

Presidents Message

2009 looks like a promising year for Colorado State University's ASCE Student Chapter. Not only does the chapter have a team of highly motivated officers on it, but it has also built strong ties with the Northern Colorado Branch.

For the first time in several years, the chapter has started producing a monthly news letter to keep its members informed. Not only will the newsletter provide articles about current civil engineering events, but it will also focus on events within the chapter.

Thanks to the help of Don Silar, Vice President of the Northern Colorado Branch, CSU and NCB will be teaming up to perform service projects for the year. Projects like adopt-a-trail and habitat for humanity will provide opportunities for students to network with professionals, earn civic engagement PLI credits, and help with the community. Keep an eye on the newsletter for updates, and remember to drop by the website.



Kathryn Pfretzschner
CSU ASCE President



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"\$2.2 Trillion in repairs and upgrades is needed..."

Nation's Infrastructure given a "D"

"Leaking pipes lose an estimated seven billion gallons of clean drinking water a day." States the ASCE 2009 Infrastructure Report card. This accompanied Drinking Water's D- mark, just one of the 11 D's on the report card. Although utilization of all seven billion gallons of lost water will probably never be realized, this amount could serve 1600 families for an entire year if it weren't lost each and every day. In total, ASCE's estimate is that \$2.2 trillion in repairs and upgrades is needed over the next 5 years to meet adequate conditions; this number has risen from the \$1.8 trillion estimate in 2005. Along with the 11 D's, the other four grades were in the C range, with only one C+ being the highest mark. These totaled to give the Nation's Infrastructure as a whole a D grade.

ASCE has recommendations as to how to fix this, but somebody needs to step up and take charge of the situation. This includes the government to the general populous - if the problem isn't recognized, it

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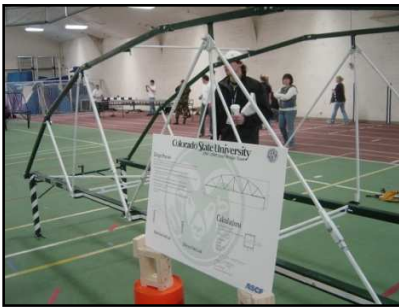
Excerpt from Steel Bridge Team Packet

Steel Bridge is an integral part of the student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers and one of the main competitions that truly defines each chapter. The Colorado State University student chapter is no different, steel bridge is just what we do. The 2008-2009 CSU Steel Bridge team conceived this packet as a way to truly keep our supporters informed in hope of truly spreading the word about what we do and how we operate. So I welcome you to the first, and hopefully annual, CSU Steel Bridge Team (CSU-SBT) Annual Report.

The CSU-SBT is a team completely run and operated by students, and all the fuss is in an attempt to make it to a national competition, to compete with the best in the nation, that is hosted each year by the American Institute of Steel Constructors (AISC). Each year, rules are released at the end of August and teams have the next 6-8 months to conceptualize, design, test and fabricate a one tenth scale steel bridge. Typically these bridges are between 19 and 20 feet long and 3 to 4 feet wide. They weigh between 150 and 250 pounds and often see total deflections from loading of less than one third of an inch. The rules change each year as does the design and the design team. The bridges are expected to hold 2500 lbs of weight with minimal deflection and be completely constructible at the competition site, these factor offer unique opportunities that are just not seen in an academic class. The real world experience each member of the team gains is invaluable and will be with them forever. The CSU-SBT takes great pride in its team. We do all of our own recruiting, our own design and drawings and our own fabrication and finishing.

This year's steel bridge team has seen success on a level that we can't help but grin at and we haven't even gone to competition yet. After having a rather brutal year in 2007-2008, we decided that we wanted and needed to be successful this year and every member of the team has stepped up to make that happen. Team recruitment has been at an all time high, we even have enough people on the team to have two separate fabrication teams. Currently the team consists of 15 members, 7 are currently seniors and the rest are underclassmen.

The main reason we have been so successful this year is the support we have had from the surrounding professionals. We have had spectacular support from the ASCE Northern Colorado branch Vice President Don Silar of Stantec, help with coordination and donations from William Welch of Wm.T. Welch Company; as well as substantial material donations from Advanced Tank, who provided 1000 lbs of loading steel for a load kit and Big R Bridge, who has provided that vast majority of the steel needed to build this year's bridge. Additionally, Sam Guthrie of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District has provided his expertise and training in the art of welding, something that has been a concern since we had a weld fail on the bridge last year.



Last Years CSU-SBT in Golden, CO.

"This year's steel bridge team has seen success on a level that we can't help but grin at..."

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will not get the attention that it deserves. The sad truth is though, that the only time infrastructure seems to get the attention it need is because of tragedy, like when the I-35W Bridge collapsed two years ago in Minnesota, otherwise, thoughts on current infrastructure seem to go by the way side. Lately though, this seems like it may change.

With the low marks that the infrastructure received, it is a good thing that the White House is looking at infrastructure as an important part of the economic stimulus package. Hopefully some of the much needed funding will find its way to the right places, and this is possible with the guidance of ASCE and the National Infrastructure Report Card. Time will tell what happens, but hopefully the next time you think about this isn't because of a disaster, a disaster that at the moment may still be preventable.

For more information about the National Infrastructure Report Card visit the National ASCE Report Card Website.

www.ASCE.org/ReportCard/2009/

2009 GRADES	
Aviation	D
Bridges	C
Dams	D
Drinking Water	D-
Energy	D+
Hazardous Waste	D
Inland Waterways	D-
Levees	D-
Public Parks & Recreation	C-
Rail	C-
Roads	D-
School	D
Solid Waste	C+
Transit	D
Wastewater	D-

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We would like to thank each and every person or company that has helped to make this year a success. It would have been, in no way possible, without the integral support of the Northern Colorado Engineering and Construction community.

For more info visit the Steel Bridge section on the CSU-ASCE website.

Upcoming Events

- CSU ASCE will be collecting canned food for charity now through March 31st. Please donate cans in the box across from Laurie Howard's office.
- The next Northern Colorado Branch meeting will be held on Thursday March 12th. Watch the website for details.
- The next CSU Student Chapter meeting will be held on Wednesday March 25th.
- Service projects and other updates will be posted on the website. Remember, service projects can earn you PLI credits!

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