

# LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

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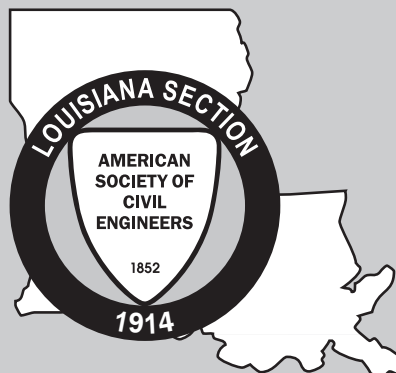


**Marcus D. Taylor, PE**  
**2023-2024 ASCE LA Section President**

## FEATURES:

Section Officers Installation  
& Awards

The History and  
Current State of Nationals



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**NOVEMBER 2023**  
**VOLUME 32 • NO 1**

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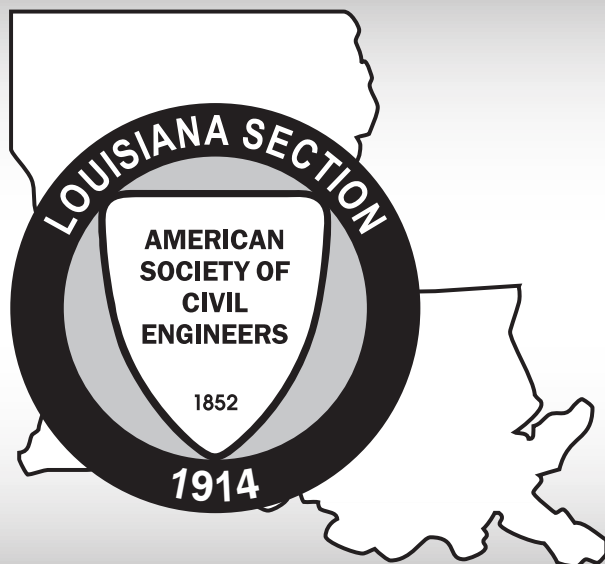
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The Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers was founded in 1914 and has since been in continuous operation. The Section consists of the entire state of Louisiana and is divided into four branches that directly serve over 2000 members. They are the Acadiana Branch centered in Lafayette, the Baton Rouge Branch, the New Orleans Branch, and the Shreveport Branch.

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The Louisiana Section is located in ASCE Region 5 that consists of the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida Sections, and Puerto Rico.



# President's Message

By Marcus Taylor, PE, Section President

On September 22, 2023, a new Louisiana Section Board was installed in Shreveport, LA. I was honored to be elected the Section's newest President and am excited for the possibilities for upcoming fiscal year. The past year finally felt like a normal ASCE year with more in person meetings and conferences across state and country. Our regional Branches and Institutes (COPRI, G-I, T&DI, and UESI) have all done a great job of providing membership and learning opportunities. I want to thank Kirk Lowery for his leadership and steadfastness to our Section and Board as President last year. Kirk is a great example of what commitment and hard work to our society can accomplish. I hope to do the same in the coming year and will ask for his continued friendship and support as we tackle 2024.

I'd like to give a brief history of my background and how I got into this roll. So, going all the way back, I was born in Salem, OR in 1980 and raised in the small town of Monmouth, OR until the summer of 1992. That summer our family moved to Louisiana when my father accepted the Vice President position at Barksdale Federal Credit Union in Bossier City, LA. You can only imagine the shock of what we felt when we moved from our comfortable July summer temperatures of 80° into the swampy Louisiana summer heat! I'm pretty sure we stayed indoors the rest of that summer huddled around the air conditioning. After high school, I joined the Louisiana Air National Guard in 1999 and served for six years being stationed at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse, NO. During that time, I attended Louisiana Tech University and graduated with a Civil Engineering degree in 2004. In 2006 I met my wife Laura, who was born and raised here in Shreveport, and in 2009 we were married. We still live here in Shreveport and have three beautiful and active children, Knox (11), Lawson (9) and Scarlett (8). Over the course of the last 20 years, I have been fortunate to work with some of the

most talented engineers in our profession and who all took the time to mentor me and help me progress in my career. I joined ASCE 18 years ago and since then have served on two Branch

Boards (Vicksburg, MS and Shreveport, LA) and now the Louisiana Section Board. In 2019, I was honored to serve as the Shreveport Branch President.

In this coming year, the Section leadership encourages our members to take advantage of the ASCE conferences here in Louisiana and in places like Miami, Florida for the next MRLC.

The 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium be hosted by University of New Orleans on March 7-9, 2024. The symposium will be an extraordinary fusion of traditional heritage and cutting-edge innovation. By supporting this event, you will empower 350 civil engineering students to embark on a journey of professional and personal development. UNO will host this amazing event for 15 universities from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The weekend will be packed with innovative engineering competitions and opportunities to learn more about the engineering industry. To receive details about the sponsorship packages, please email: [gcss@uno.com](mailto:gcss@uno.com).

Finally, I am proud of the Louisiana Section of ASCE and honored to be President this year. My plans are to facilitate the committees, branches, and institutes. I ask for your suggestions, participation, prayers, and support. I am excited about the important business at hand and opportunity to serve.



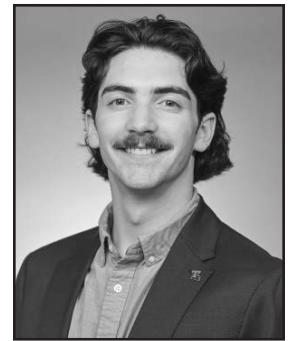
**Marcus Taylor, PE**

# The History and Current State of Nationals

by Mallory Mankins, Graduate Civil Engineer & Trevor Fortier, Louisiana Tech Student Chapter President



Mallory Mankins



Trevor Fortier

The ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition has not always been the grand high production value event we know it for today. In fact, concrete canoes have been around since the 1960s, when creative civil engineering students around the country began racing concrete boats as ASCE student chapter intramural events. The first inter-university race was held in 1971 between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Purdue. From there the competition grew quickly until the first ever national competition, titled “America’s Cup of Civil Engineering,” was held in 1988 at Michigan State. Since the 60s, the ever-evolving competition has added many new events, requirements, and constraints all while remaining true to the original spirit. The picture to the left is from the very first inter-university concrete canoe race in 1971. With ASCE being the oldest national engineering society in the United States and being spread across the nation and world, it has been divided into 10 different regions with some of them subdivided. The winning teams from each region and subregion in each competition advance to the national competition. Every year the regional competition is hosted at a different school within the specific region borders. The national competition is the same way with being hosted at a different school every summer, but instead of being on a schedule, the location for the next year is announced at the current national competition. Schools must apply to be able to host the national competition because the host would need to have the available space to house all participants, have the area to hold the competitions, and the necessary support to positively put on an event of this size and nature!

The ASCE National Competition now flies under the banner of the “Civil Engineering Student Championship.” Each school year

the ASCE National Competitions Board releases the rules and problem statement in September and students begin work as soon as these rules are released to prepare for their regional symposia, typically held around late March or early April. Student chapter competition teams fight hard at the regional symposia to earn their spot at nationals. The national competition is typically held at the beginning of the summer in early to middle June and brings together students from all over the world. Despite the misnomer of the “national” competition, nowadays it is open to all ASCE student chapters worldwide.

Aside from many other changes, the scoring breakdown has always remained relatively close to the same. Even though race demonstration is the best-known part of the competition since there are five different racing categories, it only makes up 20% of the final score. The other 80% of the overall score consists of a project report making up most of the remaining percentage with 30%, and the technical presentation and final product prototype to demonstrate the design and construction of the canoe making up 25%. After 34 years and lots of evolution, the ASCE National Competition remains true to its original purpose; to provide civil engineering students an opportunity to gain hands-on and practical experience while improving their leadership and collaboration skills.

## Louisiana Tech CCC+ Host:

The Louisiana Tech University American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter has had lots of exposure to the National competition during the last few years. In the summer of 2022, Louisiana Tech

University hosted the Concrete Canoe Competition+, where teams traveled across the country and internationally to Ruston, Louisiana to compete in the three major ASCE Student Competitions. These different competitions include Concrete Canoe, Sustainable Solutions, and Surveying. The Louisiana Tech Student Chapter was proud to be competing in all three competitions.



Planning a 500+ attendee competition with so many moving parts was an extensive but massively rewarding process! Katya Opel, a graduate student at the time, led a planning committee consisting of 15 students, with the help of the Associate Dean of Engineering, Dr. Heath Tims, and Louisiana Tech's ASCE Student Chapter faculty advisor, Dr. Elizabeth Matthews. With three different competitions going on over the span of the weekend, the team had to divide and conquer. Each member of the committee was assigned responsibility for a particular element of the competition, and every committee member executed their job perfectly. The picture to the right includes every active member of the planning committee. Going from left to right is Tanner Hines, Gillian Dahn, Brianna Murray, Trevor Fortier, Jeffree Chapa, Dr. Elizabeth Matthews, Mallory Mankins, Luke Bell, Katya Opel, Mason Macaluso, Macy Thibodeaux, Noah Savoie, Alec Gatewood, and Connor Sigler.

The committee filled the weekend with not only the competitions but also hosting a block party, a crawfish boil, a night pass to the Ruston Peach Festival, and finished the weekend with a post banquet celebration. The National Competitions Board was extremely complimentary of the work of the planning committee and the Louisiana Tech Student Chapter is proud to have hosted one of the most organized and well-run national competitions in recent history.

#### Louisiana Tech Road to Nationals (2022-2023):

All of the competition teams that Louisiana Tech's ASCE chapter had worked hard from the beginning of the year to prepare their designs and projects for the gulf coast student competition. The Gulf Coast Student Symposium was hosted by the University of South Alabama for Region 5. The Concrete canoe team and sustainable solutions team placed first in their respective competitions, the timber strong team placed second, and the surveying team also placed second. This year was the first time that Louisiana Tech has had a timber

strong team for the gulf coast student symposium. The team was able to learn what worked best to provide a good final production and was able to learn some pointers from the other teams that have competed regularly in this competition since it was added to the symposium competition list in 2019. This provided a good starting point for Tech competing in this competition and taught the team how to continue and refine their skills in the years to come, assuming that Timber Strong will continue to be offered.

In April of 2023, Louisiana Tech's ASCE concrete canoe and sustainable solutions teams were invited to compete at the Civil Engineering Student Championships hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in early June. Both teams had three months to solidify competition team members and make modifications to the final product based on the feedback received at the Gulf Coast Student Competition.

The concrete canoe team designed their canoe in the theme of Bonnie and Clyde because the famous shootout that ended their crime spree happened not far from Ruston, Louisiana. The canoe was stained on the outside to resemble a car driving along the road with one side having dots of stain to represent bullet holes. When the canoe was in the water, the stain made it look like a car was driving on the water. The team improved the bow and stern of the canoe this year by utilizing a corner trowel to perfect the sharpness on both ends to improve the straight-line speed of the canoe when racing. The team also enhanced their display board to make it have a 3-D appeal. The display board included a vault door in the center of it with the process of construction steps in picture form behind the door, to be seen when it was opened. All of the samples of materials were placed into mason jars and then wrapped in burlap to resemble money bags, with the liquid materials in small jars placed inside quarter rolls. The concrete canoe team placed seventh overall, with a notable fifth place for best final product. The team is excited about this success and plans to continue improving to return to nationals next year. The competition team, pictured above, was composed of ten people, with one person joining to help with the set up for display day and to learn how the national competition works in order to prepare for the years to come. The top row is made up of Jesse Bertucci, Rajian Bolden, Joseph Brown, Tanner Hines, Noah Savoie, Cole Cosse and Connor Sigler. The bottom row, which includes the females on the team, is Sara DeMattie, Gloriana White, Mallory Mankins, and Macy Thibodeaux.





The sustainable solutions team was tasked with redesigning a downtown area to increase multimodal transport, work on water collection, and include a community center, all while keeping creativity and sustainability in mind with the entire design. The problem statement was especially relevant to the Louisiana Tech team because of the developing downtown area at the heart of Ruston. Ruston's downtown area is being slowly revived and the team used these improvements and the potential for the future as inspiration in their award-winning design. The team placed second overall, continuing a trend of success in the sustainable solutions competition. This year's team that competed at nationals included Amanda Gordon, Rose Emery, Ashtyne Monceaux, and Alec Gatewood (not pictured).



### **Mallory Mankins**

*Mallory Mankins was the Louisiana Tech ASCE Student Chapter Past President (2021-2023), she received her BS in Civil Engineering-Class of 2023, and she is also the Graduate Civil Engineer at Halff Associates.*

### **Trevor Fortie**

*Trevor Fortie is the Louisiana Tech ASCE Student Chapter President (2023-2024), who will be receiving his BS in Civil Engineering-Class of 2025*

## **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER JOURNAL**



*Nedra Davis Hains  
Editor, Louisiana Civil  
Engineer Journal*

Dear Colleagues and Prospective Authors,

I am writing to solicit your participation in the forthcoming issues of the Louisiana Civil Engineer Journal. We seek to compile a robust collection of articles that reflect the breadth and depth of civil engineering practices and innovations in our region.

Your expertise is highly valued, and we invite you to submit a **one-page abstract for our publication committee's consideration**. The committee is composed of civil engineering professionals on the ASCE Louisiana Section Board: Katherine Foreman, PE (chair), Ali Mustapha, PE, Ronnie Schumann, Jr., PE, and Kirk Lowery, PE, D.GE.

**Once your article has been selected here are some guidelines:**

#### **Article Submission Deadlines:**

- January 5th for the February Journal
- April 5th for the May Journal
- July 5th for the August Journal
- October 5th for the November Journal

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Your article should range between 2 1/2 to 3 pages, approximately 3000 to 5000 words in length. We encourage the use of photographs and graphics to enhance the article, submitted preferably in JPG format. As we are a **black and white publication**, please ensure that your images are suitable for this format.

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Your contribution is eagerly anticipated, and we look forward to your insightful submissions that will undoubtedly contribute to the collective knowledge of our civil engineering community.

Please see our online archive of past articles for examples at <http://lasce.org> (Journal button at the top).



### *In Memoriam*

#### **Kam K. Movassaghi, PhD, PE, F.ASCE**

*former DOTD secretary, dies in Lafayette at age 83*

It is with profound sorrow that we mark the passing of Dr. Kam Movassaghi, former Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, esteemed civil engineering professor, and fervent advocate for the advancement of infrastructure within Louisiana and beyond. Dr. Movassaghi's journey began in Mashad, Iran, where he was born in 1940 amidst the echoes of a world at war. His quest for knowledge and dedication to civil service propelled him from the desire to tend to his family's agricultural roots to pursuing higher education—an ambition that would lead him across the world to Lafayette in 1960.

Dr. Movassaghi's academic prowess was evident when he earned his bachelor's degree in just three years from the Southwestern Louisiana Institute, followed by a master's degree and a doctorate in civil engineering from LSU. His marriage to Mazie, an intellectual partner and a bastion of support, was a testament to his personal as well as professional growth. The couple's return to Iran in the 1970s saw Dr. Movassaghi's significant contributions to academia and the private sector until the revolution forced their return to the United States—a testament to their resilience and adaptability.

Facing the challenges of U.S. sentiments during a tense geopolitical crisis, Dr. Movassaghi's unwavering dedication eventually led him to a role at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, where he shaped the minds of future engineers and left an indelible mark on the community.

His tenure as DOTD secretary from 1998 to 2004, under Governor Mike Foster, was marked by integrity and a clear vision for the state's transportation needs, notably championing the construction of Interstate 49 South. His leadership extended to his involvement with the American Society of Civil Engineers, where he not only served with distinction but also helped illuminate the state of our infrastructure through pivotal reports.



The American Society of Civil Engineers named him National Government Engineer of the Year and in 2012 he was executive director of the Report Card for Louisiana's Infrastructure, a groundbreaking report. Dr. Movassaghi was most recently the Louisiana Section ASCE Public Contracts Task Force Director.



*Kam K. Movassaghi,  
PhD, PE, F.ASCE*

Dr. Movassaghi's accolades are numerous, signifying his lifetime of contributions to transportation engineering and to the betterment of public works. He is one of 18 to receive ASCE's Francis C. Turner Award for contributions to the knowledge and practice of transportation engineering, was awarded a lifetime designation as a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academies and was named to the Louisiana Transportation Hall of Honor and LSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Hall of Distinction.

Beyond his professional sphere, Dr. Movassaghi was a pillar of the Lafayette community, serving as chairman of the chamber of commerce and engaging in numerous civic activities. His legacy is carried on by his wife, Mazie, their children Eric and Jennifer, and his grandchildren, who will continue to walk in the footsteps of his integrity and commitment to service.

The family will hold a private burial service, with a memorial to celebrate Dr. Movassaghi's remarkable life to be scheduled at a later date. We honor Dr. Movassaghi's legacy and mourn the loss of a true leader, educator, and visionary.



# 2023 ASCE National Convention

By Marcus D. Taylor, PE

The 2023 ASCE Convention was held on October 18-21, 2023, at Chicago, Illinois. The conference attendance included visitors from all over the world. The Louisiana Section was represented by Section President Marcus D. Taylor, PE and New Orleans Branch President Ayan Mehrotra, PE.

The theme of the conference was “Be Future Ready.” The conference presented many opportunities for technical tours, community service projects, technical presentations, leader’s luncheon, student and emerging leader’s breakfast, and short courses. The sessions of the conference offered valuable lessons learned in the industry and profession. The participants were able to secure up to 19.5 Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

The convention kicked off on Wednesday, October 18th in the morning with registration and then technical tours in the city throughout the day. That evening concluded with a welcome reception at the Museum of Science and Industry. The following morning, Maria Lehman, PE did an introduction speech and opened the plenary session “Preparing for the Next Wave of Innovation” which included remarks from Sheryl Connelly, Chief Futurist at Ford Motor Company. Thursday also included concurrent sessions covering multiple topics throughout the day.

Friday started with the ASCE Annual Membership Meeting, Society Awards, installation of new Officers. This meeting concluded with inaugural remarks given by President Maria Lehman, PE. Friday’s program also included the Industry Leaders Forum: Infrastructure Resilience – Natural Disasters and Beyond. The evening concluded with the OPAL Awards Gala. The closing Keynote on Wednesday was given by Greg MacGillvray.

Technical tours included the Architectural River Cruise, a Frank Lloyd Wright Tour, the Northerly Island Park Restoration, the Chicago-style Bascule Bridge Tour, and an Architecture Tour with Inside Chicago. The convention presentation and discussion topics included (i) The Competitive Workforce, (ii) Professional Development, (iii) Multidisciplinary Technical, (iv) Natural and Man-Made Disasters, (v) Significant Projects, (vi) Strategic Issues/Public Policy, and (vii) State of The Industry/Profession, and (viii) Future World Vision.

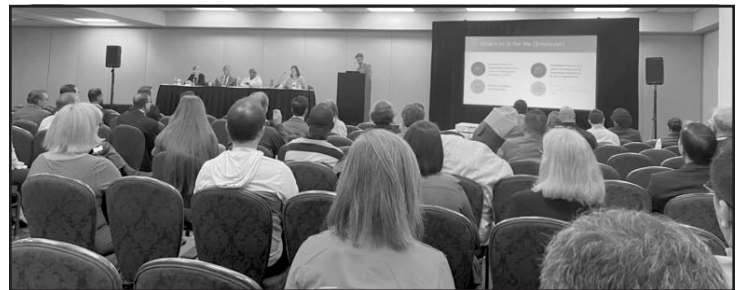
The convention included several events, exhibitors, breaks, and meetings that facilitated member networking. The program also provided great networking opportunity for the students as they communicated with industry leaders and students from other chapters.

The 2024 ASCE convention location is still to be determined but the dates have been set for October 6-9, 2024.

**ASCE**



*Plenary Session “Preparing for the Next Wave of Innovation”  
- Sheryl Connelly*



*Concurrent Session - Future World Vision: Developing the Workforce  
of the Future*



*Downtown Chicago*



# ELECTED ASCE REGION 5 GOVERNOR

## VISION STATEMENT

Christopher G. Humphreys, PE was recently elected has the Region 5 Governor. ASCE's recently approved strategic plan renews the organization's Vision, Mission and Commitment. While centered on the membership, profession and the public, the plan defines strategic shifts and objectives that apply to all three of these stakeholders and aligns well with Region 5 Goals to Inspire Members, Create Excitement and Promote Excellence in Civil Engineering.

Humphreys stated, "I believe Region 5 should promote the many resources ASCE provides to the members at all career levels but particularly at the student chapter and younger member levels so that they become aware of the many resources and learn early on how valuable they can be to their personal success as a civil engineer." The ASCE Mentor



*Christopher G. Humphreys, PE*

Match program is just one of the many valuable resources that can promote all three Region 5 Goals to young engineers and students.

Humphreys believes that we should also promote the career guidance and growth as well as the professional and technical continuing education opportunities that ASCE provides. He said, "Continuing education and life-long learning resources such as the ASCE Library, seminars, online training, technical sessions, courses and certificate programs are just a few resources we should promote to all of our members."

Humphreys is the Director of Engineering for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East, Engineering, Operations and Maintenance of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System on the east bank of the Mississippi River in Orleans, Jefferson and St Bernard Parishes, 2019-present.

## 2023 ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum

*By Katherine Foreman, PE*

On September 10–11, 2023, over 100 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors, Society Directors, Presidential Officers, and Institute Leaders from around the world participated in the 2023 Presidents and Governors Forum. Katherine Foreman, PE and Christopher Humphreys, PE represented the Louisiana Section. This Leader Training Committee event provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources, network with other ASCE leaders, discuss best practices, and develop leadership skills that would benefit their Sections, Branches, Regions, and Institutes.

The program began with a "Welcome and Society Overview," by President-Elect Marsia Geldert Murphey PE, F.ASCE and Executive Director Tom Smith, ENV SP, F.ASCE. Following the participants were engaged in a dynamic leadership session on the "Anatomy of an Effective Civil Engineering Team" by Col. Jim O'Brien, PE, M.ASCE. The agenda also focused on an "Introduction to your Presidency and How to Effectively Utilize your Governors", and "Section/Branch Challenges and Brainstorming a Presidential Plan". ASCE's General Counsel Tara Hoke presented on "Legal Issues impacting ASCE's local groups".

On the second day attendees participated in an interactive session with our President-elect, President-elect Elect, and Executive Director, followed by an abbreviated version of "PR University" introducing public relations and working with the media. Topping off the second day the attendees participated in "Sharing Measurable Goals and Lessons Learned".

The overall sentiment was that the program was reinvigorating, energizing, and motivational.



*Group photo of the October 2023 Presidents and Governors Forum attendees*



*Leaders from the Region 5 Governing Board, including Katherine Foreman and Christopher G. Humphreys of the Louisiana Section*

# 2023-24 ASCE Louisiana Section Awards and Officers Installation Meeting

The 2023-24 Louisiana Section Awards and Officers Installation Meeting was held on September, 22 2023 at the ASCE Shreveport Branch Past Presidents Luncheon / Award Ceremony / Section Board Installation at the Petroleum Club. Section President, Kirk Lowery, PE, called the meeting to order, gave the invocation, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Section President Lowery made the opening remarks and introduced Joshua Olivier, PE, Section Awards Committee Chair.

Continuing the presentations, Louisiana Section Awards Committee Chair Joshua Olivier, PE opened the awards ceremony.

The ASCE Louisiana Section Awards were instituted to recognize the outstanding contributions of Louisiana civil engineers for service to their profession and ASCE. He thanked the branches for nominating an outstanding slate of candidates for consideration for each award. The quality of the nominees for the various awards made the awards committee's task to determine this year's award recipients very difficult. Olivier also thanked the awards committee for their efforts in reviewing the numerous nominations and assisting in selecting this year's recipients.

## This year's Section Award recipients were:

**Nicholas Scalfano, EI** – Outstanding Young Civil Engineer  
**Benjamin M. Cody, PE** – Outstanding Civil Engineer  
**Dr. Sabarethinam Kameshwar** – Outstanding Civil Engineer Educator  
**Jack Koban PhD, PE, PG** – Outreach Award  
**Rhaoul A. Guillaume, Sr, PE** – Wall of Fame  
**Kurt M. Evans, PE** – Wall of Fame  
**Thomas A. Stephens, PE** – Lifetime Achievement



*Joshua Olivier, PE presenting Nicholas Scalfano, EI the Outstanding Young Civil Engineer Award*

After Olivier presented the Section Awards, President Lowery announced the final award of the ceremony, the President's Medal, to Ali Mustapha, PE.



*Kirk Lowery, PE presenting Ali Mustapha, PE the President's Medal*

Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE, Region 5 Governor at Large installed the officers for the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



*Swearing in of the 2023-24 Section Board by Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE*





*Swearing in of the 2023-24 Section Board by Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE*

#### ASCE LA Section 2023-2024 Officers:

**Marcus D. Taylor, PE** – President  
**Andrew Woodroof, PE** – President-Elect  
**Katherine Foreman, PE** – Vice-President  
**Brandt Richard, PE** – Secretary-Treasurer  
**Kirk Lowery, PE** – Past President

#### The Board of Directors are:

##### Branch Directors

**Rhett Hebert, EI** – CFM, Acadiana President  
**Robb Jewell, PE** – Baton Rouge President  
**Ayan Mehrotra, PE** – New Orleans President  
**Victor Bivens, PE** – Shreveport President

##### Assigned Branch Directors

**Jared Veazey, PE** – Acadiana Director  
**Danielle Mayeaux** – Baton Rouge Director  
**Jesse Noel, PE** – New Orleans Director  
**Linsey Brooke Olivier, PE** – Shreveport Director  
**Patrick Stiegman, PE** – New Orleans Director

#### Directors-at-Large

**Blake Roussel, PE** – Baton Rouge Director

#### Regional Governor

**Chris G. Humphreys, PE**

#### Regional Governor At Large

**Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE**

Marcus Taylor, PE, the new Section President then congratulated the new board. Taylor closed the meeting by presenting his goals for his upcoming presidency and thanked everyone for attending.



*Marcus Taylor, PE accepts the gavel from Kirk Lowery, PE and Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE*

2024 ASCE  
LOUISIANA SECTION

Spring Conference

Wednesday, March 20th, 2024

Thursday, March 21st, 2024

**ASCE**<sup>®</sup>  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
**LOUISIANA SECTION**

Embassy Suites Baton Rouge  
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Venu@AmeSouth.com



## ASCE Louisiana Section 2023-2024 Officers



**Marcus D. Taylor, PE**  
*President*



**Andrew Woodroof, PE**  
*President Elect*



**Katherine Foreman, PE**  
*Vice President*



**Brandt Richard, PE**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*



**Kirk Lowery, PE, President,**  
*Past President*

## ASCE Louisiana Section 2023-2024 Board of Directors



**Rhett Hebert, EI, CFM**  
*Acadiana President*



**Robb Jewell, PE**  
*Baton Rouge President*



**Ayan Mehrotra, PE**  
*New Orleans President*



**Victor Bivens, PE**  
*Shreveport President*



**Blake Roussel, PE**  
*Baton Rouge Director at Large*



**Patrick Stiegman, PE**  
*New Orleans Director at Large*



**Jared Veazey, PE**  
*Assigned Branch Directors*  
*Acadiana Director*



**Danielle Mayeaux**  
*Assigned Branch Directors*  
*Baton Rouge Director*



**Jesse Noel, PE**  
*Assigned Branch Directors*  
*New Orleans Director*



**Linsey Brooke Olivier, PE**  
*Assigned Branch Directors*  
*Shreveport Director*



**Christopher G. Humphreys, PE**  
*Regional Governor*



**Ronald Schumann, Jr., PE**  
*Regional Governor At Large*

# ASCE-COPRI Louisiana Chapter News

By William Gohres, PE, Director – Communications



COAST, OCEANS,  
PORTS AND RIVERS  
INSTITUTE

Louisiana Chapter



William Gohres, PE

## Director – Communications

The Louisiana Chapter of the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (L.COPRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) promotes membership, professional development, and visibility throughout the State of Louisiana by conducting virtual webinars and in-person events.

## Scholarship Announcement

L.COPRI traditionally awards annual scholarships to students (1 graduate and 1 undergraduate) studying Civil, Coastal, Ocean or Environmental Engineering, or a Coasts, Oceans, Ports, or Rivers related field. Be on the lookout for the scholarship application form. Scholarship winners are typically presented their checks during L.COPRI's annual spring seminar.

For application inquiries please contact Brett McMann, Scholarship Director at [bmmcman@thewaterinstitute.org](mailto:bmmcman@thewaterinstitute.org).

## Newly Inducted 2023-2024 L.COPRI Board Members

**Chair** – Myriam Bou-Mekhayel

**Vice Chair** – Gerald Songy

**Secretary** – John Darnall

**Treasurer** – Brett McMann

**Immediate Past Chair** – Andrew Woodroof

**Scholarship Director** – Kylie Beadle

**Communications Director** – Kiara Horton

**Programs Director** – Molly Bourgoynne

**YPG Director** – Yelitza Ceden

The Board Induction Ceremony was held at the Fall Seminar.

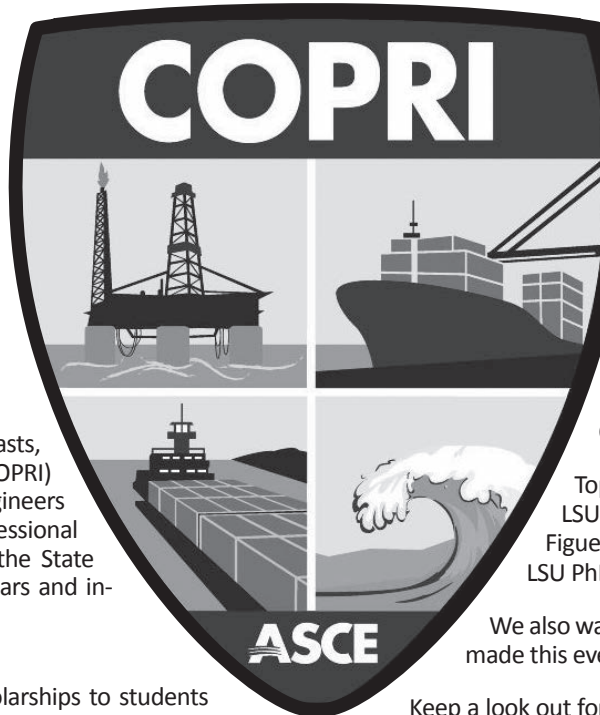
## Past Events

### Fall 2023 L.COPRI Annual Technical Seminar

L.COPRI hosted a full-day in-person seminar on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at the Lod Cook Alumni Center in Baton Rouge. There was a full schedule of speakers and panelists covering Resilience: from materials to government management, with some ethics and speed presentations on current student research. Special Thanks to all our speakers:

Topic 1: *Resilient Port* ; Tyler Gray, Director of Corporate & Government Affairs for Placid Refining, Greg Richardson, Executive Director of Columbia

Topic 2: *Resilient Materials* ; Mark Hollahan, Tangent Sustainable Lumber, Mo Ehsani, PhD, Quakewrap, Billy Tiller, Port-A-Dam



Topic 3: *Ethics AI* ; Norma-Jean Mattei, PhD, PE, F.SEI, F.ASCE, Professor at UNO

Topic 4: *Coastal Parish Panel: Resilience in Coastal Government* ; Lauren Averill, Jefferson Parish, Kay Barnett, Chenier Plain (Cameron, Calcasieu, Vermilion Parishes), John Helmers, Plaquemines Parish, Reggie Dupree & Angela Hidalgo, Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District, Mart Black, Terrebonne Parish

Topic 5: *Dredging with Nature* ; Mac Wade, Executive Director of the Port of Morgan City

Topic 6: *Student Researchers* ; Adam Gartelman, LSU PhD Candidate, Wenqianq, Nathan Figueredo, LSU PhD Candidate, Nathan Figueredo, LSU PhD Candidate

We also want to give a huge thanks to our sponsors that made this event possible.

Keep a look out for future event announcements via email and LinkedIn and contact our newly appointed 2023-2024 Programs Director Molly Bourgoynne at [molly.bourgoynne@la.gov](mailto:molly.bourgoynne@la.gov) with any questions or ideas you may have.

## National COPRI Professional Achievement Awards

National COPRI offers several opportunities to recognize our colleagues for their professional achievements. For more information on individual, project, research, and younger member award opportunities, please visit <https://www.asce.org/communities/institutes-and-technical-groups/coasts-oceans-ports-rivers-institute/awards>

## National COPRI Committees

Service on a COPRI committee is just one of the many ways in which you can give back to the profession. Each year engineering professionals participate in activities by volunteering their technical and professional expertise. Opportunities exist to join technical committees. For more information, please visit <https://www.asce.org/communities/institutes-and-technical-groups/coasts-oceans-ports-rivers-institute/committees>.

## Other Information

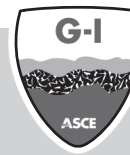
The activities of L.COPRI includes seminars, workshops, and other activities to benefit all ASCE and COPRI members. Members do not have to be an engineer to join COPRI. The Institutes of ASCE are formed for the benefit of ASCE and non-ASCE members to participate and interact with other professionals interested in coastal, oceans, ports, and riverine efforts in Louisiana. We would like to extend an invitation to our members to submit feedback and ideas for upcoming webinars and events. Please submit these ideas to [molly.bourgoynne@la.gov](mailto:molly.bourgoynne@la.gov), and stay-tuned for a meeting invite if you are a member of our L.COPRI email list.

Also, please don't forget to follow us on LinkedIn!



# ASCE-G-I Louisiana Chapter News

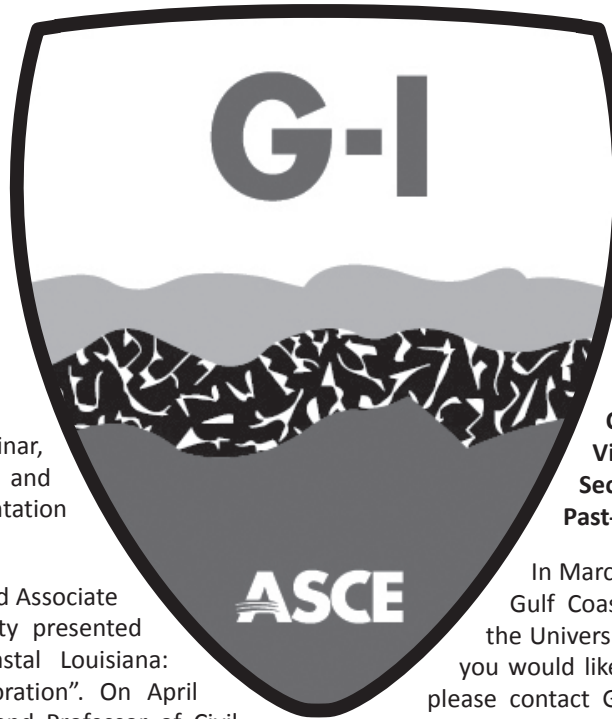
By George F. Segré Quilichini, PE, Chair



GEO-  
INSTITUTE  
LOUISIANA CHAPTER



George F. Segré Quilichini, PE  
G-I Chair



The GI-LA Chapter has held one webinar, one mixed in-person presentation and webinar, and one fully in-person presentation in 2023. These included:

On March 6, 2023, Navid Jafari, PhD and Associate Professor at Louisiana State University presented “Cone Penetrometer Testing in Coastal Louisiana: Implications to Protection and Restoration”. On April 19, 2023, Timothy D. Stark PhD, PE and Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

presented “Peak, Fully Softened, and Residual Shear Strengths for Slope Stability Analyses” as part of the GI Cross-USA Lecturer series. On October 5, 2023, Tim Siegel, PE, GE, D.GE Principal Engineer with Dan Brown & Associates presented “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Learned to Love Drag Load” during the LCECS conference. In October 2023, the G-I Board transitioned to its new officers.

#### The 2024 G-I board:

**Chair** – George F. Segré Quilichini, PE

**Vice-Chair** – Ricardo C. de Abreu, PhD, PE

**Secretary-Treasurer** – Venu Tammineni, PE

**Past-Chair** – Gwendolyn P. Sanders, PE

In March 2024 the G-I plans to assist with ASCE’s Gulf Coast Student Symposium to be hosted by the University of New Orleans (March 7 - 9, 2024). If you would like to join the group or sponsor a lecture, please contact George Segré at [george.segre@terracon.com](mailto:george.segre@terracon.com) for opportunities. We are actively looking for volunteers and opportunities to engage with the community.

## ASCE Government Relations



### Virtual Day of Action

Andrew Woodroof, PE and Nedra Hains, LSU Doctoral Candidate participated in the ASCE National Society’s Virtual Fly-in “Virtual Day of Action” on September 21-22, & 25, 2023. A special thanks goes to Alexandra Erwin, Operations Director for Representative Garret Graves office for helping the ASCE Section schedule our various meetings.

The Virtual Day of Action is an invitation-only group of experienced ASCE advocacy leaders, who represent a wide crosscut of ASCE constituencies. Nedra Hains, MA is the Advocacy Captain representing 15 years of advocacy for the Louisiana Section. The Virtual Day of Action was an opportunity to ensure that ASCE’s 2023 Legislative Fly-In agenda is achieved, through a one-day event that includes an issues webinar and virtual Congressional visits. On September 21, ASCE Government Relations hosted a special webinar that featured key policy leaders to dive into trending public policy issues as well as an exclusive briefing session on the latest key legislative activities in Congress. This webinar was open to all Key Contacts. The state teams held their virtual congressional meetings in the afternoon and for Louisiana, also on September 25, 2023.

#### Louisiana Delegation Meetings

Sept 21 – meeting with Ron Anderson with Senator Cassidy’s office

Ron Anderson, Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) (2015-), Senior Policy Adviser explained that Senator Cassidy & Ron Anderson wrote the IJAA bill and has seen its positive benefits in Louisiana. Anderson remarked, “Senator Cassidy is in support of keeping the government open and supporting the reauthorization of these bills.”

Sept 21 – meeting with Henson Webre with Senator Kennedy’s office

Anderson Tran highlighted that, “Representative Garret Graves is the subcommittee chair for Aviation and supports FAA reauthorization.”

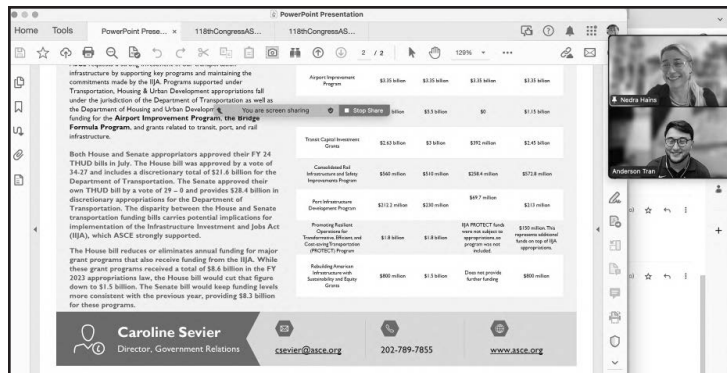
Sept 25 – meeting with Anderson Tran with Representative Garret Graves’ office

Henson Webre commented, “Senator Kennedy did not support the IJAA bill. He is a champion of resilient infrastructure and supports the reauthorization.” He also clarified that the bills are in committee, and they don’t think the reauthorization will happen until the new year. Henson added on a positive note that Sen. Kennedy is the ranking member of Energy & Water and works with the USACE on appropriations and tries to get them what they need.

This event took place completely online. The webinar briefing was hosted on Zoom Webinar. For the congressional meetings, Advocacy Captains and ASCE staff shared a video call-in. The overarching



rationale was to ensure that ASCE's 2023 Legislative Fly-In agenda was achieved like the Federal Aviation Administration and National Dam Safety Program reauthorizations passing before they expired on September 30. ASCE hosted this day of collective action with the state advocates to meet virtually with your federal delegations in state teams to follow up on our asks from this past March.



Nedra Hains, MA meets with Garret Graves' staffer Anderson Tran for the Virtual Day of Action

### Louisiana Engineers Gubernatorial Forum

The Louisiana Section of ASCE and the Louisiana Engineering Society held a joint "Louisiana Engineers Gubernatorial Forum" on October 2, 2023, at the City Club in downtown Baton Rouge.

Selecting a new governor to lead our state was a pivotal moment in Louisiana's history. Our country is facing record inflation and some of the most polarizing politics in modern history. In Louisiana, the rising costs of construction as a result of inflation is significantly reducing the buying power of our infrastructure dollars. Attracting and retaining talent is an ongoing challenge. Because of these and other issues, this election was critical to the engineering industry. Our organizations were honored to join forces in hosting this important forum. Collectively, our organizations represent both individual engineers and consulting engineering firms throughout Louisiana.

The emcees for the forum were Ryan Haynie and Chance McNeely who serve as lobbyists for the Louisiana Engineering Society and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana, respectively. Each candidate was given an opportunity to introduce himself/herself and present his/her basic platform. After a brief address, our emcees posed a series of questions related to the most critical issues affecting our industry that the candidates responded to. There are many issues that affect the engineering industry in Louisiana that lie within the purview of the Governor of our state. While almost all issues touch our members and businesses in some way, those included in the forum were the four most critical issues affecting the engineering industry in our state. These include **Transportation and Infrastructure Funding, Professional Licensure for Engineers, Engineering Workforce Development and Retention, and Qualifications-Based Selections.**



Gubernatorial Forum October 2, 2023, at the City Club Baton Rouge



Gubernatorial Forum October 2, 2023, at the City Club Baton Rouge (L to R) Chance McNeely, Ryan Haynie, Nathan Junius, Marcus Taylor, and TJ Stokes



ASCE Louisiana Section President, Marcus Taylor address the Gubernatorial Forum October 2, 2023, at the City Club Baton Rouge (L to R) Chance McNeely, Ryan Haynie, Nathan Junius, Marcus Taylor, and TJ Stokes



### ASCE's Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act Resource Center

We've created a one-stop-shop for tracking the latest from the \$1.2 trillion federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Our resource center includes a list of open grant applications, opportunities to weigh in on implementation, and a schedule of upcoming funding distribution cycles. The password to access the internal pages is 'raisethegrades'.

Track upcoming Notices of Funding Opportunities at the ASCE member only IIA Implementation Resource Center. The password is 'raisethegrades'. ASCE Government Relations continuously updates the information as federal agencies roll out programs and funds here: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/iiareources>.

# ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Elba Hamilton - Newsletter Editor



TRANSPORTATION  
& DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE  
LOUISIANA CHAPTER



Elba Hamilton  
T&DI Chair

## Election of New Officers

The Chapter would like to acknowledge the contributions of our 2022-2023 officers. For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Michael Paul, PE, has assumed the Chair position; Ronnie Schumann, PE, will serve as Vice Chair; Jim Simmons, PE, will continue to serve as Treasurer; and Elba Urbina Hamilton, PE, will serve as Newsletter Editor.

## Louisiana T&DI Scholarship Program

One of the long-term goals of the T&DI Louisiana chapter was to start and sustain a scholarship program. That goal was achieved during 2012 fiscal year with the formation of a scholarship subcommittee. T&DI plans to award two \$500 scholarships; the funding is provided by using a portion of our seminar proceeds. An announcement will be issued to various university civil engineering department heads across the state. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and awardees will be announced in a future Newsletter issue. For more information on our scholarship program contact Louay Mohammad at [louaym@lsu.edu](mailto:louaym@lsu.edu).

## Looking Ahead

The intent of T&DI is to promote transportation and development as a career path, and to provide training and networking

opportunities for all professionals involved in transportation projects. If you are interested in co-sponsoring a seminar at your branch, the T&DI Louisiana Chapter has prepared a Seminar Coordinator's Check List to assist you in your preparation contact Michael Paul at [MPaul@trccompanies.com](mailto:MPaul@trccompanies.com) for a copy of the checklist. Our seminars are one to two hours in length and are typically presented in the evenings in either the New Orleans or Baton Rouge area.

We have also presented outreach seminars with the ASCE Acadiana Branch and Shreveport Branch. We are open to co-hosting seminars in additional Louisiana cities if requested. In keeping with the intent of the Institute to provide training and networking opportunities for all professionals involved in transportation projects, the Chapter is planning the following future seminars before the end of the year:

- **Federal Benefit-Cost Analysis for Grant Applications (November)** - Federal grant obligations have nearly tripled in the past five years, a lot of that is due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act which supplemented the previous transportation authorization. A major component of the federal grant application is the benefit cost analysis (BCA). In this seminar, an overview of BCAs for U. S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Emergency Agency will be provided along with best practice to provide sound technical results in support of grant applications.
- **Ethics (December)** – This presentation will be a free webinar planned for the first week in December.



## Branch News



### ACADIANA BRANCH

*By Rhett Hebert, EI, CFM, Branch President*

The Acadiana Branch had a very successful 2022-2023 year which including hosting the 2023 ASCE Annual Conference. We look forward to continuing that success into the new year. As I take over the Branch President duties for the 2023-2024 year, I would like to thank Past President Carolyn

Chapman, PE for her service and commitment to the Acadiana Branch.

The first ASCE event this fall was our Annual Golf Tournament. The UL Student Chapter was able to set up a fundraiser at the tournament for their Gulf Coast competitions. Overall, the tournament was a huge success, and we owe it all to the participants and sponsors' support. We look forward to continuing to host this event as each year the participating members have overwhelmingly positive feedback.

In early October UL students and other volunteers spent a day at Cypremort Point State Park removing a substantial amount of trash from the area. Zachary Romaine, PE with Royal Engineers & Consultants gave a great presentation on general coastal engineering projects and analyses factors. This event was a collaborative effort between Jacob Neu, PE with Sellers and Associates, UL Student

Chapter Advisor Wayne Sharp, PE, the Louisiana Office of State Parks, and C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC.

Our October luncheon included our Awards & Scholarship Ceremony, Officer Inductions, and an ethics presentation by LAPELS. We would like to congratulate all of the 2023 award recipients on the recognition of their achievements as well as the Fall 2023 students who received scholarships. We also congratulate the newly elected board members and thank these officers for volunteering their time to serve the civil engineering community.

The 2023-2024 Acadiana Branch Board members are as follows:

**President** – Rhett Hebert, EI, CFM

**President Elect** – Emily Faulk, EI

**Treasurer** – Aaron Enlund, EI

**Secretary** – Colten Dore, EI

**Past President** – Carolyn Chapman, PE

**Public Relations / Outreach Coordinator** – Jerry Outlaw

**Webmaster** – Jared Veazey, PE

**Calcasieu Parish Representative** – Jessica Pousson, PE

Looking ahead, the Acadiana Branch is planning future monthly luncheons as well as our Christmas Social in December. Be on the lookout for email invitations with additional information regarding future events.



Rhett Hebert, EI, CFM



Emily Faulk, EI



Aaron Enlund, EI



Colten Dore, EI



Carolyn Chapman, PE



Jerry Outlaw



Jared Veazey, PE



### SHREVEPORT BRANCH

*By Victor Bivens, PE, President of Shreveport Branch*

The Shreveport Branch had a very successful year in 2022 with continued growth in meeting participation and coordination with the Louisiana Tech Student chapter. I would like to acknowledge and thank Past President Josh Walker, PE, for his commitment to the Shreveport Branch. As the 2023-2024 President, I am looking forward to serving

the Branch and continuing our tradition of engineering excellence.

In September, we had our first fall luncheon where we learned about Mass Timber Construction presented virtually by Mr. Anthony Harvey, PE who is a regional director for Woodworks Wood Products Council. Josh Walker, PE, was awarded the ASCE President's Plaque

for his leadership in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. We also hosted the Louisiana Section in Shreveport in September where we were excited to inaugurate Marcus Taylor, PE as the Louisiana Section President. Lastly, we introduced our incoming officers of the Shreveport Branch Board who are:

**President** – Victor Bivens, PE

**President-Elect/Vice-President** – Varun Kumar Nagelli

**Treasurer** – Sabrina Kelly, EI

**Secretary** – currently open

**Past-President** – Josh Walker, PE

Our October meeting marked the first luncheon for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. We discussed floodway regulations and upcoming trainings to be released by Louisiana DOTD as part of the NFIP training module rollout this year.





## BATON ROUGE BRANCH

*By Robb Jewell, PE, Branch President*

As incoming President, I would like to acknowledge our now Past-President, Venu Tammineni, PE on his service and dedication to ASCE and the engineering profession. I have served on the ASCE Baton Rouge Board with Venu since 2019 and he has contributed at various levels in the organization. He has welcomed me as he does everyone he

meets, with genuine kindness and warmth. The present success we had this last year and previous years of ASCE would not have been possible without his leadership and for all his contributions and the hard work that he put in over the past years.

Our August Luncheon was hosted at Juban's Restaurant in collaboration with LES. We were proud to host Rudy Simoneaux, PE, CPRA Chief of Engineering, who gave an extensive update on the CPRA Master Plan and Coastal Restoration projects overview, delivery, and implementation. This included highlighting recent effects of Hurricane Ida, contracting overview and update, and past and current project success. The luncheon was very well attended.

Our September Luncheon was held at Drusilla Seafood. The past presidents were acknowledged for their services and support. ASCE Baton Rouge Branch presented Awards during the luncheon.

### The award recipients include:

**Outstanding Civil Engineer** – Gregory Sepeda, PE  
**Outstanding Young Civil Engineer** – Joseph Cobena, PE  
**Lifetime Achievement** – Thomas Stephens, PE  
**Outstanding Civil Engineer Educator** – Sabarethinam Kameshwar, PhD  
**Outreach** – Jack Koban, PhD, PE, PG  
**Wall of Fame** – Rhaoul Guillaume, Sr, PE  
**Past President** – Venu Tammineni, PE

We congratulate all our Award Recipients for their achievements! Additionally, the new ASCE Baton Rouge Branch Officers were installed by ASCE Region 5 Governor, Rudy Simoneaux.

### The new 2023-2024 Board for the Baton Rouge Branch of ASCE include:

**President** – Robb Jewell, PE  
**President Elect** – Jack Koban, PhD, PE, PG  
**Vice President** – Joshua Olivier, PE  
**Secretary** – Robert Nodier, PE  
**Treasurer** – Ryan Brunet, PE  
**Director of Programs** – Nafi Haque, PE  
**Director of Education & Younger Member Chair** – Sarah Berman, PE  
**Director of Membership** – Ryan Williamson, EI  
**LSU Practitioner Advisor** – Myles Martin, EI  
**SU Practitioner Advisor** – Joyner Deamer  
**Past President** – Venu Tammineni, PE

ASCE, in collaboration with LES and ACEC, hosted the Louisiana Engineering Industry Gubernatorial Forum on October 2, 2023, at the City Club in Baton Rouge. The potential Governor candidates answered questions related to the most critical issues affecting our industry, including transportation and infrastructure funding,

professional licensure for engineers, engineering workforce development and retention, and qualification-based selections. It was a great event and very well attended.

Our upcoming events include a Luncheon on November 16, 2023, at Drusilla Seafood. ASCE will host our Christmas Party this year on December 16, 2023, at the Bocage Racquet Club in Baton Rouge.

I am truly honored to serve as ASCE Baton Rouge Branch President this coming year. I look forward to the events ahead and representing our organization well.



*Baton Rouge Branch August 2023 luncheon*



*September 2023 Luncheon and the swearing in of the new board performed by Rudolph Simoneaux, III, PE*



*Past President Venu Tammineni, PE passes the gavel to Robb Jewell, PE the new President*



*Robb Jewell, PE presents Venu Tammineni, PE the Past President's gavel plaque*





## NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

*By Ayan Mehrotra, PE, Branch President*

I am humbled and grateful to accept the esteemed role of President of the ASCE New Orleans Branch. The opportunities and growth I have experienced, both professionally and personally, through our Society have been invaluable. In assuming this position, I aspire to uphold the exceptional standards set by previous Presidents, who have served

with distinction during their tenures. I am eager to contribute to the continued success and advancement of our branch.

On August 25, 2023 the Branch held its Annual Board Installation and Awards Banquet. I would like to congratulate our newly installed Board members and our Award winners.

### ASCE New Orleans Branch Board – 2023-2024

**President** – Ayan Mehrotra, PE, PMP

**President Elect** – James Williams, PE

**Vice-President** – Jesse Noel, PE

**Treasurer** – Troy Jeanfreau, PE

**Secretary** – Emily Adoue, EI

**Past President** – Kyle Galloway, PE

**Director At-Large** – Cullen Ledet, PE

**Director At-Large** – Brady Smith, PE

### ASCE New Orleans Branch Award Winners – 2023

**Branch Wall of Fame** – Kurt Evans, PE

**Outstanding Civil Engineer** – Benjamin Cody, PE

**Outstanding Young Civil Engineer** – Nicholas Scalfano, EI

**Government Civil Engineer of the Year** – Christopher G.

Humphreys, PE

**Outreach Award** – Leah Read, PE

**Lifetime Achievement Award** – Cecil Soileau, PE

**Presidents Medal** – Emily Adoue, EI

**Branch Undergraduate Scholarship Winners**

**Amanda Darda** – UNO

**Lucas Trinh** – UNO

We had the privilege of acknowledging our esteemed Award winners during the previous luncheon. These individuals are highly distinguished members of our profession who have made significant contributions to both ASCE and the New Orleans Branch. Their dedication and accomplishments have left a lasting impact, and it was a great honor to recognize their outstanding achievements.

The New Orleans Branch has an exciting lineup of events scheduled for this fall. Here are the upcoming events:

**Monthly Luncheon:** The October monthly luncheon was on October 17, 2023.

The Open House/Social was on October 26, 2023, we hosted an Open House/Social at Garrison Kitchen in Metairie, LA. This event was meant to encourage greater participation from our members by introducing them to the various working committees of the Branch.


The Joint Professional Societies Social was held November 2, 2023, we participated in the Joint Professional Societies Social at Wrong Iron.

**Annual Joint Christmas Party:** Save the date for December 7, 2023, when we will be hosting our Annual Joint Christmas Party in collaboration with the New Orleans SAME Post. This festive event brings together professionals from both organizations to celebrate the holiday season and strengthen professional connections.

These events promise to be engaging and offer valuable opportunities for professional growth and networking. You can keep up with the Branch by following ASCE New Orleans on Facebook or LinkedIn (@asceneworleans); or visit our website at [www.asceneworleans.org](http://www.asceneworleans.org). You can also reach out to us at [ASCEneworleans@gmail.com](mailto:ASCEneworleans@gmail.com). We hope to see you at our events!




*ASCE New Orleans 2023-2024 Board. Pictured (Top row, left to right) – Troy Jeanfreau, Cullen Ledet, James Williams, Ayan Mehrotra, Jesse Noel; (bottom row, left to right) – Emily Adoue, Kyle Galloway. (Brady Smith not pictured)*



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Spring Conference**

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–  
Thursday, March 21st, 2024

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*Call for Speakers* 

Contact Venu Tammineni  
[Venu@AmeSouth.com](mailto:Venu@AmeSouth.com)

## 2023 OCEA Bronze Award Winner Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization



Among the 11 Honor Award-recognized projects celebrated at the OPAL Gala during ASCE's annual convention in Chicago on October 20, 2023, three distinguished themselves further by receiving the highest accolades: the OPAL (Outstanding Projects and Leaders) trophy, along with Silver and Bronze awards, for their Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievements. These projects, ranging from new stadiums to pioneering neighborhood revivals, represented the pinnacle of civil engineering excellence this year. Notably, Louisiana's effort to preserve its wetlands through the innovative breakwater project at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge was among these esteemed recognitions, securing the Bronze award for its contribution to shoreline stabilization and habitat protection.

Louisiana loses roughly 18,000 acres of wetlands every year, and the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge has seen a loss of over 15,000 acres since

1920. To combat this, a unique 4-mile-long lightweight aggregate core breakwater was built, completing in May 2020. Despite hurricanes Laura and Delta, the breakwater withstood damage and reduced erosion compared to unprotected areas. The project, led by HDR Engineering Inc., earned Bronze in the OCEA Awards.

Testing showed the breakwater significantly reduced wave impact and shoreline erosion. It is constructed from geotextile fabric bags filled with lightweight material and is designed to distribute loads to minimize settlement. Construction was conducted from the water due to site access restrictions and environmental concerns. The design includes gaps for ecological flow, ensuring protection of the refuge's rich biodiversity, including migratory birds and a high density of alligator nesting. This innovative project is pivotal in safeguarding the future of the refuge.



# Student News

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

*By Zuri Watts, Student Chapter President*

Our ASCE chapter at Southern University is undergoing a dynamic revival, aiming to reestablish a strong and influential presence on our campus. Our dedicated executive board is enthusiastic about rejuvenating our chapter and fostering meaningful partnerships within both our campus and Region 5. We are committed to breathing new life into our chapter through engaging general body meetings, providing valuable internship and educational opportunities for our student body, and addressing student-administration concerns.

In our pursuit of engagement and connection, we have organized exciting events to bring our members together. We recently hosted a successful Alumni Meet & Greet, which allowed current students to network with alumni, gaining valuable insights and experiences. We also organized a fun-filled Movie Night, providing a relaxed atmosphere for our members to connect and enjoy a sense of community.



*Snapshot of some of our Executive Board Members at the Southern University Organization Fair*

We are also pleased to share that our recent Michigan Department of Transportation Meet & Greet was a resounding success, allowing our members to interact with professionals and experts in the field. These events not only foster camaraderie among our chapter but also promote the growth and development of our members.

Notably, our President and Vice-President play pivotal roles by representing the engineering student body on the College of Science and Engineering (CSE) Student Leadership Council. Their representation enables us to advocate for students, address their challenges, and work collaboratively with the CSE administration to find solutions. Additionally, our Vice-President, Kamryn LeBlanc, takes immense pride in her role as Miss College of Science and Engineering, where she serves as a strong advocate for our chapter and the broader student community within the University.

We are eagerly looking forward to participating in regional and national conventions and symposiums, which will enable us to connect with other ASCE chapters in the region and nationwide. This collaborative spirit drives us as we embark on our journey to reestablish and strengthen the ASCE chapter at Southern University.



*Snapshot from our September General Body Meeting*



*Snapshot from the Alumni Meet & Greet Event*

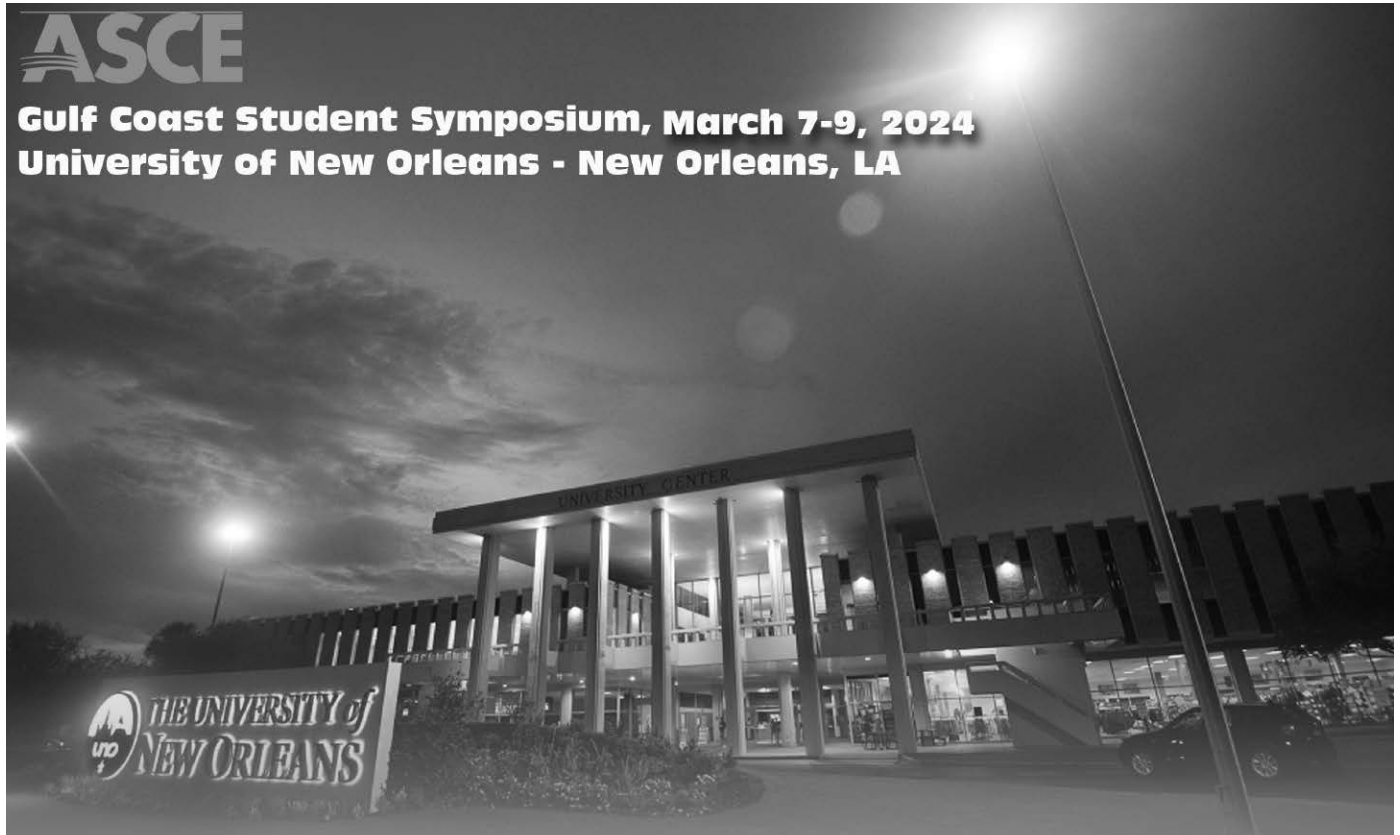
*Zuri Watts*  
Chapter President  
Southern University and A&M College ASCE Student Chapter

*Dongkeun Lee*  
Faculty Advisor  
Southern University and A&M College ASCE Student Chapter



## UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

By Gennie Claros, Student Chapter Recording Secretary



The 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium will be an extraordinary fusion of traditional heritage and cutting-edge innovation. By supporting this event, you will empower 350 civil engineering students to embark on a journey of professional and personal development. UNO will host this amazing event for 15 universities from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The weekend will be packed with innovative engineering competitions and opportunities to learn more about the engineering industry, all culminating in an awards ceremony and *Fais Do Do @ uno*

If you are interested in becoming one of our sponsors for the 2024 Student Symposium, please check out the sponsorship packages that our host team has assembled to determine which one is right for your organization. To receive details about our sponsorship packages, email us at [gcss@uno.edu](mailto:gcss@uno.edu).



Or for individual support, visit our crowdfunding page.  
<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/UNOBUILDS>



## Get ready to be part of a historic event that will revolutionize engineering: the 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium March 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium will be an extraordinary fusion of traditional heritage and cutting-edge innovation. By supporting this event, you will empower 350 civil engineering students to embark on a journey of professional and personal development. UNO will host this amazing event for 15 universities from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The weekend will be packed with innovative engineering competitions and opportunities to learn more about the engineering industry, all culminating in an awards ceremony and *Fais Do-Do at UNO!*

Your support will enable students to engage in networking opportunities, forge professional relationships with industry leaders, connect with potential employers, and meet supporters like you! We hope you commit to fostering the growth of aspiring engineers while leaving an indelible mark on their professional journeys.

We have a multitude of events that have sponsorship opportunities for you! Contact us today to secure your sponsorship and be part of this extraordinary journey towards engineering excellence. Each sponsorship will get their company logos printed on the Symposium T-Shirts and Symposium Website along with the opportunity to be on Event banners, Programs, Media Outreach, Company booths, the chance to speak at the event, and a table to set-up for the Networking event.

If you are interested in becoming one of our sponsors for the 2024 Student Symposium, please check out the sponsorship packages that our host team has assembled to determine which one is right for your organization.

Thank you for your consideration,

*Javohn Washington*

Chair, 2024 Gulf Coast Student Symposium  
University of New Orleans,  
ASCE Student Chapter

*Gianna Cothren*

Faculty Advisor  
University of New Orleans  
ASCE Student Chapter  
504-280-3158(wk) 985-212-1788(cell)

For details about the Symposium

<https://studentsymposium.asce.org/gulf-coast/>



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- ✓ **Email** this completed form to [gcss@uno.edu](mailto:gcss@uno.edu)
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Friday Lunch on Bayou St. John		Surveying	
Friday Night Networking Event		Sustainable Solutions	
Saturday Lunch at UNO		Steel Bridge	
Awards Ceremony		Professional Paper	
Fais Do-Do at UNO		Other _____	

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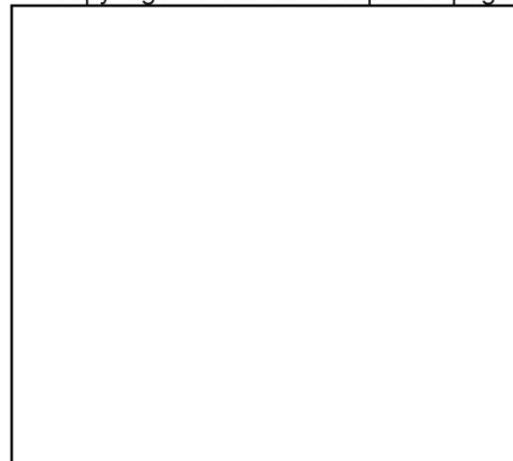
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## LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

*By Madalyn Mouton, Student Chapter President*

The Louisiana State University Student Chapter of ASCE has had a productive fall semester with four total meetings as of the beginning of November. Starting off with a social game night, the chapter has had three companies visit to give the students presentations on civil engineering opportunities. Thank you to Stanley Consultants, LJA Engineering, Powers Engineers for visiting us!

ASCE@LSU held their annual Bayou Regional Career Fair September 28th at Patrick F. Taylor Hall. The Bayou Regional Career Fair is a career fair the ASCE chapter puts on to help Louisiana civil and environmental students get hired by Louisiana civil and environmental companies, firms, and agencies. This year 60 students from LSU registered to attend with 13 companies being

represented at the fair. The students behind the career fair this year are Morgan Domingue as the Career Fair Chair with the help of Matt Derouen, Tony Gallagher and Joseph Lamendola. Thank you to all of those who attended!

Our competition teams are underway this year to compete in the Gulf Coast Student Regional Conference March 7th-9th. The three major competition teams this year are Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, and Survey with new captains Colin Martin, and Brandon Bergeron. The teams have been meeting weekly on Fridays to make progress with their projects. The goals of these teams have been to increase student participation, improve on time management, and have a project that the team is proud of.

## Make friends. Advance your career. Shape the future. Get connected.

Become an integral part of a thriving community that shapes the future of civil engineering! As an ASCE Student Member, you'll collaborate with peers who are just as passionate and dedicated as you are. Our student chapters aren't just about competitions; they're hubs of innovation and learning where you can exchange resources, gain invaluable knowledge, and build a professional network that will support you throughout your college career and beyond. Don't miss out on the wealth of educational and networking opportunities that await. Join us and start making your mark today!

### Find a student chapter near you

<https://www.asce.org/communities/student-members/find>

Did you know that the ASCE Louisiana Section has six Student Chapters?

University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Louisiana State University and A&M College  
Louisiana Tech University  
McNeese State University  
University of New Orleans  
Southern University and A&M College



# — CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

2024

Let us know about your upcoming ASCE events to be featured here.

Email: [nedrahains@gmail.com](mailto:nedrahains@gmail.com)

Events are constantly being updated online:

For ASCE Society events please see online:  
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[https://www.asce.org/student\\_conferences/](https://www.asce.org/student_conferences/)

For ASCE Acadian events please see online:  
<http://branches.asce.org/acadiana/events>

For ASCE Baton Rouge events please see online:  
<http://branches.asce.org/baton-rouge/events>

For ASCE NOLA events please see online:  
<http://asceneworleans.org/events/>

For ASCE Shreveport events please see online:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ASCEShreveport/>

For more events visit the ASCE Events Calendar: <http://www.lasce.org/calendar.html>

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