



ASCE/AGC Meeting Summary

Week 7: Gracon

February 23rd, 2024

This meeting recap is intended to allow all ASCE/AGC members to stay up to date with the events that take place during our weekly meetings!

Announcements:

1. Join us next Friday, 3/1, from 12–1 p.m. in Marquez Hall 226 to hear from Collins Engineers.
2. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES: \$10 a Semester
 - a. First Semester Members' Dues Waived
3. Please pick up your concrete hearts in Chauvenet 194
4. Networking/Social Hour on 3/28
 - a. Topgolf/Bowling: Scan the QR code if you are interested.



5. Follow us on Instagram: @asce.mines

Civil Engineering Fun Fact of the Week:

Cañon City, CO, holds the record for the highest bridge in the U.S. and stands within the top 10 in the world at a whopping 955 feet above the Arkansas River! It was built in six months in 1929 and spans 1,260 feet! If you have free time, check it out!



Today's Presenters: Gracon

This week's presentation featured Grant Gale from Gracon. He discussed his work on the Mark Wilmer Pumping Plant Fire Protection Project in Parker, Arizona, along with lessons learned during the project. Below are some notes about what was shared:

- It is good practice to report near-miss incidents as they can be used as a learning tool for future engineers.
- Gracon is a general contractor that primarily focuses on the following industries:
 - Food and Beverage Facilities
 - Dams
 - Piping
 - Hydroelectric Power Plants
- The plant is mostly subterranean, with six underground floors, and it is responsible for pumping water to Phoenix and Tucson Arizona.
- The project replaced the existing CO2 fire suppression system, which is lethal if you are in a room when the system goes off.
- Also, the entire project was done with copper piping to prevent muscles from blocking the pipes.
- One major challenge Grant faced was determining how to cut out a 6,000-pound block of concrete located 47 feet above the equipment so that a ventilation duct system could be installed.

Thank you to our presenter, Grant Gale from Gracon! If you have any questions, you can contact him via email at ggale@graconllc.com

Respectfully,

Andrew J. Hurter IV, ASCE-AGC Secretary, Spring 2024

Have any questions? Feel free to email Andrew Hurter at andrewhurter@mines.edu.