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Tackling Travertine Cladding Repairs

A reliable repair approach to evaluate and repair distressed thin travertine stone panels on a 30+ year old buildings, and at the same time minimize the possible negative aesthetic impact, from the repairs, on the building exterior wall present many different challenges for design professionals. The presenter will discuss two different case studies of buildings with dimension travertine stone cladding that experienced some type of distress. For each case study the presenter will discuss the evaluation, design, repairs, and construction phase engineering services that were performed.

The travertine exterior wall panels on these building presented distresses such as cracking and spalling. A comprehensive evaluation of the exterior wall consisting of field observations, laboratory testing, and structural calculations was performed to understand the condition of the travertine exterior wall panels, design repairs, and create a stone selection criteria required to maintain the original appearance of the building.

Mr. Bustamante is a Restoration Consultant with Walker Restoration Consultants. He received his bachelors in Civil Engineering from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and M.S. in engineering with structural engineering emphasis from University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. He has over 13 years of experience as a project manager in a variety of structural, architectural, and material distress related projects. His experience includes the evaluation, design, and construction phase services of many building exterior wall repair projects. Mr. Bustamante is the President of the Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter of SEAoT. As well as a member of the Precast/Presstressed Concrete Institute (PCI) Parking Structures Committee, the American Concrete Institute (ACI), and the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). He is also chair of the Foundation Performance Association (FPA) Concrete Slab Moisture SC-19 sub-committee.

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MEETING INFO

WHEN:

6:00 pm Social
6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program

WHERE:

HESS Engineering
and Scientific
Society
5430 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77056
713.627.2283

COST:

Members:
\$25.00
Non-members:
\$35.00
Student members &
Non dinner guests
\$10.00

RSVP:

[Click Here](#) to
register online.
The deadline is
12:00pm, the
Tuesday before

UPCOMING
MEETINGS

February 19, 2015
TBD
February 20, 2015
TBD

[CLICK HERE](#) TO REGISTER FOR THIS MEETING

President's Address

Al Bustamante, PE

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as the Houston/ Gulf Coast Chapter President for 2015. I am confident that 2015 will be a great year for the chapter. Some of you may know me already from previous years as a member of SEAOt, but in case you don't, I'll give you a brief introduction.

I came to Houston in 2002 after completing my graduate studies at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. I am a registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Louisiana and have worked as a restoration/forensic engineer for over 13 years. Last year I served as a Vice-President of the Chapter and contributed with providing quality programs and sponsors for the monthly meetings.

Newsletter and the monthly meetings. Eight of our nine monthly meeting were sponsored by different companies and we are very thankful for the contribution these sponsors made to our chapter. We had great diversity of topics and presenters in our monthly meeting in 2014 including off-shore engineering, structural restoration/ repair, structural foundation systems, legal issues pertaining to our profession, code related issues, failure analysis, and bridge structures.

We will continue to strive for providing interesting and diverse programs that will grab the interest of our members and non-members as well. The chapter is a healthy financial position, which allowed us to award two scholarships to two different recipients. Also, I am sincerely grateful for the significant involvement and contribution that the Texas A&M Student Chapter makes to our organization.

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President's Address (continued)

Al Bustamante, PE

I am very excited about the opportunities and challenges that our chapter will face this year; especially organizing the State Conference which will be held in Houston this year. We are off to a great start in the planning of the State Conference by having a venue and date selected, and the process to gather sponsors and presenters is in full gear.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our members to participate in our chapter in order to continue to grow our organization. As president of the chapter I speak for all board members that our goal is to leave the chapter in a better position that it was before our tenure. I wish everyone a happy and productive 2015. If you have any input or have any questions about our chapter, please don't hesitate contacting me at houston@seaot.org.

Al Bustamante

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STRUCTURAL CONCRETE REPAIR

Texas A&M Student Chapter Report

Alejandro Zepeda

On behalf of the entire Texas A&M student chapter, I would like to say Howdy! My name is Alejandro Zepeda and I am excited to announce that I will be serving at the president of the student chapter for this term.

I am a local student from Bryan, TX and currently working on my bachelor's degree here at Texas A&M. I transferred into A&M in 2010 but took a year and a half break from school to work for the Army where I developed Building Information Models of repair facilities. I have been a member of the student chapter for two years and was motivated to run for president so that I can continue to develop the student organization and help our students connect with industry professionals. I am also pleased to introduce our new vice president and treasurer.

I am Ashfaq Syed, and I am serving as Vice President of SEAOt Chapter at Texas A&M University for this term.

As the Vice President, I will do my best to assist my colleagues and members of SEAOt in making this term as one of the milestone that future generations will look up to. I bring with me 4 years of structural engineering experience, working on structures associated with downstream Oil & Gas Sector. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from College of Engineering, Guindy and I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree at Texas A&M University. I look forward to interacting with members and gathering thoughts on improving the student chapter.

My name is Amber Campa and I am the new treasurer for the Texas A&M University Student SEAOt Chapter.

I am from Donna, TX in the Rio Grande Valley but completed my undergrad degree at Boston University. I am currently a Master of Engineering student at Texas A&M and am looking forward to working with the professional chapter this upcoming year.

We are eager to start our new spring semester with our first SEAOt Houston Gulf Coast Chapter Meeting on January 22. We are also in the process of planning monthly meetings for our student chapter in which we invite industry professionals to talk about their projects and share their experiences in the structural engineering field. Finally, we plan on scheduling a field trip to an on-sight project or company head quarter to help prepare our student for industry.

If you are interested in joining one of our meetings or sharing your engineering experience and expertise, please feel free to contact me at officers@seaot.tamu.edu. You can also visit our website at seaot.tamu.edu for more information regarding our scheduled events or follow us on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/157AoZd>.

We are very pleased to be included in the SEAOt Houston Gulf Coast Chapter meeting and look forward to connecting with all the members of this chapter.



Secretary's Report

Rick Miles, PE

I am pleased to introduce myself as your chapter secretary for 2015. I have been a SEAOt member since 2005, and transferred from the Austin Chapter to the Houston/Gulf Coast chapter in 2011 when I relocated to my current position at Walter P Moore. As a Senior Associate with the Diagnostics Group, my practice ranges from structural evaluation of historic buildings to commissioning of the building envelope for new construction projects. I look forward to my increased role with the Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter as we continue to provide quality and varied programming for our members.

We closed out 2014 with our meeting on November 20. The meeting had two sponsors, Hilti and CloudCalc:

Kacey Cortner from Hilti reminded us of code requirement changes for post-installed anchors that are on the horizon with the pending adoption of IBC 2012 by the City of Houston. Contact Kacey to discuss these changes and Hilti's product options at (281) 435-5927.

CloudCalc, Inc.'s founder Thomas J. Van Laan was on hand to introduce our chapter to his cloud-based structural analysis software, CloudCalc. He encouraged us to create a free account www.cloudcalc.com. Contact Thomas with feedback or questions at info@cloudcalc.com.

President-elect Al Bustamante presented our two scholarship winners for 2015 and introduced our speaker. Attorney William E. Morfey, Chair of the Structural Sub-Committee of The Foundation Performance Association in Houston, Texas, presented on The Standard of Care for Engineers and Other Professionals Working in Texas.


We all should be familiar with the term "Standard of Care" as it pertains to our profession, but how do you define what that means?

Mr. Morfey spoke to this question, providing historic background including the concept of the "Reasonable Man" and how it pertains to negligence. This was followed by a procedure outline for determining a standard of care by various survey methods.

These techniques can be used not only as a litigation strategy, but also as due diligence for an engineer practicing in a new service area. It was a very informative presentation and good information to keep in your pocket. The associated documentation can be found at <http://www.foundationperformance.org/Projects/FPA-SC-18-0.pdf>


Happy New Year and best wishes for a productive and prosperous 2015! I'm looking forward to seeing you at our meetings.



Rick Miles



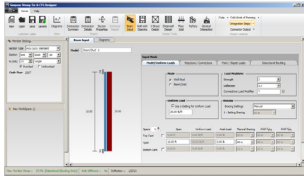
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2014 Officers and Directors

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail (click to send)</u>
President	Al Bustamante	832.467.2177	Al.Bustamante@walkerrestoration.com
Vice President	Tan Tran	713.868.1591	tan.tran@cardno.com
Secretary	Rick Miles	713.630.7414	RMiles@walterpmoore.com
Treasurer	Jonathan Warshaw	832.467.2177	jwarshaw@wje.com
Past President	Steve Wilkerson	832.969.8641	stevew@ziasoftware.com
Chapter Director (14-15)	Larry Ickert	832.244.5403	lickert@excelmidstream.com
Chapter Director (15-16)	Steve Wilkerson	832.969.8641	stevew@ziasoftware.com
State Director (14-15)	Damon Brotherton	713.702.9973	d-brotherton@sbcglobal.net
State Director (15-16)	Bob Lanser	713.670.2468	rlanser@poha.com
Alternate State Director	Joe Kallaby	281.584.9300	osi-jk@swbell.net

2014 Committee Chairpersons

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail (click to send)</u>
Advisory	Jaynool Khayrattee	713.664.0130	jayk@matrixstructural.com
Scholarship	Paul Gugenheim	832.309.5584	paul@fiberwrap.com
Membership	Glen Smith	713.664.0130	glensmith@gmail.com
Program			
Student Affairs– TAMU	Stefan Hurlebaus	979.845.9570	shurlebaus@civil.tamu.edu
Student Affairs– Rice U. J	amie Padgett	713.348.2325	Jamie.Padgett@rice.edu
Student Affairs– U of H	Mina Dawood	713.743.2983	nmdawood@uh.edu
Publicity	Lance Operhall		operhall@gmail.com
Young Engineers	Chris Hill	713.868.1591	chris.hill@cardno.com
Advertising	Chris Hill	713.868.1591	chris.hill@cardno.com
Newsletter Editor	Jennifer Ju	713.868.1591	jennifer.ju@cardno.com
TAMU Student Ch. Pres.	Alejandro Zepeda	979.574.7794	alejandro_zepeda@email.tamu.edu



"Left to Right: Chris Hill, Jennifer Ju, Steve Wilkerson, Joe Kallaby, Kimberly Lyons, Damon Brotherton, Al Bustamante, Tan Tran, and Jonathan Warshaw"