

WE ARE GOING PLACES

Join us in building a solid foundation for our growth



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Happenings...

President's Message

Looking Ahead to 2025: Shaping Our Strategic Future Together



Lindsay Swain, President

I am honored to serve as the 2025 President of the VA Section and grateful for your trust in me and our Board. I look forward to collaborating with our talented engineers, leaders, and volunteers to strengthen our community. At the Civil Soiree in October, I shared my priorities for 2025, focusing on building a strong sense of community and gathering feedback to align our strategic vision with the needs and values of our members.

The Virginia Section believes that a strong community is key to our success. By fostering connections and collaboration, we create a supportive network that helps us grow personally and professionally. Join us through networking events, committees, or on-line forums to connect with peers and help build a vibrant, supportive community.

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2025

BUILDING COMMUNITY: We will focus on fostering connections and collaboration among our members.

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN: We will be gathering input to develop a long-term strategic plan that aligns with the values and needs of our members.

As the new year approaches, the Board is excited to begin developing a long-term strategic plan to guide the Virginia Section. To ensure it aligns with your needs and values, we need your input and active participation!

In the coming weeks, we invite all members to share their thoughts in our strategic vision survey. Your input is vital in shaping a plan that reflects your values and drives our Section forward in meaningful ways.

By focusing on the above goals, we can create a lively, supportive Virginia Section community. Stay tuned for more updates on our strategic planning process, and get ready to make your mark on the future of our VA Section!

Lindsay Swain, P.E.
President

Committees

The ASCE VA Section has 14 active committees, each focused on specific efforts supporting both the VA Section and ASCE national. Listed below are the Chairs of each committee along with open positions.

NEW



Awards

Chair: OPEN

NEW



JEDI (*Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion*)

Chair: OPEN

NEW



Nominations

Chair: [Chaz Weaver](#)

NEW



Public Relations

Chair: [Kaleh Manahiloh](#)

NEW



Technical

Chair: [Glenn Cooke](#)

NEW



Programs

Chair: [Paolo Scardinaß](#)



Collegiate Education

Chair: [Niko Ambrose](#)



GEO Institute

Chair: [Jonathan Bennett](#)



Government Relations

Chair: [Caleb Hurst](#)



History & Heritage

Chair: [Dave Pezza](#)



Membership

Chair: [Alireza Ermagu](#)



Pre-College Outreach (K-12)

Chair: [Michelle Roy](#)



Scholarships

Chair: [Sarah Bettinger](#)



Younger Member Advisory

Chair: OPEN

Branch Events

Roanoke — It was all hands-on deck for the 2024 Virginia Student Symposium Hosted by Virginia Tech, In addition to financial sponsorship, members were actively involved in judging, and physically putting the event together.

Concrete for Kids was held September 28, 2024 at Parkway Brewing in Roanoke, Virginia. The event continues to be a great success in showing K-12 public school students practical examples of STEM in action. This free event focuses on teaching kids the process of making concrete, concrete's properties and the different usages of concrete. In addition to the concrete experiment, local engineering firms set up booths to show kids different testing equipment, VT's ASCE Student Organization shows off their concrete canoe, VT's Geotechnical Student Organization performs an MSE wall experiment, and CP&P brings full size example of various precast concrete items. The event is sponsored by Parkway Brewing, CP&P, and ASCE.

Blue Ridge — To boost participation, the Blue Ridge Branch created their first Happy Hour event. There was a great turn out and more socials like this are being planned for the future. The branch activities included the LDCC Presentation, and several CEU opportunities, plus the guided tour of the Crozet Tunnel on August 27th.

Bull Run — On the docket for Bull Run are several dinner meetings and the introduction of a STEM event with help from Michelle Roy. Elections will be held later in the year along with a branch planning meeting September 12th.

Upcoming events include:

- Report Card Training
- Joint Field Trip with the Reston Branch to the Loudoun County Water Treatment Plant in late October/early November.
- The Great Falls plaque restoration and brush cutting is being coordinated with Park Services by Susi Olson.

Lynchburg — Reading Day & Pizza Parties are planned for Liberty University and VMI this fall. These events will coincide with our push for new officers. The Geo-Institute short course was a great success. And we're happy to announce Glenn has agreed to continue as Lynchburg Branch President. Tasks in work include:

- Working on Lynchburg Hill Cats game event
- The potential for several Lunch and Learn programs
- The new branch website being worked on by Kalehiwot Nega Manahiloh

(Branch Events continued from page 4)

Norfolk — Our planning meeting was held in September.

Events and activities we're currently developing include:

- Technical seminar and various lunch and learns on a variety of topics
- Younger member events with VWEA and SME
- Principals luncheon and the possibility of a HRBT lunch

Peninsula — We're excited about new board members join our efforts.

Ideas and events that are being pursued include:

- Planned joint events with AWP, to include a tour of the Newport News Train Center and the HRSD Swift Plant
(*water treatment and aquifer replenishment*).
- Happy Hours

Richmond — Using a targeted approach, we've been able to fill several board positions including naming Paige Lazar as the new Richmond Branch President. Many members are interested in a Younger Member Chair (4) and the past President Panel was very successful with 30 attendees. Our planning meeting in September investigated several initiatives including:

- 2nd Annual Richmond Kickers event (*by Niko Ambrose*)
- Looking into the opportunity of monthly or every other month technical meetings.
(*PDH provided*)

The wonderful benefits of being an ASCE Member!

Insurance

- Business
- Life, Disability, Dental, Long Term Care
- Auto, Boat & Umbrella
- Homeowners, Renters, Condo & Landlord
- Pet

[Read More](#)

Financial

- ASCE Credit Card
- Student Loan Refinancing
- Personal loans

[Read More](#)

Experiences/Travel

- Member Deals
(*entertainment*)
- Travel Discounts
- Avis rentals
- Budget rentals

[Read More](#)

Awards & Recognitions

 ur student and faculty members are making a name for themselves AND the Virginia Section. Below is a brief summary with links to more detailed information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- [Dr. Carin Roberts-Wollman, PhD: 2024 T.Y. Lin Award](#)
- [Dr. Gerardo Flintsch, PhD, PE, FASCE: 2024 Wilbur S. Smith Award](#)
- [ASCE William J. Thomas Award Winners](#) are selected from the most outstanding ASCE student graduates from the six Virginia Section schools. Listed below are each of the award winners.



Leon Crawford
University of Virginia



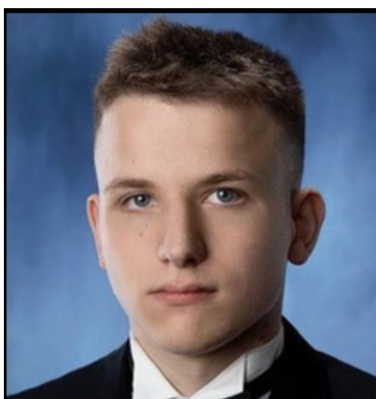
Ricky Wohlrab
Virginia Tech



Connor Gallini
Old Dominion University



Grace Wagner
Virginia Military Institute



Robert Tee Davis
Liberty University



Ryan Dehler
James Madison University

[READ MORE ABOUT THE AWARD WINNERS](#)

Happenings...

(Branch Events continued from page 5)

Student Chapters

We are thrilled to announce VA Section currently has seven official Student Chapters. Each of these chapters has been actively participating in various local, regional, and national events and competitions. When interacting with students, be sure to share ASCE Membership is FREE to Students! Updates for each of our Student Chapters and happenings includes:



JMU team members who competed in the steel bridge competition, from left: William Aborsu, Michael Allsop, Jack Lochary, Andrew McHale,



LU team members connect beams of the bridge during the competition hosted by Louisiana Tech over the weekend. (Photo by Logan Grasser)



UVA Members of the concrete canoe team. From left are Leon Crawford, Melody Cao, Alexander Lindsay, Ethan Ames, Ella Maulfair, Claire Sharp, Annie Seltzer, Madison Cannon, Kenneth Reyes and Coleman Boatwright. (Photo by Matt Riley)

James Madison University (JMU) recently became an official ASCE Student Chapter and has competed in the steel bridge competition for three years. Their engineering department is developing a civil engineering curriculum. They also placed 4th in the KEEN Bridge Design competition with a design that held 60 pounds.

Liberty University (LU) recently gained ABET accreditation of the civil engineering program; we have nearly 700 students including on campus and online. This is a significant achievement to celebrate. The new LU Student Chapter of ASCE quickly got involved by competing in the Steel Bridge National Competition, finishing 26th overall, 2nd in lightness, and T-6th in aesthetics. For 2025, they plan two meetings per month, aim to engage on line students, support the Fink Truss bamboo removal efforts, participate in Operation Christmas Child, and hold joint events with VMI.

SHOUT OUT TO:

**The Miller School of
Albemarle's Civil
Engineering Club!**

*One of the only high school entries
still competing in the
concrete canoe competition!*

(Student Chapters continued from page 7)



Congratulations to VMI



VT Team members from left to right: Austin Minnick, Thomas Walker, Conor Thoreson, Hugh Green, and Matt Bauer carry the canoe out of the water.



UVA School of Engineering & Applied Science is collaborating with Charlottesville Women in Tech, Tech-Girls, & the School of Education & Human Development to offer immersive engineering experiences.

University of Virginia's (UVA) The concrete canoe team was revitalized, earning national recognition for significant improvement and placing second, ahead of rival Fairmont State. In May 2025, the school will screen Cities of the Future and during Engineer Week 2025. On August 5, Engineering-Girls@UVA launched a successful week-long camp for 32 local students, fostering a supportive environment for aspiring engineers. The UVA Student Chapter developed the curriculum and served as counselors, building on the success of the Tech-Girls initiative.

Virginia Military Institute (VMI) received a national commendation as an Outstanding Student Chapter and a 2024 Certificate of Commendation for top 5% student chapter activities in 2023. They also placed 9th with their KEEN Bridge design, which supported 19.6 pounds.

Virginia Tech (VT) After defeating 17-time champion ASCE Concrete Canoe champion, Fairmont State at the Virginia Student Symposium, VT advanced to the National Conference in Utah. National competitions included the following events with excellent outcomes for VA Tech:

- Steel Bridge – 7th Overall | 1st in Aesthetics | 1st in Efficiency
- Concrete Canoe – 4th Overall | 2nd Technical Proposal | 2nd Final Product
- Survey – 5th Overall
- Sustainability – 2nd Overall | 1st in Sustainability

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) is actively planning to organize its own civil engineering curriculum in the near future.

Student Steel Bridge Competition

The AISC's Student Steel Bridge Competition (SSBC), National Finals did not disappoint. Held on June 1, 2024, it was "a huge success" said Christopher Harber, SE, PE, AISC's senior director of education. "There were so many excellent bridges, and I was really impressed with the high level of competition." Teams from universities across North America were tasked with designing, fabricating, and constructing a bridge that crosses a hypothetical man-made river on a disc golf course in the host city of Ruston, LA. This was under timed conditions. Twenty SSBC regional competitions across the country produced 47 National Finals participants. Congratulations to University of Florida for their fourth consecutive win of the SSBC! And congratulations to Virginia Tech for their win under the category of Aesthetics.

The Future Is Here

Do you know where the future of civil engineering is right now?

They are in elementary school, middle school, and high school. Most aren't driving yet; some are still in car seats. Yet these bright young people are on fire to learn and they will have an understanding of our world in ways we – seasoned adults – never will. Currently, we've created a page on the ASCE | VA Section website where the main emphasis is on "What Do Civil Engineers Do?" located under Resources. This STEM brochure is available to [download here](#).

The Voice of the Civil Engineering Profession

We are devoted to the protection of the public's health, safety and welfare, and instrumental in shaping a sustainable world.

