2020 ASEE-PSW Executive Board Election Ballot Details
June 2, 2020

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Note: All candidates were requested to submit a 150-or less biography. Biographies received that were longer than 150 words were edited for length, but such editing did not change the overall message of the biography.

NOMINEES and BIOGRAPHIES

1. CHAIR-ELECT (1 year, 2020-21) 1 position, 1 candidate

Jean-Michel Maarek, Dr. Eng.
Professor of Engineering Practice
Viterbi School of Engineering
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
maarek@usc.edu

Bio: Jean-Michel Maarek, Dr. Eng. received his Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering from Paris Est University in Creteil, France. He is Professor of Engineering Practice and Director of Undergraduate Affairs in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Southern California. Jean-Michel is interested in active learning strategies, including flipped classes and inquiry-based laboratories. He has written and presented work on these topics at ASEE National and ASEE-PSW meetings.

As Chair Elect, Jean-Michel would like to continue the excellent work of his predecessors in recruiting faculty members from engineering schools throughout the region to join ASEE-PSW and participate in ASEE-PSW activities, including presenting at the annual meeting, volunteering, and promoting innovative learning strategies for engineering education.
2. **VICE CHAIR FACULTY AWARDS** (2 years, 2020-22) 1 position, 3 candidates

Jessica Ohanian Perez, PhD
Assistant Professor, STEM Pedagogy-Electromechanical Engineering Technology
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
joperez@cpp.edu

**Bio:**
It has been a wonderful experience to serve as the chair of faculty awards for the PSW and I look forward to extending my tenure in this position. Over the last two years, we have resurrected the two-year faculty award and instituted a new award- Early Career Faculty. I am eager to expand the reach of these, and all the awards to grow the membership and celebrate the accomplishments of excellent colleagues. As a professor focused on interdisciplinary STEM pedagogy I have become very experienced in seeing ingenuity in educational initiatives. This experience as well as my position at Cal Poly Pomona gives me a unique understanding of education and how to measure quality teaching and meaningful student outcomes. My current position works across colleges and disciplines to perform education evaluations on a variety of programs and grants.

Dr. Mudasser F. Wyne
Professor of Computer Science
National University, San Diego
mwyne@nu.edu

**Bio:**
Currently Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Wyne has served as Chair of the Department of Computer and Information Systems. He is Academic Program Director for MSc in Computer Science programs. He has been in academics for 32+ years and supervised many graduate and undergraduate projects. Dr. Wyne has been with the ABET USA for the last 20 years and has served as Commissioner and Accreditation visiting team Chair. He has served as Program Chair for CIT-Division of ASEE and currently serves as Division Chair. He is a guest editor for a journal, associate editor or on editorial boards for seven international journals. He has also served as Chair and Co-Chair of numerous conferences, workshops, tracks and panels, and has given invited talks on numerous occasions and published number of articles in peer reviewed international journals and international conferences. Dr. Wyne is associated with ACM, ASEE, and CSAB.

M. Ronald Yeung, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor, Civil Engineering
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Success, College of Engineering California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
mryeung@cpp.edu

**Bio:**
Dr. M. Ronald Yeung is an associate dean of engineering at Cal Poly Pomona. His experience as a faculty or college administrator spans 25 years in four universities in two countries.

Dr. Yeung believes in serving the larger engineering community and has been active in many professional organizations, especially the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He has served as chair of the Board of Directors of the ASCE Los Angeles Geo-Institute Chapter and chair of the ASCE Rock Mechanics Technical Committee.

Dr. Yeung is interested in serving as Vice Chair for Faculty Awards because he understands fully the importance of recognizing faculty. As an associate dean, he has developed and implemented events and programs to recognize both faculty and students. His experience in this area will benefit the PSW Section. In short, Dr. Yeung is a seasoned engineering educator who will contribute greatly to the ASEE PSW Executive Board.
3. VICE CHAIR MEMBERSHIP  (2 years, 2020-22)  1 position, 1 candidate

Paul Nissenson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
pmnissenson@cpp.edu

Bio:
I have dedicated my career to improving engineering education since joining the Mechanical Engineering Department at Cal Poly Pomona in 2011. In addition to publishing 13 papers in ASEE conferences and journals, I have served on the PSW Section’s Executive Board during the past six years as a Director (2014-2017), Chair-Elect (2017-2018), Chair (2018-2019), and Past-Chair (2019-2020), where I helped plan PSW Section conferences.

Now I am eager to become Vice-Chair of Membership because I truly believe in the mission of ASEE and want to grow the membership of our section. During the past few years, membership has declined across most sections, including the PSW Section. My plan to grow our membership roll involves reaching out frequently to campus representatives to ensure they are disseminating information to their colleagues, expanding the number of institutions that have campus representatives, and organizing meet-up events at ASEE national conferences. Thanks for your consideration.

4. TREASURER  (2 years, 2020-22)  1 position, 1 candidate

Pitiporn Asvapathanagul
Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering Management
California State University, Long Beach
Pitiporn.Asvapathanagul@csulb.edu

Bio:
Dr. Pitiporn Asvapathanagul attained her undergraduate, master and doctoral degrees in Environmental Engineering. Beside her teaching and research responsibilities in Environmental and Civil Engineering, she currently serves as an Undergraduate Advisor, the Environmental Engineering Area coordinator, Chair of the College Curriculum Committee, an on the ABET committee.

She has been an active in ASEE since 2014. In 2014, she collaborated with her colleagues organizing the 2014 ASEE-Pacific Southwest annual conference in Long Beach, CA. Furthermore, she has been volunteering as an ASEE manuscript reviewer for numeral ASEE divisions for both regional and national levels. Her role has broadened in several award subcommittees. Currently, she is finishing her 2018-20 term serving on the ASEE-Women in Engineering Division (WIED) Leadership Committee as Secretary, and her 2019-20 term for ASEE/PSW as Director. Dr. Asvapathanagul is well experienced and familiar with ASEE leadership involvement, and she would like to expand her contribution as Treasurer.
5. DIRECTOR  (2 years, 2020-22)  4 positions, 5 candidates

Maria Chierichetti, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Aerospace Engineering
San Jose State University, San Jose
maria.chierichetti@sjsu.edu

Bio:
Maria Chierichetti joined the department of Aerospace Engineering at San Jose State University as an assistant professor in 2019. My interests lie in the field of structural safety and vibrations, applied to aerospace systems in particular. I am also interested in high impact teaching approaches to improve students’ learning and success, with emphasis on service learning activities in upper division classes, competency-based and mastery learning pedagogy, and supporting diversity in STEM. I am looking forward to serving as a director of ASEE PSW section to support the preparation of high quality, diverse and effective engineers, especially in this challenging time. Before joining SJSU, I worked as a faculty member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and at the University of Cincinnati. I earned my PhD at Georgia Tech in 2012 and my BS and MS from Politecnico di Milano (Italy). I am an Amelia Earhart Fellow – Zonta International Foundation.

Andrew Danowitz, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
adanowit@calpoly.edu

Bio:
In my first year as a professor, I had the privilege to attend an ASEE conference, and was blown away by what I experienced. There were hundreds of experienced professors from across the country talking shop and analyzing student success in ways I never knew were possible. Over the last six years as I’ve worked to establish myself in this field, I have never once met an ASEE member who wasn’t eager to talk shop, answer questions, and give feedback, advice and encouragement. I am running for reelection to the PSW Board in the hopes that I can repay the hospitality and warmth shown to me by the engineering education community. I would like to work to expand our campus engagement to bring more faculty into the field, and to provide younger faculty with the same warmth and mentorship that ASEE has provided to me.

Jean Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Materials Engineering
California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
jlee473@calpoly.edu

Bio:
Jean Lee is an Associate Professor in the Materials Engineering Department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She earned her doctorate in materials science and engineering from Cornell University, and her bachelor’s degrees in materials science and mathematics from M.I.T. She has held managerial and technical staff roles in the industry and government sectors, including at institutions such as Apple, Sandia National Laboratories, and Bell Laboratories. Her teaching and research interests include the environmental, physical, and chemical characterization of advanced materials; nanomaterials; and environmental sustainability.

She currently serves as an ASEE PSW Board Director. She enjoys the enthusiasm and support that ASEE PSW members have towards students, engineering education, and each other. She has learned much from veteran engineering educators in the ASEE, and she regards the ASEE PSW Director position as a way of “giving back” to the engineering education community.
5. **DIRECTOR, continued** (2 years, 2020-22)  **4 positions, 5 candidates**

**Dr. John Tester**  
Professor, Mechanical Engineering  
College of Engineering, Informatics and Applied Sciences  
Northern Arizona University  
John.Tester@nau.edu

**Bio:**  
Professor John Tester has been serving in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Northern Arizona University since June 2000. Prior to serving at NAU, he was a commercial engineer and also an engineer and officer for the United States Air Force. His areas of technical expertise include manufacturing processes and engineering design, with additional interests in additive manufacturing, biomedical devices, systems engineering and engineering education. Dr. Tester’s research interests frequently integrate across traditional disciplines, including powered prosthesis and 3D printing of medical tools. His educational interests often integrate his research topic areas with capstone engineering design projects. He is an enthusiastic supporter and advisor of engineering society intercollegiate competitions, particularly the SAE Baja and AeroDesign competitions. He has been an ASEE member since 1998, active in ASEE in both regional and national activities. He enjoys supporting ASEE PSW through volunteer committee work, primarily through the awards committees advertising and selection processes.

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**Nolan Tsuchiya, PE, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
ntsuchiya@cpp.edu

**Bio:**  
I am eager to continue serving on the ASEE PSW executive board in a Director’s role in order to make a positive contribution to the Engineering Education community. I served an abbreviated term (2019) as a Director due to a vacancy on the board. During that time, I was able to observe the function and processes of the executive board and was inspired by the commitment and dedication of the members to the Pacific Southwest Section of ASEE. If elected, I will assume a more impactful role on the executive board by accepting a larger set of responsibilities and remain flexible in order to aid the board in the most effective manner. Having served on the executive board already, I am confident that I will be able to hit the ground running and make an impactful contribution starting day 1.

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6. **WEBMASTER** (2 years, 2020-22)  **1 position, 1 candidate**

**Kelli Horner**  
MESA Director/STEM Center Coordinator &  
Engineering Instructor  
Cabrillo College  
kehorn@cabrillo.edu

**Bio:**  
Kelli Horner has been a professional member of ASEE since January 2012. She has been the ASEE PSW Webmaster for two consecutive terms. She is currently employed at Cabrillo College in Aptos, California, as the MESA Director, STEM Center Coordinator, and tenured engineering faculty. Mrs. Horner has had the opportunity to experience learning at a variety of higher-education institutions, including college (Cabrillo, A.S.), state university (CSU Pomona, B.S.) and private (Stanford M.S.), studying civil/environmental engineering. She also has more than five years of experience as a professional civil and environmental engineer. After ten years of working at Cabrillo, Mrs. Horner enjoys each day energized by the students she interacts with, the faculty and staff she learns from, and the family she supports at home. She is looking forward to continue serving as the Webmaster for the Pacific Southwest section of ASEE.
7. RELATIONS WITH INDUSTRY EAST  (2 years, 2020-22)  1 position, 2 candidates

Christine King, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Teaching, Biomedical Engineering
University of California, Irvine
kingce@uci.edu

Bio:
I have been an Assistant Professor of Teaching in the Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME) at the University of California Irvine since 2018. As an active member of ASEE since then, I have published several journal and ASEE conference articles in both the BED division as well as PSW division. I am interested in the "Relations with Industry East" position as I would like to contribute to the growing network of engineering educators, industry representatives, and entrepreneurs to be able to transform higher education and incorporate relevant learning modules in the classroom to develop required workforce ready skills, allowing our students to meet the skills required of our rapidly evolving workforce. As instructor for the BioENGINE program (http://uci.projects.design/), the senior capstone BME program at UCI, I have a large network of industry and education colleagues that will benefit from developing these relationships.

Dr. Rebeka Sultana
Project Engineer, California Department of Transportation, District 7, Los Angeles
Lecturer, Civil Engineering & Construction Engineering Management
California State University, Long Beach
rebeka.sultana@csulb.edu

Bio:
Rebeka Sultana received doctoral degree in civil engineering from the University of California, Irvine. She is a project engineer at the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and a lecturer at California State University, Long Beach. She is licensed Professional Engineer from the state of California.

Sultana's research focuses on water resources engineering and hydrology. Due to her passion in student learning and success, she is also involved in research in engineering education. She has published several peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings in her research areas as well as in engineering education. In her teaching pursuits, Sultana integrates real world examples and research with the theoretical knowledge to prepare the future engineers. She has been involved with American Society of Engineering Education Pacific South West section for the past three years. In her current position, Relations with Industry, she collaborates with industry partners to bring their insight in engineering education.
8. RELATIONS WITH INDUSTRY NORTH (2 years, 2020-22)

1 position, 1 candidate

Dr. Chris Beyer
Associate Professor, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
California State University, Long Beach
Chris.Beyer@csulb.edu

Bio:
Dr. Christiane Beyer is an Associate Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at CSU Long Beach and Technical Director of the Innovation Center. She teaches courses in Design, Advanced CAD/CAM tools, and Additive Manufacturing technologies. In her research, she focuses on lightweight and topology-optimized structures and applications in various disciplines, such as aerospace, automotive, biomedical engineering, consumer products, etc. Her industry-driven projects offer students practical learning opportunities to bridge the gap between classroom instruction and real-world applications. Furthermore, as President of the non-profit organization WAM – Women in Additive Manufacturing, she is active in promoting diversity in the industrial sector of design and manufacturing. In the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Dr. Beyer serves as a board member representative for Industry Relations North since 2018.