



# FWEA

# West Coast Chapter

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2013

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Career Exploration – May 14, 2013  
Seminole Campus Digitorum
- FWEA/FBC Benchmarking  
Workshop – May 31, 2013 City of  
Pompano Beach Emergency  
Operations Center
- ISA Water/Wastewater and  
Automation Controls Symposium –  
August 6-8, 2013 Crowne Plaza  
Orlando

## CONFERENCES

### FAWQC 2013

The 2013 Florida Association for Water Quality Conference is planned for June 12 through June 14 in Naples, Florida.

### WEFTEC 2013

WEFTEC 2013 will be held at McCormick Place South in Chicago from Oct. 5-9.

The following is Part 3 of a Series of 4 articles that we are including in the FWEA West Coast Chapter newsletters.

## The Marriage – Finding Your Dream Job

By: Rachel Cantor, RC Associates

Rachel Cantor is the President of [RC Associates](http://www.rcassociatesllc.com), an engineering recruiting firm, which provides retained recruiting services to growing engineering companies nationwide. For more information visit [www.rcassociatesllc.com](http://www.rcassociatesllc.com) or contact Rachel at [Rachel@rcassociatesllc.com](mailto:Rachel@rcassociatesllc.com) or 813-286-2075

Now that you have had an extended engagement with your career, which has been focused on “Networking, Networking, Networking” it is finally time to take the plunge and make a career-long decision. Being ‘married’ to one career is a big commitment. It has taken many ‘dates’ to know the kind of work and / or company that you want to spend your career in (a huge part of your life). What I am colloquially calling ‘marriage’ in ones profession is finding your dream job in a career that you want to commit your life to because you enjoy it that much. Some lucky engineers find ‘the one’ right out of college while others spend years finding their dream career.

So how do you find your dream job and begin a life of career bliss you might ask?

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Through research and your experience to date (remember dating and the engagement process?) you have begun to technically narrow down the focus for your career. Over the course of your career, every project, position and networking group that you are involved in has formed your background into a unique combination of skills. No two engineers are exactly alike—everyone’s unique experiences, background and qualities define a unique career path. Depending on how many years of “dating” that you went through, your technical prowess may be more or less in depth at this stage. No matter where your focus has headed, you should be well versed with the projects, clients and technical subject matter of your field to suit your interests.

Now how do you turn this into your dream job?

The first step is to get organized, and put it in writing. I recommend starting a spreadsheet or document listing things you like and don’t like about the technical career path you have created for yourself. You can list projects, roles/responsibilities, clients, submittals, teams, etc. The more information the better! Once your list is created, use it as a guide to formulate and focus your career. For example, if you notice in your “likes” column that you enjoy working in the field, you can make a concerted effort to pursue assignments in your workplace that require field work. Having a defined goal on paper will help you stay focused and yield faster results. When you have a greater understanding of what makes you happy and you are focused in following your passions, it can help you turn your job into your dream job.

Pursuing technical and role/responsibilities are important, but an equally important factor in your path to career bliss is the cultural fit with the group or organization. Your dream job is as much about the right cultural fit and meshing well with your coworkers and boss as it is about the technical work. This part is not as easy to figure out as the Pros and Cons list. It all comes down to a feeling and the relationship/bonds that you form with your contemporaries. Finding this job straight out of college is a difficult task, though it has been done before. Just don't expect to run straight to the altar without doing your homework. Some organizations employ personality testing to get a better idea of the cultural fit without so much time. To others it is about working with people that they have networked with for years and already know that they get along with. Often, just being on the lookout for the right cultural fit in an organization will lead you on the right path sooner or later. Once you learn what culture you mesh best with, you should only work in groups and jobs that meet your cultural fit requirements.

So now don't wait, with these few simple tips and some diligence, you can find 'the job' that can lead you on a lifelong journey of career bliss. We will discuss the many other activities that can help get you to your ‘golden anniversary’ in your lifelong career in the next article.



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## Second Quarter Luncheon Guest Speaker

**Janice “Nan” Bennett, P.E.**, Public Utilities Assistant Director for the City of Clearwater and **Emilie Moore, P.E.**, Tetra Tech

**Ms. Bennett** is the Public Utilities Assistant Director for the City of Clearwater. During her more than 25 years of practicing environmental engineering in the Tampa Bay area, Nan has worked in both consulting and municipal settings. Her project experience spans a wide variety of water, sewer, reclaimed, stormwater and solid waste studies, design and construction. Her current position with the City of Clearwater includes the planning and management for the operations of the water, wastewater and reclaimed water utilities as well as directing a six-year CIP budget of more than \$150M. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida as well as a Master of Engineering with a major in Environmental Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida.

**Emilie Moore** is a Senior Project Manager and the Tampa Area Regional Manager for Tetra Tech. She has 21 years of environmental engineering experience in the planning, evaluation, design, permitting, and construction of water, wastewater, and reclaimed water systems, including membrane treatment facilities, water and wastewater treatment systems, water distribution and wastewater collection systems including hydraulic modeling, and indirect potable reuse systems. Ms. Moore has a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida, a Master’s Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Kansas, and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida.



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# Luncheon Meeting

## Luncheon Information

### Columbia Restaurant

2117 East 7th Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33605-3903  
Thursday, May 23, 2013

- Registration - 11:30 AM
- Lunch - 12:00 PM

## Menu

**1905 Salad** - Crisp iceberg lettuce with julienne of baked ham, natural Swiss cheese, fresh tomato, olives, grated Romano cheese and garlic dressing.

**Option 1 – Merluza “Russian Style”**  
Premium Atlantic Merluza, a tropical white flaky fish, breaded with Cuban bread crumbs and grilled. Garnished with a Russian sauce of lemon butter, parsley and hard boiled eggs. Served with yellow rice.

**Option 2 Boliche:**  
Roasted eye round of beef stuffed with chorizo and roasted in flavorful gravy. Served with black beans, white rice and platanos.

**Option 3 – Pollo Riojana:**  
Boneless chicken breaded, grilled and topped with a Rioja tomato sauce and melted Spanish Tetilla cheese. Served with yellow rice.

**Option 4 – Vegetarian**  
**Dessert – Godiva Chocolate Cake**

## Abstract

### Let’s Talk about Potable Reuse - Clearwater’s Groundwater Replenishment Project

Only three percent of the world’s water is drinkable and that water has been reused over and over again for millions of years. Water is used by people and animals and then it returns to our rivers, lakes and aquifers, where it is withdrawn, treated and used again. Challenged by the demand for affordable, safe drinking water and the need to reduce the impact of a high urban density on the coastal environment, the City of Clearwater is investigating potable reuse. The goal of this project is to study the potential to improve water levels within the City of Clearwater and to evaluate the potential for additional withdrawals from their existing wellfields.

This presentation will provide a review of the 2011 feasibility study and an update on the current pilot studies to demonstrate the performance and reliability of the purification process as well as viability of recharging the Floridian aquifer in Clearwater. The Southwest Florida Water Management District is providing support and funding for the Clearwater Groundwater Replenishment project as an alternate water supply that beneficially uses reclaimed water to help meet the region’s water supply needs.

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Full Members: \$22 for those pre-registered, \$25 at the door \* Student Members: \$22 for those pre-registered.

## Registration Form

**Pre-Registration Deadline: Friday, May 17th (Also Register through FWEA.org)**

Please make checks payable to FWEA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Choice of Meal: \_\_\_\_\_

### Send Check and Registration to:

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Tel: (813) 282 7275 Ext. 8388  
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## **FWEA ARE ENGAGED!**

### **A Summary of the 2013 FWEA Leadership Development Workshop**

**By: Juan R. Oquendo, P.E. - West Coast Chapter Vice Chair**

FWEA are engaged! With this grammatically incorrect sentence, the then FWEA President Elect and now FWEA President, Greg Chomic, concluded the two day FWEA Leadership Development Workshop (LDW). This sentence makes total sense once you complete the LDW. Let me explain why.

The 2013 FWEA LDW was hosted at the beautiful Mission Inn Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. The theme for the workshop was “Effective Communication Strategies for Achieving the FWEA Mission”. The program started with a summary of the 2012-2013 achievements under the now Past President, Paul Pinault, a description of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Vision, Mission and Structure by Dianne Crilley from the WEF headquarters and a summary of the FWEA Vision, Mission and Structure by President Greg Chomic. A highlight from the WEF Vision, Mission and Structure topic included WEF initiatives for innovation. In addition to encouraging us to follow them via tweeter and YouTube, Dianne introduced us to WEF<sup>COM</sup>®, the new WEF social media website. WEF<sup>COM</sup>® is social media developed for water professionals as a central place to network, share ideas, and discuss water and environment related topics. In addition it allows us, water professionals, to access WEF libraries and other tools available to help and support our business.



Another important highlight of the Thursday morning session was the detailed discussion and explanation of the FWEA Vision, Mission and Structure. It is important that we all remember that our Vision is “A Clean Water Environment for Florida’s Future Generations” and that our Mission is to “Preserve and Enhance Florida’s Water Environment by Supporting and Uniting Water Quality Professionals through Public Education, Professional Development, and Promotion of Sound Science-Based Public Policy”.

A good example of how FWEA is working towards our Vision and Mission is the work done by the Utility Council Committee. At the LDW the Utilities Council Committee discussed how the committees have actively engaged Florida policymakers using “science-based” facts to promote a better environment. The Utility Council has been instrumental in facilitating facts to policymakers, state and local regulatory agencies, but they need our support.

The Thursday morning session concluded with a description of the FWEA business plans, where several ideas floated the room. For example, each Chapter was challenged to promote and organize a Water Festival event. The successful Water Festival event in Stuart Festival, organized in part by Greg Kolb and Stacey Smich with CH2MHILL and the City of Stuart, is a perfect example. Kuddos to Greg and Stacey! Those who know me, know what I will say to this: CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!!! And as you can guess, the West Coast Chapter has decided to organize a Water Festival in Tampa. We need your help, so plan on attending our next luncheon for additional details.



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The Thursday afternoon session started with a fun team building exercise designed to sharpen our communicating skills. I will never forget those great pieces of art made out of toothpaste. After all, the theme of the workshop was about communicating strategies. The art of communicating was perfected with the “Strategic Communications within Volunteer Associations” session presented by Dianne Crilley. The session can be summarized by the words of Vince Lombardi “plan your work and work your plan”. Each chapter was encouraged to plan, plan and plan each event, consider student chapters and to brainstorm ideas for engaging our membership and communicate with legislators. I was very proud when the West Coast Chapter Newsletter was highlighted as a great example of a proper way of communicating with our membership. Thanks to all of you for the support.

The afternoon session started with a discussion about the FWEA website and the FWRC Journal. The FWEA website has gone through a major renovation. If you have not had a chance to visit it yet, please do so. Also, it was great to learn that our FWRC Journal is among the top water related Journals in the US and archives are available to all members dating back to 1995.

The Friday morning session concluded with a discussion with each chapter about their business plans. As I previously mentioned, the West Coast Chapter is planning to do a Water Festival, among other things. The West Coast Chapter will continue to support our current activities, such as Plant Tours, quarterly luncheons, the successful members social, and our support of the USF student chapter. By the way, Congratulations to the USF students for winning the FWEA student design competition!

As you can tell, the 2013-2014 year is charged with challenges, initiatives and changes. We cannot do it without your support. This is why FWEA are engaged. How? Because **FWEA ARE ENGAGED (WE ARE ENGAGED)**... see, now this makes total sense.



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## USF FWEA student design teams take first place in Student Design Competition

Congratulations to the USF Florida Water Environment Association Student Design Competition teams on their terrific showing at the competition at the FWRC. Both the Wastewater team and the Environmental team took first prize in their respective divisions and will go on to represent Florida in the national competition at WEFTEC in Chicago in October.

A total of 11 teams participated from: USF, UF, FSU/FAMU, UCF, FGCU, UNF and U Miami. The USF environmental team consisted of Erin Morrison (PM), Caitlin Hoch, Josh Becker, Miki Skinner, and Brett French. They investigated stormwater improvements to alleviate nitrogen over-enrichment in the Booker Creek Watershed in St. Pete. The USF wastewater team consisted of Nicole Smith (PM), Melissa Butcher, George Dick, Matthew Woodham, and Margaret Cone. They investigated potential uses for biogas produced from anaerobic digestion of biosolids at St. Pete's Southwest Water Reclamation Facility.

Many thanks to Carlos Frey, Dwight Wilson, Steve Leavitt and Charles Wise from the City of St. Pete for their assistance with this project. Thanks to Juan Oquendo who helped mentor the wastewater team. We also thank the West Coast Chapter of FWEA for their ongoing support of the USF student chapter and the design teams.



Left: Three of the environmental team members at Booker Lake from left: Miki Skinner, Caitlin Hoch, and Brett French. Right: The wastewater team with Dr. Ergas from left: George Dick, Matthew Woodham, Melissa Butcher, Nicole Smith, Sarina Ergas, Margaret Cone.



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## USF Student Chapter News

This spring semester was a busy one for the USF Student Chapter. About 20 students learned about the importance of water in the beer-making process while enjoying local libations at the Cigar City Brewery in Tampa. Later in the semester, about 15 students took a Behind-the-Scenes Tour of multiple water treatment processes at Busch Gardens, becoming familiar with filtration, UV disinfection, and chlorination systems used at the otter, African fish, and hippo exhibits. Many thanks to tour guides George Tenhagen and Ivonne Vazquez for introducing the students to new fields in the water industry! The USF Chapter partnered with the student chapters of Engineers for a Sustainable World and Tampa Bay Association of Environmental Professionals to host the first-ever SPEECH Fest, where students had an informal opportunity to practice their "elevator speech" and obtain valuable feedback from their peers. Met with much success, the student chapters are hoping to repeat the event each semester.



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### 2013 West Coast FWEA Chapter Committee Members

**Chair** – Nita Naik (Greeley and Hansen)

**Vice Chair** – Juan Oquendo (Gresham, Smith and Partners)

**Treasurer** – Taylor Norrell (Black & Veatch)

**Secretary** – Ricardo Borromeo (Atkins Global)

**Content** – Mike Carballa (Florida Design Consultants) *\*New Member\**

**Special Events and Public Relations** – Karen Lowe (CDM Smith)

**Communications** – Jacob Porter (Hazen and Sawyer) and Freddy Betancourt (Greeley & Hansen) *\*New Member\**

**YP Chair** – Joe Zaccardelli (Jacobs Air Water Systems)

**Membership** – Rachel Cantor (RC Associates, LLC)

**Web Master** – Matt Love (McKim & Creed)

**USF Representatives** – Dr. Sarina Ergas / Trista Brophy





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## PLANT TOUR & HAPPY HOUR UPDATE

On February 21, members of the FWEA-West Coast Chapter and several USF students/staff met with Hillsborough County to tour the Falkenburg AWWTF. The walking tour was interesting, as many of the plant's primary processes have received upgrades. The upgrades included an entirely new Headwork's facility, new aerators equipment, new clarifier, and a UV Disinfection system. Likewise the East & West Electrical buildings received some overhauls due to the new equipment which included new switchgear, generators, etc. Marcus Moore, operator (and occasional tour guide), was able to give valuable insight on operation, maintenance, and performance of the upgraded equipment.

Following the tour, many of the participants stopped by Tres Amigos Cantina for a happy hour and social.

Thanks again for all of those in attendance. FWEA-West Coast Chapter was glad to sponsor this event. Also, a special thanks to Marcus Moore and Dan Orlosky with Hillsborough County for making this tour possible.





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## CAREER

## EXPLORATION



### Public Utilities

**Tuesday, May 14, 6-8 p.m.**

**Seminole Campus Digitorium (UP 160)  
9200 113th St. N, Seminole, FL**

Join us for an open house to explore career opportunities within the field of Public Utilities. Meet with representatives of Tampa Bay public works divisions, local utilities, water career educators and water professional organizations to:

- Learn more about career opportunities in Public Utilities
- Network with utilities professionals
- Participate in a Q&A panel

Learn about career opportunities as a:

- Water Plant Operator
- Wastewater Plant Operator
- Water Distribution Specialist
- GIS/CAD Technician
- Environmental Laboratory Technician
- Instrumentation Technician
- Utility Technician
- Electronics Technician
- Maintenance Mechanic

For more information, contact Dwight Wilson, Assistant Director of the Water Resources Department, City of St. Petersburg, at [dwight.wilson@stpete.org](mailto:dwight.wilson@stpete.org).



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