



October 2026 Newsletter

The Arch Newsletter Team

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Upcoming Section Events

October

01 - The Arch October 2026

01 - [YMG Social Hour](#)

13 - [Section Monthly Luncheon](#)

21 - [Missouri Day](#)

23 - [EWB Trivia Night](#)

28 - [Structural & Geo-Confluence](#)

31 - [Halloween](#)

November

05 - [ASCE Day](#)

Connect with #asceSTL!

2027 Section Board of Directors

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SCI Engineering, Inc.

President-Elect

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UES

Secretary

[Nichole Witushynsky](#)
GBA



From the President

Hello ASCE St. Louis Section!

It is a privilege to begin my term as President, and to serve with my fellow Section Officers, Directors, Committee and Institute Chairs, and Section

Members who make up such a strong and enthusiastic group of civil engineering professionals.

As an all-volunteer organization, our Section thrives on the contributions of all. Your dedication keeps us moving forward and inspiring the next generation of engineers. Whether you've participated on a committee, a program, or an event, **your**

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commitment ensures our Section continues to grow and to serve our profession, our communities, and our world.

I want to take a moment to thank our outgoing Past-President, **Melantha Norton**, for her years of service to the Board. Melantha has helped our Section move forward in so many ways. It has been a joy to work alongside her. I also want to recognize the years of service of our outgoing President, **Melissa Rettig**. Melissa's efforts have elevated our Section, and I am grateful for her leadership and example through our many years together on the Board.

We have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year. On the near horizon, the G-I and SEI chapters will host the [15th annual Structural and Geo-Confluence on October 28](#), and it is always a terrific day of learning and connecting. Stay tuned for a **MONUMENTAL** announcement from our **History & Heritage Committee** (see what I did there??) The new [Infrastructure Report Cards](#) will be published early in 2027, and our [Government Relations Committee](#) is making plans to present the findings at the state capitals in both Missouri and Illinois. The Board will also share proposed **updates to our Constitution and Bylaws** which will clarify and streamline the nomination process for elections.

[ASCE celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2027!](#) I hope many of you will attend [ASCE2027 in Philadelphia next March](#), where for the first time, ASCE and its institutes will come together for a single conference. Watch for more anniversary updates ahead of the big day, **November 5, 2027**.

Congratulations to the many scholarship winners, Section award winners, and Region 7 award winners who were recognized at the Annual Dinner on September 26! We are grateful to celebrate their achievements and contributions. Thank you to all who attended.

I closed our annual dinner with a single word for the coming year—**SERVE**. Each one of us is here because of the service and the example of someone who came before us. I'm challenging each of you to find just one new way to serve this year. Mentor someone. Join a committee. Share your expertise. Encourage someone to continue their journey. Every single action, no matter how small, strengthens our Section and advances our profession. If you're looking for a way to jump in, **please reach out to me**.

I'm looking forward to working alongside you as we serve our Section and our community this year! - *Shari*

Shari Cunningham, PE, M.ASCE
2027 St. Louis Section President

Learn about Improve I-70 at the October Luncheon

🚧 \$2.8 Billion. 200 Miles. 9 Projects. One Interstate.

Join [#asceSTL](#) and for our October Section Luncheon featuring **Eric Kopinski**, director for **MoDOT's Improve I-70 Program**, for an update on one of the largest transportation investments currently underway in Missouri.



Interstate 70 has played a defining role in Missouri's transportation network and in the history of America's Interstate Highway System. Missouri was the first state in the nation to begin construction under the new Interstate Highway Program, with work beginning on I-70 in St. Charles County.

Decades later, Missouri is embarking on another major chapter in the corridor's history. With \$2.8 billion in funding, the Improve I-70 Program is advancing improvements along approximately 200 miles of I-70 through nine projects across the state. The program represents a historic investment in the safety, capacity, reliability, and long-term future of one of Missouri's most important transportation corridors.

Eric will provide attendees with an overview of:

- The history and significance of Interstate 70 in Missouri
- The development of the Improve I-70 Program
- Current progress across the nine statewide projects
- Coordination and delivery of improvements across approximately 200 miles of corridor
- What's ahead as this historic investment continues

The presentation will conclude with an opportunity for questions and discussion with Eric about the program and its progress.



Eric Kopinski, PE

Eric is the MoDOT Improve I-70 statewide director. In this role Eric helps support each of the nine projects across I-70. Prior to his current role, Eric worked in various roles across the state over his 17 years with the Missouri Department of Transportation. Eric is a graduate of Missouri S&T and is happy to be with us today to share a little about I-70.

Register for the event!

Register by EOD on October 8th

Maggie Cox, Programs Chair

When: Tue, October 13th @ 12:00 pm

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.

Where: Il Monastero Banquet Center, Saint Louis University

Special thanks to our venue host

SLU School of Science and Engineering at Saint Louis University



Call for Section Volunteers



started!

We're on the lookout for passionate members to step into leadership roles on our committees. Volunteering means developing leadership skills, building your network, and making a real impact in our Section. Don't just be a member—be the difference! Connect with a Board member or Section volunteer to get

- Government Advocacy
- Membership Champion
- Pre-College (K-12) Outreach
- Student Involvement Outreach
- Sustainability
- Specialty Institutes & Groups
- Communications & Website
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Fundraising
- History & Heritage
- Life Members
- Programs

- Annual Dinner & Awards
- Scholarships

Get Involved in 2027 with ASCE!

2026 Annual Awards Banquet

On Saturday, September 26th, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) St. Louis Section convened its **2026 Annual Banquet at Maggiano's Little Italy** to recognize scholarship recipients and to honor the professional achievements of its members. Section President **Melissa Rettig** formally welcomed attendees to an evening dedicated to academic excellence and professional distinction. Ten (10) university students were recognized for their accomplishments, including recipients of both Section and Geo-Institute scholarships. The program also featured the presentation of the Section's awards for **Professional Recognition, Young Engineer Award, Outstanding Faculty/Practitioner Advisor**, and **Project of the Year**. Additionally, ASCE Region 7 Director **Aaron Frits** presided over the installation of the 2026–2027 Board of Direction. The Section extends its appreciation to outgoing leaders and congratulates incoming Section President **Shari Cunningham** who will guide the organization in the year ahead. [#asceSTL](#) congratulates all award recipients and expresses gratitude to the members and supporters who continue to advance the mission of ASCE. Individuals interested in submitting nominations for future awards may [visit the ASCE St. Louis Section website page](#). Nominations are accepted annually, with a submission deadline of June 15.

Section Undergraduate Scholarships

The scholarship awards were announced and presented by Past President **Melantha Norton**.



Ankit Goswami, Missouri S&T



Mason Nordike, Saint Louis University



Sydnee Godier, SIUE

* Not pictured: **Peter Kallas**, SIUC; **Kyle Nguyen**, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Geo-Institute Scholarships

The annual Geo-Confluence Research Scholarship and Shamsheer Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship were awarded, and two Alizadeh Geotechnology Scholarships were awarded to graduate geotechnical students.

- The **Geo-Confluence Research Scholarship** is selected based upon applicant's research plan and the information provided in application with a goal to support awardees to complete their research and effectively make it available to our region's geotechnical community.
- The **Shamsheer Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship** was established in early 2021 with a donation by the **Prakash Family** and is currently administered by a subcommittee within the [ASCE St. Louis Geo-Institute Chapter](#). The intent of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance for geotechnical studies towards a bachelor's degree. The scholarship awardee would be selected annually based on their enthusiasm for geotechnical engineering studies, their appreciation of the importance that field experience plays in the professional growth of an engineer, and their academic record.
- The **Alizadeh Geotechnology Scholarship** is made possible by generous donations from the **Mike Alizadeh Family** and is awarded to a seeking a Master's Degree in Environmental or Geotechnical Engineering. Mike Alizadeh was a long time St. Louis geotechnical engineer who founded Geotechnology in 1984, believing strongly in ASCE and supporting students.



*Geo-Confluence Research Scholarship: **Antai Dong**, Missouri S&T*



*Alizadeh Geotechnology Scholarship, 1st Place: **Aaron Perez Araya**, UIUC*



*Alizadeh Geotechnology Scholarship, 2nd Place,
Anish Gautam, SIUE*



*Alizadeh Geotechnology Scholarship, 3rd Place,
Bijay Nepal, SIUC*

ASCE Region 7 Awards



ASCE Region 7 updates from Director **Aaron Frits**.

ASCE Region 7 Outstanding Younger Member Award: **Jacob Mette**.

* Not pictured: ASCE Region 7 Professional Progress Award. **Jianpeng Zhou**, SIUE.

ASCE St. Louis Section Awards



Professional Recognition Award, Ben Ross.



Young Engineer Award, Brenan Pool.



*Outstanding Practitioner Advisor Award, **Laura Gray**.*



*Project of the Year Award, **Energizer Park**, accepted by **Tim Gunn**, Vice President of Construction at **Alberici**.*



Presentation of Project of the Year for **Energizer Park**.



Installation of 2027 Officers



Left to right: **Brenan Pool**, **Melissa Rettig**, **Shari Cunningham**, **Tony Roth**, and **Nichole Witushynsky**. * Not pictured: **Stephen Noeth** and **Anne Werner**.



Past president recognition to Past President **Melissa Rettig**.



Passing of the Gavel to President **Shari Cunningham**.



Early Registration rates end Wednesday

Registration is open for the **15th Annual Structural and Geo-Confluence**. The conference will be a multi-track, full-day event featuring technical topics and case histories presented by local and national experts. Early registration at discounted rates is **available through Wednesday, October 7** - sign up today! Exhibitor and sponsor opportunities are available.



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter



**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

Structural and Geo-Confluence

Wednesday, October 28, 2026
River City Casino, St. Louis, Missouri

Registration is open for the fifteenth 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:

- Deep Foundation Failures and Engineering Fixes – Howard Perko, DFI Traveling Lecturer 2026-2027
- The May 2020 Edenville Dam Failure Four Lakes Task Force; Lower Michigan – Bill Walton
- Millenium Tower Settlement – Tim Stark
- Analyzing Infrastructure Response to Mine Subsidence Movements – Gennaro Marino
- Pulling Back the Curtain: Structural Connectors, Code Reports, and the Evidence Behind Code Compliance – Martin Farrel
- Evaluating Mass Concrete Provisions for Drilled Shafts – Andy Boeckmann
- Central US Earthquakes' Risks, Preparedness & Concerns – Greg Hempen
- Seismic Disruptions and Emergency Response Accessibility: A Missouri Case Study – Emad Hassan
- Missouri American Water South Water Plant on the Meramec – Rick Huber and Jeff Hill

Registration Class	Early Rate by Wednesday, October 7 (3+ weeks)	Regular Rate October 8 to October 21 (3 weeks to 1 week)	Late Rate After October 21 and walk-ins (1 week prior)
Professional, ASCE Member	\$225	\$275	\$325
Professional, non-ASCE Member	\$250	\$295	\$325
ASCE Life Members	\$190	\$225	\$325
Full-time Students	\$75	\$100	\$150
Local, State, or Federal Government	\$190	\$225	\$325
Exhibitor (includes 1 registration)	\$600	\$600	\$600

Register at <https://www.ascestl.org/event-details/2026-structural-and-geo-confluence>

Refunds must be requested before October 14, 2026. 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 for this ASCE STL event

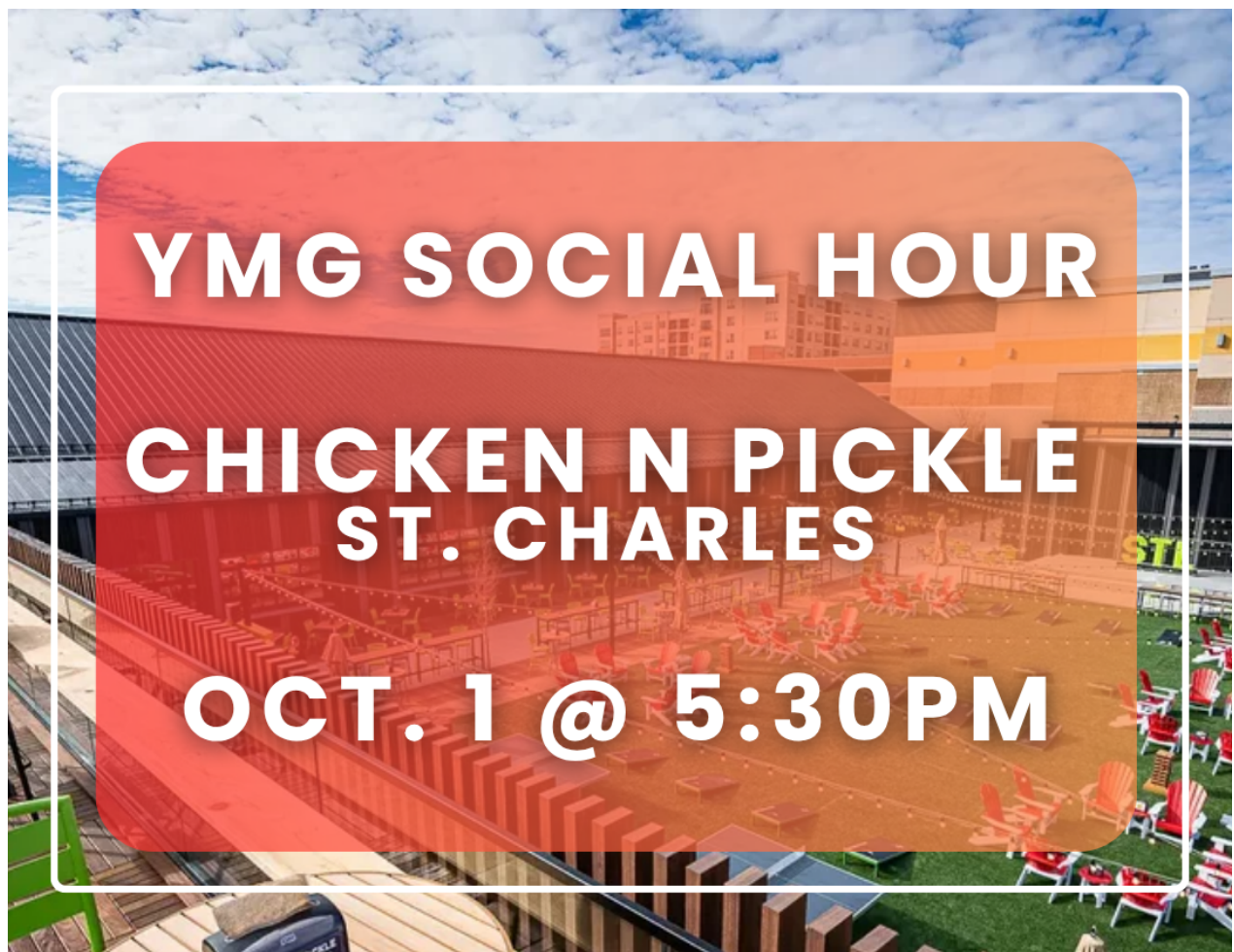


Younger Member Group (YMG)

Hi YMG! I'm Brennan, and I'm excited to serve as YMG president this year. I've found my community within ASCE and **I want that for you too!** Our YMG is what we make of it.

Every social, site visit, professional event, and student outreach happens because young engineers across St. Louis show up, share ideas, and get involved. This year, we hope to reach new companies and collaborate with partner organizations to continually create opportunities for young professionals to build relationships and grow as engineering leaders. **We need you to make FY27 successful** - *I hope to talk with you very soon! - Brennan*

Join Us TONIGHT at our October Social Hour!



🏓 Pickleball, anyone?

Whether you're a pickleball regular, have never picked up a paddle, or just want to come hang out with fellow young professionals, all skill levels are welcome—no experience required!

- 🏓 Pickleball courts reserved
- 🍕 Food & drinks available
- 💛 Friends and coworkers welcome!

Have a paddle? Bring it along! We'll have a limited number available to share as well. Come play a few games or simply join us for the social. **RSVP so we know who's coming!**

RSVP here for this YMG Event!

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU TO VOLUNTEER!

- **Socials Chair** - coordinates YMG social activities
- **Publicist** - coordinates media and communications
- **University Liaison** - coordinates student outreach
- **K-12 Outreach** - coordinates STEM activities for K-12 students

*REACH OUT TO US IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP SHAPE
WHAT YMG DOES IN 2027!*

Reach Out to any YMG officer!



We're finalizing planning for FY27 and want your feedback! Please complete **our 5-minute feedback survey** and let us know what events, programs, and opportunities you'd like to see from **your YMG**.

Fill Out Our Survey Here!

2027 SPONSORSHIP PACKET

Invest in the next generation of St. Louis civil engineers



We're seeking company sponsors to support the ASCE St. Louis Younger Member Group (YMG) throughout FY27! Sponsorships directly support opportunities for civil engineering students and young professionals through:

- [Social networking events](#)
- [Leadership skill development](#)
- [FE/PE licensure review opportunities](#)
- [Community service events such as K-12 STEM outreach, including like Engineers Week](#)
- [Site visits highlighting upcoming & active infrastructure in St. Louis](#)

Sponsorship opportunities start at just \$150, with additional opportunities to sponsor YMG social and premier events throughout the year. **We'd greatly appreciate you sharing our FY27 Sponsorship Packet with the appropriate contact at your company or agency.** We'd love the opportunity to connect and partner with you this year!

Fill out our 2027 Feedback Survey!

WE'RE GRATEFUL TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS



#asceSTlymg

Upcoming YMGM Events

- [October Social Hour](#)
 - Oct 1 @ 5:30pm
 - Chicken N Pickle St. Charles
- [November Hiking Social](#)
 - Nov 14 @ TBD
- [December Holiday Social](#)
 - Dec 9 @ TBD
 - [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

[Brenan Pool, EI, M.ASCE](#)

YMGM President

Engenuity



**ENVIRONMENTAL &
WATER RESOURCES
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) St. Louis Chapter

Save the Date! The 2027 Spring Symposium will be held on Friday, February 26th. More details to come as we hope to see you at an upcoming EWRI event soon!

Upcoming EWRI Events

- 2027 Spring Symposium
 - Feb 26 @ TBD

[Rohan Benjankar, PhD](#)

EWRI STL Chair

SIUE



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



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

The Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter was excited to host our quarterly technical meetup at Schlafly Bottleworks, featuring an in-depth technical session featuring **Greg Hempen!**

Upcoming G-I Events

- TBD
 - TBD

[Travis Kassebaum, PE,](#)
[M.ASCE](#)
G-I STL Chair
Terracon



Pre-College Outreach Opportunity



Workshop Date & Location

1. Parkway Welcome Center: **Friday, Oct. 30th**, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
760 Woods Mill Rd, 63011 (next door to Parkway South Middle)
2. Lift For Life Academy: **Tuesday, Nov. 10th**, 8:45 am - 12 pm
1730 S. Broadway, 63104-(across from Soulard Market)
3. Hazelwood Central High: **Friday, Dec 11th**, 9 am - 12 pm
11300 Dunn Road, 63138
4. CWA Hall: **Saturday, Dec 19**, 10 am - 12pm
2258 Grissom Drive 63146 (communications Workers Hall)

Sign up Link/QR code

Help Students With:

- Completing scholarship applications
- Completing college applications
- Editing and writing essays
- Resume Building
- Mentoring

*****ALL MATERIALS FOR VOLUNTEERS Will BE PROVIDED*****



Volunteer Sign up-Google Form
<https://fiastl.org/volunteer>



CONTACT US > 314-420-9362

phull@futureinaction.org
info@futureinaction.org

Register for this Volunteer Opportunity

ASCE S&T Student Chapter

ASCE S&T Student Chapter

ASCE S&T is pleased to share the Student Chapter and



Departmental Update for September 2026. The Chapter officers put in great effort to keep activities at a high level this fall. We kicked off the semester celebrating the performance of the [Steel Bridge Team](#) and [Concrete Canoe Team](#) both making nationals, first time ever! **Concrete Canoe finishing second place internationally for our highest ever finish!** We are proud of the teams and gearing up for another great year for all our competition teams, and looking for a 3-

peat as Mid-America Symposium Champions. Our Chapter also celebrated success of our [Chi Epsilon Chapter](#) with a national **Outstanding Chapter award**, and also winning awards for **Student Pillars in Practice Award** for undergraduate, **Weinel Fellowship** for graduate students, and **Faculty Advisor Award**. As [ASCE and Chi Epsilon merge this year](#), we celebrate the combined success of our remarkable students.



The S&T Concrete Canoe finished 2nd place internationally in West Virginia this Summer!

The **Fall Employer Networking Night** happened on September 21, bringing in over 50 employers and 200 students to Butler Carlton Civil Engineering Hall with the S&T Career Fair the following day. This fall, we have a full docket of speakers lined up for our chapter meetings, including **Matt Amrhein from Clayco** discussing [the Albion West End tower in CWE](#), with Clayco hosting a site visit October 8th at the new iconic addition to the St. Louis skyline. The Student Chapter is also hosting the **Fall Picnic for the CArEE Department on October 1st**, and looking forward to a great turn out and some fun and relaxation for our awesome Miners. Let's **#ChangeTheWorld** at Missouri S&T Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering Department alongside ASCE S&T! For more information, contact us at anytime, CArE@mst.edu.



ASCE.MST.EDU

ASCE SLU Student Chapter



ASCE SLU kicked off the 2026-2027 academic year with a strong start, welcoming new and returning members at our annual Welcome Back Picnic and first General Body Meeting. Throughout the semester, the chapter has focused on building community among civil engineering students through hands-on activities, professional development, and opportunities to connect with practicing engineers.

We also welcomed SLU alumna Kaitlyn Cordell of CDI. for a Speaker Series event focused on water resources engineering and its impact on local communities. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our chapter and our connections with the St. Louis engineering community throughout the academic year.



Welcome Back Picnic

On August 28th, we welcomed students back to campus with our annual Welcome Back Picnic on the MDH patio and lawn. The event provided an opportunity for returning members to reconnect, welcome new students, and build community within the chapter as we began the new academic year. We appreciate everyone who joined us and helped make the event a great start to the semester.

1st General Body Meeting

On September 9th, we hosted our first General Body Meeting of the academic year. The meeting introduced new and returning members to the chapter, highlighted our upcoming activities and initiatives, and provided an opportunity for students to connect with one another. Members also participated in a hands-on engineering activity by designing and constructing popsicle-stick bridges, which were then weight tested to see which designs could support the greatest loads.



Speaker Series: Kaitlyn Cordell, CDI

On September 15th, we welcomed SLU alumna **Kaitlyn Cordell** of **Civil Design Inc.** for a presentation on her work in water resources engineering. Kaitlyn discussed several local projects completed by CDI and shared how water resources engineering can directly impact communities and the built environment. Students also learned more about CDI and Kaitlyn's professional experience since graduating from SLU, followed by a Q&A session.



with members. **Thank you to Kaitlyn and CDI** for sponsoring this event!

linktr.ee/SLU_ASCE

Engineers Without Borders S&T Celebrates 20 Years

The Engineers Without Borders (EWB) S&T Chapter is also celebrating 20 years of Miners working to change the world! What began with civil engineering Professor **Dr. Rick “Doc” Stephenson** and a handful of determined UMR students has grown into one of the nation’s most active EWB student chapters, partnering with 23 communities across five countries and three continents.

The anniversary celebration begins **with a gala fundraising dinner on October 15** at the Student Design and Experiential Learning Center in Rolla, helping kick off Missouri S&T’s Homecoming activities. The evening will feature conversations with current EWB students working on projects in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Kenya. Students will share stories from their work, with tables dedicated to each team, and EWB alumni are encouraged to attend and share their experiences as well.

Learn more and watch stories from 20 years of EWB S&T

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS AT
MISSOURI S&T PRESENTS...

GLOBAL IMPACT GALA

Join us in celebrating 20 years of
Engineers Without Borders at Missouri S&T.



THURSDAY, OCT 15TH
5:30 PM

S&T Student Design Center
1051 N Bishop Ave, Rolla, MO 65409

Formal Attire

Please RSVP by September 25

EWB.MST.EDU

EWB.MST.EDU



ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS
GATEWAY PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

TRIVIA NIGHT

OCTOBER 23, 2026 • 6:00 PM
REGISTRATION STARTS • 5:00 PM

KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
111 S GEYER RD, KIRKWOOD, MO 63122

★ TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS AND WIN AMAZING PRIZES! ★

\$200 PER TABLE OF 8 (\$25/PERSON)
PLEASE RESERVE BY OCTOBER 17TH
BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINK (NO GLASS PLEASE!)

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PLATINUM:	\$1,500 (INC. TABLE)
GOLD:	\$1,000
SILVER:	\$500
BRONZE:	\$250

SIGNUP HERE!



LINK: [HTTPS://SUPPORT.EWB-USA.ORG/TRIVIANIGHT2026](https://support.ewb-usa.org/trivianight2026)

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
GATEWAYPROFESSIONAL@CHAPTERS-EWB-USA.ORG.COM

Register for this partner event



ASCE2027

The Infrastructure
and Engineering
Experience

March 1-5 | Philadelphia

[Register for ASCE2027](#)

ASCE | **MEMBER
ADVANTAGES**

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