

GENERATION STEM

NEWSLETTER

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SDSU

Georgia



SDSU

San Diego State
University

❖ SDSU Celebrating
125 Years of Excellence

❖ SDSU in Georgia:
beyond 2023

❖ Building STEM Economy
in Georgia

❖ Joint Job Fair with
Partner Universities

ABOUT SDSU GEORGIA

San Diego State University Georgia, through funding from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and Millennium Challenge Account Georgia (MCA Georgia), offers students an exciting educational opportunity to study in Tbilisi, Georgia. Here, in the heart of the Caucasus, students are able to earn a professionally accredited, internationally recognized U.S. bachelor's degree. San Diego State University (SDSU), along with three top Georgian Universities, Tbilisi State University (TSU), Ilia State University (ISU), and Georgian Technical University (GTU), offers courses leading to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) internationally accredited bachelor's degrees. Programs offered by the university support the development of engineering, science, and technology fields, as well as Georgia's human capital capacity for economic growth.

In five cohorts, SDSU Georgia has admitted 780 students and more than 500 will graduate the programs. Georgia campus offers six degree programs:

- ✦ Chemistry/Biochemistry
- ✦ Civil Engineering
- ✦ Computer Engineering
- ✦ Computer Science
- ✦ Construction Engineering
- ✦ Electrical Engineering

American degree programs include a well-rounded liberal arts education and feature accreditations from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the Accreditations Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), and the American Chemical Society (ACS). SDSU Georgia graduates will leave with a broad base of knowledge and the critical thinking skills necessary to succeed in a STEM career locally, regionally, or internationally.

Members of the SDSU Georgia community form a unique and special cohort of individuals who will earn regionally and nationally accredited and internationally recognized high-quality STEM bachelor's degrees. Additionally, SDSU Georgia students will be exposed to the same academic benefits available to their peers at SDSU's main campus in California, including state-of-the-art technology and laboratories. The San Diego State University Aztecs alumni family includes over 500,000 national and international leaders. At SDSU Georgia, we empower our students to achieve academic, professional, and personal goals.

Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact ended on July 1, 2019. Since then, SDSU has been focusing on the Sustainability initiatives to ensure continuous development of U.S. STEM degrees in Georgia.



The Newsletter of San Diego State University Georgia is published by the Dean's Office and distributed to SDSU Georgia stakeholders, faculty, students, and friends.

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GEORGIA
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GEORGIA



President de la Torre and Dean Guven visiting the Wine Museum in Guadalupe, Mexico during the Georgia delegation visit, September 2022

Message from the Dean

SDSU has turned 125 this year!

Throughout its 125-year history, having been founded on March 13, 1897, San Diego State University has embodied its teaching, research, and outreach mission and its public good pledge to change lives and communities for the better.

SDSU Georgia is a proud member of the SDSU family with only eight years of history but ambitious achievements to show for it. SDSU came to Georgia to provide an American university education focused on STEM disciplines that would improve human capital in the Georgian labor force and to battle the critical shortage of STEM professionals educated to current international standards. SDSU programs have 410 graduates in Georgia, and this coming year, the project will be completed with 115 more STEM professionals entering the job market.

By introducing American degree programs to the Georgian education system, SDSU Georgia has also brought the novelty of ABET accreditation to its partner institutions. Up to 4,000 square meters of classrooms and Engineering, Chemistry, and Computer labs at partner university facilities have been renovated and equipped according to current educational standards. And about 5,000 square meters of the new STEM Campus was constructed and outfitted in partnership with Ilia State University. We have also trained more than 100 faculty members of partner universities that will continue teaching ABET-accredited programs in Georgia.

SDSU Georgia is working on additional opportunities for research and the continuation of degree programs with the existing partners as beneficiaries. Recently, SDSU was selected to transform early childhood

education in Georgia to empower the nation's youngest generation. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia granted SDSU this \$4.19 million World Bank-funded effort that will focus on children from ages 2-5.

SDSU Georgia has achieved these results with the trust and help of SDSU President Adela de la Torre, the Government of Georgia, Millennium Challenge Corporation and Millennium Foundation, our donors, public and private partners, and advisory board members. A delegation of our stakeholders in Georgia, including the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Dr. Mikheil Chkhenkeli, visited SDSU this September. President de la Torre hosted the delegation to tour the beautiful region of Baja California, Mexico, to meet with the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (UABC) leadership, and to tour the wine museum at the Guadalupe Valley (wine country of Baja California, near the town of Ensenada), which showcases Georgia as the cradle of enology. During the visit, SDSU, the Georgian Ministry of Education, and our partner universities explored additional partnership opportunities and signed memorandums of collaboration.

SDSU - the academic and research powerhouse with a 125-year history of excellence will continue to explore additional ways to impact Georgia beyond the higher education and doctoral levels and expand SDSU Georgia's model of collaboration and success to the Early and General Education, teacher development, and continued degree programs with our partner universities.

Halil Guven, Ph.D.
Dean, SDSU Georgia

SDSU Celebrating 125 Years of Excellence!



In San Diego, many buildings, bridges, city landmarks, and neighborhoods turned red to join the anniversary campaign for the oldest university of the city, including the 1,200-acre Balboa Park, BLVD63 - SDSU off-campus housing community, Little Italy neighborhood in San Diego, Port of San Diego, San Diego County Administrative Building, SeaWorld San Diego, and many others. SDSU's on-campus locations were also lit up, including the iconic Hepner Hall, the newly constructed Snapdragon Stadium, and many more.

SDSU Georgia is a proud member of this over-the-century-old institution, with its diverse community committed to equity and inclusion. SDSU's project in Georgia is one of the highlights of the country's recent history and a great example of a successful multilateral collaboration that academia can build beyond the cultural, language, and even time zone boundaries.

Happy 125th Anniversary, SDSU!

Since its founding in 1897, SDSU has grown to become a leading public research university and a federally-designated Hispanic-serving Institution. Each year, SDSU provides more than 36,000 students with the opportunity to participate in an academic curriculum distinguished by direct contact with faculty and an international emphasis that prepares them for a global future. SDSU is the oldest higher education institution in San Diego.

To celebrate 125 years of excellence and pride in red and black - businesses, attractions, and landmarks were lit up red throughout San Diego and Tbilisi. Tbilisi City congratulated SDSU by lighting up the historic Tbilisi Ferris Wheel, overlooking the city from 1000 feet. The STEM building constructed by SDSU Georgia, in partnership with Ilia State University, was also lit up in red during the campaign week of October 29th through November 6th. The sky-high banners hung from the top of the building also spread the festivities, marking the 125th anniversary of SDSU.



Georgia Delegation at SDSU Main Campus

Every other year, SDSU Georgia organizes a visit of a high-level delegation to the main campus in San Diego, California, to hold the Advisory Board meeting with the participation of the board members from Georgia and SDSU participants. The last visit of the Georgia delegation happened in April 2019 for the Investiture Ceremony of President Adela de la Torre, the ninth permanent President of SDSU. Due to the pandemic, the board members could not visit SDSU main campus until September this year. 2022 is also the year that SDSU turned 125 years old. So the visiting group participated in the celebratory activities and met with the leaders of Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) in Ensenada, Mexico, to explore sustainable development and collaboration opportunities with them.

This year, the Georgia delegation included the following supporters of SDSU in Georgia:

- ✦ Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Dr. Mikheil Chkhenkeli
- ✦ CEO at Millennium Foundation, Ms. Magda Magradze
- ✦ Head of Tertiary Education at Millennium Foundation, Dr. Nodar Surguladze
- ✦ Rector (now former) of Tbilisi State University, Dr. George Sharvashidze

- ✦ Rector of Ilia State University, Dr. Nino Doborjginidze
- ✦ Dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Control Systems at Georgian Technical University, Dr. Tamar Lominadze
- ✦ Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Cartu Foundation, Mr. Nikoloz Chkhetiani
- ✦ Project Director, Cartu Foundation, Mr. Vakhtang Tsagareli
- ✦ Executive Director of Georgia Innovation, Inclusion, and Quality Project, Ms. Tamar Sanikidze
- ✦ Managing Director at BLI Management Georgia, Mr. Zurab Kervalishvili
- ✦ Chairman of Georgia's Technology and Innovations Agency (GITA), Mr. Avtandil Kasradze
- ✦ Corporate Affairs Director at Efes Georgia, Mr. Nikoloz Khundzakishvili
- ✦ Chairman of the Supervisory Board, GIG, Mr. Gela Bezhuashvili
- ✦ Executive Director at the Association of Pharmaceutical Companies Representatives in Georgia, Mr. Irakli Margvelashvili
- ✦ CEO at Center for International Education, Ms. Nino Chinchaladze



SDSU President Adela de la Torre hosted a ceremony at her residence to sign the Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, and Georgian Technical University. The signing of the new Memorandums aims to foster connections between SDSU, the Georgian Government, and academic institutions in Georgia in support of students and faculty, leading to academic, educational, and research projects and action-oriented educational impact.

Following the MCC Compact closure in 2019, SDSU entered into an exploratory agreement with Georgia's Ministry of Education and Science in 2021 to ensure that the activities launched through the MCC were sustained and further enhanced. The 2022 agreement builds on this existing collaboration to advance educational capacity and help develop human capital in Georgia.



Inaugural Game at Snapdragon Stadium

The visit opened with a momentous event for SDSU - the inaugural game at the Snapdragon Stadium, the new home of San Diego State University's American football team. On September 3, SDSU Aztecs played the Arizona Wildcats. Work on the 35,000-capacity stadium began in August 2020, and the project was completed on time ahead of the Aztecs' season opener. The delegation of SDSU Georgia's partner universities, PPPF donors, and the Georgian government were among the attendees at the game.



Advisory Board Meeting

On September 6, 2022, SDSU Georgia held the Fall 2022 advisory board meeting at SDSU main campus. The visiting delegation from Georgia attended the meeting, including the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Dr. Mikheil Chkhenkeli, CEO of the Millennium Foundation, Ms. Magda Magradze, Director of Human and Community Development at Millennium Challenge Corporation, Ms. Sonia Shahrighian, rectors of the three partner universities, advisory board members and PPPF donors of SDSU Georgia. The meeting was also attended by SDSU President Dr. Adela de la Torre, Provost, Dr. Salvador Hector Ochoa, Vice Provost, Dr. William Tong, Deans of the relevant programs, and the SDSU Georgia executive committee members.



Labor Day Weekend in Mexico: Visit to UABC

The Georgia delegation visited Mexico over the Labor Day weekend to tour the Museo de la vid y el vino (Wine Museum) in Valle de Guadalupe, which has a hefty section devoted to Georgia, the cradle of winemaking. As the official part of the visit, SDSU President Adela de la Torre, the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, Dr. Mikheil Chkhenkeli, educational leaders from Georgia, and SDSU Georgia's Advisory Board members visited the Ensenada Campus of the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC). The introductory meeting served to advance their commitment to transborder academic projects and their collaboration on plans for global sustainable development. UABC is one of Mexico's top-ranked universities.

"As part of our commitment to preparing global leaders, SDSU International Affairs has consistently aimed to strengthen bridges of collaboration that expand from San Diego to our Cali-Baja transborder region and other strategic parts of the world," said Cristina Alfaro, SDSU Associate Vice President of International Affairs.

The group's agenda focused mainly on collaborative strategies that meet the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call for global action toward protecting the planet and bringing peace and prosperity to all people by 2030. Meeting participants also addressed programs such as student exchange, academic mobility, and joint research.

"Let us organize opportunities where our faculty, industry, and student communities can design and implement solutions for accelerating local and national progress on shared issues," said de la Torre. "My goal is to ensure that SDSU, UABC, and our partner universities in Georgia become a world-known Hub of international collaboration."

SDSU's commitment to research projects with Mexico and Georgia addresses the university's strategic plan goals of achieving R1 status as a top-tier research institution.

Source: SDSU NewsCenter, September 2022

SDSU Selected to Transform Early Childhood Education in Georgia



SDSU's ECE team in front of the ISU STEM Building, during their recent visit to Tbilisi in November 2022
Dr. Nancy Frey, Dr. James Marshall, and Dr. Douglas Fisher

San Diego State University's partnership with the nation of Georgia to enhance its education system has taken a significant step forward with an initiative to empower the nation's youngest generation.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia selected SDSU to lead a \$4.19 million World Bank-funded effort to transform early childhood education, which focuses on children from ages 2-5, including 5-year-old preschoolers. SDSU was chosen in a contract finalized last week as part of a competitive proposal process, which attracted multiple international institutions.

"For the last eight years, SDSU Georgia has been a beacon of hope and opportunity for many Georgian students and their families," said SDSU President Adela de la Torre. "Our collaboration with the educational leaders in Georgia has provided SDSU a critical foundation to not only address this new focus on early childhood education but also continue a sustainable partnership to strengthen our role in supporting the strategic goals of the Georgian nation."

The latest project will see a team of SDSU College of Education faculty — led by Nancy Frey, professor of educational leadership — and other U.S. experts working alongside Georgian academics, caregivers, educators and community members to develop an approach to developing young Georgians. The team has outlined four goals:

- ✦ Building a framework for quality assurance, including developing standards and plans to reach children with special needs and ensure access to ethnic and linguistic minorities
- ✦ Creating systems for data collection and reporting where none currently exist
- ✦ Enhancing teacher development by advocating for training, certification and professional development

- ✦ Implementing a school readiness program that includes a focus on developmentally-appropriate practices and trauma-informed care

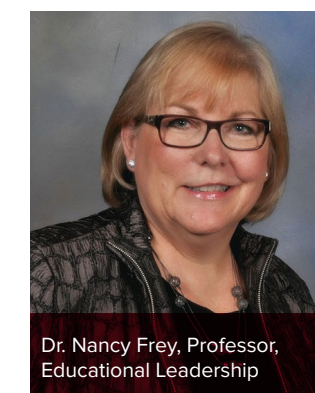
"Early childhood education (ECE) is not compulsory in Georgia, but the country is interested in expanding both the scope and the quality of educational experiences for children," Frey said.

Cristina Alfaro, SDSU's associate vice president for international affairs, said the collaboration with local stakeholders is critical to ensuring the creation of a system that works within the Georgian context.

"I'm so grateful to Nancy Frey and Douglas Fisher (professor and chair in the Department of Educational Leadership) for their work on the Georgia initiative. Our college is excited to take an even greater role in contributing to educational transformation in Georgia." - said Y. Barry Chung, Dean of the College of Education.

SDSU continues working on additional opportunities to maintain its presence in Georgia and build on the existing resources to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved in education.

Source: SDSU NewsCenter, August 2022



Dr. Nancy Frey, Professor, Educational Leadership



Dr. Douglas Fisher, Department Chair & Professor, Educational Leadership

SINCE 2014



SDSU Georgia project inception
SDSU Provost Nancy Marlin and Georgia's Minister of Education and Science, Tamar Sanikidze signed the agreement to launch SDSU-Georgia, utilizing the Millennium Challenge Corporation's 140 million USD grant, through second compact for Georgia, implemented through Millennium Challenge Account - Georgia (MCA-G).



Cohort 1 Enrolled

In 2015, SDSU Georgia enrolled the first cohort of 86 students in three degree programs: Chemistry/Biochemistry, Computer Engineering, and Electrical Engineering.

SDSU Georgia sent the first cohort of students to SDSU main campus for an exchange semester. In total, 61 students have participated in the exchange program.



San Diego State Rugby game in Tbilisi, Georgia

The Aztecs headed out on a special trip with US Embassy Tbilisi, Georgia to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations and the success of San Diego State University in Georgia.



SDSU-ISU STEM Campus Construction Started
The new STEM building was constructed in partnership with ISU, with a total space of **4,600 m2**.

Cohort 3 Enrolled

SDSU Georgia enrolled the third cohort of 199 students. Two degree programs were added: Civil Engineering and Construction Engineering.



President de la Torre visited Georgia during the first 100 days of her appointment



In 2019, SDSU Georgia enrolled the additional fifth cohort of 138 students in four programs: Chemistry/Biochemistry, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Civil Engineering.

Cohort 5 Enrolled

MCC Compact Ended

SDSU Georgia switches to Flex model of instruction, due to COVID-19



Cohort 3 Graduated



SDSU Turns 125!



Cohort 5 will graduate in May 2023

SDSU IN GEORGIA

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

SDSU
San Diego State University

Ministry of Education initiated international accreditation activities for SDSU Georgia's partner universities: Tbilisi State University, Ilia State University, and Georgian Technical University.



SDSU Georgia started the Faculty Development Activities (FADEPA), conducted as a part of the capacity building strategy. First cohort of Georgian faculty visited SDSU home campus in summer 2014. There have been twelve cohorts and more than 100 trained faculty since.

Public Private Partnership Fund (PPPF) is established 3,5 million USD generated to date, by collaborating with individual donors, foundations, and various industries, with support of Millennium Challenge Corporation and Millennium Challenge Account - Georgia.

Cohort 2 Enrolled

SDSU Georgia enrolled the second cohort of 127 students. Computer Science was added as the fourth degree program.



Cohort 4 Enrolled

April 25 was declared a Tbilisi day in San Diego. On April 25, 2017 the Mayor of San Diego, Mr. Kevin Faulconer and the Mayor of Tbilisi, Mr. David Narmania declared a Tbilisi Day in San Diego to celebrate the collaboration and friendship of the two cities. The occasion is celebrated every year ever since at SDSU.

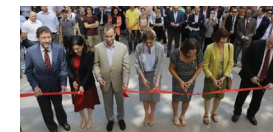


SDSU Georgia installed a high resolution spectrometer Avance III HD 400 NanoBay Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy at TSU.



Cohort 1 Graduated

SDSU-ISU STEM Campus Building Opening in June, 2019



SDSU Georgia held its first Commencement Ceremony, attended by the ninth permanent President of SDSU, Dr. Adela de la Torre, and the President of Georgia, Ms. Salome Zourabichvili



Cohort 2 Graduated

Tbilisi State University's two programs: Computer Science and Electrical and Electronics Engineering were ABET accredited. 12 other programs at the three partner universities are in the pipeline.

Tbilisi Day held at SDSU main campus to celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between Georgia and the United States



UNITED STATES AND GEORGIA
CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

Cohort 4 Graduated



Partner universities will acquire ABET accreditation/ACS certification: GTU for Biomedical Engineering, ISU for Computer Engineering, and TSU for Chemistry.



Joint Job Fair with

Partner Universities



SDSU Georgia's partner university representatives at the Joint Job Fair
Rector of GTU, Dr. David Gurgunidze, Vice Rector of ISU, Dr. Giorgi Gvalia, Professor Giorgi Ghvedashvili,
TSU, Higher Education Director at Millennium Foundation, Dr. Nodar Surguladze

On October 24, 2022, SDSU Georgia invited public and private organizations to the first Joint Job Fair with partner universities: Tbilisi State University, Iliia State University, and Georgian Technical University. The principal purpose of the event was to connect students graduating from internationally-accredited programs at the four universities with potential employers for job and internship opportunities.

the quality standards of the profession for which that program prepares graduates. ABET provides specialized accreditation for post-secondary programs within degree-granting institutions already recognized by national or regional institutional accreditation agencies or national education authorities worldwide. Among the principal benefits of ABET-accredited programs is that graduates can employ their talents internationally.

The event was attended by the GTU rector, Dr. David Gurgunidze, IT Dean, Dr. Tamar Lominadze, Head of Biomedical Engineering Department, Dr. Irina Gotsiridze, and high-level representatives from other universities.

This event is a great step forward to inform the industry of our ABET-track academic programs. I am grateful to SDSU Georgia for this opportunity and for extending our long-standing collaboration in the career development area as well," said the Vice Rector of Iliia State University, Dr. Giorgi Gvalia.

SDSU's partner universities in Georgia have actively engaged in international ABET accreditation activities. Students from these ABET-accredited programs were present at the Joint Job Fair to increase the awareness of ABET-accredited program graduates.

Why choose ABET-accredited program graduates for future employment?

According to the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, ABET accreditation assures that a college or university program meets



Joint Job Fair participants

The Joint Job Fair presented students from the four universities and the following STEM programs: Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Civil Engineering, and Chemistry/Biochemistry. More than 50 companies and up to 100 students from the four universities' internationally accredited or ABET-track programs participated in the Fair.

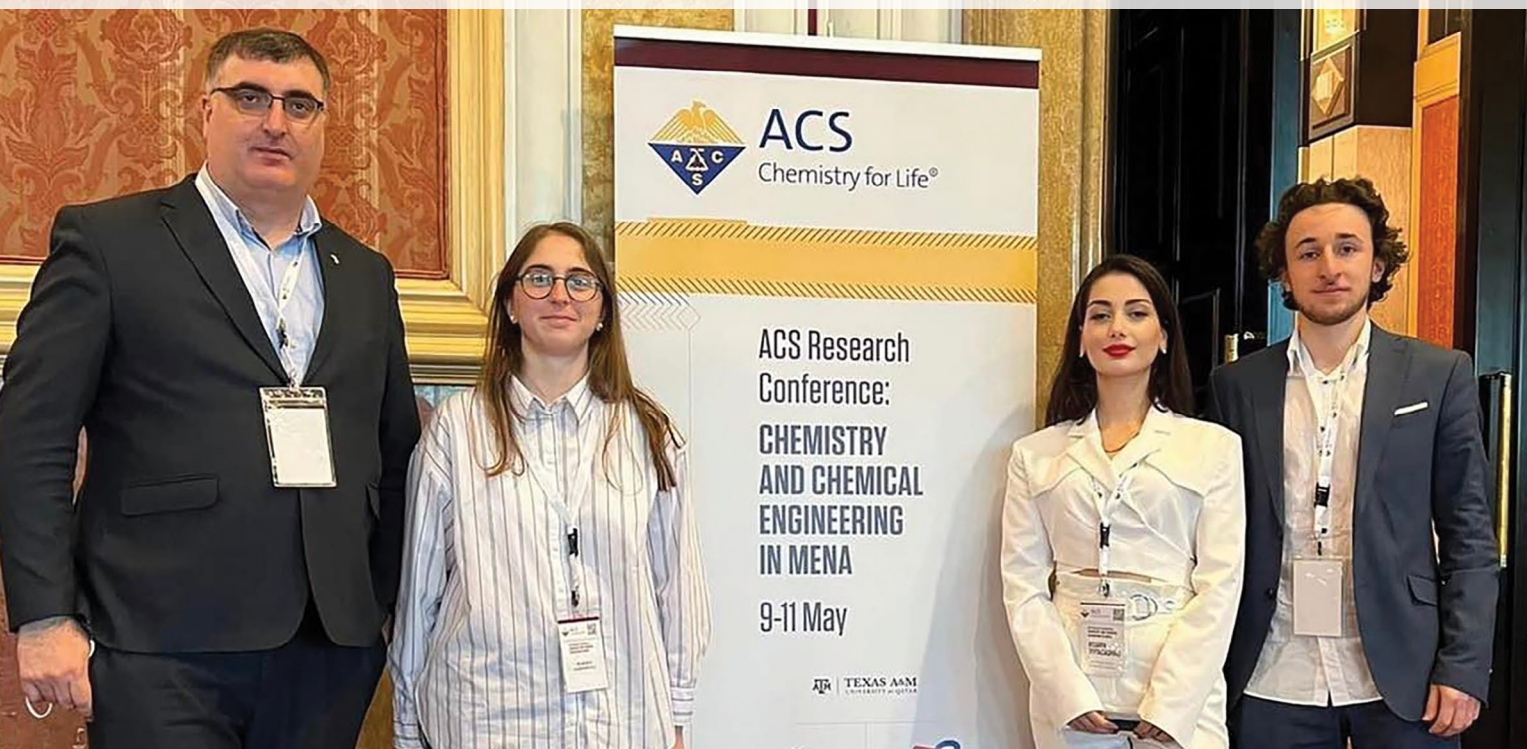
"We are very pleased with the turnout today," said the Employer Manager at SDSU Georgia, Ms. Anna Shakhazarova. "Our partner universities are extremely motivated to collaborate with us in these efforts. We also have exceptional engagement from the industry, and their interest grows each year as more and more companies join the extensive list of our partners. We

are doing a lot to keep them informed about the ABET program graduates in Georgia so that these students have plenty of opportunities to find employment and stay in Georgia after graduation."

This was the eighth Job Fair held by SDSU Georgia. Job Fair participants and our partner companies have exclusive access to the Career Services Database. The platform enables the organizations to inform the students about their current open positions and to access the student resume database for internal use.



ACS - American Chemical Society Georgian Student Chapter



American Chemical Society Georgian Student Chapter (ACS GSC) was founded in 2015 by the first cohort of San Diego State University Georgia students. It operates as an international student chapter connected to the American Chemical Society (ACS) based in Washington, D.C.

Current board of ACS Georgian Student Chapter is comprised of SDSU Georgia Chemistry students:

- ◆ President - Giorgi Vacheishvili;
- ◆ Vice-president - Kesaria Tevdorashvili
- ◆ Secretary - Givi Qadagishvili
- ◆ Treasurer - Vasil Metreveli

Members of the ACS GSC organize and participate in activities and programs that enhance the university experience. Notably, ACS GSC has facilitated three annual international symposiums, bringing together Georgian chemistry students to present their research together with the international students, along with distinguished guests such as the SDSU chemistry professors.

Furthermore, ACS GSC has organized outreach programs to different parts of Georgia and science picnics to popularize chemistry among the youth. Chemistry Festivals and Lab tours have also been arranged to showcase SDSU-G laboratories to prospective students.

Over the years, ACS GSC has also focused on providing opportunities to its members. A great example of

this is the ACS International Conferences several SDSU-G students have attended. The most recent one happened in Qatar, where 3 SDSU-G students presented their research findings.

Lastly, ACS GSC was presented with the Global Engagement award at the 24th ChemLuminary Awards, which is often referred to as the Oscars of Chemistry. The chapter has gained worldwide recognition and continues to honor it today.

What influence does ACS have on young professionals?

Giorgi Vacheishvili, ACS Georgia Student Chapter President: "American Chemical Society is the world's largest chemical community that supports scientific inquiry in the field of chemistry. It currently has more than 150000 members worldwide, at all degree levels and fields of chemistry and chemical engineering, as well as the related fields. Membership in the American Chemical Society aids students in their academic life, by providing an array of resources benefiting their growth in the field of chemistry. ACS student members are privileged to access publications, meetings, and conferences, allowing them to meet like-minded professionals and make lasting connections. Young members of the ACS, are exposed to professional academic life since the early days of their STEM education. More importantly, the ACS Georgian Student Chapter has greatly contributed to popularizing chemistry in Georgia, promoting involvement in future generations."

ASCE - American Society of Civil Engineers Georgian Student Chapter



American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is the oldest and largest civil engineering society, founded in the US in the middle of the 19th century. Nowadays it unites more than 150,000 professional engineers all over the world including ones in Georgia.

One of the main goals of ASCE is to help future engineers grow and start developing professional skills as soon as possible. For this purpose, ASCE developed the idea of official student chapters that enables student clubs and organizations to be officially linked to such a huge society. The main aim behind student chapters is to allow students to expand their knowledge, obtain priceless experience during university years while they're still students and begin the way to bright careers.

The ASCE student chapter in Georgia started in 2020 and after a year it obtained the official approval from the ASCE headquarters. ASCE in Georgia is housed at ISU and the Faculty Advisor for the Chapter is ISU Technology School Director and ISU Civil Engineering Department Chair, Dr. Vakhtang Balavadze (seen in the photo during a lecture). The activities held by the chapter include field trips, invited guest speaker series, organizing student workshops, meeting with professional engineers, etc.

Current board members of the ASCE Georgian Student Chapter are SDSU Georgia students:

- ◆ President – Giorgi Nareshelashvili
- ◆ Vice-President – Giorgi Gurchiani
- ◆ Treasurer – Nino Khundzakishvili
- ◆ General Secretary – Giorgi Kontselidze

What influence does ASCE have on young professionals?

Giorgi Nareshelashvili, ASCE Student Chapter President: "All the mentioned activities as well as the ASCE Student Chapter serve to improve students' skills and make them more in touch with the real-life engineering world. It's so important to help students develop some ideas about what to expect or what to do after graduation. ASCE gives opportunities that help to find the answers to these questions."

Nowadays, the student chapter includes 50 members, some of them have already graduated from SDSU Georgia and others are currently studying at either SDSU Georgia or Ilia State University."



student success



Ana Tsirekidze

Ana is a long-time student ambassador of SDSU Georgia, representing the university. This year, she was appointed Dean's Office Designee at the Associated Student Board of Directors (ASBOD) at SDSU Georgia. She is also an American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Chapter member. Ana is currently working on a senior design project, utilizing the Nuclear-Magnetic Resonance (NMR) machine installed at Tbilisi State University through the SDSU Georgia project. Ana plans to work in clinical trials to fight cancer in the future.

“My love for science comes from early childhood. At first, I was very interested in the planets, the cosmos, and the whole universe - most things that were difficult to explain. For some time, I fell in love with Chemistry and Biology, so I decided to dedicate my career to the medical field. However, since I believe a doctor must have exceptional

dedication and desire, I realized I could not see myself in this field. It was then that the connection between my passions and the San Diego State University Chemistry/Biochemistry program emerged. Now I am studying Chemistry at SDSU in Georgia, with full funding.

When I first got into San Diego State University Georgia, I was confused, wondering how I could learn comprehensive subjects as Chemistry, Biochemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, and Organic/Inorganic Chemistry in English. I am happy to look back and say I was wrong. Today, I consider myself one of the most successful seniors at SDSU-G.

During the Second year of my studies, I started working at Aversi clinics as a Radiology Assistant. In addition, in the second semester of my sophomore and first semester of

junior years, I accepted an internship at the Legal Entity of Public Law-Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau. This experience has helped me tremendously obtain many good laboratory techniques and knowledge.

For my Senior Project, I am working with the Nuclear-Magnetic Resonance machine. Basically, we use NMR to find the structure of a compound or see how pure it is. Our project is multidisciplinary in terms of the research methods and applying the results obtained. As for the future, like everyone else in science, I want to achieve many great things and leave my mark on society. After graduation, I plan to work some more on myself, find a good position in a laboratory, and as I am interested in Clinical Trials, I am willing to work a lot. So, I am planning to take a gap year, and after that, I plan to continue my studies at one of the prestigious universities in Europe.”

“I am Giorgi Nareshelashvili, a senior majoring in Civil Engineering at SDSU Georgia. When it comes to why I have chosen STEM, I can start from my very early years in high school, when I liked technical subjects, especially physics. Moreover, I have always been excited about engineering and how everything we see around us: buildings, bridges, roads - are constructed. Seeking answers to all of these questions has led me to civil engineering.

I am a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the President of the Ilia State University ASCE Student Chapter. Being a part of such organizations helps you grow personally and professionally. It is productive to share knowledge and experience with others, especially those from different

countries and cultures. That became particularly evident during my exchange visit to SDSU's main campus.

As for my plans, I aspire to manage time and resources correctly to use my education for career advancement. I now work as a junior structural engineer at Cubicon LLC, trying my best to balance my studies and work. What makes me passionate about my profession is the realization of creating something that communities will use for decades. To me, this is exciting and a big responsibility. Unfortunately, 20th-century politics has affected engineering in Georgia too. In the future, I want to do my part to bring it back to where it deserves to be. That will only be possible through hard work and the right mindset. Hopefully, my generation of engineers will see our

engineering culture close to the top western practices. I also want to contribute to sustainable development worldwide and provide eco-friendly engineering solutions to current challenges. Green construction might be one of the few options that considers our planet's needs, at least partially.”

Giorgi is a student member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the President of the Ilia State University ASCE Student Chapter. He also spent an exchange semester at SDSU's main campus in California. Giorgi plans to bring the western standards of Civil Engineering to Georgia and contribute to sustainable development worldwide to create eco-friendly engineering solutions to current challenges.



Giorgi Nareshelashvili

Nodari is a Biochemistry senior at San Diego State University Georgia. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and serves on the Associated Students Board of Directors, as a board Secretary.

“My name is Nodari Nebunishvili, and I am a senior student at San Diego State University in Georgia, majoring in Biochemistry. In childhood, I dreamed of becoming a successful scientist, working in a laboratory studying

and researching substances that would one day help us alleviate global problems. I wanted to reduce global hunger, eliminate energy crises, and accelerate scientific-medical advancement. SDSU has allowed me to fulfill my childhood dream in terms of my studies, university life, and the career ahead of me.

Today, as an SDSU Georgia student, I have achieved some of my life's goals. I am a young researcher working

on antibiotics and bacteriophages. In the future, this will become a guideline for my research in pharmacology and antibiotic resistance to treat bacterial diseases across the globe. With the help of the SDSU international and Georgian scientific communities and ACS (American Chemical Society), my research will be used as a template to further the technique and create a completely innovative technology.”



Nodari Nebunishvili

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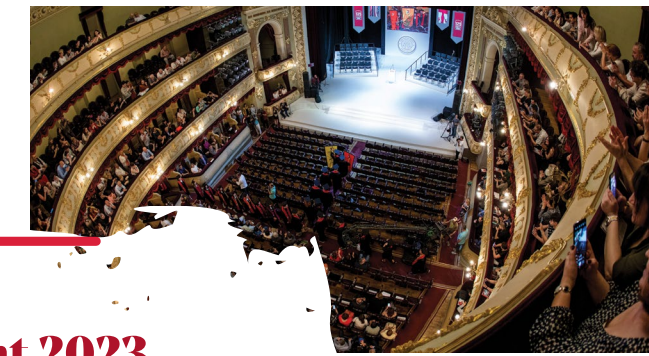
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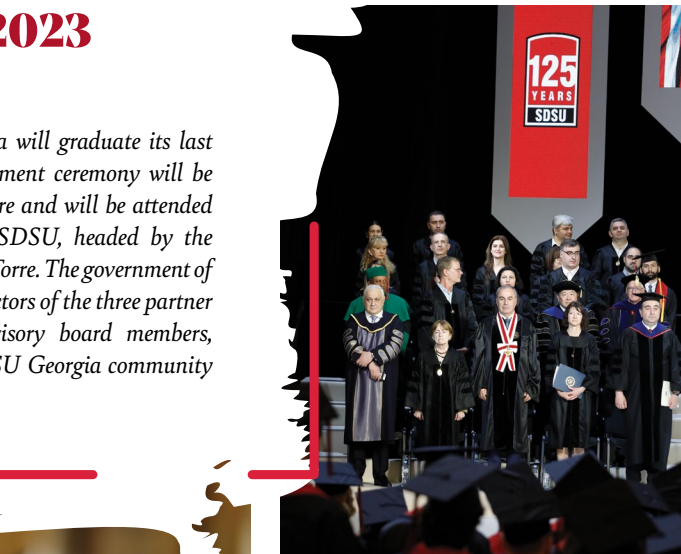


The photos on this page are from SDSU Georgia's 2022 Commencement Ceremony, held May 31, 2022.



Commencement 2023 May 30, 2023

On May 30, 2023, SDSU Georgia will graduate its last cohort of students. The Commencement ceremony will be held at the historic Rustaveli Theatre and will be attended by an academic delegation from SDSU, headed by the President of SDSU, Dr. Adela de la Torre. The government of Georgia, Millennium Foundation, rectors of the three partner universities, SDSU Georgia's advisory board members, PPPF donors, faculty, and the SDSU Georgia community will also attend the ceremony.



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