



Valley Engineer Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- March 20, 2018 - Atlas Cement Museum Tour
- March 23, 2018 at 4:30 pm - Robert Sinn's lecture "From Bilbao to Jeddah- An Engineer's Journey" - Whitaker Lab 303, Lehigh University, 5 E. Packer Avenue, Bethlehem
- April - UL Tour (United Lab)



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SPRINGHOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE TOP THREE SPOTS AT MATHCOUNTS

Francee Fuller, Barry Isett & Associates

Springhouse Middle School took team honors, and Springhouse students Victor Cai, Eric Zhang and Shlok Dholakia took first, second and third place honors at the 34th Annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS® competition, held on Saturday, February 10th at Nitschmann Middle School. The event is organized by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. Over 240 students from 23 schools in Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe Counties participated in the regional "Olympics of Math" to win individual and team honors.

An army of more than 40 volunteers from the engineering profession worked hard to make the event a success.

The students spent the morning taking written tests with questions like:

A four-digit perfect square integer is created by placing two positive two-digit perfect square integers next to each other. What is the four-digit square integer? (*answer: 1681*)

Individual scores are tabulated to determine team standing.

In the afternoon the top ten ranking individuals from the morning session took to the stage paired in a Jeopardy-style lightning-round competition to determine individual ranking. Over 500 on-lookers cheered the contestants

The top team from Springhouse Middle School, coached by Kevin Hallman, will advance to the

Continued on page 2

state competition in Harrisburg on March 23 and 24. They will be joined by the fourth and fifth place individual winners, Samit Mohapatra and Balaji Marella both from Moravian Academy.



The winning team: Shlok Dholakia, Benjamin Chen, Eric Zhang, Victor Cai, flanked by Coach Kevin Hallman and LVPSPE President Brian Kutz, PE

Moravian Academy, coached by Alison Overdorf and Dani Mackavage, took second place team honors while Easton Middle School, coached by Eric and Alex Adams, placed third. Other trophy winners were Southern Lehigh, fourth place; Lower Macungie Middle School, fifth place; and Saucon Valley Middle School, sixth place.

The top 10 individuals were:

1. Victor Cai, 8th grade, Springhouse Middle School
2. Eric Zhang, 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School
3. Shlok Dholakia, 8th grade, Springhouse Middle School
4. Samit Mohapatra, 8th grade, Moravian Academy
5. Balaji Marella, 8th grade, Moravian Academy
6. Sophie Wen, 7th grade, Southern Lehigh Middle School
7. Adam Plotka, 7th grade, Eyer Middle School
8. Claire Phillips, 7th grade, Saucon Valley Middle School
9. Alexandra Schamberger, 8th grade, The Swain School
10. Yan Yu, 7th grade, Moravian Academy

The three top-scoring young women (Sophie Wen, Southern Lehigh Middle School; Claire

Phillips, Saucon Valley Middle School; and Alexandra Schamberger, The Swain School) will receive a course in math or science at Cedar Crest College.

Moravian College, Lafayette College, Lehigh Carbon Community College and Northampton Community College also provided top winners with scholarships for mathematics courses.

The four top state winners will move on to the 2018 National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington, DC on May 12 to 15. Raytheon Corporation is the title sponsor. The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in partnership with state engineering societies is the founding sponsor of the event, geared to promote math proficiency among middle school students. Nationwide, approximately 40,000 students representing more than 5,500 schools will participate in the 2018 MATHCOUNTS competition.

South Africa, a Tour of Paradise

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Twenty or so members and guests of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers participated in an activity different from our normal fare. Thanks to Johann Szautner, PE, we were treated to a presentation by Neil de Jonge. Neil is the owner of Jewel of Africa Safaris, which specializes in tours of seven South African countries. The venue was the Kingfish American Bistro & Wine Bar, 3833 Freemansburg Avenue, Bethlehem, PA. An excellent buffet dinner enhanced the setting.

Those of us whose remembrance of Africa is Peter McKenzie as the White Hunter of "Something of Value" will be disappointed. Neil's tours feature observation, not shooting. Going on safari with Neil does not involve sleeping in tents or eating whatever the safari hunter shot that day. Instead, accommodations are four or five-star with gourmet meals.

But one doesn't travel to South Africa merely to bask in luxurious accommodations or to sample fine wines. One goes to Africa to see the animals,

Continued on page 3

and Neil did not disappoint. Quoting from from Neil's website <https://www.joasafaris.com> "Luxury & Nature Align to Exhilarate the Senses". "Experience unforgettable sightings – hear Mesmerizing stories of the hunt and the roar and trumpet of majestic beasts on your luxury African safari adventure, where serene sunsets melt into starry nights and campfire camaraderie is paired with sublime food and five-star comforts."

Neil's firm has tours in Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, but his emphasis is South Africa and Kruger National Park. The Sabie River, located in the southern sector of the Park, has more lions and leopard than anywhere in the world. Also, lots of elephants and hippos. Tours (as can be seen in the photos and videos) is usually in an open-air vehicle, though an enclosed vehicle is used in potentially dangerous situations.



Just a casual swim.



A panhandler looking for freebies?



The bigger guy has the right-of-way!



Bridge in the Mist!



Leopard in Kruger National Park – in an open vehicle?

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SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the **LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

If you would like to contribute in any amount – please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

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Please note “LVPSPE Scholarship Fund” on the comment line.

Or, you may also contribute via the LVPSPE website <http://www.lvpspe.org/Donations>.

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE
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Michael F. Basta, PE

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Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Liberty Property Trust, 74 W. Broad Street, Suite 240, Bethlehem, PA.

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A nature walk in Kruger National Park

Neil does not restrict himself to forests and forest creatures. He also has tours of Hermanus, on the South West coast for some whale watching. Ano-

ther popular activity is great white shark watching, from inside a cage.



Prime whale watching on the Hermanus coast.

Continued on page 16

The country of Namibia, located North West of South Africa, bills itself as "The Road Less Traveled". And it is. The driest deserts in the world are in Namibia. Situated between the Namib and the Kalahari deserts, Namibia has the least rainfall of any country in sub-Saharan Africa. Namibia is the home of Bushmen, who left a rich artistic legacy reminiscent of the petroglyphs found in Southwestern US.



A stark scene in the Namib Desert.



The peaceable watering hole; no bartender needed.



El gato grande

Another country in Neil's scope is Botswana, especially Chobe National Park and the Okavango Delta.

The Okavango Delta is seemingly an anomaly, in that it is a river delta in the midst of a desert! There is no outlet to a sea. The Okavango is produced by seasonal flooding of the Okavango River. For half the year the area is a dry desert; when the water arrives, it is a rich inland sea, creating one of Africa's greatest concentrations of wild life.



The Okavango Delta. A patchwork of water, low-lying islands, and grass.



The above video is of Johann and his wife Kathleen on a boat approaching an elephant in the Okavango Delta. Neil explained that one can easily discern the temper of an elephant! If that is so, this one appears to be annoyed that the serenity of his afternoon is being destroyed by some tourists!

No tour or presentation is complete without Victoria Falls, located on the Zambezi River, on the Zambia- Zimbabwe border. It is considered to be the largest waterfall in the world.

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Aerial view of Victoria Falls

Neil ended his presentation with a philosophical overview.



Neil de Jorge, in front of Neil's signature motto.

"Travel as much as you can, as long as you can. Life's not meant to be lived in one place."

Neil's website is www.joasafaris.com. His e-mail is neil@joasafaris.com. He would be happy to discuss travel details with anyone interested.

We thank Neil and "Jewels of Africa Safaris" for an interesting and thought provoking presentation that definitely took us out of our comfort zone.

February National Days

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Last February in this Newsletter we printed an article by Dr. August Polinske extolling the virtues of eliminating February from the calendar, going directly from January directly to March. As valid as these arguments were, we did get some pushback. Apparently, there is a body of readers (ok, just one, Gary Kotz, PE) who took exception to our logic by presenting a listing of all the events that are commemorated in February! Who knew?

So, in the interest of fairness to all factions, no matter how misguided, we will now list these special days without further comment.

February 1st

- National Get Up Day
- National Baked Alaska Day
- National Freedom Day (Freedom from Slavery)
- National Serpent Day

February 2nd

- National Groundhog Day
- National Heavenly Hash Day

February 3rd

- National Women Physicians Day
- National Carrot Cake Day
- National Day the Music Died Day
- National Wear Red Day – First Friday in February

February 4th

- National Create a Vacuum Day
- National Homemade Soup Day
- National Thank a Mail Carrier Day

February 5th

- National Shower with a Friend Day
- National Weatherperson's Day
- World Nutella Day

February 6th

- National Frozen Yogurt Day
- National Lame Duck Day

February 7th

- National Fettuccine Alfredo Day
- National Periodic Table Day
- National Send a Card to a Friend Day
- Safer Internet Day U.S. – Second Tuesday in February

Continued on page 18

February 8th

- National Boy Scouts Day
- National Kite Flying Day

February 9th

- National Bagel Day (Formerly Bagel and Lox Day)
- National Pizza Day
- National Toothache Day

February 10th

- National Cream Cheese Brownie Day
- National Home Warranty Day
- National Umbrella Day

February 11th

- National Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day
- National Inventors' Day
- National Make a Friend Day
- National Peppermint Patty Day
- National Shut-In Visitation Day
- National White Shirt Day

February 12th

- National Plum Pudding Day

February 13th

- National Tortellini Day
- National Clean Out Your Computer Day – Second Monday in February

February 14th

- National Cream-Filled Chocolates Day
- National Ferris Wheel Day
- National Organ Donor Day
- Valentine's Day

February 15th

- National Gumdrop Day
- Singles Awareness Day

February 16th

- National Almond Day
- National Do A Grouch a Favor Day

February 17th

- National Cabbage Day
- National Random Acts of Kindness Day
- National Caregivers Day – Third Friday in February

February 18th

- National Battery Day
- National Crab Stuffed Flounder Day
- National Drink Wine Day

February 19th

- National Chocolate Mint Day
- National Lash Day

February 20th

- National Cherry Pie Day
- National Love Your Pet Day
- Presidents Day – Third Monday in February

February 21st

- National Sticky Bun Day

February 22nd

- National Cook a Sweet Potato Day
- National Margarita Day

February 23rd

- National Tile Day
- National Banana Bread Day
- National Dog Biscuit Day
- National Toast Day
- National Chili Day – Fourth Thursday in February

February 24th

- National Skip the Straw Day
- National Tortilla Chip Day

February 25th

- National Chocolate Covered Nut Day
- National Clam Chowder Day

February 26th

- National Pistachio Day
- National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 27th

- National Kahlua Day
- National Polar Bear Day
- National Strawberry Day

February 28th

- National Chocolate Souffle Day
- National Floral Design Day
- National Public Sleeping Day
- National Tooth Fairy Day
- Rare Disease Day USA – Last Day in February
- Spay Day USA – Last Tuesday in February

 If I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself.

-Dr. August Polinske

In skating over thin ice our safety is in our speed.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

No great deed is done by falterers who ask for certainty.

-George Eliot

Only a man who knows what it is like to be defeated can reach down to the bottom of his soul and come up with the extra ounce of power it takes to win when the match is even.

-Muhammad Ali



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Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties



Minutes for the January 15, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 pm at the office of Liberty Property Trust, 74 West Broad Street, Suite 240, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Attendees: Brian Kutz, Kevin Campbell, Ray Szczucki, Al Dezubay, Angelika Forndran, Mary Rooney, Frank Walsh and Mike Basta

- A. Call to Order – Brian Kutz called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
 - Introduced Bob Peruzzi. He’s a member of National Academy of Forensic Engineers. They asked him to be a liaison between their organization and PSPE.
- B. Programs – Al Dezubay
 - January -- Virtual Tour of Africa -- Johann Szautner’s Safari Guide, January 24th at Kingfish 6PM
 - February - Engineers Week Banquet – February 23rd at ArtsQuest at SteelStacks, Bethlehem
 - Brian to get information to Tracy Torres (sent by e-mail during this meeting)
 - i. February 20th cutoff for registrations
 - ii. One EOY nomination received
 - iii. Need YEOY nominations
 - iv. LVPSPE will have a Gold sponsor table (again this year)
 - v. Engineers week registrations will be through LVPSPE website (again this year)
 - March – Al Gruenke made connection with Atlas Cement - Al Dezubay to follow-up
 - April – United Labs (UP) Tour Dave Edwards contacted date TBD
 - May – Banquet tentatively scheduled for May 8th. All agreed to change policy to invite two representatives to banquet from any firm contributing \$1,000 or more.
- C. Newsletter – Brian Kutz
 - Newsletter ready, awaiting President’s message to finalize
- D. Fundraising – Al Gruenke sent fundraising spreadsheet
 - Received a total of \$9,235 so far with \$13,465 pledged.
- E. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki
 - Checking balance: \$4,176.28
 - Savings balance: \$16,709.75
 - Harry Garman to have audit finished later
 - PayPal transactions are still through Peter Staffeld; consideration should be given to making PayPal part of the treasurer's office.
 - Ray would like to have budget for next fiscal year.
 - Account signatures need to be made to add Al Dezubay to the Wells Fargo account.
- F. Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - Received two scholarship applications already.
 - Brian has again asked Debra Heffelfinger at Borton-Lawson to provide essential administrative tasks; he received a positive response.
 - Al Dezubay sent Request for Applications to Debra for distribution to principals and guidance counselors.
 - Al Dezubay, Angelika Forndran, Brian Kutz and Chris Williams to review applications.

- G. MATHCOUNTS – Kevin Campbell
 - February 10th at Nitschmann Middle School, Bethlehem
 - February 9th at 5PM for set-up and preparation
 - Chris Williams - Volunteer Coordinator
- H. State Director – Kevin Campbell
 - Meeting January 20th Kevin will report upon return.
- I. New Business – Mary Rooney
 - Dream Big movie is again being show this year
 - i. February 20th-23rd with two shows per day
 - ii. They are looking for engineering volunteers for Q&A at the shows
 - iii. Contact Steve Ressler -- sjressler@gmail.com
- J. Past President – Al Gruenke (not present)
- K. Mike Basta (not present)
- L. Adjournment at 7:22.

Minutes for the February 5, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting

6:00 pm at the office of Liberty Property Trust, 74 West Broad Street, Suite 240, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Attendees: Ray Szczucki, Brian Kutz, Al Dezubay, Chris Williams, Mary Rooney, Frank Walsh and Kevin Campbell

- A. Call to Order – Brian Kutz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
- B. Programs – Al Dezubay
 - February - Engineers Week Banquet – February 23rd at ArtsQuest at SteelStacks, Bethlehem
 - i. Selected Robert Peruzzi as EOY and Jeff Kutz as YEOY.
 - ii. Brian will notify award winners, pick up plaques and contact state rep for certificates
 - March – Atlas Cement Tour is set for March 20th at 6pm with dinner at Assante
 - April – UL (United Lab) Tour, no date
 - May – Banquet scheduled for May 9th
 - i. Al suggested reaching out directly to people who attended events this year.
 - ii. Mary suggested having donors hand out scholarships
- C. MATHCOUNTS – Kevin Campbell
 - Planning is coming along well. Parking may be a challenge.
- D. New Business
 - Mike Basta to become President Elect for PSPE. Needs nomination from the Chapter. Brian to coordinate.
- E. Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - Discussed acceptance of application from student who graduated high school in 2017. All agreed we should not accept the application. LVPSPE website limits applications to high school seniors.
- F. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki (not present)
 - Ray reviewed recent bills and deposits.
 - Will make contribution to Cetronia Ambulance as we have done last two years.
 - Will contribute \$250 to ASCE’s Dream Big program. Brian to coordinate with Mike Derr.
 - Harry to present audit findings at March 12th LVPSPE board meeting.
 - Al, Brian and Ray will be updating the Chapter’s signature card.
- G. Adjournment at 6:54.