

Page: Annual WEF Student Chapter Report
This is the annual student chapter report for all WEF Student Chapters. Please complete all four sections (General Information; Chapter to MA; Chapter to WEF; Chapter to Community). This form is also, if you so indicate, your self-nomination form to be considered for the WEF Student Chapter of the Year Award. The winning student chapter will receive a travel stipend for TWO chapter representatives to attend WEFTEC 2023, in Chicago, to accept the award on behalf of the chapter. The Student Activities Subcommittee (SAC) will also work with you to present on your chapter's activities at the WEFTEC Student Chapter meeting. The winning chapter will be announced summer of 2023. Please expect 15-22 minutes to complete this form.
Student Chapter Name Alabama Water Environment Association: Azalea Chapter
College/University University of South Alabama
Chapter Street Address (this could be faculty advisor campus address, or otherwise convenient) 150 Student Services Drive Shelby Hall 3142 Mobile Alabama 36688 US
Chapter Email Address awea.wef@southalabama.edu
Is your chapter a joint student chapter with another organization? No
What WEF Member Association (MA) is your chapter a part of? (ex: Indiana Water Environment Association): Alabama's Water Environment Association
Who is your primary Member Association contact? Tina Sheikhzeinoddin, TSheikhzeinoddin@hazenandsawyer.com
Who is your campus faculty advisor? Kaushik Venkiteshwaran, kvenkiteshwaran@southalabama.edu
Please list name, position, and email of any current chapter officers: Giacomo Deluca, President, gd2221@jagmail.southalabama.edu Emily Pierce, Outreach Coordinator, ep2022@jagmail.southalabama.edu Vincent Parker, Secretary, vdp2021@jagmail.southalabama.edu Natalia Marquez, Treasurer, nmd2121@jagmail.southalabama.edu
8. Please provide a name and email address for next year's chapter point of contact: Kaushik Venkiteshwaran, kvenkiteshwaran@southalabama.edu
of Current Chapter Members 17
of Students who are WEF members (must have at least 5 WEF members to be in good standing) 9
of Chapter Meetings held this school year: 3
Average # Student Attendance at Meetings: 15
Does your chapter charge dues? (dues aside from those required to join WEF and the MA): Yes

If Yes, please list your annual dues amount in USD:

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What is your student chapter's biggest challenge?

This student chapter was resurrected in 2022 post COVID. Before this time, we struggled with a non-engaged faculty advisor and low student participation due to COVID at the University of South Alabama. As we overcome those trying times, we face new challenges. With the changing of advisors, we have blossomed into a small but active organization. However, we set high expectations for our chapter and struggle to fulfill them. We ultimately struggle with lower student participation, but have great demand to participate and host outreach to not only our fellow students but to our community. We are working hard to find solutions to increase student participation and engagement. We have created initiatives such as sponsoring conference attendance, offering incentives, and creating networking opportunities for students to get involved. We remain hopeful that our efforts will pay off.

Please give us a sense of financial support you've received this year (from your Member Association, school, etc):

We are very fortunate to have received a few funding sources and have successful fundraisers throughout this past year. Our cost break down is as follows:

MA support - \$2,300

School support - \$2,850

Which breaks down in some of the following activities:

Travel and lodging for 10 students to attend WEFTEC in New Orleans: \$4,150

Meetings/Education Series: \$800

Outreach: \$200

Additional support given but not included in the previous values are the following:

1. Our MA provided swag such as Nalgene bottles, t-shirts, bags, etc. to help with promotion and to encourage participation in chapter activities.
2. Additional supplies were ordered for our outreach activities by the University of South Alabama's Civil Engineering Department, University of South Alabama's College of Engineering and First Year Experience programs, when we hosted labs and taught about water and environmental engineering

First Name

Rachel

Last Name

Chai

E-Mail

rsc1421@jagmail.southalabama.edu

Current Position in Chapter

Past Student Chapter President

Did any student members attend your member association annual conference?

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Student Presentation at MA Conference? If so, describe:

At the MA conference, our students had the following full 30 min oral presentations:

1. Phosphate Removal and Recovery Using Iron Augmented Geotextiles by Natalia Marquez
2. Hybrid Sand Filter Treatment by Harry McCaskill
3. The Life Cycle Analysis of Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Used in The Alabama Black Belt by Rachel Chai

Additionally, Rachel Chai participated in the conference poster competition, presenting on the same topic as above. She placed 2nd in the poster competition.

Technical Presentations/plant tours/field trips? If so, please describe:

In this past year, we had a field trip to the C.C. Williams Wastewater Treatment Plant, bringing over 41 students to a 2 hour tour of the plant. Other field trips include participation the 17th Annual Coastal Clean-Up (beach clean ups) and Bacteria Blitz (Bacteria Sampling) hosted by the Mobile Baykeeper. We have also had student members participate in additional conferences such as Alabama Water Resources Conferences, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Mega Conference, ALMS Water Conference, and WEFTEC.

Organization/Support and/or Participation in an MA Student Design Competition? If so, please describe.

We are currently talking to our local MAs and talking with the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of South Alabama to facilitate participation. We are actively in the planning phase.

Participation in MA-hosted social events/professional development? If so, describe:

Our student chapter has attended regularly in many of the MA events including Women in Water and other small group meetings. We regularly attended Trivia Night and brought as many as 6 members. Our members have also virtually participated in the YP Lunch n Learns hosted in Birmingham, AL.

Did any student members attend WEFTEC?

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Student Presentation/Attendance at WEFTEC/ WEF Specialty Conference? If so, describe:

We fully supported 10 students to attend WEFTEC. During attendance, students attended technical sessions, WEFTEC Student Design Competition, participated in the service event, and gathered industry knowledge from vendors in the exhibit hall within the 4 days.

Participation in WEFTEC Student Design Competition? If so, describe:

We attended the WEFTEC Student Design Competition for the first time in 2022 to gauge student interest. We are in the planning phase with the University of South Alabama and the Alabama MA to facilitate the participation the near future.

Student chapter participation in WEFTEC InFLOW program? If so, describe:

Our chapter participated in the WEFTEC InFLOW program for the first time in 2022, where 2 students participated. We were awarded participation in the program this year as well, where we plan to send students to Chicago.

Invited Speaker Event/s on Campus? If so, describe:

We invited Spencer Tuell from Gulf Coast Underground to speak at our first meeting to talk about the importance of our local MA chapter and WEF. In our second meeting we invited Dr. Kevin White, a retired professor from the University of South Alabama, to talk about the prevalent issues of the wastewater infrastructure in Alabama (our state). We opened this talk to the public, where our students and 5 employees from Gulf Coast Underground attended. In our third meeting, followed up our 2nd talk with a talk of wastewater cluster infrastructure implemented within Newbern, a county in the Alabama Black Belt. This 3rd talk was done by Lacey Christian, a project manager working for the University of South Alabama.

Chapter Social Function/s? If so, describe:

We mainly treat our YP Trivia Nights as our social functions. However, we participated in the College of Engineering's 2nd annual Chili Cook-off and showcased a vegan chili prepared by the Mobile SYP chair.

Public Education Event/s? If so, describe:

We participate in at least 6 different public education events to varying audiences for as many as 30 to 200+ students. Our experiences vary from presenting to freshman classes to hosting middle school outreach events and lab activities/contests.

Creation & Execution of a local High Water Line Project? If so, describe:

Our chapter is currently in discussion of creating a High Water Line Project. We reached out to garner information about the High Water Line Project and are talking amongst ourselves on how to implement the project with potential milestones.

Collaboration with other student groups? If so, describe:

We worked with the other students groups to host events like the Chili Cook-Off, Tailgates, Welcome to the Jungle, and USA Day. We collaborated with the 3D printing club to create custom trophies for our outreach lab activity/competition.

Please share any photo, video, or other media! WEF will promote your chapter successes.

Download File (<https://wef.secure-platform.com/file/10936/eyJ0eXAiOiJKV1QiLCJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJtZWRRpYUlkiJoxMDkzNiwiYXsb3dOb3RtaWduZWRVcmwiOiJGYWxzZSIsImInbm9yPhotos.docx>)

Future Plans

Our plans for next year are to work with the MA and WEF and start up and facilitate the Student Design Competition and the High Water Line Project in Alabama and to continue to maintain and grow the membership of our chapter within the University of South South Alabama.

WEF Student Chapter of the Year Award, Consideration

Yes, please consider our chapter for the WEF Student Chapter of the Year Award!