

Structures Congress 2010

The 2010 Structures Congress was a well-forged success. Held jointly with NASCC: The Steel Conference at the expansive Gaylord Palms Resort and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida, attendees had the opportunity to attend over 200 sessions offered by SEI, AISC, SSRC, and CASE, in addition to short courses, and sample the extensive exhibit hall. The combined attendance at all events reached record numbers for the Structures Congress.



Seven short courses were offered on the subjects of HSS Connection Design; Stability and Bracing Requirements for Beams; Performance-Based Plastic Design of Earthquake-Resistant Steel Structures; Simplified Seismic Design Provisions of ASCE 7-10; Wind Loads of ASCE 7-10; Best Practices: Guidelines for Structural Fire Resistance Design of Concrete and Steel Buildings; and Effective Steel Design: Step-by-Step Design for Commercial Buildings.

Concurrent technical and poster sessions were offered in twenty tracks including General Interest, Detailing, Engineering, Fabrication, Erector, Essays from Experts, Ruby University, Educator, Student Sessions, Top Hits from Top Profs., The SSRC Annual Stability Conference, SSRC Sessions, Bridges, Analysis & Computation, Building Design, Concrete & Masonry Structures, Non-Building Structures, Building-Seismic, Extreme Loads & Educational Reform, Business & Professional Practice, Research, Tall Buildings, Education & Loading, and the CASE Spring Risk Management Convocation.

SEI Presenters have been asked to upload powerpoint presentations to the online schedule of sessions. To see the presentations go to <http://submissions.miracd.com/ASCE/Structures2010/Itinerary/ConferenceMatrix.asp>

The Wednesday night Welcome Reception in the expansive exhibit hall highlighted the large variety of vendors available. Set in a recreated stone fort, The Taste of Florida conference dinner was complete with alligator demonstrations and stilt walkers. The CASE Spring Risk Management Convocation began Friday with a breakfast session on “Changes to the AISC Code of Standard Practice- What S.E.s Need to Know”.

The SEI Plenary/Awards Luncheon on Saturday was an opportunity for SEI Members to convene as a group. Kevin Casey, P.E., F.ASCE, one of the 2010 Structures Congress Co-Chairs, welcomed the attendees and recognized the local planning committee, cooperating organizations and major sponsors. Following lunch, SEI President Roberto Leon, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, opened the annual SEI Business Meeting. Jim Rossberg, P.E., SEI



Director, then provided updates on membership growth and financial performance, and highlighted key reminders and future conferences.

Kathy Caldwell, P.E., President-Elect of ASCE, gave a presentation called “The Vision of Civil Engineering: Making Connections to the Future”, offering her vision for civil engineering, exploring the quality of life issues we face—clean water, sustainable energy and infrastructure—and why and how the engineer must take a leading role in the way forward.

Next Jim Harris, Ph.D., P.E., M.ASCE, former SEI President, and John Hooper, M. ASCE, Team Leader for the SEI/ASCE Chilean Earthquake Structural Performance Assessment Team visit to Chile, gave a joint presentation of their preliminary observations.



Participants could submit their ballots for the Best Presentation across both AISC and SEI sessions. “122 Design Ideas in 90 Minutes”, by James Fisher and Michael West, was selected as the winner by a majority of the voters.

Over 70 SEI Committees held their yearly meetings at the Structures Congress. Many discussed their forthcoming publications including committee reports, survey initiatives, planning for future

Congress sessions, and proposals for special projects.