The University of Florida student chapter of ASCE used the second half of the Fall semester to continue its involvement with the community, increase the professional development of its members and get prepared for the Spring semester. Since the end of the last Quarter, UF ASCE has held 5 general body meetings, hosted a FL Section Quarterly meeting, attended all Gainesville Branch meetings, and continued to participate in volunteering around the community.

The Chapter continued having its biweekly general body meetings and had speakers from various fields of civil engineering host all of them. Speakers from Skanska, AVCON, FDOT, and the US NAVY came to speak to members about current projects and opportunities after graduation. The Chapter held two field trips to civil engineering projects during the semester. Early in October, UF ASCE had the opportunity to tour the renovations being made to UF’s student union. Later, in November, a group of 21 students went to Jacksonville to tour 3 high profile construction sites currently underway.

As always, the main goal of the year is to prepare for the Southeast Student Conference and to do well in the competitions. Our conference team has been hard at work finding students to fill all of the competitions and almost all of them are filled. Our Concrete Canoe team has been hard at work developing their concrete mixes and construction processes. December 11th was the casting day for their practice canoe, which provided the team with practice and ways to improve the casting process for their competition canoe. The Steel Bridge team is continuing to perfect their design and begin ordering materials as next semester they begin their fabrication process.

To help fundraise for conference and other chapter activities, our chapter has actively been trying to find sources of money. For the first time, ASCE has been working concession stands at the Football games which has been very successful and will be more fruitful as the years go on. The Chapter also participated in the ASCE’s music video competition. A team of students worked endlessly on the project, rewriting the words to the “Fresh Prince of Bel Air” theme song and filming the music video; all to a theme of civil engineering.

Remaining involved in the community, our Community Service chair made sure that there were weekly opportunities to give back to Gainesville and Alachua County. Every week students volunteered at Lincoln Middle School, helping to get the kids more interested in science and engineering. A few students attended middle school science fairs, around Alachua County, to be judges. We also held road clean up and house renovation projects throughout the semester.

The last task of the semester was electing new officers and appointing a new Executive Board. On December 3rd, members elected a new President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary and Historian. These new officers met to appoint a new Executive Board of 14 students.

With less than three months away, UF ASCE is working towards fundraising enough money and building up the best possible teams for conference. Looking forward to the Spring semester, we will send several students to the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders in Miami, resume chapter operations with our general body and continue to strive to make UF a place where Civil Engineers can develop professionally.