

April 2, 2024

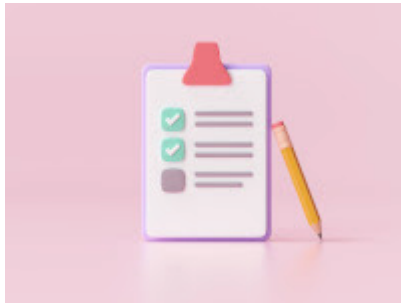


## LVASCE Newsletter

April 2024

*Help us spread the word: Post a copy of this newsletter in your company's lunch room!*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### Membership Survey

LVASCE's membership survey launched on March 11th. Have you completed yours yet? If not, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Help us to become a stronger organization by telling us how we can better serve you. The survey is available at <https://forms.gle/N5UkiB5NbrSnrFpe6>. Please take a few quick minutes to share your thoughts. And if you have

questions about the survey, just email us at [lvasce.info@gmail.com](mailto:lvasce.info@gmail.com).



#### Annual LVASCE Awards Dinner

Thursday, April 18, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Wilson Room, Pfenning Alumni Center, Lafayette College

Join us for this annual celebration of excellence in Lehigh Valley civil engineering. The event will include a social hour with hors d'oeuvres, followed by a buffet dinner and dessert. Our program will recognize the LVASCE Civil Engineer of the Year, Young Civil Engineer of the Year, and Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement. Additionally, we will present the ASCE Leadership Award to students from Lafayette College, Lehigh University, and King's College; and a student project will be presented from each institution. Come and be inspired! Please hurry! Registration closes at noon on April 11, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/339dzbp2>



## 2024 Fazlur R. Khan Distinguished Lecture: “Risk-Based Thinking for Extreme Events: What Do Terrorism and Climate Change Have in Common?”

Mark G. Stewart, Distinguished Professor of Civil  
Engineering, University of Technology Sydney  
Thursday, May 2, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

This presentation, by **Professor Mark G. Stewart**, will describe how risk-based approaches are well suited to infrastructure decision-making in the face of climate change and terrorism threats. The concepts will be illustrated with current research in risk-based assessment of climate adaptation engineering strategies, including design of new houses in Australia subject to cyclones and extreme wind events. Small improvements to house designs at a one-off cost of several thousand dollars per house can reduce damage risks by 80-90% and achieve billions of dollars of net benefit for community resilience, offsetting predicted adverse effects of climate change for a very modest cost. The presentation will highlight that there is much to be optimistic about the future, and in the ability of risk-based thinking to meet many kinds of challenges to constructed works. Additional information and link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/4r23ntaj>



## SAVE THE DATE! EPIC Golf Outing Friday, September 27th

Each year, the participation and support of our members in the EPIC Golf Outing provides important funding for LVASCE/PSPE student scholarships and educational outreach, so please consider setting this day aside on your calendar now. THANK YOU for your past participation, and see you in September!

## SECTION NEWS



## Educational Outreach to Scouts

A belated photo from the winter, when Region 2 Governor **Greg Kuklinski** invited Neffs Cub Scout Pack 57 for Engineering Night at Fritz Lab. Students from Lehigh University's ASCE student chapter served as hosts. Shown here is **Jack Lambert**, Student Chapter President, amusing a table full of budding engineers. Great work all around, folks! Well done.



## 2024 Fazlur R. Khan Distinguished Lecture by Ahsan Kareem: “Swaying Skyscrapers”

We were delighted to count 147 participants for the March 6th Khan lecture by **Dr. Ahsan Kareem**. Dr. Kareem’s explanation of the history and future of computational methods for predicting tall building dynamic response under wind loading was comprehensive and fascinating. At the conclusion of the lecture, our automated PDH certification system leapt into action, so to speak, to produce 67 certificates for those who requested them; credit to **Joe Natale** of ASCE Philadelphia Section for the nifty technology that allows these certificates to be distributed so quickly. And as always, it is an honor to support Lehigh University and **Dr. Dan Frangopol** in presenting this lecture series.

### Levan Associates Shop Tour

The Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) organized a free, PDH-granting event on March 7th – a tour of **Levan Associates’** steel fabrication shop. Our tour guides were fantastically knowledgeable: **Dave Mushko**, Levan’s Vice President; **Ryan Mushko**, Project Manager; and **Dougie Schul**, Plant Operations Superintendent. Forty-two attendees from LVASCE admired the equipment and processes developed over the decades by Levan’s talented and devoted crew. Our warmest thanks to Dave, Ryan and Dougie for hosting us all, and for providing a nice lunch, besides. And credit again to **Reinaldo Salazar, E.I.T.**; **Matt Kawczenski, P.E., S.E., F.SEI**; and **Tina Gahagan, P.E.** for doing the legwork in putting this together for everyone to enjoy!



Participants in the Levan Associates Shop Tour



## Dorney Park Tour

On a gloriously sunny March 14th, a group of 27 engineering and roller coaster enthusiasts convened at Dorney Park to tour the construction site of their newest roller coaster. Led by **Ryan Eldredge**, Manager of Public Relations & Communications for Dorney Park, the touring crowd was able to examine the concrete foundations, admire the beautiful steel, and ponder some of the more complicated connections. It was especially great to have the contractor, **Sordoni**, on hand to answer our many questions about the challenges of constructing the Iron Menace. Thank you, **James Johnston!** Our thanks to our President-Elect, **Nick Giglio**, for arranging the tour and for posing for this photo in which he's pre-celebrating passing his PE exam.



## Career Guidance Panel at Lafayette

On March 25th, a capacity crowd of Lafayette students enjoyed early-career guidance from a panel of young civil engineers: **Max Beedle, P.E.**, **Nick Giglio, P.E.**, **Ian Carson, E.I.T.**, and **Mark Garger, E.I.T.** The students heard about the panelists' work experiences so far and received useful tips on a successful career launch, including opinions on PE licensure and advanced degrees. A taco bar and prizes added to the fun, while emcee **Cheryl Rishcoff, P.E.**, facilitator **Kristen Sanford, Ph.D., P.E.** and attendee **Tina Gahagan, P.E.** added their wisdom. Kudos to the Lafayette's ASCE Student Chapter for organizing the event!



Student leaders and LVSACE Board members who participated in the panel



### **An Intro to Low-Density Cellular Concrete**

Last but not least, our gratitude to **Aerix Industries** for their sponsorship of LVSACE, and for offering a free webinar to our members on March 19th. Aerix's **Samantha McNerney** introduced us to low density cellular concrete with a terrifically engaging presentation on its use, including the range of products available for a variety of applications. Case studies were especially interesting. About 32 of us joined us online, and 25 people requested and received PDH certificates for attending. Thanks, Samantha! And thanks, all, for joining us!

Whew! March was a busy month for LVSACE!

## AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS



### SEI-LV Scholarship Winner

We are happy to announce that **Xinyue Wang** of Lehigh University is this year's recipient of the Structural Engineering Institute – Lehigh Valley Scholarship. Xinyue is a Ph.D. candidate in Structural Engineering, working with **Dr. Paolo Bocchini** to research infrastructure resilience and wind hazard. For her Ph.D., her studies focus on the reliability and resilience of electricity power systems against natural hazards such as wildfires and hurricanes. Her abstract, "Class fragility models of transmission towers for regional analysis of transmission systems under hurricanes," has been accepted for presentation at the Engineering Mechanics Institute Conference and Probabilistic Mechanics & Reliability Conference. Her SEI-LV award will assist with costs associated with traveling to the conference in Chicago in May. Congratulations, Xinyue, and good luck with your presentation!

Yes, we'll publish news of your awards too! Just drop an email to **Lane Wilder** at [Lew@dhuy.com](mailto:Lew@dhuy.com)

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



At left is my trusty(ish) **dog**, breathing in the spring air and considering his next adventure! For LVASCE, springtime means elections for new officers and directors. This year we have a handful of positions open, so we invite YOU, yes you!, to consider an adventurous term of service on our Board. Please reach out to **Sean Dooley**, Chair of our Nominations Committee ([sdooley@kceinc.com](mailto:sdooley@kceinc.com)) or any other board member if you'd like to know more about these opportunities.

This month I'm sharing more brief bios of members of the LVASCE Board of Directors. As I wrote in last month's newsletter, these folks go above and beyond for the benefit of our entire community as well as for the profession of civil engineering. It's an honor and a pleasure to serve alongside them on the Board. Interested in becoming involved with LVASCE? Reach out to any of us. You'll be glad you did.



### **Matt Evans, P.E.**

**Matt Evans** is a Professional Engineer and works as a Civil/Municipal Engineer for **Keystone Consulting Engineers** and has recently taken on the role as ASCE Lehigh Valley YMF President. What he enjoys most about his Civil Engineer career is bringing to life new facilities for the public to enjoy! Matt lives in Upper Mount Bethel with his wife, **Tori**, and their springer spaniel, **Jake**. In his spare time Matt enjoys finding new places to fish, mountain bike and camp. He has been known to spontaneously go off grid and

sleep in his truck to explore these new places. He is a graduate of Wilkes University ('16) and was a member of their wrestling team. (Go Colonels!)

### **Maximilian Beedle, P.E.**



**Max Beedle** is a Structural Engineer at **Benesch**, working primarily on bridge structures in Eastern Pennsylvania. Max has worked on various projects including retaining wall designs, ABC bridge construction and conventional steel and concrete bridges. Max has been active in ASCE since he attended the University of Pittsburgh for undergraduate and Lehigh University for his Masters. Currently, Max serves as a director for the Lehigh Valley Section of ASCE. Max enjoys spending his free time playing ice hockey, video games and spending time with his family.



My thanks to Max and Matt for agreeing to be featured in this newsletter! Next month I hope to be able to tell you about still more of the many volunteers who make all our events possible. In the meantime, drop me a line ([lew@dhuy.com](mailto:lew@dhuy.com)) if you'd like to become more involved.

Best,

**Lane Wilder, P.E.**

President, ASCE Lehigh Valley Section

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