



## THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

El Paso Chapter

[www.eesof.org](http://www.eesof.org)

President  
President Elect  
Past President

Ismael Legarreta, P.E.  
Armando Garcia, D.E.  
Said Larbi-Cherif, D.E.

Secretary  
Treasurer  
State  
State

Jaime Rojas, D.E.  
Mark J. Bretznauer, D.E.  
Ruben Ponce, D.E.  
Pat Conover, D.E.

---

---

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

---

---

### UPCOMING TECHNICAL SESSIONS

---

#### Technical Session #1

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 7, 2009 Saturday	8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Try to arrive early	University of Texas at El Paso Classroom Building C205 500 W. University Ave. El Paso, TX 79968

El Paso SEAoT and AGC have come together in a joint venture to promote a Crane Safety Session, presented by Marvin Oey, PhD, PE. Marvin is currently the director for the Construction Institute for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). To see more about Marvin Oey, please see our attachment. The agenda for this session is also attached for you to view.

---

#### Technical Session #2

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 17, 2009 Thursday	6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Try to arrive early	El Paso Machine & Steel Inc. 1600 E. 4th Ave. El Paso, TX 79901

Lindapter North America representative Edward G. Stollenwerck will demonstrate new equipment and new technologies available to structural engineers. Lindapter specializes in structural steel connections for both permanent and temporary connection without weakening existing structures. For more information on Lindapter, please visit their website at [www.lindapterna.com](http://www.lindapterna.com).

RSVP to Ismael Legarreta at [ilegarreta@elpasosteel.com](mailto:ilegarreta@elpasosteel.com)

---

### PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

---

As you can see, we have 2 local technical sessions coming up as well as the State SEAoT conference.

SEAoT would also like to thank Karen Edmonston and Area Iron for their enthusiastic support of "Steel Day." Ms. Edmonston is hosting an all day event at her steel fabrication shop on September 18.

This month, we are highlighting founding member, Ruben Ponce. Ruben, thank you for all your support for El Paso SEAoT.

Please see our attachment for some of Ruben's career highlights. Way to go, Ruben!

---

**UPCOMING OUT OF TOWN CONFERENCES**

---

Below are several news items pertinent to Structural Engineers and related professions:

**NCSEA - Email Newsletter and Conference**

To read the latest NCSEA Newsletter go to:

[http://www.seaot.org/pdf\\_files/NCSEA%20e-letter%20August%202009.pdf](http://www.seaot.org/pdf_files/NCSEA%20e-letter%20August%202009.pdf)

The newsletter includes information about the upcoming NCSEA Annual Conference, October 15-17, 2009 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**Steel Day**

Steel Day will be on September 18 at Area Iron & Steel.

**SEAOt State Conference - October 29-31 - Austin**

Exhibit space, sponsorship opportunities and early registration are can all be booked through the SEAOt website at [http://www.seaot.org/state\\_conference.cfm](http://www.seaot.org/state_conference.cfm)

# OSHA-Sponsored Crane Safety Training for Engineers and Supervisors

## TRAINING AGENDA

- I. Crane hazards/accident statistics
- II. Roles and Responsibilities for crane safety on the construction site – owner to subcontractor
- III. Safety Programs and Safety Plans – the difference
- IV. Site Specific Safety Plans
  - A. Process
  - B. Content
  - C. Source Documents
- V. Crane Safety and Lift Plans
- VI. Mobile Cranes used in construction
- VII. Working with subcontractors
- VIII. Crane set up –
  - A. Boom layout
  - B. Outrigger placemen
  - C. Special mounts
  - D. Confined spaces
  - E. Tail swing, leveling
- IX. Site Conditions – ground bearing
- X. Load charts – high level overview
- XI. Assembly/Disassembly safety issues
- XII. Operational planning issues
  - A. Walking with the load
  - B. Night operations
  - C. Wind and weather considerations
  - D. Mobile cranes on barges

**Marvin S. Oey, PhD, PE**  
**Director, Construction Institute**  
**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Reston, Virginia**

**Director, Construction Institute (CI)**

**July 2005 to Present**

Direct day-to-day operations of CI and to serve as staff liaison to the CI Board of Directors. Direct and supervise the work of staff in the planning and execution of conferences, workshops, development of membership/marketing plans, brochures, applications, and other items. Act as Editor for the CI newsletter. Works with the CI Directorate Executive Committees (Construction, Engineering, Equipment, Materials, Owners, Services, and Education and Research) to identify current industry issues. Facilitates over 30 technical committees to develop publications, position papers, policy statements, and conferences. Approves the expenditure of CI funds and the commitment of CI resources for the conduct of benchmarking studies. Prepares and presents CI technical committee information at academic and industry forums. Oversee four ASCE Journals (Journal of Construction Engineering and Project Management, Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering, Journal of Composites in Construction, Practice Periodical on Structural Engineering and Construction)

**Civil Engineering Research Foundation, Reston, Virginia**

**Research Engineer/Project Manager**

**June 2004 to July 2005**

Manage multiple projects ranging from environmental protection efforts in the People's Republic of China to project management improvement in the US Department of Energy. Project management responsibilities include preparing quarterly reports, monitoring expenditures, and coordinating project related activities. Develop proposals that include detailed work plans, schedules, and budgets. Provide input on the new business development model for CERF re-engineering. Coordinate conference related activities for the 2004 Fall CAB Executive Series held in conjunction with the ASCE Annual Conference in Baltimore as well as the upcoming 2005 CAB Executive Program Conference. Participate in an ASCE delegation to the People's Republic of China with the ASCE President Bill Henry. Presented a paper on CERF international efforts with the US EPA as well as chaired a technical session at the 4th International Conference on Watershed Management and Urban Water Supply in Shenzhen, China.

**Urban Engineering & Associates, Chantilly, Virginia**

**Civil Engineer**

**July 2003 to June 2004**

Design storm water management systems for residential and commercial projects, roadways, water distribution lines, and sanitary sewer systems. Developed grading plans for roadways, residential, and commercial projects. Put together bond estimates and

prepared earthwork quantity take-offs. Developed erosion and sediment control plans based on Virginia standards.

**Independent Project Analysis, Inc., Ashburn, Virginia**

**Project Analyst**

**June 2001 to Present**

Work closely with construction project teams to evaluate the quality of project control plans. Review the completeness of project schedules to ensure proper integration of activities including engineering, construction, and commissioning. Review conceptual design layouts and issue-for-construction drawings. Generate detailed reports to provide clients with recommendations for improving the project execution and controls plan. Assist project teams in the development of work breakdown structures for scope definition, scheduling, and estimating. Gave presentations to project teams and upper management on the performance of their capital project systems.

**Construction Industry Institute (CII), Austin, Texas**

**Graduate Research Assistant**

**August 1997 to May 2001**

Conducted research in the area of construction engineering and project management. Led a team of three doctoral students. Participated in the development of the CII Benchmarking and Metrics Program. This involved the preparation of reports and presentations to funding sponsors on the progress of research at an annual conference. Prepared training materials and manuals for professional project managers on the subject of project benchmarking. Conducted workshops and seminars several times a year nationwide on construction engineering management principles. Attended advanced courses in the use of MS Project and Primavera Project Planner for construction project management. Attended advanced courses in project cost and time management.

**Accugraph Corporation, El Paso, Texas**

**Software Testing Engineer**

**September 1996 to June 1997**

Developed software applications for the telecommunications industry that integrated database functions with proprietary CAD software. Developed test protocols for a test bed environment. Provided customer support for software application products. Wrote code in Visual C++ to automate testing procedures.

**Banes General Contractors, Inc., El Paso, Texas**

**Assistant Civil Engineer**

**August 1994 to August 1996**

Assisted in the design of steel framed multi-story office buildings. Performed preliminary sizing of structural members. Calculated moments, shears, and axial forces for several structural options as defined by clients. Performed full structural analysis using commercial software (STAAD). Developed preliminary detailed drawings in AutoCAD based on final calculations and designs. Provided consulting services for the Request for Qualification bids by preparing the written statement of qualifications focusing on the Construction Manager at Risk project delivery method and the underlying philosophy.

Aided in the analysis of preliminary schedules to assess risks and develop contingency and risk mitigation plans.

**The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas**

**Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellow**

**August 1994 to December 1996**

Developed traffic flow simulation modeling software using Visual Basic. Researched the use of finite difference methods in simplified airport runway pavement design. Developed a graphical template for simplified stress analysis in concrete pavements for airport runways. Conducted traffic counts of exit intersections at peak hours for Interstate-10 in El Paso, Texas. Analyzed intersection traffic flow for Interstate-10 to determine optimum traffic light timing and propose alternate lane assignments.

## **EDUCATION/ACTIVITIES**

Ph.D. Civil Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, May 2001

M.S. Civil Engineering, The University of Texas at El Paso, December 1996

B.S. Civil Engineering, The University of Texas at El Paso, December 1994

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING/LICENSURE**

**Professional Engineer, Virginia June 2003**

**ESI International, Arlington, Virginia**

**Managing Information Technology Projects**

**July 2002**

Received 2.4 continuing education credits. Topics included risk management, scheduling, work breakdown structure development, scope development, project execution planning.

**The Center for Professional Advancement, Reston, Virginia**

**Introduction to Petroleum Refinery Processing**

**July 2001**

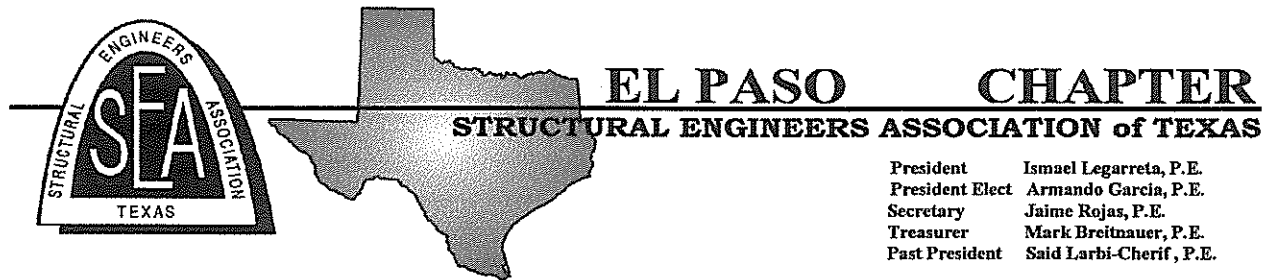
Topics included refinery flowsheet and process summaries, worldwide refining report, hydrocarbon chemistry, crude oil, product slates, processes for gasoline yield, heavy oil conversion processes, and lube oil processing.

**ChevronTexaco, Houston, Texas**

**Project Management Principles and Basic Tools**

**November 2001**

A 3-day application oriented training workshop providing basic understanding of Chevron Project Development and Execution Process (CPDEP), Best Practices, and Value Improving Practices that help optimize cost, schedule, operating performance, and safety aspects of any project. The course also addressed economic analysis, estimating, funding and cost control, planning and scheduling, contracting and performance measurement and progress reporting.



## El Paso Chapter-SEAoT Charter Member

Ruben Ponce, Jr., P.E., SECB is the president of Ponce Engineering, Inc., a consulting structural engineering company. The consulting structural engineering company, Gerdin Engineering, was started in 1973 by his former partner and his involvement in the Company began in November 1978 and in October 1980, he became a partner in the firm. However, his partner did retired in January 1990 and leaving him as the sole proprietor of the firm. In 1986 it was decided that the quantity of work in New Mexico justified establishing a branch office in Las Cruces. In July 1993, the name of the company was changed to **PONCE ENGINEERING, INC.**

Ruben Ponce, Jr. received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (Structural Option) from the University of Texas at El Paso, Dec. 1979 and is licensed in Texas and New Mexico in the structural category.

Ruben is a member of ASCE, ACI, AISC and SEAoT, plus was a member of the Lions Club and has been involved in City community committees since 1993 with the most recent involvement in the City Plan Commission. During his career, he has being awarded the Engineer of the Year by TSPE-El Paso Chapter in 1995 and the Service to People Award-Texas Section by ASCE in 1995. Plus, he was one of the nominees for the Partnership Volunteer of the Year-Socorro ISD for the school year 1993-1994.