

University of Alaska Anchorage
American Society of Civil Engineers
December 2009

Dear UAA ASCE Student Chapter Members:

As the year draws to a close we thought we would just give a brief recap of some of the achievements and improvements the UAA Student Chapter has made in 2009.

For those of you who are unaware, our chapter has to submit an annual report to ASCE national every February. Our club is then reviewed by the national committee and the club is ranked in comparison to other clubs. The main categories that are considered are: meeting topics, activities (field trips and social functions), projects, goals, and the report presentation. Over the course of 2009, we have tried to improve all areas assessed by the report in order to bring our members more opportunities that ASCE National believes you should have.

This year, we have attended 4 field trips and have one more planned. We toured the Filtrexx headquarters, Insulofoam operations, Anchorage Sand & Gravel, and the 48th Avenue Construction Project. We will also be attending a tour of Alyeska which will double as a ski/snowboard social. We'll send out more information soon.

In addition to our regular meetings, we have also hosted various socials in addition in order to help you get to know each other. These included a movie night, ice skating social, and end of the year picnic.

We are also excited to have taken on a club project which we hope to continue in the following years. ASCE Student Chapter members have begun an elementary outreach program where they have given brief presentations and performed fun activities with elementary school children to help get them interested in engineering at a young age. Many kids do not know what an engineer does and are impressed to learn that we "build and construct the city we live in including roads, buildings, water systems, and bridges." We hope that as a result of this project, young students will be encouraged to pursue engineering in the future.

ASCE students also had several opportunities to travel last semester. We sent three students to the Leadership Conference in January where they learned various aspects of leadership and shared ideas with ASCE students from other schools. We also sent 15 students to the NW Regional Conference in April where we competed in the Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, Technical paper, and other events. Our steel bridge placed 4th out of 15 applicants and lived up to the high expectations that preceding UAA bridges have set for our performance while our concrete canoe placed 5th. Not too bad for the first canoe that UAA has sent to the conference in over 5 years! I think all of the students enjoyed the trips and we are already planning to send 4 students to the 2010 Leadership Conference and hope to send 15 students to the NW Regional Conference in 2010! These conferences teach students leadership skills and how to apply classroom knowledge to real life projects; both of which are not taught at school and employers love to see on a resume.

Our main goal for 2009 was to "get some more". As in, provide our members with more field trip, social, project, and travel opportunities. I feel that we have had a very successful year and hope to carry our momentum into 2010!

Have a Happy New Year! I hope to see you all in 2010. (To those of you who have graduated, I still hope to see you but I understand if I don't, and Congratulations from us all!)

Anna Ferntheil
UAA ASCE Student Chapter President