AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS STUDENT CHAPTER
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015
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FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
January 2015 – December 2015

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FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
January 2015 – December 2015

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

“The objective of the chapter is to promote engineering technology, advocate the importance of being an active and contributing member of society, provide an open door policy to attract new members, and provide opportunities outside of the classroom that foster professional growth.”
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Foster chapter growth by increasing the general membership by 25%.

Goal #2: Have at least 20 members participate in the Regional Concrete Canoe Competition (Virginia’s Conference).

Goal #3: Achieve at least 50% member participation in one community service project.

Goal #4: Increase social media interactions (Facebook “Likes/Follows”) by 90%.

Goal #5: Increase the rollover of the Annual Budget by at least 10% at the end of the 2015 fiscal year.
**GOAL #1:** *Foster Chapter Growth by Increasing the General Membership by 25%.*

*It has been difficult in previous years to recruit new members with any success due to Fairmont State University's small size. The passing down of information from year to year is vital and relies on the success of recruitment. By setting this goal, officers hope to energize current members into being more proactive in the recruitment process and associated recruitment activities.*

**Plan of Action**
- Speak with professors to arrange the announcement of meetings in their classes.
- Host at least 4 social events.
- Encourage current members to engage with other civil students.
- Publicize meetings and events by using fliers, emails, and social media outlets.

**Assessment**
- The student chapter exceeded their expectations by seeing a membership increase of over 41%. Officers saw membership jump from 32 in 2014 to 45 in 2015.

**Follow Up Plan for the Future**
- The passing down of information from year to year is vital and relies on the success of recruitment. Therefore, future officers should continue to aggressively recruit by implementing and improving upon the 2015 plan of action. Also, the 2015 officers hosted 12 social events. Therefore, the incoming officers should exceed the goal of 4 set by the above action plan in order to see similar results.
**Goal #2:** Have at least 20 members participate in the Regional Concrete Canoe Competition (Virginia’s Conference).

*Officer saw that the same group of students were participating each year. Also, officers noticed a lack of involvement in side competitions due to poor attendance beyond the main concrete canoe events. This goal was set to draw in new members and boost Concrete Canoe membership.*

**Plan of Action**
- Increase advertising of the Regional Competition.
- Offer discounts on Regional Competition fees for those who participate in pour day and other ASCE activities.
- Encourage current members to participate in side competitions with new members.

**Assessment**
- 18 members participated at the Regional Concrete Canoe Competition.

**Follow Up Plan for the Future**
- Though the goal was not fully achieved, officers did see an increase in participation. For the future, officers should utilize the newly established ASCE Honorary Program in conjunction with the above action plan to continue to see a rise in participation.
GOAL #3: ACHIEVE AT LEAST 50% MEMBER PARTICIPATION IN ONE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT.

Plan of Action

- Publicize events using fliers, emails, and social media.
- Create an Honorary ASCE Program that rewards those who participate in multiple community service events and other ASCE activities throughout their membership. Members of this honorary program will be rewarded with an ASCE sash upon graduation.
- Provide constant reminders of events at all meetings and emphasize how projects help the overall community.

Assessment

- With 19 out of 36 members participating, the chapter was able to reach their goal.
  - Chapter size excluded 9 seniors who graduated in the spring semester.

Follow Up Plan for the Future

- The Honorary ASCE Program was successfully established. Future officers should continue and expand this honorary program in order to continue increasing member enthusiasm and participation. Also, fliers proved to be the most successful means of advertising these events to member along with reminders during meetings. Future officers should take note of this and adjust their advertising efforts as necessary.
**Goal #4: Increase Social Media Interactions**

(Facebook "Likes/Follows") by 90%.

While the Facebook page for Fairmont State University's ASCE and Concrete Canoe Team has been in existence since 2014, it has not been utilized to its fullest ability. Also, not all members had liked or followed the page, limiting its effectiveness greatly. With this goal, officers are seeking to keep not only students but also the general public up to date with all activities. This page also offers the ability for followers to post and tag photos, potentially making it easier for officers to keep track of photos from a variety of sources.

**Plan of Action**
- Show the page at each meeting to encourage new and current chapter members to "Like/Follow" and "Share" the page with their friends, families, and colleagues.
- Post important meeting and activity notices on a regular basis.
- Back date and post older photos to build page history.

**Assessment**
- As of December 2015, the Facebook page now has 55 "Likes/Follows." Officers were pleasantly surprised as numbers rose quickly as membership grew. Also, alumni and friends from other universities contributed to the success of this goal.

**Follow Up Plan for the Future**
- Future officers should continue to develop and update the Facebook page and also look into other social media outlets as means of communication. The 2015 officers did have a few issues updating the Facebook page and did not back date as many photos as desired. The 2016 officers should make it a priority to ensure the page is updated with event and meeting notices and pictures as often as possible.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

• A total of 45 members
• A total of 31 students that are ASCE National Society-level members
• 69% of members are Society-level members
• 22 members with Junior and Senior status
• 22 Juniors and Seniors are eligible to join ASCE
• 100% of eligible Juniors and Seniors are members
MEETING STATISTICS

- 7 professional meetings with an invited speaker
- 5 meetings with student presentations and/or paper(s) presented
- 3 professional licensure meetings and/or ethics topics presented
- 14 field trips
- 12 social functions

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
MEETING: GEOTECHNICAL FORENSICS PRESENTATION

• **Speaker:** Tia Como, P.E.
• **Topic:** Geotechnical Forensics Cases in WV
• **Number of attendees:**
  - Students: 45
  - Faculty: 3
  - Faculty Advisor: 1
• This topic was popular because Tia Como is a respected expert in geotechnical forensics. Also, WV has had several slips and retaining wall failures, issues which are intriguing to civil students in the area.
MEETING: ASCE-FSU’S 6TH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

• Speaker: Greg Wilson, P.E. and Tia Como, P.E.
• Topics: ASCE and Concrete Canoe History
• Number of attendees:
  - Students: 15
  - Faculty: 5
  - Faculty Advisor: 1
  - Practitioner Advisor: 1
  - Professionals: 39
  - Family and Friends: 40
• The Benefit Dinner is held for the FSU Concrete Canoe Team, pending a regional victory. At this dinner, the public is given a chance to learn more about the canoe team and also see the finished product in person.
MEETING: COMMISSIONER’S BANQUET

• **Speaker:** Paul Mattox, P.E., WV Highways Commissioner

• **Topic:** WV Highway Infrastructure

• **Number of attendees:**
  - Students: 30
  - Faculty Advisor: 1
  - Professionals: 25

• With the WVDOH budget dwindling, professionals and students were curious about the commissioner’s plans for present road issues. Also, FSU had 2 ASHE Scholarship recipients who received their awards during this banquet.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT CONFERENCE
VIRGINIA’S CONFERENCE

- **Location:** Virginia Military Institute, Lexington VA
- **Dates:** April 9th-12th
- 18 students attended
- Placed **1st** overall in the Concrete Canoe Competition, a record of 12 years in a row!

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT CONFERENCE
VIRGINIA’S CONFERENCE

- Concrete Canoe Competition
  - Presentation: 3rd Place
  - Paper: 2nd Place
  - Final Product: 1st Place
  - All Races: 1st Place
  - Overall Ranking: 1st Place

- Side Competitions*
  - Mystery Quiz
  - Transportation
  - Surveying
  - Hardy Cross Paper

*Did not place in any side competition.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP FOR STUDENT CHAPTER LEADERS

• Location: Miami, FL
• Dates: January 9th-10th
• Attendees: 6 Students

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP FOR STUDENT CHAPTER LEADERS

• Students and other Region 4 universities were able to discuss chapter developments with the Region 4 Governor Carol Stevens.
• Students also networked and had roundtable discussions with student chapters from Regions 1, 2, and 5.
• Officers returned home bonded from their 21 hour drive. Despite the transition from Florida’s balmy summer weather back to West Virginia’s frigid winter, the officers returned energized with fresh ideas and an expanded network of friends.
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
2015 NATION CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION (NCCC)

• Location: Clemson University, Clemson, SC
• Dates: June 19th-22nd
• Attendees:
  - Number of Students: 13
  - Faculty: 1
  - Faculty Advisor: 1

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
2015 NATION CONCRETE CANOE COMPETITION (NCCC)

- Placed 4th in Final Product
- Placed 10th in Women’s Sprint
- Placed 12th overall, tying an FSU National record.
  - (Coincidently, FSU placed 12th at Nationals in 2005, when NCCC was hosted by the same university.)
SPECIAL PROJECT
WEST VIRGINIA BRIDGE DESIGN SOFTWARE TRAINING

• Date & Location: February 27th at FSU and surrounding high schools and middle schools
• 8 students participated in the 2 hour training for the use of the software and the steps of design submission. The same 8 students then provided that training to 4 high school classes and 2 middle school classes.
• Engineering Component:
  - The bridge design software illustrates many of the engineering aspects used in the construction of a real bridge. It considers not only the safety of the bridge but also the cost. Students can win on the national level if they are able to design the safest, lowest cost bridge.
• Project Impact:
  - High school and middle school students are exposed to engineering in a positive, fun light prior to college. This gives the students the chance to see if engineering is something they could potentially enjoy.
SPECIAL PROJECT
COMMUNITY GARDEN CONSTRUCTION

• Date & Location: April 24th, Fairmont, WV
• 15 students volunteered their time to help transform an old basketball court into a community garden for the local Fairmont area.
• Engineering Component:
  - FSU’s chapter was tasked with rebuilding planter boxes that had been built wrong by previous workers. This plays directly into the construction aspect of engineering. Members had to plan, measure, and build these structures.
• Project Impact:
  - This community garden was able to provide enough produce for FSU to host their own farmer’s market on campus. This market is open to students and the public.
ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE CHALLENGE DAY

• Date & Location: October 9th, Fairmont State University
• 19 students helped facilitate the Engineering and Science Challenge Day.
• Engineering Component:
  - This project consists of local area high schools coming to FSU and competing against one another in various engineering and science related activities. One activity involved students attempting to support the ASME Baja Buggy with a limited amount of cardboard and duct tape.
• Project Impact:
  - This project allowed high school students the opportunity to challenge themselves in fun and innovative ways. Over 100 high school students were present, meaning each one of them was exposed to engineering and science that day. This exposure may be just the spark some students needed to realize that engineering and science can be fun and challenging at the same time.
SPECIAL PROJECT
EXPLORATION DAY

• Date & Location: October 23rd, Fairmont State University
• 6 students hosted a talk about the College of Science and Technology, ASCE, and the Concrete Canoe Team.
• Engineering Component:
  - This project consisted of prospective high school students exploring the different majors and paths offered at FSU. The chapter spoke with approximately 30 students and their parents. In this talk, members spoke of the caliber of the College of Science and Technology at FSU, explained how they became interested in civil engineering, and how the ASCE Student Chapter and Concrete Canoe Team had aided their success throughout college.
• Project Impact:
  - With the success stories told by chapter members, prospective students were able to feel more secure in their interest in the field of science and technology. While this talk may not lead all of them into entering civil engineering, even just one additional student in any science and technology field is a positive.
SPECIAL PROJECT
NORTH MARION HIGH SCHOOL STEM PROJECT

• Date & Location: October 27th, North Marion High School, Farmington, WV
• 7 students assisted in judging the projects presented.
• Engineering Component:
  - A STEM project was held by North Marion High School. The project consisted of students learning the basic principles of Physics while also incorporating Mathematics and English. Students had to design and present roller coasters made out of construction paper and tape that would support a rolling marble. The goal was to create a working coaster that was safe and within budget. Since civil engineering is the epitome of combining Physics, Mathematics, and English, our chapter was excited to judge these projects.
• Project Impact:
  - By members being present, practical engineering questions and concerns were posed to the students. This allowed the students to fully understand possible real world connections to their projects.

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY
SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS

• The most significant challenge was rebooting for the fall semester. The chapter lost 9 seniors, who were key members of ASCE and the Concrete Canoe Team. Officers had to focus on recruiting in order to boost membership again.
The most significant event of the year were was placing 12th at NCCC! This was the first year since 2005 that the team experienced a top 15 finish. The chapter was ecstatic to see all of their hard work and planning pay off. This finish would not have been possible without team camaraderie, the devotion of the officers, and the tough love given by our Faculty Advisor, Tia Como.
THANK YOU!

- Our chapter is humbly aware that its success and existence is dependent upon the hard work and dedication of all of YOU.
- We hope we’ve represented ASCE to the caliber of which is expected.
Thank You!

Let us know if you have any questions!

FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY