A Letter
FROM THE PRESIDENT
NATALIE SEMERSKY

Dear Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Sponsors,

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2023 Summer/Fall Newsletter! In this edition of the ASCE Bruin, we will share what the ASCE at UCLA chapter has been up to throughout the second half of the year. Our chapter is proud to share successes in areas ranging from our 11 technical competitions, extensive professional development opportunities, strong mentorship and membership programs, and increased inclusivity and diversity initiatives. ASCE at UCLA’s successes this year are a testament to the chapter’s ability to foster connections and create fellowship within the Civil Engineering community, and these achievements would not be possible without the efforts of our 44 officers and 250 members. On behalf of the chapter, its officers, and our members, I am proud to present this newsletter as this year’s ASCE President.

Our technical projects have achieved impressive successes this year, from increased underclassmen representation to achievements at competition. Our chapter placed 4th at the Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS) at CSU Northridge this April, with 5 of our 8 technical projects placing. The Sustainable Solutions project placed both 1st at PSWS and 3rd internationally in 2023. The Environmental Design and Transportation Design teams placed 2nd while the Concrete Canoe and Surveying teams placed 3rd overall this year. We also sent our Seismic Design team to the Earthquake Engineering Research Institution (EERI) competition in San Francisco, where they placed 6th technically and 5th in predictions out of 34 schools. We are very proud of our Construction Management teams as well, as they competed at the ASC 67 competition this February in Reno, Nevada, with the Design Build team placing 4th out of 16 schools. Outside of these projects, our Seismic Outreach team created two new educational programs, inspiring local middle school students to pursue earthquake engineering.

ASCE at UCLA has maintained a strong presence with our non-technical events as well. We held over 150 events in the 2023 calendar year ranging from professional development workshops to site field trips to social gatherings and community service events. This year, we hosted the largest Fall General Meeting in recent chapter history, with nearly 200 attendees. With an influx of new members, our projects saw increased attendance, especially from Freshmen and Transfer students. Our organization also hosted the largest in-person career fair in chapter history with 56 companies in attendance. Our chapter has continued to be home to an expansive mentorship program, as well as hosting community service and social events that facilitate bonding between members. ASCE at UCLA’s performance was recognized nationally as we received an Honorable Mention for Chapter of the Year for our outstanding activities in our 2022 Annual Report.

We are also proud to be fostering our relationships with faculty, sponsors, and other campus organizations. Our chapter is preparing for the April 2024 PSWS competition at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and the help of our amazing faculty and advisors has not gone unappreciated. We have also been lucky to form relationships with esteemed companies that have been graciously helping our projects via fiscal and physical donations to prepare for competition. This year we have also increased outreach to other campus organizations. From increasing collaboration...
with other Civil Engineering organizations to cultivating relationships with organizations focused on diversity initiatives, we have increased our reach while prioritizing inclusivity and diversity.

As we look forward to the remainder of the year, we aim to build on our previous successes while adding to the many reasons we are so proud of our chapter. Our motto this year is “Establishing strong foundations. Building new stories.”, which emphasizes our pride and excitement for the organization. We would like to express our gratitude to our faculty, alumni, advisors, and sponsors for their support as we gear up for the rest of the year. Our chapter could not have achieved our successes without your continued generosity and guidance.

I am very grateful for my four years as a member of ASCE, and as my UCLA chapter closes, I am proud to represent the organization to all of you. ASCE has provided me with my closest friendships, my career path, a support system within Civil Engineering, hands-on experience, and a network of professional connections and mentors that continue to inspire me. I am proud to be able to present this newsletter as a reflection of our progress, a testament to our dedication, and a precursor for the achievements yet to come. If you would like to reach out for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact me at president.ucla.asce@gmail.com. We are excited to hear your questions, comments, and suggestions. Here’s to an even better 2024!

Best,

Natalie Semersky, President
ASCE at UCLA, 2023-2024
OFFICER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
WENDY CHAU

Hello Civil Engineering Enthusiasts,

My name is Wendy Chau and I am the 2023-2024 Vice President of ASCE at UCLA. As Vice President, I aim to foster fellowship and maintain a collaborative community for our officers and members alike. Working alongside our Membership Chair, Amelia Drew, I run our Intern Program which helps integrate younger and/or newer members into ASCE at UCLA by allowing them to explore the various board positions. It is an eye-opening experience that enables interns to have a better understanding of the structure and inner workings of our student organization, which supports and promotes knowledge transfer between different years/classes.

This Fall Quarter, we had an overwhelming interest in the Intern Program, from both our board members and applicants, especially incoming first-year students and non-CEE students curious about our student organization. With 14 new General Officers this year, half were involved as interns last year, myself included! I know everyone was eager to participate as supervisors in this program because they knew how beneficial it was for them. With a variety of positions to learn from that showcase the professional or social aspects of ASCE such as Career Fair Coordinator Intern to Mentorship Intern, our 15 interns were an incredible help to our officer board. The goal this quarter was to continue having a transparent and open society, using the intern program as an outlet for newer members to get involved in ASCE and find their community within this organization.

Already, our interns have contributed greatly to ASCE at UCLA, helping our events and initiatives run smoothly. One example of the success of the Intern Program is the execution of one of the largest Career Fairs ASCE has ever seen, with over 50 companies attending. This event was led by the Career Fair Coordinator, Natalie Rodriguez, who was an intern for this exact role the year before. With the aid of her interns Jennifer Tran and Damon Le, ASCE at UCLA was able to handle this large number of company representatives while directing dozens of first-year students and transfer that had yet to experience a career fair before. Another great example is the work our interns have put into the planning logistics and fundraising efforts for our annual competition, the Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS), which is held in Hawaii this year! To have so many enthusiastic interns helping with this year’s unprecedented challenges that our officers have been working on since last school year is amazing.

To our wonderful interns this past quarter, thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and positive attitude. You are all an invaluable asset to this organization and we are grateful for all that you have done. As Vice President, it brought me so much joy to see such engagement and enthusiasm from our newer members. I love how every one of you brings so much energy to our events, faces tasks with an open mind and willingness to learn, and presents refreshing ideas for improvements for our organization. ASCE at UCLA is truly a giant family, and we are so delighted to welcome everyone who wishes to join us on our journey.

SWIPE TRAIN!
Officers share a meal with their interns through a swipe train at a dining hall.
MEMBERSHIP

AMELIA DREW

Hello all you beautiful ASCE members! My name is Amelia Drew and I am the Membership Chair for the 2023-2024 academic school year. We started off the school year strong with a General Meeting that greeted 262 members, old and new, back to UCLA. At the General Meeting the ASCE’s 2023-2024 T-shirts - designed by yours truly - were handed out along with complimentary pizza.

Together with Cassidi Harada (the Mentorship Chair) and Aaron Ng (the Social Chair), we organized an ice cream social the week after. New members got to know ASCE officers through Two Truths and a Lie as they munched on a sweet treat.

During the Fall Quarter, we welcomed 15 new interns who have been working under 13 officers to learn more about the inner workings of the club. I worked alongside Wendy Chau (the Vice president) to plan a total of 3 intern socials including a bracelet making social, a hike, and an end of the quarter dinner together. After getting to talk more with these very talented individuals I look forward to seeing where they go and am excited for the club’s future.

There are even more fun events planned for Winter and Spring quarter, including an ice-blocking social and Top Golf and tacos, so come to the Winter Quarter General Meeting to learn about what ASCE and Membership has planned for you!
INFORMATION SESSIONS

ISA GRIFFIS

As Speaker Coordinator for ASCE at UCLA, my role in the organization is to host and organize professional, industry information sessions throughout the quarter, open to all members. Here, students get the opportunity to learn more about the different fields that Civil Engineering has to offer. Companies typically include details about the specific field of work, market sectors, internship opportunities, company culture, day in the life, and personal projects in their presentations. In order to organize a successful information session, a greater part of the Speaker Coordinator’s role takes place in the logistics. By planning ahead over the summer the availability and demand of all participating companies, working through the info session-specific logistics throughout the quarter is made much easier. Publicity of each event serves an equal part as student turnout is the main focus of ASCE. As Speaker Coordinator, one can learn how to effectively organize and advertise these events.

Aside from taking major specific classes in university, it is crucial that students also gain insight into their future careers, honing in on specific fields and understanding the professional world. Networking and getting exposure interacting with industry representatives is one of the best ways to advance your career.

Within the past quarter, I have hosted a total of nine information sessions. These include six construction management companies (W.E. O’Neil, Morley Builders, Whiting-Turner, Del Amo Construction, Swinerton, and DPR Construction), two structural design/analysis firms (Simpson Gumpertz & Heger and Walter P. Moore), and one geotechnical firm (ENGEIO). I was excited to see that student turnout throughout the quarter was consistently filling the venue. Wrapping up this successful quarter, I hope to continue to expand the variety of fields included in the information sessions for the Winter and Spring quarters. Some fields of work I plan on organizing include hydrology and transportation along with previous fields: construction management, structural engineering, and geotechnical scopes.
Hi, my name is Ella Lee and I am ASCE at UCLA’s Professional Outreach Chair for the 2023-24 academic year. As Professional Outreach Chair, my responsibilities primarily consist of providing members with opportunities to gain exposure to and experience within the industry of civil engineering, such as through alumni events and the Industry Shadow Program. This past Fall Quarter, ASCE hosted various professional development events to achieve this goal. After a bit of a late start to the quarter, we had our first Alumni Day in the Life session which allows our students to get a glimpse of what life after graduation might look like, and how best to prepare now. ASCE also rekindled an old friendship by organizing a joint visit with EERI-SEASOASA to Saiful Bouquet’s office located in downtown Los Angeles. The lovely representatives from Saiful Bouquet allowed students to get a real sense of what happens in the day to day life of a structural engineer.

For winter quarter, I look forward to inviting more alumni to campus and organizing a site visit for students. A workshop and a company visit are also currently in the works, make sure to look out for that!

I want to extend my thanks to Sara Abou Karroum, Tara Char, Siddhant Jain, and everyone who makes these events possible. Thank you as well to my intern, Ryan Friedman, for his unwavering cheerfulness and willingness. I am excited to show the inner workings for the position and provide opportunities to lead and plan for future events. See you next quarter!
Hi everyone! My name is Natalie Rodriguez, and I am your 2023-2024 Career Fair Coordinator! Over the past summer and early weeks of Fall Quarter, I planned and coordinated the Fall Career Fair and the Career Fair Bootcamp + Resume Workshop.

This year, ASCE at UCLA was able to host its biggest career fair to date! Ultimately, the fall career fair brought in over 130 company representatives from 56 civil and construction engineering companies. This turnout was a great success, and attracted over 200 undergraduate and graduate students.

Although there were some challenges and mishaps, we received overall positive feedback from both students and industry representatives. Some people that should be recognized for their help and hard work are my two interns, the 5+ volunteers on the day of the event, and last year’s career fair coordinator for her guidance.

With fall quarter wrapped up and winter quarter fast approaching, we have a lot in store for the winter fair. Many companies from the fall fair are returning, but we will also have some new ones as well! My interns will be taking on more responsibility, and we will improve the fair even further for both companies and students. We hope to see you there!
Hello!

I am Cole McColloch, your 2023-2024 Networking Night Coordinator. Like my title suggests, I plan our two yearly Networking Nights on the eve of the Career Fair. My job involves reaching out to venues, contacting company representatives, overseeing student registration, and overall managing logistics for the whole night. Thankfully, my predecessor established a great relationship with our very own UCLA Luskin Center, which is where Fall Networking Night was hosted this past October. We had about one hundred students and company representatives combined, and it was fantastic to see my work culminate in such a vibrant event full of great conversations.

I am currently planning our Winter Networking Night, which again will be held at the UCLA Luskin Center. I learned much from the previous Networking Night, and am eager to incorporate even more of my ideas into the event. My intern Donna Zeng deserves a massive shoutout for helping me incorporate said ideas, using her Bluebeam skills to create a wonderful PDF detailing what exactly some of the companies attending Networking Night are looking for. I am eager to see everyone dressed to the nines on January 29th, 2024 for our next Networking Night!

MEET AND GREET! Lily Glantz, Jonathan Saiki, and Catherine McGrath pose for the camera with company representatives that they were speaking to.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

REBECCA NAKAGAWA

Hi everyone!

My name is Rebecca Nakagawa, and I am the Community Service Chair for 2023-2024. My role is to plan events for ASCE at UCLA to give back to our community. This is also a great way for club members to get to know each other outside of projects. Last school year, ASCE at UCLA planted trees and worked with community organizations to put on STEM events.

Unfortunately, we weren’t able to hold any events in the fall quarter, but there will be some fun things in the works for winter quarter! I am looking at working with local food banks and habitat restoration groups, and also exploring the possibility of a collaboration with other engineering clubs on campus. I am thankful for the support of my intern, Helen Rivera!

TRANSFER OUTREACH

ALIREZA SHAGEYANI

Hello future engineers,

This is Alireza Shayegani, and I’m the 2023-2024 Transfer Outreach Chair for ASCE. Since this position is relatively new, I am trying to organize engaging events for the small civil engineering transfer community. We started the fall quarter by hosting the 2023 ASCE Transfer MeetUp, which introduced new transfers to other transfers as well as 2nd-year transfer students. During this event, I had the opportunity to get to know our transfers on a personal level and share some tips on how to make the best of their education and time here at UCLA. I also went over the resources available to transfer students at UCLA and ASCE in particular. As a transfer student, course planning always felt like a confusing process to me. Thus, the second half of our discussion focused on answering students’ questions when it comes to planning courses, selecting a capstone class, and expectations for their last two years as undergraduate students. Civil engineering is a broad major and understanding the requirements of each path was a major part of our discussion. I also want to thank my Intern, Justin Chan, who helped organize and advertise the event. I look forward to hosting more informative and more fun events and I hope you all have an amazing winter quarter.
SOCIAL

AARON NG

This Fall Quarter we had plenty of events to start off our year right! We started off with our CEE 1 Ice Cream Social, where we had our freshman members team up for some trivia about our officers to win some sweet treats. Next, Professor Stewart hosted our annual Fall Quarter Student-Professor BBQ, where we had some delicious Rutt’s Hawaiian Catering. This was the weekend of Halloween and we had some members show up in costumes, spooky! The very next day, we had our ASCE Student-Alumni Tailgate at the Rose Bowl against CSU Boulder. We had high attendance and catering from Dickey’s BBQ Pit and Mendocino Farms. A couple weeks later, I hosted hot pot at my apartment and I’m hoping it will become a consistent event, as everyone seemed to be having a great time! I am truly looking forward to what the next quarter holds for ASCE - until then!

STUDENT-PROFESSOR BARBECUE
Students and professors enjoy barbecue together one evening in fall quarter.

GO BRUINS!
UCLA ASCE members show their Bruin pride at the student-alumni tailgate.

WINTERTIME MEAL
ASCE members cook and enjoy hot pot together to welcome the winter days!
ATHLETICS

AIDAN NGO

As athletics director, my main responsibilities are to help plan athletics events and manage the intramural teams for ASCE. This fall I helped in the execution of the Colorado alumni tailgate, as well as the USC tailgate, which had a combined number of 80 attendees. I also managed the ultimate frisbee IM team and oversaw the creation of a fantasy basketball league, where people draft and manage a team of players for several weeks.

In the winter I plan to host more events, such as some sports tournaments and challenges encouraging ASCE members to be more active, each with their own respective prizes. I will also continue to run the IM teams with basketball, soccer, and dodgeball. With my background in basketball, I will implement rotations, plays, and strategies that I believe will not only allow players to have more fun but will ultimately contribute to success on the court.

Towards the end of the school year, I will host the annual March Madness bracket, where students are able to submit their predictions for the infamous NCAA college basketball March Madness tournament. Finally, I will oversee the UCLA ASCE sports teams over in Hawaii during PSWS, managing the players and rallying supporters.

LETS GO ASCE!
The ASCE intramural basketball team snap a photo before shooting some hoops.

ON THE FIELD
Members of the ultimate frisbee team are caught in action during a game.

TRIUMPH OF THE BRUINS
Kaeli Tam, Marissa Padua, Ryan Humphrey, and James DeLong show their UCLA spirit at the ASCE tailgate.
FUNDRAISING

LAUREN LEE AND KAEKA BIROZY

Co Fundraising chairs Kaela Birozy and Lauren Lee hosted one fundraising event this Fall Quarter and worked on developing the bulk of our Spark Fundraising campaign which will launch Week 2 Winter Quarter. For our event this quarter, we had a fundraiser at just boba which was hosted after mentorship reveal. We had great turnout but the commenting system was not ideal because several people forgot or had a hard time finding it. If we host another fundraiser like this next quarter, we will be sure to emphasize extra to add ASCE in the comments or use a different sponsor who has a better system. For the spark fundraiser, we wrote all the contents for the website. Additionally we filmed and collected all the footage for the Spark video that accompanies the website contents.

WE WANT JUST BOBA
Because who doesn't love boba?
Fundraising directors Lauren and Kaela host a Just Boba fundraiser to bring in funds for the club.

CREATING A SPARK IN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORLD
Verna Chen, Issac Fukumura and his intern assist Lauren and Kaela with filming a promotional video for ASCE’s Spark crowdfunding campaign for PSWS 2024 in Hawaii.
Hi everyone! My name is Cassidi Harada and I am the 2023-2024 Mentorship Chair! Mentorship is a way for students to meet new people and form friendships. The theme for this year, following the long-standing tradition, is boba! Grabbing boba with friends is an easy, fun, and tasty way for students to bond with others. This year, mentorship should be easy and fun, as students make friends and build a community with each other.

This Fall Quarter has seen three families hold fun socials and grow together. The quarter started with Speed Dating events, which gave students a chance to meet others and find a mentor or mentee. At Mentorship Reveal, participants met their mentor or mentee, found their families, and created their family shields. Throughout the quarter, each family held events for their members, including a basketball social, spaghetti and tacos dinner, and a dorm dining hall dinner.

Mentorship held two program-wide socials. My intern, Emily Hoang, planned and coordinated a Mentorship Game Night. Members played games, made friendship bracelets, and crafted clay animals. The Mentorship Holiday Potluck and Talent Show closed out the quarter with good food, provided by the families, and an entertaining show. With the success of Fall Quarter, I am excited for what's to come!

MENTORSHIP POTLUCK
Mentorship families come together at the end of the quarter to enjoy a potluck dinner before finals!
WHERE THERE’S FOOD, THERE’S FAMILY
Members of the Le Boba-Fest James-Pudd family enjoy a casual dinner together of spaghetti and tacos!

FAMILY SHIELD
A shield created by the members of the Le Boba-Fest James-Pudds family at mentorship reveal.

FAMILY REVEAL!
Members of the Bo-Ballers family snap their first picture together at mentorship reveal.
As this year’s Conference Coordinator, my main job this quarter revolved around initial planning and logistics for our chapter’s trip to the annual Pacific Southwest Symposium (PSWS), hosted by the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa from April 4-6, 2024. I have been working closely with Core to get housing and transportation for our members, shipping containers for our project teams, and also synthesizing the wide array of information by hosting an Information Session in late November.

None of this work would have been possible without the hard work of my interns, Katie and Cassandra, who have been very diligent in researching and reaching out to potential Hawaiian companies for everything ranging from cars to catering.

I have also been able to work with Kaela and Lauren, our fundraising chairs, on our SPARK campaign that will launch this January in an attempt to decrease the overall cost of attendance per person. This will ensure that as many ASCE at UCLA members have the opportunity to attend PSWS no matter their financial situation. Any contribution to this campaign would be greatly appreciated and would go towards offsetting the cost of any and all facets of this trip’s logistics, as laid out above.

I am very impressed with the amount of work we have already done in preparation for this year’s PSWS, and I can’t wait to continue and finalize these details next quarter. I know all the project teams have been working extremely hard this quarter and I will continue to strive to give them all the best chance to showcase their work this coming April.

GO BRUINS!

After a hearty banquet, ASCE at UCLA proudly celebrates the 5 teams that placed overall in PSWS 2023! Hoping to continue our winning streak this year at the University of Hawaii at Manoa!
Members of the Concrete Canoe Project at UCLA design, construct, test, and race a 19-foot canoe made of concrete. Due to PSWS being held at the University of Hawaii, Manoa this year, Concrete Canoe’s entire schedule was expedited to prepare for the event. Whereas previous Casting Days have been held during winter quarter, this year’s Casting Day was moved up to fall quarter to make up for time lost to shipping. Looking to improve on last year’s third place finish at our regional competition, we casted this year’s canoe, Windwaker, on December 2nd.

With the start of the quarter being dedicated to taking inventory and organizing our workspace, we gained a better understanding of our available resources while improving on our efficiency. Throughout this, project leadership explained each step to provide members with a practical understanding of the general technical aspects of this project. Our aesthetics team established an adventurous and whimsical theme for this year’s canoe: The WindWaker, lightly inspired by the classic Legend of Zelda game. Without sacrificing our concrete’s strength, our mix team has designed a lightweight mix fitting the new competition rules that place a limit on the proportion of cement that can be used based on the total mass of our cementation materials. Finally, our structural/hull design team finalized our hull shape, using 3-D and flow modeling to test stability, stresses, and hydrodynamics. Into the winter break, our team will be working on our Project Proposal, Mix Design Sheets, and Materials Notebook for the upcoming competition.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, the team eagerly anticipates sanding, sealing, staining, and adding the finishing touches to Windwaker. Collaboration with the finalized paddling team is on the horizon, and they are excited about navigating the Hawaiian waters in the spring. The UCLA Concrete Canoe Project is poised for another successful and innovative year, driven by a passion for engineering excellence and a commitment to pushing boundaries in concrete canoe design.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

MICHELE TSUJIMOTO

ASCE’s Construction Management Team is a project where students can learn all about construction management from topics in scheduling, estimating, logistics, modeling, etc. It is a great way for students to get hands-on-experiences in construction management while getting to work directly with construction management companies. We have 4 teams: Concrete Solutions, Design Build, Mixed Use, & Sustainability. These teams are headed by Jennifer Juarez, Kaela Birozy, Liana Ahyuen, & Kenneth Jeon, respectively, and overseen by Project Manager, Michele Tsujimoto. We compete annually in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Competition held in Reno, NV.

So far, we have had a really exciting fall quarter! We started the quarter with a series of workdays for newer interested students to introduce them to various construction management topics: scheduling, estimating, Bluebeam basics, CM internships, etc. These workdays allowed newer students to see which teams and roles they would be interested in joining. Then about halfway through the fall quarter, we interviewed and selected students who had applied to fill in the open spots on our 4 teams. We were able to select some really bright and passionate students who are going to be strong members of our teams and hopefully future team leaders. We were able to introduce these newer members to the rest of the team at a fun Meet the Team social where we ate dinner and played broomball together. It was a great way for our whole team to bond together.

One of the most exciting parts of this quarter was that all 4 of our teams were able to begin prepping for competition way earlier than ever before. All of our teams had weekly fall quarter workdays as well as some teams were even able to have their first “dry run” where they got to practice the competition the whole way through. I am so grateful that the majority of our teams have been getting help from industry coaches which have been a huge help. All of this earlier work in the fall than usual makes me as PM really hopeful and excited for our prospects at competition this year. I know that we will do great and even if not, we at least worked very hard and had alot of fun. I am excited to hit the ground running once winter quarter starts!

BROOMBALLIN’ CM team members form a bond on the ice skating rink!
Hello! Our names are Caden Smith and Theo Nguyen, and we are this year’s project managers for the Environmental Design project. Environmental Design (or Enviro, for short) aims to create a fully functional filtration system that turns contaminated wastewater into potable and drinkable water. Our team competes annually at PSWS, which is excitedly being hosted in Hawaii this year! Speaking of competition, we are proud to announce that our project placed 2nd overall this past PSWS at CSU Northridge!

Our workdays this quarter were mainly focused on catching our members up to speed on the technical aspects of the project. Through workdays, we’ve been able to give presentations on lab safety, water treatment fundamentals, and also offer class planning advice for the water and environmental tracks in civil engineering. Our CEE1 Workshop this year was a hit for both our project members and incoming civil freshman, as they were able to construct their own miniature water filters and see their results in real time! In addition to traditional workdays, we have also been able to host a few socials, including a picnic at Janss steps and a casual basketball scrimmage on the Hill!

Unfortunately, our project rules have still yet to be released for PSWS. Despite this, our team has been working very hard to keep members engaged and excited for the upcoming quarter ahead. Stay tuned, as we are very hopeful for an engaging, hands-on experience for our members this upcoming calendar year!
GeoWall is a competitive project in which we design and build a small-scale, mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining wall out of kraft paper designed to hold back 500 lbs. of sand. It is the only undergraduate level project at UCLA that focuses on geotechnical engineering. Our design strives to use the least amount of paper possible to support the retained soil and design loads. The competition rules change yearly and are meant to challenge students’ ability to come up with innovative solutions. This year, we were tasked with designing a soil-nail wall that can withstand a vertically applied load with a tunnel going through the backfill.

This quarter, we have been busy working on this year’s new design: we built a new box, conducted several lab tests, and have been relearning and improving the build strategies from previous years by performing practice builds of our old walls. This was made possible thanks to our enthusiastic GeoWall project members’ hard work and dedication! Next quarter we will continue working on our wall design as we prepare to compete at our regional competition, PSWS, in Hawaii. Our GeoWall team is also looking forward to attending Geo-Congress in Vancouver, Canada during winter quarter. Our new project leadership includes Mia Felitti as project manager, Molly Corbin as lab director, Amy McGowan as managerial director, and Ella Lee as financial director. We are incredibly excited to be back and we look forward to the new experiences and memories that we will make this year!

WE’RE A STAR!
GeoWall members show their strong bond by creating a ten-sided star with their hands!
Seismic Design revolves around structural and earthquake engineering principles and is a project that competes annually at the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute’s Seismic Design Competition (EERI SDC). Objectives include designing, modeling, and constructing a 5-foot tall balsa wood structure to be tested on a shake table to determine seismic resilience. Additionally, the team composes a design proposal, poster, and predictions regarding seismic performance, alongside a presentation that elaborates on structural design, architecture, and the construction of the wooden structure.

This past April, 34 schools worldwide competed in the Seismic Design Competition held in San Francisco, California. Our team placed 6th overall and placed 5th in the Analysis Predictions category. Efficient practices were utilized throughout the construction process, such as prefabrication and using 3D printed construction templates. We will resume with the ongoing use of such methods, as well as growing from many lessons learned with us to continue improving for the 2024 competition.

Leadership core for the upcoming year consists of students who have been a part of the Seismic Design team since their freshmen years. Amanda Mar is leading the team as the Project Manager, alongside Sebastian Galicia and Ashley Hernandez as Co-Assistant Project Managers. In addition, supporting them as Project Directors include Kevin Ho, Jachin Chyn, Dylan Chan, Michelle Zheng, and Marco Rodriguez. A current goal for this year is to provide new members with knowledge regarding the design, in addition to a good experience in contributing to the construction of the wooden structure.

This year’s competition will be held in Seattle, Washington, starting April 9th, 2024. After establishing leadership roles for the year, we prepared by further familiarizing ourselves with software utilized in the design and analysis, such as AutoCAD, Fusion 360, SketchUp, and SAP2000. In the fall, we welcomed new members to the team and introduced them to structural and earthquake engineering concepts as well as practicing construction methods. This year, the design process began after the rules and specifications for the competition were released in mid-October. This year’s prompt includes building zones that are relatively different from those seen in the past years, which we are excited to explore as a team. Also, in continuation of last year, we will rely on SAP2000 analysis to design our structural systems. As we build our prototype structure, we will be noting ways in which we can improve construction efficiency, in preparation for the construction of our final structure. Once our Design Proposal is completed, we are excited to resume construction next quarter and continue building as a team.
SEISMIC OUTREACH

STEPHEN CHANG

My name is Stephen Chang, a third-year civil engineering major who is leading the Seismic Outreach project this year. Outreach is a community service based project within UCLA ASCE that aims to expose young students to engineering and encourage them to pursue STEM in higher education. We do this by visiting a local middle school multiple times throughout the quarter, and we teach the sixth-grade students about engineering concepts and get them started on a project where they build a structure out of toy rods and connectors called K’NEX. Our team helps them along with this project and then host the students at UCLA at the end of the quarter for a finale day where the students have their structures tested on a shake table and judged, and go on a campus tour.

This quarter we worked with Paul Revere Middle School, visiting the school three times and hosting them at UCLA near the end of our fall quarter. We had about six volunteers for each school visit, and fifteen volunteers for our finale day. I was very encouraged by all the new members that helped out, as they were very committed to the project and were fantastic when working with the students. Despite a multitude of logistics and planning to deal with for the finale day, the event was a huge success. A total of 110 students and 14 chaperones attended the event, which was held in Pauley Pavilion. The kids had a great time and teachers that had been to past finale days were also impressed with the one this fall.

Overall, the fall quarter was a great success for Seismic Outreach, and we hope to continue to make an impact in our community by working with Emerson Middle School during our winter quarter.
ASCE at UCLA’s Steel Bridge Team is tasked with designing, fabricating, and constructing a 20’ model steel bridge that takes into account real world factors such as structural efficiency, cost, and constructibility. Last year, we participated in the AISC Student Steel Bridge Competition as a part of PSWS with the challenge of a long span bridge. Throughout the year, we introduced to our members to many crucial aspects of our project which include modeling and testing our designs in AutoCAD and SAP2000, cutting and sanding steel in our UCLA Machine Shop, and even participating in welding workshops hosted by Jaytech Welding, Inc.

This quarter, we held our Fall CEE 1 Workshop, which consisted of building last year’s bridge, to introduce new civil engineering students at UCLA to our project and create interest in competing at PSWS as members of our build team. Also, we hosted an ice blocking social on Janss Steps so that we could welcome our new members and connect outside of a project standpoint. During workdays, project leadership held a Mini Design Project Competition based off of the rules for this year’s competition to allow project members to familiarize themselves with the process of designing in AutoCAD and modeling load cases in SAP2000. The competition culminated in an end-of-quarter event where members came out and watched their bridges test live to compete for points in multiple categories and determine which bridge design was the winner! Gearing up for fabrication next, members have been going into the UCLA Machine Shop during workdays to get trained so they’ll be able to help construct bridge pieces for PSWS competition next quarter.
Welcome to Surveying! Surveying in industry is the process of determining the positions of points that are used in civil engineering on things such as maps and layout plans. It even has its own section on the PE exam! Surveying is something that is seen throughout the duration of a civil engineering project, from the initial set-up to the final report, making it a valuable skill for our peers to develop. To put this skill to the test, each year we take a team of students to compete at PSWS, where we have placed in the top 3 two years in a row! We hope to keep this going this year when we travel to Hawaii in the spring!

In the Surveying project, we teach students the fundamentals of surveying, and provide members with hands-on experience in different surveying field tasks, such as construction stakeout and differential leveling. We practice with professional equipment such as total stations, automatic levels, Philadelphia rods, and so much more. In addition, we utilize Civil 3D in the topographic mapping portion of our competition, where we create and present a topographic map from a provided set of data points.

This quarter we had consistent membership and really great turnout to workdays, with many new members getting surveying experience for the very first time. Each workday involves learning, applying skills, and networking with peers who also have an interest in surveying! In addition, we had 15 students attend our CEE 1 workshop, where they learned the process and calculations that go into the differential leveling field task. Mason, Mia, and I are greatly appreciative of the students who came out to workdays this year, and we can’t wait for what is to come!
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

WANDA MENK AND WINNIE QUOCK

ASCE at UCLA’s Sustainable Solutions is a design competition that focuses on developing sustainable solutions to real-world engineering problems whilst using the green infrastructure framework, Envision. Every year, students in our project team respond to a new Request for Proposal (RFP) with submittals including a technical design report, exhibit of our proposed site design, public outreach poster, Envision checklist documentation, and a SketchUp model of our designed site. Last year, our Request for Proposal (RFP) tasked us to revitalize an area of downtown to encourage visitors and provide community resources.

For the 2022-2023 school year, for the second year in a row, our amazing team qualified for ASCE Nationals after winning 1st place at our regional competition, Pacific Southwest Symposium. During the week of spring quarter finals, our team traveled to University of Wisconsin-Platteville to participate in ASCE Nationals. Our team competed against the top teams nationally and internationally and delivered spectacularly, earning third place overall! After a successful year, we hope to keep the momentum going heading towards our 2024 competitions.

During fall quarter, we hosted workshops on a variety of topics, including land development, urban planning/design, and stormwater management. These workshops helped introduce students to important topics pertaining to sustainability that our team uses during our design process. This fall, we were able to recruit 11 new members to join our competition team, for a total team of 20 students! This year, our RFP tasks us to redevelop a small-town, former industrial waterfront area. Some of the client recommendations of the RFP include adding multifamily housing, revitalizing economic activity in the area, and enhancing the connection between people and the waterfront.

This year, our leadership team consists of co-project managers Wanda Menk and Winnie Quock. They are assisted by our project directors Alex Wang, Citlali Rodriguez, and Valerie Tran. Our competition team has already begun the process of site planning and preliminary design. Looking forward to winter quarter, we will be advancing our design and preparing our deliverables. We are excited to see what the rest of the school year has in store for us!
TIMBER STRONG DESIGN-BUILD
CHARLOTTE WREN, MICHELE TSUJIMOTO, AND LILY GLANTZ

With our upcoming competition in Hawaii in April, Timber Strong Design Build is already gearing up for all the exciting things to come! We have been established as an independent project for a few years now and we have continued to grow and flourish!

Timber-Strong Design Build is a project where students are challenged to design and construct a light-frame two-story timber structure that is structurally durable and efficient. While taking on the role as a small design-build firm, our project aims to teach students basic design aspects and engineering practices commonly found in the industry by covering the holistic process of a construction project from the initial design to the finalized construction. Throughout the process, students have the opportunity to gain experience in AutoCAD and Revit. This year we’re also excited to introduce the usage of Rhino in order to help students conceptualize the framing that they will be constructing.

This past year, we competed at the PSWS 2023 competition held at CSUN. Although we didn’t place, our team learned an immense amount from the competition that we are excited to use this year in order to create the best structure yet. We have completely revamped our design, and are using new approaches when it comes to our construction. Our membership has continued to grow since the competition, and we are currently maintaining a consistent 30-person member body, many of whom are 1st and 2nd year engineering students.

With the variety of tasks required as part of Timber we have increased the size of our leadership team. This year, the project is managed by Lily Glantz (Design Lead), Charlotte Wren (Construction Lead), and Michele Tsujimoto (Logistics Lead). We also have a director team that supports our project managers; this team includes Vivian Tran (Technical Director), Donna Zeng (Technical Director), Christine Pelayo (Aesthetics Director), Verna Chen (Aesthetics Director), and Helen Rivera (Fundraising Director). While all project leadership takes part in all activities, each position is meant to specialize in specific project tasks: the Design Lead and Technical Directors focus on the design and modeling process, the Construction Lead guides construction and teaches safe tool practices, the Logistics Lead and Fundraising Director handle scheduling and budgeting, and the Aesthetics Directors lead aesthetic discussion and planning. These specialized positions ensure that all project requirements are manageable.

As a team, we have already hosted successful events such as tool-safety trainings where members learned how to properly use our saw and hammers, a CEE 1 workshop where we hosted a spaghetti cantilever challenge to teach students about basic design principles, and casual socials for members to grow a sense of comradery in the project. The leadership team hopes to see the continuation of this success through our design, aesthetic, and technical report progress! Members are excited to start the physical build and report when we come back from winter break, especially as they joined together to vote on Peanuts as our project theme for the upcoming year.

Overall, we are immensely excited to see what our project has in-store for us!
TRANSPORTATION DESIGN

JUSTIN LUE AND BENJAMIN LE

The ASCE Transportation Design Project challenges students to design solutions for real-world transportation issues. Students take on the role of project engineers, first identifying existing conditions, then moving through an iterative design process to reach a solution that addresses the issue. Students draft plans in AutoCAD, perform traffic analysis, determine environmental impacts, and more. The project culminates with the development of a technical report, with the team presenting to an industry panel at PSWS. Our team fosters interest in the transportation profession, by giving students hands-on experience solving transportation issues.

During Fall Quarter, the project team offered three workshops designed to familiarize students with some of the tools and techniques used for the design project. The team covered the following topics: Field Measurements and Observations, Essential Functions of Excel, and Basics of Design with AutoCAD. During our CEE 1 Field Measurements and Observations Workshop, students measured roadway geometry, conducted traffic counts, and observed transportation infrastructure along Westholme Ave, on the UCLA campus. 14 first-year students attended our, a new record for the project team! We anticipate receiving our competition rules in January, and we plan to host two workdays per week. We look forward to completing our project, and competing at PSWS 2024.

HARD AT WORK Team members work on their solutions for transportation issues during workday.
ASCE 2023 GRADS

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