

THE BENCHMARK

Fall 2008

The University of Michigan Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers

Words From the President



Tabetha Martel

The University of Michigan Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is looking forward to a great academic year full of new events and amazing opportunities both socially and professionally. Continuing tradition, ASCE has planned 6 speaker meetings per semester. The fall semester began with the 2007-2008 ASCE Teacher of the Year, Professor Nikolaos Katopodes on September 19th. Our list of upcoming speakers includes representatives from Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, Malcolm Pirnie Inc., University of Michigan's Environmental Health Program, and the United States Navy Civil Engineering Corps.

Involvement in ASCE is as easy as ever this year. Along with our speaker meetings, there will be several social events, such as continuing our involvement in IM sports with flag football. We also plan to become more involved in the surrounding Ann Arbor community. Not only will we be trying to connect with the outside community, we look forward to uniting the departmental community by engaging with our established competition teams. We plan to be a link between the Steel Bridge Team, Concrete Canoe Team, and the general members in order to help build a greater network for support both for the teams and as individuals.

One major change this year from past years is the new date for the ASCE Career Fair. We have decided to move the date to the fall semester in order to accommodate the needs of both the students and employers.

We have added an addition to our board of officers as well this year. Walter Graf has become the technical communications chair for our organization. With Walter's experience we plan to update information on our website which has been long awaited. Now you will find up to date information regarding events, dates, and our competition teams. In addition to the updated website, work has been completed on a new advertisement monitor outside the G.G. Brown student lounge. Here you will also find announcements for upcoming events and pictures depicting past events.

So come by the office to check out the monitor or check out our website at www.engin.umich.edu/soc/asce to find out more about our events and how you can be involved in the organization. Check the website often as updates will be made periodically throughout the year. For those who are not yet members, pick up an application on the ASCE office door and leave the completed form in the envelope, also located on the door. Membership is free and there are no special requirements.

We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the year!

Career Fair On the Move



Colin Hepker

It's once again time for our ASCE Career Fair. This year we have decided to move the career fair to the fall semester and the date is set for Friday, November 14. Thanks to company and student input and feedback, the Career Fair was found to be a little late in the year for both participants. Having the Fair earlier in the year gives graduating students the opportunity to look for permanent employment, and helps underclassmen get a jump on internships for summer. We are hoping for more company and student turnout, so please take the time to show companies all the talent that U-M Civil and Environmental students can bring! Our secretary Juliana has been getting a resume CD ready to send out to companies attending the Career Fair.



Heather Dean

This resume CD is a great resource for them, so gussy up those resumes and send them in. Another opportunity to get involved in the Career Fair is to volunteer. We will need students to set up, help with the hospitality for companies, and clean up after the event. What better way to showcase your skills and to get noticed than working around and with the companies coming? When we get closer to fair time, we will keep you up to date on important information regarding volunteer sign-up, as well as a complete profile of the companies coming. If you have any questions, please email Heather Dean and Colin Hepker at asce_vp@umich.edu.

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ASCE Social Events

Students, grab a pen and your planner; it's time for all of our fall semester social events! Civil engineering students (from freshman all the way to doctorate students) are encouraged to participate in all of our activities. Our social events are meant to help you de-stress after the wear and tear of engineering classes.

This semester's IM sport is going to be flag football. If you are interested in playing, please contact me; we can prove that engineers can be athletes too. We had a blast last year and are looking to continue the fun! On November 14th and December 5th, there will be social nights taking place at locations around Ann Arbor. It is a wonderful way to meet other civil students and relax (either after the Career Fair or for the end of the semester). You do not have to be 21 to attend; we still encourage you to come socialize and eat the free food we provide.

On October 30th we hope that you will show off your best Halloween spirit by attending Scary Skate Night at Yost Arena. We will provide free admission and skate rental to all civil students.

The civil engineering t-shirt design competition is still going on. Please submit your designs for our new t-shirts along with your contact information either via email (bbien@umich.edu) or in the envelope on the ASCE office door (located in the civil lounge). The creator of the chosen design will win a prize! The more submissions the better, so please keep them coming. Please feel free to facebook me, email me, or come chat whenever you need me. I am here to make your semester more fun and less stressful - if you have any suggestions let me know!



Bridget Bienkowski

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Concrete Canoe Update

Michigan Concrete Canoe Team (MCCT) fabricates and races a canoe made of concrete every year as part of the North Central Regional Competition. Members of MCCT participate in designing the hull, constructing the formwork for the canoe, and researching new aggregates and concrete mixes. We will then compete in a final judged competition, including a technical paper report and presentation. Basically, we have fun making concrete float!

The 2009 MCCT kicked off the year with a promising introductory mass meeting mid-September, and now the team now has about sixteen to twenty members with students from CEE, ChemE, IOE, and NAME. The main goals of the 2009 MCCT are to increase overall finished product appearances and to organize a concrete mix with innovative aggregates.

The hull design process is in full swing with the assistance of students from the NAME department and will hopefully be completed by the end of October. With the final hull design, the construction team will begin creating router cut-paths for the formwork. The cut-paths are designed in such a way to optimize the use of the foam formwork and decrease waste, minimizing one of the team's largest expenditures.

The 2009 teams captains are Heather Munoz and Russell Hinkle. MCCT will pour the 2009 canoe in the beginning of February and we will be headed to Lawrence Tech University for regional competition. If you are interested in joining MCCT (we always welcome new members!) email mcct@umich.edu for more information about the team.



Heather Munoz



Russell Hinkle

Steel Bridge Team: Full Throttle Ahead



Tara Jennings
SBT Administrator

The Steel Bridge Team began its season in August with the distribution of the 2008-2009 competition rules; and it hasn't slowed down since. A disqualification at last season's regional competition left the team disappointed and embarrassed. However, under new leadership, and with the taste of disappointment still lingering, the team is more determined and motivated than ever to do well in the upcoming season.

Captains CB Smith and Marc Wagner are implementing a re-structure of the team's operations in order to become more efficient, productive and effective. The bulk of the re-structure deals with improving communication between members during the design, fabrication and construction phases. To aid in this, Dave Delind has been appointed director of design; Steve Wagner, director of fabrication; and Rachel Sullivan, director of construction. The captains and directors constitute the team Cabinet which meets bi-weekly to discuss the team's progress.

The design group is currently evaluating rule changes; the largest of which is the elimination of a superstructure. As senior members are introducing newcomers to RISA, they are also contemplating a move away from the team's traditional dovetail connection to a more simplistic connection method. Additionally, members are busy completing fabrication training. Once training is complete, the captains have devised a series of 'mini-projects' that will help members gain hands-on experience with the equipment before work on the bridge begins. Finally, construction is on everyone's mind. A thorough understanding of the rules is imperative, prompting continual rule review. Furthermore, construction members are actively participating in design to help facilitate a smooth transition between the two phases.

This season has been deemed 'our year' by bridge members. With new leadership, support from wonderful sponsors and lots of hard work, the team is certainly headed in the right direction fast.



Photos of 2008-2009 Steel Bridge Team:



Community Service Events



Alyssa Wheeler

This semester ASCE, along with SWE, is volunteering at the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum on Saturday, November 1st. This is a great opportunity to help teach kids about science and have fun at the same time. The Hands on Museum has hundreds of exhibits that are designed to get kids excited about science. The museum does a great job of taking many of the concepts covered in our classes, like Bernoulli's Principle, and turning them into interactive exhibits for that are fun for all ages. For more information about the museum, you can visit their website at <http://www.aahom.org>.

Want another chance to give back to the community? ASCE will be organizing the annual CEE Student versus Faculty canned food drive during the month of November.

Every year, the faculty donates heaps of food and crushes the students. ASCE is hoping to change that this year. At every speaker meeting, along with collecting all the returnable pop cans, we will be collecting money to buy canned food. All proceeds from the Civil Snacks vending machine (located in the Civil Student Lounge, 2302 GGB) will be going toward buying non-perishable food items as well.

Please watch for announcements about this semester's events in your email and on the display board outside the CEE Student Lounge. If you want to volunteer or have suggestions for next semester's events, please email Alyssa at awheel@umich.edu.