



CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc.

NOVEMBER 2008

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PE TIMES NEWSLETTER

President's Message

By James J Kuhn, PE

Although many of us want to delay the changing of seasons, it appears winter has made its way to New York. The year is passing way too fast and before we realize it, the holidays will be here and gone, and 2009 will be upon us.

The past couple months have been busy and eventful for the Chapter with the golf outing, E-week planning, Transportation Symposium, Board meeting, and the NYSSPE Fall Conference. We are looking forward to continuing that same level of activity with events in the upcoming months to include joint meetings, the Future City Competition, E-week, State level awards nominations, and MATHCOUNTS, to name just a few of the programs already scheduled.

Recently, the last 2008-2010 Director position was filled through the appointment of Rich Miller to the vacancy. The Board welcomes Rich and appreciates his volunteering time and effort to assist with Chapter operations. With that vacancy filled, we only have two remaining Director Positions still vacant for the 2007-2009 terms. Anyone interested in serving on

the Board in this capacity **should** contact me.

The Board has been holding its regularly scheduled Board meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, typically at 7:30 am in Spectra Environmental office. If you are not on the Board and are interested in attending, please contact me. Chapter members are always welcome to attend.

The updated event schedule is posted on the Chapter website and can be viewed by visiting www.capdistpe.org. Paul Adel continues to use his expertise to keep our website current and welcomes member submittals for posting on the website. So, if you have information you would like to share with members, please send it to Paul or me.

The Board would like to thank Anne Garrity for her continued leadership with the Annual Golf Outing. We had a great turnout out this year and due to Anne's extra efforts, it went off without a hitch. An article about the golf outing appears on the following pages.

The recent NYSSPE Fall Conference at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs was very well attended and the presentations were very informative. There was a noticeable presence from the CDC Chapter at the event, which was very nice to see. I noticed a lot of new faces, along with our regulars, which demonstrated the support the membership has for the Capital District and State chapters.

The Board and I will continue to keep you informed of upcoming events and look forward your participation in support of the Chapter.

Please contact me at jkuhn@atlantictesting.com or 518/383-9144 if you have any questions or suggestions, or if you are interested in becoming more involved with the Board, the various committees, or any of the upcoming events.

Chapter Scholarship Award Program

By Paul Adel, PE

The Capital District Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers grants awards of \$1000 to \$3000 each year to graduating High School students in the Capital District who pursue an ABET-accredited engineering education. The award is based on academic achievement, participation in scholastic programs, extra-curricular activities and work experience.

High School Students in the 8 counties represented by the Capital District Chapter are eligible for the chapter award (Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Schoharie).

The Capital District Chapter Scholarship Award winners for the 2007/2008 school year have reported their choices for undergraduate academics, and we are pleased to report that all three have selected ABET accredited engineering programs. Tammy Chow, from Scotia-Glenville High School, Joshua Multunas, from Columbia High School, and Benjamin Alston from Albany Academy,

have all enrolled at RPI. We extend our congratulations to the three.

Application information is circulated to school High School Guidance counselors each year in October, and the deadline for applications is in mid December. Additional information can be found on the Capital District Chapter website, www.capdistpe.org.

The Chapter Engineering Scholarship Award program is funded by fundraising events and contributions. The primary fundraising event is a raffle at the Annual Chapter Golf Outing in September. Individual and corporate contributions are welcome. Contributors will be recognized in the Chapter Newsletter, at the award ceremony, and on the Chapter web site. Contributions can be made to "CDCNYSSPE Annual Engineering Scholarship Award Program".

Contributions should be sent to:

Paul Adel P.E
Scholarship Award Committee
Chairman
c/o SPECTRA Engineering
19 British American Blvd
Latham NY, 12110

For further information, send email to padel@spectraenv.com





Mathcounts

By James Galarneau, PE

The Capital District Chapter's Mathcounts competition will be held on Saturday February 14, 2009 at the General Electric (GE) Global Research Facility in Niskayuna. GE has once again generously agreed to host the chapter competition at their Niskayuna facility. The deadline for school registration will end in early December 2008. As in past years, the Chapter once again expects that we will receive a tremendous response from Capital District area schools. Combining a four person team from each school, and up to four additional individuals per school, we expect that over 150 students will be participating in the Chapter competition. The Capital District has historically continued to draw a large number of students participating in this event, making it one of the biggest Chapter Competitions in the entire State.

Mathcounts is a nationwide program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. The competition targets middle school students (grades 6, 7 and 8), who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining math interest and ability. Teachers and students have been preparing for the competition since the start of the school year. Students compete individually and as teams in written and fast-paced oral matches.

Subjects include algebra, probability, statistics and geometry.

The competition will begin at 9:00 a.m., with the final Countdown Round Competition at about 1:00 p.m. and awards presented at 2:00 p.m. Winners will receive awards and will advance to the State Mathcounts finals at the RPI campus in Troy on March 14, 2009.

Final preparations are being made to ensure that this year's competition will rival the successes experienced in previous years. This is an extremely rewarding activity and we welcome all volunteers willing to help out during the competition. Additional scorers will be especially welcomed due to the large school participation. The event has been organized by the Capital District Chapter of the NYS Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with GE Volunteers.

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25th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

By Anne Garrity, PE

On behalf of the Capital District Chapter of NYSSPE, I would like to extend our thanks to all those who participated in our 25th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament at the Town of Colonie Golf Course on September 16th. We had 59 golfers and the weather was beautiful! Between hole sponsors and donated raffle prizes, we raised close to \$2,000 for our scholarship fund.

Thanks to our Hole Sponsors:

Atlantic Testing Laboratories, Ryan Biggs Associates, Edwards Kelcy and Jacobs, Independent Masonry Institute Clough Harbour and Associates LLP, The Chazen Companies, McLaren Engineering, and Clark Patterson.

Low Gross prizes went to:

- 1st: Bill Lamy 74
- 2nd: Andy Giordona 74
- 3rd: Cliff VanGuilder 77
- 4th: Dave Myers 79
- 5th: Ed O'Hara 80

Low Net prizes (based on Calloway scoring) went to:

- 1st: Steve Moore 67
- 2nd: Larry O'Connor 67
- 3rd: Matt Smullen 72

- 4th: Dave Vieni 72
- 5th: Dave Osher 73.

Long Drives went to *Ed O'Hara* (9th hole, Blue) and *Bill Lamy* (6th hole, Green).

Closest to the Pins went to *Cliff VanGuilder* (4th hole, Blue), *Kevin Cole* (8th hole, Green), *Al Catalano* (8th hole, Blue) and *Ed O'Hara* (3rd hole, Green).

Birdie skins went to *Cliff Van Guilder, Kevin Cole* (2), *John Frazer, Anne Garrity, Matt Smullen* and *Bill Lamy*.

Thanks again and we hope to see everyone next year!



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Female Engineers Earn Network Awards

By William Dube – Senior News Specialist University News at RIT

Kate Gleason was a pioneering engineer and business executive, who was the first female member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the first female U.S. bank president. She was also a major Rochester activist and prominent benefactor of RIT whose legacy of giving has been continued by the Gleason family up to the present day.

RIT has worked to honor Gleason's accomplishments in a number of ways but none more important than its continued efforts to expand opportunities for women and minorities in science and engineering, efforts that have recently won national recognition.

The Women in Engineering Program, also known as WE@RIT, received the 2008 Women in Engineering Program Award from the Women in Engineering Proactive Network, or WEPAN, which recognizes college and university programs that are working to enhance the entrance of women in engineering fields as well as expanding educational opportunities in science and math for women of all ages. The award was presented to WE@RIT at the network's national conference in July in St. Louis. In addition, Margaret Bailey, director of the We@RIT program received the Women in Science Award from the Maria Mitchell Association, a national engineering and science education center and museum named for America's first professional woman astronomer.

"We are extremely honored to receive these two prestigious awards, and I would like to personally thank WEPAN and the Maria Mitchell Association for their recognition of our efforts," notes Bailey, who also serves as the Kate Gleason Endowed Chair and associate professor of mechanical engineering at RIT.

WE@RIT was founded in 2003 within RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering, the only engineering college in the country named for a woman, to recruit and retain women in engineering disciplines and promote enthusiasm and understanding of engineering concepts among elementary and secondary students and educators.

The program focuses on comprehensive college and pre-college outreach, recruitment, and community building initiatives—offering numerous training sessions, on campus events and camps throughout the year. Presently, the program reaches over 2,300 engineering students, K-12 students and educators.

"It is our hope that the continued efforts of RIT and organizations such as WEPAN and the Maria Mitchell Association will enhance Kate Gleason's legacy and promote the continued advancement of women and minorities in science and engineering," adds Bailey. "All of us involved in the WE@RIT program hope we soon are able to say that the Kate Gleason College of Engineering is one of several engineering colleges recognizing the accomplishments of America's women engineers."



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Today's Local 7th & 8th Grade Students are Creating Ideas to Solve our Clean Water Problems of Tomorrow

By Sharon Raber

Nobody can doubt the importance of water and water resources in our world, whether it can be clean drinking water or water as a resource for sanitation, irrigation or fire protection. But as our cities grow and expand, what can be done to conserve and reuse such a valuable resource? Experts are telling us that in 150 years a gallon of water will be more valuable than a gallon of gasoline. Because they are our future, local middle-school students have the opportunity to work together to brainstorm ideas for a solution by participating in the 2009 National Engineers Week Future City Competition™.

Under the guidance of a teacher and volunteer engineer-mentor, Future City aims to create a fun and interesting arena for students to design and build a city of tomorrow, incorporating their ideas to address future world issues. "The program inspires a respect and understanding of the role science, engineering, technology and math play in solving many of the pressing global and social needs we are all facing" says Kathryn Gray, P.E., National Engineers Week 2009 chair at the National Society of Professional Engineers. Kathryn goes on to say "And it helps possibly lay the foundation for many of them to pursue a career in these areas, something they might never have considered before."

The engineering topic for the 2009 Future City Competition challenges students to create a solution for individual homes that contains, recycles, and redistributes the daily required amount of water to sustain its occupants with minimal introduction of new water. To help them prepare, local businesses in this field are providing the opportunity for students to visit and/or meet with their experts to learn current technologies and the limitations being encountered. "By participating in this program, I got the chance to experience what it is like being an engineer and the responsibilities they may have", said Guilderland High-School student, Dan Sipzner, (a former Future City participant), "as a result, I have a clearer understanding of how engineers play a vital role in our world."

There are four main phases to the Future City Competition which emulate the engineering process; each relates to the annual engineering topic.. Students will design a virtual city using SimCity4 Deluxe showing the balance between the residence and the city infrastructure. They will write a 700-word essay on the engineering topic from a technical perspective and how it relates to their city, and they will write an abstract highlighting the features and benefits of their city. They will also build a scaled model (constructed mainly of recycled materials) of a portion of their city and make a formal presentation of their city. On January 17, 2009 at the regional competition held at Hudson Valley Community College, a group of local engineering professionals will choose one school to represent the Capital District at the National Competition in Washington DC during National Engineers Week in February.

This learning experience goes far beyond the program. Solving a problem

with such global implications as water conservation is certainly no easy task, as many of the engineers, scientists and researchers currently working on such issues can confirm. So then why place that same task into the hand of middle school students? Because their uninhibited creativity and lack of bias allows them to consider perspectives adults might automatically dismiss. "Every year students are presented with tough and real world engineering issues, and they continually astound us with their knowledge, ideas, and solutions for the future," said Kevin Powers, Capital District Future City Competition Regional Coordinator. And to our success, last year a local school came in 2nd place in the National competition.

Celebrating its 8th year in 2009, Future City is sponsored locally by Hudson Valley Community College, Capital District Engineers' Week, Clough Harbour & Associates, Plug Power and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Each participating school is supported with the resources of the Capital District Region's Competition committee which includes a network of mentors and program veterans, informal topic-specific training sessions and an ongoing individual communications network.

For more information on how to participate, sponsor or support the Capital District Future City Competition, visit

www.CapitalDistrictFutureCityCompetition.org or contact Kevin Powers, Capital District Regional Coordinator at (518) 257-0217 or email at fcc.albany@yahoo.com.

To request a press kit, please use the contact information given at the beginning of the release. The next event is on Saturday, October 25th, where they will attend a topic training

session hosted and given by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

engineering professionals and their companies a rewarding opportunity to play an integral role in improving access to practical early science and technology education at the local level.

If you are interested in registering to be a mentor or would simply like more information about the Future City Competition, please visit www.futurecity.org or contact Capital District Future City School and Mentor Committee Chair, Kevin Powers, P.E. at fcc.albany@yahoo.com or (518) 257-0217.



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New Dates Set for Capital District Engineers Week *Additional Presenters and Vendors Wanted*

By John D. Steele, PE

National Engineers Week was created in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers and coincided with President's Day. This is no coincidence, since George Washington, the 1st President of the United States was a land surveyor and engineer. E-

Week is held to create awareness of the contributions of engineers to society.

The Capital District E-Week's main focus is to promote the Engineering Profession. The purpose of this event is to raise public awareness of engineers positive contributions to quality of life, promote recognition among parents, teachers and students of the importance of a technical education and a high level of math, science and technology literacy, and motivates youth to pursue engineering careers in order to provide a diverse and vigorous engineering workforce.

Numerous seminars with professional development hours (PDHs) are offered over two days in one convenient location - the Albany Marriott located at 189 Wolf Road in Albany.

Due to hotel booking issues, this year the seminars are being held earlier than usual, on February 5th and February 6th.

Event Schedule:

Thursday, February 5, 2009
Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany

8:00am - 4:00pm: Seminars with PDHs offered & Exhibitors

10:00am: High School Bridge Competition

12:00pm - 1:30pm: Keynote & Award Luncheon

4:00pm - 5:30pm: Order of the Engineer

Friday, February 6, 2009
Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Rd., Albany

8:00am - 4:00pm: Seminars with PDHs offered & Exhibitors

12:00pm - 1:30pm: Keynote Speaker

4:00pm - 6:00pm: Reception in the Empire Room

Additional vendors and seminar presentations are sought for all engineering disciplines including: Buildings, Chemical, Civil, Education, Geotechnical, Nanotech, Electrical, Environmental, Mechanical, Structural and transportation. Structural topics are in special need. Topics of general interest to the profession will also be considered.

For additional information either visit the Capital District Engineers Week website at:

www.CapitalDistrictEWeek.org

or contact Jenifer Miller at the following:

Capital District Engineers Week Event
c/o NYSSPE, 385 Jordan Road
Troy, New York 12180
Phone: 518-283-7490
Fax: 518-283-7495

E-mail: Jennifer Miller:
jamiller@nysspe.org

Any questions, please feel free to contact me at (518) 428-5509
John Steele, PE