



Valley Engineer Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2017

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- February 24, 2017, LVEC Engineer's Week Banquet, Holiday Inn, Breinigsville
- March (TBD), National Museum of Industrial History, Bethlehem
- April 22, 2017, Clover Hill Vineyards & Winery, Breinigsville, PA
- May 7-9, 2017, 24 PDH Boot Camp Central Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg
- June 25-27, 2017, PDH Boot Camp East, Valley Forge Casino Resort, King of Prussia



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
 OF
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Alfred Gruenke, PE
 February, 2017

The last week of February is Engineer's week, during which our Nation celebrates the contribution engineer's make to our society. The high point of the week is a banquet, hosted by the Lehigh Valley Engineering Council. This annual event is held at the Holiday Inn, Breinigsville. It is usually attended by around 150 engineers, guests, and students from area colleges. Please plan to attend, to celebrate our profession.

Traditionally, our Chapter gives out two awards: Young Engineer of the Year, and Engineer of the Year. This year we have selected Mike Derr for YEOY, and Mary Rooney for EOY. Please attend the Banquet to applaud them. They are truly fine representatives of our profession.

Mary Rooney, beside her other attributes, is the mother of two recipients of our annual scholarship awards. Daughters Michaela Hoffman received a scholarship in 2013, and Julie Hoffman was a recipient in 2015.

The Chapter received from the Governor's Officers, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a Proclamation on Engineer's Week! It's signed by Governor Tom Wolf with the Governor's seal. It's nice to be recognized by the authorities.

MATHCOUNTS® was a success, again. Thank you, Kevin Campbell!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE MATHCOUNTS A HUGE SUCCESS

Francee Fuller

Thanks to the help of more than 70 volunteers, the 33rd Annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS competition organized by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers and held on Saturday, February 11th at Southern Lehigh High School in Center Valley was a resounding success. Twenty-nine

schools from four counties sent 268 students to the regional "Olympics of Math," competing for individual and team honors.

The event was organized by a committee comprised of Chris Blechschmidt, Cheryl Rishcoff, Kevin Campbell, Peter Staffeld, Germaine Lenz, Tracy Torres, Andrea Martin, Chris Williams and Charles Myers. Most volunteers were affiliated with the engineering community. For the first time, Penn State Lehigh Valley sent four volunteers, joining about 20 members of Lehigh University's Tau Beta Pi fraternity who returned for a second year of service. Even the 2016 Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS Champion, Ishaan Lal, who is now a 9th grade student at Emmaus High School, returned to help in the scoring room.

In a gripping Jeopardy-style countdown round held before an audience of 500 on-lookers, 10 mathletes who earned top scores during a morning of written tests took to the stage to verbally answer questions. Daniel Li, an 8th grade student at Nitschmann Middle School who placed second last year, took first place honors. Neha Skandan, an 8th grader at Moravian Academy, placed second.

Daniel and Neha will be joined at the Harrisburg state competition on March 10th and 11th by all members of the first-place team from Nitschmann Middle School, coached by Nadine Novatnak. Also qualifying for the state competition are Geoffrey Kleinberg, 8th grade, Lower Macungie Middle School, who placed 3rd in the Countdown Round; 4th place finisher Angela Chan, 8th grade, Moravian Academy; and 5th place winner, Victor Cai, 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School. The PA Society of Professional Engineers hosts the state competition.



The Winning Team, Nitschmann Middle School
 LVPSPE President Alfred Gruenke, PE; Jack Hansen;
 Miles Lunger; Chris Secula; Daniel Li;
 Coach Nadine Novatnak

The four top state winners will move on to the 2017 National MATHCOUNTS® Competition in Orlando, FL May 14th and 15th with Raytheon Corporation as 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.

The Springhouse Middle School team, coached by Kevin Hallman, placed 2nd; tied for 3rd place were Lower Macungie Middle School, coached by Patrick Campbell; and Southern Lehigh Middle School, coached by Ronnette Mays. Other trophy winners included Moravian Academy, 5th place, coached by Alison Overdorf and Dani Mackavage; and Easton Area Middle School, 6th place, coached by Eric and Alex Adams.

Pleasant Valley Middle School had the most improved team, rising 16 ranks over last year.

The top 10 individuals were:

1. Daniel Li, 8th grade, Nitschmann Middle School
2. Neha Skandan, 8th grade, Moravian Academy
3. Geoffrey Kleinberg, 8th grade, Lower Macungie Middle School
4. Angela Chen, 8th grade, Moravian Academy
5. Victor Cai, 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School
6. Chris Secula, 8th grade, Nitschmann Middle School
7. Shlock Dholakia, 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School
8. Eric Zhang, 6th grade, Springhouse Middle School
9. Oak Hu, 6th grade, Springhouse Middle School
10. Chris Buck, 8th grade, Lower Macungie Middle School

The three top-scoring young women (Neha Skandan and Angela Chen, both from Moravian Academy and Kara Nghiem from Easton Area Middle School) will receive a course in math or science at Cedar Crest College.

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

Nationwide approximately 40,000 students, representing more than 5,500 schools will participate in the 2017 MATHCOUNTS competition.

Notes from Scholarship Recipients

At a board meeting a couple of months ago it was suggested that we ask recent recipients of our scholarship awards to comment on their experience in a college or university. Kaiti Stylianides sent a letter, which we published in the January Newsletter; she followed up with a couple of photos of her college activities



Kaiti Stylianides in her laboratory



Kaiti, with "friend"

The following are three more respondents.

Angela Jennifer Justin - Cornell University

Last year I was a high school senior honored with a generous scholarship award from the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, which has helped me to be where I am today, at Cornell University.

I am currently a freshman at the Cornell University College of Engineering studying Chemical Engineering. I have just started my second semester and so far, I have had great experiences with interesting classes, engaging professors, a beautiful campus, new friends, and various clubs.

As a first-year-student, most of the courses I am taking are math and science courses required for

all engineering students. These include calculus, chemistry, and physics. Additionally, I took an Introduction to Engineering course designed for freshmen considering chemical engineering. Currently I'm also taking an introductory Matlab course.

Recently I became involved in Take Back the Tap, an initiative that aims to reduce the plastic water bottles sold on campus and to encourage reusable bottles. This semester I am also volunteering at an elementary school each week to mentor and guide students through science activities. Later this spring I will help run the Ithaca SMartS Competition, a Science Olympiad for elementary school students.

My experience at Cornell so far has been fantastic. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend such a fine institution and am also extremely grateful for the scholarship award from LVPSPE, which has helped allow me to be here

Katie Bacher - MIT

Dear Members of LVPSPE,

My name is Katie Bacher and I am a freshman studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. I was honored with the LVPSPE scholarship last year and am grateful for your support of my engineering education.

Since starting college, I have enjoyed all the perks of a fulfilling engineering education. I completed most of my introductory science and math classes first semester and am excited to start taking classes in my major next semester, including an Internet-of-Things, Embedded Systems, Introduction to Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, an introductory python class, and math for computer scientists. Additionally, after doing very well during the first semester in Physics II, Electricity and Magnetism, I was offered a teaching assistant position this spring.

I look forward to hopefully doing research with Electrical Engineering and Computer Science professors at MIT next summer through the Institute's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

Continued on page 16

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 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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Continued on page 14



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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 Barry Isett & Associates, 85 South Route 100, Allentown, PA.

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I am very grateful for the LVPSPE scholarship; it helped make my dream of studying engineering a reality. It afforded me the opportunity to study and learn alongside some of the best and brightest minds from all over the world. At school, I have found a passionate and energetic community of like-minded people who want to create, problem-solve, and change the world through science and engineering. I am honored to be part of the MIT community and thankful for LVPSPE's support in getting me here.

Lexi Meisse - Lehigh University

Almost exactly a year ago I was sitting in my living room trying to figure out where I wanted to go to school. I had just finished turning in all my applications the month prior and now I was twiddling my thumbs in anticipation of the responses.

As it turned out, that I would not hear back from my dream school, Lehigh University, until nearly four months later! Lehigh had been my dream all along, but most dreams come with a hefty price. LVPSPE helped to alleviate the difficulties that

come with choosing whether to or where to go to a school. And for that, I am thankful.

So far, I have battled through my first semester at Lehigh and have enjoyed almost every minute of it. As a result of being accepted by a group of respected engineers such as your own, I gained the skills and confidence to network with other adults in the field and have forged important bonds.

In my first semester I joined Lehigh's chapter of Society of Women Engineers. That organization is attempting to spread the word that women can do all the jobs that men can do, and to be unapologetic about it.

Classes at Lehigh are rigorous, especially engineering classes. However, the school does a fantastic job of acclimating the students into the competitive classroom setting. I have enjoyed all the challenges that I have faced thus far and look forward to future ones.

I will always be grateful to LVPSPE for their generosity and their part in helping me to attend my dream school. Thank you.

 Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
 - Albert Einstein

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.
 --Dr. Seuss

February

Dr. August Polinske
 Gadfly and Social Commentator

It happens at this time every year. February. Again this country, and the world, enters a dismal period, a time of cold, snow, dreary weather, gloomy skies, and general blahs. Everyone's mood is reflective of the weather, with a general dispirited mood. People smile less, argue more, and are generally anti-social. Think about this, dear reader. What is February like, and what does it say to you?

January is not so bad, still bathing in the afterglow of the holidays. March may still be cold, but it has at least the promise of spring and with it warmth and sunshine. February, on the other hand, has little going for it.

One can well imagine the negotiating that went on when the year was being divvied up, keeping the number of days in February under 30!! However, the February lobby did not go quietly into the night. They fought with everything they had, often resorting to blackmail and personal intimidation. So, to partially acquiesce to their demands, they were given a long list of celebrations, more than any other month.

Again, dear reader, haven't you ever wondered why February has so many days for various festivities? It starts with Groundhog Day, and quickly goes to Super Bowl Sunday, which has become a national celebration if not a real holiday. Then, we have MATHCOUNTS, followed by Valentine's Day. Come now, both of these could be held any other month of the year! One would think that Valentine's Day would be more appropriate during warm months, such as June, or July! President's Day used to be two holidays, George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthday, but through a series of parliamentary maneuvers

Harry Reid would be proud of this was reduced to only one day. Sad to say, such tactics only work sometimes.

A bright spot is, of course, Engineer's Week, the last week of the month. However, one could easily argue that this is a celebration of the end of February; good riddance!

Another holiday, Shrove Tuesday, which precedes Lent, occurs in February, and sometimes in March. It used to be celebrated with debauchery and merriment, but the doom and gloom folks in many parts of the world have reduced such celebrations to merely eating doughnuts! No doubt these sorry examples of humanity were influenced by the general spirit of the month.

The whole month of February has been designated Black History Month, but even this celebration of the contributions of African-Americans to our nation's history and culture has not succeeded to lift February out of the doldrums. It remains dreary.

In spite of all of these attempts to interject joviality into February, it remains a moribund, melancholy, meandering, month. No, the only solution is to eliminate the month completely, and go from January directly to March! No longer do we have to sit in semi darkness, with the cold winds blowing around the windows and down the chimney. No longer will we have to shiver taking out the garbage or picking up the newspaper, trying not to slip on the ice covering the driveway. No, the only positive aspect of February is beer left in the garage remains cold.

I have been crusading for years to accomplish this task, which is for the betterment of all of mankind, to no avail. A voice crying in the wilderness, my arguments have fallen on deaf ears. Whether this is out of fear of the February cartel or mere laziness I can't say. Suffice to say that I shall continue my quest.

So, hoist your glass, And dance and sing,
 Another month, It will be spring.

Burma Shave



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



Minutes for the February 15, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 pm at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA

Attendees: Al Gruenke, Brian Kutz, Kevin Campbell, Frank Walsh, and Angelika Forndran

- A. Call to Order – Al Gruenke called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.
- B. President – Al Gruenke
- LVEC Engineers Week Banquet
 - i. Engineers Week Banquet will be held on Friday 2/24/17. LVPSPE is a \$500.00 gold sponsor, we have an eight seat table. Sign up through LVPSPE website.
 - ii. Article for LVB engineering supplement submitted.
 - February newsletter will feature articles from past scholarship recipients: Katie Bacher (MIT), Lexi Meisse (Lehigh U), and Angela Jennifer Justin (Cornell U)
 - Rebecca McCabe, president of Saucon Valley High School’s STEM club is looking for speakers. Eric Tappert, Angelika Forndran, and Kevin Campbell are interested. Al will coordinate with Rebecca.
 - Scholarship fundraising, overall fundraising levels are about the same as last year.
 - i. New donor: TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc.
 - ii. PPL application has been completed and submitted, we will know by June if PPL is going to support the scholarship fund.
 - iii. Reach out to: Talen Energy, Ocean Spray, B.Braun
 - EOY & YEOY
 - i. Mary Rooney (EOY)
 - ii. Mike Derr (YEOY)
- C. Programs – Brian Kutz
- Al Gruenke and Brian Kutz will attend the ASCE “Dream Big” movie event to represent LVPSPE on Monday 2/20/17. Registration at 5:30, film starts at 6:15, reception/drinks afterwards.
 - March tour – Industrial Museum, date TBD (early March)
 - April tour – Clover Hill Vineyards & Winery, Saturday April 22, 2017 at 10:00 am.
 - Start to plan May banquet, contact DeSales University to get pricing and reserve.
- D. Scholarships – Brian Kutz
- Scholarship letters have been sent out to all guidance counselors and principals.
 - Applications will be due 3/12/17. We expect to have recommendations to the Board at the April meeting.
- E. Past President – Kevin Campbell
- Kevin is working on nomination of officers for next year.
 - Saturday 2/11/17, MATHCOUNTS, Southern Lehigh High School. MATHCOUNTS was a great success. The board thanked Kevin for another successful MATHCOUNTS.

F. Treasurer – Ray Szczucki (via email)

- Current balances:
 - i. Checking: \$426.33
 - ii. Market Rate: \$19,036.22
 - iii. PayPal: TBD
- Ongoing: prepare a budget for the Chapter. We have regular income from dues, so we could make a projection of the expected income for next year based on our current membership figures.

G. State Director – Angelika Forndran

- Angelika handed out "PE" decals and a PSPE PDH bootcamp calendar.
- Chapter needs to determine who will serve as Alternate State Director if Brian becomes president of the Chapter next year. Also, Angelika able to serve as State Director.
- John Nawn encouraging all to obtain PSPE license plates and encouraging younger engineers to obtain licensure.

H. Adjournment at 6:50 pm