

S&YP NEWS



FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee Newsletter

Winter 2018

Message from the Chair

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

Welcome to another issue of the semi-annual FWEA Students and Young Professional Newsletter! This fall has been quite a busy time for students and young professionals around the state and we are excited to share it all with you in this issue's newsletter!

First, I would like to acknowledge the University of Florida and the University of South Florida for representing their respective universities and FWEA at the 2018 WEFTEC Student Design Competition. Both teams did an incredible job, and a special congratulations should be given to the University of South Florida for placing second in the wastewater category! Please be sure to read about their WEFTEC experience in this newsletter.

It's hard to believe, but it is already time to start thinking about FWRC 2019. This year's conference will be held in Tampa, and the SYPC is already hard at work organizing the Student Design Competition and other S&YP events. Details on the conference can be found here in the newsletter or online. We look forward to another successful conference! Please reach out to any of our committee members if you would like to be involved.

I would like to give a big shout out to a new FWEA Student Chapter – the University of North Florida. We look forward to having them as part of the FWEA family. Learn more about this new chapter here in our newsletter.

Do you know of any outstanding Young Professionals? If so, please consider

nominating them for the Young Professional of the Year Award. This honor is awarded to young professionals that show leadership, initiative, technical knowledge, and actively participate within FWEA. Past award recipients have gone on to do incredible things, including our very own president Kristiana Dragash!

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
George.dick@greshamsmith.com

Nandita Ahuja, Poster Competition Chair
Hazen and Sawyer
nahuja@hazenandsawyer.com

In This Issue

Message from the Chair

WEFTEC Recap

USF Wastewater Team

2018 FWRC Details

Call for FWRC Judges and Sponsors

West Coast Chapter Event Recap

New FWEA Student Chapter

Call for YP of the Year Nominations

Upcoming Events

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Meet the S&YP Committee

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

WEFTEC—Perspective & Advice From a Competing Team

USF Wastewater Team (Placed 2nd at WEFTEC18)

by [Matthes Priester](#)

Competing in the Florida Water Resources and Water Environment Federation's Student Design Competitions was a tremendous opportunity for us as students to gain valuable experience and make industry contacts. The amount of detail we had to consider to prepare our recommendation for our client demonstrated what will be expected of us in our careers after graduating. In the process of competing, we practiced public speaking, interacting with the client and local government, managing vendors, submittal review, meeting organization, and time

management. Attending FWRC and WEFTEC gave us an exciting look into the water treatment industry, showing us new technologies and treatment processes in a way we didn't get to see in school. We got to meet our competing colleagues from all over the country and learn from their presentations, and hear about their experience in school and professional outlook. Many engineering and contracting firms were at these conferences giving us strong networking opportunities unavailable elsewhere, and a chance to see the culture at various companies. In all, participating in the Student Design Competitions proved to be a stepping stone to a solid career in the water treatment industry for everyone on the team.



2018 WEFTEC Quick Bits

- WEFTEC was held September 29th—October 3rd in New Orleans, Louisiana
- WEFTEC broke an attendance record in NOLA with over 20,700 registrants, 1,019 exhibitors using 299,850 square feet of conference center space, with 138 technical sessions and 27 workshops!
- The S&YP Community service project included the construction of bioswales and an outdoor classroom with the help of dozens of volunteers at the Treme Community Recreation Center
- Teams competing from FWEA have placed in EVERY WEFTEC SDC with 8 first place finishes in 15 years! USF Wastewater Placed 2nd this year!
- WEFTEC offers many events like reclaimed water beer tastings, facility tours, and the operations challenges!

2018 WEFTEC SDC Winners

Environmental

- 1st Place: University of British Columbia
- 2nd Place: University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 3rd Place: Northeastern University
- 4th Place: National University of Singapore

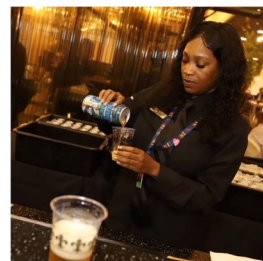
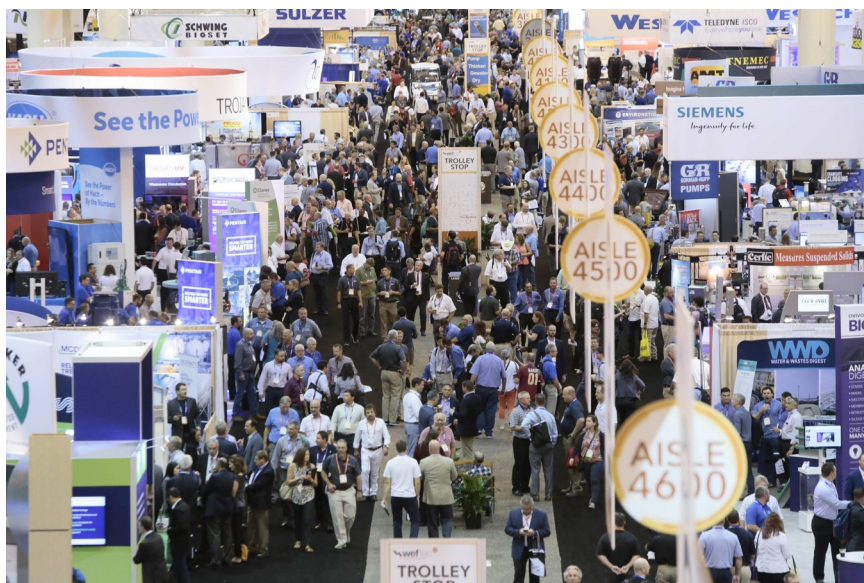
Wastewater

- 1st Place: University of Colorado, Boulder
- 2nd Place: University of South Florida
- 2nd Place: Utah State University
- 4th Place: University of Idaho

For more information on WEFTEC and the national SYPC, visit:

<http://www.weftec.org/>

<http://www.wef.org/membership/students-and-young-professionals2/>



West Coast Chapter YP Events Summary

by George Dick



attended by 20 members, friends, and family at the Q&A session and an additional 5 attendees for the game itself. Unfortunately, the Lightning lost 4 to 1 in a tough fought battle against the Preds. A special thank you the Vivian Hong, Lindsey Short, Josh Donegan and the Tampa Bay Lightning for organizing and hosting a great event.

Night with the Lightning:

The FWEA West Coast Chapter YPs held a in depth review of the ice making process with the Tampa Bay Lightning Ice Master on November 1st, 2018. The Ice Master for the Lightning detailed the ice making process, standards, water quality standards, issues, and hardships associated with creating a slab of ice to the stringent conditions set forth by the NHL. Members of FWEA held the event prior to the night's game vs the Nashville Predators, which all that were in attendance for the Q&A session were invited to attend. This event gave an inside look into a professional sports industry and their need for particular water quality standards.

The event was



FWEA USF vs Tulsa Tailgate:

For the 3rd consecutive year, the FWEA West Coast Chapter Young Professional Chairs collaborated with the University of South Florida student chapter to host a tailgate for the USF vs Tulane football game at Raymond James Stadium. The event successfully gathered 25 students, young professionals, and seasoned professionals for a day of cornhole, burgers, brats, drinks, and USF football! FWEA student chapter acquired 'student-guest' tickets for FWEA West Coat Chapter members to attend. Students mentioned that the fun and casual environment provided a great opportunity to meet and network with professionals in the area. A special thank you to Phil Walker and the USF student chapter for the organization and collaboration in the event.

2019 FWRC Details

The 2019 Florida Water Resources Conference will be held April 14th—17th at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida.

Conference Registration:

<http://fwrc.org/attendees/online-registration/>

Student Design Competition:

The SDC will be held on Sunday, April 14th from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM, and strives to promote real world design experience for students interested in water and wastewater engineering and sciences. The winning teams compete at WEFTEC 2019 in Chicago.

To review the guidelines, visit:

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

Entry forms are due electronically by February 1st, 2019 to the SYPC Chair. The written report and participation forms are due April 1st, 2019. If a topic or design idea is needed, FWEA will gladly help, simply email the [SYPC Chair](#) for more details.

Student & Young Professional Poster Competition:

The poster competition will be held on Monday, April 15th and is open to students and young professionals.

This year we will, partnered with FSAWWA, we will be **accepting water topics!** Therefore poster topics related to the field of water engineering, wastewater engineering, water resources, and other environmental topics will be accepted!

For more information, visit:

http://www.fwea.org/docs/2018_Poster_Participation_Form.pdf

Participation forms are due March 23rd to the S&YPC Poster Competition Coordinator, [Nandita Ahuja](#).

S&YP Social:

The S&YP Social will be held Sunday, April 14th in the evening. The exact time and location is to be determined but keep an eye out for details.. You won't want to miss it! All seasoned and young professionals welcome.



Call for SDC and Poster Competition Judges!

The SYPC is looking for seasoned professional to judge the student design competition and judges for the poster competition! Judges will not need to register for FWRC in order to participate. For more information on the responsibilities and duties for judging, please email the [S&YPC Chair](#).

Interested in Sponsoring?

Every year the S&YP events and competitions are made possible by our sponsors. Your sponsorship helps send student to WEFTEC, provides prizes for the poster competition winners and send the YP of the Year to the WEF/AWWA YP Summit.

For more information and to learn the benefits of becoming a sponsor, please email the S&YP Vice Chair, [George Dick](#).

New FWEA Chapter at University of North Florida

By [Alysse Ness](#), CDM Smith

We are proud to welcome a new student chapter of FWEA at the University of North Florida! The mission of the new chapter is to educate students about career opportunities in the water industry and connect them with local professionals. The students have established an umbrella organization called the Society of Environmental Water Resource Awareness (SEWRA), that combines regis-



tered collegiate chapters of FWEA, American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI). UNF's new SEWRA chapter currently boasts more than 50 undergraduate and graduate members! Most members are civil engineering majors, but other majors include marine biology, chemistry, construction management, information technology, international studies, and environmental science.

Members of the new UNF chapter have hit the ground running. They have established monthly SEWRA meetings with guest speakers followed by informal networking sessions and dinner. The first general body meeting featured young professionals Brian Gaines and Alysse Ness. Brian and Alysse presented on their transition from college to the workforce and discussed volunteering and networking opportunities in upcoming FWEA First Coast and FSAWWA Region II events in the Jacksonville area. At the second meeting, UNF alumna and Florida Section AWWA Chair Bill Young gave an inspiring presentation on the benefits of being involved with FWEA and AWWA.

The new UNF chapter's involvement has proven to be a valuable asset to our FWEA First Coast and FSAWWA Region II. Over 15 UNF students volunteered at the annual Model Water Tower Competition in October, and several students attended our recent Collection System Rehabilitation Luncheon in November.

New FWEA Chapter at University of North Florida (Cont'd)



A group of SEWRA members are preparing for the Water Bowl Competition taking place during the FS AWWA Fall Conference on Young Professional Day. We look forward to seeing the students at our upcoming events, including the FS AWWA Conference, the annual FWEA First Coast and FSAWWA Region II holiday social, the Florida Water Festival, and the Student Design Competition at the Florida Water Resources Conference (FWRC.) By combining the enthusiasm of the students with the support and encouragement of our local FWEA First Coast chapter, we expect the SEWRA chapter at UNF will thrive and continue to grow. Contact information for the new UNF chapter is below if you would like to get in touch.

UNF SEWRA Founder – Teddy Robinson, bteddyrobinson@yahoo.com

First Coast FWEA YP Chair – Brain Gaines, gainba@jea.com

Region II AWWA YP Chair – Alysse Ness, nessaa@cdmsmith.com

Accepting Nominations for YP of Year Award Now...

The SYPC is now accepting nomination packets for YP of the Year award. We are looking for outstanding young professionals that show leadership, initiative, technical knowledge and actively participate within FWEA.



YP of the Year 2018:
George Dick
(GS&P)

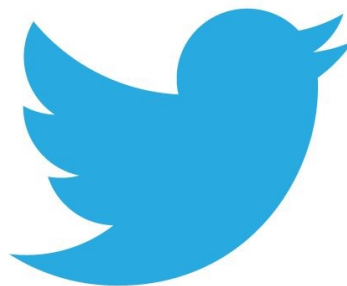
The award is presented at the FWRC Awards Luncheon every year and provides the winner with a paid trip to attend the annual AWWA/WEF YP Summit. The winner may also be recognized in the Florida Water Resources Journal, FWEA S&YP Website, social media and other publications.

Visit the [S&YP Website](#) to download the Nomination Form. Forms are due Friday, March 8th, 2019 and should be submitted to the SYPC Chair.

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](#).

Note: YPs are not allowed to nominate themselves but are encouraged to have their supervisors or colleagues submit a nomination form on their behalf. Members of the S&YP Committee are eligible.

Don't forget to follow us on Social Media!



Go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/CleanWaterFI/>

<https://twitter.com/fwea75>

<https://www.instagram.com/fwea75/>

OR just click on the logos!

Upcoming Events

Committee Events:

February 7 & 8, 2019—FWEA Leadership Development Workshop

February 15th, 2019—[Biosolids Seminar](#)

February 21st, 2019—[Air Quality Seminar](#)

February 22nd, 2019—[WR3 Seminar](#)

Chapter Events:

West Coast Chapter:

February 1, 2019—FWEA WCC Clay Shoot

February 21, 2019—FWEA WCC Winter Luncheon

March 2019—FWEA Roundtable

Manasota Chapter: TBD

Southwest Chapter: TBD

First Coast Chapter:

February 18, 2019—Sporting Clay Shoot (Saltwater's Shooting Club)

March TBD, 2019—Water Tasting Luncheon

March TBD, 2019—Bowling Tournament Event

Southeast Chapter:

February 20, 2019: SE Chapter Quarterly Meeting in Hallandale Beach

February/March 2019: Golf Tournament

South Florida Chapter:

Spring TBD, Luncheon

Spring TBD, Social Event

Spring/Summer TBD, Golf Tournament (in collaboration with the SE Chapter)

Big Bend Chapter: TBD

Central Florida Chapter:

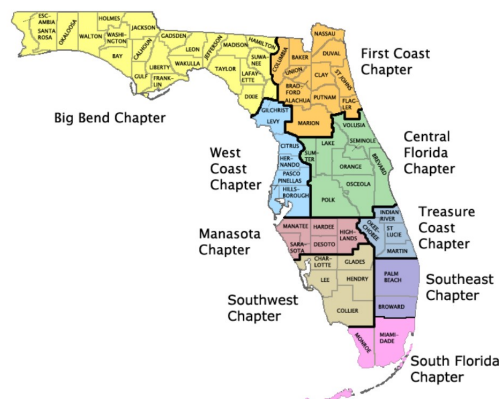
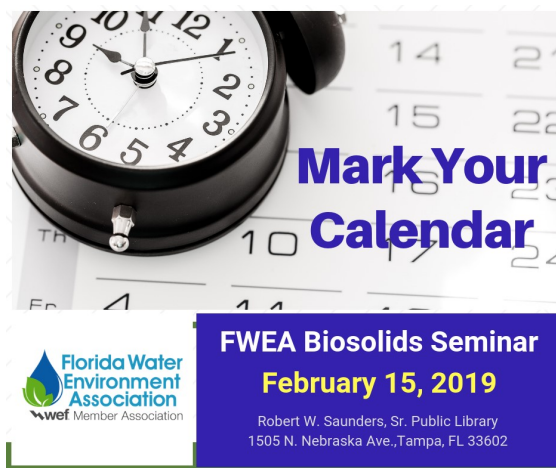
January 31st – 2nd Annual Central Florida Sporting Event – the Magic vs the Pacers.

February 5th, 2019 – Wastewater Technical Luncheon

February – Joint FWEA/FSAWWA Networking Happy Hour

March – Joint FWEA/FSAWWA Water Panelists Luncheon

March – ASCE Engineer for a Day



Contact Us

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

David Hernandez

305-443-4001