



Message from the Chair



Nicole Cohen
Carollo Engineers

Welcome to the winter issue of the FWEA Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) Newsletter. Many activities and events have happened since our last newsletter and we are excited to share it all with you!

First, I'd like to congratulate USF and FGCU for participating in the Student Design Competition at WEFTEC this past October. Both teams did an incredible job and USF deserves a special congratulations for placing third in the environmental category! Read more about their WEFTEC experience and other S&YP events at WEFTEC in this newsletter.

In the last few months, the SYPC has rolled out a new internship program. This program will help provide water internships to individuals across Florida this coming summer. We'd like to thank all the organizations that have agreed to participate and we look forward to growing this program. More details can be found in the newsletter.

Though it feels as though FWRC just ended, the committee is hard at work getting ready for the next FWRC. Save the dates for FWRC 2023, which will happen in Orlando from May 31 - June 3.

The committee will be organizing the student design competition, poster competition, S&YP social, and other events. Check our website regularly for more details and reach out if you'd like to get involved!

Additionally, I would like to give a big shout out to the committee members who have been working tirelessly this Fall semester to engage with university students. It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes-effort to get connected with university students. Our members have had FWEA outreach events at several universities, including FSU/FAMU, UM, and FIU. Your efforts are appreciated!

Finally, the committee is accepting nominations for the Young Professional of the Year Award. This honor is awarded annually to a young professional who shows leadership, initiative, technical knowledge, and actively participates in FWEA. The YP of the Year also earns a paid trip to attend the annual WEF/AWWA YP Summit. Visit our webpage to fill out a nomination form for someone you know!

Thank you to all our committee members and sponsors. Here's to a great 2023!

Thank you to the SYPC Sponsors!

GOLD LEVEL



SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



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Looking to get involved?

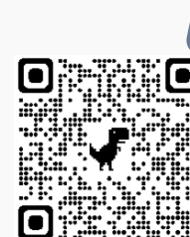
Are you new to the industry? Do you want to join a committee, but not sure how? The SYPC is a great way to get involved and get connected with others in your field! If you're looking to get involved or become a sponsor please reach out to:

Nicole Cohen, Chair
Ncohen@carollo.com

Kamal Taha, Vice Chair
Kamal.Taha@arcadis.com

Olga Mikhachishina, Treasurer
OMikhachishina@woodardcurran.com

Jissell Muir, Secretary
Jissell.Muir@arcadis.com



Check out the
FWEA SYPC
Webpage!

Meet the S&YP Committee

Nicole Cohen	(Carollo Engineers)
Kamal Taha	(Arcadis)
Olga Mikhachishina	(Woodard & Curran)
Jissell Muir	(Arcadis)
Alex Garlaschi	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Carlee Chaffin	(HDR)
George Dick	(Brown and Caldwell)
Laura Rodriguez	(Carollo Engineers)
Alex Maas	(Heyward)
Hayden Tse	(CDM Smith)
Zachary Loeb	(Clay County Utilities)
Angel Villarruel-Moore	(Carollo Engineers)
Amanda Guillory	(Garney Construction)
David Hernandez	(Hazen and Sawyer)
Kaylei Kambak	(Tetra Tech)
Alexis Scheele	(Wade Trim)
Emily Lutter	(Carollo Engineers)
Shelby Rocha	(USF)
Samantha Hanke	(Mott MacDonald)
Lina Polo	(City of Tallahassee)
Natacha Haces	(Kimley-Horn & Associates)
Rhyannan Campos	(Hazen and Sawyer)
Brittany Bassett	(Martin County)
Cassidy Botelho	(Black & Veatch)
Arpita Meher	(Arcadis)

Central Chapter News



Angel Villarruel-Moore
Carollo Engineers

The Central Florida Chapter (CFC) partnered with Keep Brevard Beautiful and student groups from the University of Central Florida and Florida Institute of Technology during their Satellite Beach Clean-Up event held on November 5th, 2022. Despite some spotty weather, over 50 volunteers helped remove a total of 9 bags of trash from the beach and local park! Throughout the event, the CFC Chair, Vice Chair, and Student Liaison networked with students to share insight regarding FWEA opportunities and life as a working water professional. The day ended with some competitive (but fun) yard games and more pizza than the group could handle. All-in-all, this event generated a lot of student interest in joining FWEA and the CFC hopes to keep this an annual event moving forward!



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FWEA SYPC's New Internship Program

The Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) is excited to announce the first ever FWEA Internship Program. The purpose of this program is to help inform and guide talented individuals to internships with reputable companies, utilities, and organizations within the Florida water industry.

Organizations across Florida are encouraged to participate. If interested, fill out the interest form on the new internship webpage:

https://www.fwea.org/internship_program.php

Thank you to all the organizations that have agreed to participate so far!

The internship program application will open up to potential interns mid-December 2022.



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<https://www.instagram.com/fwea75/>

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2022 WEFTEC Service Project



Olga Mikhailchishina
Woodard & Curran

This year's WEFTEC conference was a success! More than 22,000 water professionals from all over the world flew into New Orleans for this event. Every year before the conference's official opening, SYPC hosts the Annual Community Service Project. Throughout the year, the Community Service Project Subcommittee manages the project through the Design, Logistics, Fundraising, and Development efforts. The goal of the project is to help the local community with water-related issues and educate the public about the value of water. This year I was a logistics lead for the Service Project.

The 2022 Community Service Project, "March to a Greener St. Augustine," was held at St. Augustine High School in collaboration with Water Wise. St. Augustine High School is a college preparatory school for young men in grades 8-12 founded in 1951 by the Josephite priests and brothers.

Back in August, students of St. Augustine submitted designs to be considered for the project banners, signs, and t-shirts. The winning design was displayed during the WEF Community Service Project, used in promotional materials for the Service Project, and featured on the t-shirts given to the volunteers at the Service Project.



On Friday, October 7th, we were on-site to ensure we had everything ready and to talk to students about the bioretention facility we were about to install. On Saturday, October 8th, with the help of WEF volunteers, we installed a bioswale that holds up to 4,279 gallons of stormwater and helps with the flooding issues in this area. Local and adaptive plants that bloom in school colors (Gold and purple) were planted to improve stormwater filtration and retention. This bioswale will also serve as a stormwater educational component for the community.

It is exciting how one year of preparation and one day of on-site work resulted in a wonderful environmental and aesthetic addition to the local community. The 2023 Community Service project will be held in Chicago, the Saturday before the WEFTEC official opening. If you are interested in being involved, please reach out to 2022 Service Project Chair, Joe Lapastora lapastora@nmwrd.org.



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Florida Gulf Coast University at WEFTEC 2022



FGCU Team Members (from left to right)

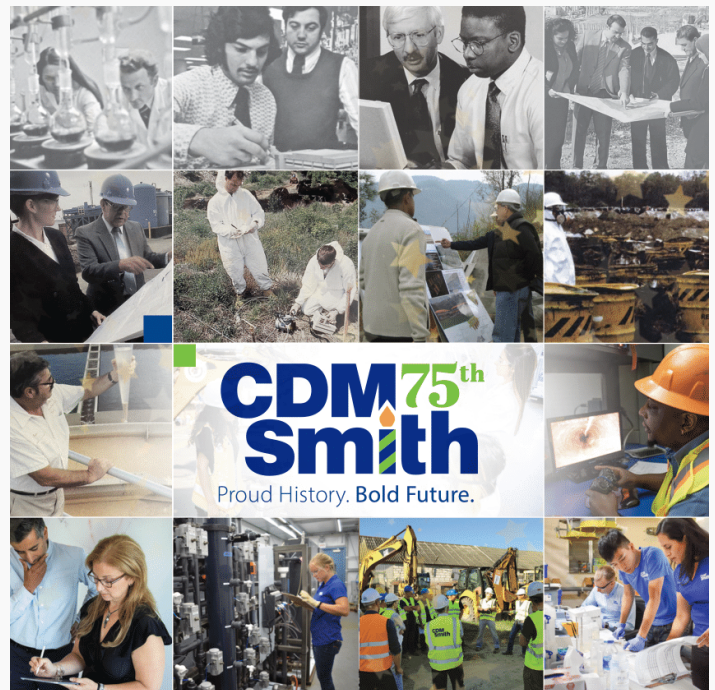
Alexis Scheele, Brendan Zwiefel, and Kaylei Kambak

First and foremost, we as a team would like to thank FWEA for not only their generous contributions and assistance in developing our report and presentation, but also for allowing us to represent Florida in the wastewater category. We learned more than we could have imagined and will value this experience as we proceed through our professional careers. WEFTEC and FWRC are incredible conferences for young professionals like us to be immersed in an environment that surrounds us with multitudes of individuals who have anywhere from a couple years to multiple decades of experience and practical knowledge, coupled with a willingness to share their hard-earned lessons.

Throughout the process of developing our presentation for the Student Design Competition, we were afforded the opportunity to interact with various members of FWEA and a variety of companies. Those interactions guided us in focusing on the important aspects of our design project and highlighting the essential deliverables we were proposing.

Our experience going through our design project was associated with a massive learning curve- learning how to apply classroom theory

and solve a practical, real-world design problem. None of us are too shy to admit that we had our growing pains and a fair number of moments where we had no idea what we were doing. That's why this opportunity has allowed us all to transition into the workforce so seamlessly – we learned step-by-step what it means to be an engineer in the real world through this project.



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University of South Florida at WEFTEC 2022



USF Team Members (from left to right)

Anwar Alsharaf, Shelby Rocha, Jada Williams, Barbara Martinez, and Vanessa Adame

The Student Design Competition (SDC) for both the Florida Water Environment Association and Water Environment Federation was an exciting opportunity to exemplify the knowledge and skills learned in University and solve real-world issues within our region. Water professionals reflect the communities that we serve, and the SDC helps support the next generation of diverse and talented young professionals. Our solution was to design a treatment wetland system to provide enhanced nutrient removal of wastewater from a local municipal treatment plant experiencing rapid population growth. This process required an extensive amount of research, client interaction, and knowledge from experts within the field, which would not be made possible without the technical support and guidance of our professors and mentors. In the end, our client was pleased with our results, which led us to win in Daytona at FWRC and place third at WEFTEC in New Orleans!

Reflecting on WEFTEC in particular, we explored all aspects of the conference as students and young professionals in the industry and were eager to absorb all the information presented. This exposure to the water industry has been an eye-opening experience to the current and future trends in water quality from around the world through new technologies, education, and training. Professionals and students in water and wastewater engineering and sciences spoke about projects within their communities, sharing

their approaches and design alternatives based on community needs and environmental context whether it be in Florida, Mexico, or Africa. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to make so many great connections and gain valuable professional skills.

Especially from the individuals who represented their firms and welcomed us. They discussed the core values of their companies, and how they aligned with their own vision, mission, and principles. Overall, the Student Design Competition allowed us to represent USF and the Florida Chapter at WEFTEC. It was a unique opportunity that fellow students should definitely consider pursuing to stand out in the field and become more well-rounded professionals. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who offered their support and guidance throughout this process, especially our professors, mentors, and FWEA representatives.



Join Us

FWRC 2023
May 31 - June 3, 2023
Gaylord Palms Resort - Kissimmee, Florida

Student Design Competition

The SDC will be held Saturday, June 3 and strives to promote real world design experience for students interested in water and wastewater engineering and sciences. The winning teams compete at WEFTEC 2023 in Chicago.

To review the guidelines, visit:

http://www.fwea.org/student_design_competition.php

Student and Young Professional Poster Competition

The poster competition will be held on Friday, June 2 and is open to students and young professionals. Topics can be related to water engineering, wastewater engineering, water resources, and other environmental topics.

For more information, visit:

https://www.fwea.org/docs/2023_Poster_Participation_Form.docx

S&YP Social

The S&YP Social will be held Friday, June 2 in the evening. You won't want to miss it!

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Call for Judges!

The SYPC is looking for professionals to judge the student design competition and the poster competition. For more information on the responsibilities and duties, email ncohen@carollo.com.


Accepting Nominations for the YP of the Year Award

The SYPC is now accepting nomination packets for YP of the Year award. We are looking for outstanding young professionals that show leadership, initiative, technical knowledge, and actively participate within FWEA.


The award is presented at the FWRC Awards Luncheon every year and provides the winner with a paid trip to attend the annual AWWA/WEF YP Summit. The winner may also be recognized in the Florida Water Resources Journal, FWEA SYPC Website, social media, and other publications.

Visit the SYPC website to download the nomination form. Forms are due by Friday, March 24, 2023 and should be submitted to the SYPC Chair.

Note: YPs are not allowed to nominate themselves, but are encouraged to have their supervisors or colleagues submit a nomination form on their behalf. Members of the SYPC are eligible.






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YP of the Year 2022
Tonya Sonier (Mead & Hunt)

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For more information, contact:
Olga Mikhalchishina
omikhalchishina@woodardcurran.com



Upcoming Events

West Coast Chapter

December 15

FWEA Member Appreciation Night
6:30 - 8:00

February 24

8th Annual Sporting Clays Tournament
11:00 - 4:00

Manasota Chapter

December 21

Hurricane Ian Relief Social at Calusa Brewing
(Joint DBIA Event)
5:30 - 7:30

First Coast Chapter

December 14

FWEA First Coast Chapter and FSAWWA
Region II 2022 Holiday Social Event
6:00 - 9:00

January 24

Young Professional & Veterans Outreach
Brewery Tour
5:00 - 9:00

Southwest Chapter

December 15

FWEA Southwest Chapter Annual
Holiday Social
5:30 - 8:00

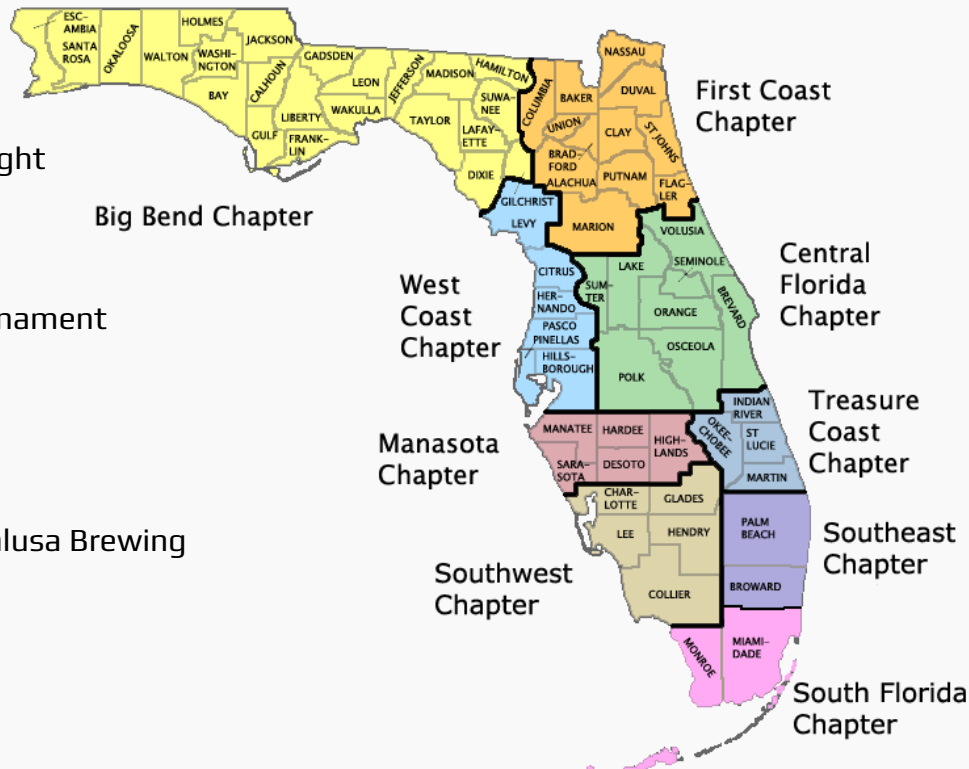
March 3

Southwest Chapter 8th Annual Sporting
Clays Charity Tournament
8:00 - 4:00

Seminars

January 24

Wastewater Process Seminar
Pompano Beach



Seminars (Cont.)

February 16

WR3 Spring Seminar
Boynton Beach

February 22

Collection Systems Seminar
Pinellas County

February 22

Air Quality Seminar
Pompano Beach

Contact Us

Visit our website or contact the S&YP
Committee Chair for more information
on FWRC, volunteering, or sponsorship
opportunities.

Nicole Cohen
ncohen@carollo.com
239-357-5374
[S&YPC Website](#)

Additional Events listed at: [FWEA Calendar of Events](#)