



UC San Diego Structural Engineering External Advisory Board

Department Vision

Our faculty and students aspire to be internationally renowned leaders in analyzing, designing, simulating, visualizing, optimizing, monitoring and assessing the behavior and environmental interactions of structures and structural materials from a holistic perspective, including those used in civil, geotechnical, aerospace, naval, marine, energy, and biological applications.

Department Mission

To advance the structural engineering profession through research, teaching and service by integrating engineering mechanics theories, computational modeling simulations, experimental testing observations, and practical design concepts.

Board Mission

To provide advice and feedback to the Department, to enhance the professional and educational value of the Department, build relationships, and generate support for the Department's students and faculty.

Board Goals/Objectives

- Help identify pressing research needs and opportunities.
- Build bridges between the Department and the local/regional/national communities.
- Support student recruiting for jobs and internships.
- Share expertise with undergraduate and graduate students through classroom visits, field trips, seminars, and networking opportunities.
- Provide advice and feedback on undergraduate and graduate learning objectives, curriculum, and course content.
- Strategically develop the membership of the Board.
- Assist the Department in fundraising for scholarships, faculty development, and laboratory support.

Board Structure

The number of board members will vary between 20-25 members and should represent a cross-section of professionals in the different disciplines in the Department (Civil Structures, Geotechnical Engineering, Computational Mechanics, Aerospace Structures and Structural Health Monitoring). The board will include alumni of the department, leaders of firms or agencies, 1-2 faculty members, and the Department Chair. The chair of the industrial advisory board will be a member from outside the department, selected by the Department Chair. Board members should show a willingness and ability to work actively on the Department's behalf.

If a member of the board is unable to attend a meeting, they can nominate an alternate from their firm to attend that meeting. Board members will serve on rotating 3-year terms with options for renewal at the discretion of the Board and a maximum of two terms. Board members will consider nominations for new Board members from the faculty and current members. Subcommittees may be developed for specific tasks and needs as identified by the board (Development, programs, scholarships, etc.).

Meetings

The External Advisory Board will meet at UCSD at least once per year or as called by the board chair, with call-in options available. Meetings will be approximately two hours. Additional activities will be offered throughout the year at the discretion of the Department Chair.

Participation

Board members may participate in the following ways:

- Provide feedback to the Department faculty on how research and curricula are best addressing the needs and expectations of the engineering community.
- Provide feedback to the Department faculty on opportunities and challenges facing practitioners.
- Partner with faculty to provide guest speakers for courses or workshops.
- Connect Department students with internships and career opportunities
- Provide financial resources and opportunities for faculty and student development, including attendance to seminars, conferences, and educational events.
- Provide financial resources to maintain and improve the Department undergraduate laboratories and research laboratory facilities.

Benefits of Board Participation

- Chance to give back to the department to provide for excellence in education.
- Opportunity to shape or influence future engineers.
- Access to faculty research expertise.
- Access to interns.
- Engagement in campus and educational activities.

Department of Structural Engineering, UC San Diego
External Advisory Board

Continuing Members

- **Kosal Krishnan (SE PhD '93) - Chair**
 - Affiliation: Division Vice President, Southern California Operations Manager, WSP, USA
 - Primary area: Civil Structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kosal-krishnan-13276a8/>

- **Robert Englekirk, Honorary Member**
 - Affiliation: Englekirk Structural Engineers
 - Primary area: Civil Structures

- **Matthew Tobolski (SE MS '07, SE PhD '10)**
 - Affiliation: President and Co-founder, BASX Solutions
 - Primary area: HVAC structural design
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/matt-tobolski/>

- **Joe Vettel**
 - Affiliation: CEO / President, Geocon, Inc.
 - Primary area: Geotechnical Engineering
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joe-vettel-0911268/>

- **Vijay Pujar**
 - Affiliation: Sr. Fellow, Composite Materials & Advanced Manufacturing at Collins Aerospace
 - Primary area: Aerospace structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vpujar/>

- **Doug Grose (SE '89)**
 - Affiliation: Director, New Glenn Loads & Dynamic Environments, Blue Origin
 - Primary area: Aerospace structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/doug-grose-a547307/>

- **Dr. James Gingery (SE PhD '14)**
 - Affiliation: Chief Engineer at Keller West
 - Primary area: Geotechnical construction
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-gingery-a919157/>

- **Richard Chen (SE '00, MS SE '01)**
 - Affiliation: Principal at Labib Funk + Associates
 - Primary area: Civil Structures/Earthquake Engineering, structural design of commercial facilities
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-wei-chih-chen-2404831a/>

- **Kevin Napolitano (SE '89)**
 - Affiliation: Senior Technical Advisor, ATA Engineering, San Diego
 - Primary area: Aerospace structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kevin-napolitano-a5090840/>
- **Matthew D. Smith (SE PhD '13)**
 - Affiliation: Lead - SHM CW R&D, Research Civil Engineer, Engineer Research and Development Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MI
 - Primary area: Geotechnical construction
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-smith-phd-pe-03877212/>
- **Derrick Watkins (SE PhD '11)**
 - Affiliation: Principal - Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
 - Primary area: Analytical capabilities and facilities: Defense, Energy, Aerospace
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/derrickwatkinsse/>
- **Larry McMichael**
 - Affiliation: Group Leader, Structural & Applied Mechanics Group,
 - Computational Engineering Division, LLNL
 - Primary area: Explosive detection, computational mechanics, foundation engineering
 - LinkedIn: <https://people.llnl.gov/mcmichael1>
- **Kendall H. Pierson, PhD**
 - Affiliation: Sandia National Laboratories
 - Primary area: Computational mechanics, materials
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kendall-pierson-a222b814/>
- **Alex Spediacci (SE BS '11, SE MS '14)**
 - Affiliation: Structural Analyst, Northrop Grumman Corporation
 - Primary area: Composite Structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alex-spediacci-58697a38/>
- **Scott Arnold (SE BS '94)**
 - Affiliation: Director of Engineering Solutions at Fyfe Company, LLC
 - Primary area: structural solutions for civil, structural and water pipeline markets
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-arnold-a9510818/>
- **Brent Berenson (SE BS '90)**
 - Affiliation: Director of Global Operations, Power, Fluor
 - Primary area: Civil structures, infrastructure systems
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brentberenson/>

New Members

(Term Start-Date: July 2022)

- **Todd Beach (MAE '83 MS '90)**
 - Affiliation: Senior Vice President of R&D
 - Primary area: engineering, materials sciences
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/todd-beach-7486331/>

- **Gernot Komar**
 - Affiliation: CEO, Sun Engineering and Technology International (USA)
 - Primary area: Civil Structures
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gernot-komar-79224263/>

- **Ravindra "Ravi" Verma, (SE MS '90, SE PhD '93)**
 - Affiliation: Founder and Chairman, Mobility Infrastructures Group
 - Primary area: transportation, logistics and urban infrastructure needs
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ravindra-verma-9365018b/>

- **Jennifer Cover (SE BS '96)**
 - Affiliation: President & CEO, Woodworks
 - Primary area: commercial and multi-family wood building design, engineering, and construction
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-cover-p-e-90821335/>

- **Joanne Inga, PE**
 - Affiliation: Director of Pre-construction, JT Wimsatt Contracting, Inc.
 - Primary area: structural concrete
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanne-inga-pe-92b78b1b/>

- **Stanley "Stan" Mak**
 - Affiliation: Managing Principal, General Atomics
 - Primary area: technology solutions for government and commercial applications

- **Eric Lehmkuhl (MAE '82)**
 - Affiliation: Managing Principal, KPFF (San Diego)
 - Primary area: structural engineering, civil engineering, protective design, surveying & mapping
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/eric-lehmkuhl-45801015/>

- **Ngan Ha Vu, (SE MS '98)**
 - Affiliation: Kleinfelder
 - Primary area: Civil Engineering

- **Scott Ouellette, '09, MS'11, PhD '14**
 - Affiliation: R&D Engineer, Advanced Engineering Analysis, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)
 - Primary area: software development, finite element analysis for thermal and structural system modeling, experimental testing and data analysis
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-ouellette/>