SAS Students Place at ASC Competition and Build onto Tradition of Excellence
By: Ashley Duvelius

The College of Engineering and Applied Science’s (CEAS) School of Advanced Structures (SAS) students competed in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region III’s 9th consecutive Regional Competition. The competition was held at the Doubletree Guest Suites & Conference Center in Downers Grove, Illinois from October 17-20. The four SAS teams finished on top, ranking in first, second and fifth places.

CEAS School of Advanced Structures (SAS) is a long-standing member of the prestigious Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region III. From October 17 to October 20, SAS students competed in the 9th consecutive regional ASC competition, held at the Doubletree Guest Suites & Conference Center in Downers Grove, Illinois. Although it was a regional competition, it comprises a large region in the US with twenty seven colleges, all with strong programs in Construction Management. A total of 249 students, organized into forty five teams, participated in the competition. The competition was divided into five categories including Commercial, Design-Build, Heavy Civil/Highway, Preconstruction and Electrical Projects.

SAS sent four teams to compete in the Design-Build, Preconstruction, Commercial and Heavy Civil/Highway Projects categories. Students who comprised the Design-Build Projects team were: Team Captain Ashley Snead, Alex Nash, Peter Strawman, Yue Zhao, Rusty Woelfel and David Schlossburg. The students’ task was to conceptualize the design and plan the construction of an administration building in a university. This team won first place.

The Preconstruction Projects team was charged with a project to conduct value engineering, conceptualize and estimate alternatives for the construction of an addition to a hospital. Students on this team included: Team Captain Stephanie Bryant, Brandon Laurito, Dan Setz, Ryan Clemens and Kaitlyn Sarmento. Their team placed in second.

Students on the Commercial Projects Team were asked to estimate, plan and prepare to construct a commercial building. Students who comprised this team were: Team Captain Brent Sexton, Melissa
(Sunderman) Sexton, Patrick Lyden, Keith Schlater, Austin Lynch and Thomas Elliott. This team won second place.

The Heavy Civil/Highway Projects team was tasked with planning to construct levies and power house for a large civil construction project. Students on this team included: Team Captain Molly Schellenberg, Luke Wurzelbacher, Rob Lichter, Brian Beams, Mike Saylor and Jacob Seim. They placed fifth out of twelve teams.

George Suckarieh, CEAS SAS professor and PhD, was the advisor for the Preconstruction and Commercial Projects Teams. Amanda Albrecht, CEAS SAS assistant professor and JD, served as the advisor to the Design-Build and Heavy Civil/Highway Projects Teams. Some of the advisors’ duties entailed providing students with professional contacts and resources when necessary, helping the teams in strategizing for the competitions and advising on the logistics required for travel.

Suckarieh reflects, “The success of our students demonstrates the strength of education and experience that the students are obtaining here at UC—particularly when compared to other strong construction management programs like the ones at Purdue, Michigan State and Ohio State Universities.

Our success of winning year after year in competitions against other construction management programs indicates the superior level of character building, education and experiential learning through cooperative education that our students get at UC. It is one of the best performance assessment indicators for our program.”

Congratulations to our SAS students as they continue to build onto the tradition of excellence that is UC CEAS.