Michelle Kam-Biron, SE, SECB

Believe...

In the December President’s message I wrote about the tragedy in Paris, France and sadly this month another incident has occurred, hitting closer to home in San Bernardino, CA. I’m sure that all SEAOSC members send our thoughts and prayers to the friends and families who have perished or been injured as a result of this terrorist act. It does make one ponder…what is the world coming to? I have to truly BELIEVE that things will get better and that we will rise above all of this!

Can you believe that we’re halfway through the SEAOSC year? I can’t. Thinking back, 2 1/2 years ago, when I started the progression to become President, I had an idea about what it would be like to be on the Board, having served previously, but I obviously didn’t know what lay ahead. It seems like so much has transpired with SEAOSC… and it truly has. Most of you probably think that not much has changed in the past 10-15 years but we’ve continued the progression to improve SEAOSC as a result of the reorganization that started under Past-President Janah Risha. The committees are really re-engaging in SEAOSC and producing fabulous and relevant work! As you know we’ve made a major change in our administration management of the association, switching to BSC Management. This was HUGE! They have been a tremendous help over these past two months and I believe they will continue to be so. What is really inspiring is that we continue to see more people attending the dinner meetings and when you look around the room, there is a diverse crowd of new and existing members AND they’re having fun!

The one area that I do think we need to work on is engaging the younger members with those who are more seasoned. I realize that my career has spanned more years than I care to think about but one valuable thing that I have learned is that I’m not always going to have all the answers nor always be right (unfortunately). But I hope that I will always have the desire to learn and grow so that I can find the answers and I believe those answers can be reached through a collaborative process with others.

The Board has been diligently working to re-engage the SEAOSC Committees as some have not been active or are in need of new leadership. I’m very happy to announce that, with the help of First Year Director, Victoria Wigle, we now have two new Membership Committee Co-Chairs - Christian Cody of Hilti and Kerry Regan. As you may recall, the SEAOSC leadership had a retreat a few months ago and membership is one of the key areas that we targeted to concentrate on this year. We are very excited about our new Membership Committee Co-Chairs and believe that under their leadership, we’ll see some exciting developments in the future.

It seems like this is the time of year when some people may ponder on the things that have happened in their lives and reflect on significant milestones that may have occurred. Looking back on my days at Cal Poly SLO, majoring in architectural engineering, I realize what a significant time in my life it was with the countless hours spent in the lab working on projects and interacting with other students. Not only was it a great place to learn about structural engineering but it provided an ideal opportunity for collaborating with other people who were not always like-minded in their views. That was fine because that’s just the way the world is… not everyone is the same (thank goodness for THAT!).

I realize that my career has spanned more years than I care to think about but one valuable thing that I have learned is that I’m not always going to have all the answers nor always be right (unfortunately). But I hope that I will always have the desire to learn and grow so that I can find the answers and I believe those answers can be reached through a collaborative process with others.

...continue to page 2
If any of you have read my past President’s Messages, you know that I include links to documents or videos to make this a more three dimensional experience. To end 2015 and begin 2016 I’d like to include some of my favorite structures, in no specific order (this is not a complete list by any means):

Centre Pompidou Metz, Paris, France
Roman Colosseum, Rome, Italy
Eiffel Tower, Paris, France
Treehouses, World
Taj Mahal, Agra, India
Chrysler Building, New York
Great Wall of China, China
Richmond Olympic Oval, Richmond, Virginia
Cathedral of Christ the Light, Oakland, CA

I’m sure many of you have a different list and may take exception to my choices and I’d love to hear them.

Lastly, if you would like the opportunity to contribute to the Structural Engineers Association of Southern California, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the SEAOSC Foundation.

Donations can be made by check, made payable to “SEAOSC Foundation” and mailed to the SEAOSC Office.

The year 2015 ends with some exciting news. On December 12th, the Applied Technology Council (ATC) and the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers awarded the City of Los Angeles as the 2015 Champions of Earthquake Resilience in the category of Extraordinary Innovation in Development of a Community Earthquake Safety Program for the Los Angeles Resilience by Design Program. As many of you know SEAOSC served as a technical advisor for this program. Additionally, SEAOSC nominated the City of LA for the award.

Similar to last month, in order to encourage people to actually read the President’s Message I have started a raffle. To enter the raffle to WIN a STARBUCKS Gift card or an AWC Electronic Publication, please follow this link to a survey and answer questions about the President’s Message. One winner will be chosen from those that complete the survey.

Winners from the December Newsletter are (yes, there actually are winners!):
Claudia Landeras – City of Irvine
Minay Pak – LADBS

I look forward to seeing you at the January 6th LA Dinner Meeting.
Please note that former SEAOSC Executive Director, Lynn Hanger, will be present to receive a plaque which recognizes Gilbert Association Management’s for their many years of service to SEAOSC.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and hoping that you Believe!

Happy Holidays
Kwanzaa * Solstice *
Hanukkah * Christmas *

Have an Extraordinary Day and Dream!
Michelle Kam-Biron, SE, SECB
SEAOSC President

P.S….one of my favorites... A Christmas Song

11300 W. Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
T: (562) 908-6131 • F: (310) 437-0585
seaosc@seaosc.org • www.seaosc.org

Happy Holidays!
BSC Staff Profiles

The BSC Management Team looks forward to working with SEAOSC members and directors in our mutual effort to improve member benefits and increase the positive impact of the association on the structural engineering profession and Southern California communities.

In the upcoming issues of SEAOSC News, we will be introducing our team members to you so that you know who is working hard behind the scenes to publish the newsletter, produce the events, serve the membership and so much more.

This month, we’d like to highlight Wanda Myers, our Membership Manager and Ochun Farlice, our Membership Coordinator.

Wanda Myers
Membership Manager

Her job functions include:

- Overseeing all membership rules and processes
- Participating in SEAOSC membership related calls, meetings and events as needed
- Working with the SEAOSC membership committee when appropriate

Wanda is a mother of two beautiful daughters and has one adorable granddaughter. She grew up in San Francisco and now resides in San Diego; she battles traffic every weekend commuting to and from LA!

Ochun Farlice
Membership Coordinator

Her job functions include:

- Accurately and courteously responding to phone calls and emails from members and prospective members
- Maintaining necessary information in membership records
- Generating monthly mailing list for SEAOSC publications
- Supporting society membership recruitment strategies
- Sending new member welcome letters

Ochun is native to Los Angeles and is a proud UCLA Alumni. Go Bruins! She enjoys spending time with her two handsome sons, family and friends whenever she can.

Feel free give our membership team a call at (562) 908-6131 Ext. 138 or send them an email at membership@seaosc.org
SEAOSC Board Profiles

Every month for the rest of the fiscal year, two board members will be featured in each issue of SEAOSC News. We are excited about this opportunity to provide our members with a closer look at the dedicated professionals who are volunteering their time to serve as leaders of the association and to help to carry out its mission. They manage to do this while juggling the commitments of their jobs and personal lives and we are indebted to them. This month, we are pleased to highlight Colin Kumabe and Todd Brown.

COLIN KUMABE, S.E.

Colin Kumabe is currently the Metro Plan Check Chief in the City of Los Angeles, Department of Building and Safety, where he has worked for 30 years. During the past 10 years, he has overseen the city’s review of projects with performance based design. Throughout his career, he has participated in the SEAOSC steel and existing buildings committees and the ad hoc committees for the development of nonductile concrete chapters of the Los Angeles Building codes.

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Some Thoughts From Colin Regarding His Involvement With SEAOSC:

“For most of my career, I have supported SEAOSC simply through membership and committee work. Being a SEAOSC Board Member has enhanced my experience and participation because I am involved in actions brought to the Board for decision making. Through the deliberation process for budgeting and establishing charters for committees, I feel that I have been able to get more involved in the activities of many committees. My participation as a board member has been a positive experience, allowing me to further give back to the structural engineering profession.

Membership in a professional organization such as SEAOSC furthers the profession of structural engineering. Other organizations, not related to professions, have goals that primarily work toward the enjoyment of their members. SEAOSC has worked tirelessly toward fostering and promoting the noble profession of structural engineering.”

TODD BROWN, S.E.

Todd Brown is a Senior Vice President with DCSE Associates (formerly Dale Christian Structural Engineer Inc.). He joined the SEAOSC Board of Directors on July 1, 2015. Todd graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science Degree from California State University Fullerton in 1996, majoring in Civil Engineering, with an emphasis in Architectural Engineering. He worked briefly for a small architectural firm in Orange County, then joined Dale Christian Structural Engineer Inc. in early 1997. He has been with the company now for nineteen years, and has held positions from an Engineer-in-Training, to a Senior Vice President. He is a licensed Civil and Structural Engineer in the State of California.

Todd has provided designs for a variety of different material and construction types, although his area of expertise is in single-family and multi-family residential design. He is responsible for the design of thousands of houses, apartment units, and townhomes in the Southern California Area. He has a particular interest in producing structural plans that are well detailed, easy to read and easy for the contractor to follow.

Todd believes that SEAOSC is the premier association in Southern California for practicing Structural Engineers. During his time on the Board of Directors, he would like to help the association grow its membership and provide meaningful benefits to all of the association’s members. He is the board contact for the Young Members Committee, and has enjoyed meeting and working with the younger members, and hopes to help encourage them to attend meetings and be involved in the association. He has enjoyed his experience on the Board for the last six months, and is looking forward to working with the other Board members to help advance the association and the profession of structural engineering in the local community.
SEAOSC Membership Committee Update and Introduction to Its Newest Co-Chairs

SEAOSC welcomes two new co-chairs to the Membership Committee. We look forward to having their fresh perspective and benefiting from the knowledge and talent they bring to the table, garnered from their respective careers in the structural engineering field. Meet Kerry Regan and Christian Cody!

**KERRY REGAN**

Kerry Regan is relatively new to the structural engineering field, having returned to school after working for several years as an environmental engineer. She graduated one year ago from California State University Fullerton with a M.S. in Civil Engineering, focusing on Structures. Kerry enjoys SEAOSC for its blend of camaraderie and technical discussion.

Originally from Louisiana, Kerry moved to Southern California for her first job out of college. Being someone who loves the outdoors, she spends a lot of time hiking and sailing. Because of that, she has a hard time imagining a life anywhere else.

**CHRISTIAN CODY**

Christian was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He later attended the University of Arizona where he received his B.S. in Civil Engineering. Christian then worked in construction as a field engineer for Hensel Phelps Construction for two years.

From there, Christian moved to PERI Formwork Systems as a Design Engineer, where he was subsequently promoted to Engineering Team Leader. He currently is the Structural Field Engineer, covering downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena.

Christian is an avid sports fan, especially for the Green Bay Packers. His hobbies include watching movies, working out and fishing.

The SEAOSC Membership Committee has lofty goals and plays a major role in strengthening the backbone of the association — its membership base. Its mission and charges listed below are ambitious and those who participate as Committee Members are a dedicated and hardworking group who also like to have fun!

**SEAOSC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MISSION**

To cultivate social contacts and encourage camaraderie among members and to increase participation by providing worthwhile events and opportunities that bring value to the membership.

**SEAOSC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE STANDING CHARGES**

Annual routine tasks performed by the committee include promoting the benefits of membership and the ongoing update and maintenance of Membership Benefits. Areas of responsibilities include:

- Planning/Organizing the SEAOSC Holiday Party (December) and the Membership Appreciation Event (Spring) and assisting with additional SEAOSC events.
- Visiting with engineering firms to recruit new members.
- Onboarding/mentoring new members including outreach with phone calls and/or emails.
- Leveraging social media to attract/retain members.
- Assisting with content for the newsletter.
- Ongoing coordination with the statewide SEAOC membership initiatives, including cohesive recruiting/retention strategies.
- Adapting statewide SEAOC marketing material to recruit and maintain SEAOSC membership.

We are always looking for members for this fun and busy committee! For more information on getting involved, please contact the SEAOSC office at seaosc@seaosc.org.
Welcome New Members  ▶ November 2015

Affiliate Member
Mr. Jack Forest
US Integral Service, Inc., Commerce, CA
info@usintegral.com

Associate
Mr. Josh Ogle
Buehler & Buehler Structural Engineers, Inc, El Segundo, CA
jogle@bbse.com

Industry
Mr. Steve Tobin
Tobin Steel Co., Inc., Santa Ana, CA
stobin@tobinsteel.com

Member
Mr. Toshiyasu Yoza
Arup, Los Angeles, CA
toshiyasu.yoza@arup.com

Mr. Charlie Shakhtour
Degenkolb Engineers, Los Angeles, CA
dwilliams@degenkolb.com

Member SE
Mr. Daniel Gavahi
Holmes Culley, Los Angeles, CA
dgavahi@holmesculley.com

Students
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA
California State University, Los Angeles, CA
California State University, Northridge, CA
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
Politecnico Di Torino, Turin Area, Italy
LA Dinner Meeting

January 6, 2016

Prefabricated Design: Product and Process

Location: Luminarias, 3500 Ramona Blvd., Monterey Park, CA 91754
Time: Networking and Cash Bar: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm; Dinner: 6:30 pm
Cost: Members and Guests: $35; Walk-ins: $45; Table Reservation: $245

TOPIC

The construction industry is in the middle of a renaissance of prefabricated and componentized design. The advent of reliable and sophisticated computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) technologies is facilitating a radical change in the way we design, manufacture, and deliver building systems. Projects ranging from residences, data centers, to hi-rise buildings are seeing the demand to reduce labor, cost, and schedule through the use of prefabricated components and building assemblies. This shift in focus from a one-time, custom delivery, to an adaptable and repeatable building product brings with it layers of complexity to the design process. We can no longer focus only on the final, as-built conditions, but are required to be involved in an integrated product development cycle that considers manufacturability, procurement, packing, transportation, constructability, flexibility, and scalability in addition to cost and schedule.

Erik Kneer and Jonas Houston of Holmes Culley will be exploring how this drive towards prefabrication impacts both the design process and our deliverables as structural engineers. They will provide an overview of the different forms prefabrication can take including modular, componentized, and hybrid systems. Additionally, the presentation will share lessons learned from past project examples and discuss significant changes to the structural engineer’s workflow, technical development, and delivery methods.

PRESENTERS

Erik Kneer, SE, LEED AP BD+C, is a founding member and past Chair of the Structural Engineers Association of California’s (SEAOC) Sustainable Design Committee where he has co-authored two papers on the engineer’s role in sustainability: “Structural Engineering Strategies for Sustainable Design” and “Consideration of Building Performance in Sustainable Design: A Structural Engineer’s Role”. Erik serves on the USGBC California Advocacy Committee’s Council of Experts and participated in the development of USGBC’s LEED v4. Erik continues to advocate for resilient communities through his involvement with the City of San Francisco’s Earthquake Safety Implementation Program and as a co-author of FEMA’s upcoming P-798 document entitled, “Reduction of Buildings’ Environmental Impact through Resilient Design”.

Erik is a licensed structural engineer and LEED Accredited Professional. He is an Associate Principal for Holmes Culley, an international structural engineering firm specializing in Earthquake Engineering with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New Zealand. He received his Bachelors Degree in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and a Master’s Degree in Structural Engineering and Geomechanics from Stanford University. With over 15 years experience in the A/E/C industry, he has focused his career on providing structural engineering solutions incorporating sustainable design, prefabrication, and integrated practice principles.

Jonas Houston, PE has a diverse range of experience on a variety of construction and project types from retrofits of steel and concrete high-rises to single family homes across the Pacific Rim. He recently won SEAONC’s Young Engineer Award for his analysis, seismic retrofit, and adaptive reuse of an eight story concrete structure, now transformed to a luxury, multifamily residential building. He recently served as the lead engineer for the development of Project FROG’s flat-packed data center system completing a 300,000 square foot data center build-out for a confidential Silicon Valley technology company.

Jonas is a Project Engineer for Holmes Culley, an international structural engineering firm specializing in Earthquake Engineering with offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New Zealand. He received his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

For more information and to register, please visit our website
Tri-County Meeting

January 12, 2016

Roof Drainage: Not my problem…. Maybe

Location: Radisson, 3455 Skyway Drive, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Time: Networking and Cash Bar: 5pm – 6pm
      Dinner: 6:00pm
      Presentation: 7:00pm

Cost: Members and Guests: $35
      Walk-ins: $45
      Table Reservation: $245
      Students: $25

PRESENTER

John Lawson

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 Engineer from Stanford University, and a Bachelors in Architectural Engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is currently a tenure-track professor.

Mr. Lawson is also a Structural Specialist in FEMA’s Urban Search & Rescue program, with special training in collapsed structures, and has been deployed to earthquakes, hurricanes, and the Oklahoma City Bombing.

For more information and to register, please visit our website.
Winter Education Program

Friday & Saturday, January 29 & 30 2016
Grand Event Center, 4101 East Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815

Attend One Day: $195 (Member) or $390 (Non-Member)
Attend Both Days: $350 (Member) or $700 (Non-Member) Best Value!
**Students with valid ID receive 50% discount off Member price**
Registrations received January 26 or after add 20%.

Join us for a must attend education program for valuable insight and guidance on existing building assessment and retrofit, the City of L.A. Retrofit Ordinance, and structural evaluation and design to resist blast forces!

Session 1: Friday, January 29, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (5 PDH credits)
Registration at 8:30 am and lunch provided
- Understanding Seismic Risk and Assessment by Keith Porter, PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder
- FEMA P-58 Seismic Performance Assessment of Buildings by Curt Haselton, PhD, CSU, Chico
- Los Angeles Earthquake Retrofit Ordinance and Updates by LADBS
- Los Angeles Soft-Story Retrofit Ordinance Design Examples by SEAOCS Existing Building Committee
- Los Angeles Non-Ductile Concrete Retrofit Ordinance by SEAOCS Seismology Committee

Session 2: Saturday, January 30, 8:15 am – 12:30 pm (4 PDH credits)
Registration at 7:30 am and breakfast provided
- Blast Design by Jesse Karns, SE, MiTek

Visit www.seaosc.org to register online or return this form with payment via email: seaosc@seaosc.org, fax: 562-692-3425, or mail: 11300 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90064. Please make checks payable to “SEAOSC”. Late fee applies beginning January 26, 2015 and will be added to total if omitted below. Cancellations refundable until January 26, 2016.

WINTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGISTRATION
Please print legibly!

Contact/Attendee Name(s): ________________________________________________________________
Firm: ________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: ___________________ Email:  _________________________________________________________

Member              Non-Member      Student
Attend Either Session:_____@ $195 _____@ $390 _____@ $95
Attend Both Sessions:_____@ $350 _____@ $700 _____@ $175
January 26 and after add 20% = $________
TOTAL= $________

Card number:___________________________________________________________ Expiration date: ____________
Signature: ___________________________________________________________ Pin (last 3-4 digits on back of card): ____________
Address where you receive your credit card bill: ____________________________________________ Zip Code: ____________
Student Scholarship Awards Night

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Speaker: Thomas A. Sabol, Ph.D., S.E.
Principal
Englekirk Structural Engineers

Topic: Design of the Getty Center, A Historical Perspective

Location: Luminarias Restaurant, 3500 Ramona Blvd, Monterey Park, CA 91754

Time*: Job Fair & Social Networking 3:30-6:30 pm; Dinner 6:45 pm;
Keynote Speaker 7:30 pm; Awards 8:15-8:45 pm

Cost: $35; Students: Free (Donations to offset the cost of student dinners are appreciated.)

Visit www.seaosc.org to register online or return this form with payment via email: jenay@seaosc.org, fax: 310-437-0585, or mail: 11300 W. Olympic Blvd, Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90064. Please make checks payable to “SEAOSC”.


Please print legibly!

Attendee(s): ____ @ $35 = $____
Students: ______@ FREE! = $____
Meal Donation: = $____
Scholarship Donation: = $____
TOTAL = $____

Name(s): __________________________________________________________________________

Firm____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________ Email: __________________________________________________

Card number: ___________________________ Expiration date: ____________

Signature: __________________________ Zip Code: ______________

Address where you receive your credit card bill:__________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Business Card Index Ads

Please see the business card index ads for each of our SEAOSC Board Members.

*Note: This advertising opportunity is available to all SEAOSC members at a nominal fee.

Visit www.seaosc.org next month for up to date information on all advertising options.
WANT TO PLACE A JOB AD? ¼ PAGE AD FOR $100

**ALPHA STRUCTURAL, INC. - Eagle Rock, CA**

Alpha Structural is an expert in residential foundation work and retaining walls. Looking for a Civil/Structural Engineer who wants a long-term career and who takes personal pride in accomplishing more than is required. Must be highly experienced in CAD drafting of residential foundation (concrete, piles, grade beams, etc.) plans.

Will be required to do site visits, plot plans, designs and drafting with little instruction. Will interface with structural engineers, soils engineers, City building plan checkers, customers, etc. Experience in the expedition of building permits is a plus.

Candidate will work in-house at our Eagle Rock office. Due to the logistical requirements of the job, candidate must live within a reasonable proximity to Eagle Rock.

Will be required to drive to various locations, so must have current driver’s license and own transportation.

**Qualifications are:**

- Engineer degree and license.
- Full fluency in English is a must -- fluency in Spanish a plus.
- Excellent communication skills, resourcefulness and an ability to get things completed quickly and in an organized fashion.
- Prior residential structural experience

Contact Adam at adam@alphastructural.com or by phone at 323.258.5482

**GSSI STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS**

GSSI has an immediate opening in their San Diego office for a Design Engineer/Project manager. GSSI, founded in 2003, specializes in commercial, hospitality and industrial projects.

Minimum requirements include California PE license with minimum 3 years of experience in structural design and analysis. Strong steel and concrete design experience is desirable. Excellent salary and benefit package. Unlimited opportunity for professional growth.

Email resume to Cindy Austin: caustin@gssi-se.com

**GROSS & CHOI & ASSOCIATES, INC**

DCA is looking for Experienced and Entry Level Structural Engineers. We are a firm based in Long Beach, California, performing structural engineering services for a variety of projects including large scale residential and mixed use complexes, highend luxury residential, existing building seismic rehab, and steel commercial office buildings. Qualified applicants must have strong office communication skills and be able to effectively collaborate with clients, contractors, and other design professionals.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor’s Degree and EIT certification required, PE preferred. AutoCAD and/or Revit experience required. California seismic engineering background, proficiency with the California Building Code, and other related codes is preferred. Must be able to work in a project team, maintain a project schedule with limited supervision, and have the ability to put together construction documents. Qualified candidates please submit your resume along with a cover letter to scott@dca-se.com or to david@dca-se.com

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- Adjacent Surcharges
- Cohesion in base soils
- 2013 Seismic method

More information at www.soilstructure.com
Please visit

http://seaosc.org/about-structural-engineering/committees
to view the annual committee charges and tasks.