

ONES TO WATCH

Construction/Engineering

**Desai****Cope****Walsh**

Karishma Desai, P.E.
project engineer
Eustis Engineering LLC

After graduating with her master's degree, Karishma Desai went to work as a project engineer and later a project geotechnical engineer for both local and national firms. Eventually, she found herself wanting to move to Louisiana, claiming Metairie as her new home. She became a project engineer with Eustis Engineering in 2012 and has worked on numerous multi-million-dollar projects for both the public and private sectors. Her expertise lies in levee improvements, coastal restoration and marsh creation. Throughout the years, Desai has had several publications involving soil improvement and stabilization. Some of her more complex projects have included the Morgan City Levee Improvements in St. Mary Parish; Morganza to the Gulf in Terrebonne Parish; Bayou Grande Chenier Marsh and Ridge Restoration in Plaquemines Parish.

Desai is a registered professional engineer in Florida and Louisiana and is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, having served as a board member and officer for the New Orleans branch from 2013 through 2017, as president from 2017 to 2018, and is currently serving on the board as past president. She is also a member of the Deep Foundation Institute where she has served as a committee member since 2008. Last year, she was the conference program co-chair for their 42nd annual Conference on Deep Foundations, held in New Orleans. She received her master

of science degree in structures and geotechnical engineering and her bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida.

Christopher Cope, P.E.
senior consultant, professional engineer
Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc.

As a senior consultant, Christopher Cope provides transportation consulting services for legal, insurance and corporate clients. He conducts vehicle accident reconstruction analysis for accidents involving passenger and commercial vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians and traffic light timing. To conduct this analysis and convey results, he downloads data from passenger and commercial event data recorders as well and uses simulation and scene mapping software, photography and digital photography. As required, he also inspects vehicle conditions, performs site inspections and reviews additional sources of information, such as police reports, depositions and witness statements. When necessary, he inspects mechanical failures of components found in vehicles, household appliances, HVAC equipment and plumbing systems, among others, in order to help ascertain cause. In Cope's previous roles with Norman A. Cope & Associates, he gained more than 25 years of industry experience, offering consulting services, origin and cause analysis, vehicle accident reconstruction and mechanical evaluation.

Cope is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engi-

neers, the Society of Automotive Engineers and the National Fire Protection Association. He earned his master's degree and bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Sean Walsh, P.E.
project manager
Eustis Engineering LLC

After graduating, Sean Walsh went to work as a project engineer for a national consulting engineer firm in New York City. At that time, the firm was involved in the rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina, and Walsh found himself traveling to New Orleans on a regular basis. He completed his master's degree and later took a position with Eustis Engineering LLC in 2012. He began as a project engineer and was named to the position of project manager in 2017. His project experience is varied, but his concentration has been flood protection and coastal restoration, with industrial projects not far behind. He is also working with the city of New Orleans on up-and-coming green infrastructure projects to assist with water management systems in the metro area. The Mirabeau Water Gardens project is just one example. Walsh is a former project manager with Engineers Without Borders who helped to provide potable water to a village of 20,000 people in western Kenya.

Walsh has been named to the American Society of Civil Engineers ASCE's New Faces of Civil Engineering in 2014 and ASCE's Outstanding Young Civil Engineer

of the Year for the New Orleans District in 2018. He co-founded a leadership event for the Younger Member Group of ASCE's New Orleans branch and is a 2017 graduate of the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute. Walsh is also a YPG committee member and a member of Louisiana Chapter of Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute; American Society of Military Engineers; Chi Epsilon, The National Civil Engineering Honor Society member; former LEED Professional; and former member of Engineers Without Borders. He received his master's degree and bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering.

John Segura
estimator
Ryan Gootee General Contractors

John Segura has been working in the construction industry for over 15 years. During his college career, he worked with a Baton Rouge developer and framed houses and worked as a field supervisor. In his last year of school, he started splitting time between field supervision and working as an estimator for a Baton Rouge lumber yard. Upon graduating, Segura moved back to New Orleans and worked as an assistant project manager for a commercial construction firm. For a year, he was able to analyze the differences between the commercial construction industry and the residential construction industry while working with residents who lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. After assisting in the initial rebuild, Segura felt he reached a