

# THE ARIZONA CIVIL ENGINEER

Volume 94 Issue 1 - October 2018

## A Message From the President

Ted Smithwick PE, CPM, M.ASCE, President, ASCE Arizona

### Living an Outward-Focused Life

“How are you?”

“I’m great – how are you? How’s work?”

“Good, good... staying busy.”

\*family\*

\*travel\*



Have you ever had the above conversation? I know I have... many times. Too many to count. It’s a good conversation, at least it’s a good *beginning* to a conversation. But where do you go from there? I’ve spent almost my entire life NOT being outward-focused (by outward-focused I mean you strive to listen to others more than you talk at others), and I’m by no means an expert on this topic, but if you’re interested in just a couple of my thoughts, please keep reading:

1.) **Be present.** I’m not naturally good at making conversation with people, but rather I actively prepare for it. When I’m headed to a social gathering, I’ll often think of who will be there, what’s going on with them, and various conversation topics to have with them. This is because I’m an introvert and I have to do this to push myself outside my comfort zone; you may not be like this at all, but rather you may be energized by the presence of others. Other times, I’ll be at my desk working hard when someone walks over and would like to have a conversation; I’m more caught off guard than the first situation. Wherever you are, or whatever you’re doing, try to take a moment to be present with the person you’re talking with. Look away from your computer screen, stop thinking about what’s for lunch, and be there for this human interaction. Or if you’re working on a deadline and can’t talk, say that.

2.) **Ask questions.** A funny thing happens when you ask questions: you get an opportunity to get to know someone on a much deeper level than you may otherwise.

a.) *Don’t be afraid.* As you get to know someone, we often visit topics where we’re uncertain if people want to talk about certain things, so what we tend to do is to completely avoid those topics. What I’ve found instead is that generally... people want to share and talk about the experiences they’ve had. And if people don’t want to share, they’ll tell you that.

b.) *Be curious.* Be genuine and learn why people are the way they are, strive to understand their experiences, what makes them unique, and understand their

perspective on the world. I think you'll be surprised more often than not about what others have to say.

3.) **Strive for empathy.** When you listen to your friends, family, coworkers... you make them feel special and important. Sometimes you'll chat with people for minutes and minutes and they won't ask a single question... and that's ok. Albeit difficult, we also want to share our experiences and be heard, and it's important we seek those outward-focused people in our own lives who'll listen to us and offer empathy. But sometimes the nicest thing you can do for others all day is to ask a couple questions and know they appreciate you listening.

I'm excited to serve all of you over the next year as President of the Arizona Section of ASCE. We have a great organization of people who have donated countless hours of time to the advancement of our profession. Do you have any ideas how we can improve ASCE? Do you see a way to advance our profession through ASCE, but just need some funding? Is there an educational outreach or public service cause that's important to you, but you just need some volunteers? **I want to hear from you.** Let's work together and continue to build on our strong foundation. My email is [SmithwickTed@stanleygroup.com](mailto:SmithwickTed@stanleygroup.com).

Please join me in thanking Fausto Burruel for his ongoing service to the ASCE Arizona Section. Fausto has planned and organized multiple successful conferences, served us diligently as ASCE Arizona President, all while becoming the Deputy Director at the Town of Marana and being an active parent to three kids.

Inside this edition of The Arizona Civil Engineer you'll find opportunities to teach a child about engineering, volunteer in other ways, and network with your fellow engineers. I hope you'll find time to join me at some of these events.

## Upcoming Events

### October

Yuma Branch Luncheon, October 9, 2018

Phoenix Branch Luncheon, October 10, 2018

Northern Arizona Branch Luncheon, October 11, 2018

SAB YMF Camping Trip, October 12-14, 2018

2018 Southwest Symposium "Slope Stability and Earth Retaining Structures",  
October 16, 2018

UA 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming BBQ, October 27, 2018

### November

Northern Arizona Branch Luncheon, November 8, 2018

Yuma Branch Luncheon, November 13, 2018

[For more information visit the ASCE Arizona Calendar](#)

## 2018-2019 ASCE Arizona Officers

### **Arizona Section**

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Jake Fleishman, Secretary

### **Yuma Branch**

Chris Einmo, Treasurer

## **2018 Awards**

### ***Region 8***

The **small project (<\$10M)** of the year honorable mention is the **Town of Wickenburg Ranch Water Reclamation Facility**. Owner: Town of

Wickenburg. Consulting Engineer: GHD. Construction Contractor: Carrier Construction.

The **large project (>\$10M)** of the year recipient is the **City of Phoenix 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue Compost Facility**. Owner: City of Phoenix. Architect: Arrington Watkins. Consulting Engineer: Dibble Engineering. Construction Contractor: Brycon Corp

### **Arizona Section**

**Chelsi Remme** has been awarded the **Tonopah Award**. *The award is intended to recognize the contribution of an outstanding young Civil Engineer to Arizona's programs.*

**David Monihan, Jr.** has been awarded the **John C. Park Award**. *An Arizona Society award which may be made annually to a registered professional engineer in Arizona, who is a Fellow or Life Member of the Arizona Society ASCE, and who is judged to have contributed substantially to the status of the engineering profession.*

**Deirdre Brosnihan** has been awarded the **Arizona Civil Engineer Distinguished Service Award**. *The award is presented at the annual Arizona Society Meeting to someone who has exhibited extraordinary distinguished service to the civil engineering profession, the ASCE society and the community.*

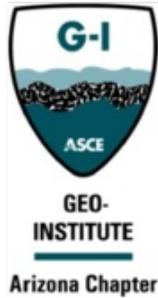
**Deirdre Brosnihan and Mark Lamer** have been awarded the **President's Award**. *The award is presented by the President for outstanding service, individual dedication and commitment, or leadership within the Arizona Society of Civil Engineers.*

**Emily Ford**, of Arizona State University was recognized by ASCE Arizona as an **Outstanding Senior**.

**Paxson Lowther**, of Northern Arizona University was recognized by ASCE Arizona as an **Outstanding Senior**.

**Jessica Hinson**, of University of Arizona was recognized by ASCE Arizona as an **Outstanding Senior**.

## **2018 Southwest Symposium**



# 2018 Southwest Symposium "Slope Stability and Earth Retaining Structures"

October 16, 2018

Learn - Share - Network



Photo supplied at <http://arizonahighways.wordpress.com/2014/07/15/transportation-board-approves-funding-for-u-s-route-89-repairs/>

#### Topics Include:

- Rockfall Stabilization
- Deep Excavations
- Soil Nails
- Connect 202 Update
- Landslides
- Geosynthetic Slope Stability
- Unsaturated Slope Stability
- Mining Tailings Slope Stability

#### Location:

Desert Willow Conference Center  
4340 E Cotton Center Boulevard, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

## UA Civil Engineering News

Dominic L. Boccelli, PhD, Department Head, UA

Homecoming is quickly approaching and CAEM will be hosting our Homecoming Weekend on October 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>, which includes our Centennial Lecture and weekend BBQ. This year we are very excited to announce our Centennial Lecturer – Dr. Atorod Azizinamini – the Vasant H. Sutri Professor of Civil Engineering from Florida International University. Dr. Azizinamini also serves as the Chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and the Director of the Accelerated

Bridge Construction University Transportation Center (ABC-UTC). He was also the recipient of the [2015 White House Champions of Change in Transportation](#). Dr. Azizinamini's lecture will focus on accelerated bridge construction, and will be held on Friday, October 26 at 1:00 pm in the CESL (Center for English as a Second Language), room 102. All are welcome to attend.

We will also be hosting our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Homecoming BBQ. The BBQ will be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> in the Civil Engineering Courtyard three hours prior to kickoff. Please RSVP on the [Civil and Architectural Engineering and Mechanics webpage](#).

Our Society of Civil Engineering undergraduate student group will be hosting their annual Career Fair on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Career Fair will start with a 1-hour reception mixer at 4 pm in the Civil Engineering courtyard. The Career Fair will continue from 5 – 7 pm in the Student Union Memorial Center South Ballroom. This is a great opportunity to meet our exceptional students. If you are interested in arranging an info session or booking a room for interview, please contact [Alayna Roberts](#) or [Jessica Jibrin](#).

In addition to these events, the department is undergoing significant changes this year. We are in the process of renovating our undergraduate laboratories. We have already completed renovations to our computer, hydraulic and surveying labs, and are in the process of renovating our geotechnical labs. Our future plans include additional renovations to our materials and structure labs.

I'd also like to briefly introduce myself. I have recently joined the CAEM faculty as the new Department Head as of Aug 1, 2018. I am joining UA after 11 years at the University of Cincinnati, and 2 years with the US EPA in their National Homeland Security Research Center. I received my PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, and am looking forward to continuing the growth of the CAEM department.

So, as my first update to ASCE Arizona, I would like to welcome you and invite you to attend one of our upcoming events and see the changes within the department. Thanks, and I'm looking forward to our interactions.

## Phoenix Branch News and Notes

Larry Hanson, PE, M.ASCE, Vice President, Phoenix Branch

### Recap of the Sustainability Presentations

On August 30<sup>th</sup> the Phoenix Branch hosted presentations on sustainable infrastructure and land use at the Maricopa County Department of Transportation offices. Speakers included: Mike Naber, PE, Phoenix Branch Sustainability Chair; Mark Woodson, PE, ASCE 2016 National President; Steven Olmsted, ADOT; Hannah Bleam, AICP, City of Phoenix, and Mikhail Chester, PhD, Arizona State University. There were forty-nine attendees. Over ninety percent of the attendees who responded to the presentation evaluation indicated an interest in a one-day sustainability conference, and 21 people indicated an interest in Envision training. The Phoenix Branch is considering these suggestions.

### October Luncheon

**Date:** October 10, 2018

**Location:** Because-Space for Life, 3419 E. University Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85034

**Time:** 11:30AM - 1:00PM

**Speakers:** Cheryl L. Lombard, Esq., Valley Partnership, President & CEO; David Martin, Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors of America, President;

Tony Bradley, Arizona Trucking Association, President & CEO.

The panel members will share their thoughts on transportation funding shortfalls, streamlining NEPA, legislation to prevent sweeping of HURF funds, vehicle license tax, challenges with City of Phoenix light rail, where we go from here, future solutions, and how civil engineers can get involved.

For more information contact Rob Lyons at 480.222.5715.

Advanced registration required.



*Cheryl Lombard*



*David Martin*



*Tony Bradley*

## Joint APWA/ASCE November Luncheon

**Date:** November 14, 2018

**Location:** Phoenix Country Club, 2901 N. 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014

**Time:** 11:30AM - 1:00PM

**Speaker:** TBD

For more information contact Laura Spencer at 480.341.6329

Advanced registration required.

## Civil Engineering High School Club - Call for Volunteers

The Phoenix Branch continues to promote our industry by once again supporting the Civil Engineering Club at Hamilton High School in Chandler. The students are back to school and eager to participate once again after gaining national exposure at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition in North Carolina. This Club is formed by high school students who want to learn more about civil engineering. They meet every two weeks on Wednesday at 2:30 pm. The Phoenix Branch is trying to expose these students to the variety of disciplines that our industry is composed of. The Club appreciates all the support that they have received from the Phoenix Branch and are looking forward to another successful semester and school year!

If you are interested in finding out more about this effort and/or would like to help volunteer an hour of your time, please contact the Phoenix Branch Outreach chair, [Andrew Chill](mailto:Andrew.Chill@ASCE.org) (602.308.8802).

## Sustainability Chair Comments

ASCE members can become ISI members and avoid paying the \$20 individual membership fee, see the instructions on the ISI website. The deadline for submittal of abstracts for the November 2019 ASCE International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure in Los Angeles is October 4, 2018. [Submission Link](#).

Any questions please contact the Phoenix Branch Sustainability Chair, [Michael Naber](#).

## Leadership Opportunities in the Phoenix Branch

The Branch leadership team currently has two openings – Membership Chair and Social Media Chair. The anticipated time commitment is approximately three hours per month. If you are interested, contact President [Rob Lyons](#).

*The Arizona Civil Engineer is a publication of the Arizona Section of ASCE*

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