



Travis Engineer

Newsletter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Travis Chapter

December 2006 Vol. 56, No. 7

The Season for Sharing

**Children to delight our December Program
Call for 2006 EOY, YEOY Nominations
Plus MATHCOUNTS, Scholarships & more**



The Season for Sharing

Each year the TSPE Travis Chapter sponsors a gift sharing program for children at our December Christmas program. This year, children ages 4 months to 8 years from *Escuela Montessori de Montopolis* and the *Alpha Omega Early Childhood Development School* will join us and Santa on Wednesday, December 20, at the Austin Woman's Club for a holiday happening that brings joy to the hearts of those who share in this special event. We have special entertainment this year as your Board will be leading the Travis Chapter and the children in a sing-a-long of some favorite Christmas carols. If you've sponsored a child in the past, you will remember the smiles of delight as your child opens his or her presents. For those of you who have not

sponsored a child before, we encourage you to join other Travis Chapter engineers and become a sponsor. This year 87 children are being sponsored. For many of these children, your gifts may be the only gifts they receive. To sponsor a child, please call **Beth Falls** at 674-9437. You don't have to attend the meeting on December 20 to sponsor a child.

The Travis Chapter is also supporting the Capital Area Food Bank by collecting money and nonperishable food items. The Food Bank's mission is "to nourish hungry people and lead the community in ending hunger." It currently provides food and grocery products through 370 Partner Agencies in 21 Central Texas counties to help feed the working poor in their personal battles against hunger. In 2005, the Food Bank distributed more



than 15 million pounds of food in Central Texas. You can bring your monetary or food donation to the meeting on December 20. A donation web-site has also been set up for your convenience. Go to <http://tspe-travis.org/> and click on "Donate to the Capital Area Food Bank Here" under Holiday Events to make your donation. No amount is too small. Just one dollar provides five meals to folks in need in our area.

Special thanks to **James Klotz** and the *TxDOT Engineers* who, for over ten years, have raised substantial funds to purchase books for each child; the *Texas Wireless Association* for sponsoring 10 children; and to **Clayton Stice** of *Stanley Consultants* who donates his time as Santa. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time, help, and support in making this event a success. It's a great way to share during the holiday season.

December Program

Special Guests:

Children from the *Escuela Montessori de Montopolis*
and the *Alpha Omega Early Childhood Development School*

Wednesday, December 20, 2006

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

Austin Woman's Club
708 San Antonio St.

Cost: \$20 per person with advance reservation;
\$5 for students and government employees

Reservations can be made by visiting www.tspe-travis.org



What a Year

By Julie Hastings, P.E. - President, Travis Chapter TSPE

Whew! We have almost made it through another year. Of course, the December Chapter meeting is always my favorite because we get to spread our good fortune and cheer to children who aren't always as lucky. If you have not had the opportunity to join TSPE for our December meeting, please take the time this December 20 to come down to the Austin Woman's Club and join in the festivities. We will have good food, good cheer and Santa will be there to hand out presents. You'll have a really good time. Also, don't forget to bring your monetary or food donations for the Capital Area Food Bank. And if you haven't picked a child to sponsor yet, give **Beth Falls** a call at 674-9437 to become one of the lucky ones who gets to sponsor a child and watch their eyes and face fill with joy as they open their gifts.

What else has been going on this year? Plenty. We kicked off the 2006-2007 TSPE year with a fun-and-sun filled picnic at Keller's Arena on Lake Travis. The "fun" included games of horseshoes and washers, bouncing down the 'slip and slide,' and splashing in the pool. The picnic set the tone for an exciting year and we haven't lost momentum yet.

In August, several Travis Chapter members attended the TSPE Leadership Conference in Kerrville, to learn more about how the State

TSPE office can help us. We also met with leaders from other local chapters. We were treated to an excellent seminar by Jim Dalton on Leadership Development. Not only did we learn a lot, but we also made new friends as we spent time with fellow engineers in a relaxing, non-stressful environment while enjoying fajitas and cool beverages by the pool until well after the sun went down.

This fall's programs, arranged by **Kelly Barney, P.E.**, have been fascinating and informative. In September, **Ken Rigsbee, P.E.**, our NSPE president-elect-elect came to speak to us about the great programs and initiatives going on at the National level. Ken also gave a motivational talk on how to become involved in local politics – timely considering the important elections we had in November. The following presentation in October by **Bill Hoffman, Jr., P.E.** touched on the very critical topic of water conservation in Central Texas. Bill's talk was informative and interesting and he did an excellent job of describing the issues at hand. Then, in November, you can't beat the show by **Durward Curlee** and **Gerhardt Schulle** to get you pumped up about Texas politics and your opportunity to have your voice heard in Austin. Our Christmas party in December rounds out this year's programs. Please join me in thanking **Beth Falls** for taking the lead in organizing this wonderful

event! With those under our belt, I can't wait to see what Kelly has in store for us next year!

In addition to these excellent monthly programs, your Board has been hard at work to finish up this year with a bang. **Steve Roth, P.E.** has been organizing and motivating all of our committees. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Steve and he will point you in the right direction. Don't forget – we are still on the lookout for a finance director. **Ryan Bell, P.E.** has been planning the beginning stages of the Engineers Banquet, already securing a place and a date. Meanwhile, **Garrett Bonn, P.E.** has set up the time and place for the 2007 MATHCOUNTS competition and is now working to sign up as many schools as possible. Both of these events are very important to TSPE so please join in the fun and help Ryan and Garrett with the planning and execution. With all these events going on, let's not forget about the work that **John Powell, P.E.**, and **Julia Harrod, P.E.** are doing to keep us informed regarding Professional Board and TSPE State Happenings. And to all of the other board members doing your jobs day-in and day-out, thank you for making 2006 a successful year and I look forward to and even better 2007!



Travis Chapter



www.tspe-travis.org

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of the National Society of Professional Engineers

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Auxiliary Happenings

by Olga Biehler

The TSPE Auxiliary held its annual scholarship luncheon at The U.T. University Club November 15.

Winners of the 2006 *Leah Moncure Scholarship Fund* are **Kristen Donnelly**, majoring in Architectural Engineering; **Christina Lam**, majoring in Electrical Engineering; and **Hannah Kim**, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Donna Johnson, Auxiliary Scholarship Chairwoman, presented the awards. The scholarship winners were chosen for their scholastic achievement, financial need and demonstrated dedication to their desired goals in obtaining engineering degrees in their respective areas. The three recipients were represented by U.T. Associate Director of College Relations, John Halston.

Auxiliary President **Nancy Mueller** acknowledged contributions from Auxiliary members at the October scholarship benefit luncheon held at the Oasis Restaurant hosted by **Pinky McKetta**, Program Chairman.

The December event will be a Christmas Social and Dinner at the newly renovated home of **Jose and Bertha Guerra**, 908 Castleridge Rd. at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13. TSPE members, Auxiliary members and spouses and guests are invited to share this Holiday Season by making reservations with Bertha Guerra at 512-327-0574. The cost is \$12.50 per person. Come and join us for this festive Christmas gathering.

**Not receiving
Chapter e-mail notices?
Changed your address or title?
You may have to update your
membership information.**

**To update your information, have your membership ID
number in hand and log on to www.nspe.org
and click on "membership."
Or call (888) 285-6773.**



WE NEED YOU!



The Travis Chapter has four great opportunities for you to get involved with TSPE. If you like working with youth, putting on a party or working with finances, we need you.

Check out the following leadership positions that are available:

MATHCOUNTS

The Travis Chapter organizes and sponsors an annual MATHCOUNTS competition to promote middle school mathematics achievement. We need your help! Contact **Garret Bonn** at 674-9446 or gbonn@cfeamerica.com for more information.

Christmas Party

Each year, Travis Chapter members offer gifts and good cheer to children in need at our December Christmas Party. Volunteers are needed to help make this year's event a special time for these wonderful kids. Contact **Beth Falls** at 433-2537 or send an e-mail to

bfalls@cfeamerica.com for more information.

Finance Director

Responsible for fundraising coordination, chapter meeting sponsorships, and web/newsletter advertising.

Contact **Steve Roth** at 338-2745 or swroth@lan-inc.com.

Engineers Week Banquet

The engineering community's premiere social event of the year will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2007.

Contact **Ryan Bell** at 338-1704 or rbell@kfriese.com if you are interested in helping out with:

- Door Prizes
- Programs
- Invitations
- Name Tags
- Speaker
- Awards
- Commemorative Gift
- Entertainment
- Music
- Sponsorships

TSPE Scholarship deadline fast approaching

By Weng On Tam, P.E. - Scholarship Director, Travis Chapter TSPE

High School students interested pursuing a degree in engineering are encouraged to apply for the *Paul & Mary Keller Scholarship* and TSPE Scholarships. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be a high school senior with a 3.0 or higher GPA entering college in 2007.
- 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 Tuesday, January 9, 2007.

I urge each of you to pass this information along to their friends and neighbors. Last year we received numerous 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 me at the address below:

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

Chapter now accepting nominations for Engineer of the Year Award

Each year the Travis Chapter recognizes the outstanding Engineer of the Year which is awarded during National Engineers Week. To nominate someone for this award, please complete the nomination form below and return it to **Robert Davis, P.E.** at the address below.

Nominees must be a registered professional engineer and a member of Travis Chapter, TSPE. Retired members may also be considered. He or she must have demonstrated professional service and community visibility.

Significant chapter activities and/or technical achievement may also be considered, as well as any other significant service or contribution.

Nominations must be received by **January 1, 2007**, after which a Selection Committee will consider all nominations and select the Engineer of the Year. The Award will be presented at the Engineer's Banquet in March, 2007. If you have any questions about the nomination process, call Robert at 258-7510.



Travis Chapter Engineer of the Year Nomination Form

Deadline January 1, 2007

As a member of the Travis Chapter, TSPE,

I nominate _____ for consideration as Travis Chapter's Engineer of the Year. I agree to be contacted by a member of the EOY Selection Committee to provide my reasons for nominating this candidate:

Your Name _____ Date _____

Phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Robert Davis, P.E.
11305 Taterwood Drive
Austin, TX 78750
512-258-7510
rdavis34@austin.rr.com

Travis Chapter now accepting nominations for Outstanding Young Engineer Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the Outstanding Young Engineer of the Year. Nominees must meet the following requirements to be considered for this award:

- Applicants must live within the Travis Chapter jurisdictional area, which consists of the following counties: Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Gillespie, Llano, Caldwell, Burnet, Lee, Hays, Blanco, or Lampasas
- Age 34 or younger prior to January 1, 2007.
- Graduate of an ABET-accredited engineering school.
- Licensed Engineer in Training or Professional Engineer.
- Member in good standing of TSPE or NSPE.

Evaluation Criteria

Nominees achievements and experience will be evaluated using the following criteria:

Education and Collegiate Achievements	12%
Professional Society Activities	15%
Technical Society Activities	12%
Civic and Humanitarian Activities	12%
Continuing Competence	12%
Engineering Achievements	25%
Professional Experience	12%
Total	100%



Travis Chapter Young Engineer of the Year Nomination Form

Deadline January 1, 2007

As a member of the Travis Chapter, TSPE, I nominate:

Name _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

for consideration as Travis Chapter's Young Engineer of the Year. I agree to be contacted by a member of the EOY Selection Committee to provide my reasons for nominating this candidate:

Your Name _____

Address: _____

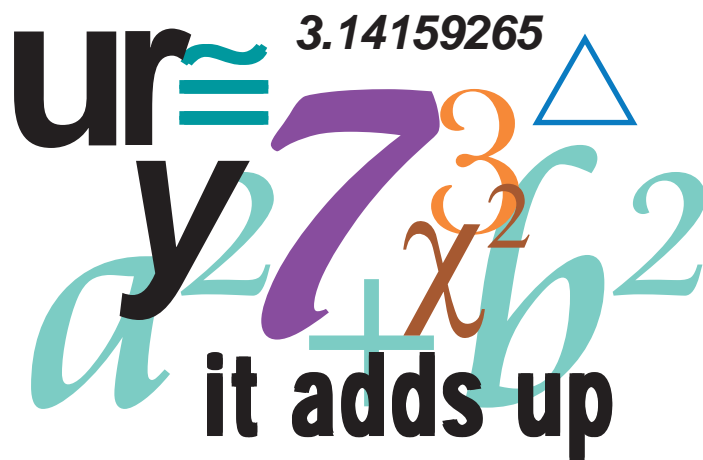
Phone _____ E-mail _____

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Timothy J. Martin, P.E.
Fugro Consultants LP
8613 Cross Park Drive
Austin, TX 78754
512-977-1837 Fax: 973-9565
tmartin@fugro.com

Countdown begins!

Mathcounts puts young minds to the test



MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide math enrichment, coaching and competition program directed to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and their coaches, designed to increase enthusiasm for, and enhance achievement in, middle school mathematics throughout the United States.

Participating schools administer their school competitions and select up to eight students to compete at local chapter competitions in February. Winners at the chapter competitions advance to Austin to participate in the state competition March 23 - 24, 2007 at the Hilton Austin Hotel - Downtown. The four highest-ranking individuals (Mathletes®) and the coach of the winning team comprise the national team, which progresses to the Lockheed Martin MATHCOUNTS National Competition, held May 11-13, 2007 in Fort Worth.

The program's success rests in great part on coaching sessions held at the school level. Texas is one step

ahead of the game, as the only state to offer specific training in the use of the MATHCOUNTS materials for its coaches. Local chapter coordinators hold MATHCOUNTS Teacher Workshops throughout the year, typically in the fall before school competitions begin, that include tips and ideas for preparing students for competitions, as well as materials and ideas to improve problem-solving skills in their classrooms.

One team of up to four students per school is eligible to compete. Up to four individuals may be registered in addition to, or in lieu of, a school team for a total of eight students per school. Students may compete only for their official school of record. (Academic centers or enrichment programs that do not function as students' official school of record are not eligible to register.)

Competitions are comprised of four components: The Sprint Round consists of 30 problems to be solved in 40 minutes. Calculators are not

permitted. The Target Round consists of eight problems presented in four pairs with 6 minutes per pair. Calculators ARE permitted. The Team Round consists of 10 problems that team members, working together, have 20 minutes to solve. The Countdown Round is a fast-paced, oral competition for top-scoring students, based on scores in the Sprint and Target Rounds. Pairs of Mathletes compete heads up against each other and the clock. Calculators are not permitted. (The countdown round is an unofficial component at the school and chapter levels.)

Each year, the MATHCOUNTS Foundation creates the MATHCOUNTS School Handbook, which is distributed free of charge to middle schools across the country. Consisting of 300 creative math problems meeting National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for grades 6-8, this handbook provides the basis for teachers and volunteers to coach student Mathletes on problem-solving and mathematical skills. If you have not received your free handbook, please contact mathcounts@tspe.org to request a copy.

The Travis Chapter event will be held on February 17, 2006 at Welch Hall on the U.T. Campus. We are always looking for volunteers so if this sounds like a fun and interesting event for you to help out in, call **Garret Bonn** at 674-9446 or send an e-mail to gbonn@cfeamerica.com. (Article reprinted from tspe.org)

Board Meeting Minutes

by Larissa Prince, E.I.T.

Below are the Minutes of the TSPE Travis Chapter Board of Directors Meeting held November 1, 2006:

Treasury & Finance Report

The meeting began with a Treasurer's Report from Treasurer **Rebecca Feldman**. Account balance is \$44,807.92. There was discussion on how scholarships offered by the chapter would be financed in the future. Scholarships are currently funded with banquet profits. This item will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

Next on the agenda was Education. The Board approved to sponsor an E-Week volunteer training session up to the amount of \$350.

Engineer's Banquet Report

Ryan Bell, Banquet Director, provided the Engineer's Banquet update. The Banquet is set for

Saturday March 3, 2007 at the Hyatt Hotel-Town Lake. Volunteers are needed for door prizes, programs and invitations, speaker, awards, commemorative gift, entertainment, music, and sponsorship.

Membership & Hospitality Report

Stephanie Stanford provided a Membership and Hospitality update. The next Happy Hour will be November 2 at Opal Divine's at Penn Field. The softball game with the local student chapter of TSPE will be held in the Spring.

Committees Report

Steve Roth gave a Committees update. There is still a need for a Finance Director. A Strategic Planning Committee will be formed to look at how the chapter will plan for the future.

Upcoming Programs

The Board discussed the details of the Christmas Party which is set for December 20. The Board decided to order the donation boxes to collect for the Food Drive to support the Capital Area Food Bank. **John Powell** volunteered to ask for food drive sponsorships and contact companies about putting out the donation boxes. Extra effort will be made to make sure that all the children are adopted. This year there will be Holiday Party sponsors instead of Turkey sponsors. Entertainment will be provided by chapter members.

New Business

The Board will continue looking into other venue options for Travis Chapter Meetings due to the recent increase in price to hold the meetings at the Austin Woman's Club. The search will be expanded by exploring new meeting dates. The venue change will take place in January or September of 2007.

December newsletter articles are due to Julie Hastings by November 24.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, at the offices of Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., 10801 N Mopac, Bldg 1, Ste 120.

Attendees

Julie Hastings, Julia Harrod, Stephanie Stanford, Larissa Prince, John Powell, Ryan Bell, Rebecca Feldman, Steve Roth and Kathy Long.

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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