

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gregory Pawlowski, P.E.

Having completed my term as President, here is a recap of noteworthy news from this past year as well as what's on the horizon:

- A commitment by Council to move forward with a CPC program having an implementation deadline of June 2014. The underlying intent is to raise the bar on our licensure renewal requirement and put Delaware on par with a nationwide standard that follows closely the NCEES Model Law.
- We have had numerous requests over the years for a "Retired Status" to be developed. A secondary benefit to developing a CPC program is it has opened the door once again to develop the retired status and allow those holding this status to be exempt from CPC requirements.
- Despite our lackluster economy, the amount of firms securing a Certificate of Authorization rose from 898 to 945.
- 285 candidates passed the FE exam and 351 PE licenses were issued through either examination or comity.
- NCEES has established a start date for Computer Based Testing (CBT) of no later than 2014. CBT is expected to offer greater scheduling flexibility for candidates and increased uniformity in testing conditions. Moving the exam to computer based is

also consistent with how many other professions test their candidates for licensure.

- Delaware will be hosting the annual NCEES zone meeting May 2012 at Dover Downs. This has not been held here since 2001 and we are excited it will be in a first class venue known throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.
- The University of Delaware Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was the \$25,000 grand prize winner of the NCEES Engineering Award. This was the second time the newly created prize was awarded. The jury stated it was an "excellent integration of real-world experience in an educational setting." Congratulations again to the University and its Civil Engineering Department.

As can be seen from these accomplishments and upcoming events, Delaware has demonstrated why it is referred to as the "Small Wonder."

I thank all members for electing me to Council and thank Council for voting me to the Presidency and all the support they give to this office. Beginning September 14, 2011, DAPE will have a new President – Charles McAllister. Charlie and I were both voted onto Council five years ago and have worked heavily together during this time on numerous committees. I have no doubt he will continue to pilot the Association with the same strong leadership as all Presidents before him and wish him much success.

**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
By Peggy Abshagen

Just in case you haven't read the *Delaware Professional Engineer's Act* recently, there have been some legislative revisions. Some revisions addressed housekeeping issues; others clarified existing language; while still others addressed new issues.

Clarifications:

- Elaborates on the protections offered to individuals who serve on Council or its Committees.
- PE exam applicants on the fifth and all subsequent attempts must reapply, providing evidence of additional education or experience.

New:

- Licensees are required to report to DAPE within 60 days instances of out-of-state discipline.
- DAPE may upon its own initiative, based upon firsthand knowledge, begin an investigation of the actions of applicants and members regardless of whether the accusation of wrongdoing is written or oral.

The law is available on our website for your reading pleasure.

DAPE will have some additional law revisions to consider with the implementation of computer-based testing, as discussed in the NCEES Update article.

**NCEES UPDATE: COMPUTER-BASED
TESTING**

At the 2011 NCEES Annual meeting, it was determined that October, 2013 will be the final administration of the paper/pencil format FE exam. Beginning in January, 2014, FE exams will be administered at a Pearson VUE test center with a minimum of four windows per year.

Examinees will be permitted to schedule the FE exam at any time during a 2-month period, and then the exams will not be offered the following month to allow for reconciliation and maintenance of the exams.

Many state laws, including ours, incorporate language referencing NCEES 8-hour written exams. CBT will require revisiting this language, as well as other administrative issues for the nearly continuously offered exams.

The PE exam format remains unchanged. This exam will still be administered in the paper/pencil format twice per year at least for the immediate future.

We'll keep you posted.



"To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be."
....Anonymous

2011 COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Chief Teller David Clark and Meghan Lester tallied the ballots and reported the results of the 2011 Council election:

Elec. Eng:	William D. Balascio, P.E.	324
Private Cons.:	Keith R. Kooker, P.E.	324
Kent Co.:	Hany Fekry, P.E.	37
	Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E.	154
	Scott Hoffman, P.E.	137

Council ratified the results of this election at its August 10, 2011 meeting. New Council members were invited to attend the August meeting for introductions and officially filled the seat at the September 14, 2011 Council meeting.

Council members serve four-year terms.

DAPE COUNCIL WELCOMES TWO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ONE RETURNING MEMBER

As a result of the 2011 Council election, two new Council members have been added to the DAPE Council, and one member returns to serve in a different Council seat.

William D. Balascio, P.E., was elected to fill the Electrical Engineering Council seat, previously held by Michael Siwek, P.E.



Bill is a native Delawarean, having attended H.C. Conrad High School and the University of Delaware. He received a Bachelors of Electrical Engineering from the University of Delaware, before attending the University of Pennsylvania

for a Masters of Science of Engineering in Systems Engineering. Bill has practiced in Control Systems for over 25 years, and in Electrical Engineering for more than 5 years. In addition to his full time work, he has taught a PLC course at the University of Delaware for almost 20 years, and is an active

member of the Wilmington section of ISA – the International Society of Automation.



A registered professional engineer, licensed in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey, a St. Marks High School and a University of Delaware alumnus, **Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E.** has been elected to fill the Kent County Council seat. Engaged in the field of civil engineering since 1982, he established an independent consulting engineering practice in which he has been active since 1997, providing engineering services to public, private, municipal and industrial clients. Gharebaghi has also assisted engineering candidates for licensure with their preparations for the P.E. Exam by serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Delaware, College of Engineering, where he has offered instructions for PE review courses since 1988.

Keith R. Kooker, P.E. was elected to serve in the Private Consulting Seat. Keith previously served in the Kent County Council seat, but relocated out of Kent County and is no longer eligible to serve in that seat.



All of these Council seat terms will expire on August 31, 2015. We look forward to the contributions of our new and returning Council members during their tenure.



Have You Checked the Cost Of an Engineering Textbook Lately?

By: Robert A. Chagnon, P.E.

Wow, what a shocker. McGraw Hill lists the costs of its "Handbook of Transportation Engineering" at \$199.00. The "Handbook of Steel Connection Design & Details" is one of their better bargains at only \$115.00. The latter was offset by their text on "Statics and Dynamics" for \$223.13 and "Strength of Materials" for \$299.00. Back when I was studying engineering, I remember buying my first car (2nd hand) for that kind of money.

According to the Government Accountability Office (is there really such a thing?) textbook prices have been rising at double the rate of inflation for the past two decades. One of their studies indicated that from 1986 to 2004, textbook prices almost tripled. I can recall having to purchase a text for a CAD course I took a few years back that went for over 100 bucks. The real downside to it all was that the text was never referred to nor used in any way during the conduct of the course.

Is it a racket? It looks that way. Students pay a bundle for a text book but only get a pittance when they try to resell the text back to the university bookstores, which appear to have a cozy financial relationship with the schools. For example, a student forks out, let's say a meager \$100.00, for a book one semester and sells it back to the bookstore for a lousy \$20.00, if lucky. The bookstore re-sells it the following semester to another student for \$75.00. The university has made \$155.00 from that book, which can be multiplied by the number of students involved and the number of resale cycles it goes through.

I have had the pleasure (and honor) of mentoring a number of engineering students, including recent graduates, over the past decade or so. What disturbs me most about all this is not so much the money that they have had to spend on books, but the fact that they come out of college with no engineering text books to refer back to. At the end of a semester, they have to sell their text books in order to be able to afford to buy the text books for the following semester. What a bummer. In advising applicants scheduled for the PE exam, (which is open book) I advise them to take only the

text books that they are most familiar with. What text books? They don't have any.

I still have several of the engineering text books I used in college, believe it or not. They're a bit beat up but still good. As a matter of fact, they may well be better than what's out there now on the very same subjects. Back then, engineering textbook authors were primarily practicing engineers that wrote on a subject in order to assist the interested parties in understanding that subject matter. Today, mostly PhD's write those books with the objective of showing off how smart they are and to satisfy a publish or perish mandate. It was not too long ago that I finally worked up the courage to dispense with some of my text books. The first to go were my old text books pertaining to chemistry and calculus (I'm a structural guy), the latter of which brings up another fond memory of mine. I can recall way back then trying to impress a mentor of mine with my having derived the moment of inertia of an irregular shaped structural element using differential calculus. I was promptly advised to use such calculus required occasions in the future as an indication for me to look into going with a different design. It was his opinion that if calculus were needed to prove that a design was any good, then it really wasn't. A couple of books that I've still not mustered the courage to chuck out is my book on eight place logarithmic tables and my "Mathematical Tables from Handbook of Chemistry and Physics". My math professors in college allowed us to take that book into any math test and allowed us to put any crib notes that we wanted to in that book. It is full of them. When looking at them now, I'm shocked to see how smart I once was. Needless to say, none proved to be of any help during an exam but the professors felt that if one took the time to establish what was most important along with the time it took to get it all in there in the smallest print readable, it had to have some learning value.

What Can We Do About This? I think there's plenty that we can do. As individuals, we can look into what textbooks students need to buy that we feel are important for students to keep and buy one or more of the books for them, with the condition that the books provided follow that student into his or her professional career. One or more engineering societies might want to do the same and purchase some of the books in bulk for giving to the students with the same provisional conditions applying. Another is to lobby our legislature for some "higher education legislation" requiring publishers to disclose the cost of textbooks when they sell them to school bookstores. That way, a student can see just how

much they're being taken for by the add-ons for shipping, handling, and of course, a profit margin.

What Brought This On? What got me focused on this issue is my having to recently purchase the new 14th edition of AISC's "Steel Construction Handbook". It costs a whopping \$350.00. Just to show you how far back I go, my engineering class at Drexel was the first to have to pay for its required copy of AISC's "Steel Construction Handbook". Prior to that year, the handbook had always been a freebee. We paid a whopping two dollars for it. And yes, I still have it.

SO . . . WHAT DOES AN ENGINEER DO WHEN NOT ENGINEERING????

A retired engineer has time to travel the world, taking thousands of photos of his adventures; lead hikes; compete in a championship Wii bowling league; consider ways to conserve energy and water for a senior living community; keep up with the current research techniques of the genealogical society; and still have time to be involved with the Chemical Engineering PE exam.

After spending 27 days touring through five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan (all part of the former Soviet Union), Bill Sperry (PE license #2624), documented his experiences with 1800 photos. He has shared his journey with presentations of his photographs in lectures.



Bill has been licensed in Delaware since January 15, 1962. He is a Past-President of DAPE from 1990-1992. He served on virtually all of DAPE's committees and developed DAPE's first database and then website, and has been active with NCEES for decades.

It seems as though Bill is still going strong and making significant contributions, while still having fun!

We are privileged to have Bill continue to share with DAPE his knowledge and experiences. We wish him well!!

If you would like to share with DAPE some of your interests, send us your photo and details!

EXPIRED CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORIZATION

The following firms have not renewed their authority to offer or provide engineering services in the State of Delaware, with the lapse of their firm's Certificate of Authorization on **September 30, 2011**. In accordance with §2806 of the law, they are ineligible to offer or provide engineering services in Delaware.

Aker Solutions Americas, Inc.
J.L. Arnold Engineering, Inc.
Arora & Associates, P.C.
Birdsall Engineering, Inc.
Bonar Engineering & Construction Co.
Calibre Systems, Inc.
Cherry, Weber & Associates, P.C.
Clark, Richardson & Biskup Cons. Engrs.
CSI Engineering, P.C.
Dansco Engineering, LLC
Dawood Associates, Inc.
Design Consultants Group, LLC
DLR Group Inc.
Eaton Corporation
Elrod & Company, LLC
Enerfab, Inc.
Engineering Consultants Int'l, LLC
A.Epstein & Sons Int'l., Inc.
R. Forney & Associates, LLC
GeoStructures, Inc.
Greggo & Ferrara, Inc.
Harris Consulting Engineers, LLC
Hayward Baker, Inc.
Raymond Keyes Associates
Kleinfelder East, Inc.
KlingStubbins, Inc.

D. Preston Lee, Jr., Inc.
Lets Volver International, LLC
Loss Control Associates, Inc.
Martin/Martin, Inc.
Morrison Hershfield Corporation
Petrucci Consulting, LLC
Polaris Consulting Engineers PC
Polaris Engineering, Inc.
Sasaki Associates, Inc.
Shell Global Solutions, Inc.
Solutions Engineering, LLC
Soverign Consulting, Inc.
Spectrum Land Planning, Inc.
Ten Bears Environmental, LLC
Transystems Corporation
UC Synergetic, Inc.
Walter P. Moore and Assoc., Inc.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CORNER:

The Law Enforcement Committee continues to work with numerous firms to assist them to get into compliance with the law. Currently there are 98 open cases:

Administrative cases:	91*
Complaints:	7

*Administrative cases are those firms issued an engineering business license or listed in a publication advertising engineering services, and not licensed.

Case 10/076: University Consulting Engineers (UCE), LLC

This Delaware firm was issued a Cease & Desist Order for the unlicensed practice of engineering in late 2010. The firm requested a hearing to dispute the charges of unlicensed practice, and a Hearing Panel convened a hearing.

The Hearing Panel concluded that UCE provides expert opinion reports to its clients on its letterhead. It maintains a website advertising its services, including engineering services. And some of the expert reports issued on UCE letterhead involved the practice of engineering, including biomechanical engineering, authored by engineers.

The owner of the firm is unlicensed and the firm does not hold a Certificate of Authorization to practice

engineering in violation of §2821 of the Delaware Professional Engineers' Act.

At its September, 2011 meeting, the DAPE Council reaffirmed the findings of the Hearing Panel and in its Final Order issued to UCE a Cease & Desist to discontinue its unlawful activities, providing 60 days for the firm to come into compliance with the cease and desist provisions of the order.

2011 Committee Chairs

President McAllister has appointed the following Council members to serve as Chairs of the various standing committees that accomplish a myriad of tasks throughout the year:

<i>Examining Comm.:</i>	M. Lester/W. Balascio
<i>Employee Comp.:</i>	H. Medlarz, D. Barbato
<i>External Affairs:</i>	D. Barbato, S. Gharebaghi
<i>Facilities:</i>	V. Robertson, K. Kooker
<i>Finance:</i>	H. Medlarz, K. Kooker
<i>Gov't Affairs:</i>	J. Tracey
<i>Law Enforcement:</i>	K. Kooker, Z. Crouch
<i>Public Information:</i>	W. Balascio, S. Gharebaghi

Several Ad-Hoc Committees have also been appointed:

<i>Cont. Prof. Comp. (CPC):</i>	R. Leitsch
<i>Policy Manual:</i>	F. Newton
<i>Zone Meeting:</i>	P. Abshagen, C. McAllister

Council Executive Committee

Charles L. McAllister, P.E.

President

Hans M. Medlarz, P.E.

Vice President

Daniel P. Barbato, P.E.

Secretary

Keith R. Kooker, P.E.

Treasurer

Gregory G. Pawlowski, P.E.

Immediate Past President

Council Members

W. Zachary Crouch, P.E., Sussex County	8/31/12
Robert Leitsch, P.E., Mechanical Eng.	8/31/12
Vincent Robertson, Esq.—Sussex Co.—Apptd.	8/31/12
Annette D. Shine, P.E., Education	8/31/12
Daniel P. Barbato, P.E., "Other" Eng.	8/31/13
David G. Clark, P.E., Chemical Engineering	8/31/13
Hans M. Medlarz, P.E., Government Employment	8/31/13
Frank A. Newton -- Kent Co. -- Apptd.	4/06/13
John E. Tracey, Esq. -- Sussex Co. -- Apptd.	8/31/13
Meghan Lester, P.E., New Castle County	8/31/14
Charles L. McAllister, P.E., Industry	8/31/14
Gregory G. Pawlowski, P.E., Civil Engineering	8/31/14
William Balascio, P.E., Electrical Engineering	8/31/15
Keith R. Kooker, P.E., Private Consulting	8/31/15
Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Kent County	8/31/15

Council Staff:

Peggy Abshagen
Executive Director

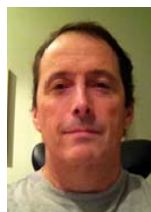
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2011-2012 COUNCIL MEMBERS



W.D. Balascio, P.E.



D.P. Barbato, P.E.



D.G. Clark, P.E.



W.Z. Crouch, P.E.



S. Gharebaghi, P.E.



K.R. Kooker, P.E.



R. Leitsch, P.E.



M. Lester, P.E.



C.L. McAllister, P.E.



H.F. Medlarz, P.E.



F.A. Newton



G.G. Pawlowski, P.E.



V. Robertson, Esq.



A. D. Shine, P.E.



J.E. Tracey, Esq.

Be sure to notify the Council office.

The Delaware Association of Professional Engineers requests that you notify our office immediately of any change of address. Reporting a change of address is vital to ensure that you receive necessary renewal information and other correspondence important to your continued licensure. If you have changed your address, go to www.dape.org and update your records. Or you may complete the following form and email, mail or fax it to the Council office and we will update the records.

The Delaware Association of Professional Engineers (DAPE) is the contact agency for licensing, regulations and complaints for the engineering profession.

Change of Address Notice

(Please print all information)

License

Number: _____

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Email

address: _____

Date: _____

**DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
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New Castle, DE 19720**