, July, August, October and November.

Exam Day Protocol: Step-by-Step

Once you register and know your exam date, NCEES recommends the following: First, you should plan to arrive at the testing center 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment. Upon arrival, a representative will



provide you with a copy of NCEES-CBT exam rules for your review.

After doing so, you will be asked to provide your digital signature to confirm that you have read the rules and agreed to abide by them. You will also be asked to provide a current government issued form of ID such as a driver's license. Once the representative confirms your identification and the exam that you are taking, you will be asked to provide a palm vein scan and have your photo taken. Your signature, palm vein scan and photo will be stored with your exam result.

Prior to being admitted into the testing room, a representative will ensure that you have in your possession only the items that NCEES allows them to the testing room. These items include your ID, an NCEES approved calculator, and eyeglasses. Most test centers have secure storage lockers on site for you to store prohibited items such as cell phones, other electronic devices and personal belongings such as a watch, wallet, or bag.

Once you complete the check in process, you then report to an exam proctor who will ask you to confirm your ID by providing again your palm vein scan. The proctor will then give you a reusable booklet and marker for scratch work. The proctor will review the exam rules and will escort you to the exam room and assigned

workstation and launches the exam. Before starting your exam, all examinees will be required to read and agree to the NCEES' non-disclosure agreement and complete a brief tutorial to learn how to ADVANCE to the next item, RETURN to a previous item and FLAG items for review.

The FE exam includes 110-questions. The exam appointment time is 6 hours long. Nondisclosure agreement (2 minutes); Tutorial (8 minutes); Actual exam (5 hours and 20 minutes) and scheduled break (25 minutes).

After completing approximately 55 questions, examinees will be prompted on screen with the option to take a 25-minute break. Examinees who wish to take the scheduled break should raise their hands and wait for the proctor for assistance. Unscheduled breaks may be requested at any time during the exam by following the same procedure. However, examinees should be aware that the clock will not stop during an unscheduled break. Examinees are allowed to access their lockers during the scheduled and unscheduled breaks.

After completing the exam and a brief survey, you should raise your hand and the proctor will verify that you have properly exited the exam, will escort you from the testing room, and collect your booklet and marker. You will receive an email from NCEES within 7 to 10 days notifying you that your results are available for viewing in your MYNCEES account.

And lastly, stay relaxed and confident. Always keep a good attitude and remind yourself that you are going to do your best!

Until next time,
Ahmet Zeytinci (Dr.Z.)
az@akfen.com



Summary of Changes to the ASCE NCS Constitution and By-Laws

In 2017 it was determined that some of the language and process of those governing documents needed to be revisited. In some cases consistency between the Constitution and By-laws needed to be made in others more reasonable guidance to reflect current actions.

An email will be sent to all Section subscribing members requesting a vote on these changes. Please respond prior to the date indicated.

[PROPOSED NCS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS](#)

[CURRENT NCS CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS](#)

A Constitution and By-laws have provided the forum for ASCE-NCS to function since 1982. These Section Governing Documents, formed in consultation with the national organization's framework, provide guidance for efficient organizational operation, reflect financial rules of non-profit organizations and allow sustainability of the organization. The Section was founded in 1916 and the last revision of the Constitution and By-Laws took place in 1982. When revisions such as this take place, it is an opportunity to refresh the language and to review our rules of order for membership. In the NCS's case, the opportunity for creation of Section branches and other efforts to meet the organizational guidelines were also reviewed.

A committee composed of Past Section Presidents and the Past President of the Reston Branch came together, beginning in 2017, to conduct associated discussions. As a result of these discussions, and review by the Governing Documents Committee of ASCE, the revised language of the Constitution and By-laws is proposed to be adopted. This summary is provided in case the legalese of the accompanying document is not clear.

Constitution Revisions

At the beginning of the revised Constitution is a description of the general geographical area in which the Section is located:

"The area of the Section shall be: All District of Columbia; In Maryland, the Counties of Montgomery and Prince George's, except College Park in Prince George's County; In Virginia, the Counties of Fairfax and Arlington, and the City of Alexandria."

Other changes include the following:

- An explanation of the Society Membership and grades of member has been added. This summarizes the changes over the years that have occurred in the organization.
- Dues are outlined with the condition that Life Members and Distinguished Members are dues exempt.
- The organization's Board of Direction and officers are specified. The Officers include a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and five Directors. In addition, the

two Past Presidents, the Younger Member Forum (YMF) President and each Branch President shall be Members of the Board.

- The Constitution states that there will be an annual election of Officers and Directors. The revised By-laws further designate the roles of the Directors, the previous Constitution had four at-large Directors. Due to the increased complexity of Board issues it was decided to have Directors take on specific roles.
- The Section's meetings include an Annual Meeting and an additional six meetings per year. The previous Constitution called for one meeting, with other meetings called at the discretion of the Board. Meeting notice now requires a seven-day notice.

The previous Constitution outlined the Subsidiary Organizations (in ASCE language the Branches) as helping to carry out the Section's objectives and the new language discusses having better opportunities for representation in a smaller or geographically proximate location.

Administrative provisions have been added to protect the integrity of the organization and its assets. These have to do with:

- Proper Use of Assets: (Financial)
- Limitations on Political Activity
- Conflict of Interest
- Distribution of Section Assets: Operate according to IRS rules

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Summary of Changes to the ASCE NCS Constitution and By-Laws

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If there should be changes proposed to the Constitution, the previous Constitution allowed the Board of Directors to approve the revisions. There is language in the revised document which describes the Amendment process and the authorities for voting on the proposals. Some items can be voted on strictly by the Board of Directors while other items need to have full Section membership approval.

By-Law Revisions

We note the following changes:

- The revisions add some language consistent with guidance regarding Use of Name and Marks (logos and branding).
- The revised By-laws outline the different member grades and standing based on payment of dues.
- A Management Section has been added which identifies duties and the delivery of an Annual Report and an Operating Manual.

- A more robust description of the officers has been added to the revised By-laws. The language references officer term, vacancy provisions and compensation. Generally, there is no compensation for Board positions except reimbursement for Society-related expenses. There are five elected Directors and two ex-officio members who serve on the Board due to their position in the Younger Member Forum and the Branch.
- The nominating and elections processes are described in a more formalized manner in the revised By-laws.
- The prescribed Annual Meeting and at least six additional meetings are again described in the By-laws, as in the Constitution. The quorum remains at 25 subscribing members although this element is included in the By-laws and removed from the Constitution.
- Subsidiary Organizations are welcomed to become formed as a part of

the Section. With the revised By-laws there are processes by which to do so. The revised language includes the Types of Subsidiary Organizations, Formation and Disbandment. Included in the language are the Section approval requirements, preparation of an Annual Budget and an Annual Report which do not differ from the previous By-laws.

- The previous By-laws had Divisions, Committees and Section Representatives. To simplify the organization, the revised By-laws outlines only Standing Committees.

Other language has been simplified or expanded depending on the specific subject. Further details on the Operation will be described in the Section's Operations Manual which will undergo an overhaul in the coming months. The revisions will be oriented to consistency with the way the rest of ASCE operates.

If there are questions, please direct them to Norine Walker (nwalker@systra.com). ■

Announcing the 2021 FGIA Virtual Annual Conference

The Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance (FGIA) will hold its 2021 Annual Conference virtually due to the continued health concerns around the spread of COVID-19. This event, previously scheduled to be held at Omni Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida, will be hosted on Zoom for the convenience of participants. The event dates remain largely unchanged with the conference taking place Tuesday, February 23 through Thursday, February 25.

"At this time, we feel that the most prudent and practical approach is to continue offering our high-value events using a virtual platform. It is the safest option for our members, respects the policies and priorities that companies have in place, and creates a greater opportunity to engage with an even broader audience of industry professionals," said Janice Yglesias, FGIA Executive Director. "FGIA has adapted in 2020 to effectively deliver highly-relevant technical and economic content comparable to the top quality expected



from our in-person events. The 2021 Virtual Annual Conference will continue that practice."

FGIA made this decision well in advance of the 2021 event and is committed to keeping its membership and the industry informed as quickly as possible about any changes to the alliance's future event plans. As the event gets closer, FGIA will announce a blended slate of association business sessions as well as panel discussions, speakers and other content relevant to those in the industry as the pandemic and its effects continue.

"While the virtual format is no replacement for being together as an industry in-person, it does still include a focus on networking and staying connected

through discussion forums and themed happy hours," said Yglesias. "Participate in next month's [Virtual Fall Conference](#) to experience how comprehensive and valuable FGIA's event content continues to be."

For more information about FGIA events, visit <http://events.fgiaonline.org>.

FGIA Virtual Fall Conference keynote speaker Dr. Chris Kuehl discusses post-COVID-19 economy

An economist gave an assessment of the current economy and what the industry might expect from an eventual post-COVID economy during the keynote address at the Fenestration and Glazing Industry Alliance (FGIA) Virtual Fall Conference. "The impact this current recession has had will either push us back to where



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Announcing the 2021 FGIA Virtual Annual Conference

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we were in 2019 or continue into 2021, 2022,” said Dr. Chris Kuehl, a managing director of Armada Corporate Intelligence, who provides forecasts and strategic guidance for a wide variety of corporate clients around the world.

Kuehl noted, while his presentation’s title suggested that the pandemic might be at a place where some answers can be gleaned, “we are still waiting for the post-COVID economy. A lot depends on the next six months.” With more than 200,000 deaths, COVID-19 has taken its toll on the U.S. economy, said Kuehl.

Recovery

“In order for recovery to take place, consumers must consume,” said Kuehl. “We saw people spending their money early on when the bailout package went out.” However, he noted, this recession has been an unusual one in many ways, including the fact that it was not a collapse nor was it imposed. “We don’t know how it ends,” he said.

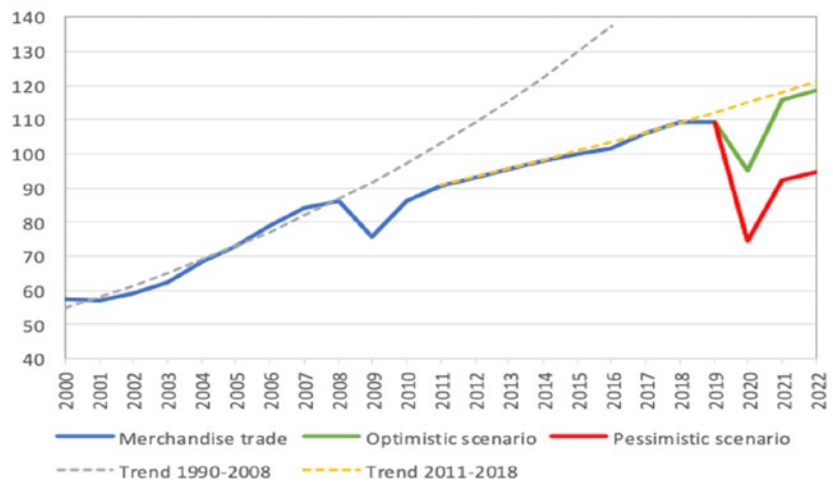
Consumer Spending Habits

Normally, said Kuehl, “if you put money in the hands of consumers, they will spend their way out of a recession, but consumers have had nowhere to go, in this case, with restaurants and stores being closed.” However, he believes these industries will return. “The airlines will come back,” Kuehl said. “Hotels will come back.”

Economic Forecast

In other economic news, Kuehl had the following points to share:

Long Lasting Impact



- Interest rates have been lowered as low as they can possibly be and will not be raised any time soon.
- The U.S. will see double-digit unemployment for the foreseeable future.
- The growth area right now is warehousing, as supply chains have changed.

Construction Industry

With the construction industry specifically, Kuehl saw a decline in home pricing as well as “significant declines” in non-residential building activity. “Homes finally became more affordable over the past year,” said Kuehl. “We have seen forecasts predicting a decline in pricing but not dropping to the point

we saw in 2008 and 2009.” And, though 2020 was expected to be a year of modest growth for non-residential building activity, now significant declines are expected, said Kuehl. Meanwhile, remodeling business is booming. Additionally, Millennials, whom Kuehl described as having been resistant to single family homes, are changing their perspective and preference.

Future Growth

In terms of economic growth, Kuehl foresees a return to “normal” in probably the second or third quarter of 2021. “The bottom line is, we are going through a weird peak and valley, which will drift its way back to a more normal run,” said Kuehl. “It’s just a matter of how we get back to that point.” ■

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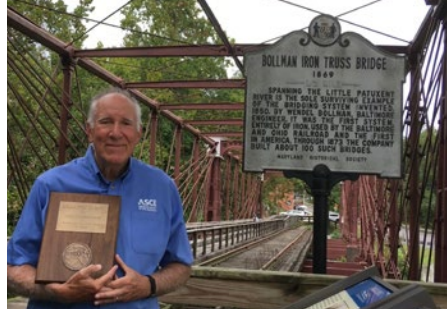
ASCE-NCS Committee and Branch News and Updates

History and Heritage

ASCE 2020 Civil Engineering History & Heritage Award

For his tireless efforts to advance the understanding and appreciation of past civil engineers and their works, ASCE selected Bernie Dennis to receive the 2020 Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award. The award was presented during the Membership Meeting and Award Presentations in ASCE's Virtual Convention on October 29th.

The History and Heritage Award was endowed by Trent Dames and his wife Phoebe in 1966. Bernie joins an impressive list for past award winners from the NCS: Gayle Hathaway (1969), Neal FitzSimons (1976), Abba Lichtenstein (1991), and Robert Kapsch (2016).



The award consists of a plaque and a \$3,500 cash prize. For his acceptance at the virtual convention, Bernie recorded a short video at the Bollman Truss Bridge in Savage, MD – ASCE's first National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

Environment & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)

EWRI Webinar Series Continues

EWRI continued its 1st Thursday webinars this month. On October 1st, our chapter heard from Dr. Kimberly Jones, the Chair of Howard University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Dr. Jones has received numerous awards for her work including: Researcher of the Year award from Howard University, a Top Women in Science Award from the National Technical Association, the Outstanding Young Civil Engineer award from University of Illinois Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, a NSF CAREER Award, an Outstanding Leadership and Service and Outstanding Faculty Mentor award from Howard University, and Top Women Achievers award from Essence Magazine.

During the webinar Dr. Jones drew off her experience serving on a number of governmental water boards including EPA's Science Advisory Board and the National Academy of Sciences Water Science and Technology Board to give an overview of the intersection of technology and public policy and how they can work together to enhance public health.

Join us at noon on November 5th, for our next webinar. The presenter will be Dr. Malcolm Taylor from WSSC. Dr. Taylor is a principal engineer at WSSC and will present on the Piscataway Bioenergy Facility. The facility, planned for completion in 2024 will be one

of the largest bioenergy facilities in the Country. Look for a registration announcement in your email. One PDH will be offered for those attending the webinar.



Younger Members Forum

By Kush Vashee, P.E., CAPM, M. ASCE

Monthly Happy Hour

The NCS Younger Members Forum (YMF) holds monthly happy hours, alternating between Arlington, VA and Washington, DC. Happy hours are usually the first Wednesday of each month unless a holiday falls during that week.

The NCS YMF hosted our annual planning meeting on September 30th where we discussed the organization of future professional development and social events as well as electing and installing a new leadership board for the 2020–2021 year, as follows:

- President: Ariana White
- Vice President: Amanda Frosztega
- Secretary: Kush Vashee
- Social Chairs: Tara Longo
- Communications Chairs: Todd AllenGifford and Felice Chan
- Professional Development: Javier Revilla and Hala Abdo
- Outreach/Service: Nick Nigro
- Diversity and Inclusion Chair: Kelsey Prem

On October 7th the NCS YMF held a socially distanced happy hour at Dacha Beer Garden (Navy Yard). The group will host their next happy hour starting at 6PM on November 4th at [Bronson Bierhall](#) in Arlington, VA near Ballston Metro Station, look out for an email soon with the location. We hope to see you there!

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Professional Development: If you have suggestions for professional development meeting topics or would like to become more involved with the YMF in other areas, please contact the YMF President at ncsymfpresident@gmail.com.

Stay Connected! Check out photos and stay up-to-date with YMF events by visiting the new YMF Facebook page (ASCE National Capital Section Younger Members Forum), following us on Twitter (@ASCE_NCS_YMF), LinkedIn (ASCE National Capital YMF), and Instagram (@asce_ncs_ymf)

Get Involved! Are you interested in getting involved with more Younger Members activities? Do you have ideas for social events or volunteering activities? The NCS Younger Members Group is always looking for new members! Let us know if you are not already on our mailing list! If you would like to become more active with the YMF or would like more information on our events, please email the YMF President.

Reston Branch

By Christopher J. Friend, P.E., Reston Branch Vice President

On October 13th, ASCE Reston Branch hosted Kent Holland, a construction risk management consultant and construction lawyer. Kent represents design professionals, contractors, and project owners and is the founder and president of a risk management consulting firm, ConstructionRisk, LLC. During the presentation, Kent addressed contractual risk management issues concerning COVID-19 and provided contract drafting and risk management ideas, as well as sample contract wording and lessons learned from recent construction litigation. Overall, Kent's presentation was very informative and well received by our Branch. Thank you Kent!

On November 5th, the Reston Branch will host a virtual meeting with presenter Amir Gheitasi, PhD, P.E., a Senior Bridge Evaluation Engineer with WSP USA. His presentation will discuss the importance of refined analysis and its potential to assist bridge owners in executing their asset management policies when considering bridge inspection data. Asset management policies include but are not limited to posting, capital programming, and resource allocations for maintenance and rehabilitation of the national transportation infrastructure.

About the Presenter:

Amir Gheitasi, PhD, PE, is a senior engineer and technical principal with the complex bridge group at WSP. Since joining WSP in 2017, he has been involved in various projects mainly focused on bridge load rating, load testing, design, and rehabilitation. Prior to WSP, Dr. Gheitasi was involved with the precast-prestressed concrete industry providing engineering services for design, inspection, and evaluation of several parking garages. He also worked as a structural engineer in the building sector, prior to attending graduate school. In addition, he is an active member of several professional organizations and has served on a number of technical committees on bridge design and evaluation for TRB, ACI, PCI, and ASCE. Dr. Gheitasi received his Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from the University of Virginia, after receiving his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Tehran Polytechnic, Iran. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the States of California and Virginia.



Given the current nature of the pandemic, the ASCE Reston Branch is planning to have our technical meetings in a virtual format throughout the fall. In the spring, the Board will reevaluate the situation and will schedule virtual or in-person meetings as appropriate.

The Reston Branch has launched a [group](#) on LinkedIn to provide regular updates for the branch as well as offer a place for branch members to connect. See the following link for additional information: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13759693/>

Upcoming Events:

- November 5th, 12 PM – Virtual Technical Meeting – Refined Analysis to Support Bridge Rating and Management – Amir Gheitasi, PhD, P.E.
- January 12th, 12 PM – Leveraging BIM for Requirements Management – Zachary Beach, P.E.

Education Committee

By Jameelah Muhammad Ingram, P.E., M.ASCE

ASCE NCS Hosts First Virtual Résumé Clinic

The ASCE NCS Education Committee hosted a résumé clinic for collegiate chapters on October 15, 2020. It was the very first virtual edition! The event featured networking, a presentation, and résumé review appointments for students. Students may have missed having refreshments this time around. However, hosting the clinic online allowed them to unite with ASCE NCS professionals and students across chapters, with the click of a mouse! Students from George Mason University (GMU ASCE), Howard University (HU ASCE), and George Washington University (GW ASCE) attended the event, alongside ASCE NCS professionals.

The ASCE NCS Education Committee would like to thank the following professionals for offering their time to students on a Thursday evening:

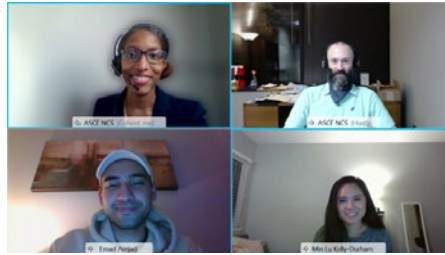
- Todd Allen-Gifford, E.I.T., LEED® G.A.
- Brian M. Barna, P.E., LEED AP (ASCE NCS Past President)
- Stuart Crooks
- Nicole Huang, E.I.T., CFM
- Min Lu Kelly-Durham
- Lynn Mayo, P.E.
- Nicolette Schluter, E.I.T.
- Sarah Shay, E.I.T. (GMU ASCE Past President)
- Michael D. Venezia, P.E. (ASCE NCS President)
- Brian H. Zelenko, P.E. (ASCE NCS Past President)

That evening, Jameelah Muhammad Ingram, P.E. (ASCE NCS Vice President and Education Committee Chair) gave a presentation with tips for progressing from the networking to the interview stages. Recommendations for writing a great résumé were shared. Some advice was even tailored to the new virtual environment (such as video backgrounds to avoid for interviews). Surprisingly, however, many of the rules for engaging remained the same. For example, arriving at least 15 minutes early to an interview is still an excellent idea – even if a student is just walking to their laptop. This way, the student has time to log on and mentally prepare before it begins. Jameelah also shared the valuable resources ASCE provides. This includes an opportunity to network with engineers globally through the

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ASCE Collaborate forum or gain exposure via the [ASCE New Faces of Civil Engineering](#) program. (The application is due on November 18th.)

Lynn Mayo, P.E. (CEO of RePicture and ASCE NCS Corporate Relations Chair) introduced RePicture to student chapter members at the presentation as well. RePicture helps engineering and science students to discover their right career. It also offers career resources for students, such as a Résumé-Builder program. When many entry-level and internship positions were canceled this year, the program still provided a way for students to expand their résumé and skill set. Through the program, students have an opportunity to be rewarded for their research. Awards range from prizes from industry organizations to



one-on-one meetings with professionals in a desired field.

After the presentation, ASCE NCS professionals answered questions and shared personal career stories, brimming with advice. Then, students and professionals were matched and moved to virtual breakout rooms for one-on-one résumé reviews. Since the résumé clinic and presentation, students have

expressed their appreciation for receiving guidance from working professionals; learning about RePicture; and the opportunity to spark a personal connection with a professional. I have a feeling that this won't be the last time many of them meet!

The ASCE NCS Education Committee welcomes all members to join us next year, in-person or online! ■

Employment Clearinghouse

The NCS provides the Employment Clearinghouse as a free service to its membership. The Clearinghouse allows members to post short notices

for available positions or candidates seeking employment. All employers listed herein are equal opportunity employers. If you have questions,

are seeking employment or would like to post a position please contact the [newsletter editor](#) and visit our [jobs page](#).

WISHFUL THINKING?

We've decided to be optimistic and plan our 2021 conference!

We'll be back (in-person) at the **Smithfield Event Center** April 19-21, 2021

If our in-person event is held, a **virtual conference** option will also be available.

Stay tuned for more details.

Let's Hope Not!

GEO VIRGINIA 2021 CONFERENCE
viriniageoinstitute.org