

What's next for Austin?

Austin Mayor Wynn will share his vision for Austin and discuss 2006 bond package



Austin Mayor Will Wynn

The Travis Chapter of TSPE is pleased to welcome Austin Mayor Will Wynn as our guest speaker on Wednesday, November 16. Mayor Wynn will share his vision for the City and discuss the proposed 2006 city bond election.

Born and raised in Beaumont, Will was the sixth of seven children, and

the fifth of six boys. He attended Texas A&M University, graduating *cum laude* in 1984 with a degree in Environmental Design.

Will moved to Austin in 1981 and reconnected with his deep family roots in Central Texas. Two of his great-great-grandparents, James and Julia Olive, settled in southern Williamson County in 1843. His great-grandfather, Daniel LeMaster of McDade, was the state representative for Bastrop County in the 1920s. His great-uncle, Ridley Ott, built and managed the Checker Front General Store, now FreshPlus, at 43rd and Duval in Hyde Park during the 1930s and 40s.

Mayor Wynn has 20 years of experience in the commercial real estate industry. In 1997, Will founded CIVITAS Investments, Inc.

to focus on historic restoration projects. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and believes that only through dramatically better land use practices can Austin and the surrounding region appropriately deal with challenges like traffic, air quality, housing affordability, and environmental protection. In 2001, he was a founding member of what is now Envision Central Texas.

Prior to first being elected to Austin City Council in 2000, Will served as Chair of the Downtown Austin Alliance and Director for the Children's Museum and Heritage Society of Austin. He has worked over the years to build support for numerous local causes and organizations. Will was named Austinite of the Year by Austin Under Forty; was

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**This Month's
Luncheon Sponsor is**



**November Luncheon
Special Guest: Austin Mayor Will Wynn**

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Location: Austin Woman's Club,
708 San Antonio, Downtown Austin**

**Cost: \$16 per person with advance registration
or \$20 at the door**

**RSVP by visiting www.tspe-travis.org
or by calling Beth Falls at 433-2537.**

President's Message

by Dale Shumaker, P.E.

Chapter involvement by members at the local level is the lifeblood of any organization and it is no different for the Travis Chapter of TSPE. It is the key to growing our membership and achieving our goals of promoting the practice of Licensed Professional Engineering. This is why TSPE serves as a conduit for member participation with primary and secondary schools to promote engineering and the sciences. It is why TSPE serves as a voice to engage the state and local governments, as an advocate for our members to provide more professional services, to defend the Professional Engineering Community from attacks on the profession, and as gatekeepers for the protection of the public safety and the environment. It should come as no surprise that the more individual members are actively involved in TSPE the more effectively TSPE can carry out this mission. I have heard it said that, "I pay my dues and appreciate the work that TSPE does, but I am simply too busy to get actively involved." This is fine; however, because TSPE is not a staff driven organization, this approach will result in a continued decline in membership and the effective promotion of TSPE's Mission. Also, as I write this article at 4:30 a.m., I am very attuned to the fact that we are all busy. For this reason, I have made a list of 10 things you can do right now to make your



Dale Shumaker, P.E.

TSPE stronger. They all take less than five minutes!

1. Sign up to attend the November Chapter Meeting. Your TSPE has arranged for the Mayor of Austin to speak directly to you and answer your questions about the City's future engineering needs. Go to www.tspe-travis.org to register.

2. Invite another engineer to go with you to the November Chapter Meeting.

3. Send an e-mail to **TJ Dawkins** at tdawkins@centexeweek.org and tell him you want to be part of a team of TSPE Engineers that spends a half-day in the Spring (Engineers Week) sharing the engineering profession with primary and secondary schools. (Every TSPE Member should be involved in this or MathCounts.)

4. Call **Garrett Bonn** at 433-2546 or send him an e-mail at

gbonn@cfaulknerengineering.com and tell him you want to help out with the Junior High MathCounts competition on February 11, 2006, at Welch Hall on the U.T. Campus.

5. Join TSPE's Political Action Committee today. Send a check for as little as \$25 to PACE. You can download the form at <http://tspe.org/docs/PACEFormFinal.PDF>

6. Nominate an outstanding Travis Chapter engineer for Engineer of the Year or Young Engineer of the Year.

For Engineer of the Year Nominations, contact **Harvey Treybig** at (512) 327-2504 or harvey.treybig@klotz.com

For Young Engineer of the Year Nominations, contact **Tim Martin** at (512) 977-1800 or tmartin@fugro.com

7. Call me, **Dale Shumaker**, at 433-2642 or send me an e-mail to dshumaker@cfaulknerengineering.com and let me know how TSPE can better serve you.

8. Call or e-mail me, Dale Shumaker, and say you will arrange for the next TSPE happy hour. All you have to do is pick a spot and time and show up.

9. Support the TSPE Travis Chapter by advertising your company in the newsletter and web site. Contact **Stephanie Stanford** at 433-2513 or sstanford@cfaulknerengineering.com

10. Sponsor a new member today. Call **Claire** at the TSPE state office at 472-9286 to see how they can get a 6-month membership for free.



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of the National Society of Professional Engineers

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Austin Mayor Will Wynn to speak at monthly meeting

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awarded Scenic Austin's first annual Scenic Hero Award; and was honored by the Colorado River Foundation.

Will Wynn was elected Austin's 50th Mayor on May 3, 2003. Currently, Will serves as Chair for the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Energy Committee and the local Clean Air Coalition. He is involved with numerous other organizations, including the Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council, Downtown Austin Alliance, National League of Cities, and the Texas Municipal League's Board of Directors.

November Luncheon Special Guest: Austin Mayor Will Wynn

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Not receiving
Chapter e-mail notices?
Changed your work address or title?

You may have to update your
membership information.

To update your information, log on to <http://www.nspe.org/> and click "membership." Have your membership ID number in hand – or call (888) 285-NSPE (6773). It takes less than 5 minutes to update. Check it today!

State Happenings

by Julia Harrod, P.E.

TSPE hosts successful P.E. exam lunch

Ted Schoenberg, P.E., Larissa Wobus, E.I.T, and Megan Felker, represented TSPE at a lunch organized for P.E. examinees during their break. Over 200 of the 245 examinees participated. Volunteers heard praise and kudos to TSPE for initiating this effort. Just another way that TSPE is helping aspiring P.E.s and encouraging their membership in the only organization designed to advocate for the individual engineer. Travis Chapter will

be lining up volunteers for the next P.E. exam. For more information, Contact Larissa Wobus, E.I.T. at 453-0767 or larrisaw@mwminc.com.

TSPE continues thriving public relations outreach at 2005 State Agency Dinner

The annual TSPE State Agency Dinner was once again a success. State Agency representatives joined TPSE leadership from across the State at an informal dinner reception. Six agencies including the Lower

Colorado River Authority, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists, Texas Railroad Commission, and Texas Board of Professional Engineers were represented at the 2005 dinner. Expect this tradition to flourish over the coming years as TSPE continues to be a main resource for State agencies in its effort to advocate for the professional engineer.

TSPE Scholarship opportunities available now

by Weng On Tam, Ph.D., P.E.

High School students interested in getting a degree in engineering are encouraged to apply for the Paul and Mary Keller Scholarship and TSPE Scholarships. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be a high school senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA entering college in 2006.
- A score of at least 600 in math and 550 in verbal on the SAT, or 29 in math and 25 in English on the ACT.
- Be planning to major in engineering at an ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accredited engineering program.
- Provide a complete scholarship application with all requested attachments postmarked or delivered by **January 10, 2006.**

I urge all of our TSPE members to pass this information along to their friends and neighbors. Last year we

received over 15 applicants and hope to continue to see a greater number of applicants this year. The Travis Chapter TSPE is offering two \$1,000 scholarships. Top applications from the chapter will also be forwarded to the TSPE office for state-level scholarships.

I encourage our young hopeful engineers to apply. Applications may be downloaded from the TSPE website: www.tspe.org. Completed applications should be sent to the attention of:

Weng On Tam
Scholarship Chairperson
108 McNutt
Building No. 4
Hutto, TX 78634

Professional Practice Corner

by John D. Powell, P.E.

TSPE Region 3 is planning a professional development opportunity early next year. **Chris Schultz, P.E.**, in San Antonio, is our Region 3 continuing education chairman. He and I will be planning a half-day seminar in Austin in January or February 2006. One of the topics we are considering is a four-hour public speaking course. The curriculum for this course is Texas Board of Professional Engineers approved. It is part of a pre-packaged set of courses that includes topics such as contract administration, accounting, and the one previously mentioned. Our goal is to provide a seminar that will appeal to a wide audience of professional engineers so that we will have a good turnout. There will be a nominal fee for the course. The member rate will be about one quarter of the non-member price and a meal will be included.

I would appreciate your feedback on our proposed seminar. Send your comments to me at: john.powell@westonsolutions.com. Let me know if a four hour course is a possibility for you during the work week. Would you prefer morning, afternoon, or a 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. seminar that goes through lunch? What topics interest you? What would you be willing to pay for a course like the one mentioned (part of the course fee will be covered by TSPE, but it would be helpful to know your thoughts on what is considered acceptable)? Your feedback is appreciated!

TSPE members may log up to five hours for attending TSPE-Travis Chapter meetings that have topics

relevant to our profession. Steve Roth has performed commendably in scheduling monthly meetings with guest speakers such as Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe and Capital Metro President Fred Gilliam. Attendance at these meetings counts as one professional development hour because the subject of the speech is relevant to our professional practice. This month's meeting with City of Austin Mayor Will Wynn will also be considered an hour of continuing education for those who attend. Register to attend the meeting online now at <http://www.tspe-travis.org>.

TSPE-Travis Chapter board members may also log an additional five hours of continuing education for participation in meetings and other board events throughout the year. Tell your colleagues that membership in TSPE-Travis has its privileges.

P.E.s will have the opportunity to log continuing education hours online with the Board beginning in

December. License renewal fees may also be paid online using a credit card next month. We will have more information about this system and its success or failure in the next two months. Please send me your comments about the use of the new system when it's your turn to renew your license. Part of the professional practice committee's mission is to communicate directly with the board on issues such as license renewal and continuing education. The committee will have several opportunities during the year to interact face to face with TBPE administrators and board members. Take advantage of the opportunity to interact with the board through your local TSPE chapter.

I'll have more information on how to fulfill professional development requirements in next month's newsletter. If you hear of a continuing education class or meeting that will be offered in the next year or so you may send me an email or just catch me at the monthly meeting. Thanks!

Honor one of our Great Engineers Today!

We are now accepting nominations for Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year.

For Engineer of the Year Nominations Contact:

Harvey Treybig

512.327.2504

harvey.treybig@klotz.com

For Young Engineer of the Year Nominations Contact:

Tim Martin

512.977.1800

tmartin@fugro.com

Nominations must be made by January 1, 2006.

Board Meeting Minutes

by Dan Shanahan, P.E.

Below are the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held October 12, 2005:

President **Dale Shumaker, P.E.** called for Reading of Communications including request for job posting, status of Web-Site, Newsletter and Officer and Director Reports including Finance Director's Report: Advertising, Job Listings and Coordination of Fund Raising.

Treasurer's Report

Rebecca Feldman, P.E. reported that our checkbook balance is approximately \$30,000.

Monthly Meetings

Steve Roth announced the November 16 meeting program will feature Austin Mayor Will Wynn.

Banquet Update

Kelly Barney reported that our Banquet is on course for the Hyatt Regency-Austin on March 4, 2006.

Membership

Steve Roth, Julia Harrod, Tim Martin, and Dan Shanahan discussed: Monthly meeting costs; Enterprise Memberships; Dale's Young

Engineers social group (visit our website, tspe-travis.org, for location.

Young Engineers

Ted Schoenberg, P.E. discussed the P.E. Review Course.

Professional Practice

John Powell is our liaison with the Texas State Board for Engineers.

Education

Julie Hastings asked for membership assistance with MathCounts involving neighborhood school visits. The Math Counts program will occur in February, 2006. Engineer's Week is February 19 - 26, 2006, a program that involves all of us.

State Meetings

Julie Hastings, Carroll Faulkner and Dan Wittliff are working very effectively with the State Society and NSPE and they will have much to report at future meetings.

Awards

Larissa Wobus announced that the Young Engineer of the Year, Engineer of the Year and Scholarships can and should be of interest to all members.

Christmas Program

Carroll Faulkner led the discussion about this great annual event (Santa and all). Look for details in the newsletter and at the next meeting.

Attendees

President, **Dale Shumaker, P.E.**; Vice-President, **Steve Roth, P.E.**; President-Elect, **Julie Hastings, P.E.**; Treasurer, **Rebecca Feldman P.E.**; Past-President, **Julia Harrod, P.E.**; Banquet Director, **Kelly Barney, P.E.**; Director of Finance, **Stephanie Stanford, P.E.**; Director of Awards, **Larissa Wobus, P.E.**; Christmas Program Director, **Carroll Faulkner, P.E.**; Texas P.E. Board of Engineers Liaison, **John Powell, P.E.**; Dale's Assistant, **Beth Falls**, and Secretary, **Dan Shanahan, P.E.**

Next Board Meeting

The next TSPE Board meeting will be held at C Faulkner Engineering, 400 Bowie Street, Suite 250 on Wednesday, November 9, 2005.

Mission of Texas Society of Professional Engineers

In order to assist the engineering profession in its responsibilities to protect the public health, safety, and property, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers is dedicated to:

- ♦ Restriction of the practice of engineering to properly qualified and licensed persons;
- ♦ Maintenance and observance of high ethical standards of conduct;
- ♦ Support of high standards of formal educational preparation for the practice of engineering;
- ♦ Continuing professional development of members of the engineering profession;
- ♦ Focusing appropriate public attention upon engineering responsibilities and engineering accomplishments for the purpose of attracting qualified persons to the practice of engineering;
- ♦ Providing of appropriate assistance to its members to facilitate the pursuit of their professional goals.

Auxiliary Happenings

by Olga Biehler

Our Auxiliary Scholarship Benefit Luncheon was held on Oct. 19 at the Austin Women's Club. **Pinky McKetta** was our hostess for a delicious gourmet luncheon held in a historic dining room complete with an impressive stone fireplace with the following inscription in Olde English on its mantle: "Olde bookes to rede; Olde woods to burne; Olde frendes to talke."

Preceding the luncheon, Auxiliary member **Helen Furlong** gave an informative presentation on the history of this 135-year old build-

ing and its later additions plus its historic significance near downtown Austin. This Club is used by its members for private gatherings and weekly literary luncheons. The first President, Mrs. Sam B. Smith, was instrumental in organizing the Club and purchasing the building and the property. To this date the Austin Women's Club has continued its tradition of fine dining and active club participation. Auxiliary President **Amanda Miertschin** dispensed with the business meeting and thanked our hostess and

nineteen members and one guest for their attendance at this scholarship fundraiser. A lovely flower arrangement was presented to Pinky McKetta for her generosity in hosting this annual event.

Our next meeting will be a luncheon at *Tres Amigos Restaurant*, Capital of Texas Hwy. on Wednesday November 16. A program of interest to all will be presented by Ann Ishan on "Eat Chocolate and Lose Weight." Prospective members are always welcome and may call **Bertha Guerra** at 327-0574.

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Travis Engineer

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Mark Your Calendar

Annual TSPE Travis Chapter Children's Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

St. David's Episcopal Church Sumner Hall

304 E. 7th Street

Once again this year, we will share our Christmas program with children in need from Escuela Montessori de Montopolis and the Alpha Omega School. There are approximately 75 children ranging in ages from 2-5. Names of children needing a sponsor and other details will be available at the monthly Chapter meeting on Wednesday, November 16. *Please note the change in location and that this is the second Wednesday of December.* Don't miss this great opportunity to have fun and share with others during this holiday season! If you want to sponsor a child, but won't be at the November meeting, call Beth Falls at 433-2537.