President’s Message

By Joe LaBrie, SE

How can we know what we don’t know?

If you were able to attend the SEAOSC Holiday Party a couple weeks ago, you already know what a great party it was. My wife Terri and I had so much fun that we are counting down the days until our next SEAOSC party. I am so grateful to Janah and Elizabeth Risha for making the necessary connections that enabled us all to gather at the Jonathan Club. It seems that it is in these most casual times we expose the best of ourselves and have the most thought provoking conversations.

One reoccurring conversation theme is the generation gap in the structural engineering profession. We need to figure out how to build bridges of understanding between our younger engineers and our more seasoned ones. This is an issue that can be shared and owned by members from both ends of the age spectrum. The lesson is that we all need to know what we don’t know.

Specifically, we need to better understand what it is we each value to better understand our respective expectations.

During the SEAOC convention this year I was speaking to a young engineer (Lindsey) who struck me as being notably different than many of her peers. For starters, she was at the convention; a clear demonstration of commitment. As I spoke to her, she projected an understanding that the SE profession was a lifestyle commitment that demanded engagement at the deepest levels. She noted that she understands that it requires personal responsibility and ownership of her development and that contribution to the Association is a big part of what is important. Lindsey said she places high value on knowing what her future could be in structural engineering and, in particular, with the firm for which she works. Although she said that it was not uncommon for her to work long hours, she also commented that she cares to have a balanced lifestyle that includes “non-engineering” interests. In a nutshell, she sees structural engineering not as a ‘job’, but as a ‘career’.

On another occasion, I was speaking to a few older engineers who expressed expectations

(Continued on Page 2)
SEAOCS ANNUAL EVENTS

Feb. 6:  Student Awards Night Dinner
February: YM Field Trip to UCSD Englekirk Center
Apr. 30: Deadline to Submit Excellence in Structural Engineering Posterboards
June 6:  Excellence in Structural Engineering Awards Dinner
Aug. 1:  Field Day
Sept. 12-15: SEAOC Convention
Oct. 11:  Buildings At Risk Summit
Oct. 18:  Annual Shakeout Event

Information regarding these events can be found on the SEAOSC website: (www.SEAOSC.org)

JANUARY

8  5:30 pm  Tri-Counties Dinner Meeting  Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena
9  3:00 pm  Board of Directors Meeting  Pasadena Hilton
   5:30 pm  LA Dinner Meeting
11 February Newsletter Deadline
15 OC Dinner Meeting  Costa Mesa Country Club

FEBRUARY

5  2:00 pm  Board of Directors Meeting  Structural Focus, Gardena
6  5:30 pm  LA Dinner Mtg: Student Awards Night  Luminarias Restaurant, Monterey Park
8  March Newsletter Deadline
22 Educational Event  The Grand Event Center, Long Beach

Mark your calendar now or save this page. Don’t miss your favorites!
Topics and dates subject to change — for the latest seminar details and registration go to www.seaosc.org

President’s Message
(Continued From Page 1)

for the newcomers. What I learned was that the older engineers value and embrace the insights expressed to me by Lindsey. The older generation engineers are hungry for critical thinkers with problem solving skills and creative imagination. They are yearning to find young engineers that will come alongside them to learn and work hard at being the ‘best’; engineers that have a solid work ethic. They expect young engineers to understand that the path to professional fulfillment and success can only come from an uncommon dedication to the work.

The now generation engineers need to make way for the next generation of structural engineers. We need to communicate to achieve this. The now generation engineers need to be clear that while facebook, twitter, blogs, website development, and computer jockey skills in general are necessary, these are not the things that make us ‘the best’. What makes a great engineer is his/her ability to make an intuitive connection to the details he is drawing and the engineering calculation she is doing; and then communicate the design effectively with others. What makes a great structural engineering profession is a shared willingness to bring now and next together in closer communication so that both better know what we must know; how best to help each other.

Joe La Brie
Over 80 SEAOSC members and guests socialized and reunited over a festive holiday reception overlooking the lights of Los Angeles at the Jonathan Club on December 5. The attendees were serenaded by a four-piece ensemble band from USC during the happy hour, and later over dinner, the famous Jonathan Club carolers sung to each table.

The hosted happy hour reception was sponsored by Computers & Structures, Inc. (CSI). The firm is recognized globally as the pioneering leader in software tools for structural and earthquake engineering. Software from CSI is used by thousands of engineering firms worldwide.

We wish you happy holidays and a prosperous new year!

Sincerely, the SEAOSC Board of Directors
Joe LaBrie
Doug Thompson
Kevin O’Connell
Janah Risha
Casey Hemmatyar
Larry Kaprielian
Tim Kaucher
Matt Skokan
Francisco Garcia
Ifa Kashefi
Diana Nishi
Daniel Traub
Daniel Burkhartsmeyer, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Student Member

Email dburkhar@calpoly.edu

Proudest Accomplishment
Being a part of the amazing program that is Architectural Engineering at Cal Poly. I would consider it one of the top undergraduate structural engineering programs due to the quality of students and faculty that I am lucky to work with on a daily basis, and due to the hard work of our department head, Al Estes, who deserves recognition.

Childhood Ambition
My ambition began with an affinity for structures designed by renowned architects, particularly the works of Frank Lloyd Wright. Buildings of all shapes and sizes fascinated me, but it was those that were and still are considered iconic that caught my full attention: Fallingwater, Sears (Willis) Tower, and closer to home, the Transamerica building. My inclination for architecture and a growing interest in math and science in school led me to pursue a career in structural engineering.

Biggest Challenge
Time Management. In my years at Cal Poly, time management has been key and is a constant learning process. Balancing coursework, a part-time job, and now a senior project has been a struggle, but it has taught me the value of prioritizing and the skill to work multiple projects simultaneously.

First Job
An internship at a small architecture firm named Eric Miller Architects. My job consisted of assisting the office in any way possible: edit CAD drawings, prepare presentation boards, organize archived job documents, and various odds-and-ends. Even though it wasn’t structural engineering, it provided some insight into the AEC industry.

Best Job
An engineering internship with the dual company of Roofscreen Manufacturing and Silverback Solar, which provide pre-engineered roofscreens and solar panel arrays. I worked with a project engineer to create spreadsheet templates used in conjunction with RISA 3d to conduct frame analyses. The templates are now used to provide project estimates for their customers.

Why Join SEAOSC?
I have been a student member of our Cal Poly SEAOC club since my freshman year, and as a board member now, I am more involved than ever. With the support that SEAOSC has given our club and the benefits that a professional organization can provide, it was a no-brainer to join.

Next Step
For me, the next step is to consider where I will be applying for graduate school in structural engineering. Now in my 4th year at Cal Poly, I enjoy learning all aspects of structural design and analysis more than ever, and I look forward to continuing that education in grad school and beyond.
October 5, 2012
Attention: Scholarship Supporter
Department of Civil/Structural Engineering
Subject: 2013 SEAOSC Scholarship Awards & Structural Engineering Job Fair

Dear faculty member/administrator,

The Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (SEAOSC) would like to thank you for continuous support to our annual student scholarship awards. Attached is the student announcement for the 2013 SEAOSC Scholarship. Please post this announcement at various locations for all your Civil/Structural Engineering students.

Once again, we seek your assistance in the selection of the deserving student from your university. The scholarship award is open for all students but we look to you to nominate the scholarship recipient. We do this as there is no one better than a faculty member who witnesses a student’s excellence in both academics and leadership.

Please forward all scholarship submissions along with your nomination no later than Friday December 21, 2012, to Genti Hajdari at the email address below. Please include the (2) requested items + the optional letter of recommendation for each student. The SEAOSC evaluation committee will determine the scholarship amount a student will receive. It is required that the student nominated attend the awards ceremony to accept their scholarship. We therefore would advise you to select a possible runner-up in the event that the nominated student cannot attend.

SEAOSC leaves the selection process of the most deserving student nomination up to the discretion of the University, and encourages all participating universities to nominate a new student each year and not re-nominate a past scholarship recipient. SEAOSC will accept the University’s decision to re-nominate a past SEAOSC scholarship winner as their school’s official candidate if they so desire.

In addition to your nominee, we ask that all student resumes collected be sent to us to be included on our 2013 Resume CD. This CD will be distributed to all engineering firms who contribute to the 2012 Scholarship Fund. Our hope is that the resumes CD will open doors of employment to your talented applicants.

Our scholarship awards ceremony will begin with a Structural Engineering Job Fair. The job fair consists of booths/tables with representatives of firms from the Southern California area where students can inquire about future career opportunities. Last year, over 15 structural engineering firms participated at our job fair and we look forward to a greater turnout this year. It is our hope that your Civil/Structural Engineering Department encourages all engineering students to attend our Structural Engineering Job Fair. All students attending the job fair will be invited to stay for the scholarship awards ceremony and dine FREE of charge.

If you are not the appropriate contact for your university, please forward this letter and announcement to the appropriate faculty member and notify us of their name so we may update our records.

Thank you for your contribution. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or comments in preparation for this great event.

Sincerely,

Genti Hajdari
SEAOSC Scholarship Coordinator
ghajdari@gmail.com
(909) 215-7520

SAFER BUILDINGS THROUGH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
Student Scholarship Donations

Please contribute by Friday, January 11, 2013

Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013
At Luminarias Restaurant, 3500 Ramona Blvd, Monterey Park, CA 91754
Watch for reservation information!

Level 1: $350-$800: Recognition in the evening's program, and a CD with Students' Resumes

Level 2: $800 or more: Special Recognition at the evening's program, a Job Fair table and a Dinner table, presentation of a scholarship award, and a CD with Resumes

Please direct questions to:
Gentjan Hajdari, SEAOSC Scholarship Coordinator, ghajdari@gmail.com, 909-215-7520
Tarik Saoud, Firm Coordinator, tarik.saoud@gmail.com, 310-309-7439

Please return form with payment via email: seaosc@seaosc.org, fax: 562-692-3425, or mail: 1105 S. Euclid St. #D409, Fullerton, CA 92832. Please make checks payable to “SEAOSC”.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS
Please print legibly!

Contact Name: ____________________________________________________________

Firm: __________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email: __________________________________________

Please circle payment type:

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Level 1 Contribution = $_______

Level 2 Contribution = $_______

TOTAL = $_______

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Address where you receive your credit card bill: __________________ Zip Code: ___________
**Program:** OSHPD SB 499 Update & Best Practices for Successful “Comment & Process Review” (CPR) in OSHPD

**Speaker:** Chris Tokas, SE, F. SEAOC, is a Deputy Division Chief of Northern California operations, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD). He has 25+ years’ experience in structural engineering and design, with special emphasis in seismic evaluation, analysis and retrofit. He has designed and managed seismic upgrade projects for a wide variety of public, private and institutional clients and has been involved in all phases of seismic risk reduction programs, including development of criteria, evaluation of existing structural capacity, schematic design and preparation of construction documents.

**Location:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Ventura Harbor, 1080 Navigator Drive Ventura, CA 93001

**Networking Time:** 5:30pm

**Dinner:** 6:30pm

**Program:** 7:30-8:30pm

**Cost:** $35.00; Students: $15

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**TRI-COUNTIES DINNER RESERVATION FORM:** Jan 8, 2013

**Reservations Due Before:** Jan. 8, 2013

Name: _______________________________________________ Phone: _________________

Yourself: 1@ $35.00 =$___________

Guests: __@ $35.00 =$___________

TOTAL =$___________

Your email: _________________________________________________

Credit Card Number: ________________________________________Expiration: __________

Signature: ________________________________________3 digits on back of card: _________

Billing Address: ___________________________ Zip Code: __________
Seismic Risks of Electrical Power Delivery Systems and Related Seismic Risk Mitigation Measures

Abstract: Unfortunately, electrical power distribution systems, the largest component of the power delivery complex and the most directly exposed to the general public, has been overlooked regarding current seismic risks. This presentation will discuss the resulting seismic vulnerabilities of major structural components, new designs for improved seismic resistance and the need for establishing explicit seismic design requirements and/or return to service requirements for the electrical power lifeline. Without explicit requirements, restoration of service times will likely be significantly longer than that currently assumed.

Location: Pasadena Hilton, 168 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena

Networking Time: 5:30pm
Dinner: 6:30pm
Program: 7:30-8:30pm
Cost: $45; Students: $25

Speaker: James Day, SE, SECB
James is chief str. engr., Distribution Structural Engineering Engineering & Technical Services, So Cal Edison. He has six years’ experience in electrical utility power supply systems at SCE in transmission & distribution engineering, emergency response & business continuity planning; 17 years’ structural design experience in light to heavy construction at Bechtel, Fluor, Austin Company, Structural Mechanics Associates, KMN Engineering and Victor Gruen Assoc.; 15 years’ structural design & advanced material applications experience at Boeing & McDonnell Douglas Space Systems; 15 years (concurrent with above) at LA County Fire Urban Search & Rescue, Task Force 2, Structural Specialist.

Reservations: Make advance reservation before Tuesday, Jan. 8 via SEAOSC.org, fax or email. SEAOSC is charged for “no-shows” so please notify office if you must cancel. Prepay by providing your credit card number and expiration date. “Walk-ins” welcome.

LOS ANGELES DINNER RESERVATION FORM: Jan. 9, 2013
Reservations Due Before: Jan. 8, 2013

Name: ______________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Number of Attendees: ___@ $45 = $___________

Number of Students: ___@ $25 = $___________

TOTAL = $_______________

Your email: ______________________________________________________________________

Credit Card Number: ____________________________________________ Expiration: __________

Signature: __________________________________________________ 3 digits on back of card: __________

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Program: “Roof Drainage — Not My Problem — Maybe”

Engineering Challenges, Failures and Solutions Associated with Flat Roof Drainage

Abstract: Many structural engineers are surprised to learn that the International Building Code (IBC, 2009) requires the roof structure to be engineered for standing water weight in the vicinity of the drains and scuppers regardless of roof slope. In addition, some low-slope roofs also require special attention for water weight and stiffness for safety against ponding failures or protection against accelerated roofing deterioration. With a mixture of overlapping design disciplines between the architect, plumbing consultant and structural engineer, proper roof drainage is often not fully addressed in building design and can lead to catastrophic collapse. John Lawson has been involved as an expert consultant in several California roof collapses resulting from excessive rain water accumulation, and brings some lessons learned to the profession. This presentation provides an overview of the various disciplines involved in transporting rainwater from roofs as well as recommendations for complying with code requirements.

Speaker: John Lawson is a licensed Structural Engineer in California and Arizona and has overseen the design of over 100 million square feet of low-slope roof systems. He has a Masters degree in Structural Engineering from Stanford University, and a Bachelors in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is currently a tenure-track professor and recipient of the CEA Distinguished Educator Award. Mr. Lawson is also a Structural Specialist in Orange County’s FEMA Urban Search & Rescue program, with special training in collapsed structures, and has been deployed to earthquakes, hurricanes, and the Oklahoma City Bombing.

Location: Costa Mesa Country Club

Networking Time: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

Program: 7:30-8:30pm

Cost: $35; Students: $15

Reservations: Make advance reservation before Tuesday, Jan. 13 via SEAOSC.org, fax or email. SEAOSC is charged for “no-shows” so please notify office if you must cancel. Prepay by providing your credit card number and expiration date. “Walk-ins” welcome.

ORANGE COUNTY DINNER RESERVATION FORM: Jan. 15, 2013

Reservations Due Before: Jan. 13, 2013

Name: _______________________________ Phone: _______________________________

Number of Attendees: ____ @ $35 = $________

Number of Students: ____ @ $15 = $________

TOTAL = $________

Your email: __________________________________________

Credit Card Number: _______________________________ Expiration: ________________

Signature: _______________________________ 3 digits on back of card: _____________

Billing Address: _______________________________ Zip Code: ________________
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—Rob Young, Consulting Earth Scientists
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Get involved! Members and interested parties are invited to join a SEAOSC committee. Contact the chairperson for information on current projects and meeting times, dates and locations.

### 2012-2013 SEAOSC Officers

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('Delegate to SEAOC')

('Member of Exec. Cmte.')