

Structural Engineering Institute Graduate Student Chapter West Virginia University



STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE

Graduate Student Chapter
West Virginia University

2016 SEI Graduate Student Chapter of the Year

SEIGSC-WVU takes part in EngineerFEST Fall 2022

Morgantown, West Virginia

On September 7, 2022, the Structural Engineering Institute Graduate Student Chapter at West Virginia University actively participated in EngineerFEST, an in-house event organized by the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources. The event was primarily geared towards engineering freshmen to acquaint them with different student organizations and chapters active in the college. In the event, SEIGSC-WVU set up a table displaying variety of composite specimens such as Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composite pultruded bridge decks, FRP tube sections, miniature structural engineering models, and nondestructive testing equipment. SEIGSC-WVU Chapter officers shared their academic and research experiences with prospective freshmen students. Through the interaction with freshmen engineering students, the chapter encouraged many students to consider the civil/structural engineering profession. Around 700 freshmen students participated in the event.



SEPTEMBER UPDATE

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SEIGSC-WVU's New Executive Committee

Morgantown, West Virginia

Beginning Fall 2022, SEIGSC-WVU has formed a new executive committee. We would like to congratulate our outgoing Chapter Secretary, **Vladyslav Machul's'ky**, who graduated with an MSCE degree in August 2022.

The names of the current SEIGSC-WVU Chapter Officers and their brief biographies are given below.

Prabal Shrestha, Chapter Chair/President

Prabal Shrestha is pursuing his MSCE degree in Structural Engineering with an emphasis on Nondestructive Testing and Evaluation at West Virginia University. Prabal started out as the Chapter Vice-President of SEIGSC-WVU beginning in the Fall of 2021 with a goal to advancing the structural engineering chapter. Prabal is looking forward to connecting the different levels of undergraduate as well as graduate programs and studies through various networking and leadership activities. Prabal firmly believes that opportunities offered by SEIGSC for all the students will improve their leadership and management skills while enhancing professional networking. As Chapter Chair, he aims to grow as leader, manager, and a team member along with gaining professional development to serve in the Civil Engineering community.



Lekhnath Bhandari, Vice-President

Lekhnath Bhandari is an MSCE degree student in Structural Engineering at WVU. He joined SEIGSC-WVU in Fall 2021 as the Chapter Secretary. He aims to get exposure to the structural engineering community by connecting to the professionals and by sharing ideas with promising structural engineers from different areas through the Chapter. Besides, Lekhnath wants to transfer the knowledge, idea, and information in the structural engineering field to motivate the students of the upcoming generation to pursue higher education in the field of Structural Engineering. Lekhnath is working in the areas of Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composite materials as a graduate student in WVU-CEE.



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Md Ala Uddin, Secretary

Md Ala Uddin is pursuing his Ph.D. degree in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at WVU, focusing on Construction Management and Structural Health Monitoring. He completed his MSCE degree in Structural Engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). Mr. Uddin has 3 years professional experience in design and retrofitting of building structures, cost estimation and construction management. Currently, he is working on Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) of Bridge Structures, and Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) of DOT-Rail Tank Cars. Mr. Uddin joined as Secretary of SEIGSC-WVU in the beginning of Fall 2022 with a view to connecting with professionals of design and construction of structures, and sharing his knowledge, idea, and experience to motivate students to pursue higher education in Civil Engineering.



Joseph Ryan (J.R.) Virga, Treasurer

Joseph Ryan (J.R.) Virga is a 2nd year MSCE degree student at WVU-CEE, with emphasis in Structural Engineering. Born and raised in New York, JR attended West Virginia University for both his undergraduate and graduate studies. For his graduate research, JR is currently working in the area of Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) composite pedestrian bridges. JR is an advocate of consistent questioning to kickstart new and innovative engineering ideas. As a continual learner and a passionate hard worker, JR plans on impacting the Civil Engineering world with his main priorities being the health and welfare of the general public.



Udaya B. Halabe, Faculty Advisor

Dr. Udaya B. Halabe, F.ASCE, F.SEI, F.ASNT is a Professor of Civil/Structural Engineering and serves as the Faculty Advisor for the Chapter.



We thank you for your support and time!

Please visit us on our Website: <https://sei.orgs.wvu.edu/>

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