President’s Letter

Hello everyone,

We are very excited to be Co-Presidents of the UCLA Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers for this 2005-2006 school year. This year, we have a very hard-working and fun group of officers, and we are thrilled to meet new members and increase the size of our chapter! Some of our goals this year are to host an amazing Pacific Southwest Regional Conference this March 30-April 1, to really focus on improving all our projects from previous years, to activate younger classmen to become involved with ASCE early, for everyone to have a great opportunity to build leadership and teamwork skills and get to understanding the discipline of civil engineering better and to get to know more people in the industry, and of course, to have a blast working together this year!

As a student chapter, we thrive in providing students with valuable experience outside the classroom, whether it be the numerous engineering projects, annual regional conferences, resume and job interview workshops or community and fun-filled social events. Each year we plan approximately nine general meetings where we invite speakers from different disciplines of the work force or fields of civil engineering to speak about their experiences and available opportunities their company or profession has for us. Each quarter we participate in volunteer projects such as Habitat for Humanity, beach clean-ups, run/walks, and food drives. We encourage our members and faculty to build invaluable relationships through our annual Professor/Student barbecue, project participation, IM sports and social events. Last year we’ve accomplished so much by holding an end-of-year bonfire, several field trips, bowling and broom-balling night with fellow engineering societies, and a successful job fair which won us the 2005 Project of the Year award! Our job fair brings in between 20-30 companies (catered mainly to Civil Engineering students), and has helped dozens of students find their summer internships and full-time positions upon graduation.

Perhaps what makes ASCE the most exciting group of all is our participation in the annual ASCE Pacific Southwest Regional Conference (PSWRC). Each year we bring around 50 of our members to attend the PSWRC. The Pacific Southwest region consists of 17 schools throughout the Southern California region, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. This year we are proud to be the host of the 2006 PSWRC at UCLA. This conference is not your ordinary conference; instead, it is filled with friendly competitions including notable events such as the Concrete Canoe races, Steel Bridge competition, Surveying, Seismic design, Environmental design, and the concrete bowling/Frisbee event. Beginning Fall quarter, our project directors and their team members work hard in preparing to build and design the best and most innovative project. These projects are created, designed and constructed by students and funded by students with the help of donations and the school. Each year we excel in all events, have a great time, and bring home a few trophies at the end. It’s never too late to participate in any of our projects; students can also participate in competitions such as the quiz bowl, basketball, soccer, impromptu and mystery events. We are one of the most competitive and school spirited chapters in the region, in addition to having strong alumni support.

In the past we’ve had tremendous support from the department, students and faculty and this year is no exception. We offer lots of opportunity for students of all years and we welcome you and your friends to all our functions. Check out our website at www.seas.ucla.edu/asce for upcoming events and feel free to drop an email at asce@seas.ucla.edu. See you soon! - Grace Uang & Jinny Huang, ASCE Co-Presidents
ASCE Conference 2006

ASCE plans many activities ranging from socials to volunteer work, but one of its main focuses is the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference. Conference lasts for three days, and is usually at the end of spring break. This year, the conference will be hosted by UCLA, so we are definitely putting in 100% effort to make it a success. During conference, at least 15 schools from Hawaii, Nevada, Arizona, and Southern California come and participate in the many engineering events. Last year, UCLA placed 6th overall, but we won first place in concrete bowling, 3rd place in land surveying, and 3rd place overall in canoeing (with 5 other prizes in subdivisions of the canoeing competition).

Events range in size from some of the major ones like concrete canoe and steel bridge to more casual sporting events like basketball and soccer. There is something to do for everyone. It is a great chance to meet people from your own classes and people from other schools, who might very well be your colleagues in the future. The conference offers important lessons on team cooperation and allows student’s hands on experiences. Many events are also very enjoyable to watch, such as the concrete canoe races which will bring you almost to the edge of your seat.

Since UCLA is hosting conference this year, we will be very busy and is hoping that students will be willing to volunteer and help make it a success. We encourage everyone to participate, but for those who can spare some time, please help at other events. There is a form attached for volunteers to fill out. We are also in need of financial support since LA is a very expensive place, so for those who wish to support us financially, please also fill out the form included in this newsletter and send a check to the address indicated at the bottom of the form. Thank you!

Benefits of Becoming A Member of ASCE

- Great way to meet new friends and classmates!
- Experience to complement UCLA’s strong curriculum
- Develop leadership skills
- Exchange ideas and network with like-minded professionals
- More exposure to the professional industry (which can potentially lead to internships, part-time/full time work)
- Student e-Newsletter: ASCE’s bi-monthly Newsletter informs you on what other Student Chapters are doing around the country, and keeps you up to date on ASCE conferences and seminars
- Member Connections—Students can connect and collaborate with other ASCE members using the new online directory. Enhance communication, increase the web of your network or land that summer internship or post-grad job in just a few clicks!

Project Summaries

Steel Bridge

The Steel Bridge is one of the largest and most important projects that ASCE is involved with. Essentially, we design, fabricate, and build a 23-foot scale model bridge based on rules as published in September by AISC-ASCE. It is a very exciting project, and is open to anyone who is interested, no experience necessary. Anyone who becomes involved in the project will learn some aspects of design, including how to use some structural engineering and drawing programs; and fabrication, including how to cut, weld, and drill steel. The project generally spans two quarters, with fall being dedicated mostly to design of the bridge, and winter being dedicated to fabrication of the bridge components. All of our hard work culminates in a competition at the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference, where we load our bridge in order to test the vertical deflection, and see how it compares to those of other schools. It’s a great experience, and I encourage all those who are interested in being involved to email one of the project leaders.

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Concrete Canoe

So how can a canoe made of concrete really float? The concrete canoe floats because it experiences a buoyancy force that is equal to the weight of the water displaced by the canoe.

The mission of the Concrete Canoe Team is not only to build a concrete canoe that floats, but one that will compete and win the canoe competition at the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference hosted by UCLA. Participation will give students the opportunity to apply engineering principles learned in the classroom as well as learn the team and project management skills that are essential in today’s workplace. Students will be challenged mentally and physically as they gain hands-on knowledge of concrete as a building material and learn paddling techniques at Marina Del Ray. Everyone is welcome! jkentosh@ucla.edu

Concrete Frisbee and Concrete Bowling Ball

These projects are great for those underclassmen that want to start getting involved and having fun with the ASCE members. As team members of the UCLA ASCE Concrete Bowling team, students are responsible for molding, sanding, and painting a light enough bowling ball out of concrete and fiber mesh. To do well at the conference, the team members must entertain the crowd with a short skit and show off their bowling skills with a short game of lawn bowling. Concrete Bowling and Frisbee will provide some experience with reinforced concrete.

Environmental Design

If Earth is a human body, then water is the blood that flows through it to make everything work. The environmental design project team will compete against other top universities in a contest to see who can do the best job of turning dirty unusable water into clean fresh water in a short amount of time. This project will require quick wit and a solid knowledge of water and wastewater treatment.

Seismic Design

The seismic design project is a great example of how ASCE can help you get hands-on experience with real engineering. Its purpose is to design and build a structure that will be shaken to simulate an earthquake. Competitors are scored on their building’s strength, appearance, cost and weight. The factors under consideration are the same issues real engineers face. A building may be so strong it will never collapse, but it would probably be far too expensive and large. The UCLA ASCE team has typically performed very well under the guiding eye of Professor Sabol and recent graduate Alvaro Rosales. Students get a better understanding of the design and construction process that will aid them in their careers.

Surveying

If any of you guys are planning to get a professional engineer license or yearning to learn an integral part of civil engineering, you should pay attention to this project. ASCE offers surveying class (a course that UCLA does not offer) on Saturday mornings every winter quarters. You can sit around and waste your day away at the dorms, or come out and figure out why surveyors get paid thousands of dollars to look around with a tripod for an hour. You’ll get a hands-on experience with surveying equipment and acquire knowledge to carry out fundamental calculations. So join the e-mail list to get more information by contacting asce@seas.ucla.edu regarding your interest in surveying.
The 2004-2005 academic year was a very successful one for the UCLA ASCE chapter. Our chapter’s goals for the year were exceeded by bringing in 116 members and taking about 40 members to the annual Pacific Southwest Regional Conference at Cal State Fullerton, CA. Those attending conference had an exciting three days filled with student and professional networking, friendly hands-on competition and project building, team working and bonding, and cozy stay at the Marriot hotel. UCLA competed amongst 16 other distinguished universities in events such as Seismic design, Soccer, Surveying, and Concrete Frisbee and brought in many awards including:

Concrete Canoe (overall): 3rd
Concrete Canoe (report): 3rd
Concrete Canoe (men’s slalom): 2nd
Concrete Canoe (paper presentation): 2nd
Concrete Canoe (women’s slalom): 2nd
Concrete Canoe (women’s spring): 3rd
Concrete Bowling: 1st
Land Surveying: 3rd

Thanks to the support from our members, C&EE faculty and teaching assistants and local civil engineering firms, we had an eventful End-of-Year Banquet at Bucca di Beppo in Santa Monica. Each year the ASCE student members vote on their favorite professors, lecturers and TAs and we were happy to honor the following:

Lecturer of the Year: Daniel Pradel
Professor of the Year: Kutay Orakcal
Teaching Assistant of the Year: Leonardo Massone & Sejin Oh

Our ASCE student chapter plays hard and works harder, especially when it comes to our annual ASCE Job Fair. In recent years, we’ve been awarded the Engineer Student Group of the Year and Project of the Year for the Concrete Canoe and last year was no exception. Because of our successful job fair, which brought in 21 companies, encompassing all of the many Civil & Environmental Engineering disciplines, we were honored with the Project of the Year award for our ASCE job fair held during Winter quarter. We hope that next year’s job fair will bring in even more companies and ASCE members.

With this year’s new and motivated group of ASCE officers, we’re looking forward to seeing more members, faculty and professionals at all our events including our general meetings, community services and socials. We hope this year will be just as successful as the past and would like to see everyone attend the Pacific Southwest Regional Conference held at our very own UCLA campus.

Upcoming Events
- October 11th: ASCE Open House, 5-7PM (ASCE Lounge, Engineering I 2078)
- October 18th: 1st General Meeting w/ ASCE YMF & Psomas (6:15PM, location??)
- October 20th: PSWR Conference Committee Meeting
- October 27-29th: ASCE National Conference (all-day, Downtown Los Angeles)
- November 3rd: Los Angeles Bureau of Engineers (City of LA) Info session (12-1:15PM, location??)
- November 3rd: Broomballing (time & location TBA)
- November 8th: 2nd General Meeting (6:15 PM)
- November 17th: PSWR Conference Committee Meeting
- November 19th: Heal the Bay Beach Clean-Up
- November 29th: 3rd General Meeting (6:15 PM)

Check out our website: www.seas.ucla.edu/asce or contact us at asce@seas.ucla