

# S&YP NEWS



FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee Newsletter

SUMMER 2017

## Message from the Chair

Tyler Smith, Carollo

Welcome to the third issue of the semi-annual FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) Newsletter! I am proud to introduce the Summer 2017 S&YP Newsletter which contains all things S&YP! The Committee would like to recognize FWRC competition winners, the YP of the Year, recap of the YP Summit, and more. The goal of this newsletter is to recognize our sponsors (without whom we would not exist) and to showcase all of the hard work put on by the outstanding students and volunteers 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. For a second time, a resume review and workshop for the students and young professionals attending the SDC at the Florida Water Resources Conference. Students received feedback from multiple industry professionals and had the opportunity to speak with volunteers and judges about their careers. Additionally, the Committee hosted a 'Show Your Colors' Social and Social Media Scavenger Hunt 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!

As established last year, we have new and continued set of goals:

### 2017 / 2018 Goals:

- Connect with FWEA Chapters and share ideas between YP Coordinators
- Maintain and improve relationships with universities and FWEA student chapters
- Connect university students with local utilities and mentors
- Collaborate more with other FWEA Committees
- Collaborate with FWEA's Social Media

outlets to share news, events, and happenings

- Reach out and be more involved 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:

**Tyler Smith**, Chair SYPC  
Carollo Engineers  
[tsmith@carollo.com](mailto:tsmith@carollo.com)

**David Hernandez**, Vice Chair SYPC  
Hazen & Sawyer  
[dhernandez@hazenandsawyer.com](mailto:dhernandez@hazenandsawyer.com)

**Samantha Hanzel**, Poster Competition Chair  
Jacobs  
[Samantha.Hanzel@jacobs.com](mailto:Samantha.Hanzel@jacobs.com)

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# Meet the S&YP Committee

Tyler Smith	(Carollo Engineers)
David Hernandez	(Hazen & Sawyer)
Sam Hanzel	(Jacobs)
Kristen Waksman	(Carollo Engineers)
Mike Semago	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Lauren DaCunha	(Arcadis)
Yanni Polematidis	(CDM Smith)
George Dick	(Gresham Smith & Partners)
Weizhi Cheng	(CDM Smith)
Suzanne Mechler	(CDM Smith)
Fernando Pleitez	(Calvin, Giordano & Associates)
Maria Reed	(Brown and Caldwell)
Lindsey Short	(Gresham Smith & Partners)
Cate Kiever	(ADS)
Alex Maas	(Heyward)
Nandita Ahuja	(Hazen & Sawyer)

## 2017 AWWA/WEF YP Summit

by Mike Semago (Kimley-Horn)

When I learned that the 2017 YP summit was going to be held in my hometown Tampa, FL, I got excited. I knew it would be a great opportunity to get involved in the planning of Tampa's YP summit activities. It was one of the first events that I have been involved with where YP members of AWWA and FWEA came together to plan a single event. It was one of the most impressive events the organizations have hosted in Tampa for water/wastewater industry professionals.



The YP Summit Kicked off on February 6th, 2017 at the Florida Aquarium with a networking social. The Florida Aquarium is one of Tampa's main attractions with a beautiful space for events overlooking Port Tampa Bay and Harbour Island, what a great place to hold an event for a bunch of professionals sharing a passion for water treatment. The turnout for the social was more than expected, many YP's from across the nation and strong attendance from local Tampa YP's made the networking opportunity impactful. At one point the Aquarium staff mentioned that we were over maximum occupancy of the room, oops! After the social groups split up to enjoy some of the Tampa nightlife going to places such as Channel Side and Ybor City.

The next morning the full day YP summit kicked off at the Marriot Waterside downtown Tampa. One of the most beneficial sessions was the four hour workshop in the morning.




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YP Summit Speakers

## 2017 YP Summit Quick Bits

- The Summit kicked off on February 6, 2017 with a networking social at the Florida Aquarium.
- The morning session included technical presentations on emergency management.
- The afternoon session focused on improving communication, presentations, career advancement and leadership skills for YPs.

### 2018 YP Summit Details

**When:** February 20,  
2018

**Where:** Hyatt Regency  
Riverwalk, San  
Antonio, Texas

**More Info:**

[WEF Utility Management Conference](#)

## 2017 YP Summit (cont'd)

**by Mike Semago (Kimley-Horn)**

The majority of the events FWEA puts on are geared toward engineering related technical sessions or community outreach.

The first half of the summit was water and wastewater emergency management and response geared towards surviving natural disasters and unforeseen circumstances. Most of us in FWEA as engineers or sales representatives do not get the hear how these plans are developed and executed by plant operators and staff. There were group actives with mixes of operators, engineers, and sales representatives challenged with overcoming certain emergency response problems at wastewater treatment plants, which we presented to the senior professionals in the room afterward.

The afternoon sessions comprised of interactive professional development, which taught us about different personality types in the work space and how to improve workplace communication. To end the summit there was another reception, the event was held on the patio of the Marriott Waterside overlooking the channel between downtown and harbor island. The YP's were able to interact and ask questions to senior engineers, the speakers of the technical training sessions, and mingle amongst ourselves.

Overall, with a record turnout and positive feedback I would rate the YP summit as a huge success! Amongst the YP's the strongest turn out from any region was FWEA and AWWA YP's in the Tampa region, which shows how involved and important our respective chapters are within our organizations. The national committee was gracious and thankful of how much the Tampa water community helped to organize the summit.



# 2017 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 (Carollo Engineers)

The FWEA SYPC hosted the 21st Annual Student Design Competition (SDC) on April 23rd, 2017 at the Florida Water Resources Conference held in West Palm 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, nine 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 October 1 in Chicago. Additionally, each first-place team received a \$1000 Norm Casey Scholarship. All other teams received a \$500 participation bonus.



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

### ***First Place Wastewater Competition (pictured below):***

University of South Florida team, for their design, "Snead Island Septic Alternatives," working with the City of Palmetto, and with team members Peter Zydek, Tyler Brenfleck, Manual Delgado, Michael Tavlin, and Stephen Rousseau.

### ***First Place Environmental Competition (Pictured above):***

Florida A&M University and Florida State University teams, for their design, "Designing a Facility to Treat Industrial Wastewater Containing Phenol," with team members Simeng Li, Cale Madden, Jacob Prout, Ryan Hill, Emma Rivers, and Kadeem Rowe.



## 2017 FWRC Quick Bits

- Held April 23-26th at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, West Palm Beach, FL
- FWEA in conjunction with FWRC held it's first ever Social Media Scavenger Hunt Contest
- USF and FAMU/FSU won the wastewater and environmental student design competitions, respectively

## 2018 FWRC Details

When: April 15-18, 2018  
Where: Ocean Center,  
Daytona Beach, FL

More Info:  
<http://fwrc.org/>

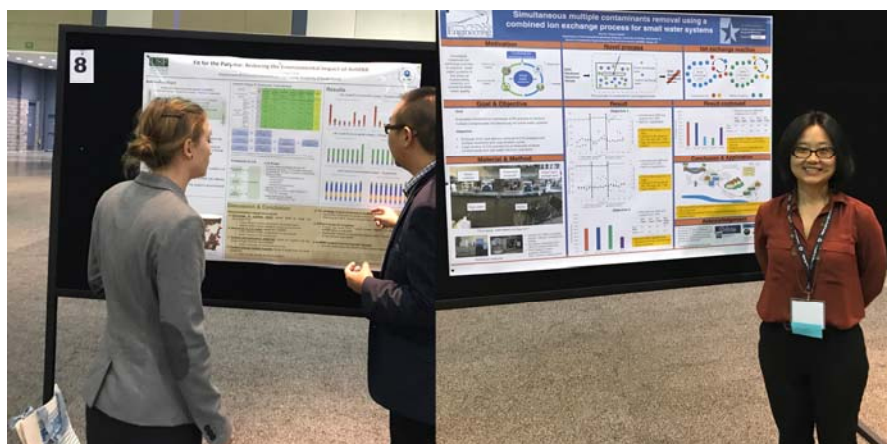
# 2017 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

## Student & Young Professional Poster Competition

In addition to the SDC, a poster competition was held in which 11 participants competed for first- and second-place prizes of \$300 and \$200, respectively. Congratulations to first-place winner Charlotte Haberstroh, from the University of South Florida for her poster on "Using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Water Quality Analysis and Impact Assessment in Placencia, Belize," and second-place winner Yue He, from the University of Florida for her poster on "Combined Ion Exchange Process for Simultaneous Multiple Contaminants Removal for Small Water Systems." (*Pictured Below*)

The SYPC would like to recognize the students, faculty advisors, professional mentors, and the SDC planning committee and volunteers (George Dick, Samantha Hanzel, Kristen Waksman, Mike Semago, Lindsey Short, Fernando Pleitez, Nandita Ahuja, Maria Reed, Kristiana Dragash, and Holly Hansen), for all of their hard work and dedication. And a special thank you goes out to all of the judges who read and reviewed the design reports, judged the presentations, and judged the poster competition.

We would also like to thank our Utility, Silver and Gold sponsors including: TOHO, Stantec, Arcadis, CES Consultants, Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Hazen and Sawyer, Wade Trim, and FWRC.



## 2nd Annual Resume Workshop & Career Panel

**By Nandita Ahuja (Hazen and Sawyer) and Fernando Pleitez (Calvin, Giordano & Associates)**

After an exciting afternoon of presenting and answering questions from a diverse group of judges at the Student Design Competition, students had the opportunity to sit back, relax, and learn about the Do's and Don'ts of resume writing. Nandita Ahuja and Fernando Pleitez led a 30-minute workshop along with a group of senior panelists representing different companies who volunteered to provide their inputs and answer questions from the audience members. The presentation focused on five key elements for students to keep in mind when writing their resume: understanding themselves and their goals, understanding the expectation of their audience, identifying and utilizing their resources, knowing their resume and preparing for the future. The presentation was followed by an open forum where students asked questions ranging from a wide variety of topics pertaining to not only resume writing but also interviewing for the full-time positions and internships, networking at conferences and other industry events, identifying job opportunities, etc. The panelists and YPs along with the industry veterans in the audience answered questions from the students and shared their experience in the industry. Students were encouraged to use FWRC as a platform to practice their networking skills and were advised to always have an elevator speech ready if the opportunity were to present itself.

# 2017 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

## 2nd Annual Resume Workshop & Career Panel (Cont'd)

By Nandita Ahuja (Hazen and Sawyer) and Fernando Pleitez (Calvin, Giordano & Associates)

Prior to conclusion of the workshop, students were provided with feedback on their resumes (submitted to SYPC prior to the conference) which were reviewed by a group of professionals representing various companies in the water and wastewater industry. Students were given the opportunity to revise their resumes and submit them back to the SYPC Chair, who then forwarded them to the Gold-level Sponsor companies of the Student Design Competition. In total, forty-two polished resumes were submitted to four leading companies in the Florida state. The SYPC looks forward to hearing success stories from those who participated in the workshop!



## S&YP Show Your Colors Social



This year the S&YP Committee, in conjunction with FWRC and FWEA, hosted a 'Show Your Colors Social' on Sunday evening at the conference, which included tailgate-style lawn games, hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and lots of school spirit!

We had over 50 people attend, from students to YPs to seasoned professionals, and we hope 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 George Dick, David Hernandez, Lindsey Short, Holly Hansen and the S&YP Committee.





# 2017 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

## 1st Annual Social Media Scavenger Hunt

Additionally, the conference included its first-ever Social Media Contest using Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #FWRC17.

A live feed was set up at the FWEA booth to showcase all posts and we're proud to announce that **Tim Ware from Arcadis** swept the competition with a whopping 289 points and received a \$250 Visa gift card! Thank you to the participants, FWRC, Holly Hansen, Karen Wallace, and Kristiana Dragash, you all made it a huge success.



## 2017 YP of the Year Award goes to...

### Kristen Waksman of Carollo Engineers!



Kristen was nominated by her peers for the 2016-2017 FWEA "YP of the Year" Award and was selected by the S&YP Committee, along with members of FWEA's Board of Directors, due to her involvement and high level of service to FWEA. We are astounded, proud, and extremely appreciative of her continued contributions to the S&YP Committee, the Biosolids Committee, the Public Communications and Outreach Committee, the West Coast Chapter Steering Committee, and WEF. It is evident that Kristen is highly respected for all that she does and her selfless involvement is inspiring. We expect Kristen to continue this path and become a future leader of FWEA and WEF.

As the YP of the Year, Kristen will get the opportunity to take an all-expenses paid trip to the 2018 Young Professional Summit, held in San Antonio, Texas at the Utility Management Conference in February 2018. Additionally, she was recognized at the Florida Water Resources Conference Award Luncheon this past April.

Congratulations again, Kristen!

*For more information on the YP of the Year Award and how to nominate a YP for 2017-2018 year, email Tyler Smith at [tsmith@carollo.com](mailto:tsmith@carollo.com).*

# 2017 FWRC Highlights (Cont'd)

The SDC and Poster Competition would not be possible without the participation from universities all over Florida. The S&YP Committee would like to thank the students and professors for submitting a number of great topics in the environmental and wastewater fields.

## Student Design Competition Topics & Participants

### Wastewater Projects:

*Treatment of N-Nitrosodiethylamine in Wastewater Effluent Using UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> Advanced Oxidation Process for Potable Reuse*

**Florida Gulf Coast University**, Team: Thomas Crenshaw, Casey Marika, Jordan Moulton, Christopher Richardson

*Preliminary Design of Brewery Wastewater Treatment Facility & Solids Handling*

**Florida International University**, Team: Afeefa Abdool-Ghany, Raul Alfaro, Celia Bedoya, Lindsay Bockstein, Jesus Herrera, Chaddi Jurdi, Mariell Soto

*Mitigation of Snail Infestation in Wastewater Trickling Filters*

**University of Florida**, Team: Nicole Berlin, Nick Chin, Vanessa Van Note, Ricardo Gil, Brooke MacMillan, Carolina Restrepo, Nicole Rivera, Darren Walshaw

*Snead Island Septic Alternative: Phase 1 Infrastructure and Environmental Assessment*

**University of South Florida**, Team: Peter Zydek, Tyler Brenfleck, Manuel Delgado, Stephen Rousseau, Michael Tavlin

### Environmental Projects:

*Water Quality Impacts From On-site Septic Systems: Nutrient and Bacteria Load Reduction Into Lake Okeechobee*

**Florida Gulf Coast University**, Team: Daryl Hauquitz, Karin Karagoz, Courtney Richards

*Site Selection and Conceptual Design of a Plasma-Assisted Municipal Solid Waste Gasification Plant in Indonesia*

**Florida International University**, Team: Sarah Bird, John Quintero, Guillermo Rivera, Khizer Zaman

*Treatment Basin Design for Urban Runoff Chemical and Particulate Matter Loads*

**University of Florida**, Team: Jordan Snodgrass, Deanna Abbruzese, Matt Burke, Matthew D'Angelo, Gina Cassulo, Joshua Benjamin, Kevin Kijanka, Louis Mihalinec

*City of Palmetto Water Alternatives*

**University of South Florida**, Team: Tyler Houman, Marisa Blackwood, Tonya Bartlette, Cody Miller

*Designing a Facility to Treat Industrial Wastewater Containing Phenol*

**Florida A&M University and Florida State University**

Team: Simeng Li, Emma Rivers Baird, Ryan Hill, Cale Madden, Jacob Prout, Kadeem Rowe



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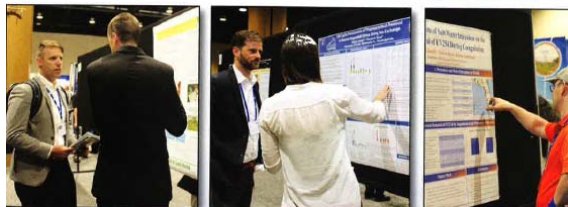


# Poster Competition Topics & Participants



*Effect of polymer's type and dosage on dewaterability and anaerobic digestibility of waste activated sludge*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Aripita Meher

*A Sustainable Outdoor Algae Cultivation System: From Proof-of-Concept to Functional Prototype*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Melanie Pickett



*Fit for the Purpose: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Anaerobic Membrane Bioreactor (AnMBR)*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Xiaofan Xu

*Kanapaha Middle School Hybrid Recharge Wetland: Evaluation of Water Quality Improvements & Infiltration Rates*  
**GRU**  
 Morgan Leger



*Pilot scale testing of a novel onsite wastewater treatment system*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Justine Stocks

*Effects of Biosolids Addition and Alkalinity Sources on High-Solids Anaerobic co-Digestion (HS-AcD) of Food Waste & Green Waste*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Phillip Dixon

*Using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Water Quality Analysis and Impact Assessment in Placencia, Belize*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Charlotte Haberstroh

*Fixed bed modeling of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug removal by ion-exchange in source separated urine: Should we design for mass removal or toxicity reduction?*  
**University of Florida**  
 Kelly Landry

*Recovery of nutrients from anaerobically digested enhanced biological phosphorous removal sludge through struvite precipitation*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Maraida Balaguer Barbosa

*Heterotrophic & autotrophic denitrification using denitrifying sand filter for treatment of marine recirculating aquaculture system water*  
**University of South Florida**  
 Qiaochong He

*Combined ion exchange process for simultaneous multiple contaminants removal for small water systems*  
**University of Florida**  
 Yue Hu

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# Upcoming Events

**Big Bend Chapter:** Stay Tuned!

**Central Florida Chapter:**

June 20th — Luncheon: [Aquifer Storage and Recovery](#)  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
Contact: [Jennifer Roque](#)

**First Coast Chapter:**

June 19th — YP Social: [Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Game](#)  
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

**Manasota Chapter:**

November 17th — [Manasota 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Shoot](#)  
11:00am to 3:30pm  
Contact: [Mike Knowles](#)

**West Coast Chapter:**

August 24th — [Summer Luncheon](#)  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
Contact: [Kris Samples](#)

November 16th — [Fall Luncheon](#)  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
Contact: [Kris Samples](#)

**Southwest Chapter:**

August 24th — Quarterly Luncheon  
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM  
WASD Douglas Building

September 14th — [10th Annual Southwest Florida Water & Wastewater Exposition](#)  
9:00 AM - 04:00 PM  
Contact: [Nigel Noone](#)

Quarterly Dinner — TBD

**Treasure Coast Chapter:** Stay Tuned!

**Southeast Chapter:** Quarterly Meeting (August), stay tuned!



## 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](http://www.fwea.org/students_young_professionals.php)