



# University of Southern California

American Society of Civil Engineers Student Chapter

## 2015 Annual Report



[uscasce@usc.edu](mailto:uscasce@usc.edu)

<http://uscasce.com/>

University of Southern California Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers





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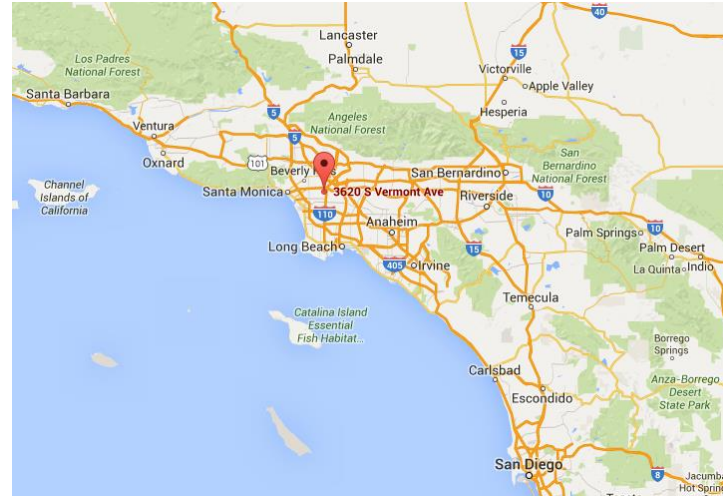
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# Address & Emails

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Steel Bridge | [steelbridge@uscasce.com](mailto:steelbridge@uscasce.com)

Environmental | [environmental@uscasce.com](mailto:environmental@uscasce.com)

Geotechnical/Geowall | [geotech@uscasce.com](mailto:geotech@uscasce.com)

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# Student Officers Spring 2015



American Society of Civil Engineers

## Contact Information

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Winston van Keulen	wvankeul@usc.edu	(408) 612-2699
Vice President	Tedman Tran	tedmantr@usc.edu	(626) 373-4390
Secretary	Sylvia Tran	sylviatr@usc.edu	(562) 477-4632
Treasurer	Vincent Nguyen	vincenkn@usc.edu	(818) 518-7043
Sponsorship/PSWC Chair	Lucy Egbe	legbe@usc.edu	(323) 383-8979
Sponsorship/PSWC Chair	Nick Halsey	nhalsey@usc.edu	(503) 752-5481
Historian	Joshua Hung	joshuahu@usc.edu	(626) 373-3971
Webmaster	Noah Cherner	cherner@usc.edu	(310) 734-9453
Social Chair	Kelly Lynch	kellylyn@usc.edu	(303) 241-4816

# Student Officers Spring 2015



American Society of Civil Engineers

## Contact Information

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Social Chair	Tyler Pullen	tpullen@usc.edu	(908) 433-4127
Environmental Design Captain	Christopher Dorn	cdorn@usc.edu	(781) 724 - 2397
Environmental Design Captain	Kevin Gibson	kmgibson@usc.edu	(630) 550-6965
Concrete Canoe Captain	Erin Yamashita	emyamash@usc.edu	(808) 497-1697
Concrete Canoe Captain	Ethan Davidson	eddavids@usc.edu	(207) 739-0704
Steel Bridge Captain	Ben Richardson	bcrichar@usc.edu	(630) 770-3559
Steel Bridge Captain	Daniel Huang	huangdan@usc.edu	(626) 427-5357
Membership Chair	Kenya Collins	kicollin@usc.edu	(310) 498-0994
Membership Chair	Jason Loui	jloui@usc.edu	(808) 753-1046

# Student Officers Fall 2015

## Contact Information

Position	Name	Email	Phone
President	Nick Halsey	nhalsey@usc.edu	(503) 752-5481
Vice President	Lucy Egbe	legbe@usc.edu	(323) 383-8979
Treasurer	Jason Loui	jloui@usc.edu	(808) 753-1046
Sponsorship/PSWC Chair	Marissa Knutson	mvknutso@usc.edu	(651) 307-1679
Sponsorship/PSWC Chair	Alex Tanner	adtanner@usc.edu	(408) 813-1390
Social/Outreach Chair	Kelly Lynch	kellylyn@usc.edu	(303) 241-4816
Social/Outreach Chair	Rich Windisch	rwindisc@usc.edu	(310) 750-7723
External Relations Chair	Tyler Pullen	tpullen@usc.edu	(908) 433-4127
Media Chair	Noah Cherner	cherner@usc.edu	(310) 734-9453

# Student Officers Fall 2015

## Contact Information

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Media Chair	Cindy Wei	cindywei@usc.edu	(510) 374-2879
Membership Chair	Saina Vosoghi	vosoghi@usc.edu	(310) 990-6603
Membership Chair	Branden Currey	bcurrey@usc.edu	(203) 550-7763
Concrete Canoe Captain	Erin Yamashita	emyamash@usc.edu	(808) 497-1697
Concrete Canoe Captain	Karina Schulz	kschulz@usc.edu	(347) 812-1799
Steel Bridge Captain	Jessica Maass	maass@usc.edu	(626) 236-8929
Steel Bridge Captain	Kai Hayashida	kkhayash@usc.edu	(808) 271-4257
Environmental Design Captain	Luyue Zhang	luyuezha@usc.edu	(626) 864-5889
Environmental Design Captain	Justine Lee	lee637@usc.edu	(213) 477-3930



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SEARCH  
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- UPCOMING EVENTS
- Jan 29  
2:00 PM - Concrete Canoe
  - Jan 30  
All Day - CONCRETE POUR DAY (mandatory for everyone attending PSWC)
  - Feb 02  
5:00 PM - Concrete Canoe
  - Feb 03  
8:00 AM - ASCE E-Board Meeting
  - Feb 04



CONCRETE CANOE  
CONCRETE CANOE  
DECEMBER 2015 UPDATE



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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PHOTO ALBUMS



# USC ASCE

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Main Website: <http://uscasce.com/>

# USC Concrete Canoe Team

# USC ASCE

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2015: Jurassic



2014: DiSCovery II



2013: SC Traveler



2012: Mystery Canoe

Concrete Canoe Showcase: <http://canoe.uscasce.com/>

# Social Media

- <http://facebook.com/uscasce>
- <http://twitter.com/uscasce>
- <http://youtube.com/channel/UCLv4BdcNJv85qEzkVR1Jmuw>
- <http://instagram.com/uscasce/>



# Advisors

Gregg Brandow, Faculty Advisor

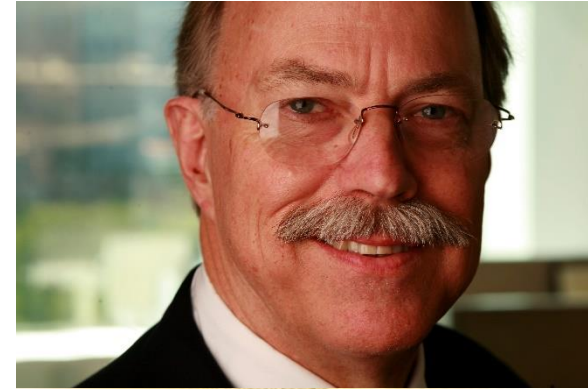
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Julian Garcia, Practitioner Advisor

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Ed Reynolds, Practitioner Advisor

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# Financial Summary

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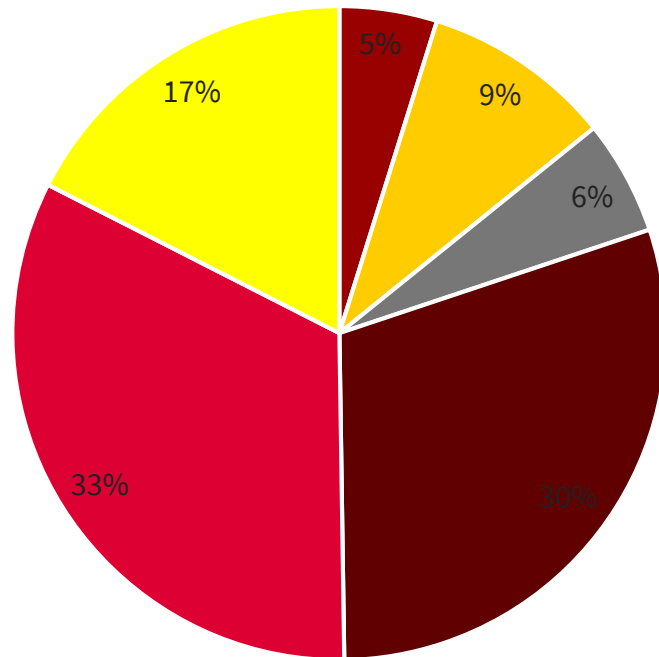
As of December 31, 2015:

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$31,687.02</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$32,253.77</b>
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$25,463.86</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$4,787.06</b>
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$5,062.44</b>

Membership Dues: \$30 / year

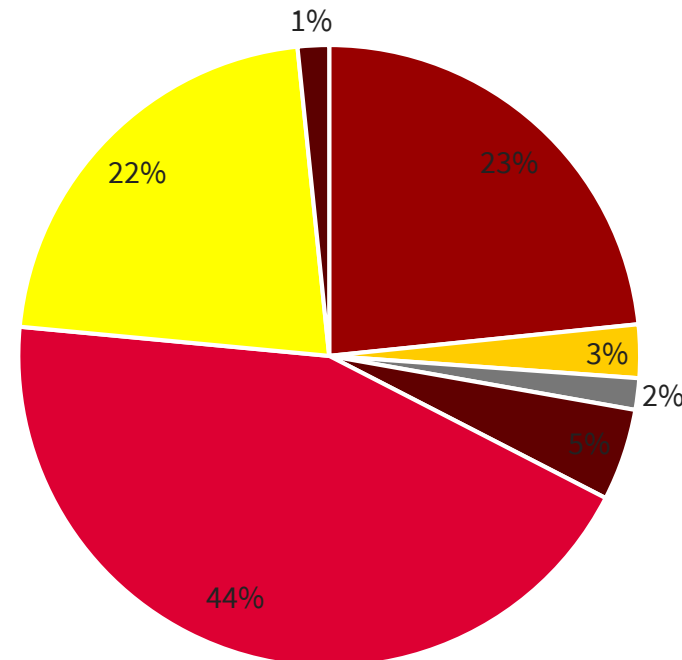
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**Income**



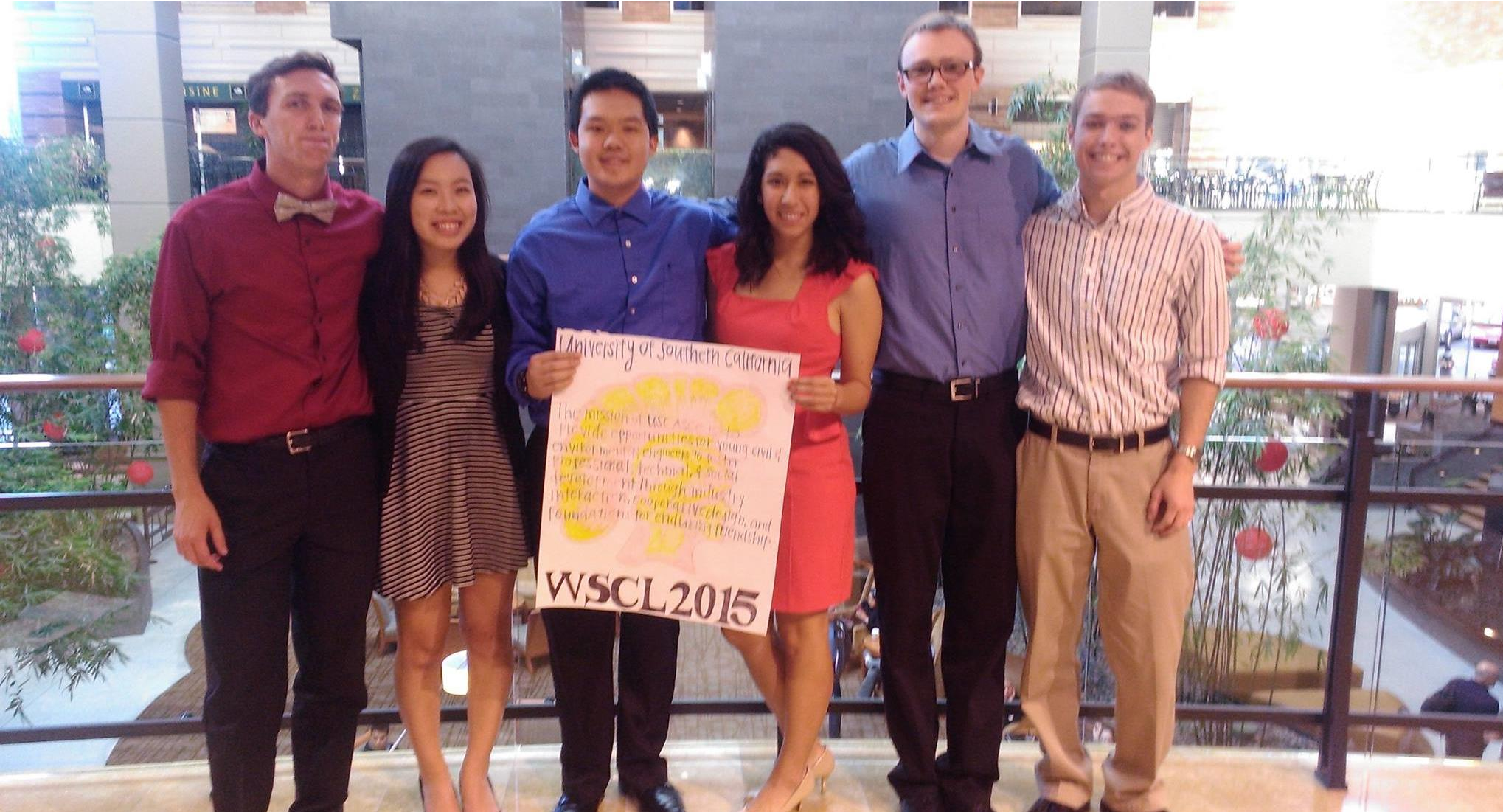
- Membership Dues
- PSWC 2015 Participation Fee
- PSWC 2016 Participation Fee
- Corporate Sponsorships
- College & Department Funding

**Expenses**



- Design Teams
- Meetings
- Events
- WSC 2015
- PSWC 2015
- ASCE 2015 Convention
- Miscellaneous Expenses

# Goals & Objectives



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# Objectives of USC ASCE

The objectives of this Chapter shall be to encourage the development of a professional consciousness, to foster acquaintances among fellow engineers, to promote professionalism, and to provide industry contacts within the civil engineering profession.

# Goals and Objectives – 2015

1. Increase underclassmen recruitment and retention by hosting a new CEE Student Orientation and building an expanded big/little buddy mentorship program
2. Improve member understanding of ASCE and the civil engineering industry, and provide career preparation skills
3. Build relationships with other ASCE groups through conferences and joint events
4. Bring at least 50 members to PSWC 2015, including at least 5 freshmen and 10 sophomores
5. Establish our competitiveness by placing top-three in at least four events at PSWC and top-five overall

# Increase underclassmen recruitment and retention

- At least double underclassmen involvement by percentage of class (10% for 2014). Emphasize active involvement in design teams and professional events as well as mentorship and social events, in addition to official membership.
- **Action Plan:** In addition to existing recruitment efforts, host a new undergraduate student orientation program for the department of civil & environmental engineering. Build an expanded big/little buddy mentorship program including a social mixer at the beginning of the year for members to find compatible buddies.
- **Outcome:** Most attendees of the new student orientation became involved in at least one civil engineering student organization. By the end of the fall semester, freshmen membership increased to 46% of their class. The new members are actively involved with four freshmen scheduled to attend WSCL in early 2016.
- **Future Plans:** We recommend continuing the new student orientation program, continuing to partner with other organizations and the department. Additionally, the big/little buddy program could be expanded further.

# Improve member understanding of ASCE and the civil engineering industry, and provide career preparation skills

- Re-establish regular professional events to build awareness of the civil engineering profession.
- **Action Plan:** organize events into three series: Industry, Career, and ASCE. Industry events include guest speakers and job site/company visits. Career events include career skills and job search assistance. ASCE events seek to raise awareness of the purpose and strategic goals of ASCE. With this structure, events are held almost weekly, rather than approximately monthly as in the past.
- **Outcome:** attendees reacted very positively to the different types of events offered. Unfortunately, many of the events featured low attendance. Based on feedback, our conclusion is that while members wanted to attend more events, they didn't feel that they had enough time based on the large number of events offered by other student organizations.
- **Follow-up:** for organizational principles, events should be planned considering these categories. However, slightly fewer professional events should be held (perhaps around 8 per semester) and they should all be advertised as “general meetings”, as these get the most attendees.

# Build relationships with other ASCE groups through conferences and joint events

- Send at least 6 members to WSCL and 8 members to the ASCE 2015 Convention; participate in at least 5 LA YMF events, invite YMF guests to at least two meetings.
- **Action Plan:** apply for funding early and seek out multiple sources for conferences. Engage potential attendees early. Send at least two representatives to monthly LA YMF board meetings to stay aware of their events. Communicate regularly with the YMF university outreach coordinator to host guests.
- **Outcome:** 6 Members attended WSCL 2015 in Seattle and 9 will attend WSCL 2016 in Anchorage. 8 Members attended the ASCE 2015 Convention in New York. In addition to the monthly board meetings, USC members attended 5 YMF events ranging from social to community service. YMF guests attended 3 USC events, including a general meeting and a resume workshop and mock interviews. Region 9 Director Jay Higgins also spoke at a meeting at USC. Overall, our members had much higher interaction with professional ASCE groups than in the past, exceeding the goals.
- **Follow-up:** In future years, students should continue to emphasize interaction with other ASCE groups.

# Bring at least 50 members to PSWC 2015, including at least 5 freshmen and 10 sophomores

- Increase member involvement in design teams and competitions by bringing at least 50 members to PSWC 2015 in Tucson, AZ. Include minimum goals for each class level (5 freshmen, 10 sophomores, 15 juniors, 20 seniors).
- **Action Plan:** in addition to class visits, and regular membership recruitment events, emphasize connecting with potential new members personally. Engage with students interested in design teams and promote secondary design teams (dog house, surveying, concrete bowling, transportation) as an opportunity to get involved with less commitment, in the spring semester.
- **Outcome:** despite higher costs and more missed class time as a result of the further location than usual, 52 members registered for and attended PSWC 2015, including 7 freshmen and 10 sophomores. All members stayed for the duration of the conference, enabling us to compete in every event.
- **Follow-up:** In order to maintain a large team, it is important to connect with new members personally to encourage them to get involved. Additionally, having smaller design teams at PSWC offers more opportunities for involvement, although this is in the control of the host school.

# Be a prominent competitor at PSWC by placing top-three in at least four events and top-five overall

- Compete in every event and place top-three out of 18 universities in at least three. Place top-five overall for the conference.
- **Action Plan:** in addition to bringing a larger team to PSWC (per goal #4), ensure that members are more committed. Assign captains to every event and schedule members to both compete and cheer on teams for every event. Less involved/experienced members should be paired with older members for events such as mystery event and quiz/family feud, and teams should meet at least once prior to PSWC.
- **Outcome:** at PSWC 2015, USC placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, repeating our 2014 finish. Improving on the previous year, we placed top-three in seven events, including 1<sup>st</sup> place in technical paper, scavenger hunt, mystery event, and ultimate Frisbee.
- **Follow-up:** to maintain these successes, continue emphasizing the importance of advance preparation and team building for PSWC.

# Membership Statistics

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# Membership Statistics

- 103 Members
- 68 National ASCE Members (66%)
- 65 Junior & Senior Members
- 90 Juniors & Seniors in CEE Department (72%)



\* Composite totals for Spring 2015 & Fall 2015.  
Class standing based on expected graduation.

# Professional Events

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# Meeting Statistics

<b>Professional Meetings w/ Invited Speaker(s)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Meetings w/ Student Presentations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Professional Licensure/Ethics Meetings</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Field Trips/Company Visits</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Social Functions</b>	<b>12</b>

# 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting

**Thursday, September 3, 2015, 6:30pm**



- Introduction to ASCE, USC ASCE, and our design teams
- Opportunity for new & returning members to meet each other
- Presentations by E-Board Officers and Design Team Captains
- Announcement of plans for the year, including new and annual events
- 64 Attendees

# 2<sup>nd</sup> General Meeting

- ASCE 2015 Convention (New York) Recap from attendees
- Announcement of details for PSWC 2016
- Voting on potential guest speakers, field trips, & events
- Distribution of t-shirts for dues-paying members
- 32 Attendees

Thursday, October 22, 2015, 6:30pm



# Career Series: Resume Workshop

Thursday, September 3, 2015, 6:30pm



- Led by ASCE Los Angeles Younger Member Forum Professionals
- Resumes were reviewed in advance and in person
- Feedback was delivered one-on-one with engineering professionals and electronically for students that couldn't attend in person
- 28 Participants (attendees and electronic feedback)

# ASCE Series: Society Purpose & Goals with Jay Higgins, Region 9 Director

- Guest Speaker Jay Higgins, ASCE Region 9 Director
- Spoke about society initiatives, ASCE governing structure
- Emphasized importance of staying involved with ASCE after graduated
- Mandatory for E-Board Officers, open to all members
- 20 Attendees

Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00pm



# Industry Series: Structural Focus

## Guest Speaker

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6:30pm



- Speaker Samuel Mengelkoch, Structural Focus
- Discussed Structural Engineering, his career path, working for a small structural firm vs. a large architecture firm
- Presented a case study in a structural retrofit of a historical reinforced concrete building
- 12 Attendees



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# Beach Day with UCLA & CSULB

Saturday, February 28, 2015



- Building on discussions at WSCL, three student chapters held a joint social at Dockweiler Beach
- Sports, food, and a bonfire
- 15 USC Attendees

# Big/Little Buddy Mixer

- Incoming students and upperclassmen mingled and formed big/little buddy pairs
- Big buddies serve as mentors for younger students, easing their transition to USC and serving as a personal liaison to USC ASCE
- This year, buddies were matched in-person at a social
- 16 Attendees

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015, 6:30pm**



# Hike to the Wisdom Tree

**Saturday, October 3, 2015**



- USC ASCE Members embarked on a hike to the wisdom tree and the Hollywood sign
- The hike was fairly challenging and offered a great opportunity to get to know each other better
- After the hike, we ate lunch at Rosco's Chicken and Waffles
- 8 Attendees

# Mini-PSWC

- Practice concrete canoe races and other events in anticipation of the Pacific Southwest Student Conference
- Co-organized with UCLA, CSULB, CPP ASCE Chapters
- Competitive and fun canoe races, volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Impromptu organized by ASCE La YMF
- 20 USC Attendees

**Sunday, November 15, 2015**



# Conferences & Competitions

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# Pacific Southwest Conference (PSWC 2015)



- Tucson, AZ (University of Arizona)
- April 9-11, 2015
- 52 USC Attendees
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Overall

# PSWC 2015 – Concrete Canoe

- 30-member team
  - 12 underclassmen
  - 17 upperclassmen
  - 1 graduate student
- 5<sup>th</sup> Overall
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in design paper
- Theme: Jurassic





# PSWC 2015 – Steel Bridge



- 19-member team
  - 13 upperclassmen
  - 6 underclassmen
- Team was disqualified for a connection breaking during construction
- New fabrication techniques significantly reduced construction time

# PSWC 2015 – Technical Paper

- Author: Sylvia Tran
- The Future Of Construction: Shared Responsibilities
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place out of 18 universities



# PSWC 2015 – Ultimate Frisbee



- 15-member team
  - 4 underclassmen
  - 11 upperclassmen
- 1<sup>st</sup> place in 18-university tournament
- Won 5 games

# PSWC 2015 – Mystery Event

- 4-member team
  - All underclassmen
- 1<sup>st</sup> place in tournament



# PSWC 2015 – Talent Show



- Original take on a popular song
- Impressive dancing accompaniment
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place

# Scavenger Hunt

- 30-person team
  - 20 underclassmen
  - 8 upperclassmen
  - 2 graduate students
- 1<sup>st</sup> place – repeat of PSWC 2014 win



# Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL 2015)

- Seattle, WA
- February 20-21, 2015
- 6 USC Student Attendees



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# ASCE 2015 Convention

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- New York, NY
- October 10-14, 2015
- 8 USC Students





# Special Project – New Undergraduate CEE Student Orientation

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# Special Project – New Undergraduate CEE Student Orientation



## Sessions

- USC CEE Department Overview
- Industry Overview
- Career Paths - Alumni Panel
- Networking Lunch
- CEE Majors/Emphases
- Student Organization Presentations

- Description
  - Increase new student integration with the department and provide an overview of the civil engineering field
  - Designed to connect students with resources ranging from department advisors and faculty researchers to student organizations
  - Saturday, August 29, 2015, 10am – 2pm
- Engineering component
  - Alumni working in industry offered an overview of potential career paths with a civil engineering degree
  - Current upperclassmen shared their perspectives on the major/emphasis options in civil engineering
  - Designed to identify potential areas of interest for students
- Project impact
  - Students embarked on their academic careers with a better understanding of what they would study and what they could pursue in their career. Nearly all attendees joined at least one of the five CEE student organizations
- Participation
  - 15 new students (out of 25 in incoming class)
  - 10 student organizers
  - 4 alumni guest speakers, 2 department professors, and 1 department advisor attended
  - 60 person-hours of planning

# Summary

- Most Significant Events
  - PSWC 2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall
  - New CEE Student Orientation
  - ASCE Series: 1<sup>st</sup> General Meeting
  - Career Series: Resume Workshop
  
- Biggest Challenges
  - Attendance at professional events
  - Sponsorship/fundraising

# Questions?

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