



# THE OBSERVER

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## A Word From The President

Joseph M. Ducharme, Jr., P.E.  
NHSPE President

### Year of Growth

The past year has been a year of growth within NHSPE. Some of our current programs were strengthened while other new programs have just begun. The scholarship fund has grown from its infancy four years ago to a healthy program that awarded three \$1000.00 scholarships this spring to aspiring engineering students. Thanks to member support and the support of the broader engineering community for donating the funds to make this possible.

The "Zoom into Engineering" program continues to grow in popularity and was well attended again during the 2004 E-Week activities at the Steeplegate Mall in Concord.

*(Word from President continued on Page 3)*

## NHSPE and PE Board Hold "New PE" Dinner with Carol Murray, P.E.

On April 27, 2004, NHSPE and the NH Professional Engineers Board continued their joint tradition of recognizing newly registered Professional Engineers in NH with a dinner meeting. The event was held at the Courtyard Marriot in Concord.



The NH PE Board and NHSPE have for several years invited all persons who have received their professional engineering license in the past year to a dinner for recognition, to meet the NH Professional Engineers Board, begin networking with others in the profession, and to hear a presentation about issues facing the profession, or ethical issues. This year over 15 new engineers joined the gathering, along with members of the NH PE Board, the staff of the NH Joint Board, and numerous members of NHSPE.

NHSPE was delighted to have as the speaker Carol Murray, P.E., the Commissioner of the NH Department of Transportation. Carol shared with the assembled engineers

The meeting included an extended period of informal discussions and friendly networking, as well as acknowledgment of the accomplishment of earning the professional status as a NH licensed engineer by the new PE's. NHSPE and the NH Engineers Board hope to continue with this tradition in years to come.

*Murray continued on Page 5*

## NHPSE STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - 2004 AWARDS UPDATE

Congratulations are in order for this year's recipients of the 2004 State Scholarship awards! This year we awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three individuals who stood out from more than seventy applicants that applied. Once again, this proved to be a difficult task for our selection committee which worked hard to review all of the academic information, teacher recommendations, and personal statements that are all required as part of the application. In reviewing this year's applications, each of the selection committee members commented on how difficult it was to sort through the information and make selections since there were many applicants with a strong background of community service and academics. Please help us in congratulating each of this year's NH State Scholarship recipients. Now here they are, in no particular order, along with a bit of background information....

*Mr. Cameron McNall*

Cameron has been attending UNH as a non-traditional student since the Fall of 2003 as a Civil Engineering major and expects to graduate in the Fall of 2005. He is also a 1995 graduate of Humboldt State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He has a very diverse background as a self-employed carpenter,

*Scholarships Continued on Page 2*

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## NHPSE STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - 2004 AWARDS UPDATE

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Assistant Technical Director for the New York City Opera/Lincoln Center as well as a Corps-member of the California Conservation Corps. which included trail maintenance, construction, and fire fighting. All of this has somehow led his interests to Structural Engineering where he wishes to become licensed and open his own consulting firm.

### Mr. Mark Wile

Mark is also currently attending UNH (since 2001) as an Electrical Engineering major and will graduate in the Spring of 2005. Since 2002, Mark has worked at BAE Systems as well as Public Service Co. as an intern which has provided some great opportunity for him to experience what he truly loves doing while aligning himself with some great mentors. After graduation, Mark intends to continue to build his career at either BAE or PSNH in the field of Electromagnetic or analog circuit design.

### Mr. Jin xing Zhang

Jin xing is a 2004 graduate of Stevens High School in Claremont. He first came to America at age three from China and has developed a wonderfully positive attitude towards life and its many challenges that has given him a strong sense clarity, purpose, and direction towards his goals. His chosen focus is in the area of Bio-Medical Engineering and has since been accepted at the University of California, San Diego. It is noted that UC San Diego is ranked in the top five universities for Bioengineering.

*Each of these candidates was selected from among their peers based on demonstrated academic excellence as well as personal achievement and community service. Please join us in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors!*

For those of you who are new to the organization, the State Scholarship Program has been up and running in its current form since 2001 and is funded primarily from donations made by NHSPE members and/or member firms as well as other fund-raising events such as quarterly meeting raffles. This program is intended to provide financial assistance to one or more students (NH resident) who are already, or will be attending an ABET-EAC accredited college/university for studies in the field of Engineering. The goal of the program is to encourage growth and career development in the engineering field at the State level.

Please remember that this program would not be possible without the strong support of our members and corporate donors. ***Thanks for your continued support!***

If you care to make a tax-deductible donation to this important program, checks can be made out to "NHSPE State Scholarship" and mailed to:

NHSPE, State Scholarship Program  
PO Box 1343  
Concord, NH 03302-1343

### Plan for Next Year!

It's never too late to start planning for next year! State Scholarship applications for the coming year (2005) will be accepted between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 with awards in May of 2005. You can find downloadable applications on our website ([www.nhspe.org](http://www.nhspe.org)) that include eligibility criteria.

*Submitted by Roch D. Larochelle, P.E.*



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## Word From The President

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We appreciate the volunteer efforts of our membership and key persons on our Board of Directors to make the “Zoom” program a success.

A new “Math & Science Teachers Awards” program has been developed to recognize teachers at the grade school, junior high and high school levels for their outstanding work with young students. Key membership contributions in time and energy helped lay the groundwork for this worthy program. We look forward to announcing the first award winners at the 2005 Engineers Week Banquet.

In the coming months NHSPE will reach out to the other technical engineering societies in New Hampshire to share our goals and ideas for improving our programs to the benefit of the greater engineering community. Opportunities exist to collaborate on technical training sessions, promoting licensure within the profession and improving the public image of our profession.

### Upcoming Events

- February 24, 2005 – “Engineers Week Banquet” to be held at the Center of NH Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire.
- October 26-28, 2005 – “NSPE / NHSPE Regional Engineering Meeting and Conference” to be held at the Sheraton Harborside in Portsmouth, NH.

(Look for details as they develop on the NHSPE website: [www.nhspe.org](http://www.nhspe.org))

### Looking Forward

Welcome to our new Board of Directors. NHSPE is fortunate to have a good cross section of senior and junior engineers on the Board. We have the unique benefits of shared wisdom, broad experience and a tremendous amount of energy to fortify our current programs and develop new programs that are important to our profession. The slate of officers elected for 2004-2005 will serve NHSPE well.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of NHSPE for 2003-2004.

## MATHCOUNTS

The National MATHCOUNTS Competition took place in Washington, DC on May 7th. The overall winner was Gregory Gauthier of Wheaton, Illinois. In the team competition, Illinois captured the National Team Championship title. The California team took second place and the Indiana team placed third.

The New Hampshire team placed 31st and Travers Rhodes, New Hampshire’s top competitor, placed 92nd overall.

### Correction:

In the results of the New Hampshire State Competition held on March 6, the individual contestants in 2nd and 3rd place were listed in incorrect order. The corrected results are as follows:

2nd Place Individual: Han-Woong Lee, Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan

3rd Place Individual: Ben Singleton, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham

Submitted by Benjamin Pratt, P.E.

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## Legislative Report

The 2004 legislative session is expected to complete its work on June 17, so-called "veto" day. On that day the General Court takes up all bills the Governor vetoed this year. Since a 2/3 vote to override a veto is required, it is unusual for a bill to go into law over a governor's veto particularly this year when both bodies and the Governor are of the same party. The governor vetoed six bills: SB 513 which would raise the death penalty to age 18; SB 470 raising the fee for renewal of physicians licenses; SB 484 allowing pharmacists to dispense emergency contraceptives; HB 503 requiring municipalities to assure access to septage facilities or else stop new development; HB 520 which requires keeping records on greyhounds used in racing; and HB 1134 that sets a five year term for Chief Justice of the NH Supreme Court, a law the NH Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional. Probably there will be many debates on some of these but it is not likely to result in any overrides.

As reported earlier, SB 302 allocating \$428 million in state grants for public education passed the Senate. In the House it was amended to the satisfaction of a large bi-partisan (veto-proof) majority. However an additional \$28 million expense was added, to be paid by a 17 cent addition to the cigarette tax. This occurred in spite of knowing the Governor was opposed to that additional tax and would probably veto the bill. That House amendment put the bill into Committee of Conference because the Senate version differed with the House version. Then a so-called private letter from the Attorney General to the Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker was leaked to the Nashua Telegraph revealing doubts by the A.G. that the bill in either form was constitutional! Who leaked the letter? That development led to a revised form of the bill prepared in a hurry by members of Conference Committee. Surprisingly (to me) that amendment passed much to the consternation of many in the North Country, in Manchester, and in so-called donor towns, whose cities and towns receive less state grant support than in the prior form of the bill. The donor-towns return whereas in the prior form of the bill they were substantially eliminated. Now a coalition of forces is forming, led by Manchester and Portsmouth, to see whether they have cause to sue the state to force the legislature to adopt another form of the law. The Governor urged us to pass this version of the bill but in spite of so urging he simply let it go into law without his signature! Stay tuned!

*Submitted by State Representative John Alger, P.E. F'NSPE*

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## Welcoming New P.E. Carol Murray

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her perspective of what it takes to develop as an engineering professional, based on her experience starting as an engineering graduate from UNH in the late 1970's through the development of her career at NHDOT. She reflected on "things you don't learn in engineering school". Her comments were insightful and candid, as she is one of the most influential professional engineers in the state of NH, being the Commissioner of NHDOT.

The meeting included an extended period of informal discussions and friendly networking, as well as acknowledgment of the accomplishment of earning the professional status as a NH licensed engineer by the new PE's. NHSPE and the NH Engineers Board hope to continue with this tradition in years to come.

*Submitted by William Straub, P.E.*

## NHSPE Annual Meeting

Members from the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineer's joined their colleagues from the Maine Society of Professional Engineers in welcoming Teresa Hemlinger, P.E., the current President of NSPE, to our Annual Meeting in Portsmouth.

Preceding the dinner meeting, many members took advantage of the opportunity to tour the Strawberry Banke Museum in downtown Portsmouth. Strawberry Banke Museum offers a glimpse into the everyday lives of everyday people who called the Puddle Dock area of Portsmouth their home for nearly four centuries. Engineering abounded throughout the facility as many tools, materials, and construction methods tracked the history of building and infrastructure construction.



Next, NHSPE inducted the officers for next year's leadership. Paul Schmidt, P.E. our newly elected president graciously accepted the enhanced gavel from outgoing president Joe Ducharme, P.E. We all look forward to the next year as NHSPE prepares to host the NSPE Northeast Regional Meeting, to be held October 27th – 29th, 2005, in Portsmouth, NH.

Teri concluded the evening with a presentation regarding her insights and anecdotes about her past year as the first female President of NSPE. She touched on a variety of topics, but primarily focused on a discussion stemming from January's NSPE Consensus Congress regarding the direction and vision of NSPE for the short and long-terms. Discussion also entailed the need to enhance the membership, while not eroding the connotation of the Professional Engineer title. We thank Teri for her presence and for providing all that attended the meeting an opportunity to meet her and discuss their issues related to the future of the organization.

*Submitted by Matthew Purcell, P.E.*

## Membership Report

Please join me in congratulating the following member for outstanding service to the Society: **Augie Stratoti**, of Nashua, NH, a member of NSPE for over 30 years, achieved Life Member status. After receiving his BS and MS degrees in engineering, he spent the earlier part of his 40-year career in private industry working on research and development of antenna systems for application to radar and communication systems and for satellite tracking. He held technical and management positions at various companies including: manager of the Advanced Antenna Techniques Section of GTE Sylvania, Chief Engineer of the Lockheed Sanders Microwave Division and Senior Systems Engineer for the MITRE Corporation.

After his industry career, he accepted a position as Deputy Chief of Electronics Engineering for the First Coast Guard District where he had overall responsibility for the Electronics Systems design, acquisition and support for all Coast Guard units from New York to the Canadian border. Subsequently, Mr. Stratoti went to work for the Air Force at Hanscom AFB, where he was involved as a Program Manager for the research and development of Electronics Systems. On his retirement from Government service, he was awarded the AIR Force Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, where he was cited for outstanding service in technical and managerial leadership.

He was granted one patent and authored a number of articles for technical journals and symposiums. He is Past President of the NH Section of IEEE and Past President of the Boston Chapter of the Antennas and Propagation Society of the IEEE, and is currently serving as the President of the NH Federation of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

Members are invited to encourage colleagues to join NHSPE. Any P.E., E.I.T., or student currently enrolled in an ABET-accredited engineering program may join. Membership in the State Society includes membership with the National Society and all the benefits offered by both societies. To join online, please visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and select the membership application tab. Any member who encourages two new members to join will receive a discount in dues, so be sure to ask your colleagues to mention your name when they join.

As Chairman of the NHSPE membership committee, I work closely with National to see that changes regarding your membership status are executed efficiently. Contact me at [hclark@underwoodeng.com](mailto:hclark@underwoodeng.com) if you have any questions or comments regarding membership.

*Submitted by Holly Clark, E.I.T.*

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## Legislative Report

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SB 376 is another key financial bill since it substantially revises how we handle Medicaid expenses and payments to hospitals and nursing homes, as negotiated by the Governor with the Federal government. The Governor opposes a requirement in the bill that he obtain legislative approval for any further arrangements his Health and Human Services agency may make under the bill. Therefore the Governor is likely to either let the bill go into law without his signature (he has five days to decide after receiving a bill) or to veto it. If vetoed it may well be over ridden in votes of the General Court as there is no interest in either party to give up major authority over financial matters to any Governor.

The House in HB 1292 and the Senate in HB 264 amended re-districting as laid out by the Supreme Court last year. Once again Democrats sued against these laws primarily because they argue the NH Constitution only allows one re-districting every ten years. I don't read it that way and am supporting a petition for the Court to deny the minority party petition. Registration of applicants for nine Senate districts are held up by the Court as are all but 35 House districts. All evidence on the issue was submitted by June 8 and a court hearing will be held on June 10. Presumably there will be a decision by the court shortly thereafter. I have already declared my intention to run for a fifth term.

In spite of dire warnings about a \$300 million deficit in the next biennium the State, as of May 2004, has received \$1,953.3 million which is \$24.4 million ahead of plan and \$88.3 million ahead of last year. However, loss of one-time money, Federal money, and the so-called legacy tax will put a severe crimp into the next biennium budget that only a strong economic upturn can at least partially alleviate. The next Governor's budget proposal in February 2005 will be a "work of art" since both parties' major candidates have taken the pledge to veto income or general sales taxes!

As reported earlier, HB 1160 to expand the membership of the board of professional geologists to include the state geologist as an "ex officio" member was the only professional board law passed as a landscape architects bill did not appear. A number of bills were filed dealing with various professions including certified public accountants, dieticians, medicine, and physicians assistants but none for professional engineers directly, thank goodness. Have a great summer!

*Submitted by State Representative John Alger, P.E. F'NSPE*

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### THE OBSERVER

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