



The Pittsburgh Professional Engineer
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WHERE WERE YOU DURING THE 2008 PITTSBURGH CHAPTER YEAR?

The Pittsburgh Chapter had its usual busy year in 2008. It started in **January** with a wonderful meeting recognizing our distinguished Chapter Past Presidents and an informative discussion on the North Shore Connector Project.

In **February**, our busiest month, the 24th Edition of the Mathcounts Competition was held for the first time at Robert Morris University. The following week, our annual National Engineer's Week Banquet provided a wonderful opportunity to recognize the outstanding engineers in our Chapter.

In **April**, we had two great meetings. The first meeting was to tour the new WPXI Broadcast facilities. The facilities and technology were outstanding. In addition, we had a joint meeting with ASHE and ASME – with the “young engineers”. Recruiting some of those new faces is always a number one priority for the Chapter.

In **May**, we got to see first hand, about the information we had seen “on the screen” at our January meeting. We had an informative tour of the “Big Dig” – the North Shore Connector project. It was a bit soggy, but very interesting.

In **October** our Chapter President, Tom Weber, made arrangements for the Pennsylvania State Secretary of Transportation, Allen D. Biehler, P.E. to make a presentation to a joint meeting sponsored by PSPE, Pittsburgh Chapter. The meeting was well attended and Mr. Biehler passed along some very interesting information about the Pennsylvania transportation scene.

In **November** we toured another one of the large construction projects ongoing here in Pittsburgh, the North Shore Casino facility. Although the facility is in the “stick” stage, the overall tour was very interesting. It will be even more interesting to go back and see the facility once it has some more work completed.

In addition to the monthly Chapter meetings, there is the ongoing work done by the Mathcounts Committee and the Apprenticeship Program Committee. These two groups work throughout the year to insure that both of these programs, cornerstones of the work of the Chapter, continue in a smooth fashion.

So, as you can see, the Chapter keeps a busy schedule. If you did not participate in any of these activities, you missed out on some good information, and some good networking with the engineering community here in Pittsburgh. As the 2008 – 2009 year continues, please try to attend at least one meeting function. The Chapter always needs the support of its membership in all of the activities it pursues.

If you are interested in participating in Chapter functions, volunteering for Mathcounts or the Apprenticeship Program, or have any questions about volunteering, please contact the Chapter. The email and telephone numbers are on the web site and here as well.

Telephone Number: 412-391-0615

Web site: www.pittsburghpe.org

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MATHCOUNTS®

MATHCOUNTS 2009 – February 21 PLEASE VOLUNTEER

This year is the 26th year of the Pittsburgh Chapter sponsoring the local competition portion of the National Mathcounts Competition. For the second year, the competition will be held at Robert Morris University, Sewall Center. We are looking forward to another successful competition.

One thing that does not change is the Chapters' need for volunteers and companies who are willing to donate time and financial support for the competition.. We would like to extend a special thanks to the corporations and individuals for their historical support. We recognize these donations in the Mathcounts Competition Booklet and in the program and during the presentations at the National Engineer's Week Banquet.

We would like to send out a request for individuals and engineering firms in the Pittsburgh area to consider financial support for this wonderful opportunity. There are many needs for this support. If you or your company would like to make a donation to MATHCOUNTS, please contact Virginia Dailey at ddengr@city-net.com.

If you may be interested in volunteering for the February 21, 2009 Competition at Robert Morris University, please contact Tom Schwartzmier via e-mail toms@nauticom.net.



Celebrate - National Engineers' Week Banquet

This year, our celebration of National Engineers' Week will take place at the Club at Nevillewood, on **Saturday, February 28, 2009**. Some of you may ask, "why then?" In order to be able to hold our Mathcounts competition at RMU, the competition needs to take place on February 21, 2009. As one of our special recognitions during our banquet is of the wonderful Mathletes who are the top team and individuals at our Chapter competition, we needed to be flexible and make our banquet on February 28th.

Mark your calendar for that Saturday evening. It is always a wonderful event and one of the times when we can recognize those within our profession who have excelled.

2008-2009 Chapter Officers

President – Tom Weber, P.E.	Executive Secretary – Jon Drosendahl, P.E.
President Elect – Dave Samek, P.E.	Treasurer - John Broschious, P.E.
Vice President – Joe Garlicki, P.E.	Financial Secretary - Reyman Branting, P.E.
State Director - David Briskey, P.E. 2005-2008	Immediate Past President – Virginia Dailey, P.E.

2007-2008 Chapter Directors

Jeff Bezek, P.E. 2008-2009	Brian Schull, P.E. 2006 - 2009
Vacant Position 2005-2008	Kirk Thompson, P.E. 2007 – 2010
Vacant Position 2006 - 2009	Joe Garlicki, P.E. 2007 - 2010

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY GRANT UPDATE

The School of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science (SEMS) at Robert Morris University has recently received a five-year, \$562,220 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) under the S-STEM (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program. This translates to 21 full scholarships for the entire undergraduate degree program at RMU.

RMU currently has 109 applicants who are qualified academically to receive one of the 21 scholarships. By February, the reviewing committee will identify how many of these applicants are qualified financially-the requirement for the grant. The final outcome of the selection for this grant will be published in later versions of the Chapter newsletter.

NOVEMBER 15, 2008 Meeting

Site Tour of the Casino Facility

If you missed the tour, here is a snapshot of the PSPE Pittsburgh Chapter group that toured the construction site of the Casino. The day was a bit damp and chilly, but the tour was worth the time.

We appreciate the efforts of Tom Weber P.E. and Jeff Frye, P.E. of the Pittsburgh Casino for their efforts in making all of the arrangements for the tour.



MEET THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JANUARY 23, 2009



If you are interested in finding out more about how the State governance of PSPE works, who the folks are who volunteer for such responsibility, and what you might want to do to impact that work, plan on attending the Chapter meeting on January 23, 2009 at the Sheraton Four Points to meet the State Board of Directors. This will be a joint meeting with the Beaver Chapter of PSPE as well.

In addition, the State Board meeting will be held the following Saturday, January 24th at the same location.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss the needs and concerns of the Western Pennsylvania engineering community with the leaders of our organization who have direct contact with some of the more influential entities in Harrisburg.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Pittsburgh Chapter nominates individuals, corporations and projects for various awards that are part of the recognition of the engineering community during the ceremonies of the National Engineers' Week Banquet. In an effort to reach out to the entire engineering community, the Awards Committee is soliciting nominees from this audience. They are particularly looking for nominations for the *Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award*. To find out more about the award and requirements and any of the other awards, please contact Tom Weber at 412-812-3967.



Apprenticeship Program 2008 - 2009

Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers/AIU Engineering
Apprenticeship
Group 4 Maglev, Inc. Visit
October 22, 2008
by

Nicholas Colarosa of Bethel Park High School

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008, Group 4 of the AIU Engineering Apprenticeship had the opportunity to visit Maglev, Inc. in McKeesport, PA. While there, we had the pleasure of meeting many employees and experiencing first hand some very interesting inner-workings of the company. One of the first things that we learned at Maglev was that the equipment was conceived, designed and patented right at Maglev. We also learned that the facility holds the first 22-foot-long section of guideway ever built in the United States for a magnetically-levitated, high-speed train line. Additionally, we were told that Maglev plans to put into effect the "Pennsylvania Project." This is a fifty-four mile project that would link Pittsburgh International Airport, Downtown Pittsburgh, Monroeville and Greensburg. We also learned that the project will cost a total of \$3.7 billion and would run eighteen hours a day, seven days a week. After the presentation, we were escorted to the 1906 building, which was originally a part of a steel mill, but was refurbished and put to use for Maglev research and production. In the 1906 building, we observed a C.A.D. (Computer Aided Design) class, who was learning the "tricks" of welding. After, we went down to the main floor and saw a full size guiderail beam, which will be used in the "Pennsylvania Project". We also saw robot welding cells, which the students who take classes there use to practice welding. Lastly, we observed the robotic arms, which are operated by a small console, that bend and shape the guiderail beams. Overall, the things that we saw were truly amazing and interesting.

Also, we had the pleasure of meeting some very important people on our visit. We were first introduced to **Mr. Fred Gurney**. Mr. Gurney is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Maglev, and he shortly explained to us the "Pennsylvania Project" and what Maglev intended to do to help better the city of Pittsburgh. He then handed it off to **Mr. Frank Clark**, who worked at U.S. Steel for thirty-three years and is now a Senior Vice President at Maglev. Mr. Clark fully explained the entire "Pennsylvania Project" and also led us on most of the tour. After his presentation, Mr. Clark led us through the 1905 building. There we were introduced to **Mr. Rick Uhal**. Mr. Uhal is an engineer who is helping put together all the necessities for the "Pennsylvania Project" and is also teaching a C.A.D. class at Maglev. Mr. Uhal showed us the mechanical arms that shape the guiderail beams and how they were operated. Also, he showed us the software that was used to design the mechanical arms and the guiderail beams. Overall, the different engineers that we met had a plethora of information to share with us and we felt very privileged to meet all of them.

Overall, my experience at Maglev Inc. was exciting, informative and enjoyable. What I took away from this visit was that the future of transportation was being developed in a new and exciting way, and that I could possibly take a part in this in the future. My plan for college is to major in engineering, and it excites me that future engineers will be able to take part in this endeavor. Also, the engineers that I met on this visit were very knowledgeable and provided a lot of background and insight into not only the project itself but different aspects of engineering. I feel that this particular field is a very rewarding field in the sense that I would be able to learn from experienced people with a plethora of knowledge regarding the Maglev train as well as knowledge of the engineering field as a whole. I feel very privileged that I had the opportunity to visit Maglev and grateful for the knowledge that I took away from the visit.

PSPE – Pittsburgh Chapter’s Sustaining Associates



SUSTAINING ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

If your firm has young (or not so young) engineers that are pursuing their professional engineering license, or if your firm is looking for some excellent opportunities to post job opportunities or advertise the firms capabilities, then consider becoming a Sustaining Associate Member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of PSPE. The following list summarizes the major benefits of this Membership. In addition, the excellent and frequent networking opportunities available are very appealing.

- ◆ Member firms may provide an article for the newsletter highlighting projects, firm and/or individual accomplishments; describing the firm’s services, products, or technical capabilities. The newsletter circulation reaches 300+ engineers, managers and company officials and is published on the Chapter web site.
- ◆ Member firms may advertise positions available within their firm in the newsletter free-of-charge.
- ◆ Member firms may be listed on the PSPE, Pittsburgh Chapter’s Internet Web Site, free of charge. A link to the company’s web site can be included.
- ◆ Member firms who employ personnel preparing for the Professional Engineer or Engineer-In-Training Examinations are entitled to a 20% discount on the Chapter’s review course for the exams.
- ◆ Representative(s) of member firms are permitted to attend regular Chapter Business Meetings and will be invited to the Chapter Social Meetings.
- ◆ Member firms will be recognized as Sustaining Associates at the Annual Engineer’s Week Banquet held each February.

Our Sustaining Associates are an integral part of our organization’s success. Not only do they provide financial support via their annual dues, but they are active in the overall activity of the Chapter. If your company is interested in becoming a Sustaining Associate and taking advantage of the services that the Chapter provides to these members, please contact our office at 412-391-0615, or go to the Chapter web site and click on the “Associate Members” link. An application is available there.

Present members of our Sustaining Associates are:

Benchmark Engineering & Construction	HDR Engineering, Inc.	Monaloh Basin Engineers
Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.	Independence Excavating	P.J. Dick, Inc.
Earth, Inc.	Keddal Aerial Mapping	Roy F. Johns, Jr., & Assoc.
GAI Consultants, Inc.	Kucera Intl., Inc.	The Gateway Engineers
Galletta Engineering, Corp.	L. Robert Kimball & Assoc. Inc.	Trumbull Corporation
Gannett Fleming, Inc.	Maguire Group, Inc.	
Golden Triangle Construction Co., Inc.	Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.	

We look forward to seeing your company’s name added to our Sustaining Associates membership.

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2008-2009 CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP EVENTS & MEETINGS

Date	Time	Description	Location
Jan. 23, 2009	6:30pm	Meet the State Board	Cranberry TBD
Feb. 21, 2009	8:00am	MATHCOUNTS Competition	RMU
Feb. 28, 2009	6:30pm	Engineers' Week Banquet	The Club at Nevillewood
Mar., 2009	6:30pm	Monthly Meeting	ESWP
April, 2009	6:30pm	Monthly Meeting	ESWP
May, 2009	6:30pm	Monthly Meeting	ESWP
June 2008	TBD	Installation of Chapter Officers, & Recognition of Apprenticeship Participants	TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON: Jan. 8, 2009, Feb. 12, 2009, Mar. 12, 2009, April 9, 2009, May 14, 2009 and June 11, 2009

All BOD meeting are to held @ 5:30PM @ the ESWP Building pending further notice.