

We have two “geo-groups” here at UC-San Diego which help us benefit from the resources available from both CalGeo and GI. Of course each of us are members of both groups and we all pitch in to run events and provide opportunities for our students to interact with professionals in academia and industry. Just the other day at our annual barbecue, a few of us had the chance to talk to Professor Iraj Noorany, and he gave us an impromptu history of a few notable San Diego structures – including a bridge supported by driven concrete pipe piles (very unique!) and a sporting arena on timber piles. We quickly came up with the idea together, to have Professor Noorany give a guest lecture centered around San Diego structures. What a great way for our students to become more familiar with San Diego site conditions and the history of notable structures in our region!

These small interactions mean a lot to us. Through our student groups, we strive to generate enthusiasm among the undergrads about geotechnical engineering, stay in touch with our alumni, and network with industry. One of our alumni, Ahmed Ebeido, is coordinating a site visit for us to observe aggregate pier installations to reduce settlement of shallow foundations. Additionally, we are gearing up for the annual PSWC GeoWall competition (and hopefully the national GI competition as well) and racking our brains as to how to design the three-sided MSE wall this year.

We are grateful for any donations to help us support our students at these events (and especially the GeoWall competition). Any checks can be made to CalGeo at UCSD and sent to the below address. Additionally, we will be personally reaching out to everyone that has sponsored us in the past to express our gratitude from the professors and students here at UCSD!

CalGeo at UCSD  
UC San Diego, SE Department  
9500 Gilman Dr. SME 442  
La Jolla. CA 92093-0085

*Note from our 2019-20 GeoWall Team Captain Kelly Leung:*

“Our team consisted of six people last year. The main focus was to perform well and get placed at PSWC. We learned how to work as a cohesive group and learned a lot about geotechnical engineering through our own initiative. With the help from a PhD student, who attended weekly meetings to discuss design issues and improvements with the team, we were able to create a strong design. After the design was finalized, the team practiced for the construction weekly. Our members had a valuable and fun experience at the competition and are already looking forward to this year’s project.”



Our team at the 2019 Pacific Southwest Conference GeoWall Competition