



THE OBSERVER

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Jason J. Beaudet, PE
NHSPE President

I would like to thank the NHSPE Board of Directors and the membership at large for allowing me the privilege to serve this board in the capacity of President for a second term. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to achieve and surpass the successes we had last year as a board and an organization.

The success of our organization has always been built on the people who comprise it, eng-

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NHJES 8th Annual Conference

The 8th Annual NHJES Conference was held on October 9, 2013, at the SERESC Center in Bedford NH. The event is supported by six professional societies including NHSPE, ASCE-NH, IEEE, SENH, ACEC-NH and SWE-SNH. Over 125 professional engineers and students attended the full day event. The kick-off session was by Craig Musselman, P.E. on the *30 Capabilities Required for Professional Practice*. Following Craig were talks by experts on topics focused around this year's theme, "Engineering in Extreme Environments". Their presentations covered a wide range of topics; *Wireless Sensing of Inflatable Lunar Habitat, Flooding and Sea Level Rise Due to Climate Change, Precast Concrete Solutions in Extreme Environments,*

Weathering the Storms – Electric Substations, Impact of Climate Change on Hydraulic Structure Design, Engineering in the Home of the World's Worst Weather – Mt. Washington, and Impact of Extreme Events on Infrastructure.

The dual track session format allowed attendees to choose presentations that best fit their interests. The luncheon featured Dr. Rich Guiler and his captivating presentation on "Drones – The Newest Tool". Along with earning 6 PDHs, the conference gave everyone a unique opportunity to meet past acquaintances and establish new networking contacts. For those not able to attend, most of the

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2014 State Scholarship Winner

NHSPE is pleased to announce the unanimous recipient of the 2014 NHSPE State Scholarship Award is **Joshua Mele** of Milford, NH. Joshua is in his senior year at UNH with a focus on Structural Engineering. He is very engaged in volunteering and is the current ASCE UNH Student Chapter Vice President and a member of the UNH Steel Bridge Team. Josh is a working student and has interned in engineering in the summers while also holding a second job. Josh stated that "being awarded scholarships, such as this, gives students in need a new light on a bright and prosperous future".



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8th Annual NHJES Conference (Continued from Page 1)

presentations are available on the NHJES website, www.nhjes.org.

Corporate exhibits were again featured at the conference this year. Eight companies and professional organizations set up booths to showcase their product and services to NH's engineering community.

The exhibits brought a unique blend of items and contacts to the conference. Lastly, this conference could not have been a success without our corporate sponsors. This year 19 sponsors provide financial support in order to keep the conference fees very economical.

Submitted by Larry Dwyer, P.E.



**Dr. Rich Guiler Presenting on
Drones during the Lunch Hour**

**Don Sherwood Presenting the
Opening Remarks**



THE OBSERVER

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Address all correspondence to the Editor:
Theodore Setas, P.E.

c/o AECOM
250 Apollo Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978) 905-2425 Phone
Tsetas@aol.com

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Word from President

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ineers. We all have a certain set of skills that are integral to what we do no matter the engineering discipline. These skills and the aptitude to use them must come from somewhere. A few are so gifted to be born with them, while most develop and hone them through learning and education. Those that are exposed to, guided toward, and pursue engineering can often trace the road to where they are and most journeys have one thing in common: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Most of us may not have recognized it at the time, but we were all exposed to STEM before there was a name for it. STEM has long been promoted and advocated from within the realms of education and the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, but it is now receiving similar treatment in a variety of non-traditional areas.

The military has many avenues to pursue STEM among the various branches. One example from the US Army is the Army Education Outreach Program (AEOP). AEOP is comprised of Army-sponsored research, education, competitions, internships, and practical experiences designed to engage and guide students and teachers in STEM. Another example are radio ads promoting STEM that I have heard on local New Hampshire stations sponsored by the US Navy.

Sports organizations are also supporting and promoting STEM. The NASCAR Foundation has be-

gun to promote STEM through its “*At Track Race Education*”, which features a STEM component at four of its track events during the season. NBC has coupled the mechanics of various sports, such as golf and football, with the science behind them on its NBCLearn site. Additionally, the San Francisco 49ers have gone so far as to develop the 49ers STEM Leadership Institute, which has as its vision “to be a leader in STEM education, preparing and inspiring talented learners to meet the challenges of the global society through innovation, collaboration and creative problem-solving.” – John York, Co-Chairman of the San Francisco 49ers.

Pretty Brainy is “a social enterprise and nonprofit organization devoted to showing girls the purpose STEM has in their lives and increasing the number of girls in STEM.” The site features a book entitled “*Fashionably Mashed: The STEM of Fashion Design*.” This book shows the intricacies of how STEM is woven into the fabric of the fashion industry from the scientific evaluation and selection of materials chosen for clothing to the environmental impacts and logistical impacts of the wastewater associated with production.

STEM has begun and will continue to expand beyond the boundaries of its traditional foothold as more and more people realize its importance. We as engineers need to remain diligent in our efforts to promote STEM, but also recognize that it’s not just for scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians anymore.

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2014 State Scholarship Winner (Continued from Page 1)

Scholarships for engineering students are made possible through the generous contributions of NHSPE members, donor corporations, and fundraising activities. The intent of the scholarship is to encourage growth and career development at the State level within the areas of Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, and other engineering disciplines.

Scholarships are granted to high school seniors or college undergraduate students who are currently or will be enrolled in an Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited engineering program. High school applicants must be in-state (NH) students and preference will be given to college students planning to attend a New Hampshire university or college. Scholarships are awarded based on financial need, academic achievement, and general community involvement.

Contributions help bright young students pursue their dream of an engineering career. NHSPE needs more contributions to keep this program alive and stimulating student interested in math and science. Members and corporate donations can be made at any of the NHSPE sponsored events or at <http://nhspe.org/scholarships/>. Donors will be recognized to a wide readership of engineering professionals and will also receive a complementary one-year subscription of the quarterly publication *The Observer*.

Submitted by Dirk Grotenhuis, P.E., LEEP-AP



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2014 National Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Over the 4th of July Holiday weekend, current NH President-Elect Dirk Grotenhuis, P.E. and NH State Delegate Roch Larochelle, P.E. attended the NSPE National Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. This year's conference was held in the heart of the downtown area just steps from the White House at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and Conference Center. The event included a series of leadership and educational sessions spanning a four-day period that bookended our Nation's Capital July 4th celebration and ended with the House of Delegates (HoD) Assembly on July 5th. As some of you may know, the HoD assembly culminates with the election of National Officers with each member of the National Board and HoD casting their votes for their candidates of choice. This was followed by the Installation Ceremony for the new Officers including our new National President **Harve D. Hnatiuk**, P.E., F, NSPE, President-Elect **Timothy Austin**, P.E., F, NSPE, and our newest Vice President, **Kodi Jean Church** P.E., Esq. F, NSPE as **Robert Green**, PE, F, NSPE formally handed over the gavel and joined the prestigious rank of Past-President of our great organization.



This year's election was particularly interesting given the range of candidates and what they represented. Kodi Jean Church took

the election for Vice President and represents an era of youth and energy for the National Society. Graduated from the University of Minnesota at Duluth with a degree in Chemical Engineering, she is a licensed engineer and also an Attorney/Associate with Briggs and Morgan, PA where she represents clients within the Energy Law Group. Kodi received her law degree from William-Mitchell College of Law and was admitted to practice law in Minnesota in 2010. We are very excited to see how this organization will continue to change, adapt, and grow with our new leaders in place to address today's engineers. Also representing NH was our very own **Paul Schmidt**, P.E., F, NSPE who currently sits as the chair of the Licensure and Qualifications



for Practice (L & QP) and participated in a panel discussion regarding key legislative and

regulatory issues affecting the practice of Engineering today.

The HoD also approved a new strategic plan for the organization during the Annual Meeting. The plan seeks to refocus the organization while remaining committed to the values set 80 years ago by Society Founder David Steinman, P.E. The new strategic plan, which has its roots in the association management book *Race for Relevance*, emphasizes that NSPE "is a single, integrated system of autonomous but closely coordinated parts: state, national, and local." The plan continues the Society's dedication to serving licensed professional engineers, engineer interns, and those who aspire to become licensed. To help fulfill NSPE's mission, the plan also includes six strategy areas adopted by the board of directors: member value, advocacy, content, collaboration, member engagement, and professional and leadership development.

"The strategic plan will enable our organization to continually improve the alignment of our efforts so that we focus on programs,



services, and volunteer opportunities that make us unique in the engineering community and thereby make NSPE membership more and more attractive to all professional engineers," says NSPE President Harve Hnatiuk, P.E., F.NSPE.

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Investigations and Disciplinary Proceedings: What the Professional Engineer Needs to Know

By Brian D. Thomas, Esq.

PART II: INVESTIGATION & HEARING NOTICE

The following is the second segment of a five-part Observer article that summarizes the disciplinary process for professional engineers facing an investigation or disciplinary proceeding by the New Hampshire Board of Professional Engineers.

The last segment of this article referenced disciplinary proceedings. This segment describes the investigation process that leads up to a disciplinary proceeding and the grounds upon which a disciplinary proceeding may be initiated. Disciplinary matters generally start with an investigation. The Board may initiate an investigation on its own initiative or after receiving a complaint from a third party. Importantly, the Board need not confirm that a violation has in fact occurred to undertake an investiga-

tion, or initiate a proceeding. Instead, it may do so “in response to any information which reasonably suggests that a licensee has engaged in professional misconduct.”

If the Board decides that its investigation warrants taking the next steps, it will initiate disciplinary proceedings. By law, only certain conduct is sufficient to support such a proceeding. Some of that proscribed conduct is quite specific: violation of the rules of professional conduct, conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude, failure to respond to certain requests for information by the Board, fraud or deceit in obtaining or renewing a license, knowingly making or signing a false statement, certificate or affidavit and providing false testimony before the board, and suspension or revoca-

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Investigations and Disciplinary Proceedings: What the Professional Engineer Needs to Know

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tion of an engineering license in another state. Other actionable conduct is much broader, giving the Board wide discretion as to what can form the basis of a disciplinary proceeding. That includes unprofessional, unethical or dishonorable conduct unworthy of the practice of engineering, unfitness or incompetency by reason of negligent habits, and negligent or willful acts inconsistent with the interests of persons relying on the engineer's expertise. Other grounds involve personal matters that might affect a professional engineer's ability to practice, including addiction to alcohol or drugs, and mental or physical incompetency. Even if the Board determines it has sufficient grounds to pursue a disciplinary proceeding, there are certain procedures that it must follow as a matter of law.

The Board must conduct a hearing before taking any disciplinary action against an engineer. Therefore, an engineer facing disciplinary proceedings will generally receive either a "notice of apparent liability" or a "notice of hearing". A notice of apparent liability is issued in cases where the Board intends to limit disciplinary sanctions to a civil penalty (fine) and notifies the engineer that he or she may either pay the fine or request a hearing. In that sense, the notice of

apparent liability is much like a traffic ticket that gives the option of paying a fine or requesting a day in court. In limited circumstances, paying the civil penalty without a hearing may be the engineer's best option, and certainly, an engineer may be tempted to simply pay the civil penalty to avoid a hearing. But an engineer should weigh all of his or her options before taking that approach, and must recognize that by paying the civil penalty, he or she is admitting a violation. Doing so may affect the engineer's professional standing and licensing status in other jurisdictions, and otherwise be a mark on the engineer's record.

Where the Board intends to seek disciplinary sanctions beyond a civil penalty, or where the engineer refuses to pay the penalty called for by a notice of apparent liability, it will issue a notice of hearing. The notice of hearing will detail the charges against the engineer, and set a date for a hearing in front of the Board. By law, the hearing must be scheduled no sooner than thirty days after the notice is sent. That date is not necessarily set in stone, and where there is good cause, the engineer can request that it be postponed to a later date. The next edition of The Observer describes the hearing itself.

2015 Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year Nominations

Engineers Week 2015 is just around the corner and our distinguished **Engineer of the Year** and **Young Engineer of the Year** awards await. NHSPE will be asking each professional society to make nominations for deserving young and old talented New Hampshire engineers. We all know they are out there and they deserve our recognition, so get those nomination packages started early.

The rules and deadlines are posted on the NHSPE website; nomination packages are **due January 21, 2015**. The nominations will be reviewed and winners selected by a jury of society representatives on January 27, 2015, followed by news releases, invitations, etc. A glimpse of what is required is listed below:

Eligibility Requirements:

Engineer of the Year:

1. Member in good standing of his/her engineering society.
2. Citizen of the United States.
3. Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New Hampshire or E.I.T.

Young Engineer of the Year:

1. Member in good standing of his/her engineering society.
2. Citizen of the United States.
3. 35 years of age or younger on December 31, 2014.

Nomination Package Information:

1. Name, Title, Address, Home and Business Phone Numbers

2. Employer (or related work experience)
3. Date of Birth (required for Young Engineer of the Year only)
4. Biographical Information
 - a. Education, including continued education
 - b. Memberships in both technical and non-technical organizations
 - c. Industrial experience
 - d. Engineering experience
 - e. Engineering research and development experience
 - f. Technical and non-technical papers authored
 - g. Patents held
 - h. Service to the profession
 - i. Service to the community and for the benefit of humankind
 - j. Honors or awards bestowed (technical, professional, governmental, educational, and civic)
 - k. Unusual assignments
 - l. The individual and his/her family; and
 - m. Support of, and participation in interesting activities

For questions, you can contact any of the E-Week Planning Committee members including Ted Setas PE, Gregg Comstock PE, Dirk Grotenhuis PE, Julie Whitmore PE, Carl Thunberg PE, or Larry Dwyer PE.

Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE

2015 Engineer's Week Banquet

In February, Engineers across the state of New Hampshire and the U.S. will celebrate the 64rd Annual Engineers Week. Our annual E-Week Banquet is scheduled for **Thursday, February 26, 2015**, a full afternoon/evening of activities to make this a must attend event.

Three, 1-hour afternoon educational seminars will be offered along with PDHs, beginning at 2 p.m. and ending just in time for the social gathering and exhibitors. The seminars are currently being developed, with the idea being a White Mountain National Forest theme, centered on our keynote speaker – New Hampshire's own, Randy Pierce.

Immediately following the seminars at 5 p.m., we will have time to catch up with our peers in a casual setting and a chance to talk to the exhibitors. Sticking with tradition, a cash bar will be available to get "lubed up" as Tom Brady would say. Following the social portion of the evening, dinner will begin to be served at about 6:15 to 6:30 p.m., at which time we will introduce this year's Engineer and Young Engineer awards.

After dinner, the evening will wrap up with a presentation by our keynote speaker, Randy Pierce, President of 20/20 Vision Quest, a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire clients to reach their potential and provide financial support

for vision services. Randy is an extraordinary man, who later in life lost his eyesight and turned his life changing event into an inspirational journey, as president of 2020 Vision Quest. His original vocation as an electrical engineer helped him turn the challenges he faced into success stories. Randy is being recognized by the UNH Alumni Association as their choice for the 2014 Award of Excellence for Outstanding Achievement. We invite you hear his inspirational outlook on life and his amazing quest to climb all 48 NH peaks that rise above 4,000 feet. We urge you to visit the 2020 Vision Quest website and learn more about Randy's mission: www.2020visionquest.org.

We ask the engineering communities' support in sponsoring the event or becoming an exhibitor. It would not be a successful event without your help. Registration for the educational seminars, dinner, and sponsoring/exhibiting will be available through the NHSPE web site (<http://www.nhspe.org/nh-engineers-week>) at the end of December. Please contact anyone of the E-Week Planning Committee members including Jason Beaudet, P.E., Ted Setas P.E., Gregg Comstock P.E., Dirk Grotenhuis P.E., Julie Whitmore P.E., Carl Thunberg P.E., or Larry Dwyer P.E. if you have questions.

Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE

2014 National Annual Meeting and Board Elections (Continued from Page 5)



Since Dirk and I were captured at the Nations' Capital away from family and New England cook-outs over the holiday weekend, our time was not spent without

some level of touring. We spent the morning of the 4th grabbing breakfast at a local greasy spoon and evading barricades and walked around the Capital, through the National Mall, Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We even caught a baseball game at Nationals Park with other conference

goers. All told for the day, we walked about twelve total miles around the Capital City to burn off the calories followed by dinner in Chinatown.

Lastly, we are very pleased to announce that Ms. Church will be joining New Hampshire at our Annual Meeting on **June 11, 2015** at Fratellos Italian Restaurant in Manchester NH where she will offer her thoughts on the direction of the National Organization so mark your calendars now! Thanks for letting us represent New Hampshire at this wonderful event!

*Submitted by Roch Larochelle, P.E.
and Dirk Grotenhuis, P.E.*

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Jason J. Beaudet, PE
(603) 627-0708
jbeaudet@cmaengineers.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

Theodore T. Setas, PE
(978) 905-2425
theodore.setas@AECOM.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dirk Grotenhuis, PE, LEED-AP
(603) 339-3774
dirk.grotenhuis@rsginc.com

VICE-PRESIDENT/SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Carl W. Thunberg, PE
(603) 206-1197
cwthunberg@terracon.com

SECRETARY

Julie Whitmore, PE
(603) 391-3983
jwhitmore@vhb.com

TREASURER

Charles L. Gregory, PE
(603) 668-8223
treasurer@nhspe.org

STATE DELEGATE TO NSPE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Roch D. Larochelle, PE
(617) 603-6344
roch.larochelle@hdrinc.com

STATE DIRECTOR

Gregg Comstock, PE
(603) 271-2983
gcomstock@des.nh.gov

STATE DIRECTOR/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Corey Dietrich, EIT
(617) 449-1453
corey.dietrich@parsons.com

STATE DIRECTOR

Nita Patel, PE
(603) 232-1373
nina.patel@ieee.org

STATE DIRECTOR

Thaila Valkanos, EIT
(603) 232-8751
thaila.valkanos@gza.com

MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TEACHER AWARDS CHAIR

Matthew J. Low, PE
(603) 669-5555
[mlow@hoyletanner.com](mailto:mjlow@hoyletanner.com)

NH MATHCOUNTS DIRECTOR

Ben Pratt, PE
(603) 588-6740
bpratt@mctelecom.com

QBS REPRESENTATIVE

William A. Straub, PE
(603) 431-6196
wstraub@cmaengineers.com

STUDENT OUTREACH

Bob Rotier
(603) 472-6906
rdmrotier@gmail.com

ENGINEER'S WEEK CHAIR/NHJES REPRESENTATIVE

Lawrence J. Dwyer, PE
(603) 206-1115
ljdwyer@terracon.com

NSPE Website www.nspe.org

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NSPE Member Services 1-888-285-6773 or
www.memserv@nspe.org