November 2012 Newsletter

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- Officer Elections – Thursday, November 29th

Message from the President

Almost Thanksgiving break, I sure know I’m thankful. Finish strong in your classes, but make sure to take a break over the holidays. Before the break, ASCE has been, and will be, busy with activities!

The FE exam was October 27th. It was a long and stressful 2 weeks of cramming for many seniors. ASCE put on an after party celebrating the completion of this long 8 hour exam and was a great stress reliever with free food and games.

Fall Cleanup was also a success and a lot of fun. The lady we helped was so grateful that she made us hot chocolate and bought us doughnuts. Another event ASCE was involved in was STEM night, which was a lot of fun. ASCE also held a very informative graduate student panel on Nov. 7th. Thank you to all that were there to participate and learn more about graduate school. Hopefully this event answered questions and helped clear up some confusion surrounding graduate schools. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered; your efforts were greatly appreciated! With what’s happened, I am excited to see more involvement from our members! Keep it up! It’s a great experience to meet fellow engineers and volunteer to help others in our community.

We are having our final General Meeting of the year, and of our current officers. We would love to see many people attend. See the General Meeting section for more details. If you have any questions about the ASCE organization please email Jake Leins, the membership chair, at csu.asce.mem@gmail.com or Kristi Gemperline, the president, at kgemp@rams.colostate.edu. Check your email for more information on the latest happenings and activity opportunities. Another way to look at upcoming events is to go to the Colorado State University ASCE Student Chapter website: www.engr.colostate.edu/asce/ and look in the calendar section. If you’re not a member and would like to become one, grab a membership form in the staircase next to Laurie Alburn’s office or email us at csu.asce.mem@gmail.com.
General Meeting

The General Meeting will be a semi-formal joint meeting with the Northern Colorado Branch of ASCE. It will be held on Thursday, November 15th in the North Ballroom of the LSC. Dinner is $10 for students, $25 for Northern Colorado Branch members. Dinner begins at 6:00 and the presentation begins at 6:30. Please RSVP to Sean at sfrank@rams.colostate.edu no later than Monday to confirm your attendance. The presentation is by Kiewit Corporation. PLI Credit included.

Presentation Overview: A $17 million project to remove and replace the existing bridge structure of the Pecos/I-70 Interchange. This project includes reconstruction of the existing signalized ramp interchange with a dual roundabout interchange. The bridge replacement includes utilizing Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques where the bridge must be replaced during a 50-hr weekend closure of I-70. Pre-construction responsibilities include coordination with design and owner teams to incorporate constructability into the project design; as well as provide estimating and scheduling services through the life of design to understand impacts and analyze design options. Construction responsibilities include overall responsibility for construction progress relative to safety, quality, budget and schedule. Managed and scheduled crews, equipment, and subcontractors.

Officer Elections

Interested in getting more involved with ASCE? Want to be part of a team that will spearhead CSU’s student chapter of ASCE through the next year? Then you should consider running for an officer position in ASCE! Officer elections will take place on the Thursday following fall break, November 29th. A vote will be taken among all attendees to select the prospective officer positions. If you are wanting to run for an officer position and will not be able to attend, email Kristi Gemperline at kgemp@colostate.edu. Looking forward to seeing you all on the 29th!
Sandy and Our Infrastructure

From Smartbrief:

“Superstorm Sandy was a stark reminder of how vulnerable U.S. cities are and how infrastructure is being taken for granted, according to this piece. Sandy ‘illustrate[s] just how critical infrastructure is to a metropolitan area's economy,’ said Robert Puentes, director of infrastructure policy program at the Brookings Institution. ‘Hopefully, it will spur some action, not necessarily just in terms of huge federal outlays, but in deciding what the infrastructure needs are for a 21st century economy, and what is needed to withstand the kinds of storms we're seeing.’”

The issue of the fragility of our nation’s infrastructure is one that is becoming increasingly apparent over the past decade. The bad news: it is only going to get increasingly worse. The good news: a good job outlook for civil engineers.

Steel Bridge

Steel bridge is off and rolling! We have a solid design this year which is simple yet effective at transferring the loads. At our previous meeting, proposals were sent out to companies for support, we continued AutoCAD/Solidworks models, and we discussed the important aspects of strategic manufacturing and construction. On November 4th, bridge members visited the ERC Hangar to tour where the majority of the tools are located and space for practice. The next day, members attended a tour of the Engineering Manufacturing Educational Center (EMEC) where Ms. Mann showed us the various tools we will be using and their proper operation. Anyone interested in joining the team (it's never too late!) or just want more information about how they can contribute, should send an email to csusteelbridgeteam@gmail.com. Looking forward to a great year!
FE After Party

The FE exam was a long eight hour exam that many seniors took this year on October 27th. In honor of those students who slaved away for weeks studying, ASCE put on an after party event. This event was only possible thanks to the sponsorship of Golder Associates. This event was held at the RamSkeller and provided free food and games. Students had the opportunity to purchase their own alcohol. Our faculty advisor, Dr. Mahmoud even attended to make sure that we post FE exam takers, were not out of control, he even played a few rounds of pool with some of the students. This event was a success and we look forward to more participation in the coming years from other engineering disciplines participating in the FE exam. This event was a joint partnership between ASCE and Chi Epsilon, with a sponsorship provided by Golder Associates.

Fall Cleanup

Fall Cleanup is an event organized by Off Campus life office in CSU. This is an event aimed at helping the elderly and the disabled with household works as well as cleaning up their backyard. It was a very good way for the college students to engage with the Fort Collins community and establish a positive relationship between the people. This year, ASCE worked together with ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) for Fall Cleanup. There was a very active co-operation between the members of these different organizations and everyone participated with great enthusiasm. It helped the participants enhance the dignity of CSU as well as the respective organization they represented. We were also able to contribute our engineering knowledge and skills to the communities we went to by fixing some technical difficulties people had with their electronics as well their house. Overall, it was a great experience and the feeling of helping the helpless after the event was priceless.
Graduate Student Panel

Thank you to the graduate students who participated in the panel. This event was helpful to those of us who attended. At this panel different graduate plans were discussed as well as some questions answered about the graduate school process. The most helpful advise of the panel was the discussion of reasons to attend graduate school, and hearing why the current graduate students are currently in the program. ASCE looks forward to hold more graduate school panels in the future. If you ever have any questions ASCE is working with the graduate students and they would love to help answer your questions.

STEM Night

STEM Night is a night focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for elementary school aged children. ASCE has participated for the past two years, and it has been a lot of fun every time. ASCE participated this year by providing the kids with a great amount of sugar. With 20 pounds of gumdrops and 4500 toothpicks worth of supplies, the children created structures such as bridges and buildings. Thank you to our volunteers this year: Jake Schuch, Hannah Smith, and Kristi Gemperline. This event was a lot of fun, and ASCE plans to keep up the participation in the STEM events. We are looking forward to the next STEM night after another positive experience and would love to see more volunteers.