



Structural Connection

August 2009 E-Newsletter

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NCSEA Links

[Calendar of Events](#)



[Career Center](#)

Online Education

[September 15 Webinar](#)
Utilization of Precast Concrete in the Construction of Bridges in High to Moderately High Seismic Regions- What Do We Know?

[September 24 Webinar](#)
Performance-Based Earthquake with Application to a Bridge Structure

[October 28 Webinar](#)
Better Base Plate Performance by Design

[November 5 Webinar](#)
Vertical Bracing Connections for Design

[Annual Conference Heating Up](#)

NCSEA is excited to announce the final schedule for the [2009 NCSEA Annual Conference](#) in Scottsdale, AZ, October 15-17, 2009. Thursday will offer a full day of events starting with open committee meetings, then courses ranging from *BIM Pilot Projects* to *Evaluation and Modification of Existing Steel Joist & Joist Girders*. Close the first day with an opening night reception of food, drinks and networking. This year will offer two tracks on Friday, to allow you to select the optimal educational hours for your money. Friday night, attend one of the most popular events of the Conference, dinner and networking at Rosa's Ranch. This casual western-themed meal offers a chance for attendees to dress up in their best cowboy duds, while enjoying the Arizona weather in a partially-covered setting. Saturday, it's back to business with association and committee reports. After an afternoon plenary session and breakout meetings focusing on generational differences, it will be time to prepare for the NCSEA Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards reception and banquet. Arrive before dinner to enjoy the reception and view posters of some of the best structural engineering projects completed in the past three years. A record number of entries were submitted this year, ensuring interesting award presentations following a scrumptious meal. [Conference pricing starts at \\$650, so sign up now!](#)



Reserve your hotel room at the Radisson Fort McDowell at <http://www.radisson.com/ncsea>. The reduced room rate will expire September 22, 2009! And don't forget to use promotional code A74H9AF for a 5% discount on [American Airline](#) tickets.



Membership Renewal Starts Now

A reminder that it is time to renew your MO's membership with NCSEA! Look for your packet in the mail. Included are your Dues Notice, Membership Form, and MO Report Form. Please read through the materials carefully and complete all the forms. Then forward the appropriate information to the rest of your membership.

During the past year, NCSEA has been working hard to advance the practice of structural engineering. The Code Advisory Committee successfully advocated for the adoption of practical, enforceable, uniform and technically sound provisions in the model building codes. Speakers for ATC-20 and ATC-

New Website Features

[Recorded Webinars](#)

[Career Center](#)

[Affiliate Members](#)

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MO Events

[September 10-11 SEAoO 2009 Annual Conference](#)
Presentations provide most of the PDH's necessary to continuing education requirements in Ohio. Located in the Crowne Plaza, Cincinnati.

[September 23-26 SEAoC 78 Annual Convention](#)
Technical programs, networking opportunities and golf tournament scheduled. Located in the Westin Horton in San Diego, CA.

[September 24-25 2009 SEA NW Conference](#)
Theme of this year's conference and trade show is "History and Destiny" Located at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, WA.

[October 29-31 SEAOT Annual State Conference](#)
Highly visible opportunities for vendors and a central location for attendees at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Austin, TX.

45 courses were offered to the MO's, to offer to their members; and other engaging continuing education courses were presented by NCSEA, including 19 webinars, some in conjunction with The Masonry Society and some in conjunction with SEAOC, as well as a very popular traveling seminar based on NCSEA's first design guide, *Diaphragm Design in Accordance with IBC 2006 for Areas of Low, Moderate, and High Seismicity*. This book is still available at the ICC member discounted price, when you go to the NCSEA website to purchase it. NCSEA's second and third books, *Inspection, Testing, and Monitoring of Buildings and Bridges*, and *SSI Sheetpile Structures Design Guide*, are expected at the end of 2010. And then there is STRUCTURE Magazine, the leading publication for structural engineers and a benefit of membership!

Don't forget to distribute Annual Conference information to your entire membership. This is a great way for engineers to receive continuing education, to learn from each other, and to understand more about what NCSEA does.

If you, or someone you know, is ready to play a larger role in NCSEA, be sure to check out the list of Committees on the NCSEA website and fill out the [NCSEA Volunteer Application online](#).

NCSEA Webinar Package Prices

Learn how other economical engineers are taking advantage of earning high-quality, low-cost continuing education credits. Buy your webinars in bulk at NCSEA. Available in [Flex-Plan packages of 5 or 10](#), webinars may be taken over the course of 12 months for one low price. Choose 5 webinars for \$1,100 or 10 webinars for \$1,950. A savings of \$30 - \$55 per webinar! SECB certificants in good standing receive an even lower price.

With your successful attendance at all 10 webinars, you will have 15 technical continuing education hours that are Diamond Review approved, meaning they are acceptable in all 50 states, plus most are AIA approved. In fact, all NCSEA webinars presented during or after September 2008 are AIA approved!



E-mail Melissa Matarrese at Melissa@ncsea.com, for more details or to purchase your 10- or 5-webinar package, good for 12 months!

Advocacy Committee Request



The NCSEA General Public and Media subcommittee is in the process of updating / revising a list of media contacts (newspaper, radio, magazine, and television) to use in promoting structural engineering. We would like to have a contact from each member organization (or, preferably, from each chapter), who will be a liaison with the committee.

This person would need to verify the current contact's name and pertinent information on a regular basis. Our goal is to get the list of contacts in each MO established fairly quickly, so we can move on to compile the list. If you have someone in your MO that would be willing to take on this task, please send his or her contact information to me at the email address below.

We are working on some additional goals which will tie in to this list and will be providing additional information at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Arizona. Hope to see you there!

Carrie Johnson, P.E.
cjohnson@wallacesc.com

Student Correspondent



Earlier Education: A Necessity

Given our society's aging infrastructure as well as our growing knowledge of structural design principals, it is clear that a significant need for well educated engineers is in our society's future. Unfortunately, beginning an engineering education at the undergraduate college level may not be early enough.

It can often be difficult to attract young students to a civil engineering department and even more difficult to retain those students throughout their college career. Obviously not all students are meant to be engineers; but many are never matriculated into an engineering program, or they leave an engineering program due to a lack of interest in the field.

Although the responsibility to retain students may rest primarily in the hands of civil engineering departments, attracting the interest of young students is an area in which design professionals and organizations such as SEA's can play a significant role. Programs such as the K-12 Outreach Engineering Program at North Carolina State University and the Engineering Community Outreach Program in the low country of South Carolina attempt to grasp the interest of students at the K-12 level. By participating in activities such as the balsa wood bridge contest and the marshmallow catapult contest, young students will hopefully be intrigued by the engineering world prior to entering their undergraduate education. Unfortunately, programs like these require a considerable amount of manpower to operate. This is where our engineering community must be willing to take our future into our own hands and volunteer, to ensure that young individuals realize the importance of our field.

Steven J. Fulmer, EIT
Citadel '08
NC State Graduate Student
sjfulmer@ncsu.edu

Updates to the NCSEA Website

[Robert Cornforth Award](#): NCSEA is now taking nominations for the Robert Cornforth Award, given to an individual nominated by his or her MO for exceptional dedication and exemplary service to the organization and to the profession. [Download the nomination forms online](#) or [print and scan then send e-mail](#).

[NCSEA Board Candidates for 2009](#): The NCSEA Nominating Committee has proposed the candidate slate for the four open positions on the Board of Directors. Delegates will need to complete the e-mailed ballot and mail or fax

Contact Us

<http://www.ncsea.com>

Melissa@ncsea.com

Structural Connections Masthead

Jeanne Vogelzang, JD, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
312-649-4600 x201
execdir@ncsea.com

Melissa Matarrese
*Meeting and Marketing
Director*
312-649-4600 x203
Melissa@ncsea.com

it back so that votes can be tallied on October 2, 2009. Candidates' bios and photos are posted online under the **Hot Topics** section of the NCSEA homepage.

Calendar: Make sure your large events are posted online at NCSEA. We welcome contributions from each MO to help boost attendance at regional activities by reaching out to audiences nationwide. Send details to Melissa Matarrese, Meeting & Marketing Director by e-mail at Melissa@ncsea.com.

Affiliate Member: Please join us in welcoming [Hilti, Inc.](#) to NCSEA's Affiliate Member program. Hilti, Inc. is a world leader in developing, manufacturing and marketing added-value, top-quality products for professional customers in the construction industry and in building maintenance.

Associate Member: Another member has joined the NCSEA family. Please join us in welcoming [QuakeWrap Inc.](#) based out of Tucson, AZ. QuakeWrap, Inc. is a leading designer, supplier and installer of quality, innovative fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) products for repair and strengthening of structures.

Save the Date: Winter Institute

If you would like to submit material or present your views on any Structural Connection content, you may do so by contacting one of the above persons.



The speaker lineup is almost set for two of the most exciting days of continuing education taking place next year. The NCSEA 2010 Winter Institute, *Explaining the 'Why' Factor: From One Generation to the Next*, will be held March 10-13, 2010 at the Coronado Island Resort in San Diego, CA. Not only will there be engaging speakers and interesting vendors, but attendees will also participate in tours of the University of California, San Diego Powell Engineering Labs and Shake Table Facility. Save the date and look for registration details soon at www.NCSEA.com.

Seismic design and code presentations will start with **Chia-Ming Uang** discussing *ASCE 7 plus Underlying Concepts in Seismic Design Codes: Application to Steel Building Structures*. **Benson Shing** will then go over *Design Issues and Evaluation Methods for Masonry Structures*. **Jose Restrepo** will talk about *System Performance Factors for Concrete Structures from a Displacement-Based Perspective*. **Phil Line** will discuss *Design Provisions for Wood Construction – A Comparison of Past and Present*. **Tara Hutchinson** will present *Fragility of Nonstructural Components and Systems*. **Farzad Naeim** will discuss *Modeling Soil-Foundation-Structure Interaction in a Design Environment – Easy, Difficult or Impossible?* **Ronald Hamburger** will conclude with *Next-Generation Performance-Based Seismic Design Criteria*. Quite a line-up!

NCSEA Board Candidates for 2009

- For [Vice President: James Malley](#)
- For [Treasurer: Ben Nelson](#)
- For [Director: Robert Crossno](#)
- For [Director: Brad Moyes](#)