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SEPTEMBER 2023



# DAPE NEWS

## President's Message

BY MICHAEL CLENDANIEL, P.E.

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and is easing into the fall. Since our last newsletter House Bill 129 became law. We do still have an Ad Hoc Committee working to finalize the definition for successor engineer and hopefully will have something finalized by winter. Our committee consists of multiple members from our Law Enforcement & Ethics Committee, DeIDOT, ACEC and other council members. It is greatly appreciated to have so many involved to help craft a definition that achieves the goals of DAPE along with providing comfort to the engineering community that it will not cause unintended consequences. Please feel free to contact us if you would like further information or have any questions or comments. We also wrapped up hearings for individuals that were audited for CPC compliance and were found to not met DAPE's requirements. Thank to our hearing committee that served to hear each engineer's case.

This fall we will be honoring all our volunteers at our yearly appreciation event. If you are a committee member and have not RSVPed, reach out to [jen@dape.org](mailto:jen@dape.org) by September 29. We are hopeful that everyone can attend as it is a great night to socialize with fellow engineers outside of our typical committee meetings. We will also be honoring Carmine Balascio, P.E., Ph.D. with our distinguished service award. Carmine's passion to give back to the engineering community is far-reaching, from those of us who were blessed with having him as a professor at University of Delaware, to those who have served with him on numerous DAPE and NCEES committees.

During our October meeting I will be appointing the chairs for each committee that serves DAPE's council. If you have any interest in volunteering for a committee or

As we move forward through this year, I would like to hear from our registered engineers for additional options for growing and providing outreach to educate our youth about licensure. A lot of students entering college are still unaware that they will need to be licensed to perform as an engineer once they graduate. Helping them prepare and be aware prior to making a decision on what college/program to attend will not only help them but our profession after they have graduated.

I'm hopeful that each professional who is mentoring or overseeing engineers in training will provide guidance and education to be prepared not only for the professional engineering examine but also to provide them valuable lessons in the profession. I ask that all professional engineers provide their E.I.T.'s real life field experience as there is no better experience compared to what can be gained from sitting behind a computer in an office. I'm sure most of us have learned that things often appear different in person versus what they look like on paper or a computer screen. This experience is invaluable and will continue to grow our members' ability to protect the public in providing valuable services through real life experience.

Lastly, please remember your firm must renew its Certificate of Authorization before the end of the month to prevent late fees and unlicensed practice. Also, if anyone has any ideas for future training topics, please contact us. We are now less than a year away from PE renewals. I hope everyone has a wonderful fall and enjoys its beauty!

## Executive

BY JENNIFER WOOTTEN

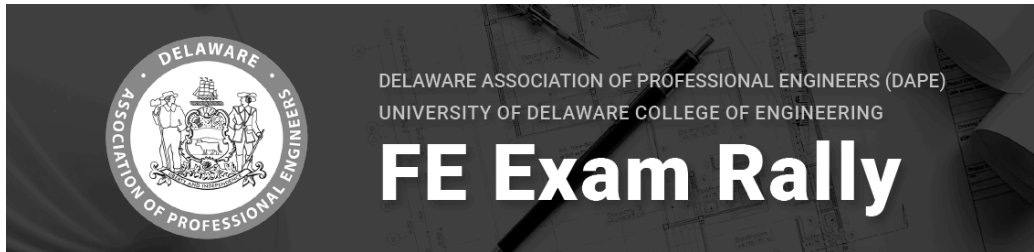
## Director's Message

University of Delaware's College of Engineering reached out to DAPE recently in order to boost our outreach efforts to engineering students. As of August of this year I am the proud parent of two University of Delaware undergrads (who both happen to be in the College of Engineering). Naturally I jumped at the chance to attend several College of Engineering events this fall with an ulterior motive to plan a lunch or dinner with my kids on campus.

College students in a qualifying program are eligible to take the FE exam once they have reached their Senior year. We have a few events lined up at UD this fall in order to promote PE licensure and more specifically to encourage students to register for the FE exam:

- Council of Presidents Meeting: I attended a meeting for presidents/officers from various student engineering clubs in order to give them an overview of DAPE and P.E. licensure requirements. Our goal is to schedule presentations at their

- FE Exam Rally: DAPE representatives spoke one on one with approximately 25 senior engineering students to answer their questions and encourage them to register for the FE exam (with incentives such as NCEES, University of Delaware, and DAPE swag and gift cards).
- Discipline-specific Class presentations: DAPE has presented at the Senior Design Civil Engineering course for many years. Last year we added a presentation to the Junior Mechanical Engineering students, and also the Freshmen introduction to engineering class.



In 2022, NCEES began a program that distributed graduation cords to any seniors that had passed the FE Exam before graduation. According to representatives from University of Delaware's College of Engineering, the FE cords were a big hit at the 2023 graduation ceremony. We're hoping to have even more FE cords on display in 2024!

## COA Renewal Deadline is September 30

Does your firm have a Certificate of Authorization (COA)? If so, has it been renewed (the deadline is September 30)? Unlike PE renewals, notices for renewals of firm licenses are sent to the officer of record, so it's a good idea to check their work and be sure your firm's license remains active.

[DAPE's roster of firms with an active COA can be found here](#) - take a look at the expiration date to be sure your firm's COA is active through 9/30/2024 (note that if the renewal is in process it temporarily does not appear on this list). All questions related to COA renewals should be sent to [office@dape.org](mailto:office@dape.org).

## DAPE CPC Guidelines Revised

Each year DAPE's Examining Committee is tasked with reviewing the Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines and making recommendations to the Council if they believe any changes are needed. Led by Examining Committee Chair Ken Tadler, the Committee discussed potential changes at several meetings this spring. Since DAPE's staff had conducted a random CPC audit of members in February and March of 2023, these discussions were informed by some trends and frequently asked questions that arose during the audit. Additionally, the Committee considered NCEES Model Law and Guidelines in crafting an amendment. Several topics that came up in discussion were:

- A misconception that DAPE pre-approves courses or course providers
- A common practice of members claiming ethics PDHs for time spent in training required by their employers on topics such as sexual harassment and cyber security
- Poor recordkeeping
- Carryover hours (pros and cons)
- Allowing out of jurisdiction members to meet either Delaware's requirements, their resident state's requirements, or the NCEES CPC standard.

is a summary of the changes/justifications from the Committee and Council:

- Changed the Term “Qualified Course/Activity” to “Qualifying Course/Activity” and added clarification that DAPE does not pre-approve courses or providers
- Specify that between 2-6 PDHs should be related to professional engineering ethics. The intention of this requirement is that the training relates specifically to the profession of engineering. Since this change was made mid-cycle, if you have ethics training prior to January 2024 that is not specifically engineering ethics, we’ll accept that for the next renewal period only. DAPE offers 1-2 free courses related to professional engineering ethics to our members each year. You can still access a recording of our April 2023 training online (you need to complete this PDH assessment form to get a certificate for 2 PDHs).
- The CPC Guidelines now contain specific references to tools that can help with recordkeeping.
- DAPE will accept the NCEES CPC Standard in addition to accepting CPC requirements of resident jurisdictions other than Delaware.
- Minor typographical and semantic corrections throughout.

While we encourage our members to review the entire document since we are approaching the next renewal deadline in June 2024, you can read a version that highlights the recent changes here.

PS - DAPE is just starting to plan our next Ethics training to be held in spring 2024 (before the June 30, 2024 PE renewal deadline). We are going to delve into lessons learned during the recent random CPC audit.

## DAPE Council Changes

DAPE welcomed three new Council members at our September 13, 2023 Council meeting:

- James Puddicombe, P.E. (Kent County)
- Melanie A. Smith, P.E. (Chemical Engineering)
- Theodore A. Thomson, P.E. (Private Consulting)

We had to say goodbye to three members as well, and would like to thank the following for their service on DAPE’s Council and committees:

- Nicholas Dean, P.E.

- Michael Lennon, P.E.

- Charles L. McAllister, P.E.

The following slate of officers were elected at the September Council meeting:

- President: Michael Clendaniel, P.E.
- Vice President: Karen Maxson, P.E.
- Secretary: Kenneth Tadler, P.E.
- Treasurer: Vincent Fazio, P.E.
- Immediate Past President: Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP

## Welcome to Delaware's Newest Professional Engineers

License Number	Name	License Number	Name
28821	Nizar Alsankary	28523	Zhouhai Liu
28373	Veronica A. Boyce	28394	Michael P Megalla
28706	Adam J Broxton	24924	Chintan Patel
27976	John C Darden	28830	Madison Sage
28300	Rocco DeFelice	28479	William F Skwirut
27357	Eric Gibson	28525	Christian Stabelli
28807	Harry Samuel Highley-Gergel	28806	Samantha Rose Suero
28868	Snehil Kumar		

## 2023 Distinguished Service Award

On October 11, 2023, DAPE will be honoring Carmine Balascio, P.E., Ph.D. as our 2023 Distinguished Service Award recipient at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Carmine obtained his Delaware PE license #9352 in 1993. He was honored last year at our 50th Anniversary celebration as part of a group of DAPE's longest-serving volunteers. Carmine served two consecutive terms in the Council's Education seat between 2000-2008, and again between 2012-2020. He was elected Council President in 2018, and was the first (and still the only) occupant of the Council's

the Finance, Facilities, and Employee Compensation & Benefits Committees and several Ad Hoc committees over the years.

Nationally, Carmine has volunteered on multiple NCEES committees and task forces including the FE Exam Development Committee, and has frequently represented DAPE as a delegate at NCEES Zone and Annual Meetings. He received the NCEES Northeast Zone's "Enny" award in 2021. He also serves as a program evaluator for ABET. His active participation on a national level has driven some recent changes to the Delaware Professional Engineers' Act related to decoupling and Washington Accord degrees.



Carmine began his academic career as an undergrad at the University of Delaware, earning degrees in Mathematics and Agricultural Engineering Technology. He moved on to Iowa State University for a Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering and then a Ph.D. in Agricultural Engineering & Engineering Mechanics. His teaching career began at Iowa State University, and he joined the University of Delaware faculty in 1985. He is currently an Associate Professor, in the Department of Plant and Soil Science with an Affiliated Appointment with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

When he is not reviewing DAPE applications or attending a DAPE Committee meeting, Carmine enjoys bird watching, reading, hiking, bicycling, and keeping up with

Delaware. Carmine lives with his wife in Newark, and they plan to travel more when he retires, including visits to their daughter in Pittsburgh.

## University of Delaware NCEES Engineering Education Award

The University of Delaware's College of Engineering was recently awarded \$10,000 for their entry in the NCEES Engineering Education Awards program, which recognizes engineering programs that encourage collaboration between students and professional engineers.

You can [read more about the winning project, "Partnerships, Perseverance, and Progress: Overcoming the Challenge of the COVID-19 Pandemic to Rehabilitate Wells in Malawi"](#) on the NCEES website.

DAPE Council members will be joining with representatives from NCEES to present this award to the University of Delaware College of Engineering at a ceremony on campus in October. Congratulations!

## NCEES Exam Fee Increase January 1

While there are many good reasons for candidates that are seniors in college or recent graduates to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, there is a very practical reason for eligible candidates to register now. The current \$175 fee will increase to \$225 on January 1, 2024. Once registered, candidates can schedule the exam for up to one year.

Fees for the computer-based Principles & Practice of Engineering (PE) Exams will increase on January 1, 2024 as well, from \$375 to \$400.

Please share this information with colleagues that may be eligible to take an exam, and encourage them to reach out to DAPE with questions about exam registration.

## Council Executive Committee



- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Secretary
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Treasurer
- Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP, Immediate Past President

## Council Members (Term Expiration Date)

- Ronald D. Smith, Esq., Kent Co. – Appointed (8/31/23)
- William Gamgort, Esq., New Castle Co. – Appointed (8/31/23)
- Jason Hastings, P.E., Sussex County (8/31/24)
- David Reinhold, P.E., Education (8/31/24)
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Mechanical Engineering (8/31/24)
- Michael A. Clendaniel, P.E., Gov't Employment (8/31/25)
- Jeremy Kalmbacher, P.E., "Other" Engineering (8/31/25)
- Melanie A. Smith, P.E., Chemical Engineering (8/31/25)
- Daniel Barbato, P.E., New Castle County (8/31/26)
- Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP, Civil Engineering (8/31/26)
- Chad R. Lingenfelder, Esq., Sussex Co. - Appointed (10/6/26)
- Karen Maxson, P.E., Industry (8/31/26)
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Electrical Engineering (8/31/27)
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Kent County (8/31/27)
- Theodore A. Thomson, P.E., Private Consulting (8/31/27)

## DAPE Staff

- Jennifer Wootten, Executive Director
- Kathy Davis, Executive Assistant
- Beth Baughman, Administrative Assistant



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