

ACI UW TORONTO CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



COMPETITION PREP



Mix and Aesthetics Team

In January, ACI UW began prepping for the FRC Bowling Ball Competition with energy and excitement. We brought in newer members to get hands-on experience and see how the team works during competition season. To make the most of everyone's skills and keep it fun, we split into four teams: Mix Design, Mold, Ramp, and Aesthetics. The Mix team was led by Vania, Sarah, Virak, and Patricia, and the Aesthetics team by Alena and Blair.

Mold Team

The Mold team, led by Mohammed and Haruka, had fun brainstorming creative ways to design our molds. There was plenty of trial and error and long waits for 3D printing, but the process was rewarding and full of laughs. From sketching ideas to testing shapes, the team stayed patient and learned a lot. Their creativity and teamwork brought fresh energy to the project and set a strong foundation for our competition prep.



Ramp Team

The Ramp team, led by Luis and Victor, followed the competition rules to successfully replicate the testing ramp. Thanks to their hard work, we were able to test our bowling skills before the competition, refine our technique, and build confidence. Their efforts brought the team together and left us feeling well-prepared and ready for the event.



ACI CONVENTION



FRC Bowling Ball Competition

The FRC Bowling Ball Competition was judged in the Design, Analysis, and Aesthetics categories. ACI UW proudly placed **3rd in the Aesthetics category!** Special shoutout to Alena and Blair for making our balls look amazing. It was a lot of hard work, but the experience was fun and definitely worth it for the teamwork and excitement we shared.



Seminars & Socials

We had the opportunity to attend Women in ACI, where we had the chance to meet the new ACI President, Dr. Maria CG Juenger. We also joined the Student and Young Professional Networking Events, playing bingo and connecting with students from other chapters. To top it off, we attended the concrete mixer, enjoying delicious food, taking pictures, and making valuable connections.



S805 - Student Leadership Council Meeting and ACI Forum

The Student Forum was a fantastic opportunity to share updates about our club since we presented last competition. Following the forum, we attended the S805 Student Leadership Council meeting, where we provided feedback on the competition and shared experiences from our chapter. Thank you, S805, for the opportunity to collaborate on ACI student leadership!



FUN IN TORONTO!



ACI UW enjoys dinner with Mary Bauer and Ryan Matteson—Mary's treat made the night even more special!



ACI UW poses in front of the iconic Toronto Sign with Ryan Matteson and Addie Lederman.



The team hits karaoke with student chapters from Sacramento, Mexico, the Philippines, and Cal Poly for a night of music and fun.



Haruka, Patricia, and Sarah strike a pose while strolling through Kensington Market and enjoying the local shops!

TORONTO TEAM

Vania Moreno-Colin - President

"I'm Vania Moreno-Colin, the Student Chapter President and a senior studying structural engineering. Attending the Toronto convention was an incredible experience. Our team competed strong and unified, and I had the opportunity to present some of my personal CSA research. One of the most valuable takeaways from this convention was seeing how deeply the ACI community is committed to uplifting and supporting one another. Thank you, WA ACI, for standing by our side in Toronto!"



Mohammed Al-Sharah - Project Engineer

"I'm a senior at the University of Washington studying structural engineering, and I currently serve as the Project Engineer for the UW ACI Student Chapter.



What I enjoyed most about the convention was meeting so many people from diverse backgrounds who all share a passion for concrete. I also made valuable industry connections, and it was inspiring to see how everyone, regardless of their path, is working toward the shared goal of improving lives through concrete innovation."

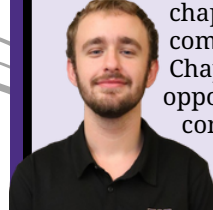
Haruka Migita - Design Engineer

"I'm Haruka Migita, the student chapter's Design Engineer and a senior in civil engineering pursuing a master's in geotechnical engineering. I enjoy ACI conventions for the chance to learn, grow my knowledge of concrete, and see new advancements. Despite the cold, I had a great time exploring Toronto, riding the streetcar, walking the PATH, and bonding with my chapter and others. The S806 events were insightful, and I learned how recycled aggregates are being researched and used in sustainable concrete. Thank you WA ACI!"



Kyle Bailey - Treasurer

"My name is Kyle Bailey. I'm a senior studying transportation engineering and the Student Chapter Treasurer. Attending the Toronto convention was an unforgettable experience. My favorite part was seeing the other student chapters' bowling ball aesthetic designs before competition. Being an officer in the ACI UW Student Chapter has been incredibly valuable, giving me the opportunity to work with a team on solutions to complex problems from ACI competitions. I'm confident this experience will benefit my future career as a civil engineer. Thank you, WA ACI!"



Patricia Reyes - Outreach Manager

"I'm Patricia Reyes, the student chapter's Outreach Manager and future Co-President, currently in my third year of studying Construction Management. The Toronto competition was a turning point for me. It was the first time I took on a bigger role, and it really made me realize how much I've grown since joining ACI. From problem-solving with my teammates to meeting people in the industry, this experience reminded me why I'm passionate about what I do. Thank you to WA ACI and all our sponsors, you've made a real difference in my journey!"



Victor Loyola - Member

"I'm Victor Loyola, a senior civil engineering student at the University of Washington. The ACI Convention in Toronto was unforgettable. Being surrounded by passionate students and professionals sparked new ideas. I enjoyed seeing the creativity of other teams during the bowling ball competition and learning from their approaches. Involvement in the ACI UW Chapter has expanded my technical knowledge and helped me find community in the field. Thank you, WA AC, I for making this journey possible and for your support!"



Sarah Young - Member

"I'm Sarah Young, a third-year student at the University of Washington studying Construction Management. I had the privilege of leading the mix design process for the student competition in Toronto and am excited to be Design Engineer next year. This competition was special as I learned much of what I know about concrete from the preparation and gained a newfound passion for it. I'm grateful to WA ACI for making this convention possible and to our sponsors for their support!"



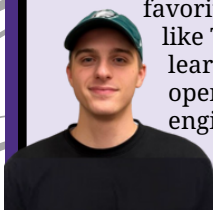
Virak Leng - Member

"My name is Virak, and I'm a third-year Construction Management student at the University of Washington. I'm excited to be the next Project Engineer for ACI UW and recently competed in my first student competition in Toronto. It was an amazing experience, from rolling our bowling ball on competition day to connecting with young professionals in the industry. I'm proud of our team's hard work, and we couldn't have done it without WA ACI's support. I'm looking forward to what's next for our student chapter and future competitions!"

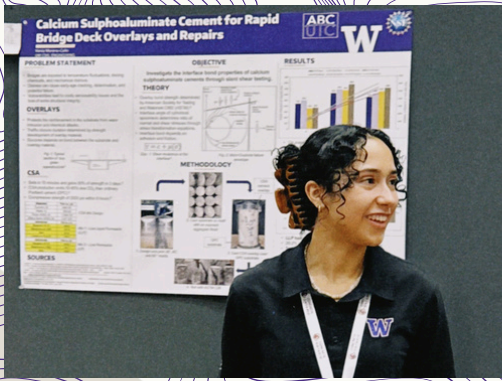


Sam Wyche - Member

"My name is Sam, and I'm a junior majoring in Construction Management. My favorite material is concrete, and my favorite area of study is construction safety. Traveling is one of my favorite hobbies, so exploring a new city with friends, like Toronto, is always welcome. Aside from that, learning about the different properties of fibers opened many doors for my knowledge of engineering concrete. I'm also very excited for what what lies ahead of us with the EPD student competition in Baltimore!"



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



ACI UW President - Vania Moreno-Colin

During the convention, Vania presented her research on Calcium Sulphoaluminate Cement for Rapid Bridge Deck Overlays and Repairs at the ACI 123 Student Poster Session and earned a **3rd Place award**. As another exciting achievement, she is set to become the new **Chair of ACI Committee 88-S805 – Student Leadership Council**, with her term beginning at the upcoming Fall Convention in Baltimore.

ACI UW Project Engineer - Mohammed Al-Sharah

Similar to Vania, Mohammed is set to become the next **Co-Chair of ACI Committee 88-S805 – Student Leadership Council**, starting his term at the Fall Convention in Baltimore. This is an incredible opportunity for both of them to lead and represent students at a national level.

Go DAWGS!



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

A huge thank you to our sponsors, professionals, and supporters for your invaluable help in preparing ACI UW for the Toronto Competition—none of this would have been possible without you. With your continued support, we're excited to improve and give our best effort at the ACI Fall Convention in Baltimore as we compete in the Egg Protection Device Competition.

We're deeply grateful for everything you've contributed to our journey!



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