



Valley Engineer Newsletter

May 2015

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- June 7 – 9, PSPE 24 PDH Boot Camp West, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA
- July 15 – 19, NSPE 2015 Annual Meeting, Seattle Marriott, Bellevue, WA
- September 24 – 25, State PSPE Conference, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA



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**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS BANQUET

The Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers celebrated a year of accomplishments the evening of May 12 at DeSales University.

Barry Isett, PE, past Chapter President, State President, and NSPE Fellow started the proceedings with an Invocation in which he recognized the over 2,000 years of human progress attributable to Engineers.

President Kevin Campbell, PE, LEED AP, lauded the success of the 31th consecutive MATHCOUNTS[®] competition and the success we have had in awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are enrolled in an engineering curriculum at a college or university of their choice. This year over 250 young people participated in the Chapter MATHCOUNTS. The winner of the Chapter competition, Springhouse Middle School, placed 4th in the State competition in Harrisburg, and Daniel Li from Nitschmann Middle School came in fifth in the individual Countdown Round. Daniel also had the highest individual score for 6th graders. He's sure to return next year!

He noted that MATHCOUNTS participants often return as scholarship winners.

President Kevin Campbell awarded the Truman Yeager Award, for outstanding

service to the Chapter to Alfred Gruenke, PE, in recognition of AI's fundraising efforts. AI managed to raise \$11,000.00 for MATHCOUNTS and our scholarship fund! This is the second year that AI was awarded the Truman Yeager Award. He thanked AI for his efforts, and is looking forward to his continual participation in Chapter activities.

The head of the Scholarship Committee, AI Dezubay, PE, presented the four scholarship winners. The award this year is \$2,000.00 per person. He thanked the members of his committee, Don Kohn, Angelika Forndran, and Nicole Gasda for their efforts. He received 26 applications from twenty schools, the highest participation rate in recent memory.



Scholarship winners Julie Hoffman, Thomas Thachil, Sienna Dale Kofka McNett and Alexis Gawelko, flanked by Chapter President Kevin Campbell, PE on the left, and Scholarship Committee Chairman AI Dezubay, PE on the right.

Julie Hoffman, will graduate from Allentown Central Catholic High School senior, and plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering to study Bioengineering with a concentration on prosthetic engineering. At Central she participated in Science Olympiad and Pennsylvania Math League; she won a 2015 Ana-

omy and Physiology Regional fourth place. Julie played volleyball, basketball, and track and field, earning a total of eight varsity letters. She holds her high school's high jump record, won Track and Field's most valuable player awards, and was named to District and All State volleyball first teams. She enjoys recreational sports, adventuring, and reading. She would like to extend her thanks to the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers for helping to make her college and future dreams a reality, her parents Chris Hoffman and Mary Rooney for offering her every opportunity for success, and her sister Michaela Hoffman for driving her to become the best version of herself.

Julie is the second member of her family to be awarded a Chapter Scholarship. Her sister Michaela Hoffman received a Chapter Scholarship in 2013.

Thomas Thachil, is graduating from Easton Area High School and will be attending Georgia Tech to study computer engineering. He is the president of the Technology Student Association chapter, editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, Vice President of the Future Business Leaders of America chapter, and contributes to the community as Vice President of the EAHS Key Club. In addition, he is a member of the varsity Scholastic Scrimmage team and the National Honor Society. He has played Varsity Tennis and plays the violin in the orchestra. Thomas has participated in a summer robotics course and the Management & Technology Summer Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. He has received awards as an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar, and was a National Finalist in the 2013 U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. He has also won awards at many TSA and FBLA competitions, as well as for science fair projects with PJAS, Lehigh Valley, and Delaware Valley Science Fairs.

Sienna Dale Kofka McNett is graduating Liberty High School and will attend Schreyer Honors College at Pennsylvania State University in the fall to pursue a major in biological or biomedical engineering. With a degree in engineering, Sienna hopes to address world problems related to hunger, agriculture, and health. She has maintained high honor roll throughout her four years of high school and has participated in many activities such as National Honors Society as a board member, school newspaper as chief photography editor, Science Olympiad with medals in entomology and cell biology, and a varsity track and field sprinter. Sienna likes to cook, play guitar, garden, and blog in her free time. She is also very involved in community service and works with organizations such as Cops 'n' Kids Literacy Program, Lehigh Valley Academy, and as a Sunday School teacher. Sienna attended the PA Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences last summer. She has also won several other awards, such as the DAR Good Citizen Award, UNICO Scholarship, National Honorable Mention in the DuPont Science Essay Competition, Questbridge College Prep Scholar, Moravian Dean Scholar, and Coca-Cola Scholars Semifinalist.

Alexis Gawelko will be graduating from Northwestern Lehigh High School and go on to attend Penn State University's Schreyer Honors College to study Civil Engineering. She is Vice President of Key Club, a member of FCCLA Club, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Varsity Soccer, and Varsity Track and Field where she participates in the hurdles and high jump events. She has been recognized as a Lehigh University High School Scholar, FCCLA Environmental Ambassador State Gold Medalist, Soccer Scholar Athlete, and a National Youth Delegate at the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment. She also regularly participates in community service as a volunteer at Miracle League, the Northern Lehigh Food

Bank, and various other organizations through service clubs.

The second purpose of the banquet was the Installation of Officers for the coming year. State President Eric Tappert gave a summary of Pennsylvania State legislative activities, and welcomed the scholarship recipients.

He called upon incoming Chapter President Alfred Gruenke, who introduced the slate of officers. Eric then presided over the Installation of Officers for 2015 - 2016.

President	Alfred Gruenke, PE
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Secretary	Chris Williams, PE, LEED AP
Treasurer	Raymond Szczucki, PE
State Director	Angelika Forndran, PE
Chapter Director	Alex Dezubay, PE
Chapter Director	Nicole Gasda, PE
Chapter Director	Don Kohn, PE

Kevin Campbell passed the gavel to incoming President Alfred Gruenke, who presided over a short meeting.

Al Gruenke thanked the Chapter members and the sponsors for their continual support. His goal is to increase the scholarship in 2016 from the present \$2,000.00.



Kevin Campbell, Don Kohn, Alex Dezubay, Angelika Forndran, Raymond Szczucki, Chris Williams, Brian Kutz, Alfred Gruenke

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
610-597-2007
Scholarship@LVPSPE.org

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The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation currently administers the following scholarships for engineering students:

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Johann F. Szautner, D.I., P.E., P.L.S.

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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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There's (still) Gold in them thar Hills

Alfred Gruenke, PE

A couple of years ago I had a training assignment in Cottonwood, Arizona. Tough duty. I've mentioned training assignments before; eight hours per day, five days a week, no panic phone calls at 3:00 AM.

My wife Joanie and I decided to drive there for the five week assignment. Cottonwood is (only) 300 miles from Vegas, so we definitely decided to partake of this opportunity to visit.

There were, however, numerous local attractions to pique our interest.

If anyone has ever wondered what happened to the West Coast hippies of the 60s 70s and 80s, they migrated to the Jerome and Prescott areas of Arizona to open handicraft shops, restaurants, and bars. Prescott (pronounced PRESS-ket, not PRESS-cot) is famous for its restaurants and bars. In fact, one of the streets around Center Square is called Whiskey Row! There are a lot of very nice restaurants with a lot of dead animal heads hanging on the walls, to give it that authentic "Western" look.

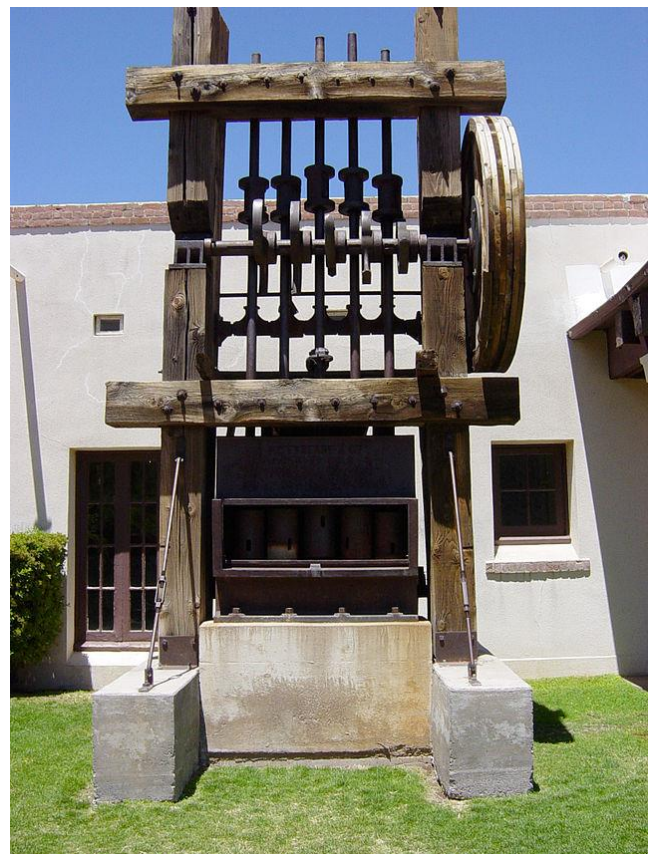


One of the attractions (at least for me) was the old gold mining area. Still standing was a crusher of a type I had never seen before. Bless the Internet. I found that it was called

a Cornish Stamp mill. I did not have the foresight to take a photo, but I managed to find a couple on the Internet.



Eight heads of Cornish stamps powered by a waterwheel



A five unit Cornish Stamp mill once used in Arizona for crushing copper ore

The four or five thick iron hammers are lifted a few inches from the anvil then dropped, crushing the ore between. Slow and crude, but that was the state of the art over a hundred years ago.

Gold mining is still somewhat active. My concept of gold prospecting is a grizzled old man leading a donkey carrying a pick, a shovel, a pan, and other essentials for surviving in the wild. However, there is a late 20th - 21st century version.

My good friend Art Vannucchi, PE, talked me into panning for gold, and took me to a shop that sells the essentials: a plastic pan, an eye dropper for picking up the tiny specks of gold, and a glass vial for storing the tiny specks of gold. The total cost was around \$17.00. The proprietor looked like a young version of my concept of a prospector; tall and gangly, scruffy beard, floppy hat.

I bought them, then proceeded to a little stream to try my luck.

Panning for gold is really quite simple. A handful of sand and gravel in the pan, add some water, and swoosh it around. The lighter particles wash out, and the gold remains.

After an hour of sore knees and sore shoulders, I cussed Art, cussed the person who sold us the stuff, and headed to Whiskey Row for more agreeable surroundings.

We estimate that the cost of the panning equipment cost to be no more than maybe 57¢, resulting in a rather substantial profit to the modern gold miner who sold us the stuff.

Yup, gold mining is still active in Prescott. But instead of a pick and a donkey, the modern version is a prospector shop and gullible tourists.

Or, as P.T Barnum once said, "There's a sucker born every minute."



Just because you do nothing doesn't mean you have nothing to do.

-Bruce Breininger, FLSmidth Field Engineer

If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants."

-Isaac Newton

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have.

-Thomas Jefferson

The day the world runs out of wine is just too terrible to think about!

-August Polinske

I will defend unto death your right to speak about that which you know nothing.

-Donald Barthelme