Working to Make a Difference
David Picinich

This semester, ASCE is not only striving to be involved in volunteering on Cornell’s campus, but also in collaborating with a group of students from Ithaca College on constructing an ADA-compliant trail. This group of students, spearheaded by Jake Brenner ’16, is part of a grant writing class at Ithaca College in which students pair up with one another and come up with ideas to better their community. The students then try to raise funds for the projects and get grants to fund their efforts. Jake and his particular group wanted everyone to be able to enjoy the South Hill Recreational Area near Ithaca College’s campus, and had the idea of constructing a trail up to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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ASCE Elections: November 18, 4:30 PM!

It’s election time! ASCE officers are elected at the end of each calendar year rather than each academic year in order to ease the transition between academic years. If you are interested in running for a position, be sure to attend our last meeting of the semester, on Wednesday, November 18. See below for an overview of the responsibilities for each position.

**President:**
The president facilitates executive board meetings as well as the monthly general body meetings. He/she is in charge of overseeing all chapter activities and being conscious of its deadlines and requirements. It is also the president’s responsibility to work with the chapter’s Faculty Advisor and the CEE Director to coordinate with the Ithaca ASCE Section and CEE Department.

**Vice President:**
The vice president assists the president in running meetings and activities, taking over when necessary in the president’s absence. The vice president’s main responsibility is organizing and hosting the annual View of the Lake Banquet at the end of the spring semester.

**Treasurer:**
It is the treasurer’s responsibility to finalize and submit budgets at the beginning of each semester and keep the executive board updated about the financial status of the chapter. The treasurer collects and compiles the earnings from company information sessions and activities run by the chapter that have an admission fee. He/she also plans travel and lodging for ASCE competitions and events.

**Secretary:**
The secretary is in charge of preparing event and chapter announcements for the CEE community. The secretary compiles and publishes the ASCE newsletters throughout each semester and the Annual Report for Nationals due in February. It is the secretary’s responsibility to take notes during executive board meetings.

**Community Service Chair:**
The community service chair coordinates with local organizations to create community service opportunities for our chapter members. It is the responsibility of the community service chair to gauge interest in community service activities, find volunteers, advertise, and carry out projects in a timely manner.

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Hello everyone,

I hope you’re finding ways to enjoy yourselves this semester! The weather has been beautiful and even just a short walk through campus can provide an invaluable break from studying. I’ve been a victim of spending way more time in Hollister than anyone should, but taking short breaks throughout the week to grab a meal with friends, go for a scenic run, or take part in one of the many activities that ASCE offers can really help keep everything in perspective. If you’re pulling an all-nighter to finish up a problem set in the Undergrad Lounge, take a moment to enjoy the sunrise. If you’ve been studying nonstop all week for a Prelim, stop by one of our GBMs or PPPs to chat with friends and have some fun. It may sound counter-productive to lose an hour of studying, but these are the moments that allow you to keep pushing and stay positive.

For the past few years, ASCE has provided countless opportunities as a social outlet for me. I’ve participated in Concrete Canoe, the Habitat builds, View of the Lake, and the many GBMs and PPPs. I’ve been fortunate to serve as your President for this past year. This has been an amazing experience and I’m so grateful to have helped guide the organization to continually improve and offer more exciting and worthwhile events for our members. I strongly encourage you to stay active in ASCE and consider an officer position—elections are next week! I’ve learned that the more I put into ASCE, the more I’ve gotten out of it. I urge you to stay active and continue to make Hollister a close-knit community. I hope that you’ve enjoyed the events we’ve hosted over the past year, and I know that ASCE will continue to grow and improve in the coming years.

Thank you all for making my term as President fun and enjoyable! See you around Hollister.
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Director of Corporate Relations:
The corporate relations chair is responsible for contacting companies that are interested in interviewing at Cornell or that may interest CEE students in order to set up information sessions for the CEE community. It is very important for the corporate relations chair to be in constant contact with companies as well as Cornell Career Services and the CEE department in order to coordinate these information sessions.

Social Chair:
The social chair is responsible for organizing, publicizing, and budgeting social events for the chapter members. The social chair is also responsible for developing social activities for body meetings.

Membership Chair:
The membership chair is responsible for recruiting individuals interested in Civil and Environmental Engineering to become members and participate in chapter events. He/she is in charge of ASCE membership forms.

Freshman/Sophomore Class Chair:
The Freshman/Sophomore class chair is responsible for getting underclassmen involved in ASCE chapter events and making announcements to younger members. He/she also assists with publicity for social events and chapter meetings.

This trail would be no easy task, as there are many specifications, including cross-grade and slope restrictions, that prohibit simply laying down gravel and compacting it from being considered a completed trail. This is where ASCE comes in. Since the IC students in this group are not engineers, they have little experience with the process of planning and constructing something like a trail. In order to help accomplish these preliminary steps using what we know as future civil engineers, ASCE is teaming up with this group of students to help out in whatever way we can.

A group of volunteers representing members of ASCE has formed a Trail Project committee that can meet with Jake and his team and aid in the completion of the trail. Specifically, our group will collaborate on the detailed design and specifications of the project with the group from the grant writing class. This involves meetings between the groups, some visits to the future site of the trail, and—most importantly—field work. These are all important preliminary steps to getting started on the actual construction, which will likely occur in the spring.

If this sounds like something you’d be interested in participating in, don’t fear! There are still spots available on the committee, and the project will likely extend into the spring. If you want to get involved, email djp269@cornell.edu for more details.
An Interview with CEE Director Linda Nozick

Pablo Herrera

It is our pleasure as Cornell’s student chapter of ASCE to welcome the new CEE director, Linda Nozick! Linda has been teaching at Cornell since 1992. Earlier this year, Professor Philip Liu finished his term as Director and moved on to new adventures (see below). The Engineering Dean then appointed Linda Nozick to the position. Her primary research interest is the development of mathematical models for the use in the management of complex systems. She is well recognized in her field, having won several awards and authored over sixty peer-reviewed publications. She addresses challenging topics such as how to create management plans to mitigate risk of deteriorating bridges and roads that are exposed to harsh natural disasters.

Dr. Nozick accepted the directorship with the idea of bettering the CEE experience for students. She believes civil engineering is evolving and that we need to think differently than the we did in the past. The future of civil engineering will be more wholesome where there is an emphasis on quality, prosperity, and sustainability. Considerations will need to be made about building impacts on the natural environment. Dr. Nozick hopes to integrate new knowledge to face today’s challenges with new faculty in order to better help students to learn. She also plans to give support to project teams and students groups as she believes they are a beneficial learning tool.

A statement from Dr. Nozick: “It is my pleasure to welcome all of you back to CEE this academic year. Undergraduate life is the final time in your lives where you get a clean slate to make each year the very best that it can be. Cornell and CEE is rich with opportunities. Take advantage of it. Look to each other and the faculty to challenge you and to support you as you push yourselves to learn and grow. Faculty became faculty, in large part, out of a desire to help the next generation do more and be more. Push yourselves so that comes true.”

An Update from Abroad

Pablo Herrera

Starting this semester, Cornell CEE Professors Liu and Shoemaker, formerly familiar faces around the halls of Hollister Hall, took on new positions abroad at the National University of Singapore. Officer Pablo Herrera reached out to them for an update on how they’re doing. Look to future newsletters for more updates from Singapore— we’re hoping for some crazy stories in the coming semesters.

From Professor Liu:

“We are both on leave from Cornell and we are at the National University of Singapore.

“We are both Distinguished Professors in the Faculty of Engineering. I am affiliated with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, while Professor Shoemaker has a joint appointment in the CEE department and the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. In the mean time, I am also serving as the Vice President for Research and Technology. I am overseeing several university-level research centers and institutes in the areas of Energy, Water, and Environment. One of my goals is to promote and coordinate multi- and cross-disciplinary research to address local and regional issues.”