



## Head of LCRA River Services to speak at March luncheon

The Travis Chapter of TSPE welcomes **Karen Bondy** as our guest speaker on Wednesday, March 15. As Manager of River Services for the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), she directs flood management, water quality protection, water supply planning, and project management for the organization. Karen will discuss a variety of topics, including: the LCRA-SAWS Water Project; current lake management issues related to the ongoing drought; and LCRA's approach to water project management.

Since joining LCRA in 1998, Karen has been the Chief Engineer for water services, manager of water/wastewater services, and manager

of engineering and construction.

She was a consulting engineer for *Espey, Huston & Associates* before joining LCRA and has over 20 years of experience in water resources engineering. Karen holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Environmental Health Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin.

The LCRA is a conservation and reclamation district that supplies low-cost electricity for Central Texas, manages water supplies and floods in the lower Colorado River basin, develops water and wastewater utilities, provides public parks, and supports community and economic development in 58 Texas counties.



**Karen Bondy**

The LCRA manages water supplies for cities, farmers, and industries along a 600-mile stretch of the Texas Colorado River and operates six dams that form the Highland Lakes.

### March Luncheon Program Special Guest:

**Karen Bondy, LCRA**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006**

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

**Austin Woman's Club  
708 San Antonio  
Downtown Austin**

**Cost: \$16 per person with advance reservation; \$5 for students and government employees**

**Reservations can be made by visiting [www.tspe-travis.org](http://www.tspe-travis.org)**

### March Luncheon Sponsor Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

Special thanks to our March luncheon sponsor, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

Huitt-Zollars was founded in 1975 and is a Top 150 Engineering firm according to Engineering News Record. The firm is a multi-discipline organization with 450 people in 15 offices in the western United States.

The overall corporate profile and areas of specialization include projects in transportation, public works, urban and land development, environmental and building facilities. Huitt-Zollars has a

strong record of undertaking complex and diverse projects for numerous clients.

In the Austin region, Huitt-Zollars has completed projects for the TxDOT Austin District, the TxDOT Bridge Division, Texas Turnpike Authority Division, Austin Bergstrom Airport, The City of Cedar Park, and other clients.

If you would like to have more information on Huitt-Zollars, please contact Van Short, P.E., at 512-923-3223 or [vshort@huitt-zollars.com](mailto:vshort@huitt-zollars.com).

# Keep Going

By Dale Shumaker, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

I have been exercising a lot lately. (Maybe you have too – one of those New Year’s resolutions that you haven’t quite abandoned yet.) But honestly, after 3 months of being up before the sun, it is starting to wear on me. When I’m a few miles into my run and I see a stop sign, I can’t help but think maybe it would be better (definitely easier) if I just stopped.

It is kind of that way for TSPE as well. We have finished the hard work of putting on the Austin MathCounts Competition, planning and having a great Engineers Banquet, participating in other E-

week activities, developing a better relationships with the PE Board, implementing a new website, and putting on more than six great monthly programs. So it’s about time to stop, right?

Well, there is a time for everything ... but not for stopping. Sometimes it is good to rest, reprioritize, and plan, but you can’t stop. In March and April, we have great monthly meetings planned along with elections. In May, we will install new Officers.

In June, there is the State meeting in Corpus Christi. Additionally, the Travis Chapter Bylaws need to be redone. There is the summer picnic, a



state PE board meeting coming up, the leadership retreat, and then there is next September and a whole new year of promoting the Professional Engineer. Well, maybe we do need to take a breath, but not stop. The future of our profession is too important.

## ***Officer Elections for 2006-2007 Board of Directors***

If you receive this newsletter electronically, you will soon get an e-mailed ballot for you to vote on next year’s Board of Director candidates. Paper newsletter recipients will have the ballot included in the mailed version of the newsletter. If you do not receive a ballot, call Beth Falls at 433-2537.

## **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 appropriate assistance to its members to facilitate the pursuit of their professional goals.



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# Chapter awards scholarships

The Travis Chapter is proud to announce that **Ms. Tiffany Samuelson** and **Ms. Sharon Tam** are the winners of this year's chapter scholarships.

Ms. Samuelson is from Taylor High School where she is ranked first in her senior class. She also medalled at the state and regional academic decathlon competitions among other distinguished achievements. She plans to pursue architectural engineering at The University of Texas at Austin.

Ms. Tam is from Westwood High School where she is ranked second in her senior class. She is an AP National Scholar and First-chair violinist in her school's symphony orchestra among other notable achievements. She plans to pursue computer engineering at The University of Texas at Austin.

*State Happenings*  
by Julia Harrod, P.E.

## What is TSPE doing for me?

TSPE to host PE exam lunch in April: Building on the success of our efforts in October, TSPE will once again host PE exam lunches across the state on April 21. Anyone interested in representing the Travis Chapter at this event can contact **Larissa Wobus, E.I.T** at 453-0767 or [larrisaw@mwminc.com](mailto:larrisaw@mwminc.com).

### State MATHCOUNTS competition slated for March 18

TSPE continues to promote math and engineering at the Statewide MATHCOUNTS competition held on March 18. From 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., guests and volunteers are invited to join the MATHLETES for a keynote address entitled *Engineers Can do Anything!* by Celeste Bain, a biomedical engineer, Director of the Engineering Education Service Center, and the author of *Is There an Engineer Inside You?* In addition, the exciting "Countdown Round" will be conducted, followed by the awards presentation. Graders and proctors are still needed from 7:30 to 1:00 pm (lunch provided) at the Renaissance Austin Hotel (9721 Arboretum Blvd).

### Members welcome to TSPE Board Meeting March 17

Every TSPE member is always welcome to attend the state board meetings held here in Austin. The next Board meeting is March 17 at the Renaissance Austin Hotel (9721 Arboretum Blvd). The meeting will start at 8:30 am and typically goes until 3:00 pm. **Julia Harrod, P.E.** will attend to represent the Travis Chapter (feel free to contact her at [juliah@mwminc.com](mailto:juliah@mwminc.com) or 453-0767 for more information).

# Banquet success due in no small part to dozens of volunteers and supporters

by Kelly Barney, P.E.  
Banquet Director

I can't thank you enough for making this year's Engineers Week Banquet such a success.

It is very gratifying to have had very widespread support for this annual event. We had a remarkable show of support from 32 company sponsors this year.

The Banquet was wonderful thanks to the hard work by the twelve committee members who volunteered their time in organizing this event. Thanks to **Heidi Anderson, P.E.**,

**Carter+Burgess**, **Nicole Francois, E.I.T.** *Vickrey & Associates*, **Jennifer Groody, P.E.**, *City of Austin*, **Stacie Jones, E.I.T.** *Carter+Burgess*, **Kenneth Klanika**, *Brigham Exploration Company*, **Ron Mick, P.E.**, *URS*, **Dale Murphy, P.E.**, *K Friese & Associates, Inc.*, **Anna Rodriguez, TCEQ**, **Ted Schoenberg, P.E.**, *Austin Energy*, **Dale Shumaker, P.E.**, *C Faulkner Engineering*, **Don Willhouse, P.E.**, *HR Gray*, and **Larissa Wobus, E.I.T.**, *Martinez, Wright & Mendez, Inc.*

Congratulations again to the award winners: **Catherine Nash** (ASABE Young Engineer of the Year), **Terry Howell, Ph.D., P.E.** (ASABE Engineer of the Year), **Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E.** (TSPE Young Engineer of the Year),



Saul A. Nuccitelli, P.E., C.F.M. (left) presents the 2006 Young Engineer of the Year Award to Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E.

**Doug Bell, P.E.** (TSPE Engineer of the Year) and **Dr. Richard Furlong, Ph.D., P.E.** (ASCE Civil Engineer of the Year).

We especially thank **Brigadier General Robert Crear** from the Mississippi Valley Division of the US Corps of Engineers who did a fabulous job as our keynote speaker. He spoke about the Corps' response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the actions taken to help affected areas of Louisiana and Mississippi.

The *Hepcats Dixie Land Jazz Band* as well as *Casino Knights* did a great job entertaining us after the dinner presentations ended. Various door prizes were awarded throughout the evening to some very lucky winners.

Thanks again for everyone's help. I greatly appreciate all of the hard work that was put in this event to make it one of the most memorable banquets of the Travis Chapter.

# *Special Thanks*

## **Engineer Banquet Corporate Sponsors**

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Brian Rice, P.E. (right) with 2006 Engineer of the Year Award Doug Bell, P.E.



Keynote Speaker Brigadier General Robert Crear from the Mississippi Valley Division of the US Corps of Engineers and Banquet Director Kelly Barney, P.E.

# Board Meeting Minutes

by Dan Shanahan, P.E.

Below are the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held February 8, 2006:

Minutes of previous Board Meeting were approved. President **Dale Shumaker, P.E.** called for Reading of Communications Web-Site, Newsletter and issues needing resolution.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer **Rebecca Feldman** submitted the TSPE Travis Chapter Account transactions dated January 31, 2006. Discussion on MathCount funds confirmed these funds are

reimbursable. Check book balance \$43,971.91.

Finance Director, **Stephanie Stanford** reported Advertising on Web/Newsletter, Meeting Sponsors and Coordination of Fund Raising.

## Monthly Programs

**Steve Roth** has lined up Karen Dulaney Smith, Wage & Hour Expert as our speaker February 15. Our March 15 Chapter meeting speaker is Karen Bondy, LCRA Manager of River Services. Karen Bondy will discuss LCRA's Flood Plain and Drought Management

programs and the LCRA /SAWS Project.

## Professional Practice

Director Representative **John Powell** reports there are three openings on the Texas State P.E. Board and your preference for Board members is invited.

Membership incentives for Government Engineers are of great interest to this sector being welcomed into the Travis Chapter. New P.E.s and E.I.T.s are also invited to seek information from fellow members and the Board.

## Hospitality

Many banquet attendees are not members of our Travis Chapter and so all members are encouraged to be good hosts and provide good will to all in attendance.

## Attendees

**Dale Shumaker, Steve Roth, Rebecca Feldman, Stephanie Stanford, Carroll Faulkner, Dan Shanahan** and **Beth Falls**.

## Next Board Meeting

The next TSPE Board meeting will be held at the offices of *C Faulkner Engineering*, 400 Bowie Street, Suite 250 on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, beginning at noon.

## Auxiliary Happenings

by Olga Biehler

Three senior U.T. Engineering Students were awarded scholarships from the Auxiliary's *Leah Moncure Scholarship Fund* at our March 8 Afternoon Tea.

Applications from UT Engineering Majors are carefully reviewed each year and the following were selected: **Kristen Donnelly**, Architectural Engineering.; **Christina Lam**, Electrical Engineering.; and **Hanna Kim**, Chemical Engineering.

The winners were represented by U.T.'s Director of Engineering Program, **Michelle Mansolo**, and U.T.'s Director of Women Engineering Program, **Tricia Berry**.

**Billie Nixon**, Auxiliary Committee Scholarship member, made the presentation.

Also at our March meeting, Auxiliary President, **Amanda Miertschin**, conducted a brief business meeting. The slate of officers for the coming year was approved by members present. The President acknowledged our special guests including the National Executive Vice-President of the ATSPE, **Mary Duane Dawson**, from San Antonio and the State President ATSPE from El Paso.

The next Auxiliary meeting will be held at the home of **Bertha Guerra** on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. Prospective members may call Bertha at 327-0574 for directions and are always welcome.

## Want to influence the future of engineering?

There are three openings on the Texas State PE Board

Call Dale Shumaker at 433-2642 to find out how you could help shape the future of the Board.

# Take a break and energize your career

We are all busy.

Project deadlines, site visits, client and staff meetings, finding quiet time to think, attending training, commitments to family and friends . . . every minute of the day is calling for your attention.

If this describes you, remember you share company with hundreds of other professional engineers in

the Austin area. Sometimes you gotta take a break from the routine of your busy worklife and join your fellow engineers for a special lunch where you can hear from some really smart people who come to speak to us each month.

So take a break with your fellow engineers and attend our monthly programs. They are put on for you

as a member. We meet each month at the Austin Woman's Club in downtown Austin. Yes, it takes a few hours out of your month, but the rewards are countless. New friends, new professional contacts, and news you can use in your profession. Plus, it's fun.

See you there!



Travis Chapter members and guests at the February luncheon meeting got some great workforce management tips from Karen Dulaney Smith (top right). Each month's luncheon is a chance to meet fellow engineers and hear from Austin's leaders at the historic and beautiful Austin Woman's Club. Never been to a meeting? Make it a point this year to try it -- you'll be hooked.



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