Welcome Back Picnic

Students were welcomed back to the CCEE department on August 30 with the annual Welcome Back Picnic, greeted by student organization leaders and faculty with an opportunity to network and get involved.

Students spoke with representatives of and had the opportunity to sign up for many CCEE student organizations.
New student club enhances students’ engineering software skills

Need to learn Prezi, AutoCAD, BIM, MATLAB, ANSYS, or even the latest Microsoft Office programs? There’s now a student club for that. Civil, construction and environmental engineering (CCEE) students can now enhance their software skills with the CCEE Software Exploration Club (CCEE SEC).

Hongtao Dang, a MS structural engineering student, started the club this semester to provide students resources for civil engineering and construction engineering software. While students familiarize with engineering concepts through courses, they must become proficient in software to create successful projects as professional engineers. Dang uses this philosophy in a student organization setting.

Graduate students from different CCEE focus areas demonstrate software for students using a question-and-answer method. “I want to encourage undergraduate students to let us know what they need help on in their academic learning and integrate with graduate students,” Dang says. Dang issued a survey to club members during their first meeting to see what types of software students want to learn more about. Survey results dictated the next set of software demonstrations. The first club meeting was Thursday, September 20.

The first software demonstration was advanced Microsoft Word document exploration. Tips learned here are intended to help students on report, proposal and paper writings. “By attending the demonstration meeting, students will learn to get things done in a ‘second’ rather than spending hours on it,” Dang says.

The CCEE Software Exploration Club adopts an alternating demonstration-social event approach. For one week, students learn and practice tips and shortcuts related to the software they want to learn. The next week they get together to socialize and group mentor with graduate students.

The club is free this semester. To join, contact Faculty Co-Adviser Beth Hartmann at bethlin@iastate.edu, Faculty Co-Adviser LaDon Jones at lcjones@iastate.edu or Dang at hitdang@iastate.edu.
NAHB

In summer 2012, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) took part in the Ames Home Builder's golf outing as well as the tour of homes. This fall NAHB will hold monthly meetings showing new products or services related to the residential field. They will also be taking part in social events, community service, and job site tours.

Chi Epsilon

The Chi Epsilon organization is having a Highway Cleanup on Highway 30, east of Nevada on October 13 at 8:30 a.m. They also hold two days of Keep Town Beautiful on September 27 and October 29 at 5 p.m., where they clean up around Town Engineering Building. Their initiation of new members will take place on October 19. They are also scheduled to tailgate with the College of Engineering on November 24. This fall they plan to have a couple of social events and sales of Civil Engineering t-shirts, sweatshirts and polos.

SWE

Society of Women Engineers’ (SWE) general meetings are every other Wednesday. This fall they meet October 3, October 17, October 31, November 14 and November 28. Meetings typically start at 6:15 p.m. at Carver Hall 0001.

SWE hosts numerous outreach activities including the “High School Senior Sleepover,” where various high school seniors are invited to stay over on the Iowa State campus and spend time with SWE members. Other activities include visiting Girl Scout day where Brownies and Senior Girl Scouts from across Iowa come to Iowa State and earn a science and engineering badge. SWE also visits middle schools to participate in various educational activities.
TSA

During the 2012 summer, members from the Transportation Student Association (TSA) traveled to Chicago to attend the Midwestern Institute for Transportation Engineers Annual Meeting. At the meeting, three students (Nicole Oneyear, Skylar Knickerbocker and Eirini Kastrouni) participated in the annual Traffic Bowl Competition, a Jeopardy-style transportation trivia competition, where they placed third of nine teams. Dimitrios Bilionis and Bo Wang (pictured above) also participated in the Annual Poster Competition. Bilionis' entry was chosen as one of the top three posters. At the conference, TSA members also received their award for 2012 Outstanding Student Chapter in the Missouri Valley section.

TSA has various activities planned for the Fall 2012 semester. Members have already participated in the CCEE Welcome Picnic, Clubfest and the TSA Welcome Back Picnic. The first speaker meeting of the year was on September 24 with Doug Ripley of Traffic Control Corporation.

The Transportation Student Association Iowa State Chapter won the Institute for Transportation Engineers 2012 Student Section Activities Award for the Midwestern district. The Iowa State chapter tops schools in 11 states for this honor.
Building camaraderie and teamwork skills

In the spirit of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the Iowa State Chapter of Associated General Contractors holds an Olympics of their own. Each Olympic-style event will take place at a social event throughout the year to put strength, agility and construction skills to the test. The first event was a doghouse building competition. This competition included having nine teams of five people build two-foot-by-two-foot doghouses frames. The catch was that four out of the five group members could only use one hand while the other could use both for marking and making saw cuts. The winning teams received points that accumulate as the year goes on. This is just one way AGC helps build camaraderie and teamwork skills, while also having fun.

Community service is a main focus for AGC as an organization. Completing nearly 5,000 hours of community service last year, their goal is to keep that effort alive. Members have plans to pour a basketball court for Boys and Girls Club in Ames and are currently helping build sheds for Sawyer Elementary School, also in Ames. Most of the members would say community service is their favorite part of AGC. After traveling to Joplin, Mo., in March 2012, members are in the process of planning a trip to another community in need.
On August 31, ASCE helped out at the Captain Midnight’s Run for Cystic Fibrosis. At the event, ASCE members helped by keeping the course safe for the runners. In October, members will participate in K-12 outreach gatherings such as Ames Middle School Day, Taking the Road Less Traveled, How Do Wind Turbines Work, and many more.

**Concrete Canoe Team**

The ASCE Concrete Canoe Team is a group of students that design, test, build and paddle a canoe made entirely out of concrete and reinforcement. The team travels to a regional competition every spring to present and race the final product against other area universities. At last year’s competition at Platteville, Wisconsin, the Iowa State team received a second place overall finish out of nine schools for the second consecutive year.

The Concrete Canoe team has been working through the summer to prepare for the upcoming season. In the fall semester, the team mainly works on the design and testing of the hull and concrete mix for the boat. During the spring semester, members will pour the canoe and prepare for competition.

*If you have any interest in the Concrete Canoe team, contact Joshua Leyh – jleyh92@iastate.edu or Nathan Fischer – nfischer@iastate.edu. Students can get more information about the club at any ASCE general meeting, social event, or outreach event.*
ASCE Steel Bridge Club

The ASCE Steel Bridge Club is a hands-on club that designs and builds a scale-model steel bridge. At the annual competition, the bridge is tested and scored based on multiple criteria: construction speed, lateral and vertical deflection, economy, efficiency, stiffness, weight and aesthetics. Each year, the Iowa State team faces one of the toughest regions across the United States. **From March 14-16, 2013, Iowa State will host the ASCE Midwest Regional Steel Bridge Competition on campus.**

Over the summer, the bridge team began planning for the regional competition. This fall, the team will be hard at work each week designing a new bridge. Different designs are evaluated and ideas are collaborated to create an efficient bridge. This gives students the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to solving real world civil engineering issues.

Once the design is complete, fabrication of the bridge will begin. This typically begins in the spring semester.

Steel Bridge members also participate in multiple ASCE events throughout the semester. Additionally, every Wednesday Steel Bridge Club sells pizza in the Town Engineering lobby to raise funds for the competition.

If you are interested in joining or knowing more about the Steel Bridge Club, check out their website: [www.stuorg.iastate.edu/asce/Steel%20Bridge.html](http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/asce/Steel%20Bridge.html)
Scholarships

Don’t miss out on the following scholarships still available!

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<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association Scholarship</td>
<td>October 15, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Builders Foundation Scholarship</td>
<td>December 1, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Society for Nondestructive Testing Engineering Undergraduate Award</td>
<td>December 15, 2012</td>
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To contribute a scholarship, please contact Emily Lampe at the Iowa State Engineering Development office at ealampe@iastate.edu.

Greimann Fellowships

The CCEE department recognizes two students with the inaugural Lowell Greimann Graduate Fellowships. The $5,000 educational assistance award supports exceptional CCEE department graduate students who focus on structural engineering.

One recipient is Mohammed Abdellatef, a first-year civil engineering PhD candidate born in Alexandria, Egypt. He earned a MS in civil engineering at Washington State University, and today, he follows his parents’ career footsteps. “I was encouraged by my parents to specialize in civil engineering, especially structural, because both of them are working structural engineers,” he says.

Under the direction of Institute for Transportation's Director II Brent Phares, Abdellatef develops structural health monitoring systems and algorithms to estimate remaining usefulness in bridges. He says that his research aims to reduce cost and effort of regular bridge inspection and ultimately reduce risk of sudden bridge collapse.

The other inaugural Greimann Graduate Fellow is Maryam Nazari, also a first-year PhD candidate in structural engineering. Nazari grew up in Iran and earned a Master’s degree in earthquake engineering at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, Iran.

After four years as a professional earthquake engineer in Iran, she chose Iowa State to pursue a doctorate degree to further research earthquake engineering methods. “Iowa State was highly recommended for its excellent faculty, research-oriented programs and state-of-the-art research facilities,” Nazari says.

At Iowa State, she works under Wilson Engineering Professor Sri Sritharan to develop seismic-resilient buildings. Part of her research experience is conducting shake table tests to simulate earthquake effects on buildings.
Andrew Stika fundraising

At the 2012 CCEE Welcome Picnic Lecturer Beth Hartmann, along with many students, continued their fundraising efforts of selling T-shirts and bracelets to help CE graduate Andy Stika cover his medical expenses as he fights brain cancer. The group is known by the phrase they created to support Stika, “Never Surrender.” The fundraisers have already raised nearly $1,000 for Stika.

In addition to the support from the Never Surrender team and those who purchased T-shirts and bracelets, a group of Stika’s friends have put together a team, STEPS4STIX, for the Light The Night Walk at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City on October 13, 2012. The Light The Night Walk is The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s annual fundraising walk to pay tribute and bring hope to people battling cancer. Donations can be made to one of the team members or you are welcome to join the team. To join the team, contact Samantha Ehrhardt, siehrhardt@gmail.com, for more information.

You can also check out the team’s homepage, pages.lightthenight.org/ia/EastIA12/STEPS4STIX, or the Light the Night homepage, www.lightthenight.org, for more information.