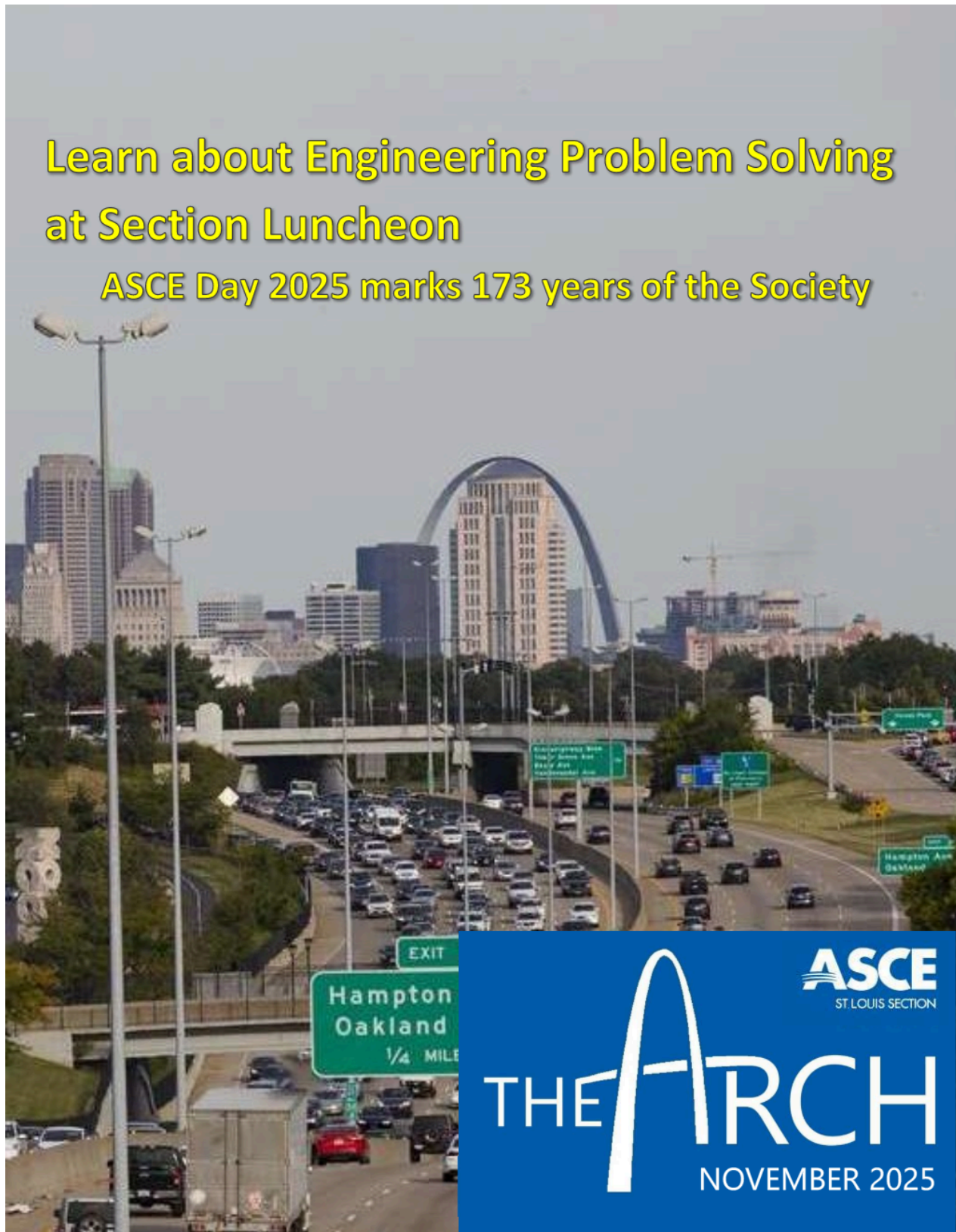


Learn about Engineering Problem Solving at Section Luncheon

ASCE Day 2025 marks 173 years of the Society



November 2025 Newsletter

The Arch Newsletter Team

Newsletter Editor

[Brenan Pool \(Engenuity\)](#)

Programs Chair

[Maggie Cox \(Volkert\)](#)

Section President

[Melissa Rettig \(Hg Consult\)](#)

Membership Champion

[Lyle Simonton \(Subsurface Constructors\)](#)

The Arch November 2025 cover

[St. Louis Business Journal](#)

Upcoming Section Events

November

03 - The Arch November 2025

05 - [ASCE Day](#)

08 - [National STEM Day](#)

05 - [Structural & GeoConfluence](#)

11 - [November Section Luncheon](#)

11 - Veterans Day

14 - [G-I STL Monthly Meeting](#)

15 - Mid-Month Update

18 - [YMG November Happy Hour](#)

18 - [ASCE SLU Candy Construction](#)

27 - Thanksgiving

December

01 - The Arch December 2025

Connect with [#asceSTL!](#)

2025 Section Board of Directors

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From the President

Greetings St. Louis Section!

It's officially fall! As the leaves change and we move into the end of the year, I hope you enjoyed that extra hour of sleep this weekend... or, for those of you with littles at home like me, I hope you enjoyed that extra cup of coffee! (Because, let's be

honest, we all know little kids don't recognize the concept of "falling back.") We're off to an exciting start to our Fiscal Year, with lots to look forward to. November brings with it a great opportunity to connect, learn, and **celebrate with us at ASCE!**

I'm so excited to be starting my term serving you as President! This marks my 7th year on the Board of Directors, and even more years as a part of the Section, working alongside all of our dedicated officers, directors, committees, and institute chapter chairs.

As we enter this new month, be sure to take note of the local Section activities coming up. The Geo-Institute (G-I) and Structural

Southern Illinois
University Edwardsville

Engineering Institute (SEI) will host the 14th Annual **Structural and GeoConfluence Conference on November 5th.**

Director of Administration
[Stephen Noeth](#)
Civil Design, Inc.

Our monthly **luncheon will be held on November 11th, with Michael Buechter** from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) as our speaker **discussing Engineering Ethics**. It's a great mid-day break to connect with colleagues and earn some professional development hours. We had a wonderful turnout from our SLU Student Chapter students at the October luncheon. I enjoyed hearing what they're up to and the wonderful things their student chapter is doing!

Past President
[Melantha Norton](#)
Nestle Purina PetCare

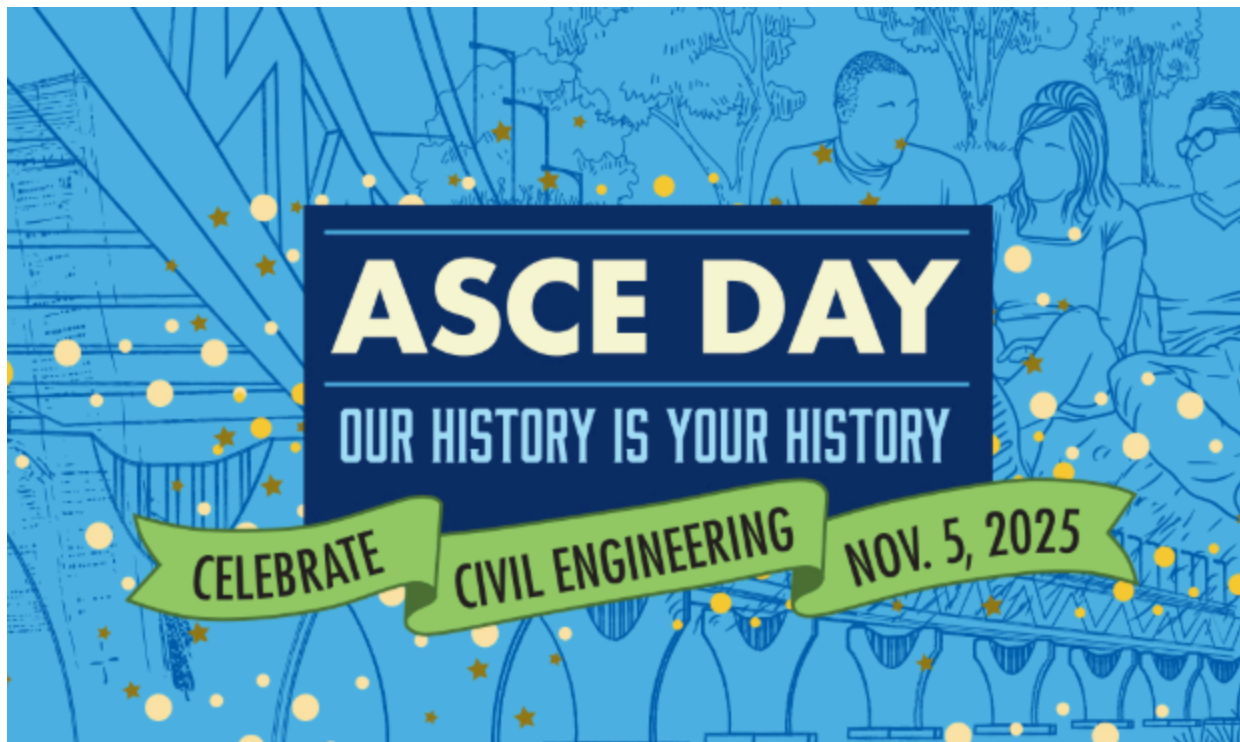
Looking ahead, be sure to save the date for our annual **Holiday Social on Tuesday, December 9th!** This is always a wonderful evening to relax, socialize, and celebrate the close of a productive year with your fellow ASCE members.

The weather is changing, and the leaves are beginning to fall, which means November is kicking off the **countdown to the holidays and Thanksgiving**. Make sure to carve out some time to celebrate and relax with your loved ones!

Your continued involvement, whether through attending conferences, luncheons, or volunteering, is what makes the St. Louis Section thrive (and **ELEVATE!**). I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events. Please reach out to me at mrettig@hgcons.com if you're interested in getting more involved or have any questions.

Melissa Rettig

2026 St. Louis Section President



Participate in ASCE Day 2025!

Learn about Engineering Problem Solving at Section Luncheon



Please join us for a discussion of **Engineering Ethics** focusing on the nature of engineering **problem solving**. This study begins with Eugene Ferguson's text **Engineering and the Mind's Eye** (1992) which outlines the application of visual thinking. Ferguson argues that any system of problem solving that ignores Engineering's heritage of visual thinking will produce not only technicians ignorant of how the real-world works but failures of their projects. The application of visual thinking is useful to us all and best explained by example.

Examples covered include first **James Buchanan Eads** (1820-1887) and his role in constructing the St. Louis Bridge (Eads Bridge). Though Eads was never formally educated as a civil engineer his years of experience as a river salvage captain helped him amass the knowledge needed to construct the bridge. Secondly, by today's standards, the earthmoving operation used during construction of the **Panama Canal** was carried out by primitive methods involving steam powered trains. The intricate arrangement of specialized trains represented practical problem solving that could likely not be improved upon to this day. Finally discussed is **David Steinman**, the founder of NSPE, work on the **Mackinac Bridge** where to avoid the effect of aerodynamic forces on the suspension bridge, he managed "the creation of a new science," representing practical problem solving.



Michael T. Buechter, P.E., BC.WRE, F.EWRI

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD)

Michael is a Program Manager at the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) where he manages a diverse and talented team responsible for the preparation of construction documents for small to mid-sized projects, administration of several Consulting Engineering contracts, and administration of MSD's Small Contractor Program. These tasks all contribute to the MSD's continued success in meeting the terms of the 2012 Consent Decree.

Michael received his B.S. Civil Engineering and M.S. Engineering Management degrees from Missouri S&T (Rolla), as well as his M.S. Civil Engineering (Water Resources) from Oklahoma State University. He served as 2016 Section President of ASCE STL. He has also served as a Past Chair of EWRI St. Louis Chapter, past member of the EWRI Governing Board (Society Level), and Past-Chair of EWRI Member Services Executive Committee (Society Level). He has served as 2018-2020 President of the St. Louis Chapter of MSPE. He currently serves as 2026 President of MSPE (State level).

Register for the event!

Register by November 4th

[Maggie Cox](#), Programs Chair

When: Tue, November 11th @ 12:00 pm

Where: [Il Monastero Banquet Center](#), Saint Louis University

Registration at 11:30 am, lunch served at 11:45 am, and program begins at 12:00 pm. One (1) PDH is available from this program.

Special thanks to our venue hosts [SLU School of Science and Engineering](#) at [Saint Louis University](#)



Apply for the ASCE 2026 Legislative Fly-In



ASCE's [Legislative Fly-In](#) is your opportunity to apply your year-round advocacy leadership for ASCE and interact directly with congressional offices in Washington, D.C.

2026 Legislative Fly-In Application due Nov 11th

Last chance for the 2025 Structural & GeoConfluence!



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter



**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

Structural and Geo-Confluence

Wednesday, November 5, 2025
River City Casino, St. Louis, Missouri

Registration is open for the fourteenth annual Structural and Geo-Confluence hosted by the St. Louis Chapters of SEI and GI. This one-day, in-person conference is open to all. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 7:15 a.m. and the program runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch are provided.

Agenda includes:

- GeolInstitute Cross-USA Lecture – Richard Bathurst, GeoEngineering Centre at Queen's Royal Military College of Canada
- Beyond Automation: Strategic AI Adoption for Enhanced Geotechnical and Structural Project Delivery – Pravin Jha, DV DATUM
- Lifting and Repairing the SR-67 Bridge in Elizabethton TN after Hurricane Helene – Adam Blazejowski, Dan Brown & Associates, and Damian Williams Gamba, Michels Construction, Inc.
- Ground improvement solutions to support up to 30 feet of engineered fill – Andy Chapman, Subsurface Constructors
- LeGrange Lock, explorations and pseudo 3D model – Nancy Dendramis and Eric Carlson, Terracon
- Actionable Strategies to Reduce Embodied Carbon on Typical Projects– Olivia Paxson, KPFF
- Forensic Structural and Geotechnical Engineering – Randy Bernhart/Berhnart Forensics and Jim Pyatt/Rimkus
- Measurement While Drilling for Geotechnical Site Characterization – Tugce Baser, Saint Louis University
- Big Bearings = Big Problems (Bearing Replacement on Long Span Bridges) – Chad Hodel, WHKS & Co.
- Integrated Physical and Numerical Modeling: Validating Energy Micropile Performance for Foundation Retrofit – Kaveh Roushan, University of Missouri - Columbia

Registration Class	Regular Rate October 16 to October 29	Late Rate After October 29 and walk-ins
Professional, ASCE Member	\$275	\$325
Professional, non-ASCE Member	\$295	\$325
ASCE Life Members	\$225	\$325
Full-time Students	\$100	\$150
Local, State, or Federal Government	\$225	\$325
Exhibitor (includes 1 registration)	\$500	\$500

Register at <https://www.ascestl.org/event-details/2025-structural-and-geo-confluence>

Payment is due at the time of registration. Refunds must be requested before October 29, 2025. Any refund will be subject to a 15 percent cancellation fee. Registration may be transferred to another person by advanced notice to Stephanie Spann (sspann@davidmason.com).

Register now for this #asceSTL event!

Mette goes to ASCE 2025 Convention

Last month, **Jacob Mette**, YMG Past President, had the opportunity to attend the **ASCE 2025 Convention in Seattle**. The event brought together civil engineers from across the country to share



ideas, explore new technologies, and discuss the future of the profession. One memorable moment was the OPAL Gala, where leaders in civil engineering were recognized for their outstanding contributions and projects. Beyond the sessions and networking, Jacob also enjoyed taking in Seattle's vibrant atmosphere including the underground tour of the original Seattle. The experience reminded him of the power of professional connection and lifelong learning in shaping a stronger engineering community.





2025 HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Save the Date!

**DECEMBER 9TH
SQWIRES ANNEX**

#asceSTL

Younger Member Group (YMG)



Welcome to FY26 and the new Board

We're excited to invite everyone (Younger Member and others) to our upcoming November Happy Hour at City Foundry. Also be on the lookout for our Winter Social as we finalize plans. We're proud to have a great 2026 YMG Board and do reach out to us [if you have any questions or](#) want to become more involved!

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the interior of City Foundry, a large industrial space with high ceilings, exposed pipes, and structural beams. In the foreground, there are wooden tables and stools, suggesting a social or dining area. A semi-transparent teal rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the event details in white text.

HAPPY HOUR
CITY FOUNDRY
NOV. 18 @ 5:30PM



#ASCESTLYMG

2026 EXEC BOARD



Brandon Hamel
PRESIDENT



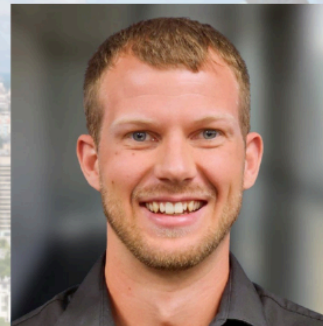
Brenan Pool
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Krysta Swartz
SECRETARY/TREASURER



Abhishek Khatiwada
SOCIALS CHAIR



Jacob Mette
PAST PRESIDENT



ST. LOUIS SECTION
YOUNGER MEMBER GROUP

See our 2026 Sponsorship Letter!

Upcoming YMG Events

- **YMG November Happy Hour**
 - Nov 18 @ 5:30 pm
 - City Foundry
- **YMG Winter Social**
 - TBD

Brandon Hamel, E.I., M.ASCE

YMG President

Oates Associates



Geo-Institute (G-I) St. Louis Chapter



**ENVIRONMENTAL &
WATER RESOURCES
INSTITUTE**

St. Louis Chapter

Monthly Speaker Series on Hold

The [Geo-Institute Local Involvement Committee](#) has EWRI St. Louis Chapter would like to announce that their Monthly Speaker Webinar Series will be on hold for November and December, in lieu of the holidays. We'll see you back for Webinars in 2026!



ENVIRONMENTAL &
WATER RESOURCES
INSTITUTE
St. Louis Chapter

WATER
INSTITUTE
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

EWRI of ASCE - St. Louis Chapter

2026 Environmental & Water Resources Spring Symposium and Workshop

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

You are invited to attend a full-day educational symposium and workshop
for professional development and to learn about water-related technical topics.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, March 6, 2026

Technical Program 8AM to 4PM

Location:

DuBourg Hall at
Saint Louis University
221 N Grand Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63103

Stay tuned for
registration
information!

Registration will include:

Up to 6 Professional
Development Hours,
continental breakfast,
and lunch.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Now accepting abstracts for presentations. Abstracts should be 1-2 paragraphs summarizing your presentation topic. Presentation time slots can be between 30 minutes to 1 hour. Topic ideas include:

Construction challenges
Permitting and compliance
Case studies
Wastewater treatment

Adapting to climate change
Emerging and innovative
technologies
Water quality
Hydrology & hydraulics

Nature-based solutions
Stream restoration
Sediment transport
Sustainability

Submit an abstract to skeeven@hrgreen.com by December 5, 2025.

You will be notified by January 2, 2026 if your presentation was selected.

For more information, please contact:

Samantha Keeven
Spring Symposium/Workshop Chair
ASCE-EWRI St. Louis Chapter
skeeven@hrgreen.com

2025 Mid-American Environmental Engineering Conference



EWRI St. Louis Chapter was proud to partner with the local universities and sponsor the **2025 Mid-American Environmental Engineering Conference (MAEEC 2025)**, hosted on October 11th at Washington University in St. Louis (WashU). More than 50 students and advisors from WashU, University of Missouri - Columbia, Missouri University of Science & Technology, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and Saint Louis University attended the event!

MAEEC 2025 included the following:

- A keynote presentation from **Dr. David Sedlak**, Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, Department of Civil & Environmental at University of California -Berkeley
- 16 student research oral presentations
- More than 20 poster presentations
- EWRI St. Louis Chapter overview from **Jiaman Xu**, Chapter Chair, and **Rohan Benjankar**, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

EWRI St. Louis Chapter presented awards to two (2) best poster presentations and two (2) best oral presentations at the end of the conference. **Honghyun Kim** (WashU) and **Elmira Ramazanov** (WashU) were selected for best poster presentations. For oral presentations, **Xicheng He** (WashU) and Tong Zhou (Missouri University of Science & Technology) were selected for the awards. Thanks to all who joined us!

Upcoming EWRI STL Events

- Water, Water, Everywhere
 - Fri, Mar 6th, 8am-4pm
 - DuBourg Hall, SLU

Jiaman Xu, P.E., ENV SP, PMP,
M.ASCE

EWRI STL Chair

Illinois American Water



Geo-Institute (G-I) St. Louis Chapter



Adopt an Engineer

Students: We are looking to engage with students who have interest in geotechnical/geological/environmental profession, or who simply would like to understand more about the profession. Connect with professionals, young and seasoned, from various sectors, in one-on-one calls to ask questions and learn more about the industry.

Professionals: Volunteer an hour of your time to meet with students and help answer questions they might have. Discuss what you do in your industry, what a typical day looks like, what courses were the most beneficial, etc. An opportunity to give back to the student organizations!

Share the QR code to those who may be interested.

Register here for this program!

Call for Case Histories Night Topics

The Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter is accepting presentation topics for our **annual Case Histories Night**. The committee is seeking speakers to provide a 60-minute presentation focused on geotechnical engineering projects.

In addition, the Committee is also seeking potential student presenter. The student will have the opportunity to show case their research at the event. student research posters will be on display during the registration/networking period, and selected students will give brief presentations on their topics. Free admission for students

Please submit presentation topics to [Travis Kassebaum](#) and [Zachary Fallert](#) prior to **March 13, 2026**.

Upcoming G-I Events

- Structural & GeoConfluence

Travis Kassebaum, P.E.,
M.ASCE

G-I STL Chair

- Wed, Nov 5th, 8am-5pm
- [River City Casino](#)
- Monthly Chapter Meeting
 - Fri, Nov 14th, 8-9am
 - [Microsoft Teams](#)

Terracon



2026 Multi-Region Leadership Conference - Call for Sponsors



The 2026 ASCE Multi-Region Leadership Conference (MRLC) will be hosted in Chicago by the [Illinois Section Younger Member Group](#). Visit [Leader Training Committee](#) or [Committee on Younger Members](#) websites for updates!

Consider [sponsoring the 2026 CRYMC](#)!



Graduate and Professional Programs

Open House

Monday, November 17

4-7 p.m.

Morris University Center, International Room
SIUE Edwardsville Campus

Discuss admission requirements, how to apply for scholarships and assistantships, and graduate studies at SIUE with staff from:

- Graduate Admissions
- Graduate School

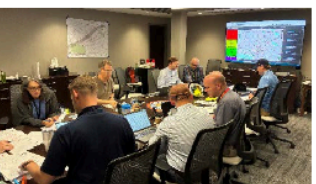
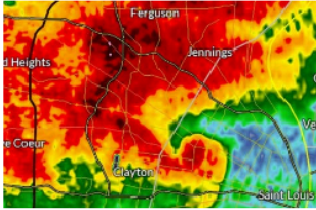
Learn more about your academic area of interest, including:

- College of Arts and Science
- School of Business
- School of Education, Health and Human Behavior
- School of Engineering
- School of Nursing
- School of Pharmacy

Register for SIUE Graduate Degree Open House



ASCE St. Louis Section SAVE Coalition Members Respond to St. Louis EF-3 Tornado Largest-Ever SAVE Deployment But More Volunteers Needed



ST. LOUIS, MO – On the afternoon of May 16th, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency's Structural Assessment and Visual Evaluation (SAVE) Coalition, an ASCE St. Louis Section sponsored group of over 1,000 volunteer architects, engineers and building officials that are trained to quickly evaluate damaged buildings after a disaster, was holding a training class near I-64 and Big Bend. Less than two miles away an EF-3 tornado was cutting a path across the north side of St. Louis, from the city limits near Forest Park northeasterly to Interstate 70.

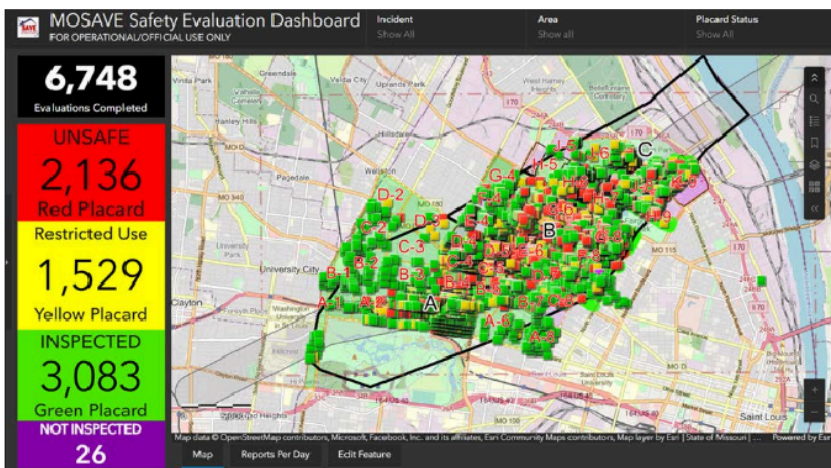
The tornado impacted thousands of buildings, prompting the City of St. Louis to ask the SAVE Coalition for the largest deployment in the group's history. For 8 days, spread over two separate 4-day deployments, over 100 SAVE volunteers worked with City Building Division staff to perform rapid structural safety evaluations on over 6,700 buildings. SAVE placed a red (unsafe), yellow (restricted use) or green (safe) placard on the evaluated buildings. The city requested more SAVE volunteers than were able to deploy. More SAVE volunteers and support for SAVE deployments is needed.

Each deployment day started with refresher training, swearing in as deputy building officials, and geographic area assignments for the 2-person teams. Results were reported in real time using an ESRI Survey123 smart phone app. Support for SAVE from the community across the damage area was very good.

SAVE's volunteer leaders, many having participated with St. Louis Building Division staff in the 2024 National Guard exercise at Busch Stadium, planned the day's activities, monitored the results using the real-time dashboard shown below, supported the field teams, and responded to city staff questions.

SAVE needs your help - the SAVE Coalition provides a free 7 PDH class to engineers interested in joining. SAVE is especially interested in recruiting newly licensed civil, structural, and geotechnical engineers with building design and/or construction experience. SAVE is a low time commitment organization and volunteers are never under any obligation to deploy. The next SAVE training class in St. Louis will be November 7, 2025. Learn more at: [Missouri SAVE Coalition | SEMA \(mo.gov\)](https://missouri-save-coalition.org/SEMA)

By: Benjamin Ross, P.E., M. ASCE. Ross has been a member of SAVE for 29 years and serves as one of ASCE St. Louis Section's representatives on the SAVE Board of Directors. He can be reached at brross@ess-inc.com



ASCE | MEMBER ADVANTAGES

JOBS CORNER

[VIEW PARTNER JOB POSTINGS](#)

STORMWATER ENGINEERING MANAGER

City of Ladue - Ladue, MO



GEOTECHNICAL STAFF ENGINEER

SCI Engineering, Inc. - St. Charles, MO, O'Fallon, IL



MULTIPLE ADJUNCT TEACHING POSITIONS

University of Missouri–St. Louis (UMSL) - St. Louis, MO



Originally sent November 2025

ASCE St. Louis Section

St. Louis, MO

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