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Rabbit Island Restoration and Shoreline Protection Project

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Rabbit Island Restoration & Shoreline Protection Project





MAY 2024 VOLUME 32 • NO 3

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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

The Louisiana ASCE Section has had eventful spring as we head in the summer! This past quarter, we have been involved multiple in-person events including Section board meetings, the 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium, and the annual 2024 Spring Conference. We are also hopeful that the next edition of the ASCE Louisiana Report Card will be coming out soon.

The Louisiana Section was able to help sponsor this year's 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium hosted by UNO in New Orleans, LA. From March 7th to 9th, 2024, the Gulf Coast American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) hosted an impressive student symposium for civil engineering students from 15 universities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Approximately 400 participants, guests, and host personnel attended the event, which featured various activities. These included swamping Concrete Canoes, professional meetings, a reception with beignets, a Surveying competition, reinforced concrete beam construction, and racing concrete canoes in Bayou St. John. The symposium also included networking events, competitions, and a Professional Paper presentation. The weekend concluded with an awards ceremony and a lively Fais Do Do festival celebration.

The Baton Rouge Branch hosted the annual Spring Conference on March 20th and March 21st. Special thanks to Robb Jewell, Venu Tammineni, the whole Branch, sponsors and volunteers who came together to put on an educational and enjoyable conference at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Baton Rouge, LA. At the end of the first day of the conference we had a fun filled crawfish boil and networking event. On the second day of the conference, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome provided attendees with an update on MOVEBR—the most significant transportation infrastructure investment in the history of East Baton Rouge Parish. MOVEBR, approved by the voters of East Baton Rouge Parish in 2018, is a groundbreaking program that aims to reduce traffic congestion, build sidewalks, and manage traffic signals. When completed, MOVEBR will have invested more than \$1 billion in various projects to enhance transportation and infrastructure in the parish.

In this month's journal are main article will cover the topic of protection and restoration and is titled Rabbit Island Restoration and Shoreline Protection Project. The Rabbit Island Restoration and Shoreline Protection Project is crucial for Louisiana engineers as it demonstrates effective strategies for preserving and restoring critical habitats,



Marcus Taylor, PE

applying sustainable engineering practices, and ensuring resilience against natural disasters. The project highlights innovative design and construction techniques and underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. This serves as a valuable case study for future coastal protection and restoration efforts in the region.

Recent Section Representations at National and Regional Events

Our Section has been actively engaged in two crucial events: the Legislative Fly-in in Washington D.C. and the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference in Miami, FL. During the Legislative Fly-in, Katherine Foreman, PE, Norma Jean Mattei, PhD, PE, and Nedra Hains, MA represented Louisiana and met with the state's Congressional Representatives and Senators to advocate for infrastructure rehabilitation and spending. At the Multi-Regional Leadership Conference held from January 25-27, 2024, Andrew Woodroof, PE, Nick Scalfano, PE, and Chris Humphreys, PE represented LA ASCE, contributing significantly to regional leadership and younger member discussions and collaborations. These efforts demonstrate our commitment to advancing civil engineering and ensuring a robust future for our infrastructure. Kudos to our representatives!

Our Branches, Institutes and Student Chapters have continued to provide educational and PDH opportunities for our members, as you will read in this quarter's journal. Please continue to support your Branch through attendance at these events. The Louisiana Section is here to support you with programmatic opportunities. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions on how we can support your society interests. Have a great Summer and please join us for our exciting programs and events!

ASCE

Rabbit Island Restoration and Shoreline Protection Project

By Beau Tate, PE, Zachary Romaine, PE, CFM, and Levi Lebourgeois, PMP

Introduction

Rabbit Island is the State of Louisiana's most western historic Brown Pelican colony and, the island serves as critical habitat for a host of colonial waterbirds (CWB) and other Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified within the State's Wildlife Action Plan (Holcomb et al. 2015). The Island's location in the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin within Cameron Parish - Region 4 has experienced escalating erosion which raises major concern in relation to these vital CWB habitats (Fig. 1). Significant reductions in both island size (approximately 89 acres/30% lost from 1933 to 2017) and elevation (200 acres remaining are either at/below sea level, or are open water) has resulted in noteworthy CWB nest loss (upwards of 50%) due to inundation over time (Fig. 2).



Figure 1. Project Location Map

Following the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill (2010), Rabbit Island served as a designated relocation area for rehabilitated waterbirds. This inherent value paired with accelerated coastwide species habitat loss further validated the prioritization of this island's future restoration. The Rabbit Island Restoration Plan (CS-0080) was approved by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) in 2017 and was completed in 2021. The project intent was to create or enhance at least 88 acres of essential bird nesting and foraging habitats. The project team consisted of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Funding was provided by National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA).

Island Restoration – Design Considerations

Characterization of site conditions involved extensive data collection and analysis which included topographic and bathymetric surveying, geotechnical investigations, aerial photography, review of prior reports and historical information, a wave and water level assessment, and a morphological evaluation (Royal 2018). Due to the West Cove being Tier I Public Oyster Seed Ground, some



Beau Tate, PE

considerations implemented included in the restoration design were: exclusion of access dredging; omission of hard structure shoreline protection features; and the inclusion of turbidity mitigation devices— such as floating turbidity curtains along the equipment access corridor. To avoid disturbing the State's historic Brown Pelican nesting colonies, a narrow construction window for On-Island Work activities was enforced. This window represents the principal CWB non-nesting window as determined by DOI and LDWF. Bird





Levi Lebourgeois, PMP

monitoring and island activity reports were implemented before, during and after construction and closely followed. It should be noted that shoreline protection was re-assessed following island restoration and included in later design and construction phases.

Island Restoration – Project Alternatives

Alternative components included various borrow areas, sediment and construction equipment transport corridors, fill area configurations, and shoreline protection features. Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC (Royal) developed a thorough and comprehensive set of evaluation criteria to uniformly and objectively assess the project alternative components.

The borrow areas were chosen based on reasonable proximity to Rabbit Island and sediment type. The proposed borrow areas include the Calcasieu Ship Channel (5-10 river miles), the Loop Pass (approximately 3.4 miles) and 3 separate confined disposal facilities, or CDFs: USACE CDFs H, N, and M near West Cove, Calcasieu Lake.

RABBIT ISLAND CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA







Figure 2. Rabbit Island - 1933 (Grey) vs 2005 (Red)

Potential access routes from the borrow areas to Rabbit Island included: Route A, a northerly route from Oyster Bayou; Route B, a westerly route from the Calcasieu Ship Channel through Joe's Cut; and Route C, a south-westerly route from the Calcasieu Ship Channel through 9-Mile Cut. Preliminary alternative fill design methodology included:

- A "Table Top" design with a constant fill elevation on the island;
- A "Table Top" design with 2 constant fill elevations on the island, including the filling-in of an existing inland tidal pond;
- A design with varying fill elevations including a continuous "Dune" constructed along the exterior rim of the island;
- A design with varying fill elevations including constructed "Mounds" on the exterior rim of the island.

Shoreline protection was initially evaluated for approximately 3,000 linear ft of shoreline on the northeastern side of Rabbit Island in the CPRA/ LA TIG plan. Six shoreline protection features were identified in the Alternatives Development. The features included: Shortec[®] ShoreBlock[®]; riprap breakwater; Martin Ecosystems EcoBale; Reef Innovations Reef Ball; Tensar Triton[®] Marine Mattress; and Wayfarer Environmental Technologies OysterBreak[™]. A no action alternative was also considered due to cost savings and the reduced likelihood of impacting oysters when compared to a constructed shoreline protection feature.

Chosen Final Alternatives

Borrow Source: Calcasieu Ship Channel (Fig. 3)

<u>Access Route: Route B for construction equipment access and</u> <u>sediment pipeline conveyance — LDWF advised (Fig. 3)</u>

Fill Area: "Table Top 2" with varied fill elevations (Fig. 3)

Shoreline Protection: eliminated based on survey and hydraulic data collected, as well as cost:benefit analysis



Figure 3. Plan View of Project Features

Island Restoration – Design

Royal led the collection of topographic, bathymetric, magnetometer, and oyster seed ground survey data, as well as hydrodynamic data that was used to design project features (Royal 2019). Additionally, a geotechnical investigation was undertaken to determine physical characteristics and behavior of the soil in the fill and borrow areas. The geotechnical investigation was performed by GeoEngineers, Inc.. Data collection consisted of soil borings and CPTs in the fill area and soil borings in the borrow area. The fill area was separated into three cells, Cells 1, 2 and 3. Key results of the investigation are provided below (GeoEngineers 2018 a & b).

Subsurface conditions at Rabbit Island generally consist of very soft clay with organic matter from the mudline to about 4 ft bml, deposits created by modern marshes, followed by very soft to soft

clay and sandy/silty clay soil 4 to 10 ft bml. Between 10 to 16 ft bml, the soil is a very soft clay and sandy/silty clay soil. Below this stratum, the soil is generally medium to stiff, relatively low moisture clay soils with sand and silt lenses and occasional sand/silt layers, typical of Pleistocene-era clay soils.

Settlement evaluation of the Fill Area Cell 1 on Rabbit Island included the use of the Rabbit Island Secondary Borrow Area (RISBA) series of borrow area samples due to the higher concentration of sand in the southern portion of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The settlement of Cells 2 and 3 were evaluated using average unit weight and soil properties from the entire borrow area.

Due to local subsidence, island elevations will decrease. Moderate case subsidence rate of 3.8 mm/yr (0.01246 ft/yr) for the Chenier Plain Region adopted by the 2012 CPRA Master Plan, and unchanged in the 2017 update (Reed & Yuill, 2016), was chosen due to its slightly conservative conditions.

Subsurface conditions in the Calcasieu Ship Channel generally included a thin layer of soft clay material over high plasticity, medium-to-stiff strength, relatively low-moisture Pleistocene-age clay with occasional silt and sand layers.

Results from the GeoEngineers geotechnical investigation revealed the presence of sandy material in the Calcasieu Ship Channel near River Mile 5 (borings RISBA 6 and 7 in particular). Subsequently, the project team also performed a seismic investigation within the Calcasieu Ship Channel borrow area. The LSU Coastal Studies Institute collected seismic data along with magnetometer and side scan sonar data during the effort. The data collected suggested that a Pleistocene River channel existed near RISBA 7, which contained approximately 90% sand throughout a deposit of at least 20 feet in thickness (Bentley 2018). Two additional geotechnical borings were taken during August 2018 as a part of the Calcasieu Salinity Control Structure project's geotechnical investigation to further delineate the stratigraphy in this area.



Figure 4. Seismic Boundaries and Borings within Calcasieu Ship Channel Borrow Area

Royal performed a detailed hydraulic analysis within Calcasieu Lake, specifically West Cove, informed by publicly available water data sources, field collection (ENCOS DCP near Rabbit Island), and eustatic sea level rise rates adopted by CPRA. This included determination of high, mean, and low tides. The Rabbit Island Restoration project aimed to increase habitat elevations thereby reducing potential inundation of the island surface; as such, a water level exceedance analysis was also performed (Fig. 5).



Figure 5. Water Surface Exceedance Elevation Percentage

Pelican nesting habitat criterion was principally obtained from Nesting Habitat Requirements of the Brown Pelican and their Management Implications; Journal of Coastal Research (Visser, et al. 2005), lessons learned from the Queen Bess Island Restoration Project (BA-202), and professional judgement. Visser noted higher maximum elevations were favored by pelicans, with the preferred nesting occurring at an average elevation of 1 ft above mean sea level (Visser 2005). Correspondingly, Royal's water level exceedance analysis indicated that a habitat elevation 1 ft above mean tide level was exceeded approximately only 4% of the time during CWB nesting season. The hydraulic analysis was paired with geotechnical calculations informed by geotechnical investigation to generate habitat construction elevations. As seen in an example settlement curve, the preferred habitat elevation was calculated to increase with time due to sea level rise, and the surface of the constructed fill was predicted to settle via consolidation and subsidence (Fig. 6). As such, Fill Area Cell 1 was designed to a construction elevation of 3 ft NAVD88, while Fill Area Cell 2 features an elevation of 3.5 ft NAVD88 to offer varying elevations for avian nesting. The fill elevation for Fill Area Cell 1, along with the corresponding containment dike, are represented in a typical cross section (Fig. 7). During Final Design, concern was raised that the size of the restoration design may attract mammalian predators. To mitigate this risk, the size of Fill Area Cell 1 was reduced slightly, and Fill Area Cell 3 was redesigned to include 6 acres of marsh nourishment. The final fill area template totaled 88 acres.



Figure 6. Settlement Curves for Fill Area Cell 1



Figure 7. Typical Section for Fill Area Cell 1

The Calcasieu Ship Channel, specifically the portion between Miles 5 and 5.5 was selected for the borrow area due to the presence of sand deposits and stiff Pleistocene clays. The properties of this material lent itself as the preferred borrow aggregate to create diversified project features on Rabbit Island.

A total design dredge cut volume of 433,000 CY was required, and a total of 2,109,000 CY of material was available in the borrow area. LDWF advised the selection of the Access Route for construction equipment access and sediment pipeline conveyance (Fig. 8). Their preference was based on Tier 1 oyster resources within the area and available water depths. Type II turbidity curtains along the limits of the access route were included in the design to limit turbidity effects in West Cove.



Figure 8. Project Layout

The final construction cost estimate was \$7.55M.

Island Restoration – Construction

Two construction contracts were executed for this project: a dredging/fill placement contract and a vegetative plantings contract (Royal 2021). Ecological Restoration Services, LLC (ERS) was awarded the vegetative plantings contract on May 11th, 2020 for \$398,551.80, at which time Notice To Proceed (NTP) was issued. Weeks Marine was awarded the construction contract at a low-bid value of \$7,274,750 and was issued NTP on June 4th, 2020. On August 27, Hurricane Laura made landfall near Cameron, Louisiana, with sustained winds of 150 mph (240 km/h), making it the strongest Louisiana-landfalling hurricane in terms of wind speed since the 1856 Last Island hurricane (Robbie 2020a). A following site visit confirmed the island remained relatively unscathed, though a potential dock facility in Cameron was damaged. Weeks Marine mobilized in mid-September 2020 and turbidity curtain installation began, though Tropical Storm Beta and Hurricane Delta subsequently made landfall on September 22nd, and October 9th, respectively (Robbie 2020b, NHC 2020). Damage to 9,900LF of the 10,300 LF installed occurred during these storms. From October to early November, Weeks constructed a total of 8,225 LF of earthen containment dikes (Fig. 9).

Weeks' CR McCaskill began dredging in the Calcasieu Ship Channel on December 9th (Fig. 10). Cells were filled in order of Fill Area Cells 1, 2, and then overflowed into the nourishment area in 3. Dredging was complete on January 17, 2023. The final dredge quantity based on the cut was 606,300 CY. The additional fill material above the design estimate was added by change order for a final contract amount of \$8,224,000.



Figure 9. Earthen Containment Dike Construction



Figure 10. Dredge Pipeline Outfall

Hay bales were laid in transects by Soil Erosion Services, LLC (SES) in February to mitigate migration of fill material. SES also applied ryegrass and Bermuda seed via aircraft across the entire fill area. Vegetative plantings, including smooth cordgrass, matrimony vine, groundsel bush, and marsh elder were then planted across the fill area. In total, 165 acres of bird habitat was enhanced (Table 1, Fig. 11). The resulting island enhancement differed slightly from design and now offers essential bird nesting acreage and expanded habitat types for a wide range of avian species. In addition, the larger nourishment/foraging habitat component of the project bolsters island integrity for continued project success.

Habitat	Elevation (ft NAVD88)	Acres
Colonial Waterbird Nesting	5.0-1.6	81
Secretive Marshbird Nesting	1.5-1	21
Total Nesting Habitat		102
Wading and Shorebird Foraging		63
Total Habitat		165

Table 1. Bird Habitat Enhancement



Figure 11. Rabbit Island Restoration Project Post-Construction

Shoreline Protection – Design

In the first- and second year following completion of the restoration work, observations were made of continued erosion on the northeast side of the island (Fig. 12; Royal 2024). Although shoreline protection was assessed in the original project design, it was excluded from the original scope due to potential construction related impacts to surrounding Tier 1 oyster resources in the lake and a low cost:benefit analysis. In an effort to adaptively address the continued erosion and oyster resource concerns post construction, the LA TIG Trustees approved implementation of the shoreline protection feature to reduce further erosion, protect the created habitats, and provide oyster resource benefits through a living shoreline approach. The installation of limestone filled gabion baskets as an intertidal feature, installed with specific construction access requirements, were approved to provide a greater potential for the Rabbit Island Restoration project to meet the MAM plan objectives. The shoreline protection project, completed in YR2 of the project, is the first maintenance event in the O&M phase.

Engineering and design were performed by Royal from October 2021 to July 2023. Key tasks included quantifying the optimal shoreline protection product type and design elevation based on past projects and case studies of various shoreline protection types, analysis of wave transmission based on empirical formulae, and performing a geotechnical analysis utilizing boring and



Figure 12. Rabbit Island Northeast Shoreline Summer 2021 (LDWF)

CPT data from the original Rabbit Island Restoration project (GeoEngineers 2022). Twelve gabion basket alternatives were assessed by basket height, width, length, water bottom elevation, stability, sliding overturning, settlement, wave attenuation, constructability given site conditions, and cost (Royal 2022). The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was consulted for lessons learned experience on similar installations in the West Cove area. LDWF provided construction considerations for the oyster resource and fisheries access aspect of the shoreline protection feature. This collaboration resulted in the final design including 2,500 LF of 6 ft x 6 ft x 1.5 ft baskets filled with 4 in x 8 in stone placed atop geotextile fabric (Fig. 13).



Figure 13. Gabion Basket Isometric

Shoreline Protection – Construction

Gulf Inland Contractors (GIC) was awarded the construction contract at a low-bid value of \$846,928.00 and was issued Notice To Proceed (NTP) on September 13th, 2023 (Royal 2024). Basket fabrication began in October and on-site construction began in November. Due to the basket weight, the Contractor opted to utilize 3 ft x 6 ft x 1.5 ft baskets, doubling the bid quantity for the equivalent linear footage of protection. The year 2023 was a drought year and Gulf levels were trending lower than the prior years. From Late November into December, the lake experienced extremely low water levels. This required the Contractor to take extra precaution and time to complete the installation of the baskets. Barges were only moved when high tides were sufficient to do so without impacting water bottoms, an action intended to limit impacts to Tier 1 oyster resource. Once a section of alignment was completed to within the reach of the excavator, the Contractor was unable to move barges to continue work until the high tide returned.

Construction lasted approximately one month, with completion on December 20. (Fig. 14; Fig. 15)



Figure 14. Rabbit Island Shoreline Protection Project - Northeast shoreline December 2023



Figure 15. Rabbit Island Shoreline Protection Project - Northeast Shoreline December 2023

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Link: https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/media/document/avianmonitoringstandalone042023pdf

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Beau Tate, PE, is a is a Coastal Engineer with Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC. in Lafayette, LA. Mr. Tate earned a B.S. degree in Environmental Engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA in 1998. He has 25 years of project experience in NEPA documentation and compliance, coastal protection and restoration, program/project management, and traditional civil and environmental engineering. His specific project experience includes but is not limited to shoreline protection and marsh creation design, wetland delineations, cultural resource clearance, disaster recovery services, hazard mitigation, and environmental site assessments.

Zachary J. Romaine[,] PE, CFM, is a Coastal Engineer with Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC. in Lafayette, LA. Mr. Romaine earned a B.S. degree in Environmental Engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA in 2014 and a M.S. degree in Coastal and Ecological Engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA in 2016. He has 7 years of project experience in hydraulic analysis, numerical modeling, coastal habitat restoration, marsh creation, and shoreline protection[.]

Levi LeBourgeois, PMP, is a Project Manager with Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC in Lafayette, LA. Mr. LeBourgeois earned a B.S. degree in Finance from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2004, a Geographic Information Science Graduate Certificate from the University of West Florida in 2010, and an MBA from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 2023. He has 14 years of project experience in civil and coastal engineering projects.

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ASCE Region 5 News By Nicholas Scalfano, El

Attending the Multi-Regional Leadership Council (MRLC) in Miami, FL as the Younger Member delegate for the Louisiana Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was a remarkable experience. The event brought together engineers from Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5, offering a unique opportunity to connect with peers and leaders from a wide geographical area. Being part of Region 5, I found it incredibly valuable to engage with professionals from diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. This experience underscored the importance of being an engineer who can connect with peers by building relationships and networks that are crucial for professional growth, as it allows us to share knowledge, collaborate on projects, and support each other in our careers. Engaging with fellow delegates highlighted the importance of being both an equitable engineer and an empathetic individual.

These connections are instrumental in fostering a supportive and collaborative engineering community, enriching our professional lives and personal development. One of the highlights of my MRLC experience was participating in the Eastern Regional Younger Member Council (ERYMC), a sub-conference where young civil engineers under the age of 36 gather to engage in professional development and vote for future MRLC conference locations. This



All Louisiana folks that made it to the conference

dynamic group of young professionals chose my bid for New Orleans, Louisiana, as the location for the 2026 MRLC conference. Despite the effort being somewhat last-minute and without a prepared presentation, I relied on my passion for the city and its vibrant culture to make a compelling case. Winning the bid was not only a personal achievement but also a testament to the support and enthusiasm of my Louisiana colleagues.

The ERYMC also included training sessions on how to better collaborate with other engineers and how to be a leader within the profession. It was fantastic getting to know people my age who are just as passionate about connections and building a better society through initiatives like the Infrastructure Report Card and advocating for better building codes, zoning laws, and infrastructure design and funding on both the large and small scales. These training sessions were invaluable, equipping us with the skills to lead and innovate within our field. This experience reinforced the value of connecting with peers. I am inspired by the dedication of young civil engineers and excited about the prospect of welcoming them to New Orleans, showcasing the city's unique charm and fostering further professional and personal connections.



The Younger Member Advisory Council (YMAC) for Region 5 (4 people)



The entirety of Region 5

ASCE Region 5 News, Continued



Jenga with the engineers at a social



Taking the Brightline high speed rail to Miami



Nicholas Scalfano and Sarah Berman (Baton Rouge Younger Member Chair)



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2024 ASCE Section Spring Conference

By Robb Jewell, PE President Baton Rouge Branch

Venu Tammineni, PE, Past President and Baton Rouge Branch Conference Chair

The 2024 ASCE Section Conference was hosted this year by the ASCE Baton Rouge Branch beginning Wednesday, March 20 through Thursday, March 21, 2024. The Conference was held at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge and was a great success!

Special thanks goes out to the ASCE Baton Rouge Branch Officers, who helped plan and organize the event, and for their tremendous assistance before and during the event: Venu Tammineni, PE, Jack Koban, PhD PE, PG, Josh Olivier, PE, Robert Nodier, PE, Ryan Brunet, PE, Nafi Haque, PE, Sarah Berman, PE, Ryan Williamson, PE, Myles Martin, EI, and Joyner Deamer, EI, and former Past President Tyler Branch, PE and sub-committee chairman Jerry Outlaw. We would also like to recognize the ASCE Louisiana Section for their support to ensure the success of this conference. Our goal was to provide an informative, productive, and motivational event and the opportunity to make valuable connections throughout the days.



Group photo of the Baton Rouge Branch Board Members (I-r): Venu Tammineni, Jack Koban, Robert Nodier, Robb Jewell, Josh Olivier, Ryan Brunet, Sarah Berman, Ryan Williamson (not pictured: Nafi Haque, Myles Martin, and Joyner Deamer)

The lineup for this year's conference offered a variety of topics in all areas of civil engineering and real-world practice applications. This conference had two different PDH opportunities per time slot. The Conference averaged around 75 attendees per day, and we had seven exhibitors participate. We also had one platinum sponsor (\$1,850), three gold sponsors (\$1,000), four silver sponsors (\$500), two crawfish boil sponsors (\$500), and one lunch sponsor (\$500). In addition to the sponsors, there were 7 exhibitors at the event that contributed to making this conference a success!

Wednesday's event began with registration in our main event hall. Each attendee then had the option of attending one of the two speakers in our breakout rooms. Our presentations included:

Keynote Speakers:

- Opening Session: DOTD Update Chad Winchester, PE
- CPRA Update Rudy Simoneaux, PE Multimodal Transportation Update – Molly Bourgoyne, PE
- The Current State-of-Art of Waste Landfills and Their Future – Ricardo DeAbreu, PhD, PE

- NRCS Update Nicholas McCoy, PE
- Forensic Engineering: Hurricanes and Tornados Calvin Thomas, PE
- Green Hydrogen Challenges for Civil/Structural/ Architectural – Occie Norton, PE
- Building Nature into Infrastructure Tyler Ortego, PE
- Ethics Richard Savoie, PE
- Python for Civil Engineers Matt Salmon, PE
- Geotechnical AASHTO Update Jesse Rauser, PE
- Structural Analysis for Nuclear Facilities Robert Barrios, PE and Shailendra Shrivastava, PE
- Hydraulics Dr. Matthew Brand
- Energy Economics Gregory Upton Jr., PhD
- Amite River Basin Commission Rachel Lambert, PE

Attendees enjoyed a crawfish boil/networking event on the first night.



Chad Winchester, PE – DOTD Chief Engineer presents as the keynote speaker for the Wednesday opening session providing an overview of the current state of LADOT



Attendees enjoyed a crawfish boil/networking event after a great first day.

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Thursday's presentations included:

Keynote Speaker:

- EBR Update Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome
- Dam and Levee Resiliency Oliver-Denzil Taylor, PhD, PE, D. GE
- Bayou Greenbelt Garvin Pittman and Martijn Bregman
- Louisiana Gateway Terminal Status Update Christopher Fetters, PE
- Mississippi River Update Deborah Centola, PE
- Department of Energy and Natural Resources Update Dustin Davidson
- Where is it? Practical Application of New Datums J. Anthony Cavell, PLS
- Elevating Your Trajectory: Progressive Leadership in Engineering – Kimberly McDaniel, PE
- Cable Stayed Bridges Hatem Seliem, PhD, PE, PMP



Mayor President Sharon Weston Broome presents as the keynote speaker for the Thursday luncheon session on the East Baton Rouge Parish/MOVEBR Program update



Exhibitors and attendees networking during breaktime

The conference wrapped up with lunch and the Section General Membership meeting lead by Section President Marcus Taylor, PE, and followed up by Joshua Olivier, PE, Chair for the Section Awards and Student Activities & Awards Committees. They also recognized Distinguished Senior and Junior Civil Engineering Students who received the annual Section Student Awards.



Group photo of the student award winners (I-r): Charles Stauder, Lucas Anh Trinh, Kalani S. Jones, Zuri Ylan Watts, Drake Guidry, Brant Courville, and Gennie Claros Funes (not pictured: Olivia N. Smith, Mirah Assaf, Natalia Tooraen, Destiny O'Connor, and Trevor J. Fortier)

Distinguished Senior Civil Engineering Student Awards

Zuri Ylan Watts, Southern University Olivia N. Smith, Louisiana State University Natalia Tooraen, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Destiny O'Connor, Louisiana Tech University Lucas Anh Trinh, University of New Orleans Drake Guidry, McNeese State University

Distinguished Junior Civil Engineering Student Awards Kalani S. Jones, Southern University Mirah Assaf, Louisiana State University Charles Stauder, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Trevor J. Fortier, Louisiana Tech University Gennie Claros Funes, University of New Orleans Brant Courville, McNeese State University

In total, the conference was a great success, offering a total of thirteen (13) PDH opportunities for close to 100 attendees. On behalf of the Baton Rouge Branch, I would like to thank the speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and ASCE members for the ongoing support of the branch. We strive to provide innovative information for the growth of your professional career, and we look forward to continuing serving you and our community. We really appreciate everyone's involvement, and we were happy to coordinate an event that benefited the membership from around the State.

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ASCE-COPRI Louisiana Chapter News

By Kiara Horton, El, Director – Communications



INSTITUTE Louisiana Chapter



Kiara Horton, El **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 inperson events.

YPG and Student Chapter Updates

On February 24, 2024, COPRI YPG will be volunteering for the Jefferson Parish Ecosystem and Coastal management annual "Coastal Tree-Cycling" event. Each year thousands of Christmas trees are donated by residents and diverted from landfills to protect wetland habitat within the Barataria Basin. These recycled trees are used to build wave dampening fences located off the shore, helping to reduce coastal erosion.

Both the L.COPRI YPG and LSU COPRI Student Chapter are excited to kick the year off with many events and lectures this year. Please reach out to Hayden Franklin (Student Chapter President, hfran15@ Isu.edu) and Yelitza Cedeno (YPG Director, Yelitza.cedeno@hdrinc. com) for information on how to get involved as an LSU Student or Younger Member.

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 scholarship application form. Scholarship winners are typically presented their checks during L.COPRI's annual spring seminar.

For application inquires please contact Kylie Beadle, Scholarship Director at kyliehbeadle@gmail.com

Past Events

Educational Webinar

L.COPRI hosted a Webinar on January 30, 2024 presented by Rick Bauer from Systems Integration Consultant, Environmental Science Services, Inc. (Es2). Bauer discussed the ever-evolving



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world of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) and Unmanned Surface Vehicles (USVs) in coastal engineering and the advancements in drone space and its exciting path towards Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) operations. Special thanks to Rick Bauer for providing COPRI with the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the future coastal engineering with UAVs and USVs.

Upcoming Events

Our half-day Spring Seminar is currently being planned and updates will be coming soon. Keep a look out for future event announcements via email and Linkedin.

If you have any general event questions, please contact Programs director Molly Bourgoyne at molly. bourgoyne@la.gov.

Port Engineering Certificate Program

ASCE's Port Engineering Certificate Program is a series of careerfocused courses taught by practicing engineers and university professors providing professional engineers in-demand skills used in the field of port engineering. You will learn the fundamental concepts of port engineering, the design, construction, and management of port facilities, types of seismic design classifications, and how to interpret geotechnical data.

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 kiara.horton@freese.com, 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! We have a new L.COPRI page!!

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-portsrivers-institute/awards.



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ASCE-G-I Louisiana Chapter News

By George F. Segré Quilichini, PE, Chair





George F. Segré Quilichini, PE G-I Chair



The GI-LA Chapter has had a strong start to the year, and hopes to continue forward gaining more traction, and engaging with the community. In March we had the pleasure of assisting with the ASCE's Gulf Coast Student Symposium and locally hosting our first ever GeoWall competition! Our own Ricardo de Abreu, PhD, PE was the head judge for the GeoWall competition and six of the 13 schools attending the symposium competed in the event. We are thankful to Menard and Reinforced Earth for sponsoring this event. Congratulations and thanks to all who participated. While only the top three spots were recognized at the closing ceremony, all the participants had fun while learning more about geotechnical engineering.





- 1st place University of New Orleans
- 2nd place Auburn University
- 3rd place University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa)

Also in March, the GI hosted a webinar presented by Jeremy P. Daigle, PE a Geotechnical Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The webinar focused on how permitting efforts are handled at the USACE and had over 100 participants in attendance.

Looking forward, we will be hosting Professor Kyle M. Rollins, the Cross-USA lecturer for 2023-2024 Tour on May 1St at the University of New Orleans' College of Engineering. Dr. Rollins will be presenting about the use of soil improvement techniques to increase the strength and stiffness of the soil surrounding the foundation to increase the lateral resistance of pile groups. The lecture will present case studies based on various ground improvement methods.

In addition, the GI has two potential speakers lined up for 2024. One presentation would likely include both an in-person and virtual attendance opportunity, and the other would be fully virtual. Stay tuned for additional information, or feel free to follow our LinkedIn page for more up to date information(https://www. linkedin.com/company/geoinstitute-louisiana-chapter).







ASCE Government Relations Committee

By Nedra Davis Hains, MA, GR Secretary





Nedra Davis Hains, MA Government Relations Secretary

ASCE 2024 Legislative Fly-In and Policy Week

The ASCE 2024 Legislative Fly-In was held in person in Washington, D.C., from February 28 to March 1, 2024. This annual event provides ASCE members with the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress or their senior legislative staff, advance the Society's policy priorities, and strengthen leadership skills to bring back to the workplace. Representing the Louisiana Section were Katherine Foreman, PE, Kevin Hurtt, PE, Norma Jean Mattei, PhD, PE, and Nedra Davis Hains, MA, who met with several Congressional offices on Capitol Hill.



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Katherine Foreman, Kevin Hurtt, & Nedra Hains at the 2024 Fly-in

The Fly-In is organized by ASCE's Key Contact Program and Government Relations Team, which represents the profession's interests in public policy and legislation. The program involves advocacy at both the federal and state levels to improve the profession and address societal needs. Although ASCE is a non-profit organization that does not fund or endorse candidates, it employs a full-time Government Relations Team that drafts legislation, communicates with Congress, and shapes public policy statements.

This year's Fly-In saw over 250 attendees and covered a variety of key issues, highlighted by the timing of the event. One of the main issues was the Continuing Resolution (CR) for Federal Funding, which was set to expire on March 1, 2024, requiring Congress to finalize another extension. Additionally, significant progress has been made in infrastructure projects due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding. Legislative issues such as the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), infrastructure resiliency, and workforce development were also critical topics of discussion.

The event began with briefings on advocacy strategies, legislative priorities, and networking opportunities. Highlights included the Advocacy Captains Briefing by Elisabeth 'Lizzie' Dorman and the "Legislative Fly-In Refresher" by Maria Lehman. Caroline Sevier, Director of Government Relations at ASCE, provided insights on congressional activities impacting the profession. The first day featured ASCE Committee meetings, keynote presentations, and panel discussions on key issues, followed by networking events. The second day focused on meetings with Representatives and Senators, concluding with an evening reception.

Key messages delivered during the Fly-In included the need for continued support for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation, reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act and the National Dam Safety Program, championing resilient infrastructure, and addressing workforce development.

Congressional Visits

During the Fly-In, the Louisiana delegation had several meetings with Louisiana Congressional offices. They met with Congressman Mike Johnson's Legislative Director, Jules Hurst, where they discussed workforce development and the new duties of the Speaker of the House. Congressman Garret Graves and his Transportation Director, Anderson Tran, where they discussed the importance of continued support for infrastructure projects. The delegation also met with Senator Bill Cassidy's office, Senior Policy Advisor Ron Anderson, to emphasize the need for effective use of IIJA funds and addressing critical infrastructure issues.



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Nedra Hains, Jules Hurst Legislative Director, Katherine Foreman, & Kevin Hurtt visit with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson's office



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Nedra Hains, Congressman Garret Graves, Katherine Foreman, & Kevin Hurtt



Left to right: Kevin Hurtt, Katherine Foreman, Anderson Tran Legislative ?, Nedra Hains, & Norma Jean Mattei visit with Rep. Garret Graves office



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Nedra Hains, Ron Anderson, Senior Policy Advisory, Katherine Foreman, & Kevin Hurtt visit Senator Bill Cassidy's office

In a meeting with Senator John Kennedy's office, Kade Smith, Legislative Correspondent, engaged in discussions about FAA reauthorization and infrastructure resiliency. The group also visited Representative Troy Carter's office, where they highlighted the significance of workforce development in the engineering and construction sectors.



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Kevin Hurtt, Kade "Bubba" Smith Legislative Correspondent, Katherine Foreman, & Nedra Hains visit Senator John Kennedy's office

Additionally, the delegation met with Representative Clay Higgins and his Legislative Assistant, Jordan Sorenson. These meetings were crucial in conveying ASCE's key messages and ensuring that the needs of the engineering profession and infrastructure projects were understood and supported by lawmakers. Finally, Kevin Hurtt and Norma Jean Mattei were also able to meet with Representative Steve Scalise's office.



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Kevin Hurtt, Rep. Clay Higgins, Katherine Foreman, & Nedra Hains



Left to right: Norma Jean Mattei, Kevin Hurtt, Katherine Foreman, Jordan Sorenson Legislative Assistant, & Nedra Hains

The core messages were delivered, emphasizing ASCE's expertise and the importance of long-term relationships with Congressional and Senatorial staff. The LA Section Government Relations Committee encourages members to schedule Back Home Visits or attend local town hall meetings to raise infrastructure issues. For more information on the Report Card for America's Infrastructure, visit [infrastructurereportcard.org](http://www. infrastructurereportcard.org).

With over 150,000 members, ASCE has a powerful voice on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the country. To stay informed and become a Key Contact, visit [ASCE Key Contacts Program](https://www.asce.org/advocacy/key-contacts).



Left to right: Katherine Foreman, Norma Jean Mattei, Legislative ?, Kevin Hurtt, & Nedra Hains visit with Rep. Troy Carter's office

With over 150,000 members, ASCE has a powerful voice on Capitol Hill and in statehouses across the country. Be the first to know about legislation that matters – become a Key Contact today.

If you would like to become a Key Contact, please visit the Key Contact Program through ASCE's website at https://www.asce.org/advocacy/key-contacts.



Left to right: Katherine Foreman, Kevin Hurtt, Nedra Hains, & Norma Jean Mattei invite you to participate at home, please visit your representative in their district offices



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ASCE Social Media:

ASCE Louisiana Section:

Twitter: @ASCEGovRel

facebook.com/ascelouisiana

facebook.com/ascegovrel

For ASCE Louisiana Section Younger Member Social Media information please contact: Emily Adoue at emilyeadoue@gmail.com.



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ASCE and MacGillivray Freeman Films – the team that brought *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* to giant screens around the world – have united to produce a new film inspired by ASCE's Future World Vision initiative: *Cities of the Future*. The film's immersive IMAX experience allows audiences to "step into the future."

Cities of the Future features five young ASCE members working to solve the world's most pressing challenges with inspiring solutions. It also follows a team of middle school students as they compete in the <u>Future City Competition</u>. (https://futurecity.org/)

Science centers and museums across the country are already booking the film. <u>Find a theatre near you</u>. (https://citiesofthefuturefilm.com/) Feeling inspired by Future World Vision? Spark enthusiasm for *Cities of the Future* within your local ASCE section, branch, younger member group, or student chapter with <u>event resources</u> (https://www.futureworldvision.org/resources) or <u>apply for a *Cities of the Future* grant</u> to feature the film at an upcoming event. (https://www.futureworldvision.org/cities-future-grants)

ASCE-T&DI Louisiana Chapter News

By Elba Hamilton - Newsletter Editor



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



Elba Hamilton T&DI Chair

Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair

In continuation of our efforts to promote interest in transportation, planning, and engineering, the T&DI Louisiana Chapter contributed to the 70th annual Louisiana State Science and Engineering Fair that was held on March 26th and 27th at the LSU Student Union Cotillion Ballroom. The State is divided into multiple regions and each region holds a Science Fair early in the year. The top winners from each Region can participate at the State level. The Judges for the transportation-related special awards category consisted of T&DI Executive Committee members Dan Aucutt, PE, Joffrey Easley, PE, and Mike Paul, PE. The special awards winners for the Senior Division are below:

- 1st Place: Impacts of Hidden Layer Design on CNNs for Traffic Sign Recognition by Sofia Zhu
- 2nd Place: How Airfoil Design Affects Aircraft Aerodynamics by Mathias Gomez

New Executive Board Member



T&DI is pleased to announce our new Executive Board member Dr. Nazimuddin "Wasi" Wasiuddin, Ph.D., PE Dr. Wasiuddin is the Robert Howson Professor of Civil Engineering at Louisiana Tech University. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of

Oklahoma and has been working at Louisiana Tech since 2007. His research interests are modified asphalt rheology, asphalt emulsions,

physico-chemical characterization of asphalt materials, asphaltic surface treatments, warm mix asphalt, nondestructive testing of pavements, mining and offshore drilling waste stabilization among others. He is a member of the Southern Plains Transportation Center. The Center is a consortium of 11 diverse academic institutions dedicated to providing solutions for climate-related transportation challenges across the region. We are looking forward to work with Dr. Wasi in the coming years.

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 Mike Paul at <u>MPaul@</u> <u>trccompanies.com</u> 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 areas. 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:

- College Flyover Project in Baton Rouge
- Repairs from Fire on I-10 near I-310 & I-55
- New Orleans Ferries
- I-220 and I-20 Barksdale Air Force Base Interchange Access Project in Bossier City
- I-10 and Pecue Lane Interchange in Baton Rouge

ASCE

Branch News



ACADIANA BRANCH By Rhett Hebert, El, CFM, Branch President

In our ongoing efforts to better serve our membership in the Lake Charles area, we successfully hosted two events. In February, we had the honor of welcoming Mr. Chad Winchester, DOTD Chief Engineer, at the Governor's Mansion in Lake Charles, with an impressive turnout of over 45 attendees. Additionally, in April, we returned to the

same venue to gain insights into the planning, design, and results of the 2024 Gulf Coast Student Symposium presented by the McNeese Student Chapter. I extend my sincere gratitude to the LES Lake Charles Officers and membership for their collaboration in hosting these joint society events.

Our annual Joint ASCE/IEEE/LES Crawfish Boil, held earlier this month at Girard Park in Lafayette, was a resounding success, with over 100 attendees enjoying delicious boiled crawfish and socializing with fellow members and their families. A special thanks goes out to the leaders of IEEE and LES Lafayette for always coming together as a team to organize this event. I also want to thank our drink sponsor, Ardaman & Associates, for their generous support in providing cold beverages, contributing to the event's success.

In just a few weeks, on May 21st, we will recognize our Spring Scholarship recipients at our monthly luncheon in Lafayette. Our guest speaker, Dr. Mark Rached with Master Builders Solutions, will present on the intricacies of designing and specifying Fiber Reinforced Concrete and offer some practical guidance for determining the appropriate amount of fiber for a given application. We greatly appreciate Dr. Rached for not only traveling from out of state, but also for sponsoring this event. We are excited to host this luncheon after being postponed in January due to the inclement weather.

While we are still working out the details, we are planning several events over the next few months including luncheons in Lake Charles and Lafayette, community service opportunities, and outreach events. Please monitor your emails for invitations to upcoming events and updates regarding branch activities.

As always, thank you for your continued dedication to the success of the Acadiana Branch, and I look forward to the collective achievements that lie ahead.



Chad Winchester presenting at the monthly luncheon



SHREVEPORT BRANCH

By Victor Bivens, PE, President of Shreveport Branch

Since the beginning of 2024, the Shreveport Branch has met for four (4) monthly luncheons at the Petroleum Club in downtown Shreveport. Richard Aguirre joined us In January to discuss Cla-Val control valves and their applications in recent, local projects. In February, Bob Sherwin with LithTech explained how his company developed a

spray adhesive to stabilize a high performance road base in Bossier Parish. We joined our local LES chapter in March to here Jeff Pike, PE share the importance of ethics in everyday applications and the Civil Engineering profession. Brandon Faciane brought pipe samples and project highlights to our meeting in April to explain the benefits of alternative materials for culvert design as well as underground detention options provided by ADS.

In February, three students from Louisiana Tech University were nominated and selected to receive scholarships based on their character and high performance with the student chapter. The Juniors selected were Trevor Fortier and Macy Thibodeaux. Destiny O'Connor was selected as the distinguished Senior. Additionally, Trevor and Destiny received awards from Spring Conference, and we were able to celebrate their achievements at our April meeting.

Volunteer opportunities for February and April included MATHCOUNTS and ArtBREAK. We had several members attend both events to support our local students with these learning opportunities. At MATHCOUNTS, we graded papers, proctored the exam competition, served lunch, and



encouraged the children with their STEM academics. Our booth at ArtBREAK built geometric figures including geodesic domes, tops, trusses, and more!

In early June, we will celebrate the McNeill Pumping Station's status as a National Historic Civil engineering landmark. We will have a short presentation discussing the history of the pumping station followed by a self-guided tour through the museum. We expect a great turnout!



BATON ROUGE BRANCH By Robb Jewell, PE, Branch President

ASCE presented the Baton Rouge branch annual scholarship award at the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES) annual Engineers Week Gala held at Ruffino's on February 20, 2024, to Mr. Colin Shortess from Louisiana State University. ASCE also presented the Melissa Young Doucet, PE Memorial

Scholarship to five students at the Engineers Week Gala. The recipients included Ms. Sarah Christopher and Emily Newell from Louisiana State University, Ms. Kallie Broussard from McNeese State University, Ms. Elizabeth Donner from University of New Orleans, and Ms. Natalia Tooraen from University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mr. Greg Young, Mrs. Rhonda Young and Ms. Rachael Lambert, PE attended the gala through ASCE to present the scholarship awards to the recipients. ASCE co-sponsored the LES cocktail party held at City Club on February 22, 2024.

The Annual Spring Conference was hosted by the Baton Rouge Branch on March 20th and 21st, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge. The conference was a great success with close to 100 attendees. With over 24 presenters, the presentations covered a wide range of civil engineering disciplines and very interesting topics. Attendees enjoyed a crawfish boil/networking event on the first night. Our keynote speakers were Mr. Chad Winchester, PE – Chief Engineer of LADOTD, Mr. Rudy Simoneaux, PE – Chief Engineer of CPRA, and Mrs. Sharon Weston Broome – Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish. Participants earned up to 13 PDH's plus an Ethics PDH.

The ASCE April Luncheon was held at Sullivan's Restaurant with a presentation from Mr. Fred Raiford, Director for City of Baton Rouge, Department of Transportation and Drainage. Mr. Raiford provided an update on the MOVEBR program.

Our upcoming events include a joint luncheon crawfish boil at Walk-Ons with LES this month, our Annual Past Presidents Luncheon in June, and a "Bridging the Gap" event in July, which focuses on guiding younger professionals in the early stages of their careers. More information on these and other events will be forthcoming. We hope you can join us!







NEW ORLEANS BRANCH By Ayan Mehrotra, PE, Branch President

We are excited to share the latest updates from the New Orleans Branch from the beginning of 2024. Over the past few months, we have organized a series of events aimed at developing and supporting civil engineers in our region.

Our monthly luncheons held in February, March, April, and May were a great

success. We were honored to have distinguished speakers who presented on relevant infrastructure topics, providing our members with a broad understanding of these important issues. Here are the speakers we had the pleasure of hosting:

- March 2024 Luncheon Paul Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, Port of South Louisiana
- April 2024 Luncheon Rudy Simoneaux, PE Engineering Division Chief, Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority – Louisiana

• May 2024 Luncheon – Parish President Mike Cooper, St. Tammany Parish

Another highlight of the season was our participation at MudFest sponsored by Louisiana Children's Museum (LCM). ASCE hosted a table a MudFest to share insights into Civil Engineering and interactive activity for the kids gain hand on experience with Engineering principles.

We also hosted our annual Younger Members Forum in February and our annual Spring Social in April. The Younger Members Forum had an excellent turnout as always, and our Younger Members had an opportunity to learn from established professional on how to navigate their career path during the early stages in Civil Engineering.

We are looking forward to our June and July luncheon, and our annual Awards Luncheon in August.

To stay updated with the New Orleans Branch, we encourage you to follow ASCE New Orleans on Facebook or LinkedIn (@ asceneworleans) and visit our website at www.asceneworleans.org. You can always reach out to us at ASCEneworleans@gmail.com with any inquiries or suggestions.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events!



March 2024 Luncheon – Paul Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, Port of South Louisiana



April 2024 Luncheon – Rudy Simoneaux, PE, Engineering Division Chief, Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority – Louisiana



May 2024 Luncheon – Parish President Mike Cooper, St. Tammany Parish



ASCE New Orleans Member Jesse Noel and Troy Jeanfreau at MudFest hosted by Louisiana Children's Museum



Panelists from ASCE New Orleans Younger Member Forum in February

ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News



By Daniel Bobeck, PE



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Daniel Bobeck, PE

Greetings from the SEI New Orleans Chapter! The Chapter is continuing to ramp up our educational seminar activities. We hosted one seminar in the spring and have more booked for the summer and fall.

On March 12, 2024, we hosted Clifford Schwinger, PE, Structural Engineer at IMEG in Philadelphia Pennsylvania for a seminar on the Delegation of Structural Steel Connection Design per AISC 303. Schwinger reviewed both AISC 303-16 and the recently published AISC 303-22 with a primary focus option #3 in the Code of Standard Practice dealing with delegation of connection designs. We had an excellent turnout and Schwinger gave an engaging presentation. On June 13th we will be hosting Buddy Showalter for a seminar on the Significant Structural to the 2024 International Building Code and an overview of the referenced 2022 AISC/SEI 7 Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures. This will be held at the UNO Engineering Auditorium from 5:00pm to 7:45pm.

In February, Daniel Bobeck and Leslie Campbell acted as judges for the Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair. Every year the ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter sponsors a Special Award for Structural engineering related topics for both the Junior Division and Senior Division.

We are working on hosting 3 to 4 additional seminars this year as well as hosting a networking event. Please stay tuned for our upcoming seminars. If you have an interesting topic to propose or if you would like to get on our mailing list to receive advance notifications of our upcoming seminars, please email us at <u>asceseinola@gmail.com</u>. In closing, the Chapter is currently looking for new members to join the Executive Committee, please reach out to us if you are interested in joining the committee. We are always in need for volunteers for outreach, topic & speaker recruitment for seminars, in addition to other roles.



SAVE THE DATE!

Call for Potential Speakers and Exhibitors!

We are proud to announce the dates for the 34th 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 18 & 19, 2024 at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, Louisiana. **Note, this is a few weeks later than years past!**



For additional information on the conference, please visit our web site at www.LCECS.org

Student News

MCNEESE By Kallie Broussard, Student Chapter President

McNeese ASCE has been hard at work as this semester is winding down. We had an excellent showing at the Gulf Coast Student Symposium in New Orleans. We placed 1st in the Concrete Canoe Proposal, 3rd in the Overall Concrete Canoe Competition, 3rd in the Concrete Canoe Technical Presentation, and 3rd in the Topographic Maps Competition (Surveying). Our chapter had a great time at the symposium and is looking forward to next year's symposium.

We also participated in our annual E-week celebration that was held from February 26th-29th. We held an open house for the community to tour our labs and meet the engineering student organizations, a tour day for high school seniors to meet our student organizations, tour the labs, and compete in competitions, a conference day for McNeese engineering students to hear from industry professionals within their respective fields, and an E-week banquet to conclude the week. We also had the opportunity, as a chapter, to give presentations at the ASCE Acadiana Branch/LES luncheon and the PCI meeting in April in Lake Charles. These were both great opportunities for our members to meet industry professionals and to give a professional presentation.



MSU ASCE Presenters for luncheon

McNeese ASCE also had our final meeting of the semester. We voted in our new officers for the 2024-2025 academic year at this meeting. We will be holding an officer meeting soon to discuss plans for our chapter. We are excited to take on new challenges as we prepare for the next symposium!

LSU STUDENT CHAPTER By Brennan Smith, President Student Chapter

The Louisiana State University Student Chapter of ASCE is having a productive spring semester. Starting off with two total meetings and a Top Golf social event as of the beginning of January with companies visiting to give the students presentations on civil engineering opportunities. Thank you Tulaney-Wong & Intracoastal as well as Structural Group for visiting us! The student organization's competition teams had the pleasure to participate in the 2024 ASCE Gulf Symposium hosted by the UniversityofNewOrleans.Thankyou toallthecaptains,students,professors,sponsors,UNOandall else who helped LSU be able to compete at this event, we look forward to next year.



LOUISIANA TECH By Trevor Fortier, Student Chapter President

In early March, The Louisiana Tech Student Chapter traveled to the University of New Orleans to compete in the 2024 Gulf Coast Regional Symposium. After months of preparation, the concrete canoe, steel bridge, and surveying teams were all primed and ready to show off their skills and take home a few awards in the process.

The competition began with a relaxed Thursday night of steel bridge aesthetics presentation, captain's meetings, and a nice snack of beignets. For some of our out-of-state members, this was their first time trying one of New Orleans' most famous breakfast treats. The next day, the fierce competition began early in the morning with canoe races and surveying tasks. During the races, the concrete canoe team dominated by taking home a first-place finish in all but three of the races. T

heir excellent performance in the races combined with their strong presentation skills and impressive final product earned them second place overall in the competition. The surveying team also put up a good fight by earning third place in a three-way tie for accuracy in the level loop. On Saturday, students gathered in the student center parking lot for a long day of bridge competition.

The steel bridge team completed construction with a pre-penalty time of ~16 minutes; one of the lowest times to completion for the beautiful "Lady Techster Blue" bridge. Unfortunately, the bridge buckled under loading when a connection failed, so the team was disqualified from placement, but still took home first place in aesthetics and third place in stiffness. Overall, the 2024 Regional Symposium was a success for the Louisiana Tech Student Chapter. Members of every team learned so much from their time in preparation and during competition as well as connecting with students from other schools and professionals all over the region.



LA Tech Student Chapter competitors gather at the UNO Amphitheater for the award presentations



LA Tech Surveying Team performs the construction layout task



LA Tech Steel Bridge team meets with head judge Trent Ligouri before building



LA Tech Concrete Canoe Team completes swamp testing

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE By Claire Orgeron, UL Public Relations Chair Student Chapter

Overall, this academic year was highly successful for our student chapter. We reestablished some old traditions including the Clean the Coast service event. Our ITE chapter placed 1st in the Regional Traffic Bowl and competed at the next level in Wilmington, NC. At this year's Gulf Coast Student Symposium, our chapter reached many milestones. The surveying team gained the achievement of placing 3rd for the first time in over a decade. The concrete canoe team was able to race for the first time since the year 2018 while also placing 1st for their technical presentation. Other achievements included placing 1st in the Hydrology Mystery Design and 2nd in the professional paper. This semester also consisted of a total of 28 graduating seniors who recently presented their capstone project. This project involved the design of a drinking water plant for the City of Youngsville. The group documented over 3,000 hours of work and was able present their design to the Mayor of Youngsville!

Thank you for all the support that our chapter has received! Our chapter has grown a substantial amount. Couldn't be prouder of what our students have accomplished and what will continue within the upcoming generations. It has been an amazing year and a wonderful experience. Good luck to our new officers! Most importantly, congratulations to our most recent graduates! Hoping that this new

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 successful general body meetings with guest speakers like Kodi Guillory, PE, she shared insightful information on being an entrepreneur in engineering. An event is being planned with plans for the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS), to come to and speak on licensing in the state and its importance.



February General Body meeting with Kodi Guillory

Notably, our president and vice-president play pivotal roles by

beginning is full of excitement and continues to bring an abundance of joy and success throughout your professional career.



The Mayor of Youngsville, Ken Ritter, attended our Senior Design Final Presentation for the city's Drinking Water Plant



Kalani Jones and Zuri Watts receiving awards at the Louisiana ASCE luncheon

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, Kamryn LeBlanc, Vice-President, 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 thrilled to highlight our Civil Engineering student and Distinguished Civil Engineering Senior for the Southern College of Sciences and Engineering, Zuri Watts. Watts was also recognized by the ASCE Louisiana Section as Southern University's Distinguished Civil Engineering Senior and Kalani Jones being recognized as the Outstanding Civil Engineering Junior.

We are also pleased to announce our incoming 2024-25 Chapter president will be Kalani Jones. With a passion for our organization's growth and a commitment to fostering collaboration, she is eager to lead us forward. Together, we are embarking on a journey to reestablish and fortify the ASCE chapter at Southern University, fueled by our collective dedication to excellence and camaraderie. Finally, we would like to thank Dongkeun Lee, Faculty Advisor, Southern University and A&M College, ASCE Student Chapter.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS By Lizbett Sanchez, ASCE Recording Secretary

The UNO ASCE Student Chapter truly appreciates the Louisiana Section ASCE and local industry support and sponsorship of our very successful Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium in New Orleans.

Your support enabled students to engage in networking opportunities, forge professional relationships with industry leaders, connect with potential employers, and meet supporters like you!

On March 7-9, 2024 we hosted an amazing engineering Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium for civil engineering students from 15 universities in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. We had over 400 participants, guests, and host personnel at our event from Thursday through Saturday. Our symposium started on Thursday with the swamping of Concrete Canoes in the University Center parking lot followed by several professional meetings and a reception with beignets for students inside the UNO University Center. On Friday, we held a Surveying competition, reinforced concrete beam construction event, raced the concrete canoes in Bayou St. John, and had lunch all before the rainy weather took over. Friday night was an exceptional Networking Event at the UNO Sandbar for our sponsors and the students. Saturday continued with the Steel Bridge, Concrete Beam, Geo Wall competitions held in the UC parking lot and indoor competitions on Sustainable Solutions, Hydrology Drainage Design, and a Professional Paper presentation. The weekend came to an end with an awards presentation in the Amphitheater followed by a most exciting Fais Do Do festival celebration with an amazing cajun and southern style menu topped off with New Orleans pralines.

The UNO ASCE team competed in the Professional Paper, Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, and GeoWall competitions. Keller Payne earned a 4th place finish overall with his paper and presentation on "how engineers need to evaluate their ethical responsibilities as they determine whether or how to use AI to aid in their work". In Concrete Canoe, UNO has been steadily rising to the top. Though struggling in Bid Proposal points the team earned 2nd places in Technical Presentation and Race Points, 4th in Final Prototype, and 5th overall in the competition. The Steel Bridge team earned a repeat trip to the national competition with a 2nd place overall finish. With a deflection of only 1.57 in and a little practice to increase their construction speed, UNO expects to have a strong showing at the Nationals. The big surprise came from the young GeoWall team of sophomores and juniors who won 1st place overall. They designed and built their mechanically stabilized retaining wall to hold 50 lbs of vertical load designed with minimal kraft paper reinforcement. After the awards ceremony, UNO ASCE students began the Fais Do Do celebration by dunking their faculty advisor in a chilly dunk tank and an evening of fun.

UNO is proud to have hosted the 2024 Gulf Coast ASCE Student Symposium in New Orleans and to have performed well in their competitions. Thank you for your support!



- CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

2024

Let us know about your upcoming ASCE events to be featured here. Email: nedrahains@gmail.com

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: <u>http://branches.asce.org/baton-rouge/events</u>

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS



PROFESSIONAL LISTINGS





LOUISIANA CIVIL ENGINEER

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