



By Michael D. Moore, CEO

The International Foundations Congress and Equipment EXPO (IFCEE) held March 17-21, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas, exceeded the highest of expectations. IFCEE 2015 marked the first time four separate and distinct organizations came together. ADSC: The International Association of Foundation Drilling served as the Managing Partner. We were joined by the Deep Foundation Institute (DFI), the Geo-Institute of ASCE (G-I), and the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), making this joint venture like nothing of its kind before. With nearly 3,500 people in attendance and over 180 exhibitors showcasing the latest and greatest in products and services.

IFCEE 2015 was referred to by an attendee as the “Greatest Show ever for the Deep Foundations Industry!” The next show of this magnitude will take place in March of 2018 in Orlando, Florida.

The following pages are a compilation of many individuals experiences at IFCEE along with photo collages of exhibits and attendees. For those of you that were unable to attend this article will provide a brief synopsis of the conference. I am sure you will find it interesting and enjoyable.

### Interview With Dr. Anna Sellountou Regarding the Dr. Michael W. O’Neill Lecture

By Sherry Epperson, Managing Editor

Thanks to Dr. Sellountou’s initiative and to the overwhelmingly supportive response of the ADSC’s Board of Directors we were pleased to be able to present the inaugural, “Dr. Michael W. O’Neill Lecture.” The Lecture will then be presented triennially at each ADSC International Foundations Conference and Equipment Exposition. In each case it will be presented by one of the profession’s most accom-

plished researchers and practitioners. The Lecture will carry with it a cash prize to be awarded in Dr. O’Neill’s name and funded by the ADSC.

This year’s inaugural award winner was Jerry A. DiMaggio, P.E. D.GE, Principal Engineer, Applied Research Associates. Jerry’s presentation was well received and delivered to a packed audience.

Since Dr. Sellountou was the catalyst in the formation of this Lecture we wanted to get her thoughts on Dr. O’Neill and the Lecture itself. Below is her response.



Jerry DiMaggio and Dr. Anna Sellountou

**Question:** What was the single most important thing you learned from Dr. O’Neill?

**Dr. Sellountou:** Dr. O’Neill was a great mentor and an unlimited source of knowledge and experience with respect to deep foundation issues; but he was also an exceptional

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human being constantly teaching (through his attitude in life) priceless life lessons to those around him. So, this is a very difficult question. If I have to pick one thing I will choose one of his comments in his Terzaghi Lecture that “site specific load testing must remain an integral part of the design process for driven piles and drilled shafts.” That is something I have had the chance to verify myself through my career so far. If I may elaborate in my own words the design and construction of deep foundations is a very complex matter. Inherent soil variability, soil layering, complex soil phenomena and geological processes, construction effects that are very difficult to be quantified, etc., create a soil-structure interaction problem that is too complex to be solved analytically with sufficient confidence.

**Question:** How do you feel after the O’Neill Lecture?

**Dr. Sellountou:** I feel delighted! And also very grateful to ADSC! This was a very important moment for me; to actually see this honoring event finally taking place. ADSC did a great job for this inaugural lecture and the outcome exceeded my expectations. It truly reflected some of Dr. O’Neill’s values as it was generously organized (with a reception and student scholarship in addition to the prestigious award and lecture). A lot of passion was generated through Jerry’s passionate talk for deep foundations and some of the challenges we are dealing with. Dr. O’Neill deserved nothing less than that.

**Question:** What do you think of Jerry DiMaggio as the choice for the first Dr. Michael W. O’Neill Lecture?

**Dr. Sellountou:** Jerry DiMaggio was truly appropriate for the first one, as Al Rasband mentioned. Jerry has a remarkable career to showcase, with numerous contributions in the advancement of state-of-practice in the design and construction of deep foundations, which is what this award is about.

He is a very passionate speaker and captured the audience from the beginning to the end. He did an exceptional job in this inaugural lecture to convey important engineering messages with lots of humor. His topic “Reflections, Changes and Challenges” was very appropriate, very well thought out and very passionately delivered. I would like to personally thank him for his excellent lecture and congratulate him for receiving this prestigious award, which he truly deserves.

The association looks forward to being part of this inaugural event for many years to come.

**Registration**

By Emily Matthews, Marketing Administrator

In case you missed it, there was an entirely new registration system implemented for IFCEE. In addition to the efficiency and flexibility this system added to our event, it was also fun to use! Pre-registrants were sent an email before the show that included a unique barcode to scan at the FASTTRACK Check-In desk. Once this barcode was scanned, the attendees name badge and all included tickets printed automatically. This new registration system allowed us to quickly and seamlessly check-in nearly 3,500 people throughout the week.



As with everything in life, there is always room for improvement, however you will definitely see a similar system implemented at the next IFCEE (in 2018) in Orlando, Florida, with the hopes that it will be even more successful than before!

**ADSC Board of Directors**

The ADSC 2015 Annual Meeting, which was held in conjunction with IFCEE 2015, included the Board of Directors meeting. The ADSC Nomination Committee presented nine nominations of ADSC Members for six Board of Directors positions. The ballots were collected, votes tallied and results were presented to the meeting attendees. After the results were announced the new Board met to elect officers. Please congratulate your 2015 Board of Directors.

**ADSC Officers**

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**Tom Witherspoon**  
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Richard Goettle, Inc., Cincinnati, OH

**Eric Reuther**  
Illini Drilled Foundations, Inc., Danville, IL

**Gregory Sullivan**  
Subsurface Construction, Raleigh, NC

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## IFCEE Contd.

**Dan Thome**

Nicholson Construction, Kalamazoo, MI

**Bo Walker**

Texas Shafts, Inc., Fort Worth, TX

**Tom Wark**

Keller Foundations, Regina, SK, Canada

Please take an opportunity to thank all out-going Directors for their time and efforts expended on behalf of the ADSC.

**Tom Baehr**

Ground Hog Foundation Drilling Co.,  
Houston, TX

**Bob Carnevale**

Seattle, WA

**Jim Tippet**

Bay Shore Systems, Inc., Rathdrum, ID

### Technical Aspects of IFCEE

By Peggy Hagerty Duffy, P.E., D.GE, ADSC Technical Advisor

The drill rigs and other heavy equipment in the outdoor exhibits created an impressive sight, and the product data in the indoor exhibits were extensive. The technical presentation and committee rooms may have seemed boring or uninteresting by contrast, but only until the sessions started. The width and breadth of the new ideas in the technical programs were every bit as dynamic and exciting as the more visually obvious developments in the indoor and outdoor exhibit areas.

The Technical Committee for IFCEE was composed of members of all the participating organizations who worked together for two years to assemble the final content. The program included six short courses and six invited speaker sessions, as well as several

**The width and breadth of the new ideas in the technical programs were every bit as dynamic and exciting as the more visually obvious developments in the indoor and outdoor exhibit areas.**

hundred technical presentations and poster presentations. The subject matter encompassed research and case studies, and presenters ranged from graduate students to contractors to consulting engineers. Committee meetings for all the member organizations provided an interactive forum for discussing many of the hot button topics that were detailed in the technical presentations.

The short courses began the conference and presented opportunities for attendees to participate in more in-depth learning experiences than the shorter presentations in the individual technical tracks. Strong attendance was an indicator for the equally strong technical content. For example, "In-Situ Testing and Deep Foundation Design," presented by Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud, Texas A&M University, was full, and students had the opportunity to work through complete design examples and review the latest methods for using the most appropriate testing for various subsurface conditions. "Managing Safety from Design to Construction," was given by Rick Marshall, CHST, ADSC Contractor Member Richard Goettle, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio; Colin Perkins, ADSC Contractor Mem-



*ADSC 2015 Officers and Board of Directors*

ber Malcolm Drilling, San Francisco, California; Gregory Lewis, ADSC Contractor Member Moretrench, Rockaway, New Jersey, and Michael Blanchard, CSP, ARM; ALCM, ADSC Contractor Member Hayward Baker, Denver, Colorado. Contractors and engineers had the opportunity to see safety as an intact, integral part of a deep foundation project rather than as piecemeal responses to disparate parts of a construction job.

Invited speakers were the anchors of the technical program and included some of the most respected names in the deep foundation business. ADSC Technical Affiliate Member Alan Macnab, PEng, D.GE, led a discussion on "Drilled Shaft Best Practices" that was the culmination of a several year-long effort to collect and compare data on design and construction practices throughout the world. Macnab was joined by James O. Johnson, Vice President of ADSC Contractor Member Condon-Johnson, & Associates, Oakland, California, California. This project has served to highlight differences and similarities in construction methods, design assumptions, and other aspects of the foundation construction process in order to refine our global understanding of what the design/construction community agrees on, and what questions are still out there. "Deep Foundations for a Multi-Billion Dollar Public Infrastructure Project" detailed four different construction methods for different parts of a single project. Mike Minton, P.E., ADSC Contractor Member Hayward Baker, Roselle, Illinois; Craig Myers, ADSC Contractor Member Hayes Drilling, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky; Scott Dodds, ADSC Contractor Member Moretrench, Rockaway, New Jersey, and Andrew Proffitt, ADSC Contractor Member McKinney Drilling, Louisville, Kentucky, showed how each type of technology was the appropriate solution for the specific subsurface conditions where it was used. The presentation included a repair on a 13 feet diameter drilled shaft, 100 feet long, 20 feet into hard limestone, adjacent to the Ohio River.

Technical tracks covered new developments and case studies for every form of deep foundation. Drilled shafts were highlighted in a session that included one of the first reports on research being conducted by the ADSC, the University of Missouri, and ADSC Technical Affiliate Member Schnabel Engineering, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Tayler Day, graduate student at the University of Missouri, explained the preliminary findings in research on the effects of premobilization in post-grouted drilled shafts. Another

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presentation that caused much discussion was a case study on battered drilled shafts installed for the foundation of the Margaret McDermott Bridge in Dallas, Texas. This project, presented by Bo Walker, ADSC Contractor Member Texas Shafts, Fort Worth, Texas, showed how contractors can work with engineers to adapt equipment for job-specific needs.

As with any industry or technology, the overall needs of society have affected the content of IFCEE since it was first conceived. Although the pursuit of more economical, reliable foundation solutions continues to drive most technical discussions, the issue of sustainability has become much more prominent, and the technical program reflected this development. Design and performance of energy piles and the behavior of recycled construction and industrial materials were the most popular topics, but overall sustainability of foundation systems was also covered. Certainly this is an area that will continue to explode as resources on the planet dwindle.

Finally, sustainability through conscientious use of resources wasn't the only aspect of IFCEE that looked to the future. Student programs included a site evaluation competition, an MSE wall competition, opportunities to meet and talk with industry professionals, and scholarship awards. A panel discussion on engineering education was led by Dr. Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., Texas A&M University; Dale Biggers, P.E., Boh Brothers Contractors, New Orleans, Louisiana; Mike Justason, P.Eng., McMaster University and ADSC Associate Member Bermingham Foundation Solutions of Hamilton, Ontario; ADSC President Al Rasband, ADSC Contractor Member Malcolm Drilling, Kent, Washington; Allen Cadden, ADSC Technical Affiliate Member Schnabel Engineering, West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Vic Donald, P.E., ADSC Technical Affiliate Member Terracon, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Participation from the audience, including students and professors, contributed greatly to this session and produced possible new avenues for providing students with a well-rounded, practical educational experience that extends into his/her career. Surely the opportunity to be immersed in such a rich technical environment as IFCEE with others who are enthusiastic about their work is perhaps the best recruiting tool the foundation industry can use to attract and retain gifted and equally enthusiastic future professionals.

One young engineer exiting the presentation on the Margaret McDermott Bridge remarked, "Wow! I'll never look at that bridge the same way again." One of the primary goals of IFCEE is to give every attendee multiple reasons to look at the same old problems differently in the future.

## The Other Nerds

By Peggy Hagerty Duffy, P.E., D.GE, ADSC Technical Advisor

As thousands of attendees strolled through the acres of equipment at the outdoor exhibits at IFCEE, many were looking for a better mousetrap. "What do you have that can help me do my job better?" Is it a bigger drill rig? Or maybe it's a smaller drill rig that can drill deeper under lower clearance. In any case, the general topic of conversation at ADSC meetings, including IFCEE, concerns what the equipment does and the needs of the projects serviced by various types of equipment. "How did you develop that piece of equipment?" can't compete with "How many feet per day can that rig get?" or "How many hours can I get out of that rig be-



fore I send it to the scrap yard?" or even "Will that rig still operate if it's washed away in a flash flood?"

Development of the equipment used in the foundation construction industry generally falls to a group of people not targeted on the pages of this magazine. When we talk about engineers here, we refer to civil engineers, or builders of targets, as the old joke goes. Our people are interested in making sure things don't move; at the end of the day, bridges and buildings and roads are supposed to stay in place. (Ideally). On the other hand, those builders of weapons, our mechanical engineers, mechanics, and untitled innovators, make their magic by making things move.

As a total geek in all areas, including psychology, I always want to know how someone came up with an idea. What was the need? How did you progress from Point A to Point B? IFCEE seemed to be a veritable buffet of ideas and innovation, so I struck out to learn about the ideas behind the equipment. More specifically, I wanted to know what was new, why did we need what was new, and how did the answer to the need get developed.

The first and biggest obstacle to my quest appeared immediately. I announced in a committee meeting that I was looking for stories on the technical development of new products at the show. Blank stares met my request. I was a bit puzzled by this response at the outset; my assumption that everyone would be stumbling over themselves to get their equipment included was completely wrong. It became obvious after a short time, though, the reason behind this reticence – no one ever asks these people about their work. Yes, the equipment is buffed and polished and shown off, and yes, the equipment specifications are printed in 72-point type

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and pinned under windshield wipers at Little League games and community parades. But no one asks the man behind the curtain, “How did you think of that? Why did you think of that?” As a result, our equipment developers have relegated themselves to the outer circle of the equipment expos, beyond the free drinks and at the end of the line for dodge ball.

Not to be daunted, I made my hard-headed-Irish way around the shiny, sparkly drill rigs and demanded, “What do you have that’s new? TELL ME ABOUT IT!” After I made it clear that I wasn’t looking for a sales pitch, I was left alone to search out the mostly quiet, focused, driven designers who maintained an air of



skepticism while I insisted I really wanted to know how they developed their latest product. Takers were few, which was a shame. Those who finally decided to spill the beans were quite fascinating. True, I love to know how things work, but I believe most people involved in the foundation industry would be interested in the equipment development process.

The Watson 4300 was a much-promoted introduction at the EXPO, and a lot of information was available about what it can do. The attraction of the rig, the fact that the rotary is able to be positioned to drill over the top of casing, is intended to allow for efficient production with minimal wear and tear. Doug Watson, ADSC Associate Member Watson, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, participated in the design and has never been accused of being afraid to talk about his work. But he handed the conversation off to Josh Keck, R&D Program Engineer, who began hesitantly but quickly warmed to his subject. He explained the internal thinking behind the new model, reflecting feedback from customers about industry-wide problems with maintenance and production. He indicated that conceptual planning within the company had been occurring for several years, but design in earnest took about eight months of dawn to dusk persistence.

Jim Tippet, General Manager, and Adam Minatre, Vice President and Sales Manager, ADSC Associate Member Bay Shore Systems, Rathdrum, Idaho, were soft spoken but excited about their wide spectrum of rigs for low overhead clearance. Jim detailed the difference between the various equipment series, each fulfilling a need for a specific set of circumstances – low clearance and large

### **Bay Shore’s personnel have a feel for steel the way many foundation drilling contractors have a feel for limestone.**

diameter, low clearance and great depth, low clearance and extended reach – the list goes on. In each situation, the design team had to understand the job of the contractor as well as material properties and mechanical principles necessary to create the needed equipment. Bay Shore’s personnel have a feel for steel the way many foundation drilling contractors have a feel for limestone.

Sue Frank, President/CEO, ADSC Associate Member TEI Rock Drills, Montrose, Colorado, spoke about responding to changes in current engineering design trends to modify existing, well-performing equipment. She stated that their design team tries to optimize the balance between allowing customer testing of prototypes for an appropriate time period and getting equipment into service to respond to customer needs. Once again, the company designers are required to understand the basics of foundation design, as well as material properties and mechanical design concepts. For example, the company has been modifying its product lines and creating new equipment to address the growing number of projects in which increasingly larger bars are being specified.

Although it may seem that I have portrayed the sales side of these equipment companies as lots of flash and no technical substance, typically the sales teams are much more knowledgeable about the mechanical capabilities and development of the equipment they represent than the free drinks and golf umbrellas would suggest. Roy Kern, ADSC Ex-Officio, Chair of the Associates Committee and President of ADSC Associate Member Equipment Cor-

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poration of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was anything but fluffy when he described the evolution of the Klemm HBR 120/HBR 122 casing handling system. He detailed the difficulties, labor, and safety hazards involved with manually moving heavy casing segments. He explained problems experienced by clients with handling casing and described in detail how the casing handler operates, how it was developed, and the difference it makes in production and safety on a jobsite. He also itemized the attributes of the Klemm KR 806-5G, a drill rig developed to deal with mobilization and transport issues. Kern was passionate when he spoke about how certain products meet the needs from the field and are crafted to provide the desired service for a long time period. The conversation skated between drilling goals, engineering design requirements, and material properties, illustrating the wide breadth of knowledge needed to be a good equipment vendor.

Most discussions in the foundation construction industry will continue to be dominated by design methods and construction techniques. Even though mechanical engineers, mechanics, and other innovators of “things that move” are in the minority in our industry, their field is a fascinating combination of mechanics of materials, physics, psychology, geology, and industrial engineering. Their jobs require that they understand the construction process, the construction environment, worker habits and limitations, and production processes. They may be quiet, but their stories are deep.

**5k Fun/Run Walk Winners**

IFCEE attendees dusted off their shoes and joined 116 of their colleagues in an early morning invigorating run/walk. The first IFCEE 5K was a fun event and a raging success! A special thanks to the ADSC Womens Association who were up well before daylight in order to handle the the 5k Fun/Run Walk. We appreciate their helping out. Below is a list of the winners.

**Men’s First Place**  
**Doug Cobos** – Decagon Devices, Pullman, WA

**Men’s Second Place**  
**Shawn Cheney** – Atlas Copco

**Men’s Third Place**  
**Eric Justason**

**Women’s First Place**  
**Nancy Justason**

**Women’s Second Place**  
**Hannah Iezzoni** – GEI Consultants

**Women’s Third Place**  
**Serena Hanke** – Kent, WA



**Attendees Extend Congratulations**

Mike,

*As I reflect on the incredible week of IFCEE 2015, I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who made this gathering of GeoProfessionals such a resounding success. The partnership of ADSC, DFI, Geo-Institute of ASCE, and PDCA achieved a milestone in our profession. After years of effort to build our niche successes, we came together to build success for the industry. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing a true Win-Win event unfold. I trust we will all carry with us the knowledge that together we are each stronger and our industry has a bright future. Keep up the good work.*

Allen W Cadden, PE DGE/ President, ASCE Geo-Institute Schnabel Engineering

Mike,

*This year’s 2015 IFCEE in San Antonio, Texas at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa was a wonderful experience for us. Personally this was my first IFCEE so going in I didn’t really know what to expect of it. In fact for the months of planning prior to this event taking place I was hoping that it would really be big based on the amount of funds we were investing into all the preparations, sponsors, registrations, etc. Once the date arrived I was blown away with how the show went, CZM was a hit and the owners of CZM, Dalvio and Marcos Clo were very pleased with the turn out CZM received. This show was a great experience for us all, unlike other shows the IFCEE show was only open to companies and people in the deep foundation industry which in return cuts out all the gazers that just walk by and look at the machines and look for neat gifts to grab. At IFCEE we had market leaders in the industry spending time with us talking about the machines and what they would like to see in the market. Conversations like that is what develops stronger relationships between vendors and customers and also encourages both to develop new designs, new programs, new ideas that the market needs to not only improve one’s business but most importantly improve the quality of a finished product.*

*In my opinion IFCEE was truly a success for all that attended and displayed products, I cannot wait for the next IFCEE show so that I can see how much we as a company can change from this past experience.*

Barrett C. Rahn  
 CZM Foundation Equipment - U.S. Sales Manager

Hi from Seattle:

*Just wanted to express my thanks to you folks for all your hard work at IFCEE. It obviously was a huge success. Barbara and I had a wonderful time.*

*As you know I am most honored to have been selected as the First Michael W. O’Neill award winner and lecturer. Hope to see you all soon.*

Regards,  
 Jerry A. DiMaggio, P.E. D.GE, Principal Engineer, Applied Research Associates

Jerry,

*Great seeing you as well. You were clearly an excellent choice for the first O’Neill recipient and we hope this will go on for years to come. I’m sure I will be seeing you soon.*

*Thanks for the kind words about the Expo. IFCEE was truly a huge success and the staff did a tremendous job.*

Al Rasband, Exec. V.P./ NW District Manager

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Mike,

I hope you've been able to get some rest this week! Again great job on the conference it was IMPRESSIVE!

Best regards,

Theresa Engler, Executive Director, Deep Foundations Institute

Hi Mike,

As always, I thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest issue of the ADSC's *Foundation Drilling* magazine. Your *From the Desk of the CEO* piece is an excellent and inspirational summary of the IFCEE 2015 mega-event, and a spirited and motivational call for more collaboration between the various associations for the overall betterment of the industry as a whole.

You graciously mentioned those who played a role in the planning, preparation, management, and success of the extraordinary event; but the biggest name is really Michael D. Moore who made it all possible (like you said, "IFCEE can best be described as a large construction project," you then can best be described as it's Chief Engineer/Construction Manager)! THANK YOU for your exemplary leadership and for all you do for the ADSC and the foundations industry at large. With visionaries like you at the helm, the future is bright and better than it used to be my friend.

Let me know how I can help with the 2018 congress, I am ready to do whatever is needed/required to assist.

Regards and best wishes for continued success and industry advancements,  
Mohamad Hussein, GRL Engineers

Mike

Hey, was good to see you in San Antonio albeit briefly. We were in deep investigation of an AV situation which prevented me from relaying my proper how-you-do's. Had hoped to cross paths again, but did not.

Congratulations on a great event. I'm sure you're glad it's in the rear view mirror, at least for the time being. Lot of work and midnight oil to pull off an event like that.

Regards,

Geordie Compton, Construct Marketing

ADSC,

Thanks to all the ADSC staff for a very smooth show from our standpoint. ALSO a big thanks to Buddy and Brad for the great job of handling two hundred plus trucks in and out in record time. It was appreciated.

Bo Steding, VP-GM, DRILLTOOLS

Mike, Emily and Jan

Thank you for the wonderful card and prize! I'll likely share (a mere, mere portion) with the DFI staff.

It was a sheer pleasure serving our memberships with each of you. Do share this sentiment with BD (can you clone him and send him to Jersey?), Katie and anyone else I may have missed.

I look forward to the next time we meet!

All the Best!

Lauren Nance, Events Manager DFI

Jan,

Thank you for delivering another spectacular conference. I would very much appreciate it if you would send the final list of attendees to me thanks.

Rick Kalson

ADSC,

Thank you once again for an excellent show!

Congrats on a great show in San Antonio. From our perspective, the show was wonderful! We really appreciate the efforts of ADSC and everyone involved.

Bob Laurence, Hammer & Steel, Inc.

Hi Jan,

GREAT job on another awesome show!! You did an amazing job, as always, and we are all thankful for it! Many, many attendees were telling me how much the show exceeded their expectations!

Best Regards,

Antonio Marinucci, Ph.D. MBA P.E.

Director of Sales and Research

American Equipment & Fabricating North America

Jan,

You did an amazing job! The show was fantastic! Thank you for all you do!

Pollyanna Cunningham, MA, MBA

Director Marketing & IT Comm

ICE - International Construction Equipment, Inc

Dear Partners,

IFCEE 2015 was a fantastic event! I heard tons of very positive feedback, even on my trip home Sunday (some very pleased equipment exhibitors were on my flight). It was great for our industry to have everybody together and for the associations to be so cooperative. Thank you all for making it such a success.

Sincerely,

William M. Camp, III, PE, D.GE

Technical Principal/Vice President, S&ME

Mike,

I wanted to say thank you for assisting FHWA with delivery of the 2015 Virtual IFCEE Conference for our State Departments of Transportation. Despite a couple of minor technical glitches, the early response from the participants has been extremely positive. As you could see, we expect the virtual campus to give FHWA and the National Highway Institute a very different, yet effective platform for making external subject matter expertise available to state DOTs. The ability to network with an avatar or physical presence also gives users a sense of participation within much larger peer groups than we have ever been able to provide through traditional learning environments. The effort last week reached more than 120 people in 30 states!

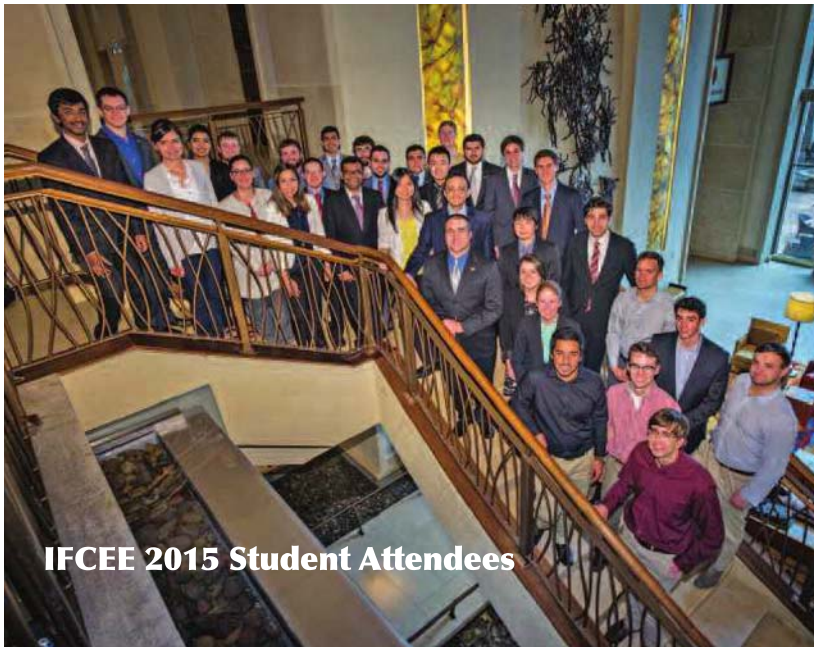
Your participation initiates what we hope will be broad use for this type of educational tool within FHWA. We greatly appreciate your time and we hope that you also enjoyed the experience.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Silas C. Nichols, P.E.

Principal Bridge Engineer Geotechnical Federal Highway Administration

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**IFCEE 2015 Student Attendees**

ADSC,

As a recipient of the ADSC Industry Advancement Fund Scholarship, I was recently afforded the opportunity to join ADSC as they hosted the IFCEE 2015 conference in San Antonio, Texas. My experience at the conference far exceeded any of my expectations and I would highly recommend attendance for anyone interested in geotechnical construction, especially young engineers.

For me, there were two key highlights to being at the conference. The first was exposure to the sheer quantity of geotechnical equipment. It is quite a unique experience to have the opportunity to inspect such specialty and/or newly developed equipment and to discuss its capabilities with knowledgeable contractors/manufacturers in a safe environment.

The second highlight was the opportunity to engage industry experts in conversation. The conference provided an atmosphere for exchanging ideas, experiences, and even funny stories. For me, it was not only an opportunity to receive feedback on current research ideas, but also a means to make meaningful professional connections for the rest of my career.

John Barrett, University College Dublin

# IFCEE 2015



*ADSC Womens Association Tour*



*AGP 2015 Inductees*



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# IFCEE Contd.



A special thanks to Brad Allen, Texas Shafts and Buddy Bell for their handling of the many trucks and equipment in and out in the process of setting up the IFCEE equipment show.



ADSC