



Infrastructure improves to C grade in ASCE's 2025 Report Card

Join the April Luncheon for Life Member Panel

ASCE
ST. LOUIS SECTION

THE **ARCH**

APRIL 2025

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April 2025 Newsletter

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Upcoming Section Events

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The Arch April 2025 cover

[Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

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April

03 - The Arch April 2025

03-05 - [Mid-American Student Symposium](#)

04 - [Missouri Arbor Day](#)

05 - [iScore Volunteering](#)

07 - [World Health Day](#)

10 - [April Section Luncheon](#)

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From the President

Greetings St. Louis Section, Spring has finally arrived!

As we enter the month of April, we are excited to continue our Spring tradition of [honoring our new Life Members](#). These individuals have been leaders in our

profession at the local, regional, and national levels. On Thursday, April 10th, at our April luncheon, we will be **recognizing 10 new life members**. In addition to this, we will also be hosting a panel discussion with life members from our Section. The panel will cover various topics including career lessons, ASCE involvement, and the contributions of life members to the profession and ASCE. I highly encourage you to join us in honoring this distinguished group.

Last week, the [ASCE 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure was released](#). The report card gave U.S. infrastructure an overall grade of 'C', noting that recent legislation passed by Congress has led to progress, **but more work and investment is needed to address decades of underinvestment**. It goes on to note the need to adapt our national infrastructure to meet current and future demands. Investment in better infrastructure is vital and has a lasting impact on each of our daily lives. While there was a slight increase in the overall grade, there is still room for much improvement. I encourage you to read the full report.

Director of

Administration

[Ronaldo Luna](#)

Saint Louis University

Past President

[Chris Toenjes](#)

Roeslein & Associates

The year is moving quickly, and April is shaping up to be another busy month. I will be visiting Missouri S&T and Saint Louis University, where I am excited to connect with their Student Chapters. It is always a pleasure to engage with future engineers and support them on their journey.

Melantha Norton

2025 St. Louis Section President



ASCE Issues 2025 National Infrastructure ‘Report Card’

The [#InfrastructureReportCard](#) doesn’t just tell us where we stand – it helps us get to where we need to be. Visit [ASCE’s 2025 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure](#) to learn more!

ASCE’s 2025 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure



ASCE 2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

 AVIATION	D+	 PARKS AND RECREATION	 C-
 BRIDGES	C	 PORTS	 B
 BROADBAND	 C+	 RAIL	 B-
 DAMS	 D+	 ROADS	 D+
 DRINKING WATER	C-	 SCHOOLS	D+
 ENERGY	 D+	 SOLID WASTE	C+
 HAZARDOUS WASTE	 C	 STORMWATER	D
 INLAND WATERWAYS	 C-	 TRANSIT	 D
 LEVEES	 D+	 WASTEWATER	D+



America's Cumulative
Infrastructure Grade

A EXCEPTIONAL

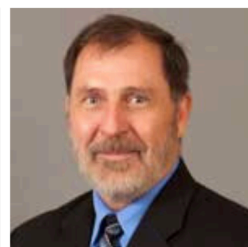
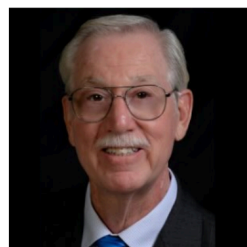
B GOOD

C MEDIOCRE

D POOR

F FAILING

April Section Luncheon - Life Members Panel



#asceSTL is will welcome new **2025 Life Members** as well as feature a panel discussion of STL Life Members, where they will answer questions about the significance of Life

Membership, in addition to their recognition. The discussion will cover a range of topics, including staying involved, career lessons learned, contributions to ASCE, advice for current members, and more.

Attendees are encouraged to ask their own questions to Life Member panelists!



Randall P. Bernhardt, P.E., S.E., F.SEI, F.ASCE

Bernhardt Forensic Engineering LLC

Randall has over 44 years of experience in the field of structural engineering and specializes in the structural investigation of buildings, bridges, and industrial structures. Mr. Bernhardt earned his BCE'80 from Southern Illinois University and his MSCE'86 from Kansas State University. He is a licensed professional engineer in eighteen states and a licensed structural engineer in five states.



Marie Collins, P.E.

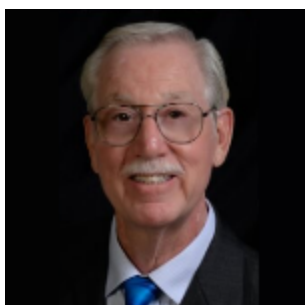
Marie is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Missouri and a graduate of both the University of Kentucky (BSCE) and the University of Missouri–Rolla/UMSL program (MSCE). Ms. Collins spent the first eight years of her career in private practice at Booker Associates, Inc. prior to taking a position with the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). During her 32-year career at MSD, Ms. Collins held several management positions, before retiring in February 2020 from the position of Assistant Director of Engineering, Construction Management Division of the Engineering Department.



Jeffrey L. Fouse, P.E., F.ASCE

Reitz & Jens, Inc.

Jeffrey is Executive Vice President and Principal with Reitz & Jens, Inc. Mr. Fouse graduated from The Ohio State University (BSCE'75). After working as a structural engineer in Houston for several years, he attended the University of Texas at Austin (MSCE, geotechnical engineering). Mr. Fouse is a registered Professional Engineer in Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Kansas and Virginia.



Gregory L. Hempen, Ph.D., P.E., R.G.

EcoBlast, LC

Gregory is a practicing geophysicist / geological engineer with over 45 years of experience, solving site assessment and geotechnical engineering problems. Dr. Hempen earned a Ph.D. in geological engineering from Missouri S&T in 1993, after a Saint Louis University BSCE and the University of Minnesota MSCE. Dr. Hempen retired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2006, and is currently a consultant through EcoBlast, LLC and AECOM.

Allen G. Minks, P.E., F.ASCE

Allen is a seasoned geotechnical engineer who retired in April 2024 with over 40 years of experience and is currently working as a part-time consultant for Terracon. Mr. Minks also spent two years working in product development for a ground improvement contractor. He taught the Geotechnical Section of the PE Refresher Course in St. Louis for over 15 years and served as Assistant Chairman of the Florissant Planning & Zoning Commission for over 10 years



Register for the event!

Register by April 7th

[Stephen Noeth](#), Programs Chair
[Maggie Cox](#), Programs Assistant

When: Thu, April 10th @ 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



ASCE STL honors 10 new Life Members

#asceSTL is humbled to have the best members in the Society. We honor several new Life Members amongst our ranks for their service to the Society and the profession of civil engineering. Life Members have made a lifetime commitment to ASCE by remaining dues-paying members for their entire professional career.

- [Donald Eveker, A.M.ASCE](#)
- [Stephen Putz, P.E., M.ASCE](#)
- [Robert Wokurka, P.E., M.ASCE](#)
- Kevin Jones, M.ASCE
- [Bruce Dawson, P.E., M.ASCE](#)
- Richard Mohr, E.I., A.M.ASCE
- John Willems, Jr, P.E., M.ASCE
- Michael Stock, P.E., M.ASCE
- [Gennaro \(Jerry\) Marino, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, M.ASCE](#)
- Zhen Chen, P.E., M.ASCE

We honor and thank you for empowering us!

Pre-College Outreach - iSCORE Volunteering



Institute for STEM Collaboration, Outreach, Research and Education (iSCORE)

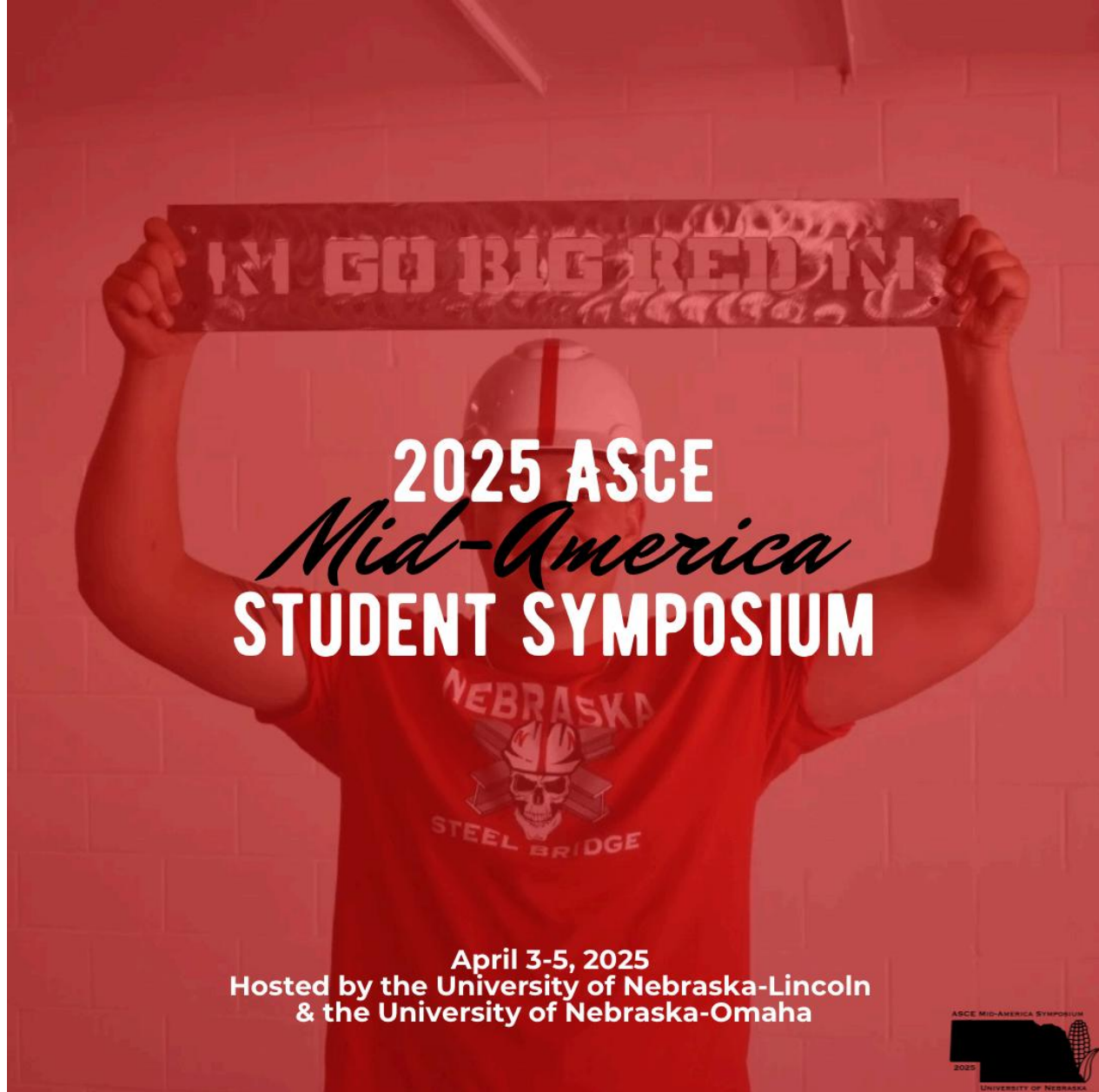
We are broadening the STEM ecosystem in an effort to forward SLU's transformative vision to foster growth, inspire innovation, and advance initiatives that serve a higher purpose and a greater good.

- Tuesdays/Wednesdays after school: 4pm - 5pm at Grannemann Elementary
- Spring Saturdays: 9:00am - 3:30pm, Apr 5, and Apr 12

Volunteers could either help out with an activity or lead their own for any of the above dates. Contact iscore@slu.edu to volunteer. [More info can be found here.](#)

2025 Mid-America Student Symposium - Good luck!

Best of luck to our Student Chapter members participating and Section members judging or supporting the [2025 Mid-America Student Symposium](#) this week, co-hosted by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln & the University of Nebraska-Omaha!



Younger Members Group (YMG)



ASCE STL Younger Members is happy to host our April Happy Hour at Tamm Avenue Bar. Join us for extra luck of the Irish at the end of the month!

Thank you to **EDSI** for sponsoring this happy hour!



YMG HAPPY HOUR

TAMM AVENUE BAR

APRIL 24 @ 5:30

SPONSORED BY:



EDSI

ENGINEERING DESIGN SOURCE, INC.

ASCE

ST. LOUIS SECTION

YOUNGER MEMBER GROUP



Join our YMG for a tour of the [Melvin Price Locks & Dam](#) and [National Great Rivers Museum](#) operated by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Only 25 spots are available so reserve your spot now! If interested in attending, please fill out the form linked below

Register here today!

YMG Site Visit

April 17th @ 2pm

Register by April 16th!

Contact [Brandon Hamel](#) with questions for this event!



Upcoming YMG Events

- [April Happy Hour](#)
 - Thu, April 24th, 5:30pm @ [Tamm Ave Bar](#)
- [Melvin Price Locks & Dam Site Visit](#)
 - Thu, Apr 17, 2:00pm

[Alicia Padilla](#)

YMG Co-President

Special Inspections & Design

[Jacob Mette](#)

YMG Co-President

Lochmueller Group



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CAREER BOOSTER WEBINAR SERIES

Engineer Your Dream Job: *Civil Engineering Xtreme*

REGISTER NOW

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
at 2:00 PM Eastern**



Diego Jácome, P.E.
PRINCIPAL CIVIL ENGINEER
Walt Disney Imagineering



Chris Long
CIVIL DESIGNER
New Line Skateparks



Katherine Hedberg-Klose, A.M.ASCE
ADA COORDINATING ENGINEER
Connecticut DOT

ASCE YOUNGER MEMBERS

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



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

New Secretary & Treasurer

The St. Louis Chapter of EWRI is excited to announce that **Rohan Benjankar** has been voted as new **Secretary & Treasurer** for EWRI STL Chapter! Thank you everyone for official voting. Do join us for our upcoming Speaker Series Event!

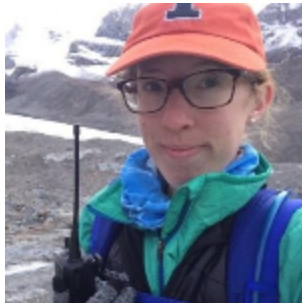
Rohan Benjankar, Ph.D., M.ASCE

Dr. Benjankar is an associate professor in Civil Engineering Department at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE). Dr. Benjankar joined SIUE in Spring 2017. His background is Civil Engineering, and experience spans several focus areas within water resources engineering and management and watershed hydrology, with particular emphasis on aquatic and riparian ecosystems and river restoration. His projects have been focused on integrated watershed hydrology, river hydraulics and habitat modeling (aquatic and riparian vegetation), fluvial geomorphology, sediment transport, stream water quality, storm water management and urban flood hazard. He has published research in



several peer-reviewed journals and presented in national and international conferences. He earned his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Idaho in 2009, his M.Sc in water resources engineering and management from the University of Stuttgart (Germany) in 2003, and his BECE from Tribhuvan University (Nepal) in 1998.

The St. Louis Chapter of EWRI is pleased to announce our monthly webinar on **Thursday, April 17**, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm CT. This presentation will be broadcast live over a webinar. Registration is free to ASCE members. Advance registration is required by noon, April 16th.



Mackenzie Marti, Hydrologist, USGS

Mackenzie is a Hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey Central Midwest Water Science Center located in Urbana, Illinois. She joined the USGS in 2020 in the Statistical Hydrology and Water Availability section and has focused on data analysis and visualization in R and GIS. She and her team work with state and federal agencies and other groups on surface water investigations across the United States, with a focus on Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Her work includes estimating streamflow in ungaged basins, conducting peak-flow frequency analyses, investigating trends in floods, and implementing streamflow tools in StreamStats.

Register here today!

EWRI St. Louis Speaker Series
April 17th @ 12:00

Register by April 16th!

Contact **Keara Trompen** with questions, topic ideas, or have interest in presenting.



Upcoming EWRI STL Events

- **April Monthly Speaker Series**
 - Thu, Apr 17th, 12pm @ online

Jiaman Xu

EWRI STL Chair

American Illinois Water



Geo-Institute (GI) St. Louis Chapter

Call for Presentations & Student Posters



**GEO-
INSTITUTE**
St. Louis Chapter

The St. Louis Chapter of Geo-Institute is accepting presentation topics for our annual **Case Histories Night** for April. The committee is seeking speakers to provide a 60-minute presentation focused on geotechnical engineering projects. GI STL is also seeking potential student presenters for the opportunity to showcase 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.

Please don't hesitate to reach [Travis Kassebaum](#) or [Zachary Fallert](#) if you are interested in presenting.

Geo-Institute St. Louis Scholarship Opportunities

The G-I STL is calling applications for a few scholarships, including:

- **Alizadeh/Geotechnology Scholarship** - Students pursuing a Master's degree in Civil or Geological Engineering with an emphasis in geotechnical or environmental engineering are eligible. Application deadline expected early May 2025.
- **GeoConfluence Research Scholarship** - Students pursuing a Master's degree (thesis option) or Ph.D. degree specializing in geotechnical/geoenvironmental engineering at a university within the ASCE St. Louis Section are eligible. Application deadline June 30th.
- **Shamsher Prakash Geotechnical Scholarship** - Students pursuing a Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in Geotechnical or Geological Engineering at a university within the ASCE St. Louis Section are eligible. Application deadline June 30th.

For more information, please visit [Geo-Institute St. Louis Chapter](#).

Upcoming G-I STL Events

- Case Histories Seminar & Student Projects
 - Wed, Apr 23rd, 5pm @ Il Monastero Banquet Center, SLU

[Travis KasseBaum](#)

G-I STL Chair

Terracon





ST. LOUIS 2025 WORK ZONE AWARENESS RUN

*Timed 5K, 1-Mile Fun Run,
or Virtual Participant*



SAT., APRIL 19 @ 8 A.M.

**MoDOT Transportation
Management Center**
14301 S Outer Forty Road
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Register to run *here.*

runsignup.com/Race/MO/Chesterfield/WorkzoneAwareness5K

#STLWZARUN



2025 ACWE

15th Americas Conference on Wind Engineering

May 19-22, 2025 — St. Louis, MO

*Center for Hazard Mitigation & Community Resilience
Missouri University of Science and Technology*



Register today to attend the **Americas Conference on Wind Engineering** on May 19-22 in St. Louis. The day registration rate is provided and each attendee will receive 6 PDHs by attending the following two professional development sessions.

1. **Tornado-resistance Design Education**

- a. Chairs: [Marc Levitan](#), [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#); [Pataya Scott](#), [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)

2. **Panel Discussion on Design of Storm Shelters and Safe Rooms**

- a. Chairs: Marc Levitan, NIST; Pataya Scott, FEMA

3. **AAWE Career Fair Lunch: Inspiring the Next Generation of Wind Engineers**

- a. During lunch on Day 1, attendees with an interest in advancing careers in wind engineering are invited to a dedicated seating area for the AAWE Career Fair. This event provides a unique opportunity for students and early-career professionals to connect with industry leaders, academic mentors, and potential employers. Designed to nurture the next generation of wind engineers, the career fair fosters meaningful conversations, mentorship, and pathways for professional growth in a relaxed and engaging setting.

For more information, including conference registration and abstract submission, [visit the conference website!](#)



ASCE membership can pay for itself with discounts and great programs that save you money.

[ASCE negotiates these programs to ensure that you receive the best discounts possible.](#) Participation in these programs, while saving you money upfront, also helps defray the costs of membership and allows ASCE to keep dues rates low for all.

ASCE Member Advantages

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[VIEW ALL PARTNER JOB POSTINGS](#)

CIVIL PROJECT MANAGER

CEC - St. Louis, MO

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER





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