

S&YP NEWS



FWEA Students and Young Professionals Newsletter

SUMMER 2018

Message from the Chair

[David Hernandez](#), *Hazen and Sawyer*

Welcome to the fifth issue of the semi-annual FWEA Students and Young Professional Newsletter! I would first like to congratulate Tyler Smith Semago for completing her term as SYPC Chair and wish her luck in her new role as a Director at Large. As incoming Chair, I am proud to introduce this summer's SYPC newsletter where we will be recognizing the winners of the Student Design Competition and the YP of the Year, recapping the YP Summit held in February, and much more. The Committee would like to thank our annual sponsors (without whom we would not exist) as well as the students and volunteers work so hard throughout the year.

The mission of the SYPC is to support students and young professionals in the environmental engineering field. We accomplish this by providing scholarships, hosting the SDC and Poster competitions, and offering a variety of networking opportunities. We have continued to hold our resume review and workshop for S&YPs attending the SDC at the Florida Water Resources Conference. Students have the opportunity to speak with younger and seasoned professionals about beginning their careers in our industry. Additionally, in true Daytona fashion, the Committee hosted a NASCAR themed Social as well as a Social Media Contest to help students, young professionals, and seasoned professionals mingle and connect.

If you're attending WEFTEC this year, please be sure to stop by and support our Florida students at the national Student Design Competition!

2018/2019 Goals:

- Connect with FWEA Chapters, Committees, and YP Coordinators
- Connect with Student Chapters and provide university students with local utilities and mentors
- Increase social media presence
- Involvement with K-12 students

Looking to get involved?

Are you new to the industry or to Florida? The SYPC is a great way to get involved and get connected with others in your field. I can honestly say I wouldn't have the job I have now if I wasn't involved in FWEA! If you're looking to get involved or become a sponsor, please reach out to:

David Hernandez, Chair SYPC
Hazen and Sawyer
dhernandez@hazenandsawyer.com

George Dick, Vice Chair SYPC
Gresham, Smith and Partners
George_dick@gspnet.com

Nandita Ahuja, Poster Competition Chair
Hazen and Sawyer
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Thank you to our Sponsors!

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Newsletter Editor: Tyler Smith Semago, Inquiries for Future Articles: tsmith@carollo.com

Meet the S&YP Committee

David Hernandez	(Hazen & Sawyer)
George Dick	(Gresham Smith & Partners)
Nandita Ahuja	(Hazen & Sawyer)
Mike Semago	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Tyler Smith Semago	(Carollo Engineers)
Suzanne Mechler	(CDM Smith)
Maria Reed	(Brown and Caldwell)
Lindsey Short	(Gresham Smith & Partners)
Alex Maas	(Heyward)
Alysse Ness	(CDM Smith)
Kristen Waksman	(Arcadis)
Brittany Cogger	(CDM Smith)
Megan Nelson	(Orange County Utilities)

A LOOK BACK: 2018 WEF/AWWA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SUMMIT IN SAN ANTONIO

by Kristen Waksman (*Arcadis*)

Each year the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) join forces to host the Young Professional (YP) Summit, an annual event that is held in conjunction with the Utility management Conference (UMC). The 2018 YP Summit was held in San Antonio, Texas on February 19 - 20.

The 2018 YP Summit kicked off with the WEF's Emerging Young Professionals Leadership Workshop. Hosted by the WEF Student and Young Professionals Committee, the workshop offered an engaging forum with interactive sessions, where I had the opportunity to connect with other YPs as well as WEF leadership and staff. The sessions touched on a lot of topics, but the topic that stood out the most for me was listening skills.

In the listening skills sessions, I learned about the different types of listening and was immersed in interactive sessions that challenged my listening skills. The listening skills session transformed the way I listen, so much so that when I am having a conversation today, I am evaluating my listening skills and actively trying to improve them.

The Joint WEF/AWWA YP Summit took place the following day. The morning sessions were focused on resiliency planning in our industry and included a keynote from Douglas Melnick (Chief Sustainability Office with the City of San Antonio) and a Utility Resiliency Panel with panelists Yvonne Forrest (Deputy Director of Houston Water), Henrietta Locklear (Senior Manager with Raftelis Financial Consultants), Robert Puente (President and CEO of San Antonio Water System), and Andy Richardson (Chairman and CEO of Greeley and Hansen). Barb Martin (Director of Engineering of Technical Services, AWWA) facilitated the conversation and fielded the thought-provoking questions asked by my fellow YPs. It was incredible to hear first-hand accounts about the challenges faced by water and wastewater utilities each day and how leaders of resilient utilities are proactively managing risks and mitigating unexpected impacts. One of the most captivating stories was from Yvonne Forest, who shared the City of Houston's response to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Harvey and important insights for emergency planning and best practices.



Looking beyond traditional approaches to solve the water challenges ahead.

Utilities that build an Innovation Engine and incorporate innovation into their services, processes, technologies and financial and business models, are more likely to realize sustainability dividends in the areas of water resiliency, efficiency and quality.

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2018 YP Summit (cont'd)

by Kristen Waksman (*Arcadis*)

Next up in the agenda for the day was speakers Mark Jockers (Government and Public Affairs Manager, Clean Water Services) and Mark Poling (Business Opportunities Director, Clean Water Services) talking about the Pure Water Brew Challenge, which brings together 25 brewers and challenges them to brew beer with reclaimed water. This challenge was initiated to raise awareness and broaden the conversation about water reuse, a topic that I am particularly passionate about.

Our afternoon kicked off with a message from David LaFrance (Chief Executive Officer, American Water Works Association) and Eileen O'Neill (Executive Director, Water Environment Federation) and was followed up with an interactive professional development workshop then a panel featuring YP leaders.

The workshop, led by Dr. Gaylen Paulson (Professor at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin), focused on building negotiating skills. The Young Professional Panel was moderated by Barry Liner (Director of Water Science and Engineering Center at WEF) and included panelists Mel Butcher (Management Consultant at Arcadis), Steven Drangsholt (Project Manager at Brown and Caldwell), Theresa Pedrazas (Project Manager at Tetra Tech), and Pete Samson (Technical Group Leader at Eramosa Engineering). These YP leaders discussed mentorship, strategies for standing out and navigating through careers, and lessons learned. The YP Summit ended with a Net-



working Reception, where I had the pleasure to talk with some of the speakers and panelists from the YP Summit, leadership from WEF and AWWA, as well as UMC attendees.

In my opinion, attending the YP Summit is a must for all YPs. The 2019 YP Summit is taking place March 4 and 5 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition to attending the YP Summit, I would also encourage you to get involved in the planning. The YP Summit would not be possible with the dedication and hard work of YP volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please e-mail Megan Livak, WEF Student and Young Professionals Manager, at mlivak@wef.org.

2018 FWRC Highlights

This year, the S&YP Committee held a number of events at the Florida Water Resources Conference including a student design competition, poster competition, resume workshop, social media contest, and networking happy hour.

Student Design Competition

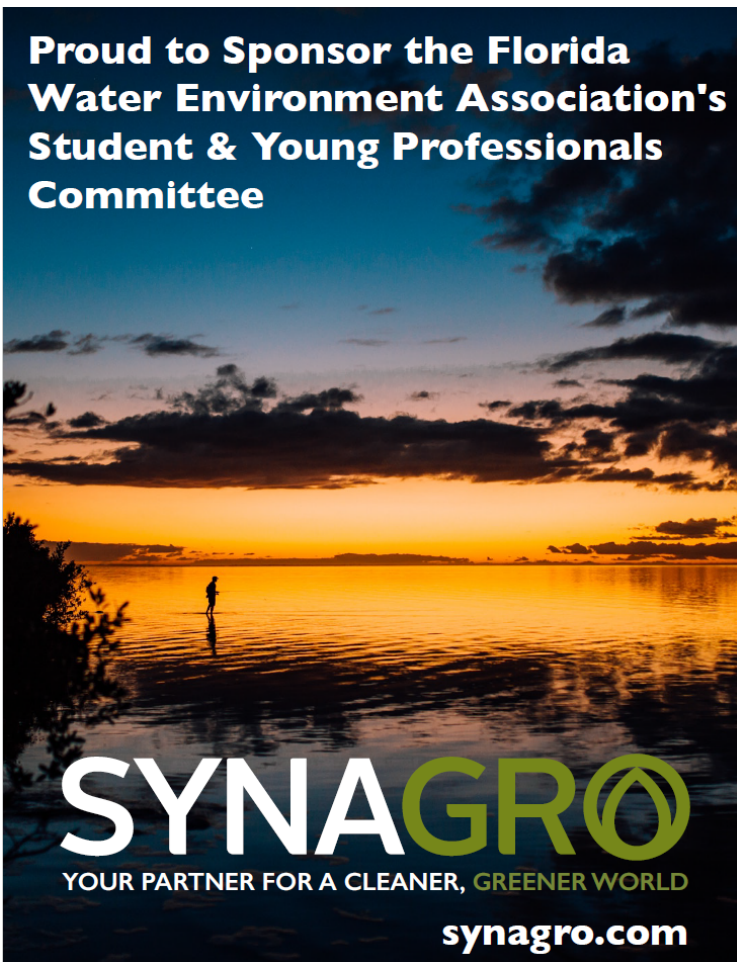
By Tyler Smith Semago (Carollo Engineers)

The FWEA SYPC hosted the 22nd Annual Student Design Competition (SDC) on April 15th, 2018 at the Florida Water Resources Conference held in Daytona Beach, Florida. The competition is intended to promote real-world design experience for students interested in pursuing a career in water/wastewater engineering and sciences.

This year, seven teams from five different universities and colleges across Florida participated and competed in one of two categories: wastewater or environmental. The two winning teams received a \$4,250 travel allowance to go on to represent Florida at the national Water Environment Federation Technical and Exhibition Conference (WEFTEC) SDC competition to be held on September 30th in New Orleans. Additionally, each first-place team received a \$1000 Norm Casey Scholarship. All other teams received a \$500 participation bonus.

We're proud to announce and congratulate this year's winner for the each category:

Proud to Sponsor the Florida Water Environment Association's Student & Young Professionals Committee



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First Place Wastewater Competition (pictured below):

University of South Florida team, for their design, "Resource Recovery at SCBWRF", working with Pinellas County, and with team members Jesse Hillman, Dustin Ballard, Matthes Priester, and Joseph Capodice

First Place Environmental Competition (Pictured above):

University of Florida, for their design, "Urban Maintenance Design for MS4 Nutrient Load Credits in Florida," with team members Elaine Tolon, Megan Carr, Leah Carol, Gabrielle Jessurun, Chris Cerreta, Morgan Eddy, Robyn Egan, and Jack McAvoy.



2018 FWRC Quick Bits

- Held April 15-18th at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, FL
- FWEA in conjunction with FWRC held it's second ever Social Media Scavenger Hunt Contest
- USF and UF won the wastewater and environmental student design competitions, respectively

2019 FWRC Details

When: April 14-17, 2019

Where: Tampa, FL

More Info:

<http://fwrc.org/>

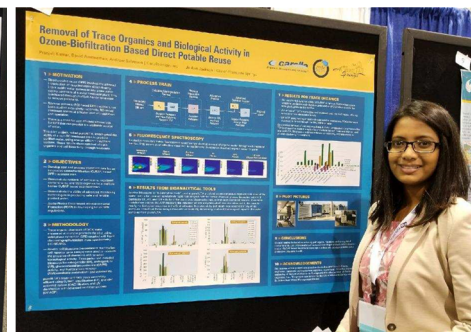
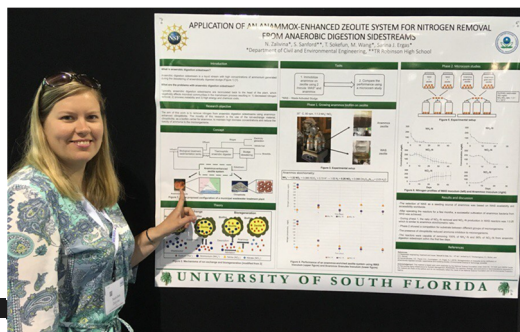
2018 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

Student & Young Professional Poster Competition

In addition to the SDC, the 4th Annual Poster Competition was held with 15 participants this year! The S&YP Committee would like to congratulate Nadezhda Zalivina (USF) for winning the Student Category with her poster on the "Application of an Anamox-Enhanced Zeolite System for Nitrogen Removal from Anaerobic Digestion Sidestreams," (*Pictured left*) and Pranjali Kumar (Carollo) for winning the Young Professional Category with her poster on the "Removal of Trace Organics and Biological Activity in Ozone-Biofiltration Based Direct Potable Reuse." (*Pictured right*)

The S&YPC Committee would like to recognize the students, faculty advisors, professional mentors, and the SDC planning committee and volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication. We'd like to especially thank all of the SDC judges, who read and reviewed design reports and judged the presentations, and the poster competition judges. We could not hold these competitions without your support.

We would also like to thank our 2018 sponsors, including Arcadis, Synagro, Wade Trim, ADS, Haskell, Stantec, Carollo, Envirosales, Flygt, Hazen and Sawyer, Moss Kelley, MTS Environmental, Nova Consulting, Tom Evans Environmental and the Florida Water Resources Conference.



2018 Resume Workshop & Career Panel

By Alysse Ness, (CDM Smith)

The third annual Resume Workshop and Career Panel was held after the Student Design Competition at FWRC. The S&YP committee began hosting this workshop because having a strong resume is powerful tool as students prepare to graduate from college and enter the workforce. All students competing in the Student Design Competition submitted their resumes to the committee for review prior to FWRC.

Brittany Cogger and Alysse Ness led the workshop by sharing their experiences and lessons learned during the job application process. Their presentation focused on key elements of an effective resume, including education, experience, leadership, and how to showcase personal strengths. Students were encouraged to include projects such as the Student Design Competition on their resume because it highlights real-world design experience and demonstrates their ability to work together on teams. The presentation was followed by a question and answer forum, where senior water professionals in the audience provided input and answered questions from the students. Students sought career advice on everything from interview tips, leveraging social media, involvement with professional societies, and achieving a successful work-life balance.

2018 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

2018 Resume Workshop & Career Panel (Cont'd)

By Alysse Ness, (CDM Smith)

Following the Resume Workshop and Career Panel, students were given the opportunity to make changes to their resume and resubmit to the S&YP Committee. The resumes were then forwarded to three gold-level corporate sponsors of the Student Design Competition. In total, over 25 polished resumes were sent to these leading companies in Florida. The S&YP committee looks forward to hearing success stories from those who participated in the workshop!



S&YP **NASCAR** Social

By George Dick (GS&P)

This year the S&YP Committee, in conjunction with FWEA and FWRC, hosted a Daytona 500 inspired social on Sunday evening following the student design competition at the conference. NASCAR inspired decorations lined the venue and highlights included a prop photography area, cornhole, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, as well as plenty of checkered flags.

Students mingled with YPs and seasoned professionals from all over the state of Florida. Several of the competitors from the student design competition were able speak about their projects and network with folks in the industry on a one on one basis. With over 50 people in attendance, we hope to have you join us at next year's social. As always, our social is welcome to all FWEA members, young and seasoned professionals alike.

Thank you to all who made this event happen, including Mike Semago, David Hernandez, Tyler Smith, Holly Hanson, George Dick, and the S&YP Committee.

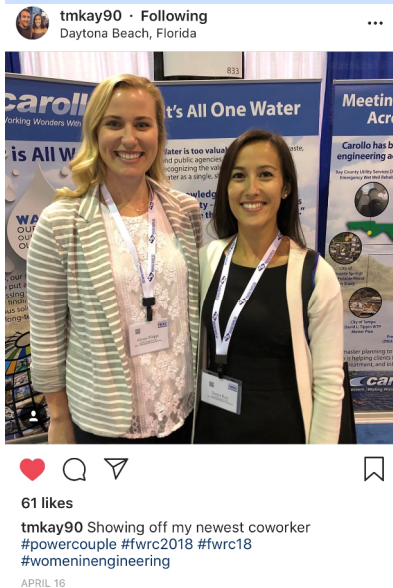


2018 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)



2nd Annual Social Media Scavenger Hunt

Additionally, the conference included its second-ever Social Media Contest using Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #FWRC18.



We're proud to announce that this year we had great participation and multiple winners, including: **Lindsay Marten (Stantec), Tonya Kay (Carollo), Suzanne Mechler (CDM Smith) and Ifetayo Venner (Arcadis)**, all whom received a \$50 Visa gift card!

Thank you to the participants, FWEA, FWRC, volunteers, Holly Hanson, Alex Maas, Megan Nelson, Maria Reed, and Jessica Green!



2018 YP of the Year Award goes to...

George Dick of Gresham, Smith and Partners!

George was nominated by his mentor and peers for the 2017-2018 FWEA "YP of the Year" Award and was selected by the S&YP Committee, along with members of FWEA's Board of Directors, due his continued and long standing involvement and high level of service to FWEA. We are extremely appreciative of his continued contributions to the S&YP Committee, the Biosolids Committee, the West Coast Chapter Steering Committee, and USF Student Chapter. It is evident that George is highly respected for all that he does and his selfless involvement is inspiring. We expect George to continue this path and become a future leader of FWEA. As this year's new Vice Chair to the S&YP Committee, he is well on his way.

As the YP of the Year, George will get the opportunity to take an all-expenses paid trip to the 2019 Young Professional Summit, held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Utility Management Conference in February 2019. Additionally, he was recognized at the Florida Water Resources Conference Award Luncheon this past April.



Congratulations again, George!

For more information on the YP of the Year Award and how to nominate a YP for 2018-2019 year, visit the [S&YP Webpage](#) or email [David Hernandez](#).

Upcoming Events

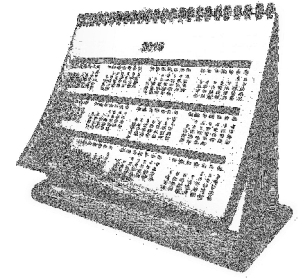
Central Florida Chapter:

August 17th— Annual FWEA Central Florida Chapter Scholarship Golf Tournament

8:00 am – 2:30 PM

Falcon's Fire Golf Club

Contact: [Kristi Fries](#)



First Coast Chapter:

August 23 – AWWA/FWEA YP Summer Seminar and Happy Hour

2:00—5:00 pm at Buckman WRF (Jacksonville)

Topic: Unique Projects in W/WW – Case Studies

September—Presentation at University of North Florida

October 20— AWWA Model Water Tower Competition

8:00 am-2:00 pm at Creekside High School (St. Augustine)

Manasota Chapter:

July 20 — AWWA/FWEA Joint Luncheon:

Topic "Vacuum Station: East West Spring Lakes Septic to Sewer Project"

11:30 am to 1:00pm

Contact: [Kyle Ward](#)

West Coast Chapter:

July 19th or 26th – Member Evening Bowling Social

August 23rd – Summer Quarterly Luncheon at the Columbia Restaurant

October 2nd—Joint Member Evening Brewery Social w/ Manasota Chapter

November 1st— TB Lightning vs Nashville Predators @ Amalie Arena

November 8th — Winter Quarterly Luncheon at the Columbia

Southwest Chapter:

September 14th — [11th Annual Southwest Florida Water & Wastewater Exposition](#)

9:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Contact: [Nigel Noone](#)

Southeast Chapter:

July 19th—[Quarterly Luncheon: Topic "Bursting Away the Challenges"](#)

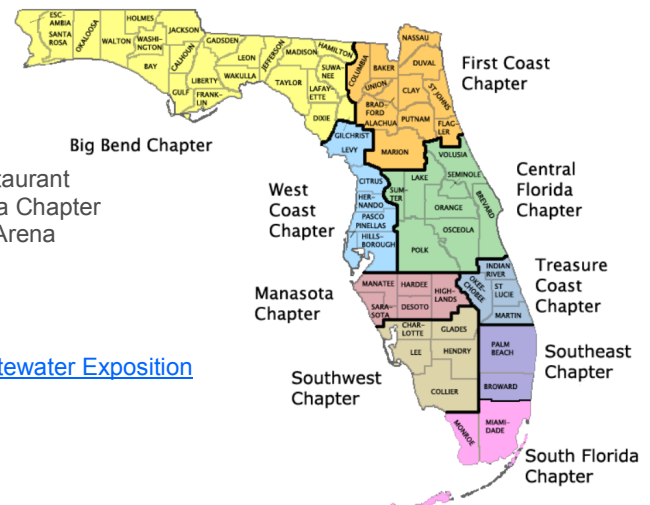
11:30 am—1:00 PM

South Chapter:

September 13th— YP Social: Details Coming Shortly!

October—Fall Quarterly Meeting: "MDWASD Consent Decree Update"

Additional events listed at [FWEA Calendar of Events](#)



Contact Us

Visit our website or contact the S&YP Committee Chair for more information on FWRC, volunteering, or sponsorship opportunities.

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http://www.fwea.org/students_young_professionals.php