

STUDENT SUMMER EVENT

By: Grant Easterling, FCSI, CCS, CCCA
Academic Affairs Liaison

Wichita Falls Chapter CSI was the perfect host for the Student Event this past summer. They were able to provide an excellent interaction with the conference attendees and yet still provide an exceptional technical learning opportunity. This year the technical topic was concrete testing and placement techniques---a get-down-'n-dirty opportunity.

Last year's technical medium was ceramic tile that the students placed into distinctively designed murals in San Antonio on raised interstate highway columns. This year, the students tested and placed concrete in the median of a campus street at Midwestern State University. Then they stamped a slate-stone pattern in the finished work. Obviously, the students were **GREATLY** assisted and mentored by a crew of professionals. But, this was a fantastic opportunity for the students to get a truly "hands-on" experience with this common and useful building material. Even the weather was cooperative with extremely mild temperatures!

On Friday, the night before, Wichita Falls Chapter provided a training seminar/skull session to briefly explain concrete materials, batching, installation, and testing procedures. This was followed by a visit to a local testing laboratory where the students were treated to load testing several concrete cylinders and beams, plus observing and discussing other procedures and equipment, like testing for Standard Proctor. Except for fighting off Texas sized mosquitoes, the evening's educational program was exceptional...not to mention the scrumpdelyicious pizza and cookies. Getting exposed to ACI and ASTM standards in such an up close and personal fashion is a venue that few students (or Architect/Engineer interns) ever get a chance to experience.

Then the fun began? The student contest this year was a water carnival event, or perhaps a water circus. At the close of the conference seminars on Saturday, the students and a couple of crazies from the region's leadership corps, raced (that may not be the correct word?) homemade water-craft in a relay at the local campus pond...ducks, swans, fish, and turtles notwithstanding. Oh my, if you weren't there, words cannot quite describe this accurately...but **spectacle** is a word that may begin to fit. Let's just say the region's leadership corps can surely look forward to NEXT YEAR. It is always great to see the creative solutions that students come up with in their applied designs each summer for their various types of competitions. They didn't disappoint us again this year; unique to say the least. [Click here to see Rules.](#)

Scholarship monies were presented to students attending OSU Okmulgee and also OSU Stillwater to the tune of \$1,000 per team. Sponsors from Wichita Falls generously contributed half of the funds along with the South Central Region.

Following the picnic we held a volleyball extravaganza. Again, words just cannot quite capture this event. Needless to say, some of us ate lots of sand for dessert...and walked away with some rather sore muscles. But, hey, it was a perfect ending of fellowship for a super 24-hour plus Student Event.

Special thanks to Wichita Falls folks who did so much to make this a Student Event to remember: **Tommy Duke, Don Johnston, Troy Secord, and Glenda Ramsey.** You all get a gold star for hospitality---hands down!



[Click here to see other photos!](#)