

**MAY 2009 MEETING:**  
*Annual Combined ASCE/SCE Meeting*

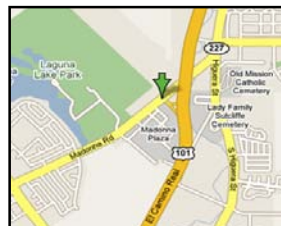
**TOPIC:**

It has been a very exciting year for our Student Chapter. This month we are very proud to highlight some recent accomplishments. The Cal Poly Concrete Canoe team placed 1st at the 2009 ASCE Pacific Southwest Regional Conference in Oahu. The team will be competing at Nationals in Alabama next month. Earlier this year, several ASCE members teamed with ARCE students to compete in the EERI Seismic Design Competition. In February they presented their design in Salt Lake City and won 1st place. Just last month, 65 of our members were in Oahu for the annual conference. Competing in 12 different events against 16 other ASCE Student Chapters, our chapter won the overall competition for the second year in a row.

This month some of our participating ASCE student members will be sharing their experiences from all of these activities.

**LOCATION:**

**Madonna Inn**  
100 Madonna Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA



**DATE & TIME:**

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>  
12:00 pm (Noon)

**MENU:**

Food will be your choice of tender slices of roast sirloin of beef (served with whipped potatoes and vegetables, served au jus), a generous portion of fresh boneless chicken breast (stuffed with our special wild rice dressing, served with whipped potatoes, vegetables, and presented with a light Vermouth sauce), or vegetarian pasta with meatless marinara sauce. Entrees are served with green salad, homemade dinner rolls, along with coffee, iced tea, or milk. All choices come with a dessert from the bakery.

**RESERVATIONS:**

Please sign up by 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Branch web site ([www.ASCESLO.org](http://www.ASCESLO.org)). Please attend the luncheon if you sign-up – some restaurants will charge the Branch for every seat we reserve, regardless of the actual attendance. If you have specific dietary restrictions or have questions, please contact Tom Zehnder at (805) 544-4011 or by email at [TomZ@wallacegroup.us](mailto:TomZ@wallacegroup.us). The cost is \$25 for members or guests and \$10 for student members.

**PRESIDENTS PERSPECTIVE:**  
*Poly Civil Engineers are Tops*

May is the month we celebrate the next generation of civil engineers by inviting the ASCE Student Chapter at Cal Poly to share their accomplishments, of which there were many this year. The following announcement was provided by the Student Chapter's Outstanding Faculty Advisor for our ASCE Region, Dr. Gregg Fiegel.

The Student Chapter's Annual Report of activities during 2008 was recently evaluated by ASCE. Based on the evaluation, the student chapter was given the ASCE Robert Ridgway Award and named the single most outstanding ASCE student group within the Society. Receiving this award represents a tremendous accomplishment as there are over 280 student groups in total. Cal Poly has received this award at only two other times in its history (1993 and 1999). Below is a complete list of awards given to the student chapter based on 2008 activities:

- ASCE Robert Ridgway Award (Most Outstanding Student Chapter in ASCE)
- Letter of Recognition for Community Service
- Student Leadership Awards (Sheila Shideh and J.W. Mattina)
- Outstanding Faculty Advisor for Region 9

In addition, the Cal Poly ASCE Student Chapter just returned from the 2009 ASCE Pacific Southwest Regional Conference at the University of Hawaii. Competing against 15 other schools from Southern California, Nevada, Arizona, and Hawaii, the student chapter placed top three in seven of the twelve events and won the overall Conference Championship for the second year in a row. Below is a summary of Cal Poly's conference awards:

- Overall Conference Standings, 1st Place
- Concrete Canoe, 1st Place (trip to Nationals in Alabama)
- Steel Bridge, 3rd Place (trip to Nationals in Las Vegas)
- Technical Paper and Presentation, 1st Place
- Environmental Competition, 3rd Place
- Quiz Bowl, 1st Place
- Volleyball, 1st Place
- Tug-of-War, 3rd Place

Even with all of their activities, tests and jobs, the Cal Poly

## MEET THE MEMBER - LANDON KERN

This month we have an opportunity to meet Landon Kern, who is President of the Cal Poly American Society of Civil Engineers. Landon has recently returned from a highly successful Pacific Southwest Regional Conference that was held in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition, the Cal Poly SCE club just received the highest national commendation possible through ASCE – the Robert Ridgeway Award. Landon and I found some time around his busy schedule to meet and discuss his personal history and involvement with ASCE.

Landon is originally from San Bernardino and was sold on civil engineering since junior year of high school. His uncle, a civil engineer in water resources, provided inspiration and guidance. His father, Landon's role model, encouraged him to attend Cal Poly. He attended an SCE meeting at Cal Poly during his first year, but only became seriously involved during his third year. Before being elected President, Landon previously served as Newsletter Editor and Corresponding Member (for which he specifically re-

### INTRODUCING THE YOUNGER MEMBERS FORUM

For those of us who find themselves in the transition stage between college and a solidified position in our industry, it can be difficult to find a way to get involved with the profession outside of work. The ASCE's Younger Members Forum aims to offer opportunities to better understand civil engineering, network with peers, and spur professional development.

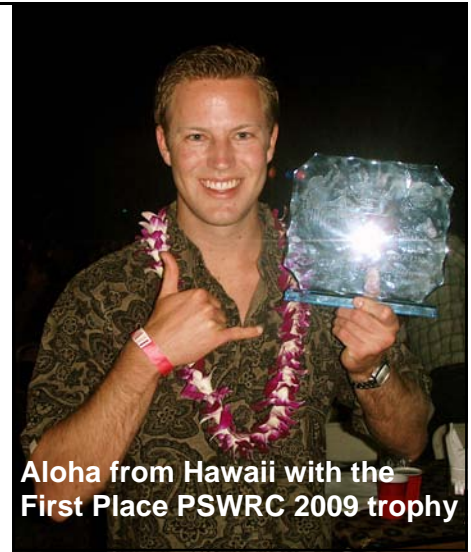
If you are under 35 years old (not to be an agist...) and looking for a way to meet other engineers your age, here's your chance! Look for upcoming activities in our newsletter or in emails coming your way.

~ Carolyn Berg

called was extremely beneficial for interacting and networking with practitioners). Landon worked for a Kimley Horn in San Diego for a summer and commuted for upwards of hours by train each day. He enjoyed the entire experience, but has too active of a lifestyle to deal with such a commute on a permanent basis.

The Cal Poly contingent had a strong showing at the conference with 65 students attending. Some of the students missed the first week of classes at Cal Poly. Landon assured me that they were investigating the angularity and shear behavior of beach sand and the performance of lava as a subgrade material for pavements instead of sunbathing. For one afternoon, the Cal Poly group rented 23 mopeds (all that were available) and explored Oahu as a moped gang. Landon got a bit of distant look full of fond memories as he recollected the awards ceremony from the conference. It was held at SeaLife Park (a marine zoo). The conference attendees were looking out over a dolphin show with the backdrop of a Hawaiian sunset. After the dolphin show, the awards ceremony was held and Cal Poly collected some serious hardware for their accomplishments – 1st place for concrete canoe team, 1st place for Quiz Bowl, 1st Place for Technical Paper, 1st Place for Volleyball, 3rd place for Environmental Design, 3rd Place for Tug of War, 3rd place for Steel Bridge, and 1st place Overall. The concrete canoe and steel bridge teams will advance to national competitions in their respective events. Landon and the Cal Poly students met students from other universities at the conference and had a great time interacting with them.

Landon graduates in June and like a bunch of students in the Class of 2009, has not yet finalized an employment agreement. Landon is refreshingly confident, upbeat, and generally laid back about the situation. Landon has plans for touring Europe with his girlfriend



**Aloha from Hawaii with the First Place PSWRC 2009 trophy**

(who he met 4 years ago at Cal Poly) in June. They plan to visit England, Italy, Austria, and France. This will provide a nice opportunity for Landon to see how different countries handle his specialization, transportation engineering. When he returns, Landon is "ready to get working."

Landon's advice for younger students is to get involved with SCE (and more broadly ASCE), enjoy it, and get involved with good people. Specifically, Landon recommends attending regional conference and taking part in the hands-on projects that are part of the student club.

Keep an eye out for Landon at the ASCE Branch meeting on Thursday, May 21. This is a joint meeting with the student chapter and the student group has a great deal to show off and present to the Branch. This remarkable student group deserves the full support of the local branch. In the event that you do not make it to the meeting, you might catch Landon around his favorite surfing spot, near Sand Spit near Morro Bay.

~ Jim Hanson

## PRESIDENT PERSPECTIVE (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Civil Engineering students do their best to maintain a relationship with local alumni and our local branch of ASCE. One such opportunity is the upcoming alumni BBQ and Softball game on May 16th at El Chorro Park. Students attend the Branch's luncheons and officer meetings, maintain an awesome relationship with their Practitioner Advisors and cooperate on efforts to reach out to kindergarten through 12th grade students about civil engineering.

In these economic times, the job market will be very competitive, so they will benefit even more from these networking opportunities. While you can always support them by donating to our Branch's scholarship program, it is also important to take the time to communicate any words of wisdom and give them an edge in this tough job market. Luckily, there are a variety of opportunities for civil engineers, but it may be that the opportunities will look a little different – a job in infrastructure versus development, for example – until things cycle back around. I join Dr. Fiegel in encouraging you to congratulate any student ASCE member you see this month on their efforts. I look forward to working with such accomplished individuals.

~ Courtney Howard

## ASCE-SLO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM *Request for Donation*

The civil engineering students who attend California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo are some of the brightest students in the nation. They are the future of our profession and the American Society of Civil Engineers. They are also the number one recruiting resource for all local engineering firms. ASCE-San Luis Obispo Chapter is dedicated to assisting those students who have joined the student Cal Poly chapter of ASCE, the Society of Civil Engineers (SCE). Our mentoring and support is valuable to each student's success in their journey through school and their venture into the working world. Therefore, ASCE-SLO is pleased to continue our Annual Scholarship Program, which was initiated in 2006, to recognize outstanding, accomplished SCE students. Last spring, ASCE-SLO awarded two scholarships to SCE students who demonstrated excellent leadership qualities and other desired attributes in various aspects of school and the community. ASCE-SLO has dedicated funds to continue this scholarship program this year; however, we need the support of our engineering community to help this program grow. Your donation would be greatly appreciated by our local ASCE and SCE chapters.

Our chapter is dedicated to helping our local students become successful in the civil engineering field. Please assist ASCE-SLO by making a tax-deductible donation to our scholarship fund by May 29, 2009. Please make your check payable to ASCE-SLO and send your donation to: **Cannon , c/o Jeff Spannbauer, 1050 Southwood Drive, San Luis Obispo CA 93401.**

Again, your donation is greatly appreciated and will be recognized by our local ASCE and SCE chapters. If you have any questions, please contact me at (805) 544-7407.

~ Jeff Spannbauer

### K-12: BUILDING BRIDGES

**What?** Presentation to Boys and Girls Club (K-6th)  
**When?** 2:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2009  
**Where?** Grover Heights Elementary

So far you have helped to begin what we hope will become a long-standing tradition where local professionals and civil engineering students visit K-12 classrooms year-round. Volunteers for the upcoming visit to Grover Heights Boys and Girls Club will have a chance to encourage bright, young minds with exciting activities and simulations. Sign up today for a chance to teach our next generation of engineers!

Students used creativity and math to engineer popsicle stick bridges for the Cal Poly SCE's Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Contest last month. The impressive winning bridges came from the "Eagles" (Lewis Middle School) and the "Inland Flyers" (home school/ high school). Their bridges held 1,127 pounds and 900 pounds, respectively!

Volunteer today! Contact Carolyn Berg: (949) 422- 3616 or ckberg2@gmail.com

### 2008-09 ASCE-SLO BRANCH OFFICERS

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