



Travis Engineer

National Engineers Week / February 19-25, 2006

Newsletter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Travis Chapter

February 2006 Vol. 56, No. 2

February meeting guest to guide us through the myriad of labor laws affecting engineers

The Travis Chapter of TSPE is pleased to welcome Karen Dulaney Smith as our guest speaker on Wednesday, February 15. She will provide us with a practical understanding of the myriad wage and hour laws affecting all employees and employers, with particular focus on issues relevant to professional engineers. She will clarify several important topics such as:

- Employee classifications: exempt vs. non-exempt;
- Overtime rules; and,
- Pay policies for employers.

Karen has been an independent wage and hour consultant for six years. Before opening her own practice, Karen was an investigator with the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor for more than twelve years. During her employment with the agency, she investigated hundreds of employers.

Karen's consulting work involves all the laws that the Wage and Hour Division enforces,

predominantly the Fair Labor Standards Act. She assists employers with compliance issues and also advises plaintiffs' attorneys, defendants' attorneys, public agencies, accountants, and associations who have questions about labor practices or who need assistance during a Wage and Hour investigation or litigation. She also assists employers who want to review their compliance status proactively in order to reduce the risk of investigation or litigation.

Karen testified before the United
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Karen Dulaney Smith

Engineers of the Year Doug Bell and Shay Ralls Roalson



Doug Bell, P.E.



Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E.

Doug Bell, P.E. and Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E. are the 2006 Travis Chapter Engineer and Young Engineer of the Year.

Both will be honored at the Engineers Banquet March 4, 2006. Join us in congratulating Doug and Shay for their outstanding accomplishments as professional engineers and members of our community.

— ENGINEERS MAKE —
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Make a Difference

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

Last week I was lucky enough to have lunch with a number of Travis Chapter's past Engineers of the Year as we broke the news to **Doug Bell** that he was selected as this year's recipient. As I sat there I was reminded of two things:

First, that the practice of engineering extends beyond each individual's achievements. What makes these Engineers great are the countless hours they have contributed as TSPE officers, mentors, volunteers, voters, and the stand they have taken based on the unique knowledge they possess ... that made them Engineers of the Year. Yes, they are all very successful in their own companies and competent in their field, but to make an impact, we must engage the community and affect its future. This is what our past and present Engineers of the Year have done and continue to do.

Second, I remembered back when I started out in engineering and a mentor of mine called me into his office to see if I would be interested in going to a TSPE meeting and helping out with the Engineers Banquet. Later he found a creative way to get money from his company's budget to pay for me to join TSPE and cover the lunch costs. He encouraged me and introduced me to other engineers in the community that could teach me what it meant to be a Professional Engineer. Without him, I would be less of an engineer and would definitely not have the honor of being President of the Travis Chapter. That Professional Engineer's name is **Doug Bell**.

Doug teaches us the important lesson that we must recruit so that the future of TSPE can make an impact, too.

On Saturday, March 4, we will



celebrate engineering at the Engineers Banquet by honoring several outstanding engineers in our community. Our own **Doug Bell, P.E.**, will be honored as the Travis Chapter Engineer of the Year and **Shay Roalson, P.E.**, will be honored as the Young Engineer of the Year.

It is fully appropriate that TSPE, as an organization that promotes Professional Engineering, do this and do so with great enthusiasm!

However, it cannot stop at the banquet. TSPE does not exist to simply pat itself on the back. We must proactively promote the protection of the public's safety, health, and welfare through the practice of Professional Engineering and by increasing the influence of our organization.



To learn how other engineers across the country are celebrating Engineering and Making a Difference, visit

www.eweek.org



Travis Chapter



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Dulaney Smith to speak

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States Congress in 2004 when the revised Regulation 541 (white-collar exemptions) was open for public comment. As a regular and often-requested speaker, she gives presentations to thousands of employers at seminars and conferences nationwide.

Karen graduated from Southwestern University in 1987.

February Luncheon Program
Special Guest: Karen Dulaney Smith
Wage & Hour Consultant

Wednesday, February 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;
\$20 at the door; \$5 for government employees

RSVP: Visit WWW.TSPE-TRAVIS.ORG

Special Thanks to This Month's Meeting Sponsor:



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State Happenings
by Julia Harrod, P.E.

Legislature Elections are Coming!

Literally as I write this article, Gerhardt Schulle and the State office are working on compiling a list of State-level political races and list of candidates. TSPE will send out this comprehensive list with notations on which candidates TSPE is endorsing. This valuable guide will be made available to all membership through a bulk email and also on the TSPE.org website. More details will be provided by the State office in early February. Contact Lisa Blinkenburg at lisa@tspe.org or 472-9286 if you have any questions.

Board Meeting Minutes

by Dan Shanahan, P.E.

Below are the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held January 11, 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

Report delayed until the February Board meeting.

Banquet Update

The annual Engineers Banquet on March 4, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency

Hotel is shaping up very well. Banquet Director, **Kelly Barney, P.E.** and her committee are providing for an unforgettable event. Don't miss it.

Professional Practice

The Christian Home Educators of Austin and Central Texas (CHEACT) and Standards of Excellence have sponsored a Science and Art Fair for the past six years. The Travis Chapter was asked by CHEACT to visit the Fair and assist in award presentation.

John Powell, P.E. responded to the request. Hopefully, members will visit

the event and respond as requested during the next Science and Art Fair.

John Powell, P.E. has been attending the Board meetings regularly and is assisting our Chapter to be more responsive to the State Board and the TSPE.

The P.E. Review Course and assistance and TSPE Happy Hour activities are proceeding well.

MathCounts & Engineers Week

MathCounts and Engineers Week are rapidly approaching. Volunteers are needed and are well rewarded. To volunteer, sign up at the February 15 Chapter meeting.

Attendees

Dale Shumaker, J. Carroll Faulkner, John Powell, Julie Hastings, 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, February 8, 2006 beginning at noon.

2006 Engineers Week Banquet

March 4, 2006

**Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake
208 Barton Springs Road**

**For overnight accommodations, call
(512) 477-1234**

6:30 – 7:30 Cocktails

7:30 – 11:00 Dinner & Events

\$55 per person

Cocktail Attire

Dinner • Dancing

Awards Casino • Door Prizes

Guest Speaker

**BG Robert Crear, Commanding General,
Mississippi Valley Division**

US Army Corps of Engineers

**“The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in
New Orleans”**



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Engineer of the Year

D

oug Bell, P.E., is the 2006 Engineer of the Year for the TSPE Travis Chapter. He has 39 years of experience in mechanical, civil, and environmental engineering. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1967.

Doug originally planned a career in jet engine design because the major engineering effort of the time was the space race with Russia. However, upon interviewing with several companies in the northeast, he decided to stay in Texas where it is a lot warmer. His first job was with an oil company in his native city of Houston. Later he worked in a chemical plant in Kingsville. Some of his early assignments in the chemical plant were pollution control projects. They came about because the mood of the nation had shifted from space to the environment. So Doug became an environmental engineer solving air, water, and solid waste problems.

After a few years, Doug became a licensed professional engineer, and his career in consulting began with Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. in Houston. His interest remained focused on the environmental issues. Eventually he and his family moved to San Antonio; and in 1983, he opened his own civil consulting firm. The firm practiced municipal engineering, surveying, and land development through the 1980s.

With the economic downturn of the late 1980s, Doug decided to turn once again to the environmental engineering field and joined Radian International in Austin. His projects included industrial cleanup and radioactive waste disposal. He later re-joined LAN's Austin office in 1999. The office back then consisted of 3 engineers and now, in 2006, has more than 40 staff.

Doug believes in giving back to the community. He has always been active in the Episcopal Church, Kiwanis clubs,



Doug Bell, P.E.

homeowners associations, and other community organizations. In 1999, he and his wife, Diana, founded Trinity Center in downtown Austin. It is an outreach ministry to the homeless people who live on the streets or in shelters. The first project of Trinity Center was establishing a church service followed by a meal every Sunday afternoon. Today, Trinity Center is a non-profit corporation offering services 5 days a week and on Sundays. The center provides meals, medical assistance, encouragement, and fellowship to more than 400 people a week.

Doug has been married for 40 years. They have 3 daughters and 6 gorgeous, energetic grandchildren.

Young Engineer of the Year



Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E., is the 2006 Young Engineer of the Year for the TSPE Travis Chapter. She has 13 years of experience in the design of water and wastewater pumping, conveyance, and treatment facilities for municipal clients. Shay received a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Vanderbilt University in 1993, and a Master of Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1999.

After college, Shay spent four years working for Camp Dresser & McKee in Annandale, Virginia, just outside of Washington, DC. In 1997, she returned home to Texas to pursue a master's degree and wrote her thesis on water softening using water from Austin's Ullrich Water Treatment Plant.

After completing her degree and becoming a licensed professional engineer, Shay returned to CDM in the Austin office. In 2002, she joined the Austin Public Works group of Turner Collie & Braden, where she manages municipal water and wastewater design and construction projects. TCB named Shay Employee of the Year in 2003, and she continues to find the work challenging and enjoys the camaraderie and technical expertise of her co-workers.

Shay is active in professional organizations and her community. She helped found the Capital Area Chapter of the Texas Section of the American Water Works Association, and served as its communications chair for three years before moving through the three-year officer track. She is currently Vice-Chair of the Texas Section of AWWA and Co-Chair of the Texas Water 2006 Conference. She will become TAWWA Chair-Elect in April. The TAWWA Young Professionals Committee honored Shay with their inaugural Maverick Award in 2003.

Shay has also been active in University Presbyterian



Shay Ralls Roalson, P.E.

Church as a member of the Mission and Service Committee, where she connected UPC to Water For People so the church could fund a water project in a small Mexican border town. She was a high school youth advisor at UPC for four years, followed by a three year term as a church Elder and chair of the Youth Committee. Shay retired from the Youth Committee last May in preparation for her own youth; a son, Cooper, was born to Shay and her husband, Brad, in July.



Shumaker on hand to present awards to Christian homeschoolers

Dale Shumaker, President of TSPE Travis Chapter, participated as a judge and awards presenter at the Christian Home Educators of Austin and Central Texas (CHEACT) and Standards of Excellence Academic Fair on Friday, January 27, 2006. This organization supports the educational efforts of home school families in Central Texas. Its purpose is to challenge students to academic excellence in all areas of endeavor, but especially in the science and technology. TSPE sponsored two awards for Excellence in Engineering.

Want to volunteer to help Central Texas students learn more about Engineering?

National Engineers Week is February 19-25, 2006. To learn about getting involved as a volunteer with National Engineers Week, contact **T.J. Dawkins** at tdawkins@centexweek.org. One scheduled training session remains. The session is not mandatory, but provides demonstrations on some of the hands-on activities that are done when engineers and scientists visit schools.

TAKE NOTE

Tuesday, February 7, 2006
2:00pm to 4:00pm
City Hall, Boards and Commissions
Room, Room 1101
301 W. Second Street
Contact: Jose Guerrero, 974-3386 or
Jose.Guerrero@ci.austin.tx.us

Activities are grouped by age level. Activities for Elementary students include Potato Battery, Helicopter, Building a Bridge, and Marble Roller

Coaster. Middle School student activities include Balloon Race/Payload, Tower Wind Bag, and Rollerblade Development. Activities for High School students include Build a Raft, Internet Experiments, Mouse Trap Vehicle, and Transistor Experiment.

TSPE has registered to participate in an Elementary school classroom to engage students in the Eweek

activities and promote math, science, and engineering. We are currently waiting for information on our school contact and schedule information.

Other planned Engineers Week Activities include the Friday, February 17, VIP Event at the Austin Children's Museum and the Engineers Week event at the Austin Children's Museum on Saturday, February 25.

Want to influence the future of engineering?

Did you know that there are 3 openings on the Texas State PE Board?

Call Dale Shumaker 512.433.2642 to find out how you could help shape the future of the Board.



Travis Engineer

P O Box 1602
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2006 Engineers Week Banquet

Hosted by the Travis Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in association with the local chapters of the American Society of Civil Engineers and American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers

March 4, 2006
Hyatt Regency Austin on Town Lake
208 Barton Springs Road

6:30 – 7:30 Cocktails
7:30 – 11:00 Dinner & Events

Tickets: \$55 per person

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Cocktail Attire



Guest Speaker
BG Robert Crear
Commanding General
Mississippi Valley Division,
US Army Corps of Engineers

Topic
The Aftermath of Hurricane
Katrina in New Orleans

Honorees
TSPE Travis Chapter
Engineer of the Year and Young
Engineer of the Year
ASCE Austin Branch
Civil Engineer of the Year

Dinner & Dancing & Awards
Casino & Door Prizes

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