



Innovation for Universal Renewable Energy Access

ASES ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Tuesday, August 5 | 6:00–9:00pm
Boulder, Colorado

Presented by:

Jill K. Cliburn, ASES Fellow and Awards Committee Chair
With Subcommittee Chairs and Volunteers

This year, as we mark 50 years of the American Solar Energy Society Awards Program, we have a choice: succumb to the rising threats to our industry, or fully celebrate our 2025 class of awardees and fellows. These individuals embody the spirit of our Society and our movement, which is bold, resilient, and dedicated to making an impact. Given who we are, the latter option is really our only option. I hope this anniversary year is one you will long remember. Let's applaud our new solar heroes and remember that, like the theme song for this party, we are Unstoppable!

I'd like to thank the ASES staff and all of this year's distinguished Awards Committee members, who have helped to make this program a success. We adhere to a rigorous process, requiring nomination by current members, recommendations, committee deliberations, and approval by the Board. Please refer to the ASES website for details on each award, and please contact ASES staff if you would like to join us in this process. Your participation means a lot to ASES, and it builds the relationships we all need to innovate, collaborate, and solve the challenges before us.

Finally, as we launch this extraordinary evening, you will notice we have replaced our usual fundraising pitch with a special guest, noted energy innovator and comedian, and Boulder's own, Bill LeBlanc. Of course, ASES will still thankfully accept your generosity, and we have included a QR code for donations in this program.

Jill K. Cliburn
ASES Fellow and Awards Program Chair



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John and Barbara Yellott Award for Graduate Solar Research

Mohammad Elmi, Pennsylvania State University

For excellence in doctoral research focused on the application of solar technology in architectural engineering, and for inspiring leadership of an ASES student chapter.

Mohammad is a Ph.D. candidate in Architectural Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, focusing on the use of solar energy and smart

materials to enhance the sustainability of buildings. His research is centered around innovative building envelopes that optimize solar energy use and improve overall energy efficiency. Mohammad is passionate about translating cutting-edge research into real-world applications to contribute to building sustainability. Further, he has been actively involved in promoting renewable energy initiatives in the Penn State community, as president of an ASES Student Chapter.



Fernanda Silva Pimenta, University of South Florida

For excellence in doctoral research focused on the development of solar technologies through chemical engineering, and for inspiring leadership of an ASES student chapter.

Fernanda Silva Pimenta is a third-year Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering at the University of South Florida. Her major concern has been to find net zero

carbon solutions for transportation, especially air transport. Her Ph.D. research is focused on capturing atmospheric carbon dioxide and converting it to aviation fuel using solar energy. This groundbreaking work suggests a more efficient method for synthesizing catalysts that can maximize the formation of green gasoline and diesel. Fernanda is also the president of an ASES Student Chapter at USF.



Code Development, Innovation, and Training Award in Honor of Claudia Hansen Wentworth

Bill Brooks, PE

For impactful leadership in solar PV codes and standards, and exceptional education of solar professionals.

Bill Brooks has over 35 years of experience in designing, installing, and evaluating grid-connected PV systems. More than 18,000 installers and inspectors have attended his courses throughout the



U.S. and abroad. His renowned troubleshooting skills are highly valued in the field and serve to focus his training efforts on issues of greatest need. Bill has written several important technical manuals that are now widely used. His recent publications include the Expedited Permit Process for PV Systems, the Field Inspection Guidelines for PV Systems, and Understanding the CalFire Solar PV Installation Guidelines, as well as articles for the industry press. He is actively involved in the developments of PV codes and standards including IEEE-929 and IEEE1547 (PV Utility Interconnection), the National Electrical Code (NEC®) Article 690 (Solar Photovoltaic Systems), and IEC TC82 (international PV standards). Bill is an active participant on many codes and standards panels. For example, he participated in the CalFire PV Task force to develop guidelines that became the model for national regulation.

Sean White

For global leadership in solar education and training in support of PV system design and code compliance, delivered with clarity and humor.

Sean White is a beloved educator and advocate in the solar field, working nationally and worldwide. Colleagues and students attest that Sean teaches with a sense of humor and makes complicated



concepts clear. In addition to his teaching for Heatspring since 2014, Sean offers training online and concurrent with major solar industry conferences. ASES members have benefitted from his longstanding NABCEP workshops at its conferences. Sean has also been known for week-long intensive "boot camp" courses for engineers, contractors, executives, career changers, and others looking to refine their knowledge of solar and energy storage. A winner of several coveted recognitions, Sean has authored 11 books, and by last count he has educated more than 50,000 students.

Applied Solar Technology Award in Honor of Hoyt Clarke Hottel

William Guiney

For commercial application of high-value solar thermal energy technologies and service across the field of solar and clean energy development.

William (Bill) Guiney is president of Artic Solar Inc., a manufacturer of innovative commercial-scale solar thermal systems, headquartered in Jacksonville, FL. Bill has served more than 40 years as a solar retailer, contractor, distributor, manufacturer, and educator in the solar field. He was a pioneer in solar value analysis. For many years, Bill led solar heating and cooling operations at Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI). This included PV and solar thermal business development nationwide, as well as global renewable energy development. He also made his mark in work for Duke Solar and Solargenix Energy, and he was a go-to consultant for the Florida Solar Energy Center. As an instructor, he provided training in the U.S., the Caribbean, and Asia. Bill chaired a solar thermal committee for NABCEP and has been a leader and active volunteer for the ASES Technical Division.



Leadership in Solar Architecture and Design Award

Margot McDonald

For advancing passive solar design, sustainable building, and solar education, enriching students and inspiring teachers for a better world.

Margot McDonald is a full professor of architecture at Cal Poly–San Luis Obispo, a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and a leader in the LEED program for more than 20 years.

She earned national notoriety for her teaching and student mentorship, using an integrated project delivery studio drawing on architecture, structural engineering, construction management, and landscape architecture. Other teaching disciplines have ranged from building energy systems to historic preservation and advanced design. Her professional consulting work includes collaboration with Sasaki Associates on the sustainability master plan for Cal State University–Monterey Bay and contributions to planning for sustainable campus infrastructure improvements at Cal Poly–San Luis Obispo. She has been a member of the ASES Board of Directors as well as an active ASES Fellow. Passionate about passive solar since her graduate-student days, Margot asserts that the discipline lays a foundation for the climate-responsive strategies that are essential today.



Leadership in Solar Policy and Market Transformation Award

Karl Rábago

For policy research, innovation, leadership, and advocacy towards optimizing the value of solar.

Karl Rábago is a Denver-based energy consultant. Over his long career in clean energy, he has introduced numerous policy and analysis innovations, notably advancing “value of solar” analysis as a tool for solar policies and pricing. His collaborative efforts have included work with Tom Hoff and Richard Perez, as well as contributions to “Small is Profitable,” coauthored with Amory Lovins and others at RMI. He has been a Texas public utility commissioner; a deputy assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy; vice president at Austin Energy, and a leader at Pace Energy and Climate Center, among other organizations. Early in his career, Karl completed law degrees in environmental and military law and served in the U.S. Army. He serves on numerous boards, including the Colorado Electric Transmission Authority, and provides testimony for community solar clients and solar advocates nationwide



Women in Solar Energy (WISE) Award

Mary Alice Werner

For leading solar research through pivotal decades, fostering innovation in the U.S. and among global partners, and inspiring women across the solar field.

Mary Werner joined the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in 1995 after spending her early career at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. At NREL, she has served as an engineer, a team leader, a line manager, and a program manager. For over 20 years, Mary has served as a program manager in several technical areas. She now manages the Solar Technologies portfolio at NREL, covering PV and CSP research, development, applications, analysis, systems integration, and grid integration. During her tenure, her program initiated more than 100 patent applications and NREL's engagement with industry and partners increased significantly, building a foundation for U.S. global leadership in solar technologies. She has also helped build programs in reliability and standards that have helped develop the unified international standards for PV. The Award also recognizes Mary for her commitment to mentoring “nearly countless staff, post-docs, and graduate students, creating a whole new generation of solar scientists.”



Innovative Research and Development Award in Honor of Charles Greeley Abbot

David S. Ginley

For game-changing research in clean-energy materials, inspiring leadership and advocacy across the solar field.



For nearly 50 years, Dr. David S. Ginley has been involved in solar energy development, including leadership of national and international research projects. After spending his early career at Sandia National Laboratories, he joined the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. There, he has led the Process Technology and Advanced Concepts Group and currently serves as Chief Scientist for Materials and Chemistry Science and Technology. He is also an NREL Research Fellow. His work focuses on advancing solar and geothermal energy conversion and storage, including the development and use of new materials through the application of advanced computational design methods. Over the course of his career, David has had over 400 publications and 40 patents. He has been involved in advancing organic-based PV technologies, as well as in advancing perovskites for newer PV device structures. In addition, David has contributed to innovations in advanced education and has served as an active volunteer and board member for ASES.

Volunteer Service Award in Honor of Rebecca Vories

Robert Foster

For outstanding, life-long service toward the advancement of global solar equity, including leadership in ASES Chapters and on the ASES Board of Directors.



Robert Foster is dedicated to the widespread and equitable use of solar technologies in the U.S. and worldwide. His service to ASES and its partner organizations began at his first ASES conference in 1982, where he served as a student volunteer and coincidentally met Rebecca Vories. Subsequently, he has been in leadership roles for the El Paso Solar Energy Association, the Texas Solar Energy Society, the New Mexico Solar Energy Association, and internationally, working with the Mexican Solar Energy Association (ANES). Robert is an ASES Fellow and has served on the board for six years, including as chair (2020-2023). As a renewable energy consulting engineer, he has worked in 47 countries, implementing thousands of projects using solar, wind, geothermal, and micro-hydro. He is semi-retired from New Mexico State University after 25 years as the International Programs Manager for the Department of Energy's Southwest Region Solar Experiment Station.

Fellows 2025 Inductees

The ASES Fellows Program recognizes long-term members of ASES who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of solar energy and to the Society.

Members of the Fellows Committee: Chair David Hill, Jill Cliburn, Gilbert Cohen, Scottie Elliot, Randy Gee, Gabriela Martin, Margot McDonald, Paulette Middleton, Carly Rixham, and Mark Thornbloom.



Seth Masia

President | International Skiing
History Association,
Former Editor | Solar Today

Seth Masia was writing for SKI Magazine in the mid-70s. The work took him around the world to ski, and everywhere he went he saw glaciers melting. So he began writing about climate change in 1989, and in 2007 earned a master's degree in environmental journalism at the University of Colorado/Boulder, with a focus on energy policy. That year, he joined the American Solar Energy Society as managing editor of SOLAR TODAY; he later became editor, then communications director, and later served as executive director of ASES.

He retired from ASES in 2014 and returned to the mountains. He taught skiing at Vail and Aspen until the Covid pandemic, while serving as president of the International Skiing History Association and editor of its magazine Skiing History. Seth lives in Paonia, Colorado, home of Solar Energy International, with his wife Gail and a pride of rescue cats; he installed a 3.2 kw grid-tied PV array to power the household. In 2023, Seth was inducted into the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame.

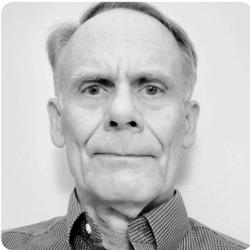
Fellows 2025 Inductees



Jennifer Rennick

Principal | In Balance Green Consulting

Jennifer has been a member of ASES since 1989 when she was a student of Architecture at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. She is now a California licensed Architect, a Certified Energy Analyst and a Principal at In Balance Green Consulting. She specializes in energy use optimization, passive solar design, Zero Net Energy, building energy modeling and California Title 24 Energy Code compliance. She consistently helps her clients achieve high energy efficiency, increased occupant health and comfort and lower utility costs. In addition, Jennifer passionately shares her knowledge and expertise through courses, workshops, and articles. Currently, Jennifer is working with California non-profit regional energy networks (3C-REN, CCR-REN, and I-REN) providing code coach support and education/training for architects, plan examiners, and the general public.



Jeffrey Peterson

Retired | New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Jeff retired from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority in 2020 after 40 years managing programs involving the research and development of clean energy technologies. The last decade of his tenure was focused on building an entrepreneurial infrastructure to move technologies from the bench to the market through the use of business incubators, proof-of-concept centers, and venture investments. Selected past extracurricular activities include serving on the Advisory Board for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Technology Commercialization and Entrepreneurship program, the Board of Directors of ASES, the Board of Directors of the U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative, and peer review of manuscripts submitted to Elsevier publication: "Energy Policy – International Journal of the Political, Economic, Planning, Environmental and Social Aspects of Energy". In his retirement, he is a proud member of the Disaster Action Team for the American Red Cross.

ASES Awards Program Committee 2025

We extend our deepest gratitude to the 2025 ASES Awards Program Committee for their dedication, expertise, and thoughtful deliberation in selecting this year's honorees. Your hard work and commitment to recognizing excellence in solar energy advance our mission and inspire our community.

Awards Program Chair: Jill K. Cliburn

John and Barbara Yellott for Graduate Solar Research: Chair Yogi Goswami, Sarah Kurtz

Code Development, Innovation, and Training in Honor of Claudia Hansen Wentworth: Chair Elaine Hebert, Mario Monesterio, Rebekah Hren

Applied Solar Technology in Honor of Hoyt Clarke Hottel: Chair Dave Renné, Yogi Goswami, David Panich

Leadership in Solar Architecture and Design: Chair Julian Wang, Alfredo Fernandez-Gonzalez, Walter Grondzik, Bruce Haglund

Leadership in Solar Policy and Market Transformation: Co-Chair Elaine Hebert, Co-Chair Gilbert Michaud, John Essig, Sampson Hao, Riley Neugebauer

Women in Solar Energy (WISE): Chair Marlene Brown, Trudy Forsyth, Laurie Stone, Karen Soares

Innovative Research and Development in Honor of Charles Greeley: Chair Wyldon Fishman, Richard Perez, Daniel Simon

Volunteer Service in Honor of Rebecca Vories: Chair Paulette Middleton, Glen Friedman, Mario Monesterio, Ella Nielsen, Don Osborn



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Please Support the American Solar Energy Society

Established in 1954, the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that advocates for sustainable living and 100% renewable energy. We share information, events, and resources to cultivate community and power progress in the U.S. and beyond. ASES has local chapters and student chapters nationwide. As the U.S. section of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), we work with individuals and groups around the world to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy and sustainable living society. To learn more or to donate, use the following QR code or visit ases.org.



ases.org/donate



All donations are deductible as ASES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN: 59-1768923.



ASES SOLAR 2025

Innovation for
Universal Renewable
Energy Access

August 4-6, 2025
University of Colorado, Boulder



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because of your support and generosity.**

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