



Travis Engineer

Newsletter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Travis Chapter February 2007 Vol. 57, No. 2

Engineers of the Year



John Wooley P.E.
2007 Travis Chapter
Engineer of the Year



Dale Murphy P.E.
2007 Travis Chapter
Young Engineer of the Year

Austin Power

February luncheon speaker M. Chris Kirksey, Vice President of Power Production for Austin Energy, to speak on the City's capacity to generate power for today and the future



M. Chris Kirksey, Senior Vice President of Power Production for Austin Energy

Where are we getting our power? Come join us at the next TSPE Travis Chapter luncheon to hear M. Chris Kirksey, Senior Vice President of Power Production at Austin Energy give us an overview of Austin Energy's current power generation resources. This update will also include a discussion on the options for resources in the future. Mr. Kirksey will be available after his presentation to answer any questions you may have about power production at Austin Energy.

M. Chris Kirksey is the Sr. Vice President of Power Production for Austin Energy, the City of Austin's municipally owned electric utility.

Chris joined Austin Energy in 1985 and has worked in a variety of roles in power generation, including engineering and plant management. He assumed his current role in 2004, where he is responsible for executive oversight of Austin Energy's electric power generation facilities which include nuclear, coal, and natural gas fueled plants.

Chris is a member of the City of Rollingwood's Board of Adjustments and the LBJ High School Liberal Arts and Science Academy Advisory Board. Chris has B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Texas Tech University and is a past President of the Austin chapter of the Texas Tech Alumni Association. Chris is an elder at the First Presbyterian Church. He is married with three children.

February Luncheon Program

Special Guest:

M. Chris Kirksey, Senior Vice President of Power Production for Austin Energy

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

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

The Green Pastures Restaurant
811 W. Live Oak Street

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

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

New Meeting Location and Date

Beginning with this month's luncheon program, we will be meeting every **SECOND Wednesday** of the month at a new location.

Our February 14 meeting will be at the **Green Pastures Restaurant** located at **811 W. Live Oak Street** in South Austin (see the map on page 3)
See you there!



Travis Chapter



www.tspe-travis.org

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of the National Society of Professional Engineers

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January speaker rescheduled for March

January luncheon speaker Lance Kinney, P.E., Deputy Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, had to reschedule his speaking engagement with us from January to March. For those of you wanting

to get one Professional Development Hour of credit to wards your Ethics continuing education requirement, please note to come to the March meeting to hear Mr. Kinney.

Monthly meeting venue moves to Greener Pastures, new date

After many years of meeting at the Austin Woman's Club on San Antonio Street, the Travis Chapter Board of Directors has changed the venue for our monthly meetings to the Green Pastures Restaurant, located in South Austin.

Also changing is the date we will meet. Starting this month, we will hold our chapter luncheons on the SECOND Wednesday of the month.

We will continue to book dynamic and informative speakers as we work to keep you "in the know" on issues important to our profession.

Green Pastures is an excellent restaurant in a beautiful setting. It is a wonderful way to enjoy the company of your fellow professional engineers and learn at the same time.

We encourage you to join us this month and every month.





I am a P.E. and let me tell you why

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



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2007**
February 18-24

I'm a P.E.

How do you respond when people ask you what you do for a living? Do you say "I'm a P.E.?" You probably don't because then you will more than likely have to answer the follow-on questions: What is a P.E.? What does P.E. stand for? What does a P.E. do? However, if you ask a certified public accountant what they do they will say "I'm a CPA." End of discussion. Why is the general public so familiar with their three letters and have no idea what a P.E. is? The brand of the CPA has been well-established as a household name. The accountants qualifying to be a CPA have successfully distinguished themselves from other individuals performing accounting or bookkeeping tasks who can be called "accountant." In much the same way, engineers who have received their Professional Engineering license have distinguished themselves, through much education and hard work, from lesser-qualified individuals performing an incredibly vast array of activities under the title "engineer." In 2003, the State of Texas passed legislation to allow

the title "engineer" to be used by any individual regardless of education or licensing or job duties. Therefore, it is our responsibility as practicing professional engineers to enhance and promote the significance of the P.E. brand. This exercise is imperative to the growth and prestige of our profession. In a few days we will have hundreds of engineers storm the Capitol for P.E. Day at the Capitol. These efforts are big steps toward communicating the brand and importance of the P.E. designation. However, it takes daily affirmation and communication of a term to make it a commonly used word in the public's everyday vocabulary. The burden of that task is on each of us individually. We are proud of what we do and who we are, so let's help to make it a profession that is branded and recognized by society as the honorable, prestigious, and exclusive profession that it is. I challenge you, next time someone asks you what you do for a living, answer proudly "I'm a P.E." You might get the opportunity to educate one more person as to the meaning of those two letters.

Upcoming Events

February 1, 2007
Happy Hour
at Opal Divines Marina
(Parmer and Mopac)
5:30 p.m.

February 6, 2007
P.E. Day at the Capitol
Texas State Capitol
All Day

February 17, 2007
MATHCOUNTS
Welch Hall on UT Campus
7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

March 3, 2007
Engineers Banquet
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Casino Royale 2-007

By Ryan Bell, P.E.

The Travis Chapter of TSPE will be co-hosting the annual Engineer's Week Banquet with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

This year, our banquet will be on Saturday March 3, starting at 7 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Town Lake. The theme for this year's banquet

will be Casino Royale 2-007 and will have a distinctive James Bond flair. In addition to great food and live music, the *Casino Knights* will be on hand to provide casino style fun for the evening. Admission is \$55 per person.

Please RSVP to rbell@kfriese.com by February 18.

The key to success of this banquet every year is through sponsorships from our supportive local companies. Please go to www.tspe-travis.org/banquet where you can find a sponsorship form which details the different sponsorship levels available. You may also call me at 338-1704 with any questions.

It will be an exciting evening (as usual) and I look forward to seeing you there!



2007 Engineers Banquet

Saturday March 3, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Town Lake

Cost: \$55 per person

For tickets, call
Ryan Bell at 338-1704
or send an e-mail to:
rbell@kfriese.com

Engineer of the Year

John Wooley P.E.

Mr. John A. Wooley, P.E. has been selected as the 2007 Engineer of the Year for the Travis Chapter, Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE). Mr. Wooley has been a member of the Travis Chapter TSPE since 1984. A native of Waco, Mr. Wooley received his BSCE (with Highest Honors) in 1972 and his MSE in 1974, both from the University of Texas at Austin, where he was a member of the honorary fraternities Tau Beta Pi and Chi Epsilon.

After receiving his Master's Degree from UT with an emphasis in Geotechnical Engineering, he entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant assigned to the Air Force Weapon's Laboratory (AFWL) at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, New Mexico. While at AFWL, Lieutenant Wooley managed a research program responsible for conducting high explosive blast simulation tests to characterize subsurface materials for design of hardened missile launch sites. Mr. Wooley

was honorably discharged in 1976 and obtained a position with McClelland Engineers, Inc in Houston, Texas.

With McClelland Engineers' offshore group, Mr. Wooley had the opportunity to work in many parts of the world including the North Sea, Indian Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Beaufort Sea, Persian Gulf and surrounding continents. Longing for the simple life and to escape Houston traffic, he transferred to McClelland's Little Rock, Arkansas office in 1979. It took about three years to realize how much he missed Texas, so in 1982 he seized an opportunity to assist in the opening of McClelland's second Texas office in Dallas. In 1984, ten years after having left, it was time to move back to Austin, where Mr. Wooley opened McClelland's third Texas office.

The Firm and the City are much different today than in 1984. The McClelland culture has been blended with the Fugro culture and locally the Frank G. Bryant and Associates and Brent Rahut Engineering cultures were added to the mix as the Firm transitioned from



2007 Travis Chapter Engineer of the Year, John Wooley, P.E.

Bryant-McClelland, and Fugro-BRE to Fugro Consultants. Along the way, Mr. Wooley was fortunate to have had many able teachers, advisors and mentors, not the least of which are Lymon C. Reese, John A. Focht Jr, Clarence J. Ehlers, Carl W. Garner, Timothy J. Abrams,

Kenneth J. Koch, A. Frank Marshall, and Frank G. Bryant. Not only did these individuals inspire to always do the best engineering one could, but also to practice our profession in an ethical manner, and to provide a service to the community by participating and volunteering in
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Young Engineer of the Year **Dale Murphy P.E.**

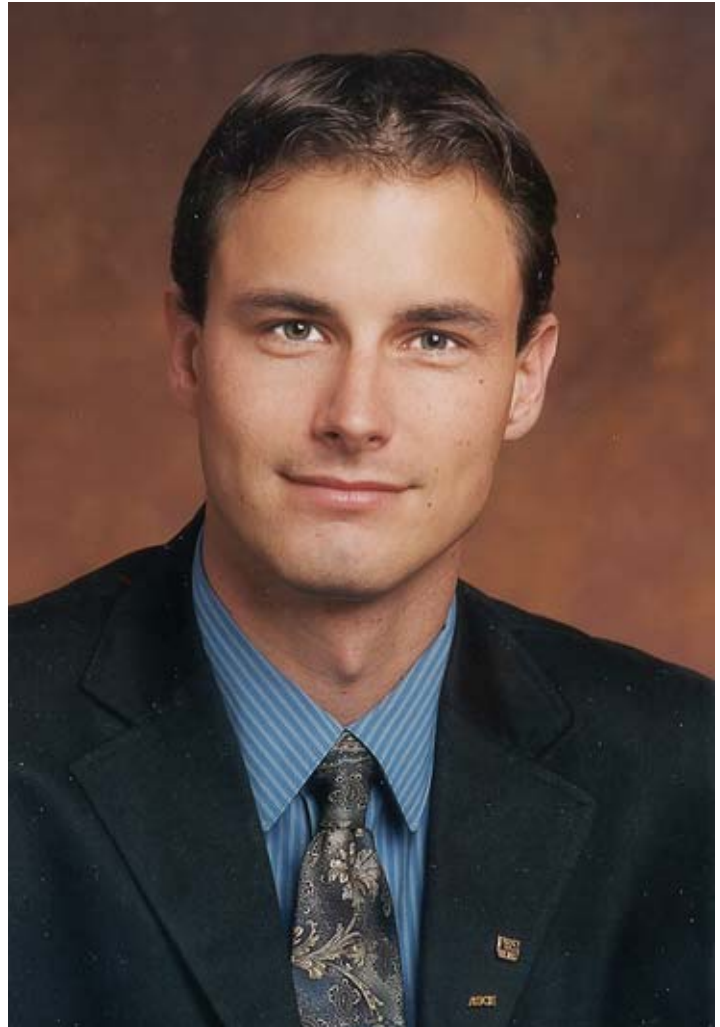
Our 2007 Young Engineer of the Year Dale Murphy has over ten years of experience in planning, design and construction management of water and wastewater systems, airport improvements, and transportation infrastructure. He is currently an Associate with K Friese & Associates, Inc. and primarily manages water, wastewater and transportation projects in the Central Texas area. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University and engineering licenses in the States of California and Texas.

Dale began his career with John Powell & Associates, Inc. in San Diego, California where he worked for five years as a design engineer and construction manager for various public works projects in Southern California. In 2001, Dale joined PBS&J and relocated to the Austin area joining their Aviation and Public Works departments.

Being active in professional and charitable organizations has been an important aspect of Dale's career. For the past ten

years, he has served at the Branch, Section, and National levels of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as an officer and/or committee member. He is currently the President of the Austin Branch of ASCE, where he has focused his efforts over the last few years on the creation of a Younger Member Forum, strengthening ties with the University of Texas ASCE Chapter, and development of a Branch website. Additional positions he has held with ASCE include Younger Member President of the San Diego Section and Corresponding Member of the Leadership & Management Committee for National ASCE. Dale has also been active with the Travis Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE), serving on the Engineer's Week Banquet Committee and Website Committee.

Dale currently serves as a community-based "Big Brother" for the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) organization spending time with and mentoring a 10-year old named Devonta. For the past two years, he has



Dale P. Murphy, P.E., of K Friese & Associates, Inc. is the 2007 Travis Chapter Young Engineer of the Year recipient.

participated on the BBBS organizing committee of the "Central Texas Bowl for Kids Sake" event, which is the largest fundraiser for the organization; last year, this committee raised over \$140,000. In addition to his efforts with BBBS, Dale has served on the organizing committee of

Austin Young Execs, a group of business professionals who are 39 years of age and younger with a goal of encouraging community involvement and professional growth for its members. In his spare time, Dale enjoys mountain biking, golf, snow skiing, and is also a licensed private pilot.



TSPE State Happenings

“What is TSPE doing for me?”

By Julia Harrod, P.E. -
State Director, Travis Chapter TSPE

PE Day at the Capitol February 6

This is the state’s BIG EVENT of the year. Every two years, while the legislature is in session, TSPE schedules a day at the capitol when members visit en-masse with elected representatives to discuss engineering-related issues. We have our hands full again this session. The anti-QBS forces are already drafting legislation to introduce price into the consultant selection process. Design-Build issues will also be debated. And TSPE needs the help of every member and chapter to help in the effort to protect our profession from outside forces who continu-

ally try to weaken the Engineering Practice Act.

We have been increasingly successful on recent visits, and expect this year to be even bigger and better than ever before.

Gerhardt Schulle has lined up Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst to be the speaker for the evening dinner and Speaker Tom Craddick to give the keynote at the luncheon. TSPE’s ability to obtain such high level speakers is a reflection of our visibility and standing at the Capitol.

Visit www.tspe.org to sign up for the event. \$125 gets you in for the

entire day including issue briefing, training session, lunch, legislator meetings, reception, and dinner. Corporate sponsorships are also available for only \$600.

MATHCOUNTS

2007 TSPE State MATHCOUNTS competition will be held on March 24th, 2007 at the Hilton Austin, 500 East 4th Street. For more information on this or to volunteer, please contact **Trish Smith** by e-mail at trish@tspe.org or by phone at the TSPE state office at (512) 472-9286.

John Wooley

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professional societies and associations.

To this end, Mr. Wooley has been active in a variety of societies and associations over the past 20 years. He served the Travis Chapter of TSPE as Board Member and President in 1991-1992. He has been a Board Member and President of the Texas Council of Engineering Laboratories in 2000-2001, and a Board Member and President of the Texas Council of Engineering

Companies in 2003-2004. Mr. Wooley served as a Commissioner on the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Commission from 1991 to 1997 and Chaired the Commission for a brief time in 1996. He is currently a Board Member of the Capitol Area Transportation Coalition, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Austin Contractors and Engineers Association. Mr. Wooley is also licensed as a Professional Engineer in the states of Arkansas, New

Mexico and Arizona.

Although Mr. Wooley enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, he continues to delight in engineering and the life of an engineering consultant and is very thankful for the relationships he has formed with staff, engineering associates, and clients. He is grateful for, and owes a great deal to, his wife Debbie; and he is extremely proud of his children Katie and Austin.

Board Meeting Minutes

by Larissa Prince, E.I.T.

Below are the Minutes of the TSPE Travis Chapter Board of Directors Meeting held January 3, 2007:

The meeting began with a motion by **John Powell** to move the meeting location to *Green Pastures* restaurant. **Steve Roth** seconded the motion. The Board agreed to move the meeting location to Green Pastures beginning with the February 14 meeting. **Julie Hastings** will cancel all scheduled meetings with the Woman's Club after January.

Program Update

The Board discussed possibilities for speakers for the February meeting. Some of the names included in discussion were Nyla Maxwell, Jeff Wentworth, and Bob Daigh. **Steve Roth** volunteered to pass on speaker ideas to Vice President **Kelly Barney**.

MATHCOUNTS Update

Garrett Bonn provided an update for MathCounts which will be held at Welch Hall on the UT campus on February 17. Volunteers are still

needed for grading, registration, and proctors. Registration will begin around 7:30 a.m. and testing should be finished around 1 p.m. Awards should be done by 2:30 p.m.

E-Week Update

Larissa Prince provided an E-Week update. Training sessions have been scheduled for January and E-Week will be the week of February 18-24 but visits can be made through the end of the school year. Details will be placed on the website www.tspe-travis.org.

Engineers Banquet

The TSPE Banquet is set for Saturday March 3, 2007 at the Hyatt on Town Lake. Volunteers are needed for door prizes, programs and invitations, speaker, awards, commemorative gift, music, and sponsorship. Entertainment for the event has been arranged. The chapter will need to raise around \$20,000 through fundraising activities. Sponsorship letters need to be mailed out as soon as possible.

Membership & Hospitality Report

Stephanie Stanford provided a Membership and Hospitality update. The next Happy Hour will be on February 1 at Opal Divine's North location. The softball game with the local student chapter of TSPE will be held in the Spring.

Committees Report

Steve Roth gave a Committees update. Steve Roth has appointed himself as Finance Director.

Professional Practices Update

John Powell provided a Professional Practice update. There will be a Texas Board of Professional Engineers meeting in February.

New Business

Julie Hastings provided a New Business update. As a result of the chapter meetings being moved, the Board will move their meeting time to the last Wednesday of every month.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, at the offices of Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc., 10801 N Mopac, Bldg 1, Ste 120.

Attendees

Julie Hastings, Stephanie Stanford, Larissa Prince, John Powell, Steve Roth, Garrett Bonn, Dale Shumaker and Ryan Bell

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Engineers Week 2007
February 18-24
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firm can celebrate visit
www.eweek.org



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