



Spring 2007

San Francisco Bay Area Affiliate

New Year...New Look!

The ACE Mentor Program started the new year right with a fresh, updated look! In a real effort to make sure ACE was presenting the type of dynamic image that it should be, feedback from students was gathered at a national level and it was found that everything from our old logo to our website layout was feeling a bit outdated and, quite literally, boring!

To remedy this as quickly as possible, Ace National put some folks from the NAC (National Affiliates Council) to work on coming up with a new image (with the same great attitude!). Much time was spent reviewing colors and fonts for the logo which would set the tone for everything ACE! The fresh and dynamic new logo is shown below.

Also in the works is an update to the ACE website. The new site will be geared towards being more user friendly for mentors wishing to update their groups' sites or for browsers wanting to learn more about the ACE Mentor Program. (www.acementor.org).

We're always looking for ways to improve and our new and improved image is one step in the right direction!



SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 15, 2007

Fourth Annual
ACE Bay Area
Scholarship Luncheon
City Club, San Francisco
See page 4 for more details.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

Third Annual
Golf Tournament Fundraiser
Crystal Springs Golf Course
Burlingame
Details coming soon!
...also see page 6...



Career Directions for Students in
Architecture, Construction and Engineering



Filling a Need

By David Bonneville

"Find a need and fill it," the mantra of the entrepreneur looking for a rewarding business opportunity. Identify a need, and make the connection that can bring the needed product or service to the buyer. The ACE Mentor Program exists because a connection is needed between the design and construction industry and its future workforce. That's because there aren't enough talented young people entering the fields of engineering, architecture or construction and because outstanding high school students are unaware of this situation and of the opportunities created.

The need for more talent in the engineering workforce was documented in the December 2006 edition of *Engineering Inc.*, the publication of the American Council of Engineering Companies, (ACEC), our industry representative in Washington. The magazine provides a special report titled *The Engineer Shortage: Where Have All The Prospects Gone*. Statistics are provided that show projected supply not meeting the growing demand. Informal discussions among those of us in the industry confirm the current shortage.

ACEC, through its Government Affairs program, proposes to address the problem, at least in part, by supporting a provision in the Senate-passed immigration reform bill that would significantly increase the number of H1-B visas from the current level of 65,000 to 115,000. That's fine – our country was built and has thrived in large part



David Bonneville, ACE Bay Area Chairman at the 2006 Scholarship Luncheon

from the outstanding contributions of immigrants. However, why not alleviate the problem by looking closer to home? Our high schools, especially those in inner city areas, are filled with very bright students who aren't aware of the many opportunities in engineering, architecture, project management and in the skilled construction trades. ACE mentors are helping to introduce them to our industry through afternoon programs, in which students visit our offices and work on study projects with practicing architects, contractors and engineers.

Now in our fourth year in the Bay Area, we
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continue to expand our reach into high schools in San Francisco, Oakland and the Peninsula. This year 60 mentors are working with about 150 students in 23 high schools, all significant increases from 2006. Last year, we were able to offer \$1,000 scholarships to all qualified applicants and to meet the other financial obligations related to such issues as insurance, mentor screenings and many miscellaneous expenses. (There is no cost to the students.) This year, with the financial support of our past sponsors, along with some new ones, we expect similar success.

In order to meet our ambitious goals, we are expanding our Board of Directors beyond the core group that has overseen the Bay Area program since its first year. Joining Holly Ackley, Todd Gates, Aaron Gruber, Cynthia Muñoz, Craig Stark, Bill Streit and myself on the Board are the following new members: Jennifer Wilcox (Turner Construction), Roger Parra (Degenkolb Engineers), Gwynne Powell (Turner Construction), Julie Heidbreder (Flack and Kurtz), Melanie LaPointe (Swinerton) and Myron Humeny (URS). Welcome!



San Francisco 3 Team in action.

ACE Experience

By Glen Chan

The Architect Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentors Program has brought me great opportunities for exposure to various aspects of engineering. Prior to my participation in the program, I was only slightly familiar with the field of civil engineering and architecture. However, this changed after my drafting teacher, Mr. Martin Sweet, told me about the ACE Mentor Program. I learned about other types of engineering and construction from mentors who are also engineers and architects. They also taught us about their work in their respective fields of engineering.

Once a week after school, I would congregate with other students from local high schools at the Cal Trans building in Oakland. Early in the program, the students were divided into different groups and assigned to a mentor. They would help us with team projects such as designing and building bridges with plastic straws and pins to see which team can construct the most durable bridge. Each team was also required to do a report on how we could improve on the construction of the new Bay Bridge. One of our field trips included a walking tour on the construction of the bridge. It gave us an up close perspective on the different types of engineering that are involved in the project. As we were getting used to the smell of concrete dust, we experienced how the conditions must be when working as a bridge construction worker.

As the culmination of the ACE Mentor Program drew near, my interest in architecture and engineering expanded significantly. More importantly, the program helped me pinpoint
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precisely where my field of interest is. After all the research into the design of the new Bay Bridge, I decided that my creativity in the field of engineering would help me become a successful architect. Because of ACE, I was also able to find an internship at Turner Construction, where I am still a current intern.

Welcome New Board Members!

ACE Bay Area would like to welcome some new board members! These mentors have been a driving force in the ACE Bay Area program and we are happy to be strengthening our Board of Directors with these outstanding individuals.

Julie Heidbreder - Flack and Kurtz
Myron Humeny - URS
Melanie LaPointe - Swinerton Builders
Roger Parra - Degenkolb Engineers
Gwynne Powell - Turner Construction
Jennifer Wilcox - Turner Construction



San Francisco 3 ACE Student

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING & SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Spring is a welcome season not only for the return of the nice weather we long for after a “long dreary” winter (we are so spoiled out here), but also for one ACE Bay Area’s beloved traditions – the Annual Fundraising and Scholarship Awards Banquet. After a year of much planning that goes into recruiting mentors and students, coming up with activities and field trips, and then watching students become more and more engaged with the projects they work on and the mentors they interact with, the year-end celebration where all Bay Area teams come together is a fun and morale-boosting event.

Last spring, ACE Bay Area once again converged on our favorite location – the City Club in San Francisco, to award 14 deserving high school seniors who successfully completed the ACE program with thirteen \$1,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship.

Attendees were treated to brief presentations by students from each Bay Area team, giving everyone a chance to see what these bright young students had been working on all year, and giving the mentors a chance to look on like proud parents.

This year, on May 15, 2007, we will once again be hosting our Scholarship Awards banquet at the City Club. Tickets are on sale now, so don’t miss an opportunity to support these students in your local ACE Chapter and contribute directly to the scholarship fund that will be disbursed this year.

Registration details follow on the next page. See you all there!



The Fourth Annual ACE Scholarship Luncheon
The City Club
 155 Sansome Street, 10th Floor
 San Francisco
May 15, 2007
 11am – 12pm Registration
 12pm – 1pm Luncheon and Student Presentations
\$100 per person

Please help the San Francisco Bay Area ACE Mentor Program by showing your support and attending the Fourth Annual ACE Scholarship Luncheon on May 15, 2007.

Proceeds from the event will fund this year's scholarships to assist high school seniors intending to pursue a career in architecture, construction or engineering.

Thank you for your support! We look forward to seeing you!

The Fourth Annual ACE Scholarship Lunch
 May 15, 2007 11am – 1pm

Name: _____
 Company: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

Please RSVP no later than **May 8, 2007**.

Payment due by no later than event date.

- Platinum Sponsor - \$5,000 (includes a specially named scholarship** and table for 10*)
- Gold Sponsor - \$3,000 (includes a specially named scholarship** and table for 10*)
- Silver Sponsor - \$1,500 (includes a specially named scholarship** and table for 10*)
- Friends of ACE - \$ _____ (lunch not included)

*Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors agree to donate 2 of their 10 seats to students attending the event. **We expect to use _____ seats.**

** Sponsorships received after May 1st will go towards the general ACE scholarship fund.

- We will be attending the luncheon. Please reserve _____ seats at \$100/seat.
- We will not be attending the Luncheon, but please accept the enclosed donation.

The amount of the contribution that may be deductible for Federal income tax purposes is limited to the excess of the amount of money contributed by you over the value of the lunch purchased. ACE has made a good faith estimate as to the value of each lunch and determined the value to be \$25.00. You should consult your tax advisor to determine the extent to which the above contribution is deductible based on your individual circumstances.

Please make checks payable to **ACE Mentor San Francisco Bay Area**.
 Contact or return form with payment to:

ACE Mentor San Francisco Bay Area
 c/o Jennifer Wilcox, Turner Construction Company ·
 1503 Trousdale Drive Burlingame, CA 94010
 Ph. 650-552-9410 Fax 650-552-9419



2006 ACE Bay Area Golf Tournament

By Craig Stark



On an absolutely beautiful Wednesday, September 13, 2006, we held our second annual Golf Fundraising Tournament. The event was held at Crystal Springs Golf Course located between San Jose and San Francisco off of Highway 280. The weather cooperated, providing us with a mid-80's day, no fog, and light breezes as the shotgun started at 1:00.

Our goal was to get 100 people teeing off to help us raise money for the ACE Mentor program. We ended up with 107 people, in a total of 27 foursomes. The tournament format was a captain's choice where everyone would hit a tee shot, then the team would select the best shot, and everyone would then hit from that location until the ball was holed. The winning score was an impressive 12 under par, followed by 10 under for second place and nine under for third. The highest score was, well, let's just say above par by a bit, and leave it at that.

The winning team received a box of Titleist Pro V-1 balls, a tour golf glove and a Crystal Springs hat. Second place received the balls, and glove. Third place received the dozen balls. Long drive won a new TaylorMade driver and closest to the pin received a Guerrin Rife putter. The last place team received a tip-a-day Golf Calendar. Good luck with that! Unfortunately, no one hit a hole in one, which would have sent the skilled (lucky?) golfer and a friend to Pennsylvania for the 2007 US Open. Maybe we'll get a little easier shot this year . . .

Everyone had a good time, enjoying lunch before teeing off. Each participant received a sleeve of ACE logo golf balls, tees, assorted goodies as well as an ACE Mentor polo shirt, which allowed us to unveil the new and improved ACE Mentor logo! Wear it with pride!

The first annual tourney raised about \$1,800. We wanted to step it up a little this year and succeeded beyond our expectations. All told, we made over \$8,700! Huge thanks go to all the participants. With you, we wouldn't be able to attract motivated and talented young people into the fields of Architecture, Construction and Engineering.

We're already planning the next tournament, and have selected a date of Friday, September 7th, 2007. The event will again be held at Crystal Springs Golf Course, and we're upping the scale of this event once again, with lunch before and snacks after the event, driving range balls, more giveaways, more and bigger prizes, and a raffle. Be sure to look for the upcoming flier. We're shooting for 144 people – the most we can get on

the course. From 42 people the first year, to 107 the second, you'd better get your reservation forms in early this year. This one will sell out for sure!

Thank you again, to everyone who participated, provided us with donations, and helped plan and work the event. Another thanks to Sharon Spencer and Crystal Springs Golf Course. And finally, a very special thank you to Michael Nelson of Skanska USA, and Cynthia Muñoz of Stoecker and Northway Architects, Inc. for all of their hard work and help.

See you in September!

Life After ACE

By William Young

I first learned about ACE in my sophomore year in high school, when the Bay Area program was just starting up. I have always had an interest in engineering, and I was very much intrigued by the mentorship in the engineering field. After I received the letter from Craig Stark saying I was accepted, I went down to San Jose, where the first meeting was held. I really enjoyed having a chance at working with people who actually work in the architecture, construction and engineering fields. After a few team building, subject-related, creativity exercises, we started working on the "final project" of the year, which was designing a prefabricated house. This project was really some of the most fun I have ever had. Not only were the engineering aspects of it challenging and somewhat exhilarating to figure out, but the architecture aspects we had learned only a few weeks previous allowed for some real creativity in the design. I finally settled on a house that



William Young presenting his final project to the 2006 Scholarship Luncheon audience.

consisted of two two-story half domes, connected by a glass bridge along the top floor.

I continued my involvement in the ACE mentorship the following year, and my senior year. Each final project was unique and a lot of fun to design. A structure in the Palo Alto Baylands presented us with a lot of freedom in the function of the building. I designed a canvas structure whose transparent floor would reflect light coming off the water. The following year, we

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designed an athletic field for Palo Alto High School. This project was possibly the most challenging of the three that I was involved in, because of the tight space and having to put so many features and going within a number of restrictions. It really felt like a project an actual architect would design, and one an engineer would need all his skills for.

Now, as a student at UCLA, I really feel that ACE has helped me prepare for my engineering career by giving me actual experience with what the professionals do. Although I have only taken an introductory course in Civil Engineering, I can already relate some of the topics we have covered in the class with things I have learned in ACE. Even the liquefaction demonstration at UCLA was exactly the same as I saw in ACE! Getting to work with professionals in the field helped me understand the skills required to be in the architecture, construction and engineering fields.



Oakland 2 students mulling over plans for their Fox Theatre project.

The San Francisco 2 team checking out the renovations at Ghirardelli Square. *Hope they scored some chocolate!!*



Oakland 2 students looking very happy!

TACKLING CHALLENGES

By Holly Ackley

What are the difficulties in setting up a new ACE team? Finding a team captain is a bit difficult. It's a tough job. The team captain is responsible for finding mentors, setting up the student program, finding locations to meet, coordinating transportation for field trips, paying for supplies, keeping the students interested and buying snacks!

But that's easy compared to finding students. What's so hard about that, you may ask, if you've never done it before. ACE is a free after school program brought to the students by the very people that will be offering them jobs in architecture, engineering, and construction. ACE offers scholarships, including a free ride at about fifty schools across the nation. ACE has cool field trips. How hard could it be to get students? VERY VERY HARD.

Once the team leader has picked a school, the leader must find that one person in the school who gives a hoot about ACE. This process is usually initiated with several calls to the principal, vice principal, and/or counselor. Then, after getting no response, there are a few dozen more follow-up calls. Once we get a warm body, ACE then relies on this third party to find students for the program. This doesn't always work very well. In one instance, a teacher had apparently commanded several unwilling students to come to the program. They weren't interested in architecture, construction or engineering. They were interested in badminton.

As chair of the Education Committee, I've got some ideas on how we might tackle such problems in the future. One idea is to meet with the Superintendent and make sure that the entire school system knows

about our program. But I need more ideas. I look forward to your ideas and suggestions as to what has worked and what hasn't for tapping into schools and bringing students to ACE. Also I look forward to any suggestions you may have as to finding those students who don't yet realize that we have a career path for them. Please email me at holly.ackley@ucop.edu.



Holly Ackley at the 2006 Scholarship Luncheon.

cont. next column



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SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AFFILIATE
C/O DEGENKOLB ENGINEERS
235 MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 500
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104



Have questions about ACE?
Want to become a mentor?
Want to get your school involved?
Want to become a sponsor?

Visit us at www.acementor.org
or contact Aaron Gruber at
415-369-7621
agruber@thelenreid.com

Please contact Cynthia Muñoz at
cynthia@stoeckerandnorthway.com with
any questions, comments or corrections related to
the information contained in this newsletter.