

# WE NEED YOU

Releasing the 2022 Virginia Report Card is Just the Beginning



*ASCE Virginia Members on Capitol Hill*

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# Happenings...

## President's Message



*John Harman, President*

Summer 2023 is upon us! And the previous months have been busy, productive and rewarding. It's been refreshing having so many members participating and plugging into all that is happening with the ASCE/Virginia Section.

You'll notice a new layout for our newsletter. It's been a work in progress and one we're excited about. We're also investigating other options to enhance future communications.

One of the key accomplishments of 2022 was the completion and presentation of the VA Infrastructure Report Card. This impressive endeavor is a valuable tool for all officials from the top of our national government to the project managers at the local levels. More detailed information on this report is included on page 3 as well as [Infrastructure Report Card](#) where the full report is available for review and download.

One of the great findings for me this past year has been the teamwork displayed by the Section BOD Officers and Leaders. Everyone worked together to attend events, share information and further the initiatives of the Section, local Branches and Student Chapters. As always, the ongoing and continual support of Christina Ammens, our Regional Governor, has been highly instrumental in achieving our Section goals. Looking forward, the Annual VA Section Planning Meeting in August is where we will identify the plans and budget for the 2023-2024 year. It's a great time to get involved! The ASCE HQ Branch & Section Officer Training is in September.

I raise a salute to continued success and growth for our Section, Branches and Student Chapters. Join us. You'll be glad you did. —*John Harman, President*

## Legislative Meet & Greet

ASCE's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Meet & Greet on February 2, 2023 was an especially impactful gathering coming so soon after the completion of Virginia's Infrastructure Report Card and right before ASCE's National Fly-In. Elisabeth Dorman, Senior Manager for Grassroots Programs and State Advocacy for ASCE did a great job assisting with our pre-event training sharing Tips on networking and speaking to political leaders. This discussion was recorded and is available from [edorman@asce.org](mailto:edorman@asce.org) (Liz Dorman).

Attendees from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds learned about the state's infrastructure and the importance for investment in the future for the Commonwealth. ■



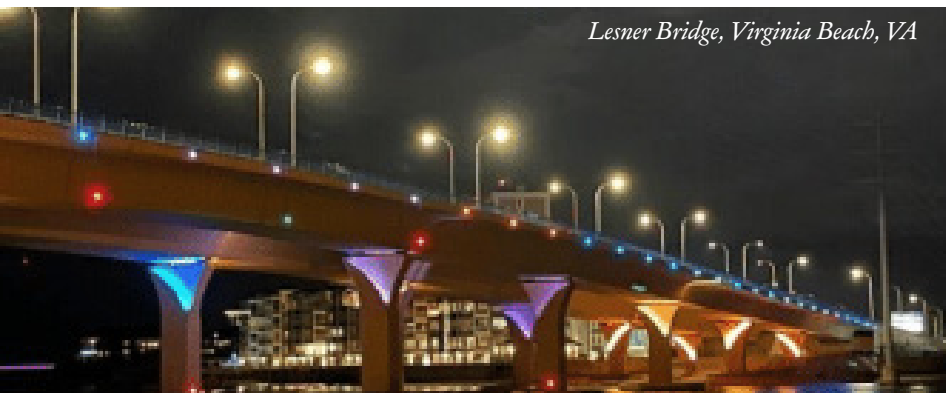
*Thank you to Vic Crawford (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Mike Bumbaco (2<sup>nd</sup> from right), and Niko Ambrose (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), who presented the 2022 Virginia Infrastructure Report Card.*



## Virginia Infrastructure Report Card

Thanks to all  
our members  
that worked  
so hard to  
develop the  
Virginia  
Infrastructure  
Report Card

Virginia's infrastructure forms the foundation for health, wealth, and safety for 8.6 million residents, more than 200,000 businesses, and over 100 million annual visitors. Those are staggering numbers and the infrastructure that supports all of that is deteriorating. That's why every four years, America's civil engineers, through ASCE, provide a comprehensive infrastructure assessment of the nation's 17 major infrastructure categories. If you haven't reviewed the most recent Virginia Infrastructure Report Card, you are missing an engineering work of art. The level of effort and exceptional quality of the work – done by members of ASCE Virginia Section as a volunteer effort – is amazing.



*Lesner Bridge, Virginia Beach, VA*

This is a working tool for the general public to understand the needs and for local and state government officials to make educated decisions in the use of the \$8 billion funding identified for Virginia in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law in November 2021. However, like all tools, it is only valuable if it's used and used properly. Three strategic steps have been taken by the Report Card Release Committee to educate all parties about the Report and how to best utilize the information.



*Report Card Release Committee Vic Crawford, Mike Bambaco Shainur Absan, & Amit Tilak*

### STEP ONE— Public Release of the Report

Through your donation of time and expertise, ASCE's Virginia Section engineers are the authors of this valuable tool. Getting the message out to the public was step ONE. With support from ASCE handling the news releases and public relations tactics, local news outlets were quick to share the story and the significance of the findings as well as lending credibility to the entire engineering community as a whole. As engineers, we care deeply about the protection of our environment and the reliability of our infrastructure. Who better to carry the torch and spread the word of the good, the bad, and the scary + the incredible opportunities that abound!

### STEP TWO— Share the Report with Virginia State Legislators

A tool only works if you know how to use it. That's why our February 3, 2023 meeting with the Virginia Legislators was so important. Hosted by the ASCE Richmond Branch, the ASCE Report Card Release Committee was able to showcase the various aspects of the report card and connect the dots of the various infrastructure categories and their impact for prioritizing effective use of pending funding.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(Virginia Infrastructure Report Card continued from page 3)*

There will be ongoing dialog concerning the report card and its findings, but the stage has been set for the power of this tool.



*ASCE Members at Fly In Training*

## STEP THREE— Going to Congress

The ASCE Legislative Fly-In Training was a huge success with more than 280 ASCE members from all over the United States in attendance. ASCE's Government Relations team provided out-standing training on impactfully presenting our positions to Congressional Members and their staff. We were given briefing material that highlighted overall goals for ASCE at the National level and comprehensive information on recent bills and the involvement by the associated Congressional Member. As a final step, ASCE staff set up meetings with various Congressional Members and their staff. Virginia ASCE members met with

Representative Jennifer Wexton. Even though Virginia is slated for \$8 billion worth of federal aid to support some of our current infrastructure, it was a great opportunity to advocate for the promotion of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) in the classroom. Many of the necessary infrastructure improvements identified will be addressed by the engineers of tomorrow



*Virginia Members Meeting with Representative Wexton Staff*

In addition to the report card, we have a fantastic brochure that provides more information about our ASCE. Armed with these two tools, each one of us, individually and collectively are the best advocates for moving these initiatives forward. We are responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our vital public works infrastructure. The ongoing effort is our responsibility; we must advocate for the need and the solutions to these improvements. ■



*This QR Code will take you to the 2022 Infrastructure Report Card. Or you can access the report [here](#)*

We are calling upon our members to promote and advocate for infrastructure at the local government levels.



## Branch Events

**The ASCE Region MRLC for Sections 1-4 was held in Charlotte NC on January 22, 2023.**

- The Section was represented by Christina Ammens, Region 4 director and Niko Ambrose, Region 4 Younger Member Advisory Council Chair. Congratulations to the Richmond Branch being selected as the Outstanding Section and Branch Small Branch Award.

### The Richmond Branch

- Conducted the annual House of Delegate Meet & Greet on February 2, 2023 with a presentation made on the VA Infrastructure report card by Niko Ambrose, Mike Bumbaco, Vic Crawford. Gordon Chaffin was not there.
- Ryan Duckett from the Richmond Branch was recognized as one of the NEW faces of ASCE Civil Engineering in February 2023.
- Richmond Canal Boat Tour on the James River, Richmond, VA on June 15, 2023.

### The Blue Ridge Branch in Charlottesville

- Edward Kent and Julia Skare assembled local ASCE members to a meeting on February 2023 with support of Section members.
- Blue Ridge Branch is planning on monthly noon meetings starting in September. To volunteer and more details, contact Edward Kent at [kentedwardj@aol.com](mailto:kentedwardj@aol.com).



*Virginia Section Supports the Engineering & Public Works Roadshow Richmond Amtrak Station - Highlighting Virginia Infrastructure Investment. For more details visit: [Infrastructure Report Card](#)*

### The Virginia Section Members

- Participated in the ASCE Legislative Fly In to Congress in March 2023. Daren Williams, Caleb Hurst, and Rex Tomlin attended.
- Presented the VA Infrastructure Report Card to media in Virginia Beach in December 2022. Section members involved were: Shainur Ahsan, Mike Bumbaco, Vic Crawford and Gordon Chaffin who was not there but supported the efforts from ASCE HQ.
- Located a Virginia Beach firm to produce the Spring 2023 newsletter. Thank you to Next Steps Resourcing Inc. for your support.
- Attended the Region 4 Spring Assembly in Virginia Beach on April 17, 2023, organized by Christina Ammens.
- Elected Daren Williams as Next Region 4 Governor to the VA Section.
- Student members attended the Virginia Student Symposium at Marshall University, in Huntington, WV on April 14, 2023.

*(continued on page 6)*

In an effort to share as much viable information as possible, we've included a listing of the Happenings throughout the Virginia Section for 2023 to date.



# Happenings...

(Branch Events continued from page 5)

All six of the Virginia Section Schools were in attendance. A breakdown of the awards is provided on page 10. James Madison University has submitted a statement of intent to establish a student chapter.

- VA Tech ASCE Centennial Banquet was held at Virginia Tech in April 19, 2023 with support of James Talian, Paolo Sardina and Brenda Villarreal.

## ASCE Bull Run Branch

- Chaz Weaver and Vic Crawford made a Presentation on the Crozet Tunnel at a meeting in March 2023.

## Lynchburg Branch

- Held its May 19, 2023 meeting at the Liberty University School of Engineering (LUSE) Hudgins Building, which features 30,000 square feet of workspace. This facility opened in Fall 2021 and features eight separate labs for the civil engineering program, along with a computer lab, classroom, and student work bays. Those attending were able to learn about the civil engineering program, met some of the on-line students in town, and toured the entire facility.

## Events currently scheduled for later in the year include:

- August 19-20, 2023 in Staunton, VA  
VA Section Planning Meeting
- September 10-11, 2023 in Reston, VA  
Presidents and Governors Forum
- President and Treasurer will provide end of year reports to ASCE HQ and 2023-2024 Officer lists.
- October 18 -21, 2023 in Chicago, IL  
ASCE Annual Convention  
**For more details**
- November 30, 2023: Branch and Section Annual Reports are due
- January 26-27, 2024 in Miami, Florida  
Multi-Regional Leadership Conference



*Attendees at the ASCE Lynchburg Branch meeting.*



June

Paolo Scardina,  
PhD, M. ASCE



April

Kevin Siegel,  
PE, M. ASCE



March

Bryan Stevenson,  
PE, DBIA, M. ASCE



February

Chaz Weaver,  
PE, M. ASCE

## Engineer of the Month

## Student Events



### — Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Competition —

Liberty University (LU) (*chartered as an ASCE Student Chapter in July 2022*) civil engineering students participated in their first **Steel Bridge and Canoe Competition** at the 2023 Virginias (*Virginia and West Virginia*) ASCE Student Symposium hosted at Marshall University (WV) on April 5, 2023. Coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, the LU team of four consisted of Joel Harkness, Richard Snyder, Caleb Cauthorne and Robert Tee Davis. Shown assembling the steel bridge in the center picture.

Always a fun event, the **Concrete Canoe Competition** on April 14, 2023 was also held at Marshall University (WV). LU rose again to the challenge finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in five concrete canoe races and placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the competition. Congratulations to the LU team of four

included Graham Baker, Lydianna Notheis, Connor Rothermel, and Maria Ferello. (*shown left to right in the picture below*). Well done to the LU Civil Engineering students and these two winning teams! We foresee great things with the Liberty University ASCE Student Chapter in the years to come. ■



### — 2023 Thompson Award Winners —

The Thompson Award is an annual achievement award given to undergraduate Civil Engineering Students within the Virginia Section who exemplify initiative in their studies, the pursuit of excellence in the engineering industry, and character traits of a quality individual. Chosen by the Virginia Section Student Education Committee, the 2023 Award Winners are highlighted below.

#### University of Virginia (UVA) Gabriella (Gabby) Ford (2023)

Primary focus: Structural Engineering  
Minors: Materials Science and Engineering, and Technology, Society, and the Environment.

Gabby is an active member of the UVA ASCE Student Chapter and has

served in several leadership roles. She leads a team of students in a Senior Capstone Design Project focusing on the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge in a remote community in Bolivia.

She has been recognized for her outstanding academic record by earning Intermediate Honors in her junior year

(Awards continued on page 8)



# Happenings...

(Award Winners continued from page 7)

and earning the Dean's List every semester. She will graduate "with highest distinction" for an overall GPA of 3.8 or better, as recognized by the School of Engineering.

## **Virginia Tech (VT)** **Chris Padgett (2023)**

Primary Focus: Structural Engineering

Chris intends to continue his education as a master's student in civil engineering.



## **Virginia Tech (VT)** **Justice Forster (2023)**

Primary Focus: Structural and Materials Engineering

This award-winning senior has been busy. He was awarded the VT ASCE Biscotte Family Scholarship, the ASCE Richmond

Branch Scholarship, AISC Foundation Scholarship, the Samuel Fletcher Tapman ASCE Scholarship, and is the 2023 VT Civil Engineering Senior of the Year. Justice intends to continue his education as a master's student in civil engineering.

## **Virginia Military Institute (VMI)** **Cadet, Andrew Henderson**

Andrew is the president of the VMI ASCE Student Chapter and 2023 Captain of the VMI Concrete Canoe Team. He has been an active member through his tenure with the Chapter, and is a driven leader with a passion to find new and impactful ways to grow the VMI Student Chapter. The goals that were set under his leadership have been met or exceeded. Additionally, he has helped to implement new ideas and methods for cadet mentoring within the department.



## **Old Dominion University (ODU)** **Joey Wooten (2023)**

Primary Focus: Civil Engineering

Joey has been an active member of the ODU ASCE Student Chapter including serving as Treasurer and currently as President. He was a member of the steel bridge team for 2022-2023, is a member of the ODU Environmental Student Association (EESA), and the ODU Virginia Water Environment Student Design Competition Team, Environmental Category (awarded first place in the 2023 competition). For the past two years, Joey has interned with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD), Biological Nutrient Removal Research Group and will continue as an HRSD graduate research intern while pursuing his master's degree in environmental engineering at VT.



## **Liberty University (LU)** **Lydianna Notheis (2023)**

Primary Focus: Civil Engineering

The LU ASCE Student Chapter was chartered in July of 2022 due in part to Lydianna's efforts beginning in Fall 2019 and her strong leadership as President of the preliminary student club since 2020. Under her leadership, the LU concrete canoe and steel bridge competition teams were present this year and dominated – both competitions coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall for the steel bridge competition and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in five concrete canoe races and placing 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the concrete canoe competition.

Lydianna works as an undergraduate research assistant studying transportation engineering. She has presented some of her research on traffic performance for single-lane and two-lane roundabouts under various priority rules at the 2023 TRB annual conference in Washington D.C. Since 2021, Lydianna has been working for Whiting-Turner since 2021. She has been developing *(the now complete)* UVA Musculoskeletal Center and the new LU Reber Thomas dining hall *(to be completed before the fall 2023 semester begins)*.



## — Student Chapters —

### VMI

What does it take to be in the top 5% of more than 400 ASCE student chapters? Well just ask the VMI student chapter. They were recently named a “Commended Student Chapter” by ASCE based on their activities over the past year and their annual report. Accomplishments included:

- Hosted numerous outreach activities in local middle schools
- Ongoing community service
- Regularly scheduled professional activities including guest lectures
- Competitions at the 2023 Regional Student Symposium hosted by Marshall University. A complete listing of their accomplishments at the symposium are included in this newsletter on page 10. Congratulations to the entire chapter and to chapter President, Andrew Henderson, on planning and executing a great year. ■

### LU

The Liberty University School of Engineering celebrated the first seven students graduating from the Civil Engineering Program on Friday, May 12, 2023. All seven students took the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam and had jobs lined up prior to graduation. Five secured jobs in the Lynchburg area, while the other two will start their careers in North Carolina. ■



## SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, we awarded

THREE \$2,250  
Scholarships

## — Virginia Section Scholarship —

We are so pleased to announce three students are each recipients of an ASCE Virginia Section scholarship. The winners are:

•Hunter Knox (ODU) •Cadet Samuel Rooker (VMI) •Cameron Zuverink (LU)

The scholarship is open to both student members of ASCE Virginia Section colleges and universities (ODU, LU, VMI, VT and UVA) and children/grandchildren of ASCE Virginia Section members. Additional criteria includes:

- US Citizen
- Enrolled full-time in BS Civil (or equivalent) Engineering program
- Freshman, Sophomore or Junior
- Minimum GPA 3.0/4.0

*The application requirements include: School(s) attended, activities, work history school transcript, academic reference.*

## — 2023 Student Symposium —



A huge “Thank You” and “Congratulations” for a job well done goes to Marshall University in Huntington, WV for hosting the Virginia 2023 Student Symposium. This is no small feat as the details and coordination effort for this event is quite an undertaking.

On the right are the results of the weekend’s competitions. As you can see, Virginia had a very strong presence in the symposium’s winner circle. Congratulations to all our Virginia Schools for placing in the top three of every competition. ■



| SCHOOL                 | Fairmont        | JMU             | LU              | Marshall        | ODU             | Miller | UVA             | VMI             | VT              | WV Tech         | WVU             |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Competition</b>     |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |        |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Hardy Cross            |                 |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 |        |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| CE Jeopardy            | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 |                 |                 |                 |        |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 |
| Construction Institute | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 |        |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |                 |
| Concrete Frisbee       |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |        |                 |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| Survey                 |                 |                 |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 |        |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 |
| Innovation             |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |        |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |                 |
| Concrete Canoe         | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |                 |                 |        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 |                 |                 |
| Steel Bridge (SB)      |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |        |                 | 4 <sup>th</sup> | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| Construction Speed     |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Lightness         |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Stiffness         |                 |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Aesthetics        |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 |                 |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Cost Estimate     |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Economy           |                 |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| (SB) Efficiency        |                 |                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> |                 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |        |                 |                 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |                 |                 |
| Total Awards           | 3               | 1               | 7               | 3               | 6               | 0      | 1               | 7               | 8               | 3               | 1               |

Future Symposiums are as follows:

**2024** Student Symposium, tentatively scheduled for March 28-30, will be hosted by Virginia Tech. *Stay tuned for information on available sponsorships, funding and judges.*

**2025** Student Symposium will be co-hosted by Bluefield State University and WV Tech.

**2026** Symposium will be hosted by Old Dominion University.