

Presidents Message



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The Colorado State University American Society of Civil Engineers has been extremely busy over the last month. The chapter recently competed in several events at the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference at BYU in early April, and is currently working on fundraising events for next year's competition.

We will be sponsoring a pool tournament on May 2 at Match Ups located on Mason Street. Everyone is welcome to compete regardless of major, so make sure to bring your friends.

The chapter is also still planning on doing an Adopt-a-Trail service project with the Northern Colorado Branch. The project was postponed due to weather but we will try to organize it again in early August when we return to school. These projects are a great way to network with professional engineers, while gaining PLI credits and helping out the community. Keep an eye on the website for more details.



Kathryn Pfretzschner
CSU ASCE President



ASCE Regional Student Competitions

Civil engineering students from five different states gathered in Provo, Utah at Brigham Young University to compete against one another at the beginning of the month. CSU was represented in 6 of the competitions between the 21 Rams that attended. The big competition of the weekend was the Steel Bridge competition consisting of bridges from 14 different schools. CSU had an excellent showing in Steel Bridge, bringing home some hardware by placing first in the lightness category. They also placed second in aesthetics, third in structural efficiency, and fourth in stiffness. Although the team failed to qualify for the National Competition, they showed great improvement over last year's effort in Golden, CO where the bridge failed under loading.

Rams also competed in Can-Struction where they created a replica of the Washington Monument, placing fourth overall. All of the cans from this competition were donated to local food banks. Other events included Mystery Design, Weir Design, and 2 research papers, all of which CSU was respectfully represented in.

Aviation Technology May Extend Bridge Life



Composite Doubler Being tested at KU

Research at the University of Kansas may lead to a new class of devices that have the potential to significantly increase the life of existing and new bridges. The devices are composite doublers, something that currently is used to repair cracks around stress points and rivets in airplanes. Creation of the doublers for bridges will consist of layers of composite material applied to a joint or stress point, which will then pass the stress through the member without any of it passing directly through the joint, ideally. Another benefit of the doublers is that they can be created to act jointly as an inspection indicator; when they fail red paint is proposed to mark where the doubler was and indicate that the area needs attention.

Currently, the doublers are in a small-scale test phase, although Ron Barrett-Gonzalez, associate professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Kansas says that the concept has already been proved. Nearly 12 states have already donated \$1 million to support the study, showing the high support and demand for the technology. With the current condition of our nation's bridges, this can be a quick, cheap fix, as well as a long term solution.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, May 2, 2009 - ASCE Pool Tournament at Match Ups located on Mason Street. See the website for more details.
- Good luck on Finals, and have a wonderful summer!

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Looking for a Summer Internship?

Be sure to check the listings on the website:

www.engr.colostate.edu/asce/