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Spring 2018 Symposium

Paper Response

The year two-thousand and eighteen Spring Symposium, titled “New Insights on Liquid Impacts and Dispersion & Deep Learning Surrogate Models to Forecast Ocean-wave Conditions” given by Dr. Scott James, Ph.D. from the Departments of Geosciences and Mechanical Engineering and Baylor University on Tuesday, the seventeenth of April, year two-thousand and eighteen, at approximately twelve thirty in the afternoon to approximately two in the afternoon, in Sleith Hall, room one hundred, in front of an audience of many engineering students at Western New England University College of Engineering from different engineering majors, as well as professors and faculty from their respective departments, including the author of this very paper, was a very interesting presentation in a field of study outside of the author of this paper’s own. That sentence is one hundred and twenty six words long, but Microsoft Word does not underline with a green squiggly line, so it must be grammatically correct. This allowed for a unique broadening of my horizons and insight into other fields of engineering other than Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Scott James had a wealth of experience to share in the field of water-resources, environmental impacts of marine renewable energy projects, and fluid dynamics. Water has countless uses and is an utter necessity. As such, an understanding of the way water works and an understanding of how the Earth’s marine ecosystems function is paramount. With this understanding, we can use water as a valuable resource for all sorts of applications. An example of this discussed in the symposium is the modeling and optimization of controlled algae growth. This algae could be used as biofuel; thus making the operation of their sustainable growth an important step in a renewable resource system. Sometimes, mistakes happen, and humanity can severely damage the environment. This includes the marine environment. Something that Dr. Scott James discussed in the symposium is advanced and enhanced recovery techniques for off-shore oil drilling – making the operation itself safer and more efficient and making spills less likely. The author of this paper wrote everything prior to this point before even attending the symposium. As such, everything after this point has been written by the author of this paper after attending the symposium. The first part of the symposium was a bunch of mechanical engineering nonsense that the author of this paper did not understand, but supposes is quite important to the world today. Real talk, the part of the presentation about machine learning and the advancement of AI technologies was actually pretty interesting. Dr. James raised a very good point about how we, as a society, must address how this stuff is going to take a lot of jobs away. As the luddites of old showed us, trying to stop advancement won’t work, so we should probably plan ahead to make sure nobody gets too angry (they’ll get angry for sure, but hopefully not too angry.) Of course the likelihood of America actually doing something preemptive is pretty much nothing but what do I know.