



# SIGNIFICANT FIGURES

*...getting civilized with SCE alumni.*

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

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The Cal Poly ASCE student chapter starts anew. As the fall quarter began, a new corps of officers encouraged their fellow members to become involved with an array of community service activities, projects, tours and other great events. This edition of the newsletter highlights some of these activities. In addition, readers are offered a glimpse into SCE's past through an interview with one of the chapter's original members, Mr. John Smith. Please remember that the chapter is always excited to see and hear from our great alumni. They help to make SCE one of the best student organizations on campus. Enjoy!

## SITE TOURS

### Highway 46

In October, SCE members received a personal tour from the Project Manager of the Highway 46 project, Mr. Ramon Hopkins. The project is converting Highway 46 into an expressway from Paso Robles to the I5. The tour was a great opportunity for students to learn about roadway design, bridge design, and construction engineering.



### Transbay Transit Center

Members had an opportunity in November to visit the massive Transbay Transit Center Project in San Francisco. Leaving early on a Friday morning, members journeyed to the Bay Area to tour this multi-billion dollar project that will eventually combine 11 different forms of transit, including future high speed rail. The project tour provided students with insight into civil engineering construction and transportation design.

### Hearst Castle

SCE members also had the opportunity this quarter to visit the marveled Hearst Castle located in the mountains of San Simeon. The tour included a brief look at the reinforced concrete used in the buildings, which helped to prevent structural failures during California's most recent earthquakes.



Site tours are essential to SCE in that they allow members to see civil engineering design principles put into practice. We are always eager to learn about new projects and opportunities to tour jobsites. If your company is working on a project that can provide educational tours to students, please contact our Vice President of Events, Kristen Nugent at [kmnugent@calpoly.edu](mailto:kmnugent@calpoly.edu).



# Fall Events

## Community Service

SCE members had plenty of opportunities this quarter to help in the community. Members got their hands dirty digging holes, planting, and mulching shrubs at a nature preserve. At events like "Build an Engineer Day," students were able to teach local youngsters about civil engineering. Members discussed real-life examples and led participants through bridge building activities.



## Sports

Members got their "game on" this quarter through intramural soccer and volleyball. Soccer brought many new members out and provided some great match-ups. The team's final record was 2-1-3. As the quarter progressed, the volleyball squad improved but faced some challenging competition. Their final record was the reverse of 4-0, but who's keeping score. Next quarter, intramurals will bring more opportunities for SCE members to meet new friends and find much-needed relaxation time.



## Social

Fall was a great quarter for bonding time and just "hanging out" with fellow SCE members. Events included a bowling night, a beach bonfire at Avila Beach, and a Cal Poly vs UCSB soccer tailgate (which ended in triumph for the Mustangs). Members had the chance to meet other students, eat great food, and enjoy good fellowship with one another.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's a look at some of the events planned for winter quarter. Alumni interested in participating are welcome to contact Alicia Welling at [awelling@calpoly.edu](mailto:awelling@calpoly.edu).

Final Concrete Canoe Casting Day	January 19th, 2013
2013 Civil and Environmental Engineering Career Fair	January 25th, 2013
ASCE Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (in Sacramento)	January 25th-26th, 2013
SCE Winter Retreat (Lake Tahoe)	February 15th-18th, 2013



# TECHNICAL & PROFESSIONAL

## Team Projects

The concrete canoe team was busy this quarter preparing mix designs and casting their first practice canoe, "Sam." SCE members had a chance to help the team out during their Open Shed Fridays and the practice canoe casting day in November. Paddling practices were also held every Saturday and Sunday for members interested in becoming official paddlers on the team. The final Canoe casting day is scheduled for January 19th.

The Steel Bridge team was also hard at work, finalizing their bridge design using Abaqus design software. Revised competition rules have challenged this year's team to come up with completely new designs for member connections. Bridge construction tryouts will be held during winter quarter.

The Geo-Wall team was also busy this quarter building trial walls and performing laboratory tests on the competition sand. The team has plenty of new members this year who are eager to design a light, competitive retaining wall and further their knowledge of geotechnical engineering.

## Career Fair

The annual CE/ENVE Career Fair is being held on January 25, 2013 to provide internships and full-time positions for students and graduates. Opportunities are still available for your company to be a part of the Career Fair. Alumni are also welcome to attend and see what job opportunities are available.

Companies wishing to attend can choose from some or all of the following:

1. Purchase a resume CD that includes information about the students attending the fair.
2. Hold a table at the Career Fair on Friday, January 25th.
3. Attend the Career Fair Banquet held on the night following the career fair.
4. Make a tax-deductible donation to SCE to benefit programs offered by the chapter.

If your company is interested in attending this year's career fair, contact our Executive Vice President, Michael Mondragon, at [mmondrag@calpoly.edu](mailto:mmondrag@calpoly.edu).

### General Meeting Speakers-Fall Quarter

We are very thankful to the following companies who spoke at our general meetings during the fall quarter:

**Shimmick Construction  
Kittelson and Associates**

**Earth Systems  
Webcor**

If your company would like to speak at one of our general meetings, please contact our Corresponding Officer, Lauren Sotir, at [lsotir@calpoly.edu](mailto:lsotir@calpoly.edu).

### 2012-2013 SCE Officer Team

Jazz Gilbert

**President**

Michael Mondragon

**Executive Vice President**

Kristen Nugent

(Krystian Samlik-Fall, 2012)

**V.P.'s of Events**

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**V.P. of Community Service**

Corinne Goodwin

**Recording Officer**

Lauren Sotir

**Corresponding Officer**

Kevin Galloway

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Susie White

**Conference Coordinators**

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Gary Gasperi

**Web Technician**

Megan McGirr

**Sports Director**

Sean Pringle

**Newsletter Editor**

Ryan Smith

**Social Director**

Demi Pacifuentes

**Marketing Director**

Alicia Welling

**Alumni Relations**

### Website and Facebook

Check out our website, [www.cpsce.com](http://www.cpsce.com), for updates and information about the Cal Poly SCE Chapter and "like" our facebook page!



# Alumni Interview

## With **John Smith** (Cal Poly SCE Student Member, 1980 -1984)

I had a great time learning about the origins of the chapter through one of its early members, John Smith. John entered Cal Poly during the Spring Quarter, 1980, about the same time that the civil department first started. The department had two specialty areas then: transportation and public works.



John's involvement in the early years of SCE greatly shaped the chapter, beginning with its title. The chapter first existed "strictly as an ASCE student chapter", he explained. During his years, the chapter title "ASCE" was changed to "SCE" to allow for the organization to co-exist as a student chapter for the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the American Public Works Association (APWA). In fact, SCE was the first student chapter of APWA.

John enjoyed many events as a member of the chapter, including the annual Pacific Southwest Student Conference. He recalled the year conference was held in Las Vegas (1982) where Cal Poly had about 10-15 students attend. The year after, John became the SCE president, and conference was held in San Diego, where the chapter had a much larger presence. As he explained "It was at this conference that we competed for and were successful in securing the conference at Cal Poly for the next year." John served as Co-Chair of the 1984 conference, which he described as a "great time".

After college, John landed a job with a Class 1 railroad which was a "wild ride, providing experiences and a knowledge base" that he continues to rely on. His current position is Principal Engineer at Tartaglia Engineering, a consulting firm on the Central Coast, where he focuses on securing funding for clients, working with contracts and providing project management.

John enjoys many parts of the SLO area. His favorite places to visit are Avila Beach and Hartford Pier, while his favorite restaurant is McLintocks in downtown San Luis Obispo.

One of the things John enjoyed most about Cal Poly was the hands-on experience it provided to "dive in and get dirty". His favorite course was surveying because it brought students outside. He also liked the drainage courses.



SCE members at a Poly Royal "Set Up Party", 1982. Smith is first row, second from right (in the hat and striped shirt).

Looking toward the future, I asked John what advice he would give to younger engineers. He mentioned how academia is only a part of civil engineering. As he explained, "The classroom provides less than half your total college experience. Get out, get involved, fill your time, your head, and your heart."

When asked about what his education at Cal Poly provided to him, he stressed some of the important skills needed in the field. "School provides exposure to the depth of problems and issues, and an opportunity to exercise your personal ability to dig deep and perform. It is through that extreme effort, work satisfaction and sense of accomplishment is realized."