

In 2019, it was my first year as a practicing engineer when one of the Principals at work introduced me to SEAO and its subgroup for young members. I learned that the YMG was looking for volunteers to help with its activities, and that's how I got involved with my YMG. At the time, there was only a single person who was organizing the YMG events, and she was looking for volunteers who would take up an active role in the group's efforts. In September 2019, I began serving as a co-chair for SEAO YMG and the past chair took to a more advisory role. In the coming months, during the YMG monthly happy hours, we were able to get more volunteers and our team grew to 5 people. For the past two years, our group has organized a variety of events where we had the opportunity to welcome the students and recent graduates to SEAO and YMG.

Reaching out to High School Students: Every year during the engineer's week celebration for the Portland area high schools, SEAO hosts a booth at the event introducing the students to the idea of structural engineering. During this event, I had an opportunity to speak to a lot of students and give them an overview about structural engineering and a glimpse into what we do. I think such events are a great opportunity to present our wonderful profession to young minds. Also, having volunteered in the ACE mentorship program, and knowing the reach and involvement that ACE has with the school students, I think SEAs and YMGs should have their volunteers participate in such programs and further increase their outreach. This will also help the volunteers to hone their leadership skills and give them an opportunity to network with other stakeholders of our field.

Reaching out to University Students: Our YMG group has reached out to SEI and ASCE student chapters at various Universities in the state and during our happy hours invite their chairs and learn about their activities and offer them any support needed. Additionally, we have the support of the professors at these institutions, championing the events that YMG organizes which can benefit the students and increase their engagement. Last year, in the month of August, we organized a virtual Q&A session for the University juniors and seniors so that they can receive some guidance on how to navigate or enter the workforce during such unprecedented times. A lot of students participated in the event and our panel, which was composed of SEAO members with varied experience levels, helped them with tips for resume building, how to approach interviews, how to search for jobs, how to approach work in the early days of the career etc. Moreover, in my opinion, during many board events like the structural engineering awards dinner we should have University seniors joining in. This allows them the opportunity to see the wonderful work the engineers are doing and inspire them to produce good work too. While ACE is a mentorship program for school students, I think having a mentorship program for University students is something that SEAs and YMGs should consider implementing. This is also a great opportunity to reach out to the students who would soon join the workforce and increase their involvement with SEA from early on in their careers.

Reaching out to recent Graduates: To have more engagement amongst the current members and to encourage more young members to join and participate in YMG and in turn with SEA, in April of this year we organized Engineering trivia night, which was also a fundraiser for the SEAO scholarship fund. Our regular happy hours are always a great platform for recent graduates to have a chance to network with and learn from more experienced peers as well as to build ties with other fresh graduates starting in their career. I also try to encourage my co-workers at work to join and participate in such activities and we ask our members to bring their

colleagues whenever they can to any of our events or to our happy hours. Furthermore, I would like to create more engagement by organizing events like site-visits, social luncheons, group outings like hikes etc.

Over and above these, I think social media plays a large role in active engagement of the community these days. I would like to actively maintain the SEA website and create social media pages on platforms like LinkedIn and/or Facebook for YMG where regular updates on group activities are posted and which can easily be accessed by anyone.

I have learned so much from all my interactions at SEA and within YMG and it has been an absolute pleasure in being involved with YMG. While we had the opportunity to organize various events, we were not able to implement all our ideas. I feel there is much room for improvement, and with my term coming to an end, I want to steer the incoming YMG team in the direction of many possibilities that we have. I firmly believe that NCSEA, SEAs and YMGs play a very significant role in building our structural community and creating a new generation of more engaged and empowered structural engineers.