

LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

Journal of the Louisiana Section

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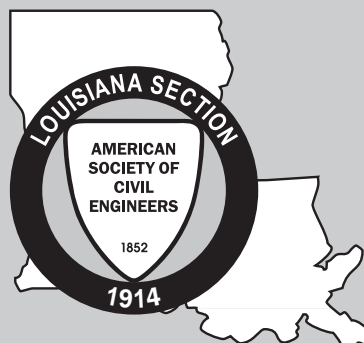


**A Case Study of the Rural Water System Crisis in Louisiana
Construction of the Town of Saint Joseph's New Water Treatment
Plant as photographed by H. Davis Cole & Associates, LLC**

FEATURE:

**Comprehensive Replacement
of the Town of Saint Joseph
Water System**

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**AUGUST 2020
VOLUME 28 • NO 4**

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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 Sections.

President's Message

By Beau Tate, PE

Greetings all. As I reflect on the past year as Section President of the Louisiana ASCE, I cannot help but be proud of the resiliency our members, section, and branch leadership have shown. To say that the first half of 2020 was challenging is an understatement in so many ways. While many events have been canceled and rescheduled multiple times, the section and branches have been consistent in reaching out to members and performing regular duties such as board meetings and technical seminars. Although not as ideal as meeting in person, virtual webinars have proved to be a valuable avenue for everyone to stay connected and feel some sense of normalcy.

My term as president will end in a few months, and while we as a board were challenged with social distancing and stay home orders, the Louisiana ASCE is currently operating in a very healthy state and growing. In addition to providing continued support and assistance to our branches, we have maintained a healthy operating budget and have added two new subsidiary organizations (the Utility Engineering & Surveying Institute (UESI) and the Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI)) while also currently working towards adding a third organization in the Geo Institute.

Many of the section's goals set for this year were unachievable due to restrictions issued state-wide, however, the section has managed to stay in touch with its members and is progressing in standardizing its Bylaws for the Section and branches. As the outgoing President, I pledge to support our new President in achieving his goals and to continue efforts in achieving the goals set for 2020, assuming state restrictions allow.

I would like to thank the Section and branch board members and ASCE national for their support throughout my term as section president. Their time and resources provided made a challenging job very manageable. I look forward to the time when we can meet with everyone in person again and want to give my best wishes to the upcoming 2020-2021 Board.



Beau Tate, PE



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CIVIL ENGINEERING
Conference & Show

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We are proud to announce the dates for the 30th Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show. This event, a joint effort from the New Orleans Branches of ASCE and ACI, is the premiere gathering for the Civil Engineering community in the Greater New Orleans Area. We are in the process of soliciting sponsors and exhibitors and establishing the technical program for the fall conference which will be held on September 23-24, 2020, at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana.

For additional information on the conference, please visit our web site at

www.LCECS.org

Comprehensive Replacement of the Town of Saint Joseph Water System

Lessons Learned and Issues Facing Rural Water Systems in Louisiana

By: David A. Martin, PE & H. Davis Cole, PE

INTRODUCTION

Rural water systems throughout the State of Louisiana face a wide variety of operational, technical, and sustainability issues as we enter the second decade of the 21st century. Rural concerns find themselves struggling with stricter standards, affordability, and limited funding. A case study in these challenges can be found in the water crisis which faced the Town of Saint Joseph, Louisiana. This article provides an overview of the issues facing the Town, the 2016 through 2018 projects which completely replaced the Town's water system, and lessons learned for the future of these systems.

THE TOWN OF SAINT JOSEPH AND THE STATE OF THE SYSTEM

The Town of Saint Joseph is a small village located in Tensas Parish, Louisiana. Of the Town's approximately 1,100 residents, over 40% live under the poverty line. The Town is 75% African – American and economic activity within the area is largely dependent upon agricultural concerns. During the early 2000's, the Town's aging water system was over 50 years old, with some segments exceeding 80 years in age. Water loss was extreme, with some studies estimating over 80% loss of water produced for sale.



Existing water well serving the Town of Saint Joseph



Existing pressure filter at the Town of Saint Joseph's old water treatment plant

The Town's operational staff struggled to maintain the system in compliance with State and Federal drinking water regulations. In 2013, the Town was cited by the Louisiana Department of Health for various violations related to the deterioration of the water system. Conditions continued to deteriorate, culminating in the declaration of a State of Emergency and a Public Health Emergency for the Town on December 16, 2016 after 22% of the Town's homes tested positive for lead levels in excess of federal requirements.

Through the collaborative efforts of the State Legislature and Administration, a team of consultants and contractors, and the Louisiana Department of Health, the Town's water distribution system and water treatment plant was replaced during a fast – paced design and construction project.

Prior to construction, the Town's hobbled water distribution system consisted of 2" through 12" water distribution lines. A substantial portion of the system contained small galvanized steel pipelines, which were severely corroded. Most of the system's valves were inoperable, which complicated the operation and replacement of the system. Of the most concern, many of the existing pipelines were connected to lead service lines. Also, many of the cast iron distribution lines utilized lead solder in their joints. The water treatment plant contained two wells, one of which was lost during construction. The existing pressure filter contained no media, thus



David A. Martin, PE



H. Davis Cole, PE



Existing softener bank at the Town of Saint Joseph's old water treatment plant

the finished water sent to customers contained high concentrations of manganese and iron. Brown water at customers taps was highly commonplace, and consumer confidence was poor.

REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Originally contemplated as a strategic replacement project of portions of the distribution system, a comprehensive replacement was undertaken to eliminate all existing lead joints, lead service tubing, and galvanized piping within the publicly owned and operated portions of the system.

The entire system was replaced with 13 miles of 6" through 12" polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and ductile iron pipe with mechanical joint ductile iron fittings. The system was predominantly constructed using open cut methods, but some directional drilling and boring was utilized near state highways or other sensitive features. These materials will have a service life in excess of 80 years. These improvements also substantially improved the pressure at many customers homes. All service tubing was replaced with polyethylene tubing with lead free brass couplings and appurtenances. No lead services remain in place on the system. Approximately 80 new fire hydrants were included in the work, as well.

Approximately 100 new resilient seated wedge gate valves were installed. Prior to the construction, it was common for the entire water system to be shut off for repairs due to non – functioning valves. The new valves installed will allow for proper isolation of pipeline segments, thus improving the efficacy of future repairs and allowing for more reliable service.



Installation of the new water well

Possibly the most important operational improvement included in the system was the installation of new water meters equipped with automatic meter reading (AMR) technology. Approximately 600 meters were installed, which are read by a fixed network reader functioning at the water plant. Prior to the construction of the improvements, metering was limited due to short staffing and the constant use of manpower and equipment for repairs. These new meters now allow the Town to accurately meter the water produced and allows the water system to function as an enterprise fund as intended.

REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT



Construction progress at the Town's new water treatment plant

The Town of Saint Joseph has always utilized ground water for potable water. The Town historically operated a small lime – soda softening process, however, in the 1990's the Town converted to a less complex green – sand filtration system for the removal of iron and manganese. The Town's ground water is drawn from the Mississippi River Alluvial Aquifer, which is characterized by very high concentrations of iron and manganese in the raw water. This is a common challenge for many of the Towns throughout the Mississippi River Delta in Northeastern Louisiana.



New pressure filter at the water treatment plant



New softener bank at the water treatment plant



The AIS system consists of a reactor basin (aeration, flocculation) and a clarifier, photographed here

Due to the age and condition of the water treatment plant, a substantial replacement of the water treatment facility was undertaken. The use of ground water for source water was chosen due to cost and due to urgency, as permitting and siting of a new surface water plant would have been prohibitive in terms of time and cost. The project included the rehabilitation of the existing green sand filter and equipment, the provision of a new, redundant green sand filter and equipment, construction of two (2) new wells, and the provision of an activated iron solids pre – treatment system for the removal of the high concentrations of iron prior to distribution to customers. A new disinfection system was included in the project.

Due to the violations of the EPA Lead and Copper Rule, the rehabilitation project included the introduction of a corrosion inhibitor, zinc orthophosphate, to allow for the formation of scale within private plumbing, thus reducing the exposure of residents to lead leaching from plumbing. The installation of the corrosion inhibitor equipment took place approximately 6 months prior to startup of the plant and will continue permanently.

ACTIVATED IRON SOLIDS PROCESS

Greensand filtration can remove iron in small amounts from groundwater, however, the concentrations encountered at Saint Joseph are 4 to 5 times larger than concentrations that can be treated by sand filtration. The solution for the Town involves the use of a unique process known as “Activated Iron Solids”, which was adapted from mining industry technology. In Saint Joseph, the raw water contains up to 10 mg/L of iron. The AIS process successfully reduces the loading on the sand filtration to approximately 2.5 mg/L of iron, which substantially reduces the need for backwashing and allows for proper function of the greensand filtration. This process is patented by Iron Oxide Technologies of State College, Pennsylvania, who assisted in the implementation of this technology for the project.

The AIS process consists of a reactor basin and a clarifier. In the reactor basin, the raw water is aerated, and a polymer is introduced. The process involves the sorption of ferrous iron to the surface of iron oxides and rapid catalytic oxidation of iron solids into an “activated iron solid”. These solids are coagulated and removed



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards raises a bottle containing the brown water of St. Joseph prior to the system rehabilitation as officials toasted the clear water the rehabilitated system is producing at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held on March 13, 2018 inside the new water treatment plant



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards and the Mayor Elvadás Fields cut the ribbon on the new water system on March 13, 2018



Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards samples the water produced by the Saint Joseph water system at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held March 13, 2018

from the raw water via the clarifier. In St. Joseph, an inclined plate settler is utilized for this purpose. A portion of the activated iron solids are removed to promote continued catalytic oxidation. This process has substantially reduced the concentrations of iron in the water prior to filtration.

CONSTRUCTION

The public health emergency allowed for the negotiation of contracts for plant equipment and construction. Once equipment was identified by the design team as necessary, it was procured under a negotiated procurement contract. This allowed the design to continue while long lead time equipment was fabricated concurrently. Consequently, the project operated similar to an industrial type “Engineer – Procure – Construct” type project. It is our belief that this project should be seriously considered, particularly in public health critical type situations such as emergencies related to domestic water treatment and distribution.

Ultimately, the project involved seven separate construction contracts and four (4) separate construction contractors. Construction operations began in January of 2017 and were completed in March of 2018. Funding was provided by the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program, the Delta Regional Authority, the Community Water Enrichment Fund, and Community Development Block Grant funding.

The construction projects resulted in the successful reduction of the concentrations of lead, iron, and manganese in the finished water. Additionally, for the first time in years, customers are receiving clear water from their taps.

The experience in Saint Joseph lends the following lessons. First, the early involvement of regulatory agencies is vital. The aggressive timeline would not have been possible without the early engagement of entities such as the Louisiana Department of Health and the Office of Facility Planning and Control. These agencies were eager to assist and were an excellent source of historical data and information. Further, without their support of the use of new or emerging technologies, the AIS process utilized for this project may not have been applied.

The experience in Saint Joseph also reminds us that the use of funding from multiple agencies and sources is possible and is necessary. While it requires careful upfront coordination, the use of funding from multiple agencies will be important for these rural systems who have limited funding capabilities.

Most importantly, all available treatment technologies should be considered. As with Saint Joseph, often the combination of tried and true technology with new and emerging technologies are required. It is often prudent to look to neighboring systems to see what they have employed. While the use of the AIS system in Saint Joseph is still the employment of a new and emerging technology, it was previously used in Ferriday, Louisiana with similar type source water.

FUTURE OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The future outlook for rural systems is challenging at best. The stricter water standards are taxing rural water system owners, and affordability is a major issue for these systems as grant and capital outlay funding is limited. Most available funding comes from loans, which many of these systems may be challenged to repay.

As a result of the stricter standards, water treatment technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated. We believe that this, coupled with affordability issues, make the employment of third-party operators in the operation of water utilities vital. This arrangement allows for employment of qualified, licensed, and trained operators for rural water systems.

As seen in St. Joseph, rural systems will need to more carefully manage their water rates and system finances. Water rates must be looked at as funding an enterprise fund. Rates must not only support current operations; however, should be adequate for the funding of a maintenance reserve and the future replacement of major equipment. In addition, these rates must be increased over time to track with inflation and increased regulation. From a legislative standpoint, it would be prudent to consider the drafting and support of legislation which requires systems to operate their systems as enterprise funds with automatic rate increases set by the yearly Consumer Price Index (CPI). We believe that the advocacy for the establishment of a means tested grant program would also greatly benefit these systems.

Finally, many rural water systems should consider consolidation with neighboring water systems to create a larger customer base which will make funding of capital projects more practical and sustainable. Arrangements such as the formation of regional water authorities and CO-OP entities should be considered so that local government entities maintain a say in the governance and operations of a regional water system.

David A. Martin, PE serves as the Vice – President at H. Davis Cole & Associates, LLC and is responsible for the design, bidding, and construction administration of HDCA’s design projects throughout Louisiana. Mr. Martin is licensed in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi and was recently licensed as a general contractor in Louisiana. The focus of his practice is generally the design of “wet infrastructure”. He resides in New Orleans with his wife and two sons.

H. Davis Cole, PE is a native of Clayton, Louisiana and serves as the Principal Engineer of H. Davis Cole & Associates, LLC. Mr. Cole founded the firm in 2006 after serving several years with international, national, and local engineering firms. Mr. Cole has served the Southeast Louisiana community for over two decades through his role as a Technical Advisor on many infrastructure improvement projects as well as the grant and program management of recovery programs following disasters. He also serves on the board of the Epilepsy Alliance Louisiana and was recently appointed to the Louisiana Naval War Memorial Commission.

ASCE SOCIETY: FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE

With the effects of the pandemic likely to carry into the fall, we've decided to make the ASCE 2020 Convention a virtual event.

While the decision wasn't easy, it was driven first and foremost by health and safety. And while we will certainly miss gathering in person, an entirely virtual convention will enable easier and safer access for members throughout the globe, at a reduced cost, with less time out of the office, and with a greatly reduced carbon footprint.

At the same time, we plan to connect, engage, and deliver the same top quality content, with everything from the opening plenary to the reveal of Future World Vision's new megacity scenario streaming online. There's a lot of hard work underway to fulfill the promise of this virtual gathering. I encourage you to block out Oct. 28-30 on your calendar, and watch the ASCE 2020 Convention¹ website for updates.

Another plus of the decision will be how well the convention will complement the first ASCE Virtual Technical Conference, set for Sept. 14-18. While the convention will cover topics of interest to all civil engineers, ASCE Vtech will focus on multi-disciplinary technical topics, organized by our Institutes and technical committees. We will market the convention and Vtech as a package, touting the advantages of both. The ASCE Vtech² website has just gone live and continues to be updated as the program is finalized. Registration for both the convention and Vtech will open July 15.

Other scheduling changes prompted by the pandemic include combining our Leader Orientation and Presidents and Governors

Forum into one virtual training gathering that will be held in early September for new governors, directors, organizational entity presidents and other Society leaders.

This year's Region 1 Assembly illustrated the benefits of gathering virtually, with more than double the number of volunteer

leader attendees compared to past in-person assemblies. Being able to attend from anywhere allowed 2020 President Kancheepuram Gunalan, President-Elect Jean-Louis Briaud and me to take part, along with many other volunteers and staff. Guna spoke about opportunities in the current environment, Jean-Louis spoke about student engagement and opportunities and I provided an update on ASCE. The assembly was adeptly planned and facilitated under the leadership of Region 1 Director Tony Cioffi and the Region 1 team, and is but one of many examples of ASCE virtual events³ serving members and advancing the profession worldwide.



**Thomas W. Smith III,
ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE**

Links in this article

- 1 <https://www.asceconvention.org/>
- 2 <https://vtech.asce.org/>
- 3 <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/virtual-events>

ASCE Region 5 Directors Report

Board Sets Society Course for Long-Term Success

By Peter M. Moore, PE, F.ASCE, Region 5 Director

It's hard to believe how much has changed about the way we live and work since the last time the Board of Direction met in March. If we ever needed a reminder about the importance of being ready for change and the ability to adjust on the fly, 2020 has certainly provided it. We saw our industry adapt remarkably well this spring, with the immediate installment of remote work models and virtual meetings. And I believe our Board took important steps at our meeting this month to make ASCE a more nimble and adaptable organization amid these changing times.

We addressed several issues critical to the Society's long-term success, including the fiscal year 2021 budget, potential committee realignment, new membership models, investments in our students and younger members and an updated ASCE Code of Ethics. You can read about these decisions in more detail in the ASCE News story¹.

Other highlights from the Board meeting:

- The Task Committee on Credentialing updated the Board on a potential new certification concept. The committee has worked with a consulting group during the last year to conduct market research on the concept. Directors

were asked to complete a survey about the proposal, and the Board will revisit the discussion at the October meeting.



Peter M. Moore, PE, F.ASCE

Continued on page 11

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- In keeping with the theme of streamlining and improving, the Board approved the creation of a new task committee to review and, if needed, recommend revisions to the Institute Operating Procedures document, last revised in September 2016.
- The Board approved one new policy, a new resolution, and updates to 50 existing policy statements. The new statements include a resolution that focuses on the [National Environmental Policy Act](#)² and a new policy statement on the [Historic American Engineering Record](#)³. (View the complete list of [ASCE's 170 public policy statements](#)⁴.)
- The Board received updates on the ongoing digital strategy project; the work of MOSAIC (Members of Society Advancing an Inclusive Culture); and the Committee on Education's recent accreditation activities. Additionally, the Board voted in support of the objectives and recommendations developed at ASCE's 2019 Civil Engineering Education Summit. ([Read more](#)⁵ about those objectives.)
- The Board received for second consideration and voted to approve amendments to the Society's bylaws as presented by the Governing Documents Committee. The amendments include several items that the Board previously voted to remove from the ASCE constitution and move into the bylaws. The Board also

voted to approve amendments to the Society's Rules of Policy and Procedure that incorporate language from the bylaws, clarify current language and streamline the document. The Board also received for consideration and accepted for first reading an amendment to the constitution to allow student members the right to vote. All amendments can be reviewed on the [ASCE website](#)⁶.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October. To share your views or provide ideas on how ASCE can better serve its members and the professions, please email Peter pmoore@chenmoore.com.

Links in this article

- 1 <https://news.asce.org/board-sets-course-for-societys-long-term-success/>
- 2 <https://www.asce.org/issues-and-advocacy/public-policy/resolution-562---national-environmental-policy-act/>
- 3 <https://www.asce.org/issues-and-advocacy/public-policy/policy-statement-561---historic-american-engineering-record/?elqTrackId=5ED2B7D3681196C1D9081F5C65264287&elqaid=1309&elqat=2>
- 4 https://www.asce.org/public_policy_statements/
- 5 <https://news.asce.org/asce-releases-roadmap-for-the-future-of-civil-engineering-education/>
- 6 https://www.asce.org/governance_and_guiding_documents/

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OPPORTUNITIES



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Nedra Hains, MA today at nedrahains@gmail.com

ASCE COVID-19 RESOURCES

Updated: August 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. EDT

In response to the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), ASCE is committed to reducing the risk of adverse health impacts to the thousands of ASCE members, guests and staff that participate in numerous ASCE committee meetings, conferences and events. In addition to urging that business be conducted via teleconference or videoconference whenever possible, we have reviewed and updated our event policies and procedures. The following information will be updated as events warrant—always with the health and safety of our event attendees, exhibitors and staff as our top priority.

- Impact of COVID-19 on scheduled ASCE programs <https://www.asce.org/covid-19/>

Please visit <https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/home> for the most up-to-date resources and discussions.

Free On-Demand Webinars (10 Free PDHs)

<https://sa360.asce.org/ASCEWebApp/Benefits/Membership/Freeondemandwebinars.aspx>

Leading Teams and Fostering Relationships in a Virtual Environment

<https://collaborate.asce.org/careerbydesign/resources/manage-teams>

5 Ways to Improve Your Professional Skills at Home

By Samantha-Rose Hall

<https://news.asce.org/5-ways-to-improve-your-professional-skills-at-home/>

COVID-19 Status Update - 2017 Infrastructure Report Card

<https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/covid-status-report/>

Everyday Engineering: STEM@home

https://www.asce.org/pre-college_outreach/

ASCE Plot Points COVID-19 Community Calls | An ASCE Podcast

<https://news.asce.org/tag/asce-plot-points/>



Connect with the ASCE Community

ASCE CARE by DESIGN Discussions

<https://collaborate.asce.org/careerbydesign/cbd-discussions>

covers topics such as being laid-off; pros and cons of virtual events; control the spread of COVID-19; working and parenting full-time during the pandemic; how to let go of work stress; post-covid airtravel for work; zoom workshops; and, many more.

Register Now!:

<https://vtech.asce.org/>

ASCE-COPRI Louisiana Chapter News

By Victoria Curto, PE, Director - Communications



COAST, OCEANS,
PORTS AND RIVERS
INSTITUTE
Louisiana Chapter

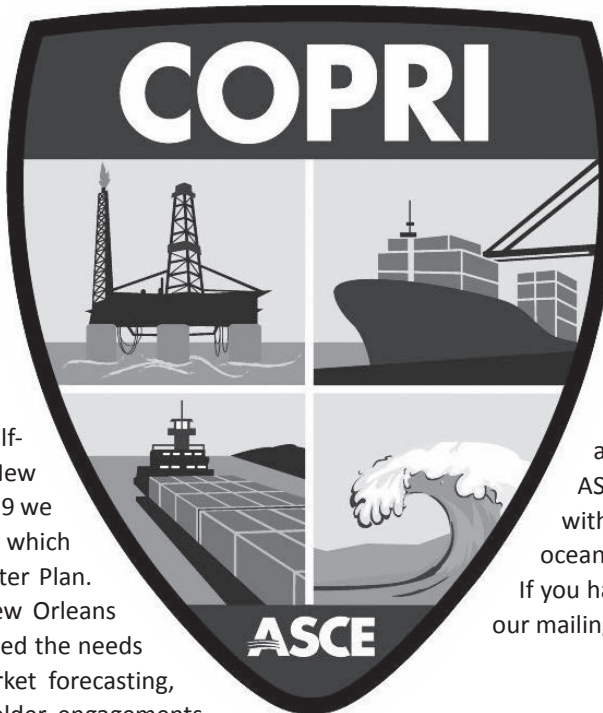
ASCE-COPRI Louisiana Chapter News

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (L.COPRI) is continuing to promote membership and visibility throughout the State of Louisiana by conducting joint seminars with local Branches and State Sections of ASCE.

Spring Online Seminar

L.COPRI originally planned to hold a half-day seminar and boat tour at the Port of New Orleans in mid-April, but due to COVID-19 we hosted an on-line seminar on June 4th which focus on the Port of New Orleans Master Plan. Amelia Pellegrin, AICP from Port of New Orleans shared the Master Plan strategy to exceed the needs of tomorrow. The topics included market forecasting, facilities and capacity analysis, stakeholder engagements, and the business plan.

The first of a kind L.COPRI on-line seminar was a complete success. We had over 150 attendees expanding our audience with attendees not only from Louisiana but from across the United States. In an effort to provide continuing education and development to our members, L.COPRI is planning our next webinar.



Other Information

For more information on all COPRI conferences, please visit <http://www.asce.org/coasts-oceans-ports-and-rivers-engineering/coastal-engineering-conferences-and-events/>.

The activities of L.COPRI will include seminars, workshops and other activities to benefit all ASCE and COPRI members. One does not have to be an engineer to join COPRI. These Institutes 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. If you have any questions or to add your name to our mailing list, please contact LCOPRI@yahoo.com.

ASCE Louisiana Section Call for Abstracts

The Section is looking for technical articles for the 2020-2021 Louisiana Civil Engineer Journal. Please send your abstract to Nedra Hains at nedrahains@gmail.com. The publication committee will review your abstract and let you know if it will qualify. The Louisiana Civil Engineer is published quarterly in black and white print. A typical main article is 5,000 words with pictures, tables, etc. A short article is typically 3,000 words with pictures, etc. One page abstracts/very short articles are also available at 1,500-2,000 words. Once approved by the publication committee, full articles are due by the 5th of the month before the journal is published: Jan 5, 2021 for the February issue, April 5, 2021 for the May issue, July 5, 2021 for the August issue, and October 5, 2021 for the November issue. Please send any questions to Nedra Hains.

Working for You on Capitol Hill

By Caroline Sevier, ASCE Director of Government Relations

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our nation's infrastructure was already in crisis with American households estimated to lose \$3,400 each year¹ in disposable income due to poor and outdated roads, bridges, electric grid, water systems and more. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 has created further challenges for our nation's infrastructure. In order to examine those impacts, ASCE has released *COVID-19's Impacts on America's Infrastructure*², a status report on the COVID-19 pandemic's detrimental effects on the nation's critical, yet aging and underinvested airports, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, inland waterways, parks, ports, roads, schools, transit and wastewater infrastructure. The report provides a snapshot of these sectors, the recent impact on their frontline workers, and offers solutions for Congress to consider in their long-term economic recovery strategy.

The report notes that COVID-19 has caused a decrease in commercial water use, drivers on the road and using public transit and airports. Additionally, municipal and state budgets have had to reprioritize spending, causing less available support for parks, schools and other publicly owned infrastructure. Some of the latest impacts COVID-19 has had on these sectors include, but are not limited to, the following:

An estimated \$23.3 billion loss in airport revenue due to a 95% decline in domestic air travel.

A projected 30% revenue decline in the next 18 months for the nation's state Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

Approximately 17% loss in annualized revenue in the drinking water sector, including more than \$5 billion in losses related to suspending water service disconnections and increased customer delinquencies.

Dramatic nationwide ridership declines in transit systems (i.e., 75% decrease on the PATH commuter rail system in New Jersey and New York; 85% reduction in Washington, D.C. Metrorail ridership and 55% decrease in ridership on Los Angeles Metro).

ASCE offered several solutions for Congress in the report to help these infrastructure systems recover from the pandemic, and we are encouraged that many of these recommendations were included

in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act³. We encourage you to share this report⁴ with your Members of Congress as they continue to discuss emergency relief and plan for a comprehensive infrastructure investment package.

The Moving Forward Act⁵ passed the House of Representatives on July 1st by a vote of 233 – 188⁶ and would invest \$1.5 trillion in the nation's infrastructure. ASCE has strongly advocated for many of the provisions in the Moving Forward Act and the COVID-19 status report makes several recommendations that are addressed in H.R. 2. These recommendations include providing additional funding for the Airport Improvement Program, reauthorizing surface transportation programs, providing economic relief for water utilities, investing in the nation's schools, promoting resiliency, and connecting new sources of renewable energy to the electric grid.

Unfortunately, H.R. 2 once again ignores the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund, instead opting to rely on another General Fund bailout, combined with financing tools to pay for the legislation. Therefore, while ASCE is encouraged that the House is taking a holistic approach to the nation's infrastructure, and did support passage⁷ of the bill, we still urge Congress to come together and develop a bipartisan package that makes long overdue investments in the systems that make up the backbone of the American economy. The Moving Forward Act is a strong starting point in these negotiations and ASCE continues urge Congress to pass a comprehensive infrastructure package before the current surface transportation reauthorization expires on September 30th.

To keep up with the latest on ASCE's public policy efforts consider becoming an ASCE Key Contact⁸ and be sure to visit our Letters, Comments & Statements⁹ page.

Links in this article

- 1 <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/the-impact/failure-to-act-report/>
- 2 <https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/covid-status-report/>
- 3 <https://transportation.house.gov/download/bill-text-moving-forward-act>
- 4 <https://cqrcengage.com/asce/covid19statusreport?0>
- 5 https://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Issues_and_Advocacy/Advocacy/Content_Pieces/moving-forward-act-issue-memo-june.pdf
- 6 <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2020/roll138.xml>
- 7 https://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Issues_and_Advocacy/Advocacy/Content_Pieces/hr2-support-letter.pdf
- 8 <http://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>
- 9 <https://www.asce.org/letters-comments-statements/>

Help Others Discover ASCE's Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks

By Tonja Koob Marking, PhD, PE

Do you like seeing civil engineering landmarks when you are traveling for business or pleasure? Have you ever posted a selfie at a civil engineering landmark? Would you like to help other ASCE members discover civil engineering landmarks in your local area or places you have visited? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, ASCE’s History and Heritage Committee seeks your help in making it easier for other members and the general public to discover the hundreds of historic civil engineering landmarks located throughout the world.

Since the first landmark designation in 1966, ASCE’s Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Program¹ has designated over 280 projects as National and International Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. Many other projects have also been designated as local historic civil engineering landmarks by ASCE Regions, Sections, and Branches. ASCE’s History and Heritage Committee has been working diligently to inventory all of these historic civil engineering landmarks and perform site visits to locate and assess the conditions of ASCE plaques. Even as people have been forced to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Committee members have turned to “virtual exploring” by searching for ASCE plaques in Google Street View and other photos posted online. You can view the current progress of the landmark and plaque mapping effort on Google Maps².

Region 5 has 16 designated ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks:

Alabama:	Ellicott Stone and Redstone Test Stand
Florida:	Bellamy Road, Castillo De San Marcos, NASA Vehicle Assembly Building
Florida/Georgia:	King’s Road
Georgia:	Augusta Canal & Industrial District, City Plan of Savannah
Louisiana:	Bonnet Carre Spillway, Eads South Pass Navigation Works, Huey P. Long Bridge, Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Bridge, McNeill Street Pumping Station, New Orleans Drainage System
Mississippi:	Mississippi River Basin Model, US Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station

The Committee needs help in performing landmark site visits, particularly from local members who live in proximity to landmarks

or may be traveling to locations with landmarks. This is where you could be a part of this inventory and mapping effort! The following Region 5 landmarks need site visit reports, a template of which the committee will provide:

Alabama:	Redstone Test Stand
Florida:	Castillo De San Marcos, NASA Vehicle Assembly Building



Tonja Koob Marking, PhD, PE

If you would like to help, please contact Region 5 History and Heritage Committee Chair, Tonja Koob Marking, at tonja.k.marking@gaeconsultants.com. With your assistance, the Committee can add more locations to its landmark inventory and mapping effort, making it easier for others to discover historic civil engineering landmarks in the future. In many cases the History and Heritage Committee may be able to provide you with GPS coordinates of the Landmark plaque to assist you in your search effort.

Some members have already posted and tagged their photos of civil engineering landmarks and ASCE plaques to social media using the hashtag #VisitASCELandmarks. You can check out what has been posted on Facebook³, Instagram⁴, and Twitter⁵. When the travel restrictions are lifted, you can join the many ASCE members from across the country making civil engineering history and heritage part of their travel itinerary by visiting one of ASCE’s historic civil engineering landmarks.

Links in this article

- 1 <https://www.asce.org/landmark-program/>
- 2 <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1h7KyJohxbvdXTbNsLyl4ywmTPSU-H5X&ll=21.093496125775474%2C-104.89740279999997&z=2>
- 3 <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/visitascelandmarks>
- 4 <https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/visitascelandmarks/>
- 5 <https://twitter.com/hashtag/visitascelandmarks>



T&DI Louisiana Chapter is Going Virtual

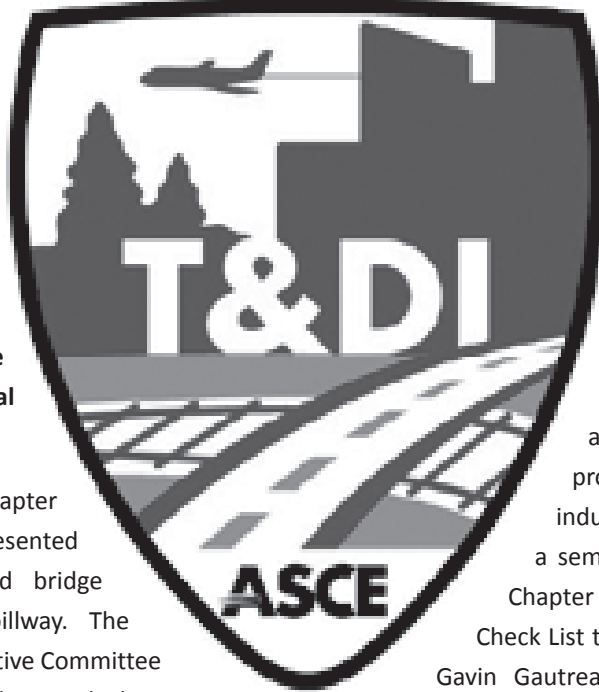
In the midst of the global pandemic, the T&DI Executive Committee has decided to conduct virtual seminars in an effort to continue its goal of providing training and professional development while allowing it viewership to social distance.

Overcoming Logistics: Replacing the Bonnet Carré Railroad Bridge Virtual Seminar

On July 15 the T&DI Louisiana Chapter hosted its first virtual seminar that presented the Canadian National (CN) Railroad bridge replacement near the Bonnet Carré Spillway. The seminar was coordinated by T&DI Executive Committee Members Michael Paul, PE; Louay Mohammad PhD, PE; and, Dan Aucutt, PE. The seminar was free and 2 PDH's were provided to the attendees.

This presentation provided an overview of OCCI's one-of-a-kind Bridge Building machine. Weighing 1,250 tons, the machine has two main components: Bridge Builder A and Bridge Builder B, capable of complete top down construction, with minimal environmental impact, and designed to withstand hurricane conditions. The machine is supported on the previously built piers. Bridge Builder A is a self-contained machine that drives the pile, sets the cap, and sets the next span. Bridge Builder B serves as a delivery vehicle and re-supplies Bridge Builder A with piling, cap, span sections, fuel, water and grout. The seminar also described the 24 hours a day 7 days a week production operation where OCCI has been able to average construction of one (1) 40-foot span in less than a 24-hour period.

The speaker was Aaron Bedsworth who is a Project Manager with OCCI Engineering Contractors in Fulton, Missouri. He received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Missouri University of Science & Technology, Rolla, Missouri in 2016. Since joining OCCI, Bedsworth has focused on large and unique railroad construction projects for Canadian National, BNSF, Union Pacific, and CSX



Transportation. Since 2017, Bedsworth has devoted all attention to managing the 2.23-mile Canadian National/Illinois Central Bridge Replacement along the west shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain at Bonnet Carré Spillway.

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 the transportation industry. 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

Gavin Gautreau Gavin.Gautreau@LA.GOV for a copy of the checklist. Historically our seminars are two hours in length and are typically presented from 5:30-7:30 pm in either the New Orleans or Baton Rouge area; however, have recently gone virtual. 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:

- New Mississippi River Bridge
- Asset Management for Agencies
- Mitigation Banking
- Green Infrastructure: Integrating Infrastructure Needs
- Bicycle Lanes / Complete Streets
- New Orleans Armstrong Airport
- Pervious Concrete
- Bridge Approach Slabs

Branch News



Jacob Neu, EI

ACADIANA BRANCH

By Jacob Neu, EI, Branch President

We are extremely disappointed to announce that the Acadiana Branch of the ASCE has elected to convert our upcoming conference to be fully online. The conference was scheduled to take place on September 17th and 18th in Lafayette. If you have registered for this conference, you will be receiving a full refund.

We want to thank everyone who was planning to attend the conference, as well as our sponsors and exhibitors. Our Branch was very much looking forward to hosting a successful in-person conference.

It is still our intention and goal to provide our members with professional development opportunities this year. Therefore, our new web-based conference will consist of presentations throughout that same week during September (14th – 18th). We will be disseminating updated conference details as soon as possible.

Despite the unusual ongoing circumstances, our Branch is committed to serving our members.

Earlier this summer, our Branch created an account with Zoom in order to continue to provide our members with PDH opportunities. We have successfully hosted several webinars for our members, and we plan to continue to host these webinars well into the future. These webinars are extremely convenient, especially for our members who cannot attend our regular luncheon meetings.

We are also happy to announce that officers for our Branch for the 2020-2021 term have been elected: Algy Semien, PE (LA DOTD) will serve as President, Grant Besse, PE (Bluewing Civil Consulting) will serve as President-Elect, Carolyn Chapman, EI (Chapman Consulting) will serve as Secretary, and Katherine Werther, EI (Huval & Associates) will serve as Treasurer. These outstanding ASCE members will work hard for the betterment of the Branch and its members.

As my presidency comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for the continued support.

I hope that all of you and your loved ones are, and remain, safe and healthy.



Jarret Bauer, PE

BATON ROUGE BRANCH

By Jarret Bauer, PE, Branch President

The ASCE Baton Rouge Branch is proud to restart our monthly luncheons again after a short break during the summer months. We are hosting Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary of LADOTD. Dr. Wilson will be discussing DOTD Outlook on Projects, P3 Project Opportunities, and COVID-19 Impacts.

The Branch will continue to offer Facebook Live streaming events and will be teaming with LES to offer Zoom events as well. We look forward to expanding our platforms to be sure we can reach as many people as possible while attendance is still limited.



Dean Nicoladis, PE

NEW ORLEANS BRANCH

By Constantine "Dean" F. Nicoladis PE, Branch President

The New Orleans Branch held a virtual meeting on June 10 via Zoom. Our speaker was Rudy Simoneaux, Engineering Division Chief of the State of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. His presentation topic was an update on the Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program. The event was well attended with 60 participants logging in to watch the presentation.

The New Orleans Branch Board is currently planning for the 2020-2021 year which is expected to include virtual meetings and speakers as the year begins. The board will assess the current situation monthly and will notify the membership of when virtual and/or in-person events are scheduled.

The Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show that was previously scheduled for September 2020 will now be virtual with reduced number of speakers. The conference organizing committee is reviewing options and plans to announce the new format and dates in upcoming weeks. Updates will also be listed on the conference website at www.LCECS.org.

In April, the board voted to match member donations to four local organizations, up to \$2,500 total, using surplus funds to help members of our community affected by the current pandemic. The organizations are UNO First Student Support Fund, Second Harvest Food Bank, Gayle Benson Community Assistance Fund, and the New Orleans Business Alliance Gig Workers Relief Fund. As of August 2020, the branch has fulfilled its goal of matching \$2,500 in charitable donations!

The New Orleans Branch has awarded three \$750 scholarships to civil engineering students at UNO. These students showed exemplary records and active involvement in student organizations. The winners are Andrey Romanov, Lauryns Rodrigue, and Weston Mitchell.



Linsey B. Olivier, EI

SHREVEPORT BRANCH

By Linsey B. Olivier, EI, Branch President

Hoping you all are enjoying the summer and staying safe!

Our April luncheon and our Annual Spring Golf Tournament were unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19. The plan was to reschedule the Golf Tournament in August or September, but we were concerned about the extreme heat conditions. The Branch officers and I are still considering other options.

We have canceled luncheons indefinitely, but we are able to offer the Shreveport Branch virtual meetings for PDHs. These webinars are live events allowing members to interact with the speaker and ask questions, while the Branch officers record and monitor attendance.

In June, Zach Raley hosted a virtual presentation on "Ground Penetrating Radar". Zach is the owner of Utiliserve, LLC and has been in the GPR business since January.

The Shreveport Branch plans on hosting webinars for the upcoming months until further notice. With that being said, we are very anxious to continue our monthly luncheons and see everyone!

ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News

By Mark Castay, PE



The New Orleans Chapter of ASCE-SEI has been working diligently to overcome the challenges imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic. Although we have had to cancel one of the seminars earlier this year ("Performance-based Design is the Future" to be presented by Donald Dusenberry PE, SECB) the Chapter is working through the transition to provide online seminars. The most recent seminar was presented by William (Bill) Rushing, PE, F.ACI titled "ETHICS- Not Black or White but Shades of Grey" and was held on July 8, 2020. This was the first online seminar held by the Chapter and was well received. Rushing gave an excellent presentation and reviewed the "Code of Ethics Canons" as presented by ASCE (first adopted in 1914) while integrating some applications in our daily practices.



specializes in research and consulting. He is also an adjunct professor at The University of Alabama at Birmingham, where his research and teaching are concentrated on steel connection design. Additionally, he provides consulting services for the AISC Steel Solutions Center.

Dr. Dowswell is the author of AISC Design Guide 33-*Curved Member Design*, and he regularly publishes technical articles on steel design. He is a member of several AISC Committees, including the Committee on Specifications, the Committee on Manuals, the Committee on Research and the Task Group on Industrial Buildings and Nonbuilding Structures. Dr. Dowswell is also a member of Structural Stability Research Council, where his activities are primarily related to connection

element and beam stability.



Thank you to Bill Rushing, PE, F.ACI for his presentation "ETHICS- Not Black or White but Shades of Grey" as the first online seminar

The next seminar for this quarter will be the 2020 Higgins Lecture titled "Gusset Plates: The Evolution of Simplified Design Models" presented by Bo Dowswell, PhD, PE on August 13, 2020. The Higgins Lecture is named for former AISC Director of Engineering and Research, Theodore R. Higgins, AISC's T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award recognizes an outstanding lecturer and author whose technical paper or papers are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel.



AISC's T.R. Higgins Lectureship Awardee Bo Dowswell, PhD, PE

Dr. Dowswell will explore the historical perspectives related to gusset plate design and then transition to current design provisions in relation to the notional load method. Dr. Dowswell started in the steel industry in 1985 as a detailer. Since then, he earned BS from Auburn University; and, MS and PhD degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. As a professional engineer, his design practice focuses on steel structures. Currently, he is principal of both SDS Consulting, a design firm, and ARC International, which

ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter will be presenting the annual David Hunter Lecture on Sept. 15, 2020 and will be presented by John Tawresey SE, F.SEI, F.TMS, Hon. M.TMS, Dist. M. ASCE. The seminar will be titled "Lessons Learned-Sharing Claims Experiences to Become Better Engineers". Tawresey has over 40 years of experience as a structural engineer, 35 years of which he was Chief Financial Officer at KPFF Consulting Engineers. He has served in various roles for The Masonry Society (TMS), the Structural Engineers Risk Management Council (SERMC) in addition to serving as the past president of the Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE. Tawresey is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Washington where he has taught masonry design for 30 years. The seminar will focus on risk management as it relates to the structural engineer, what the structural engineer is responsible for, and ways to reduce the chance of a claim. The session will also highlight accomplishments of the Committee on Claims Reduction and Management (CCRM) and introduce the audience to the Confidential Reporting of Structural Safety (CROSS-US) system.



John Tawresey SE, F.SEI, F.TMS, Hon. M.TMS, Dist. M. ASCE

For more details visit SEI NO Chapter on www.asceneworleans.org/events/.

Student Chapter News

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

By Emily Rone, LSU Student Chapter President



Since our chapter's summer activities have been stalled and I am looking forward to the first meeting of the fall semester, I have been reflecting on some of the exciting events that took place this past spring. One of my favorites is when the society-wide President-elect of ASCE, Jean-Louis Briaud, PhD, PE, D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE, visited LSU and met with some of our student officers and chapter members. Dr. Briaud discussed his journey to presidency, the importance of being in professional societies, and his goals and initiatives for ASCE, specifically, how they relate to student chapters. He encouraged us to be in "relentless pursuit of excellence" in our careers and in life in general. When



asked about how to be a good leader, he suggested focusing on being firm in your decisions while staying fair, polite, and open-minded in everything you do. This is one of my favorite events of the semester because I could tell that Dr. Briaud's speech resonated with those in attendance supplying some inspiration to our members as exams and projects intensified.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS

By Andrey Romanov, Student Chapter Secretary

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, most school-related events were cancelled. Nonetheless, ASCE successfully hosted elections for the 2020-21 Student Board. Presented below are the students, their names, and respective positions:

- President- *Weston Mitchell*
- Vice President – *Austen Dooley*
- Secretary- *Andrey Romanov*
- Treasurer- *Kyle Knighten*
- Conference Chair - *Karena Grigenas*
- Social Chair - *Alexis Hornsby*

Major goals for the 2020-2021 period is recruitment and continuation of activities despite the COVID-19 outbreak. Safety is a

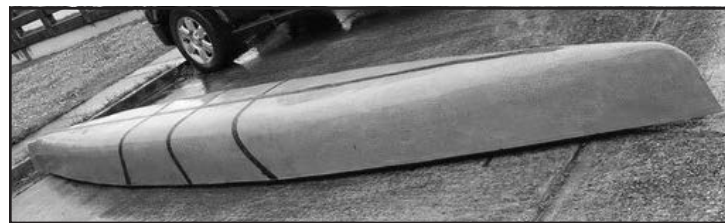
top priority for both UNO and ASCE, so this year will prove to be full of challenges that the new club leadership is willing to tackle. The board has successfully setup meetings over Zoom. For larger general meetings, and to accommodate for other students in the club, ASCE is experimenting with the use of platforms such as Discord and expanding its social media presence. Any future in-person meetings will be recorded and uploaded online for students to see.

While the details of the future ASCE Deep South Conferences are still unknown, it is a priority to start planning and developing ideas for 2021. As soon as the campus starts reopening, we will have full access to the resources required to successfully prepare for the Conference.

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

By Sydney Bratton, ASCE Student Chapter Secretary

Despite facing a pandemic, the Louisiana Tech ASCE Chapter had a great end of the year! Although we could not all meet in person, we held virtual general body meetings, officer elections, and hosted an industry meeting with a few Tech graduates. We were also able to complete the construction on our concrete canoe "The Mailman" which was themed around former NBA star and LaTech alum Karl Malone. Recently a few members attended a virtual transportation leadership forum, where they heard from industry professionals and participated in a round table discussion. While we don't know for



Louisiana Tech Concrete Canoe

sure what this year has in store, our chapter is ready and excited to face these new challenges and have another great year!

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

By Orisamola Richardson, Student Chapter President

Southern University's Chapter of ASCE is currently working on having elections for the 2020-2021 board. We plan on volunteering with different organizations, while practicing social distancing. We

will be having biweekly meetings via zoom to ensure the safety of our members. We look forward to going to the next Deep South Conference and competing in different competitions.



Louisiana

CIVIL ENGINEERING

Conference & Show

SAVE THE DATE!

October 7 & 8

We are proud to announce the dates for the 30th Annual Louisiana Civil Engineering Conference and Show. This event is a joint effort from the New Orleans Branches of ASCE and ACI.

We are in the process of finalizing the details of this year's
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
and will be posting additional information to our website soon!

Please visit our web site at

www.LCECS.org

— CALENDAR OF EVENTS —

2020

2020 ASCE Louisiana Section "Spring" Conference

As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ASCE Acadiana, together with the Louisiana Section, has decided to postpone the upcoming conference (September 17th - 18th).

Events are constantly being updated online:

For ASCE Society events please see online:
https://www.asce.org/conferences_events/
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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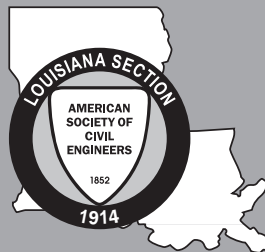
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