



Trang Luong



Melissa Butcher

Two Civil Engineering Students Named New Faces of Civil Engineering

RESTON, Va (January 13, 2014) Trang Luong, a third-year civil engineering student and **Melissa Butcher**, an Accelerated Program graduate student, were recently named as two of 10 [New Faces of Civil Engineering – College Edition](#) by the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#) (ASCE). This recognition program promotes the achievement of young civil engineers by highlighting their academic success, volunteerism, and dedication to making a positive impact on society through their chosen profession. The University of South Florida is the only school with two New Faces this year.

Luong is active in several professional engineering societies including ASCE as the vice president of activities, the Florida Engineering Society, Society of Women Engineers and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. During the 2013 ASCE Southeast Student Conference she was recognized for her professional paper. She and her teammates also placed in the hydraulics competition and surveying competition.

She also volunteers as a service trip leader over school breaks and with Engineering EXPO, an event that encourages K-12 students to consider a career in science and engineering. In addition, she tutors fellow USF students to ensure their success in engineering courses.

Luong received a scholarship and interned in Germany, working on a structural dynamics project for 12 weeks through the prestigious scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service Research Internship in Science and Engineering Program.

“I enjoy working to solve the problems presented in civil engineering,” said Luong of why she chose the field. “It takes eagerness, creativity, dedication, perseverance, and teamwork to be successful.”

While working at the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) after high school, Butcher decided to pursue a career in civil engineering. She also interned with the City of Tampa Wastewater Department. Currently, in addition to her studies, Butcher is involved in several professional

organizations including the Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals (TBAEP), the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) at USF.

“I am grateful for the supportive community in civil engineering. There is an attitude of ‘paying it forward’ to ensure that the profession continues to thrive,” Butcher said.

She has already personally embraced the culture of promoting the profession to the next generation by her involvement and acting as a mentor to younger engineering students through both TBAEP and SWE. [She also guest authored a blogpost](#) on ASCE’s *The Emerging Engineer* blog.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is a Top 50 research university among both public and private institutions nationwide in total research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving more than 47,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.

The College of Engineering at the University of South Florida is ranked at #69 among public institutions by U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 engineering graduate school rankings. The college serves 4,600 students offering ABET-accredited undergraduate degrees in seven programs, as well as eleven masters and nine doctoral degrees. The College is actively engaged in local and global research activities with foci on sustainability, biomedical engineering, computing technology and transportation. For the fiscal year 2012 the college had \$28.3 million in research expenditures.

Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 145,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society. ASCE’s [2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, graded America’s cumulative GPA for infrastructure at a D+](#). [The Report Card app for Apple and Android devices includes videos, interactive maps and info-graphics that tell the story behind the grades, as well as key facts for all 50 states.](#) For more information, visit www.asce.org.