



USACM News

May 2026

Ruth Hengst and the Making of USACM

There are organizations whose success can be traced to a visionary idea. And there are organizations whose success rests equally on the quiet, steady work of someone who turns that vision into a functioning reality. For the United States Association for Computational Mechanics (USACM), that person is Ruth Hengst. For nearly two decades, Ruth served as the administrative and operational foundation of USACM. She did far more than manage the organization—she built it. The legal structure, financial systems, conferences, communications, and daily operations that define USACM today all bear her imprint. It is not an exaggeration to say that the organization we know today would not exist without her.

[Read more](#)



UQ Summer School - USC

The [2026 Uncertainty Quantification Summer School](#) will be held at USC on August 12-14 2026. Since its inception in 2011, the Summer School has provided in-depth exploration of UQ topics at the forefront of science and engineering. This year's program continues that tradition, with a particular emphasis on learning paradigms, physics-informed constraints, and quantum computing. Additional details including the full agenda, are available at: <http://venus.usc.edu/UQ-SummerSchool/>

For your convenience, room blocks have been reserved at both the [USC Hotel](#) and the [LA Athletic Club](#). These room blocks typically fill quickly, so we strongly encourage you to book early to ensure availability.

USACM Community Spotlight: Research Behind Orion's Safe Splashdown

Rice University researchers played a critical role in the safe return of astronauts during the historic Artemis II Orion splashdown. Their advanced computational modeling helped design the spacecraft's parachute system, ensuring it could both slow the capsule effectively and maintain stability during descent—two factors essential for a safe landing. This work, developed in collaboration with NASA years before the mission, highlights how foundational research can directly impact real-world spaceflight success.

[Read more](#)

WCCM-ECCOMAS 2026

[WCCM-ECCOMAS 2026](#) will be held in Munich, Germany on July 19-24, 2026.

[Registration](#) is now open.

Please note that members of IACM will receive a discounted registration rate. If you are planning to attend WCCM-ECCOMAS, and are an active member of USACM in good standing, please download and fill out the membership certification form from the WCCM-ECCOMAS website and send it to admin@usacm.org for processing.

USNC/TAM'26

The [20th U.S. National Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics](#) will be held in Pasadena, California on June 21-25, 2026.

[Registration](#) is now open. Standard registration **closes today**.

TTA Corner

Energy & Earth Systems

- Our next webinar will take place on **May 19, 2026 at 8:00AM PDT**. The speaker will be Elizabeth Barnes from Boston University speaking on "Explainable AI for Earth System Prediction: From Black Box to Window into the Future".

Join via

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89805920868?pwd=UaxOZeVHZAs9BeKkjqRWbNadZYCIzo.1>

Quantum Computing

- [Quantum Computing-Enabled Engineering: PDEs, Mechanics, and Design Optimization \(QC2026\)](#) will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on August 6-7, 2026.
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Student Chapter Corner

- Join the community online at the [USACM Student Chapter Discord Server](#).
- Our next seminar will take place on **May 19, 2026 at 1:00PM EDT**. The speaker will be Cheng-Hau Yang from Argonne National Laboratory speaking on "From Geometry to Physics without Boundary-Fitted Meshing: Multiphysics Simulation on Complex Domains".

Join via

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82464478256?pwd=ZMkJVfdjMjZadgnVWFpQsdUSs4qTaY.1>

- The USACM Student Chapter is pleased to announce that mentor and mentee matching for this year's Mentoring Program is now complete! All registered participants should have received an email with their match details. Please check your inbox for further information on how to connect with your mentor or mentee. If you have any questions, feel free to send us a message on LinkedIn or email us at studentchapter@usacm.org. We are excited to see these connections come to life and wish everyone a rewarding mentorship experience. Thank you to all who signed up and made this program possible!