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USC Davidson Center

Chi Epsilon: Induction of Gregg Brandow, Adjunct Professor as honor member

Speech by Ryan Anderson, Class of '08

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I would first like to thank the Civil Engineering Department and David M. Wilson & Affiliates for their help in making this ceremony a possibility.

To simply become a member of our organization, one must display the four traits that every Chi Epsilon member possesses: scholarship, practicality, sociability, and character. To be recognized as a Chapter Honor Member of Chi Epsilon takes much more than that. It is a distinguished honor, not to be awarded lightly. One must go beyond what is expected and shine not only amongst the average civil engineers, but amongst the best and brightest in the field. After hearing so many stories, reading of his accolades, and having the privilege of being his student in three classes here at USC, Gregg Brandow seemed to outshine them all.

In the area of Scholarship, Gregg Brandow has proved himself in the classroom and outside of it, perhaps more so than any civil engineer in California. He was a member of Chi Epsilon during his undergraduate days at USC, earning his Bachelor's degree in 1967. In fact, he served as President of the USC Chapter of Chi Epsilon. Gregg chose to attend Stanford University for his Master's Degree and PhD, before returning to his native home in Los Angeles.

After entering the workforce for his father's firm, Brandow & Johnston Structural Engineers, Gregg has proven his expertise in engineering by earning his Structural Engineering License in California, as well as 17 other states. He is such an expert in the field that Gregg serves as the only Structural Engineering Representative on California's Board of Professional Engineering.

Most of the people in this room will recognize Gregg from his demonstration of scholarship by his professorship at USC. I have had the privilege of being his student in three classes: Introduction to Structural Design, Timber & Masonry Design, and Structural Systems Design, but I will get back to this later. It is probably fitting that Gregg teaches Timber & Masonry Design as he co-authored the textbook: Design of Reinforced Masonry Structures.

Practicality---- Within the structural engineering and architecture field, there is a reason that the name Gregg Brandow is well recognized.

It could be the aforementioned prestige of being the only Structural Engineering Representative on the California Professional Engineering Board.

It could be that he is on the USC Board of Councilors and is one of the key members of David M. Wilson & Affiliates.

It could also be that hundreds of professional engineers working in Southern California received his tutelage as a professor at USC.

It could be that he has been the President of Brandow & Johnston Structural Engineers, one of the most highly regarded structural firms in Los Angeles, since 1985. Brandow & Johnston has designed thousands of excellent buildings around Southern California, including 45 on USC Campus, many under Gregg's leadership.

In fact, he was one of the head designers of the very headquarters of the Civil Engineering Department: Kaprielian Hall.

Chances are, Gregg Brandow is a very well recognized name in the engineering community for a combination of these reasons. His accomplishments within the Structural Engineering field are astounding and it is only fitting that his we recognize these achievements.

Character and Sociability ----

Despite all of Gregg Brandow's personal success and achievements it is clear that what matters most to him is giving back and broadening the civil engineering field for future generations.

It would be very easy for a highly successful president of an engineering firm to simply rake in as much money as possible and leave little time for anything else. However, Gregg has gone the exact opposite way, while teaching at USC for many years, and furthering the Structural Engineering community by contributing to earthquake design centers at UCSD and Stanford.

I have seen firsthand his commitment to students. He has come to USC on many nights, after a long day at work, simply to extend extra office hours for his students' questions and concerns. I can personally think of at least five occasions as his student that Gregg has come to school on days when we did not have regularly scheduled class.

Not only does he put in the extra time that many do not, he also does an excellent job teaching. His classes have been the link between academia and real world engineering and his classroom lectures always have a practical purpose. Gregg's anecdotes and cheerful expression definitely make his classes run a lot smoother. Students feel comfortable asking him questions, about every kind of topic and he never smirks at a student's foolish comment.

I am at an awkward spot of appearing as a suck-up, seeing as I am still in Gregg's class this semester, but I can honestly say that Gregg Brandow is my favorite professor at USC and the one professor whose guidance ensured me that I made the correct decision in choosing Structural Engineering.

At this time I would like to ask, Dean Bardet, Hank Koffman, Kim Boynton our current President, and most importantly, Gregg Brandow to come up on stage.

Although this award if not Gregg Brandow's first, and certainly not his last, we hope that it is viewed with importance as it was voted on by his own students, in his own alma mater, in an organization that he once served as President. This award has been long overdue and it my pleasure to present Chi Epsilon at USC's newest Chapter Honor Member: Gregg Brandow.