Sometimes Who You Know Is More Important Than What You Know

All of us who earned a civil engineering degree spent countless hours studying differential equations, hydraulic flows, steel and concrete manuals, and foundation capacity formulas. We referenced textbooks and class notes piled on our desks and found information through google searches. Collaboration with classmates was allowed, and sometimes encouraged, but when it came to the test or final version of the assignment, the work was supposed to be your own. Most of the assignments I recall didn’t require looking beyond course notes or readings to pick the right formula or table of values to get the answers. Actually, there was often little reward for doing so, and maybe even a penalty for straying beyond course materials. I typically looked for the quickest path to get the answer anyway, not taking the time to research alternative approaches.

Sadly, this is almost the exact opposite of how we expect of civil engineers post-graduation. Many projects will require you to reach out beyond your bookshelf and your own company. Having a rolodex (dating myself here) of fellow engineers and industry professionals will prove invaluable. You can’t just call up an engineer from the Yellow Pages (another shout out to my fellow more “experienced” engineers) and expect them to freely offer advice or share hard-earned lessons. How do you build a rolodex of friendly engineers? You have to actually talk to people. That can be daunting for many engineers, as we may have chosen this career path early on based not only on our love for math and science, but maybe a little fear of, or dislike for, engaging with other human beings. Luckily I found that most of us actually have good time getting to know our colleagues once we try it out.

My advice – START EARLY!

Your classmates and fellow student chapter members will be your peers for your entire career. Building relationships and friendships early on will lead to a lot more fun as you run into each other at project meetings and provide an amazing support network of engineers who are undergoing similar experiences as they progress through the early years at their firms. As long as you apply at least a little effort to stay in touch through occasional calls, coffees, or happy hours, this seemingly small network will continue to expand as everyone progresses through roles, project, and to new firms. For those that didn’t apply effort to this at school, or maybe recently relocated to a new area, it is not a lost cause; but you will have to apply more effort. I relocated to Southern California in 2015 and knew I was well behind others at my “experience level” … i.e. old. I needed to catch up quickly, so I prioritized meeting fellow engineers and finding ways to know them beyond swapping business cards. ASCE was a key conduit for me to do so, and my involvement at the branch and section level has been extremely enjoyable and rewarding ever since.

Your network will likely be key to getting you the interview for your first, second, tenth, and/or dream job. Yes, having a well-organized and coherent resume is important, but selecting a few candidates for interviews based on a one- or two-page resume is extremely difficult, and there is a good chance your selective font sizing and bold lettering will not stand out as much as you had...
hoped – sorry to break it to you. When discussing job searches with students, I emphasize that having a someone we both know hand me your resume and recommend I speak with you is more important than almost anything you can put on a sheet of paper. I was hired into my current position based on a referral and I have worked with our HR team to hire many of our ENGEO team members based on referrals. The contact you ask for help can’t just be anyone who is willing to play postal service and leave your resume on my desk. For it to be effective, the individual has to be willing to stick their neck out and recommend I consider asking you to join my team. They won’t do this unless you have built a relationship and demonstrated your abilities, which cannot happen without effort and commitment on your part.

Once you lock down a job and start working on projects, you will have a lot of ideas, questions, and stories to share. Have you tried talking about your civil engineering projects or insights with non-engineers? I have, and it could just be my delivery, but they are typically not excited about listening. Every time I start going into ridiculous detail of why a building or slope is so cool, and throw in a few corny engineer jokes, my audience rolls their eyes, changes the subject, or finds a reason to talk with someone across the room. My audience is typically my friends and family by the way. Having a group of fellow civil engineers you can reach out to and connect with is extremely beneficial for managing the stress project requirements may cause, and is a great way to get even more enjoyment out of your career. They can be great sounding boards for asking questions, sharing accomplishments, and even some occasional griping.

You will be surprised at how quickly you suddenly have connections with firms across all disciplines of the industry. Personally, I most enjoy working with friends and people I trust, and I assume I am in the majority. You will soon be making and fielding calls about teaming opportunities, because collaborating with friends makes work much more fun than the alternative.

There are many ways to build relationships, but if you don’t want to resort to cold calls and google searches, ASCE can be a great resource. My engagement with ASCE has provided numerous opportunities to introduce myself to new contacts, grow friendships, and enjoy myself while doing it. Whether you get involved through student chapters, luncheons, or conventions, being an active member (read my last article regarding “active engagement”) will pay dividends in multiple ways.

As a recent example, I was able to attend the recent California Infrastructure Symposium in San Francisco, where I saw many friends I had not seen in years, and finally met others who I had only traded emails with. These relatively short touch points didn’t require a lot of effort and not only were they painless, they were enjoyable. The engagements helped me refresh and add to my rolodex of contacts I could reach out to for support, or who I’d be happy to help by sharing my experiences and insights. Later that evening, at the Region 9 Awards Dinner, nearly every awardee emphasized the importance of collaboration and relationships, and the individual award winners listed several mentors and supporters who helped them along the way. By the way, the San Francisco Section did a great job planning and running the events. Congratulations to all of the very deserving award winners. I look forward to next year’s symposium in San Diego. If you are seeking more examples of how to enjoy success as a Civil Engineer, I encourage you to celebrate the latest inductees to our LA Engineer, I encourage you to celebrate the latest inductees to our LA Section Life Member Forum with me at our brunch event on May 21 (Registration Link). It is a wonderful event where we get to recognize several of our colleague’s career accomplishments and commitment to ASCE. Hearing summaries of their experience, contributions, and the range of expertise they have gained over the years is very inspirational. Congratulations to all of our inductees. I look forward to seeing and celebrating with you in a couple of weeks.

ARTICLE

Region 9’s Nominations Committee

by Yazdan T. Emrani, P.E., Chair, Nominating Committee

Are you ready for the upcoming ASCE elections?

ASCE elections are this month. A companion article on the ASCE National Elections is on page 5. On the ballot this year we have the election of two Region 9 governors, whom will each represent the San Francisco and Sacramento Sections, respectively.

There are two candidates vying for the San Francisco Section governor’s position. These are Elizabeth Bialek and Rune Storesund. We also have Susan Hida, who is running unopposed, to represent the Sacramento Section on the Region 9 Board of Governors.

On the ballot we also have the ASCE presidential election which will feature Marsia Geldert-Murphey, and Peter M. Moore, as the official nominees by the Board of Direction Nominating Committee.

I encourage all San Francisco and Sacramento ASCE members to participate in their region’s respective governor’s election and encourage all ASCE California members to participate in the Society’s presidential election.

The ASCE election opened May 1 with on-line ballots accepted through June 1.
As Membership Committee Chair for Region 9, I would like to start with the committee’s mission:

“The ASCE Region 9 Membership Committee monitors ASCE membership in Region 9, directs membership campaigns to recruit new ASCE members and participates in section, branch and student activities of Region 9 for the purpose of advancing knowledge and membership in ASCE.”

The past year has been challenging for most of us, both professionally and personally. Providing value to our membership in the virtual world provided us with new challenges as well as opportunities to find new methods of providing value for our members. ASCE Region 9 consists of over 17,000 members, 3,700 of which are student members. As a member-driven organization, we rely on engaged members to run our events. Here is some data from the end of the 2021 fiscal year.

### Recent Membership Accomplishments

In December 2020, Director (now Secretary) Toks Omishakin of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) became a member of ASCE and signed a partnership agreement that provides membership discounts to Caltrans employees. This is available to all Caltrans Employees at all member grades. An announcement went out to all 20,000+ Caltrans members. This opens the door for Sections and Branches to find new leaders within Caltrans by reaching out to their Caltrans Partners. Some existing Caltrans members may not have received this benefit and I encourage them to reach out to me via Gov.Sac@asce-r9.org & memapp@asce.org.

### ASCE Society Membership Resources

ASCE Society keeps an update-to-date website with current membership resources. They have numerous programs that assist in retaining and increasing membership including templates for PowerPoint presentations, brochures, giveaways, flyers, postcards, and posters. This info can be found at the following link: [www.ASCEmembershipkit.org](http://www.ASCEmembershipkit.org)

One of the most successful programs for increasing membership is the Member-Get-A-Member program. For each new member recruited, the individual gets a $50 Amazon Gift Card. The top 3 recruiting sections earn a prize as well. This information can be accessed at [https://www.asce.org/mgam](https://www.asce.org/mgam)
ASCE Region 9 Membership Resources
Sections can benefit greatly by identifying a Membership Champion that can analyze the current trends in membership changes for each branch. This allows Sections to collaborate and capitalize on Best Practices from the rest of Region 9. If interested in learning more about ways to improve your local membership, please email me at gov.sac@asce-r9.org. To learn more about becoming an ASCE Society Membership Champion, please visit: https://www.asce.org/champions/.

Here’s some more detailed membership information within Region 9. Below are the Younger Members by grade in each Section and Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 9 Younger Membership by Section and Branch</th>
<th>AFFILIATE</th>
<th>ASSOCIATE</th>
<th>MEMBER</th>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>Los Angeles Section</td>
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<td>1462</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>2111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desert Area</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>697</td>
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<td>2870</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>3538</td>
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</table>

This chart shows the total number of members by age range for all of Region 9 members. Similar graphs were created for each section and the data shows the same trends.

From the tables above, what kind of information can be determined and used by each Branch? And how can this data be used to increase member engagement? The data shows a strong student base, however a sharp decline in the membership after graduation. There seems to be steady decline after members reach age 26 until age 38, after which the membership numbers level out.

Have additional comments or ideas? Please send the membership committee an email with your thoughts to Gov.Sac@asce-r9.org.
The 2022 ASCE election opened on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Eligible members will have the opportunity to select the Society's next president-elect, choosing this year between official nominees Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE, and Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE, in addition to directors and governors specific to their location.

ASCE's election provider, Survey and Ballot Systems, will send an email to eligible voters on May 1 announcing the election.

Members will be able to vote at www.asce.org/VoteNow using their ASCE username and password. Voting closes at 6 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, June 1. For more information about the 2022 election, including a complete ballot, visit the ASCE website or email Patty Montgomery.

The 2022 ASCE election ballot contains the following official nominees:

President-elect (select one)
Marsia Geldert-Murphey, P.E., F.ASCE
Peter M. Moore, P.E., ENV SP, LEED AP, F.ASCE

Technical region director (select one)
Karen C. Kabbes, P.E., ENV SP, D.WRE, F.ASCE
James N. Marino, P.E., D.CE, M.ASCE

REGION 1
Region 1 governor (select two)
Shahin Ariaey-Nejad, P.E., M.ASCE
Brad Summerville, P.E., M.ASCE

REGION 2
Region 2 director (select one)
Carol C. Marsolf, P.E., PMP, LEED AP, F.ASCE
Carrie C. Nicholson, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 2 governor (select two)
John Capenilla, EIT, A.M.ASCE
John J. Segna, P.E., BCCEE, F.ASCE

REGION 3
Region 3 governor (select two)
John C. Lazzara, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
Michael D. Pniewski, P.E., P.S., F.ASCE

REGION 4
Region 4 governor (select three)
Kevin Krick, P.E., LEED AP, F.ASCE
David F. Meadows, P.E., P.S., F.ASCE
Jennifer L. Sharkey, P.E., M.ASCE

REGION 5
Region 5 governor (select two)
Chris Rader, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
Rebecca Shelton, P.E., F.ASCE

REGION 6
Region 6 director (select one)
Sean P. Merrell, P.E., PTOE, F.ASCE

REGION 7
Region 7 director (select one)
Erin M. Steever, P.E., M.ASCE

Region 7 governor (select two)
Jennifer J. Bates, P.E., M.ASCE
Elizabeth Staten, P.E., M.ASCE

REGION 8
Region 8 governor (select two)
Jaffer Almosawy, P.E., ENV SP, M.ASCE
J. Darren Burton, P.E., M.ASCE
Michael E. Mathieu, P.E., F.ASCE
Bernadette “Bernie” Sison, C.Eng, P.E., M.ASCE

REGION 9
Region 9 governor – vacancy 1 (select one)
Susan E. Hida, P.E., M.ASCE
Region 9 governor – vacancy 2 (select one)
Elizabeth Z. Bialek, P.E., M.ASCE
Rune Staresund, D.ENG., P.E., G.E., F.ASCE

REGION 10
Region 10 director (select one)
G L Sivakumar Babu, Ph.D., F.ASCE
April J. Lander, MEM, JP, ENV SP, A.M.ASCE

Region 10 governor (select two)
Armando Cazzola, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE
Chao Li, Ph.D., C.Eng., C.Sci., M.ASCE

Region 9’s Infrastructure Policy Committee

by Yazdan T. Emrani, P.E., ENV SP, Chair, Infrastructure Policy Committee

Infrastructure Policy Committee or IPC is a Region 9 committee that has been working to develop a framework to publicize the results of the CAIRC in ways that can resonate with the general public. To that end Region 9’s IPC will be the main vehicle in moving this process forward. IPC’s goals and objectives include:

1. Promote the results and recommendations of the current and future California Infrastructure Report Card to technical (ASCE, APWA, AWWA, etc.) as well as non-technical (Chambers of Commerce, PTOs, business groups, etc.) audiences throughout California.

2. Work with Region 9’s Government Relations Committee to champion policies that are supported by Region 9 and to communicate to the same aforementioned groups.

3. Develop ideas and potential policy positions for legislative considerations and support by Region 9.

The valuable policy recommendations contained within the CAIRC, which if implemented will improve and raise the overall grade for all of the infrastructure categories. IPC is working on potential policy positions for legislative considerations using these policy positions.

I invite all those involved in the preparation of the Report Card, or other concerned members to let me know if you would be interested in getting involved with our committee at some level. This could include helping us with updating of Region 9’s web site with regards to our efforts. We are also looking for volunteers that would be interested in helping us develop promotional videos for the CAIRC. Finally, we are looking for folks who would be interested in going out and speaking in front of various groups and publicizing the Report Card results and recommendations.

We are looking for a few additional members in both Northern, as well as Southern California. Specifically, we need volunteers from Sacramento, San Francisco Bay area, San Joaquin and San Diego areas. If you are interested in helping with any of the aforementioned tasks, please feel free to contact me at yemrani@glendaleca.gov.
ASCE has honored its newest class of distinguished members, a status reserved for the most eminent civil engineers in the Society.

The 2022 honorees:

**Samuel T. Ariaratnam**, Ph.D., P.E., NAC, Dist.M.ASCE, for leadership and contributions in academia, research, practice, and education in construction methods used for trenchless and underground construction.

**James L. Beck**, Ph.D., F.EMI, Dist.M.ASCE, for contributions to analytical and computational earthquake engineering that have made possible the safe design and reliable assessment of structures, and for developing novel Bayesian methods in civil engineering.

**Michel Bruneau**, Ph.D., P.E., P.Eng., F.SEI, Dist.M.ASCE, for contributions to advance the state-of-the-art in structural engineering, ductile design of steel structures, multihazard engineering, and seismic resilience through innovative research that has helped shape design codes and standards.

**Halil Ceylan**, Ph.D., C.Eng., Dist.M.ASCE, for leadership in transportation and geo-infrastructure engineering through advancements in infrastructure system design and construction for smart, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure systems.

**Steven C. Chapra**, Ph.D., Dist.M.ASCE, for achievements revolutionizing how engineers analyze and address water quality issues, revamping the pedagogy for educating generations of water quality professionals, and improving the health of our surface water bodies.

**Pierre Y. Julien**, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, for contributions on hyperconcentrated sediment flows, mudflows, and debris flows; physically based watershed modeling of runoff, sediment, and contaminant transport; simulating floodwave propagation from tailings dam failure; and the analysis of resistance to flow and downstream hydraulic geometry of alluvial rivers.

**Emmanuel C. “Cris” Liban**, D.Env., P.E., NAC, Dist.M.ASCE, for eminence as a trailblazer in advancing the principles of sustainability and resiliency in engineering and construction practice and his international recognition as an expert in resource management, energy technology, transportation, environment, and sustainability.

**Therese P. McAllister**, Ph.D., P.E., F.SEI, Dist.M.ASCE, for federal and public service work managing the investigation of the World Trade Center collapse; contributions to structural fire research leading to major improvements in fire-resistant design; leadership in many technical standards within ASCE; and leadership of the NIST Community Resilience Program.

**Terry F. Neimeyer**, P.E., BCEE, ENV SP, Dist.M.ASCE, for innovative design as well as environmental and construction industry practices, and for exemplary and tireless service and leadership in national, regional, community, and charitable organizations.

**Tian C. Zhang**, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE, for developing innovative technologies in water/wastewater treatment and pollution control, and the sharing of these technologies and knowledge through technical literature and publications.
2022 LIFE MEMBER INDUCTION CEREMONY & BRUNCH

IN HONOR OF THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE ADVANCED TO LIFE MEMBER STATUS IN THE SOCIETY AND IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

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MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754

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MARIA C. LEHMAN, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE
ASCE NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT

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  ($20 refunded if attended event)

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Patrick Lammerding
Deputy Executive Director of Planning & Development for the Hollywood Burbank Airport in Burbank, CA

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12 PM - 1 PM PDT | PRESENTATION

Price - $75 with reservation
Please register for this event via EventBrite by May 13th by searching “ASCE ATTG” at www.eventbrite.com

The Proud Bird
11022 Aviation Blvd | Los Angeles CA 90045

Questions or comments?
Please contact attg@ascelasction.org

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LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES
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WATER POLICY & TRANSPORTATION - VACANT
Contact Jeff Braun if interested - jbraun@engeo.com

Reminder:
Copy deadline for the June 2022 issue is May 1, 2022; copy deadline for the July 2022 issue is June 1, 2022.

MATERIALS SUBMISSION INFORMATION
All graphic materials submitted for use in the ASCE newsletter should have all fonts outlined, and links included; EPS or PDF files preferred. Other formats are Adobe InDesign or Adobe Illustrator (any version); additional acceptable file formats are JPEG or TIFF files (minimum 300 dpi). Images embedded in Microsoft Word documents should be sent separately, at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at the display size desired. Collected files, including links and fonts, should be compressed and e-mailed, or sent on CD or Zip disk (provide return address). Business cards can be submitted electronically as well, or send clean, crisp, B&W laser print, unfolded. This publication’s size is 8½” x 11”.

National ASCE (800) 548-2723 (ASCE)
Access National ASCE at:  www.asce.org
L.A. Section web site at: www.ascelasection.org
Please contact ASCE Membership at 1-800-548-ASCE for any address changes.

NEW Advertisment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Ads</th>
<th>Display Ads</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1/4 page $300</td>
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Please send all copy to the Editor by the first of the month preceding publication.

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ASCE Los Angeles Section Officer’s Roster: 2021-2022

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Jeff Braun, P.E.
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