



# ASCE BRIEF

VIRGINIA SECTION • NOVEMBER 2021



## GOODBYE MESSAGE FROM

OUR PAST PRESIDENT



In spite of all the past year brought our way, thank you for making it a great year to be a part of the ASCE VA Section. I've enjoyed watching each of our Branches get creative and immerse themselves into a virtual environment to find new ways to serve our membership. This has opened up new doors for us to connect as a Section

without geographical constraints - I hope we can continue some of those trends even when it's no longer a necessity! It's been my pleasure to meet so many of our members, and to do so while being supported by a wonderful Board of Directors. As my term comes to an end it will be a seamless transition as my partners step up into new roles; I have all the confidence in the incoming Board led by Nancy Lehr. I'm looking forward to staying engaged and seeing what the next year has in store!  
- Ashley Fenouil, P.E.

ASCE VIRGINIA  
NEWSLETTER

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# VIRGINIA CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

SERVING THE COMMONWEALTH SINCE 1922

In 1922, a group of Virginia Civil Engineers obtained approval from the American Society of Civil Engineers to establish the Virginia Section. The Objective, the “Advancement of engineering knowledge and practice, the cultivation of friendly relations with all engineers, the maintenance of high professional standards, and cooperation with other societies, with a view of promoting the general welfare of the engineering profession and the American Society of Civil Engineers.” Therefore, in 2022, the Virginia Section will be celebrating one-hundred years of serving the civil engineering needs of the profession and the public in the pursuit of this Objective.



Knowing how long a great celebration takes, a Centennial Committee was established two years ago and has been meeting monthly as the Section plans how to honor the pioneers of civil engineering that have worked tirelessly over the last hundred years supporting Virginia. At one time, the Section comprised of all the geographical boundaries in the Commonwealth, to honor this historic support for all Virginia civil engineers, a decision was made to include all Virginia civil engineering accomplishments in the Celebration. Therefore, we have made the Virginia counties in the National Capital Section a part of our Centennial.

The Committee has actions under way to develop a Centennial Pamphlet that can be used as a handout when members are presenting the benefits of pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) to schools and career fairs across the state. Also, under development, is an interactive map showing ASCE Landmarks and other significant civil engineering projects for use by teachers and parents to show future engineers our accomplishments and what we do as civil engineers.

The key event in our Celebration will be the Centennial Gala. We are going to host the Gala at the Omni Richmond on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Plans are still being developed, but we will have a Celebration dinner, the keynote speaker, and awards given to ASCE Members, supporting companies and outstanding civil engineers in the public, private, and education sectors. This will be a once in a hundred-year event, so planning is already well underway, so mark your calendar for March 26, 2022. You do not want to miss this opportunity to honor our profession while we celebrate and socialize with other civil engineers and supporters from across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As an early Centennial action, we have installed a new plaque in coordination with Nelson County Parks and Recreation at the Crozet Tunnel. This plaque was unveiled in September 2020, but due to COVID-19, attendance was limited to Virginia State Officials only. Therefore, the Virginia Section will be holding our own dedication ceremony this year when our members from across the state can attend. As shown in the photographs below the plaque is mounted on a pedestal that symbolizes the tunnel.

Other events being planned for the Centennial Celebration include a boat tour of bridges and other civil engineering projects in the Virginia Tidewater area, providing an opportunity for our members to bring their next generation of civil engineers and family to learn how our profession has served the public for the last hundred years. We will also be hosting tours at other ASCE landmarks across the state using our interactive map that will have historical photos and write ups of the projects. In addition, historical information and photos collected for the Centennial will be posted on the Virginia Section's website.

We are just a year away from our Centennial Celebration Year, so we are well underway with planning and have already completed several actions, thanks to the dedication of the Committee Members, Supporters, and the Virginia Section Board. We are looking forward to our Celebration, and this once in a hundred-year opportunity to not only recognize those civil engineers that have gone before us but to also inspire the next generation of civil engineers through our STEM Centennial Pamphlet, interactive map, and Centennial tours.



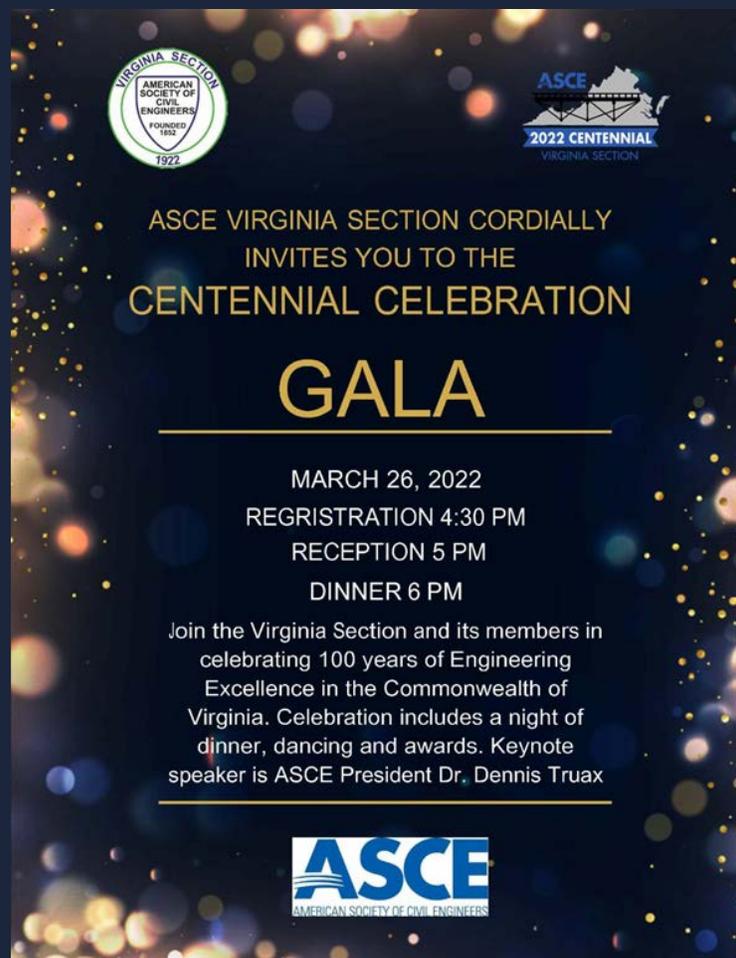
# GALA EVENT

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The key event in the Virginia Section's Centennial Celebration will be a Centennial Gala evening event. A Subcommittee has been established under the Virginia Section Board of Directors (BOD) to plan and execute the event. The Section plans to host the Gala at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Virginia on Saturday, March 26, 2022. Cocktail hour starts at 5:00 P.M. with dinner at 6:00 P.M. followed by the Keynote Speech, Awards Ceremony and Dancing and Socializing.

A contract has been signed with Omni and the BOD has unanimously approved the Overall Plan & Budget and a deposit has been made. Some rooms at the Omni will be available at the Gala rate of \$169.00 per night under the title "Virginia Section Centennial Gala". We have reserved five rooms for Friday night and twenty for Saturday. If more rooms are needed they will be provided at the \$169.00 rate but only up until the hotel runs out of rooms. Valet parking for a fee of \$20.00 per night (normally \$27.00) is available for overnight guests. There is also an hourly rate available for those choosing to not stay over.

We have already reached out to the soon to be 2022 ASCE President, Dr. Dennis D. Truax, PE, DEE, DWRE, FASCE, FNSPE; White Endowed Chair, Head & Prof., Civil & Environmental Engineering, Mississippi State University to be our keynote speaker.



The invitation features a dark blue background with a bokeh effect of light spots. At the top left is the Virginia Section logo, a circular emblem with 'VIRGINIA SECTION' at the top, 'AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS' in the center, and 'FOUNDED 1922' at the bottom. At the top right is the ASCE 2022 Centennial logo, featuring a bridge graphic and the text 'ASCE 2022 CENTENNIAL VIRGINIA SECTION'. The main text is centered and reads: 'ASCE VIRGINIA SECTION CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION GALA'. Below this, the event details are listed: 'MARCH 26, 2022', 'REGISTRATION 4:30 PM', 'RECEPTION 5 PM', and 'DINNER 6 PM'. A paragraph follows: 'Join the Virginia Section and its members in celebrating 100 years of Engineering Excellence in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Celebration includes a night of dinner, dancing and awards. Keynote speaker is ASCE President Dr. Dennis Truax'. At the bottom center is the ASCE logo, 'AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS'.

# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

## NATIONAL STEEL BRIDGE COMPETITION

Virginia Tech will be hosting the 2022 National Steel Bridge Competition on May 27 and May 28, 2022. The Student Steel Bridge Competition (SSBC) is a program sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Student teams design and fabricate the pieces for steel bridges to satisfy a strict set of rules. Then, during the competition the team must erect the bridge in as short a time as possible (typically less than 30 minutes) after which, the bridge has to survive lateral and vertical load testing. It is a challenging competition where the winning bridges are judged based on a speed of erection, weight of the bridge, aesthetics and more. For more information about the steel bridge competition, see <https://www.aisc.org/education/university-programs/student-steel-bridge-competition/>. Teams from more than 200 schools will compete in approximately 18 regional events for the chance to compete in the National Finals at Virginia Tech.

The National Finals competition is run completely by students and volunteers using the support from sponsors, so we need your help. If your company is able to be a sponsor for the National Finals competition or if you are able to volunteer your time as a judge, marshal or other position, please contact Santiago Bertero, graduate student leader, at [sbertero@vt.edu](mailto:sbertero@vt.edu).



Virginia Tech Campus  
Photo by Dan Miralli - VT Daily News



AISC National Steel Bridge Competition  
Photo courtesy of AISC



Entrance to the new 27,000-square-foot facility for the civil engineering laboratories.



Glenn Cooke (left) addresses the civil engineering student club in the new classroom while Lydianna Notheis (right) and the students listen.

## LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

The Liberty University Civil Engineering Student Club (CESC) held its first meeting of the Fall 2021 semester on Thursday, September 16, 2021. The meeting was held at the new 27,000-square-foot facility that will house the civil engineering labs, a classroom & computer lab, student clubs, competition teams, and faculty and graduate student offices (see photo of entrance). Glenn Cooke, from Hurt & Proffitt and one of the practitioner advisors for the club, attended the meeting to introduce himself and encourage the students in their educational and professional pursuits. The club president, Lydianna Notheis, will be working part-time during the year with Whiting-Turner, which is the general contractor overseeing the construction of the new 2,700-seat dining facility on the Liberty University campus.

## BLUE RIDGE TUNNEL

Planning an event in 2020 was similar to the restoration of the tunnel and construction of the eastern and western trails - it took planning and leadership. In mid-summer 2020, Nelson County staff began working with the Governor's Office to plan the dedication for the culmination of a project nearly twenty years in the making. In order to convince Governor Northam, a medical doctor, that the event could be held during a health crisis, all safety protocols had to be addressed, documented and approved. The date, September 23, was set based on the availability of the Governor, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, President of Virginia Tourism Corporation, members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board as well as Virginia Department of Transportation staff and County leadership.



Due to safety concerns and the Governor's schedule, the dedication was organized into two segments. The photo opportunity with the above mentioned dignitaries was held at both portals of the tunnel.

Guests were carefully shuttled in separate vehicles, with the President of the Foundation, Allen M. Hale, narrating by telephone. At the eastern portal, the Governor spoke and unveiled a decorative "Virginia is for Outdoor Lovers" signboard. The cavalcade drove through the tunnel, stopping at various points for further narration. At the western portal, the Governor placed an engraved brick in one of the brock niches, symbolically completing the project. After the dedication, the Governor continued his busy day and the other guests traveled to the dedication event.

Meanwhile, approximately 80 invited guests waited at Veritas Vineyard and Winery, enjoying refreshments and the views. Nelson County Board of Supervisor, Tommy Harvey, welcomed guests and introduced Secretary Shannon Valentine. Comments were offered by Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina Ring, Commonwealth Transportation Board members F. Dixon Wentworth and Bert Dodson, followed by President of Virginia Tourism, Rita McClenny.

Since its opening in late November, more than 29,000 visitors have enjoyed hiking and cycling the tunnel and trails. The work continues. Improvements to parking, interpretative signage and other amenities are ongoing. Educational and programmatic opportunities abound. The public-private partnerships cultivated through the nearly twenty years of construction are committed to continuing the work to make the Blue Ridge Tunnel a premier outdoor recreation destination.



# IN OTHER NEWS

## BELLE ISLE RIVER CLEAN UP



On Saturday, August 28 the Richmond ASCE Branch held its annual Belle Isle River Clean Up. We helped clean up the Belle Isle trails and shorelines as a part of our Branches commitment to help keep our community clean. We want to thank YOU for all the help that we received in this fun event. THANK YOU!

## ASCE & APWA TOP GOLF EVENT

The much anticipated Topgolf networking event was a huge success! Attendees enjoyed a presentation from Todd Eure at Henrico County, followed by an in depth discussion of the civil engineering challenges and design features of the Topgolf site by four Timmons Group project managers. Presentations were followed by two hours of golfing, food and drinks! We're so grateful to our sponsors: Timmons Group, ECS, and Contech, as well as our co-host, APWA (American Public Works Association), for helping make this event possible!



## 18TH ANNUAL ASCE RICHMOND GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Monday, September 13th the Richmond ASCE Branch held its 18th Annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Independence golf course. We had nine teams participate in a fun day of golf and we hosted a dinner ceremony following golf activities. We'd like to give a thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered, and we would like to give a special thank you to all the tournament sponsors including: Accumark, Draper Aden Associates, ECS Mid-Atlantic, G-ES, GET Solutions, HDR, and WSP. THANK YOU!!

