February 2026 SEAOSD Newsletter

President's Report

SEAOSD President's Message – Student Night 2026



A bridge is one of the most recognizable symbols of our profession—an elegant structure that connects people, places, and possibilities. In many ways, Student Night is our bridge, linking students to practicing engineers, academic achievement to professional opportunity, and the future of structural engineering to the strength of our community.

It is my pleasure to invite you to one of the most anticipated events on the SEAOSD calendar—Student Night 2026. Each year, this gathering reminds us why our field continues to grow, innovate, and inspire: the passion and promise of the next generation of structural engineers.

This year, we are honored to welcome Ashraf Habibullah, Founder and CEO of Computers and Structures, Inc. (CSI), as our keynote speaker. Ashraf's impact on our profession is extraordinary. Through industry defining software such as SAP2000 and ETABS, he has transformed how engineers' model, analyze, and design structures worldwide. His election to the National Academy of Engineering in 2024 stands as a significant recognition of his leadership and lasting contributions to the built environment. We are excited to have him share his insights with our community.

Student Night also provides an important opportunity to highlight excellence across our region's academic programs. SEAOSD will proudly award student scholarships to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance, leadership, and dedication to the structural engineering profession. These students represent the future of our field, and we are honored to support their continued growth.

Additionally, all three 2025 SEE Excellence Award Winners will present their award-winning projects. Their work reflects the innovation, creativity, and technical acumen emerging from our community, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements.

We hope you will join us for this memorable celebration of achievement and the bright future of our profession.

A Call for Sponsorship Support

The success of Student Night depends on the generosity and commitment of our engineering community. Sponsorships are essential to funding student scholarships, supporting engagement opportunities, and ensuring this event continues to make a meaningful impact each year.

If you or your firm are able, we encourage you to consider becoming a sponsor of Student Night 2026. Your support directly helps students take their next steps across that “bridge” toward a vibrant and successful career in structural engineering.

Jeremy T. Callister
SEAOSD President 2025-2026

Welcome New Members

New Members February

Eduardo Gil - Member
Bryan Solabac - Student
Tanner Bradley - Student
Angel Ruiz Murillo - Student
Celina Chen - Student
Matthew Gernandt - Member SE

Future Meetings

SEAOSD ASCE 41-23 Updates and Insights - FULL DAY IN PERSON SEMINAR

February 17, 2026
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Centerside Office Spaces
3131 Camino Del Rio N, Ste 850 Floor 8
San Diego, CA 92108

SEAOSD SLCxYMF Mid-Year Mentorship Event February 20,2026 (Note address change)

February 20, 2026
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
Miramar Lakeview Park (New location)
10794 Mira Lago Terrace
San Diego, CA 92131

SEAOSD Student Night March 3, 2026– Featuring Ashraf Habibullah

March 03, 2026
5:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Stone Brewery Point Loma
2816 Historic Decatur Rd. #116
San Diego, CA 92106

SEAOSD & ACI YMF joint event April 8, 2026

4:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Calportland
9229 Harris Plant Road
San Diego, CA 92145

SEAOSD Golf Tournament April 27, 2026

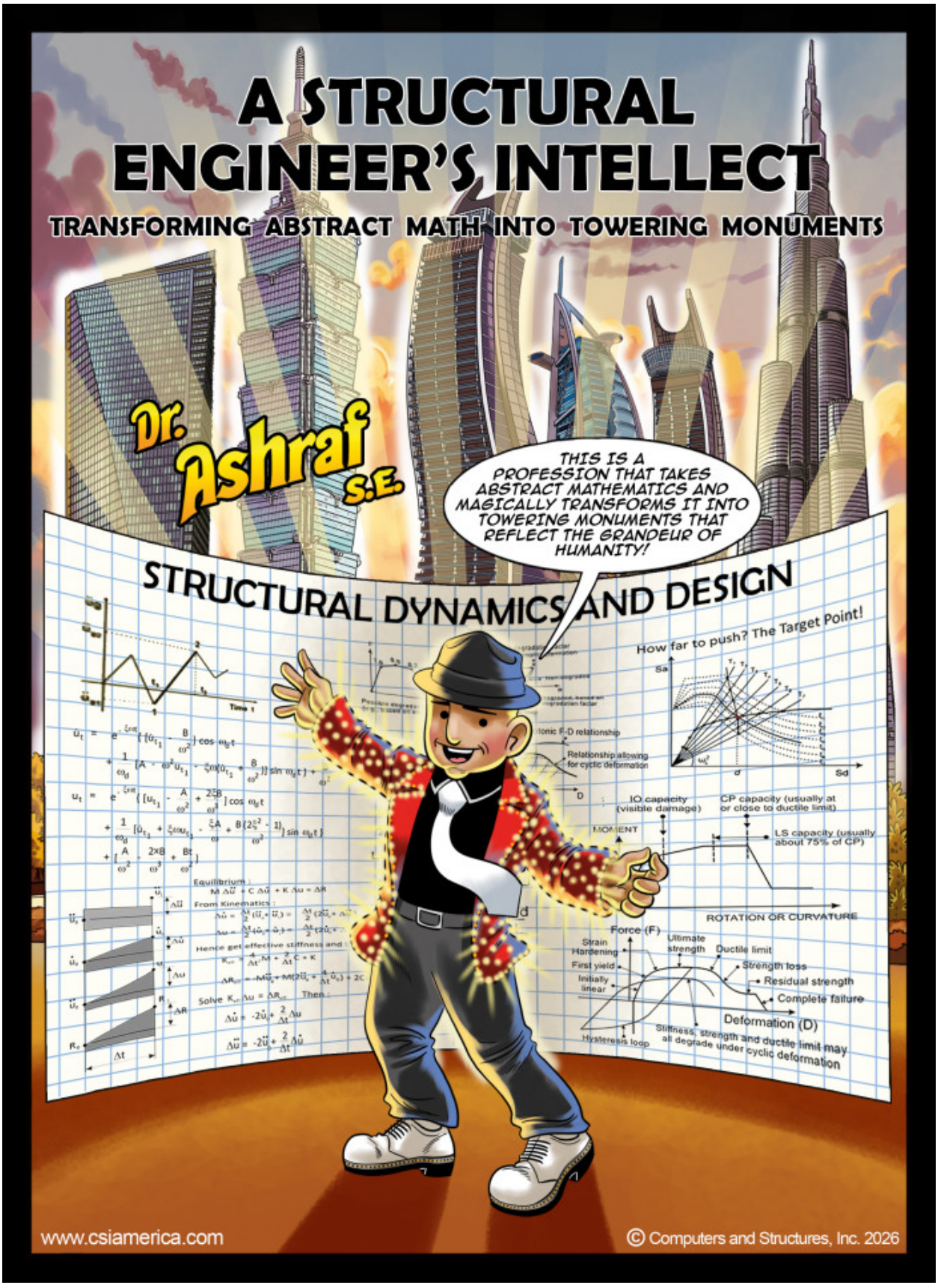
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Twin Oaks Golf Course
1425 North Twin Oaks Valley Road
San Marcos, CA 92069

SEAOSD SEE Awards Call for Entries

May 01, 2026 Deadline 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Online payment

SEAOSD SE3 Committee Meeting May 4, 2026

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM


A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER'S INTELLECT
TRANSFORMING ABSTRACT MATH INTO TOWERING MONUMENTS
Dr. Ashraf S.E.
THIS IS A PROFESSION THAT TAKES ABSTRACT MATHEMATICS AND MAGICALLY TRANSFORMS IT INTO TOWERING MONUMENTS THAT REFLECT THE GRANDEUR OF HUMANITY!
STRUCTURAL DYNAMICS AND DESIGN
How far to push? The Target Point!
IO capacity (visible damage)
CP capacity (usually at or close to ductile limit)
LS capacity (usually about 75% of CP)
MOMENT
ROTATION OR CURVATURE
Force (F)
Strain Hardening
Ultimate strength
Ductile limit
First yield
Initially linear
Strength loss
Residual strength
Complete failure
Deformation (D)
Hysteresis loop
Stiffness, strength and ductile limit may all degrade under cyclic deformation
www.csiamerica.com
© Computers and Structures, Inc. 2026

For Immediate Release



BWE, Inc. Promotes Mara Cordon, SE, to Principal Associate

SAN DIEGO, CA – BWE, Inc. announces the promotion of Mara Cordon, SE, to Principal Associate. The promotion recognizes her exceptional leadership, commitment to sustainable design, and significant contributions to the firm since joining in 2020.

“Mara has consistently stood out for her exceptional work ethic and technical skills, earning the immediate respect of everyone on our team,” says Charlie Colvin, President of BWE. “She has the ability to start with any of our projects, ascertain the needs of the client through excellent communication skills, and lead the project to success.”

Cordon’s approach to engineering blends meticulous attention to detail with exceptional communication, enabling her to transform complex architectural ambitions into constructible realities. Inspired by the motto of her colleague Jeff Densley, "If there's a load path, there's a way," she has embraced an adaptive mindset that has earned the trust of her clients and project teams.

An advocate for sustainable design, Cordon leads BWE’s Sustainability Committee and serves as Embodied Carbon Champion for the firm’s SE2050 Commitment. Under her leadership, BWE is implementing performance-based concrete design strategies to reduce embodied carbon and adopting eco-conscious practices in its daily operations.

"Mara's ability to take on any project, understand client needs through clear communication, and lead it to success is remarkable. She leads by example, setting a high standard for our team, and generously shares her expertise to support and mentor our young engineers. Her contributions to the department's leadership have been invaluable," says Charlie Colvin.

Cordon is currently contributing to several high-profile projects such as the ongoing Fontana City Hall Phase 2 Renovation, San Ysidro Health's Kimball Highlands PACE Clinic, and the San Diego County Administration Center's major, multi-phased renovation. "I find it very fulfilling to be able to see my projects in the real world, watching them transform from ideas, to drawings, to real buildings," says Cordon.

Cordon was exposed to the world of design from a young age, growing up in a family of petroleum, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineers. She earned both her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, becoming a third-generation Berkeley engineer. As she grows her own family today, Cordon is a role model to her peers, successfully balancing a thriving career with family life. "Separating work and home life is a key part of the balancing act of being a mom and engineer," she explains. "When I finish work for the day, simply seeing my daughter's face helps me decompress."

In her new role as Principal Associate, Cordon will continue to mentor emerging engineers and expand her role in business development. She remains committed to continual learning, keeping her code knowledge sharp, leading projects, and making bigger impacts.

About BWE, Inc.

Based in San Diego, California, BWE, Inc. has provided structural engineering, civil engineering, and land surveying services for construction projects across Southern California for more than five decades. Known for design excellence and responsive service, the firm's engineers and surveyors are trusted partners in the built environment. BWE is also committed to fostering professional growth, offering mentorship, training, and support for licensure and professional association membership. To learn more, visit bwesd.com.

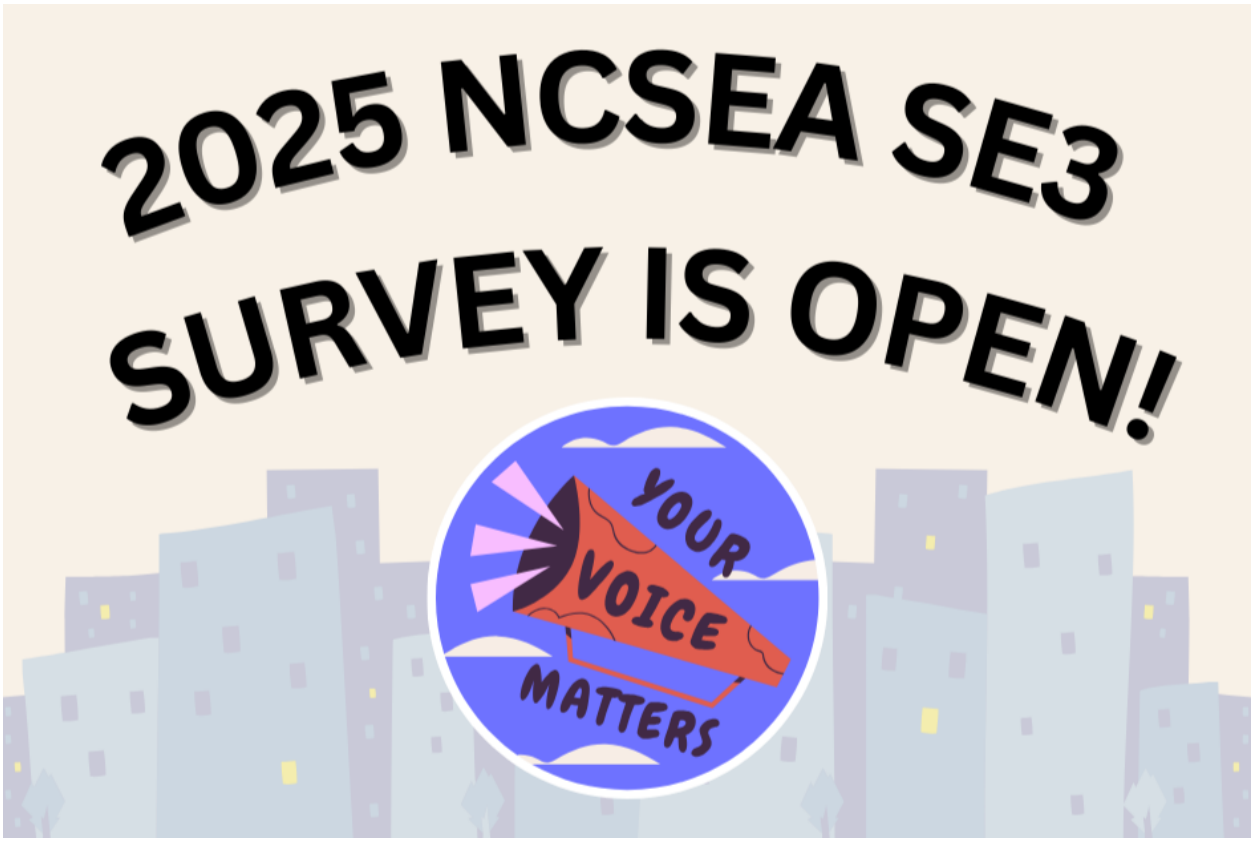
Media Contact:

Athena Borrego
Director of Marketing & Business Development
aborrego@bwesd.com
(619) 299-5550

SEE Awards


SEAOSD
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
OF SAN DIEGO
CALL FOR ENTRIES
2026 STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS
ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY
MAY 1ST, 2026

Committee Updates



Make your opinion count! The 2025 edition of the SE3 survey is officially LIVE!

Join the conversation and participate in the 2025 SE3 survey--the link is available here: survey link and on NCSEA's website: https://www.ncsea.com/se3-structural-engineering-engagement-equity-survey/.

This is the NCSEA SE3 Committee's fourth nationwide survey targeted at structural engineers. The responses collected are valuable in understanding trends in our profession. If you are interested in learning more about NCSEA SE3's previous surveys, past publications are available here: https://www.se3committee.com/surveydevelopment.

SE3's mission is to attract and retain the best and brightest into our profession; and to ensure ALL structural engineers have a clear pathway to success. The SE3 survey is an ongoing effort to identify trends, understand the underlying factors, and initiate industry-wide conversations. Findings from past iterations of this survey included insight into why engineers leave the profession, the importance of mentorship, and the existence of a nuanced gender pay gap.

Responses are anonymous and confidential, and data collected will not be linked to you or your employer/firm. Dynamic Benchmarking, a leading technology provider serving associations nationwide, collects, anonymizes, and analyzes all survey data. This means that

neither your personal information nor your firm's details will be linked to the data, ensuring full anonymity and privacy.

Voting will close on Feb 27, 2026

Job Ads

- SEA News charges $100 ($150 for non-members) for "Job Posting" ads for 3 months in SEAOSD Newsletter.
- In addition, the advertisement will be posted at www.seaosd.org under "Job Forum" for 3 months.
- Please limit ads to 100 words.
- Advertisements may be renewed or extended for $50 ($75 for non-members) per each additional month.

Classified Job Listing

Project Engineer – Remote, Part-Time

Reindel Engineering Inc.
Job Posting
Dec. 2, 2025

Senior Engineer

Degenkolb
Job Posting
Dec. 2, 2025

Structural Engineer

KPFF Consulting Engineers
Job Posting
Sep. 15, 2025



SE PATHWAYS IS BACK! APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON

Are you a structural engineering student or early-career professional looking to grow your network and find your place in the profession? SE Pathways is designed to support and elevate individuals from historically underrepresented groups in structural engineering through meaningful connections, mentorship, and access to the SEAOC Convention.

Participants in the Fifth SE Pathways Cohort will receive funding to attend the 2026 SEAOC Convention and take part in curated programming focused on career development and professional connections. Join a cohort of peers, expand your network, and take the next step in your structural engineering journey.

Applications open: February 20 — look out for details soon!
2026 SEAOC Convention

Where: Scottsdale, AZ
When: August 26–28, 2026

Interested? Sign up here to learn more and receive a reminder when applications launch.

Thank you Sponsors



Become a Sponsor Today! Click here for more information.

Thank you Sponsors



ANCHOR SPONSOR

SE FIRM SILVER SPONSOR

BWE established 1971

SE FIRM BRONZE SPONSOR

Degenkolb

GOLD SPONSOR

SIMPSON Strong-Tie

CoreBrace

SILVER SPONSOR











SEAOC College of Fellows Scholarship
2026 Call for Applications

Purpose

The Structural Engineers Association of California's College of Fellows hereby offers the SEAOC College of Fellows Scholarship. The objective of the scholarship is to raise the level of structural engineering by promoting the educational development of California structural engineers through advanced degrees. This scholarship is intended to recognize those that have completed an undergraduate degree, moved on to work in engineering practice or research, and are now returning for a graduate degree.

The Scholarship

A $5,000 grant will be made to the selected scholar towards graduate school expenses at an accredited graduate school program in Structural Engineering, or in Civil or Architectural Engineering with a structural emphasis. While the scholarship is primarily intending to encourage scholars attending California institutions, those attending institutions outside of California will be considered.

Eligibility

The applicant shall meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering or Architectural Engineering from an accredited engineering school or university and,
- Have a year or more of structural engineering practice or research experience following receipt of the undergraduate degree (the year must be completed by the time the graduate degree starts, a full time internship of up to six months can be considered towards the year),
- Have applied to but not yet started an accredited graduate school program in Structural Engineering, or in Civil or Architectural Engineering with a structural emphasis, and
- Have been a member for at least six months in one of the four SEAOC member organizations (SEAOCC, SEAONC, SEAOSD, or SEAOSC). Any class of membership is acceptable.

Application

The applicant shall submit:

- A resume describing education and engineering or research experience (not to exceed two pages),
- A statement of career goals and reason for pursing an advanced degree (not to exceed one page),
- Evidence of application to or acceptance in a graduate school program as noted in the eligibility criteria,
- A statement of how the award would make a difference in their education or their engagement with structural engineering (not to exceed one page), and
- Two letters of recommendation including:
    - One from a member of a SEAOC Member Organization (SEAOSD, SEAOSC, SEAOCC or SEAONC) who holds either Member or Member SE class of membership.
    - One from a second Member or Member SE of a SEAOC Member Organization as per above, or a professor from the applicant's undergraduate program.

SEAOC College of Fellows Scholarship
2026 Call for Applications

These items shall be submitted to the SEAOC office at SEAOC@SEAOC.org by ***5 pm (PST) March 31, 2026***. Please indicate "College of Fellows Scholarship" in the subject line.

Selection

An awardee will be selected by a Selection Committee appointed by the College of Fellows Scholarship Committee. Awardees will be contacted by April 21, 2026. The scholarship may or may not be awarded in any given year at the discretion of the Selection Committee. The selection process is entirely at the discretion of the Selection Committee and the College of Fellows.

Award of Funds

The funds for the scholarship will be issued upon submission of evidence of enrolment in the first term of the accredited graduate school program.

Additional

The awardee will be invited to assist the College of Fellows with publicizing the scholarship program.

Questions

Questions should be directed to both Krystinne Mica <kmica@seaoc.org> and kcobeen@wje.com. Provide questions no later than March 24, 2026.
