



CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc.

PE TIMES NEWSLETTER

March 2008

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President's Message

By Paul M. Adel, P.E

February and March are busy times for the Chapter, with Mathcounts competitions (Chapter and State), Scholarship Award, Future Cities competition, and Engineers Week. In this month's newsletter you will find information about each of these activities.

I want to thank all those who have volunteered their time and effort on behalf of these programs.

I will use this forum for a quick plug for Mathcounts – please consider volunteering for to help score tests during the State Mathcounts competition at RPI on Saturday March 15. Please contact our endlessly energetic volunteer coordinator, Susan DeSimone.

The Capital District Chapter is seeking nominations for our 2008 Awards program.

Nomination forms have been circulated to the membership. Nominations are due by April 25th.

Don't miss the March Membership Meeting on March 27th at the Desmond, which will feature a program sponsored by Lafarge Cement North America and Bonded Concrete, Inc., on the topic of concrete durability. Information on this program and other items and events noted above, can be found at the Chapter website – www.capdistpe.com.

The NYSSPE Strategic Planning Conference will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 28th & 29th at the Rensselaerville Institute. The theme of this year's conference is: "Discovering the Value in NYSSPE". Any NYSSPE member is welcome to attend this meeting,

As always, the Board encourages all Chapter members to take part in the programs and events, and we look forward to meeting you there.

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Capital District Chapter Confers Scholarship Awards to Area Students

By Paul M. Adel, PE

Each year, the Capital District Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers presents scholarship awards to outstanding area high school students planning to attend an accredited college engineering program.

This year the chapter received 42 applications for the Chapter Scholarship Award.

Applications came from 25 high schools in the eight counties represented by the Capital District Chapter: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Schoharie.

Thanks to the Engineers Week Steering Committee and the Chapter Golf Outing organizers and other contributors, the Chapter Scholarship Award fund has received contributions allowing us to

present a total of \$6,000 dollars to our award winners.



Photograph 1: Presented at the Engineer's Week Conference in Albany, NY on February 14, 2008

(photo l to r: James Kuhn, P.E., Chapter Vice President, Benjamin Alston, Paul Adel, P.E., Chapter President and Scholarship Committee Chairman, Tammy Chow, Joshua Multunas, Jack Healy, P.E., Chapter Immediate Past President)

The criteria for the Capital District Chapter Scholarship Award gives credit for course work in the sciences, math and humanities, Athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities, volunteer activities and work experience. The criteria are weighted to favor academic performance in math and science coursework, technically oriented activities and achievement indicated by honors and awards from industry organizations, colleges and universities.

The top ten applicants in the candidate pool had a combined transcript grade point overage of 96.7, six of the top ten had combined SAT scores over 1300, and six of the top twenty were ranked number four or higher in their class.

The top three candidates selected by the Chapter Scholarship Committee are Benjamin Alston from the Albany Academy, Tammy Chow from Scotia

Glenville HS and Joshua Multunas from Columbia HS.

Benjamin Alston plans to major in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He maintained a 3.96 average in the first three years of High School. Benjamin is the Captain of the Academy's Cross Country Track team, and Chief Editor of the school newspaper. Benjamin says he was first inspired to pursue a career in technology by playing with his "computer-tot" at the age of three. He has received the Albany Academy Harvard Prize, the Albany Academy Rensselaer Poly Tech Alumni Award, he is a Cum Laude Society member, and College Board AP Scholar. Benjamin attended internships at Rensselaer and at the Albany College of Pharmacy during the summer of 2007, and he is currently taking four advanced placement courses

Tammy Chow is planning to major in Chemical Engineering. She maintained a 97.5 average through her junior year, and was ranked number five in a class out of 241 at Scotia-Glenville High. Tammy has played soccer and lacrosse every semester, and was captain of the varsity lacrosse team in her junior year. Tammy participated in a material science and engineering camp, and a summer program with the Center for Power Electronics Systems, and she is a member of the National Honor Society.

Joshua Multunas is the Chapter's top scholar for 2008, and will receive a \$3000 scholarship award upon

enrolling in an accredited college engineering program. He is planning to major in Electrical Engineering. Joshua had a cumulative weighted GPA of 98.3 through the first three years of high school. He is a member of the National Honor Society, twice the recipient of the Air Force Math and Science Award, participated in the computer club, Science Olympiad, Math League, jazz band, wind ensemble, and played tennis, he is an active church volunteer, having completed two mission trips, and he works at Taco Bell and KFC. His interest in electrical engineering and robotics was inspired by Thomas Edison and the Star Wars movies.



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MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

By Sal Ervolina, PE

On February 2, 2008 a team of 6th, 7th and 8th grade Mathletes® from the Home Educators Enrichment Group won the Capital District Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition contest. **Members of the winning team are Matthew Babbitt, Wyatt Smith, Preston Law**

and Amanda Kettell. The top individual scorer of the morning competition was Matthew Babbitt from the Home Educators Enrichment Group.

The second place and third place teams are Iroquois Middle School in the Niskayuna School District and Farnsworth Middle School in the Guilderland School District, respectively. Greg Hickey from the Shaker Junior High School and Eric Wu from the Acadia Middle School were the top two individuals not on one of the winning teams. The top three teams and the two individuals will now move on to the State Mathcounts Competition scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2008 at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy.

The event was hosted at the **GE Global Research Center** in Niskayuna. Eighteen schools attended this year's Chapter Competition and more than 120 students participated in the event. Preparations for the competition began in September at each local school, and ended with the rigorous Chapter Competition. During the month of February Chapter Competitions are held throughout the nation.

Currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, MATHCOUNTS is one of the country's largest and most successful education partnerships involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors and students. It is designed to increase interest and involvement in mathematics among all U.S. middle school students. The mission of MATHCOUNTS is to encourage the development of mathematic skills while having fun and instill an interest in the students to eventually become engineers and/or scientists. Volunteers included employees from the GE Global Research Center, GE Volunteers, various engineering consultants and members and friends of the Capital District Chapter of NYSSPE. Members are encouraged to volunteer to help score the State Competition.



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**Alkali Silica Reactivity (ASR) and Sulfate Attack in Portland Cement
Concrete—The Chemistry, The Effects, The Testing For Reactivity and
The Mitigation Of These Reactivities**

Date: Thursday March 27, 2008

Lecture By: Henry B. Prenger, PE, Director Of Technical Services Lafarge Building Materials, Inc.

Associations and Committees: Member of ACI 301, Member ACI 233, Member ACI 207, Committee Chairman ASTM C989

Please make your reservations by March 24, 2008 by either contacting Andrew Clemente, PE at aclemente@bondedconcrete.com or calling Cindy Cassavaugh (518) 674-2893 Extension 12

Place: **Desmond Hotel and Conference Center**

Time: 7:30 to 8:00 am – Sign in

8:00 to 9:30 am – Lecture regarding Alkali Reactivity in concrete

9:30 to 9:15 am – Coffee and Danish Break

9:15 to 11:00am – Lecture continues on Alkali Reactivity and continues with Sulfate Reactivity (time Permitting). Two professional development hour (2 PDH) will be earned for attendees.

Cost: Free for all Professional Engineers compliments of Lafarge Cement and Bonded Concrete

Program Sponsors: Lafarge Cement North America and Bonded Concrete, Inc.

Directions to **Desmond Hotel and Conference Center**
660 Albany Shaker Road, Latham, NY 12110

From the North:

Rt. 87 South to Exit 4 (Albany Airport), Wolf Road Extension
Stay on Wolf Road Extension to the end, Turn Right on Albany Shaker Road
Entrance immediately on the left

From the South:

NYS Thruway to Exit 24, 87 North to Exit 4 (Albany Airport). Turn left on Wolf Road. At first intersection turn left on Albany Shaker Road. Entrance about 1000 feet on the left.



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