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SEAoAL 6th Annual Conference & XPO, Register today!

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# SEAoAL Dynamic Columns

Quarterly Newsletter: JUNE 2016

## President's Letter

Hello! I hope everyone that went to our recent ATC-45 training received their CAL-EMA badge in the mail. Mine arrived in mid-April. I hope we don't have to use them but if we do we should be in a good position to help out in the event of a disaster. Clint Stewart is heading up our SEER effort now, so if you want to be involved please let him know.

Our Scholarship Committee unfortunately has little to do these days since we haven't received any applications thus far this year. So if you know of a motivated student in structural engineering that would like to receive financial assistance, please have them contact [Rhea](#).

Our 'All About Wood' EXPO is coming up in August and it's going to be a good one. Hope to see you there.

-- Robert Whyte, SEAoAL 2016 President

## The Future of Structural Engineering - What are YOU doing?

On May 11th, I spent most of the day at Boutwell Auditorium representing the Structural Engineers Association of Alabama, at the GEAR UP College and Career Expo organized by the Birmingham City Schools. It seemed to me, at



first glance, to be just a little bit silly to spend valuable billing hours promoting structural engineering to Junior High students. They have such a long way to go before they are structural engineers. At their age, it might take fifteen years before they can be left alone to work in the profession and help fill its growing needs. And all this, provided they decide to pursue structural engineering out of the thousands of possible pursuits available to them. I wasn't completely convinced

that this had the potential to benefit me and my employer, or the other members of our structural engineers association.

I went, however, and I'm glad I did. The students were well behaved, polite, and curious. The organizers had the foresight to control the flow of students throughout the day to give us time to interact with the youth. Some of the students were simply attracted by the Dots candies I used to demonstrate basic engineering principles; others seemed genuinely interested in structural engineering itself. I discussed with them the various types of jobs they might do if they choose to become structural engineers, what they might expect from the profession, and the path they would have to take to reach their goals. The teachers were also very grateful that the students were able to get a professional perspective, unfiltered by the education system. Explaining the basics of the profession, all the good things structural engineers do, and the benefits of being a structural engineer rejuvenated my own feelings toward the profession and caused me to remember why I chose engineering.

I might not be around to enjoy the results that will come from some of these young people choosing structural engineering as a profession, but other members of our association might. We volunteer a little of our time to mentoring the youth in our community; to helping them understand where they can fit in, and what they can do to help out in society. We expect that others will do the same at various stages along the way. In this way we can benefit the profession as a whole and all see immediate and lasting benefits. I don't know precisely how important filling positions in engineering is to our society. But I do know the effect my interest in the STEM fields had on my own life. It provided for my family, presented obvious goals and allowed me to reach them, gave me interesting and valuable work, and covered me

in respect. Some of these students could enjoy the same good things we all do as structural engineers, but they need us to make it real to them by telling our story. With our youth, we need to focus on the long view. I urge you all, as the opportunities arise, to get involved in the lives of our youth. Tell them your story and help them to develop a valuable story of their own.

-- Bart Berneche, SEAoAL President Elect

## It's ALL ABOUT WOOD!



We have a great conference planned for you at a very unique location too. Southern Museum of FLIGHT! If you can find the Birmingham Airport, you can find the Southern Museum of Flight.

Register today for the interesting educational program presented by the American Wood Council, and earn **6.5 AL & FL approved PDHs.**

Don't miss the chance to visit our exhibitors. Register the office for a low cost conference in your own back yard, no travel expenses for this Annual Conference & XPO.

## Committee Updates

### Code Advisory

NCSEA Link to Code Advisory Committee: <http://www.ncsea.com/committees/codeadvisorycommittee/>

### Education & Advocacy



### 2016 ASCE Southeast Student Conference

The Annual ASCE Southeast Student Conference was held at the University of Alabama. SEAoAL was a sponsor. Bart Berneche and Barry Johnson volunteered to work the conference on behalf of SEAoAL. They also juried the bridge building competition.



Above, Barry Johnson surrounded by students from several universities



Lunch is sponsored by our industry friend **PARROT STRUCTURAL SERVICES.**

We will have the usual all day coffee bar to keep you jacked up for the presentations, chocolate snacks, delish breakfast and a yummy lunch. You know we always feed you a good meal!

Register online or snail mail is still acceptable too.

**[Click here to register!](#)**

**THANKS TO OUR XPO LUNCH SPONSOR!!!**



explaining SEAoAL's role as advocate for structural engineers in Alabama.

If you are interested in promoting the profession, please email [Rhea](mailto:Rhea).

### **SEER UPDATE**



On May 15 and 16, 2016, the Alabama Council of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Structural Engineers Association of Alabama (SEAoAL) co-sponsored a table at the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention in Huntsville. Kimberly McMurray of AIA and Jeff Hillman and Clint Stewart of SEAoAL represented their respective organizations. The purpose of the event was to get the word out regarding the roles that Architects and Structural Engineers play in post-disaster situations in communities across our great state. Participants at the convention included mayors, councilmen and women, clerks, and managers of cities and towns. We were able to engage these individuals and provide them information (verbally and with a handout) about how our CALEMA trained professionals can inspect existing buildings, at no cost to the municipality, to ensure the structure is safe or not to re-enter and/or re-inhabit.

If you would like more information on how you can get involved in this

important service to our local communities, please contact Clint Stewart at [clintstewart@excellcommunications.com](mailto:clintstewart@excellcommunications.com)

## Young Member News



On April 21, the SEAoAL YMG joined the ASCE Young Member Group on a site visit to Forterra Structural and Specialty Products in Pelham, AL. Forterra Structural & Specialty Products is a leading supplier of prestressed and precast products in the United States. We toured the plant which primarily produces precast structural members, including bridge members, and other specialty products. One of the newest products they are producing is the NEXT Tee Beam which is used in fast-track bridge construction. The group learned about the

process used to create the structural members, including stressing, curing, and testing. Thank you to all the members who were able to join us!

If you would like to learn more about the YMG & receive updates, contact Nicole Sommerville at [nsommerville@lbyd.com](mailto:nsommerville@lbyd.com).

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