

EGCA honors some exceptional people

Fifth annual scholarship presentation

Once again a gracious host, Trench Shoring Company, interrupted its busy schedule last month to host EGCA. This time, it was even more special because the event included EGCA's fifth annual Scholarship Awards Program. Among the evening's features were awards to the worthy recipients, recognition of the meeting sponsor, introduction of the EGCA Education/Scholarship Committee, a brief history of the program, including the Founders Program, and recognition of the Scholarship Diamond Founder companies.

Adding another historic element to the program's scholarship portion was a brief presentation by Leslie Sjobom, EGCA's first \$10,000 scholarship recipient (see page 11), given with her characteristic poise.

A separate and equally important feature of the evening was the presentation of the 2008 Honoree Award to Bill Young, in honor of Bill as well as his late dad, Esby, and the Young family, now a four-generation family of general engineering contractors (See adjacent article).

The Scholars: Class of 2008

Mark Sjobom, of Traffic Control Service, Inc. and Allied Trench Shoring Service, explained to the audience of scholarship award winners, their families, and friends—including the family of EGCA—the various scholarship categories:

- \$3,000 scholarship, for a student enrolled in the Palomar College Diesel Technology Program.
- \$4,000 Scholarship for



EGCA President Gene Brokaw, right, presents a plaque to Kevin Malloy, of Trench Shoring Company, which hosted the scholarship program.

an EGCA company employee or the employee's immediate family member—for the purpose of continuing education

- \$5,000 Scholarship to be awarded to a student at San Diego State University enrolled in its Construction Engineering and Management Program, with two years remaining to graduation.

- \$10,000 Scholarship to be awarded to either an incoming freshman or sophomore at San Diego State enrolled in the Construction Engineering and Management Program. This award is distributed in four denominations of \$2,500 for each of the program's four years.

And The Winners Are...

The recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship is Alex Uribe, who was called to the podium by Education/Scholarship Committee member Rocky Qualin, of KPS Insurance Services. Alex's wife, Myra; his mother, Alexandra;

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Bill Young (far right) and his family, from left: Linda Young Brown, Randy Young and Bill's wife, Judy.

2008 Honoree Award goes to Bill Young and family

The award text says it all: "Presented with Thanks and Gratitude in memory of Esby Young and to William Young and the Young Family for Their Dedication To and Service On Behalf of the Construction Industry Over the Past 65 Years."

Doing the honors of presenting EGCA's Honoree Award was John Nelson of EGCA contractor member FCI Constructors, Inc. "This honor is certainly deserved because of what the Young family has done for the community and the construction industry

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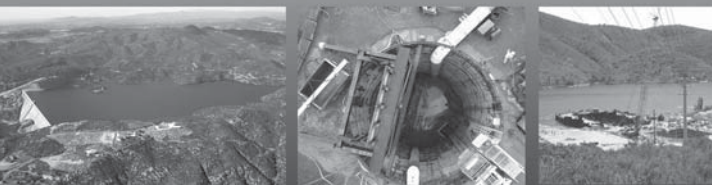


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SCHOLARS

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and brother, Jose, were also acknowledged as they joined in the applause for Alex.

Uribe joined the US Marines after graduating from San Marcos High School in 1999. During his USMC years, he had the opportunity to operate heavy equipment, and after his honorable discharge, he enrolled at Palomar College, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and uncles who had also been in the construction industry. Uribe is a fulltime student at Palomar College and also a fulltime employee.

As Rocky reported, "His day starts at 7 a.m. He gets off work at 5, and then goes to Palomar College where he attends classes until 9:30 p.m. He is doing some remarkable stuff, and we wish him well."

In his brief remarks, Uribe expressed his appreciation and gratitude to EGCA for the opportunity, especially, of "getting that great feeling standing in front of all you successful and important people and looking at the faces of my mom, my wonderful wife, and my 18-year-old brother and seeing how proud they are. My commitment to EGCA is that I will not let you down."

Qualin also had the honor of presenting, in absentia, the \$4,000 continuing education scholarship award to Kyle Haas, who due to a family function in Hawaii, was unable to attend the award ceremony. Haas had, however, composed a message of gratitude, which Rocky read to the audience.

In his letter, Haas wrote how thrilled and honored he was to learn of his EGCA scholarship award. "Although I am not able to attend this prestigious event, I am very touched that the EGCA will financially help me in such a way."

Haas just completed two years at Santa Rosa College. While there, he was employed by EGCA member J.M. Turner Engineering, Inc., headquartered in Santa Rosa and with a district office in Rainbow. J.M. Turner specializes in construction engineering and also provides structural and civil engineering services. Haas has now transferred to UC Berkeley, where he will pursue a civil engineering degree.

Fellow Education/Scholarship Committee member Tom Hogarty, of Hogarty Communications, presented the final scholarship awards of the evening. The \$5,000 SDSU scholarship award winner is Katie Johnson whose parents, Randy and Susan, were acknowledged by Hogarty as Katie made her way to the podium.

Johnson, who graduated from high school in 2005 with honors as well as an Excellence in Math award and a GPA above 4.0, is two-and-a-half years into the SDSU Construction Engineering Program, carrying 20 units and working 30 hours a week as an estimator for a glazing subcontractor. She nonetheless maintains a 3.13 GPA.

"Right now, Katie is training with a contractor for an engineering competition in Reno and will compete with her group next February," Hogarty said as he introduced "a remarkable young lady, Katie Johnson."

Johnson said she could not "really express how thankful I

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EGCA Pres. Gene Brokaw with \$10,000 winner Jason Majoros; his mother, Margaret, and sister, Ashley.



\$5,000 winner Katie Johnson with parents Susan and Randy.



\$3,000 winner Alex Uribe (second from left), with wife, Myra; brother, Jose; and mother, Alexandra.

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am for the scholarship. Not only are you giving me financial assistance so I don't have to work so much, I can do better in school and get more involved. Just knowing that such a great group of people supports me makes me feel so good. I am truly fortunate. I hope I can live up to the honor of having been selected for this scholarship."

Hogarty then presented the \$10,000 scholarship award winner, Jason Majoros, who was invited to the podium as Hogarty asked his fellow EGCA members to acknowledge Majoros' mother, Margaret Neville, and sister, Ashley.

Majoros graduated earlier this year from Kearny Construction Tech Academy and will enter SDSU's Construction Engineering and management Program this fall. Hogarty read an excerpt from Jason's letter of application where he wrote, "Ever since I was a little kid, I have always liked to build things and see how stuff is put together."

Majoros is a team player, and yet ready to take charge, Hogarty said, noting his many accomplishments as an Eagle Scout—where he took advantage of the opportunity to construct and run several community projects, including building a bridge in Rose Canyon. Before asking Majoros to say a few words to his many EGCA supporters, Hogarty said, "The memory of last October's wildfires are still close to all of us. Jason took an active part in the recovery process," as witness a letter he received in late November from the San Diego Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association's Director of Government Relations Karen Prescott.

In her letter to Majoros, Prescott thanked him as a student of Construction Tech Academy for his "enthusiastic support" at the mid-November San Diego Rebuilds event held at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

"Without your help, we would not have been able to assist the hundreds of guests and fire victims who attended. At no time did you ever refuse to jump in and take on a much-needed task. You were both polite and energetic. It was a pleasure to have met you."

This year's top scholarship awardee told the audience, all on their feet and giving Majoros a standing ovation, how grateful he was. "It would be extremely difficult for me to attend college otherwise. I definitely commit to this opportunity you have given me. Without it, I don't know what I would be doing right now. Thank you, and I hope to return the favor in later years."

Education/Scholarship Committee member Nick Napier summed up the scholarship portion of the evening perfectly when he noted, "It is a pleasure to distribute money to help the young kids with their education and putting an investment into our industry."



Members of the Young family, with Bill Young in the center.

YOUNG FAMILY

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in their lives," Nelson said, and gave a brief biographical sketch of each man.

He began with Esby who, John said, "started as a farm boy in Arkansas with a sixth-grade education." He came out to California in 1930, and after several years of running heavy equipment for several contractors—plus a successful sojourn into the cotton farming and real estate business in California's Central Valley—he went into highway work, in partnerships with several other EGCA industry icons, such as Bill Connolly and Manuel Arrieta. Two easels held photo highlights of "The Esby Young Era" and "The Bill Young Era." These helped tell the stories of the two men, as Nelson provided personal insights into their professional lives.

He noted that Esby was among the founders of the EGCA some 56 years ago. Esby incorporated the joint venture name of "Young and Arrieta" in the mid-1950s, at a time when the firm was carrying a multi-project, \$10 million portfolio in various parts of Southern California—a hefty enough workload to afford his own plane. He piloted himself to his various jobsites.

Esby and his wife, Dorothy, raised two sons. Robert chose not to follow his dad into the business. Bill, however, started working for his dad as a teenager, on weekends and during summer vacations from high school.

After years of working for and with his dad, Bill started El Cajon Grading & Engineering Co. Inc. in 1972, and followed his dad by getting involved in his industry. Bill served on the EGCA board in the 1970s and 1980s, leading the organization as its president in the late 1980s. It was he, with his board, who started the magazine you hold in your hands now. It was a lot lighter then: a 16-page black and white publication.

Now in its 36th year, the firm is into its fourth generation. Bill and his wife, Judy, have been married for 51 years and have three children: Randy, Linda, and Debbie. Randy joined the company in 1975, following the path Bill had trod years earlier, working for his dad on weekends and over the summer. Daughter Linda joined her dad's company in the early 1980s. Representing a fourth generation, Kyle joined his grandfather's firm a few years ago. A man of few words, Bill Young was called to the podium to accept the special award. When asked by John if he wanted to say anything, Bill, with his innate modesty said, "No John. Thank you. You did a good job."