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Upcoming Events

44th Annual Structural Conference

Friday, September 19th, 2025 - Scott Engineering Center at UNO

The Annual Structural Conference is presented by SEAON for structural engineers to earn continuing education. This year's event is the 44th annual conference with seven presentations and an update on SEAON activities. The conference is a hybrid event with attendees at the Scott Conference Center and virtual attendees. First presentation is at 7:45 AM with last presentation ending at 4:45 PM.

Conference Agenda and Registration are [here](#).



Local college students at the 2025 NE ASCE Annual Banquet.

See more banquet information in this edition of the newsletter!



Pavel Karamshin, E.I.
A.M.ASCE

From the President

Hello Nebraska Section Members,

As summer winds down and we transition into fall, I'm excited to welcome you to the start of another ASCE year. My name is Pavel Karamshin, and I'm honored to serve as your Section President for the 2025–2026 term.

First, I'd like to extend my congratulations to our newly recognized Life Members and award recipients from the Annual Banquet in June. Your dedication to the profession and to ASCE is truly inspiring, and we're grateful for your continued contributions. With the academic year beginning, I'd also like to wish all students the best of luck as they head back to school. This time of year brings great potential to grow our connections with students through events, outreach, and mentorship. I'm looking forward to seeing how we can support and engage the next generation of civil engineers.

We're kicking off the year with our Structural Technical Meeting on Thursday, September 18th at La Spezia in Omaha, followed by the 44th Annual Structural Conference hosted by SEAON on Friday, September 19th. These events are excellent opportunities to reconnect, learn, and collaborate with fellow professionals. Please visit the SEAON website for registration details and keep an eye on our section's website for updates.

This month, I'll also be traveling to Reston, VA for the annual Presidents and Governors Forum. I'm excited to discuss best practices, effective strategies for running our group, and explore new opportunities while learning from other branch and section leaders across the country.

In addition to conferences and monthly meetings, there are numerous ways to get involved in ASCE, including school outreach events, the Truss Bustin' competition, Future City competition, Younger Member Group (YMG) activities, career fairs, E-Week events/outreach, and many others. If you'd like to participate in any of these activities or take on a leadership role within ASCE, please stay tuned to our emails and newsletters throughout the year. We're always looking for enthusiastic members to help grow our section and make a lasting impact.

I'm looking forward to a productive and engaging year with all of you. Feel free to reach out with any questions, ideas, or feedback. Let's make this year a great one!

Much Appreciated,
Pavel Karamshin
President, ASCE Nebraska Section

2025/26 NE ASCE Newsletter Advertising and Job Board

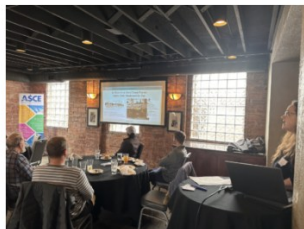
The Nebraska ASCE newsletter is the primary communication for our 600+ members who can gather information on monthly meetings, upcoming seminars and workshops, volunteer opportunities and other news and events going on in our community. Advertising in the NE ASCE Section Newsletter can have many advantages. The newsletter is sent to each member of the Nebraska Section across the state typically eight times per year and is also available in the newsletter section on our website (www.neasce.org).

Your company can support the NE ASCE for the 2025-2026 year by advertising in our newsletter. We are also offering the opportunity for companies to advertise open positions on our job board section of the newsletter. If your company is interested in advertising, please contact Nicole Martindale, Newsletter Editor, at 402-670-6723 or Nicole.Martindale@hdrinc.com.

Applications for advertisements will be due by November 1st.

[Section Newsletter Archives - ASCE - Nebraska Section \(neasce.org\)](http://www.neasce.org)

Section Newsletter



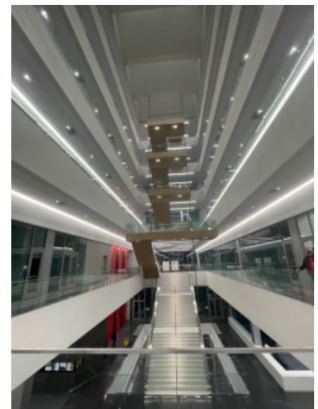
May 2024 Section Newsletter

May 11th, 2024



March 2024 Section Newsletter

March 10th, 2024



February 2024 Section Newsletter

February 12th, 2024

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2025 Nebraska ASCE Annual Banquet

The Nebraska ASCE section held their annual banquet on the evening of June 24th to celebrate and reflect on another successful year. Several members were recognized for their involvements within the organization including students, life members, and officers that will be highlighted on the succeeding pages. Erin Steever, Region 7 Director, led the installation of new officers for the 2025-26 year. The event wrapped-up with past president, Sam Allen, passing his role onto Pavel Karamshin. Nebraska ASCE is looking forward to another eventful year of providing professional development and industry networking opportunities.



Outstanding Seniors

The ASCE Outstanding Senior Award is presented annually to students from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln or at Omaha campuses. They are being recognized for their exceptional involvement in their ASCE student chapter and performance in the classroom.

- Audrey Hill - University of Nebraska at Omaha

Audrey Hill, a proud Omaha native, discovered civil engineering through a high school class that sparked her interest. That early curiosity grew into a lasting passion as she progressed through college coursework and hands-on internships. She has served as Treasurer, Vice President, and now President of the ASCE student chapter at UNO. She also coordinated awards and T-shirts for the 2025 Mid-America Student Symposium and led concrete canoe mix design efforts. Audrey is currently interning with JEO Consulting Group and plans to remain in Omaha post-graduation to begin her full-time civil engineering career.

- Megan Schubert - University of Nebraska - Omaha

Megan Schubert, also from Omaha, always knew she wanted to apply her love of math and science in a meaningful way—civil engineering stood out for its real-world impact. Since joining ASCE in 2022, Megan has stepped into several leadership roles, including Vice President and Omaha Lead for the 2025 ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium. She coordinated budgeting, fundraising, and signage for the symposium, and helped reboot the Concrete Canoe program at UNO—seeing their canoe hit the water was one of her proudest moments. Megan is currently interning with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Transportation Systems Center.

- Anna Schuppel - University of Nebraska - Lincoln

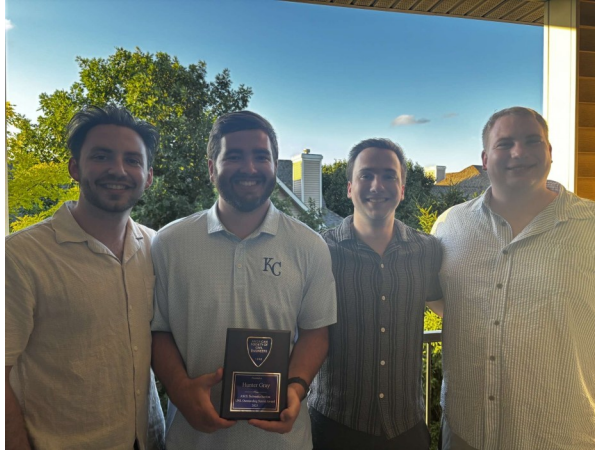
Originally from Schoolcraft, Michigan, Anna Schuppel discovered her passion for civil engineering through a blend of creativity and curiosity. A love for architectural sketching and a strong foundation in math and science led her to explore the field—and she quickly realized it was the perfect fit. She joined ASCE in her junior year and found an immediate sense of community within the organization. Her involvement deepened during her senior year when she became Co-Lead of the 2025 ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium. Now, Anna has launched her career as an Assistant Structural Engineer at Burns & McDonnell, where she works in the Transmission and Distribution Global Practice.

- Hunter Gray - University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Hunter was unable to join us this evening, but we still wish to recognize him for his outstanding achievements. Originally from Shawnee, Kansas, Hunter Gray found his path to structural engineering in high school, where a presentation on the Las Vegas Raiders stadium sparked his interest. The idea of combining math and football through engineering led him to pursue civil engineering at UNL. Hunter served as Vice President of the ASCE student chapter, coordinated speaker events and social outings, and helped lead the Steel Bridge team. A highlight of his senior year was helping host the 2025 ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium. Hunter now works at Black & Veatch in Kansas City as a Structural Engineer in the Power Generation group.

- Mia Toigo - University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Mia is also unable to be with us tonight, but we want to acknowledge her outstanding contributions to the student chapter. A Kansas City native, Mia Toigo has demonstrated exceptional leadership and passion for civil engineering throughout her time at UNL. From an early interest sparked by her engineer uncle to a lifelong drive to build and lead, Mia has consistently embodied the spirit of innovation and service in the profession. At UNL, Mia served in leadership roles with the ASCE student chapter throughout all four years. She made a lasting impact as Concrete Canoe Captain, Recruitment Coordinator, and Co-Lead for the 2025 ASCE Mid-America Student Symposium. Mia now works at Burns & McDonnell in Kansas City as an Assistant Civil Engineer in their Aviation & Federal Global Practice.



Left to right: Noah Netzel, UNL Outstanding Senior Award Winner - Hunter Gray, Jack Radermacher, Dedric Berger

Outstanding Chief Safety Officer

This year, we also want to recognize a new award recipient whose behind-the-scenes leadership has been crucial to our chapter's success. Please welcome to the stage our Outstanding Chief Safety Officer, Peter Hilsabeck.

Hailing from Holdrege, Nebraska, **Peter Hilsabeck** has always had a builder's mind-set—a natural fit for civil engineering. At UNL, he kept his peers safe and well-prepared as the ASCE chapter's trusted Chief Safety Officer.

Peter's leadership style blends humor, reliability, and an ever-watchful eye. Whether it's gearing up for competitions or managing gear in tough conditions, Peter made sure the team was always ready. Peter says the best part of his senior year was meeting his wife Lauren, whom he calls the best thing that's ever happened to him.

Outstanding Service to Section Award

The Outstanding Service to Section Award is presented annually to a Nebraska ASCE member who went above and beyond their duties and responsibilities. They are being recognized for their exceptional service and volunteering of their time. This year, the recipient of the Outstanding Service to Section Award is **Dr. Joshua Steelman**.

Originally from Fayetteville, Tennessee, Dr. Joshua Steelman discovered his passion for civil engineering after a brief stint in architecture revealed his true calling. Guided by what he calls his "engineer brain," he shifted to structural engineering—a decision that quickly proved to be the right fit.

Since joining UNL in 2013, Dr. Steelman has served as Faculty Advisor for the Lincoln and Omaha student chapters. His support, mentorship, and stability have helped students thrive. One of his proudest moments was helping UNL and UNO host the 2025 Mid-America Student Symposium, which he calls one of the most rewarding experiences of his career. Looking ahead, Dr. Steelman is working to integrate ASCE competition projects into UNL's new curriculum to support deeper engagement across all academic years.

Student Support Fund Scholarships

The ASCE Nebraska Section awards several scholarships through donations and profits from technical conferences and member support.

- Logan Baardson - University of Nebraska - Omaha
- Mitra Nasimi - University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Originally from Tabriz in northwestern Iran, Mitra Nasimi was drawn to civil engineering through a fascination with bridges and tunnels—and a growing appreciation for how infrastructure shapes daily life. A standout moment in her ASCE involvement has been her work on TreEAID, an open-source software tool developed as part of a national ASCE initiative. Mitra is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. After graduation, she will join HDR in Omaha.



Mitra Nasimi
and Sam Allen
(2024/25 President)

New ASCE Life Member Recognition

Advancement to Life Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers is an honor and unique accomplishment reserved for individuals who have made a long-time contribution and commitment to the Society and the profession. Furthermore, these members have reached the age of 65 years and shall have paid dues in any membership grade except Student Member for at least thirty-five (35) years and shall have had at least ten (10) years continuous membership immediately preceding the attainment of Life Member. From now on, the dues are waived with the exception of the life member service fee to cover mailing of publications. Nebraska ASCE had eight individuals achieve Life Member status this year.

- Patrick Poepsel, John Remus II, and Derrel Martin.
- Rocky Keehn

Rocky graduated with a bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska in 1983 and a Master of Science in Water Resources from ISU in 1987. He joined ASCE as a student and continued as a member after getting recruited by a co-worker to be on a committee and join the board cycle. Rocky has held numerous positions with ASCE starting as a committee chair, then secretary and on to President. Rocky started out his career with SEH, then to Little Canada, and then Vadnais Heights, Minnesota where he held many different positions from engineer to department head as the company grew from 80 employees to 900 in his time there, Rocky had his own firm from 2017 to 2023 and is now mostly retired but still will work as an on call water resources engineer for FoleyShald Engineering in Omaha. Rocky has been married to his wife Vaiva since 1983 and has 3 children .

New ASCE Life Member Recognition

- Larry Vandergriend

Larry worked at the Nebraska DOT immediately out of college and moved out quickly to Hughes Brothers where he has been for 35 Years and is currently the vice president of engineering. He has projects all across the country and cannot drive to any state without seeing a structure or product that Hughes Brothers designed or built. His favorite are the folding steel trusses invented for Duke Power Midwest. Larry has two sons who have stopped on the roadside to see his projects many times over the years.

- Peter McCornick

Peter graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering in 1980 from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in England, a Masters in Agricultural Engineering in 1986 from Colorado State University, and a Phd in Agricultural Engineering in 1989 from Colorado State University. He joined ASCE in 1988 for professional development and networking. Peter first worked as a research engineer in Indonesia with the British Government, and is currently the executive director of Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska as well as a Professor in Biological Systems Engineering at UNL. Peter has been married since 1986 and has two children.

- Curt Betts

Curt graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering in 1981 from Colorado State University. Curt joined ASCE as a student in 1977 and stayed as a member ever since to keep up with the state of the profession. Curt was a member of the ASCE 59-11 committee on blast protection of buildings. Curt started his career as a structural engineer for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, and retired in 2024 as the Director of the Protective Design Center with US Army Corps of Engineers. Curt has 4 children and 5 grandchildren (with 2 on the way) Curt is most proud of the ASTM and ASCE 59-11 standards he developed.

- Philip Rossbach

Phillip graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Nebraska Lincoln in 1981. He joined ASCE as a student to get more involved with his peers and has remained as a member for networking with fellow civil engineers. Phillip has held multiple positions in his time as a member of ASCE including the Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, and President of the Nebraska Section, Truss Bustin' Committee, and Received the Outstanding Service award to the Nebraska Section in 2005. Phillip started his career as a structural engineer with Gibbs Hill and retired in 2023 as a Senior Project Manager for Bridge Design with HDR. Phillip is a Future Cities Competition Judge, SAME student Mentoring Project Judge, former scoutmaster for boy scouts of America and is currently the Mid America Council member and advancement committee chair. Philip has been married since 1981 to his wife Terri, he has 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

NE ASCE Annual Banquet Photos



2025-26 NE ASCE Officers: Pavel Karamshin, Tregan Albers, Jack Wilke, Andrew Eisenbraun, Mike Sklenar, Austin Hoops, Garrett Martindale



2025/26 NE ASCE President - Pavel Karamshin announcing the award winners.



Outstanding Chief Safety Officer - Peter Hilsabeck

NE ASCE Annual Banquet Photos



Life Member - Rocky Keehn



Life Member - Philip Rossbach



Life Member - Curt Betts



Outstanding Service to Section
- Dr. Joshua Steelman

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The Nebraska Civil Engineer

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