

Professional Construction Estimators Association

Orlando, FL









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December 2023



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



David Colvin

Landreth Lighting

PCEA Orlando Chapter 22 President

Thank you to all who joined in on a great holiday party at Ferguson Kitchen and Bath Showroom. Thanks again to Jimmy Lynch for facilitating the space. I am sure there will be more than one renovation in the coming months, my house included!! LOL. The venue was great, and all who attended seemed to have a great time, including those giving some bathtubs a "dry run." Thanks to all who donated toys. We have dropped them off at Toys for Tots for our annual toy drive.

We have a busy start to 2024 with Orlando Health coming in for the January member meeting at the Citrus Club. We will be planning a social, which is currently TBD. The details will be coming soon! We discussed many things at our December board meeting; I would like to mention two things I thought were great takeaways moving into the New Year. We are trending towards giving away more scholarship money this year than in years past. This is due to all your help in sponsorship and participation in our many fundraising events, and for that, I THANK YOU! Secondly, we are looking to sponsor a family dinner, both financially and physically, serving dinner to families staying in the Ronald McDonald House. Details to follow, but if you are interested in participating, please contact Kelly Garcia or myself.

Moving into February, the Annual Sporting Clays Tournament at BlackJack is on February 2nd. Slots are filling up fast, so sign up soon! I look forward to seeing you all in the new year and hope 2024 is good for us all. Thanks for the continued support of PCEA and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

www.pcea-orlando.org



to register visit our website www.pcea-orlando.org

02 Feb 2024 8:30 AM **Black Jack Sporting Clays**



Sporting Clays

NASA TAPS LSU FOR LUNAR CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH

- Ahead of NASA's planned 2025 return to the moon as part of its Artemis program, Louisiana State University has partnered with the space agency to test new lunar construction materials, the school announced on Dec. 4.
- LSU Assistant Professor Ali Kazemian is working on the research project with two scientists from NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama: technical fellow Michael Fiske and Jennifer Edmunson, project manager and geologist. The group will primarily investigate the use of molten sulfur and moon dust to develop a 3D-printed, waterless concrete, per the release.
- The project's ultimate goal is to establish robotic construction and 3D printing on the moon, Kazemian said. The high cost of shipping construction materials to space is prohibitive, and the creation of a material like Portland cement is difficult in space, due to the large amounts of water it needs during production.

The project is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, according to the release. One part of the study will take place at LSU, while the material's space-readiness will be tested at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

The team will test how the concrete, made from sulfur and regolith, or lunar soil, holds up under factors like near-vacuum conditions, extreme temperatures and stressors. After that, the team will engage in a practical demonstration.

"After reaching these objectives, together with our NASA colleagues, we will work on design and development of a large-scale [sulfur-regolith concrete] 3D-printing system at NASA Marshall to validate our research findings on a large scale," Kazemian said in the release. "For example, by 3D printing a Lunar habitat analog."

In addition to the material's potential for space exploration, the group is also working on several other projects, per the release. Among these pursuits is the ability of 3D printing to build houses and shelters, in response to the global housing crisis, and the use of the material in arid regions that suffer from drought, due to the material's ability to come together without water.

3D printing, among other initiatives, is a key part of NASA's push to create a permanent settlement on the moon. Last year, the agency awarded \$57.2 million to Austin, Texas-based 3D printing firm Icon for more research into tech that could bring structures to the lunar surface. Along with it, NASA gave out \$19.4 million in grants to three companies to build sophisticated solar panel prototypes and perform environmental testing. That technology will be used to develop a power system that NASA will establish on the moon's south pole by 2030.

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Special thanks to all the PCEA
Orlando Chapter 22
members who
donated toys at our
Christmas Party.

President
David Colvin and
Past President
Chris Joyce, CPCE
dropped them off at
HARRY WARREN,
INC. where they
will be donated to
Marine Toys for
Tots Foundation.

