

SEI Group Supports Education with Art at University of West Florida

SEI Group, a family of engineering, design, fabrication and construction companies located in Pensacola, Florida was invited to participate in an American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc. (AISC) project to provide an artistic and educational steel sculpture to the University of West Florida campus. This sculpture, one of 135 sculptures located at schools across the country, is based on a concept developed by Professor Duane Ellifritt in 1986 as a way to illustrate many of the steel connections commonly used in construction, providing students with an actual physical representation for reference and professors with a valuable teaching tool.

"My eventual solution was to create a steel sculpture that would be an attractive addition to the public art already existing on campus, something that would symbolize engineering in general, and that could also function as a teaching aid" says Ellifritt (Modern Steel, 1999).

In 2010 the UWF Faculty and SEI Group worked together to plan and execute the creation of the steel sculpture. SEI, using an agreed upon design concept, assembled various structural shapes using many different connection methods. The completed sculpture was installed in 2011 and is currently used for several courses at the University, including: Blueprint Reading, Construction Methods & Materials and the "Structure Series" courses. Several programs have contributed curriculum, developed for use of the structure to solidify concepts.



Students from Dr. Grant's Methods course at UWF identify members and connections.

"SEI values the contributions, which the University of West Florida brings to the city, the region and the state. We are proud to have several graduates from UWF on staff, and we routinely look for ways to enhance the success of students from the University. It is vital for corporate America to embrace the academic community, and encourage the growth and development of our country's future," says Michael Johnson, Director of Sales and Marketing for Southern Environmental, Inc.

About SEI: The SEI Group consists of three business segments providing a broad and comprehensive range of engineering, design and project management expertise. The family of companies includes Southern Erectors, Inc., a design build mechanical contractor providing industrial metal fabrication and erection work, Thermal Systems Group, an air systems and mechanical design company and Southern Environmental, Inc an Air Pollution Control solutions provider. Southern Environmental, Inc. is located at 6690 West Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32570 and may be reached by telephone at 850-944-4475 or via email at apcsales@sei-group.com. Visit them online at www.sei-group.com.