



DECEMBER 7, 1787

DELAWARE ENGINEERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DES President Ahmad Faqiri, P.E.

I consider it a tremendous honor to serve as your President for the 2009-2010 term. I will rely on the DES board and full membership to help carry DES forward in promoting the society, especially during these challenging economic times.

This is the time for our members to become more active and encourage practicing engineers who are not DES members to join the National Society of Professional Engineering (NSPE) and DES. Membership and active participation helps individual engineers develop technically, network professionally and give back to our industry. Members

can benefit from continuing education, career advancement, networking opportunities, professional growth and numerous other programs available through DES and NSPE.

Active participation will enable engineers to interact with their peers and participate in events and activities such as MathCOUNTS, the Engineers Week Banquet, and mentoring programs. The success of these programs is important to our society and profession. With programs such as MathCOUNTS and mentoring we can reach out and encourage the development of our future engi-

neers. DES events such as Golf outings to raise funds for scholarships, dinner meetings on a wide range of technical topics and the Annual Engineers Week Banquet that recognizes the outstanding engineers and projects within our profession provide numerous opportunities throughout the year for DES members to gather and be active in promoting the Society and the profession. I hope that you will join me to encourage active participation and membership in the DES. In the coming months I will ask our members to contact their school districts, *(continued below)*

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held at Dover Downs on September 24, 2009 in the Festival Buffet Room. DES will be presenting the Government Engineer of the Year Award to James Pappas III, P.E. The agenda for the 2009

Annual Meeting includes installation of the new DES officers, presentation of state certificates to new engineers, and honoring the 2009 Delaware State MathCOUNTS Team.

Cocktails start at 6:00 pm, and dinner and the pro-

gram will begin at 6:30 pm. Fee for dinner is \$25 per person. Program advertisements available. Proceeds will benefit the Joe J. Welker Scholarship Fund. For more details, contact Ahmad Faqiri or Mike Angelo (see contact info on page 2).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont'd

through our MathCOUNTS committee, and offer help with practice problems. In the next two semesters I would like DES members to mentor college level students in real work environment problems and issues. Members that would like to help fulfill these goals should contact DES Board Members through www.desonline.us.

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MATH: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Mathematics is language that connects people across continents and time, regardless of culture, race and religion.

Math has no boundaries, and it links us all. Pi will always equal 3.14159265.

The MATHCOUNTS program isn't just about solving difficult equations. The goal of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation is to foster excellence in math by exploring how math can help us in our daily lives and beyond. It encourages middle school students to be decision makers regardless of skill level.

As engineers, we use math everyday to get things done. And during our March 2009 Delaware State MATHCOUNTS competition, the MATHLETES from HB Dupont and coach Jeanette Otlej got it done!

Edward Li, Uthsav Chitra, Matthew Lan, and Daniel Wang (all HB DuPont students) represented Delaware in the 2009 National MATHCOUNTS competition in Orlando, Florida.

Other schools participating in the March 2009 competition held at Delaware Technical and Community College in Stanton, included Campus Community, Saint Edmonds, Springer Middle, Postlethwait,

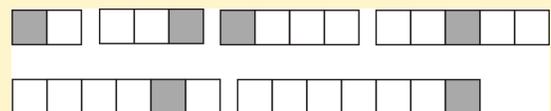
Shue Medill Middle, Hanby Middle School, and Kirk Middle School.

Congratulations to all the schools who participated, and a very special thanks to all the coaches and volunteers. Very special thanks to the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers for the purchase of State MathCOUNTS pins.

It's a snap to get involved in MATHCOUNTS. Whether you'd like to volunteer at MATHCOUNTS Day at the University of Delaware in January 2010, be a scorer at the state competition in March 2010, call local middle schools to tell them about MATHCOUNTS, or practice problems with a local team, DES welcomes your investment.

For more information, contact Meghan Lester at mlester@mragta.com.

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS:



What does the next figure in the pattern look like?

2009 GOVERNMENT ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

On September 24, 2009, the Delaware Engineering Society will have the pleasure of honoring James (Jim) T. Pappas, III, P.E. of the Delaware Department Of Transportation at our Annual Meeting.

Jim is the Chief Materials & Research Engineer, and is well known and well respected by his peers, consultants and contractors alike. Jim began his career with DeIDOT after his graduation from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. He has served many roles as a Materials Engineer and COMTECH Engineer, working closely with construction personnel and designers on various transportation projects.

He began his role as Chief Materials & Research Engineer in 2001, where he manages a staff of over 60 personnel, providing technical expertise for construction materials. He has



*James T. Pappas, III, P.E.
DES 2009 Government Engineer of the Year*

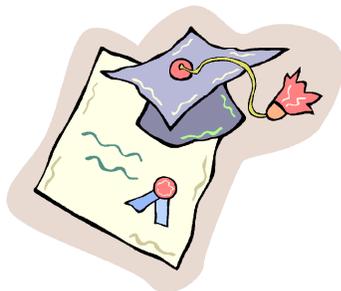
worked side by side with designers and contractors to bring innovative technology to the state, particularly programs with Highways for Life (precast post-tensioned slabs) and intelligent compaction.

Jim was nominated by his peers for his contributions to the engineering community and the community at large. Nomination forms and eligibility requirements for this awards and others are available on the DES website www.desonline.us. If you know of someone who you feel has made a significant contribution to the engineering community in Delaware, please nominate them for consideration for one of these future awards.

DES Scholarship Committee – Helping Students Pursue Degrees in Engineering

DES needs your help with encouraging bright students to pursue an education and career in engineering.

The DES Scholarship Committee is looking forward to another year of administering scholarships to deserving high school seniors who plan to pursue degrees in the field of engineering. As in past years, we anticipate being involved in the support and administration of several scholarships provided by the local en-



gineering community, including DES, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), and the University of Delaware. The scholarship application is available on-line at www.desonline.us. Applications are due by Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

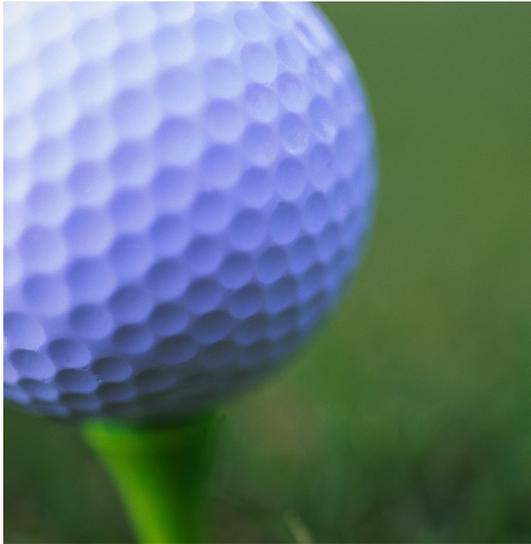
The basic functions of the Scholarship Committee include advertising the available scholarships, reviewing applications, interviewing candidates and selecting the recipients of the awards. The scholarship re-

ipients are recognized at the Engineer's Week Banquet scheduled for February 2010.

The Scholarship Committee is looking for several volunteers to assist with the program this year. The time commitment is small (with most assistance needed during the winter months), but the time spent is rewarding. If you are interested in being involved with this year's program, or know a student interested in available scholarships, please contact Stacy Ziegler, P.E. at (302) 239-6634 or sziegler@duffnet.com.

Golf Tournament at Rock Manor Golf Course

62 Rockford Road
Suite 201
Wilmington, DE 19806



The DES Fall Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, October 8th at the Rock Manor Golf Course in Wilmington, Delaware. The tournament will be a shotgun start at 12:00 pm. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams, and for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Golf rates are as follows:

- \$75 per golfer (includes cart)
- \$150 for a hole sponsorship (sign at tee box)
- \$400 for a Corporate Sponsorship
(4 golfers and sign at tee)

Proceeds from the tournament support the Joe J. Welker Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to high school seniors entering an undergraduate engineering curriculum.

To register, contact Pete Mandeville at (302) 239-6634 or Tom Coleman at (302) 369-2900 by Friday, October 2nd.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL NSPE CONFERENCE

DELEGATE MARK PARKER, P.E.

Now that we're back from the Annual Convention in St. Louis (both Mike Angelo – DES President 2010 -2012 and I attended), there are some important things to report. The NSPE House of Delegates Annual Assembly was held on Saturday July 18th. The morning was generally filled with some housekeeping and consent agenda items. The key discussion and vote was held in the afternoon. The Kansas and Missouri state societies posed State-Only and a la Carte Membership options. These states, like a great majority of state societies, have seen a significant decline in their membership roles (typically 5-6% per year). The purpose to their motion was to allow state societies to offer lower-priced memberships to members who would then only be members at the chapter and state level, not national.

The debate was spirited and at times contentious. Larger Midwestern states found a pretty strong allegiance for this membership option while the eastern seaboard states aligned themselves strongly against this motion. The northeastern states, including Delaware, spoke out directly against this option because it would pull vital funding resources from nationally sponsored events and programs, including travel, publications, website support, billing support, etc.

In addition, the supporting state societies could not clarify how individual members would in essence be prohibited from national programs and information. In other words, no one can be prevented from attending the Annual Conference or utilizing website programs just because they don't "belong" to the national organization.

At the end of the day, after close to three hours of debate and presentation, the vote was taken and the motion did ultimately fail. As your Delegate, I had opportunity to present opinion for the opposition of the motion and did vote *against*. It was my contention that if members of state societies are not finding value in their national membership, then let's work harder to provide better programs and to shift our attention to their needs and wants. If we continue to shrink the national membership, we will simply be forced to eliminate too many resources that small states, like Delaware, rely too heavily on.

Next month: Information on continuing education requirements for PE examination.