ASCE-SEI New Orleans Chapter News

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The ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter has been very busy hosting and planning seminars and workshops and volunteer efforts. After hosting seminars in November 2017 and January 2018, SEI NO hosted the following seminars during the past quarter:

On March 7, 2018 the seminar “Structural Strength of Sheet Piles” was presented by Dr. Richard J. Hartman, PE (Hartman Engineering, New York, NY). Dr. Hartman presented two topics. The first was considerations related to bolts used to connect wales and sheet piling in bulkheads. The second was considerations related to selection of sheet piling sections for projects. The presenter also showed two cases involving failure of bolts in bulkheads, one in Pennsylvania and one in Texas. The causes of the failures were discussed and recommendations for future designs were provided. The seminar was attended by 65 members.

On April 5, 2018 the seminar “Strength Design of Masonry” was presented by Dr. Richard Bennett, PE (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN). Dr. Bennett reviewed the design assumptions for strength design, and addressed the design of beams, bearing walls, and shear walls using strength design. Practical design methods and tips were provided for each member type, and examples illustrated the design process. The results of each design will be compared to allowable stress design. This seminar provided the attendees with the tools necessary to begin using strength design for masonry and realizing the benefits it can offer. The seminar was attended by 49 members.

The annual David Hunter Lecture for 2018 “Hanging by a Strand: The Challenges of Aging Suspension Bridges” will be presented by Dr. Barney Martin, PE (former CEO, Modjeski and Masters, Inc., Parsippany, NJ) on May 9, 2018 at University of New Orleans. Dr. Martin has over 36 years of experience in bridge design and project management. He started his career in New Orleans office and later moved to New Jersey office. Dr. Martin will offer his thoughts and concerns on the changes he has observed in the engineering profession in his 44-year career.

ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter made donation to the LES Regional MathCounts competition held at University of New Orleans in February 2018 and provided a few volunteers for managing the competition.

The ASCE SEI New Orleans Chapter sponsored awards at Greater New Orleans Science and Engineering Fair (GNOSEF) held in February 2018. SEI NO Chapter provides judges to pick the best projects related to structural engineering. In recent years the number of projects related to structural engineering have grown due to these awards. The award winners were:

**Junior Division**
The First Place ($100) award was given to Aelia Aladwan of Islamic School of Greater New Orleans for her project “Structural Design of Buildings”. The Second Place ($75) award was given to Madison Verbest of John Curtis Christian for his project “Soil Type Effect on Building Stability in Earthquake”.

**Senior Division**
The First Place ($100) award was given to Paola Alarcon of Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies for her project “Strongest Bridge Structure”. The Second Place ($75) award was given to Jasmin Elnaggar of Benjamin Franklin High School for advanced Studies for her project “How Coal Ash in Soils affect Strength of Soils”.
The awards of $50 were also given to the Teachers of the winning project’s school for encouraging their students to do a Structural Engineering project. These teachers were Fatima Babu (Islamic School of Greater New Orleans); Nicole Fabacher (John Curtis Christian); David Prentice (Benjamin Franklin High School), Teresa Burchette (Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies). The teachers of the winning projects are also awarded to encourage more students to structural engineering projects in future Science Fairs.

Dr. Richard J. Hartman, PE (Left) and Mr. Mark Castay, PE, (Seminar Coordinator) at SEI NO Chapter Seminar on March 7 2018 at University of New Orleans.
Dr. Richard Bennett, PE (Left) and Mr. William Rushing, PE, (Seminar Coordinator) at SEI NO Chapter Seminar on April 5 2018 at University of New Orleans.