

Chapter Reports

ACI Student Chapter Award Winners

Seventy-nine universities received recognition as ACI Outstanding Student Chapters for activities conducted during the 2024 calendar year. The student chapter winners were announced during the ACI Student Chapter Awards Program at the ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2025 in Toronto, ON, Canada.

The ACI Student Chapter Awards Program recognizes the achievement of outstanding student chapters whose activities align with ACI's strategic goal to increase participation and add value for its members. The student chapters accomplish this by increasing opportunities for professional and academic growth, as well as strengthening relationships between the student chapter and ACI and its local chapters.

In addition to reaching Outstanding Student Chapter status, Universidad Católica de Santa María (UCSM), located in Arequipa, Peru, was named as the 2024 Distinguished Student Chapter of the Year for attaining the highest level of points. UCSM's co-faculty advisors, Rubén Francisco Gamarra Tuco and José Germán Loayza Rodríguez, were also recognized with the 2024 Distinguished Faculty Advisor of the Year award.

Participating in ACI student competitions and/or organizing local competitions is a major part of student activities. Student chapters also engage in construction site tours, host research sessions and technical presentations, community outreach and education events, and host other professional development and networking opportunities.

Student chapters typically include undergraduate and/or graduate students pursuing degrees in civil engineering, construction management, concrete industry management, and architecture.

ACI currently has 355 student chapters worldwide, including 77 domestic and 278 international. Most student chapters are sponsored by a local professional chapter. The minimum requirement to form a student chapter at a university is 15 ACI student members.

To view the ACI Outstanding Student Chapter Award winners, visit www.concrete.org/students/studentchapteraward.

Concrete Floor Project in San Marcos

As part of the Concrete Social Responsibility Program, the ACI Universidad Rafael Landívar de la Verapaz Student Chapter and Faculty of Engineering completed a project constructing floors in the village of San Marcos, located in San Juan Chamelco, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. The primary goal of this initiative was to improve the living conditions of vulnerable families by replacing dirt floors with concrete in their homes and promoting direct health and well-being benefits for the beneficiaries.

The project was conducted on September 6-7, 2024, benefiting a total of 48 people, including adults and children, across eight selected households in the community. A total of 265 m² (2852 ft²) of concrete floors were built, improving areas such as shared bedrooms, living rooms, and dining rooms.

The event featured the active participation of student volunteers, members of the Student Chapter, technical staff, and sponsors, who worked as a team to ensure the project's success.

The Student Chapter plans to continue working to implement projects that promote the well-being of more Guatemalan communities.

ACI Uninorte Student Chapter Showcases 2024 Activities and Achievements

The ACI Universidad del Norte (Uninorte) Student Chapter in Barranquilla, Colombia, engaged civil engineering students throughout 2024 with a wide range of academic, technical, and professional development activities designed to promote knowledge, sustainability, and innovation in concrete and infrastructure.

The Student Chapter committed to broadening students' perspectives with Civil Week, held April 10-13, 2024. Activities included industry conferences, hands-on workshops like the "Taller de Mortero," and a business fair featuring companies such as Argos, Sika Corporation, and MAPEI. Students explored sustainability strategies, structural protection, and green solutions through expert-led sessions. The week concluded with a photography contest celebrating civil engineering's social impact.



ACI President (2024-2025) Michael J. Paul with student leaders from Universidad Católica de Santa María in Lima, Peru

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A signature event of the year was Concrete Week, held September 25-30, 2024, which focused on new technologies and methodologies in concrete. The week included technical conferences, research presentations, and hands-on workshops, including a session on ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC). Students also participated in the “Concrete Olympics” knowledge challenge, photo contests, and sports events. A highlight of the week was the “II Congreso de Estudiantes de ACI Colombia,” where Uninorte hosted student chapters from across Colombia for knowledge exchange and networking.

In collaboration with the ACI Republic of Colombia Chapter and the university’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, the Student Chapter also organized the Green Concrete Beam Competition. Now in its fourth year, the competition challenged student teams to design and build reinforced concrete beams incorporating sustainable materials such as recycled or supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs). Participants conducted simplified life-cycle assessments (LCAs) and evaluated beam performance based on mechanical strength and environmental impact. Casting took place on October 19, with testing held November 15-16.

The competition fostered innovation, collaboration, and sustainability awareness.

Held on October 3-4, the Student Chapter co-organized the First Seminar on Durability of Reinforced Concrete in Coastal Zones. This seminar provided a platform for experts, researchers, and students to address the challenges of building durable concrete structures in coastal environments.

Another key academic event was the Jornada de Infraestructura Vial, which focused on advancements in road infrastructure. Over 2 days, students and professionals attended technical presentations, including “Construcción del nuevo Pumarejo” and “Uso de la cal en la infraestructura vial.” The event also featured a field trip, which offered participants a practical look at road construction projects.

Throughout the year, the ACI Uninorte Student Chapter provided valuable opportunities for professional growth, technical skill-building, and industry engagement—reflecting ACI’s mission to empower the next generation of concrete professionals.

ACI-UOB Student Chapter Seminar on Civil Engineering Trends

In partnership with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter, the ACI University of Balamand (ACI-UOB) Student Chapter in Balamand, Lebanon, organized a seminar titled “Current Trends and Future Directions in Civil Engineering” on November 7, 2024. The event provided undergraduate and graduate students with valuable insights into key industry topics and promoted engagement between students, faculty, and professionals.

The program comprised three sessions, each focused on critical and timely themes within the civil engineering domain. These sessions were tailored to equip attendees with valuable insights, foster dialogue, and explore innovative solutions to pressing challenges in the field. The seminar opened with remarks from Abdulkader El-Mir, Associate Professor and Faculty Advisor for the ACI-UOB Student Chapter. El-Mir shared the Student Chapter’s history and emphasized its role in enhancing students’ technical knowledge and professional development. He highlighted the benefits of ACI membership, including access to research resources, participation in international competitions, and networking opportunities with industry leaders. El-Mir encouraged students to remain active in the Student Chapter as a pathway to expand their knowledge and build their careers.

The program’s second session featured Majd Ibrahim, a University of Balamand alumnus and established developer, who presented “Construction and Development in Northern Lebanon.” Ibrahim provided a comprehensive overview of



The ACI Uninorte Student Chapter organizes professional development activities, including competitions such as the Green Concrete Beam Competition

project execution, focusing on regulatory compliance, ethical practices, and the critical link between academic training and industry demands. His presentation included practical advice on navigating the local construction landscape and highlighted the role of civil engineers in driving sustainable development in the region.

In the final session, Antonio Bouty delivered a technical presentation titled “The Importance of Material Testing in Construction Projects.” Bouty detailed the essential role of material testing in ensuring the quality, safety, and longevity of structures. He reviewed common testing methods for concrete and other materials, shared real-world case studies, and stressed the importance of meeting industry standards to reduce the risk of failure. Students gained a clearer understanding of how material testing impacts project success and structural durability.

The seminar provided a valuable platform for students to connect with professionals and explore emerging trends in the field. Through events like this, the ACI-UOB Student Chapter

continues to support academic excellence, foster professional development, and prepare students for successful careers in civil engineering.



ACI and ASCE Student Chapter Officers with the presenters of the seminar

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