

structurally sound



BEST BRIDGE BUILDERS

THEY CAME. THEY SAW. They built a winning bridge.

The student steel bridge team from Lafayette College, Easton, Penn., were crowned overall champions of this year's ASCE/AISC National Student Steel Bridge Competition (NSSBC), hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May. This is the first time Lafayette has captured the national title in the competition's 27-year history. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, came in second place and École de Technologie Supérieure—overall winners in 2016 and 2017—took home third. The competition showcases students' skills in civil engineering, innovation and teamwork.

“While we knew that we had a contender this year, we also knew that we needed to be nearly perfect in order to beat the other top teams, who brought incredibly well-engineered bridges,” said Steve Kurtz, associate professor in Lafayette College's department of civil and environmental engineering and the steel bridge team's faculty advisor. “Many of our alumni can relate to the teams that we narrowly defeated. They did great engineering work but just came up a bit short, often due to a small dimensional penalty or a few bolt drops.”

Check out next month's issue for more coverage and photos of the competition! You can also visit www.nssbc.info for full results. ■