# DAPE NEWS

***News* from Delaware's Licensing Council for Professional Engineers Summer 2009**

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***
***By Frank A. Newton***

The National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) held their 88th Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY the week of August 12th. The meeting was well organized and provided a number of very interesting events in addition to the business meetings.

I attended a visit and tour of the recently finished McAlpine locks located in Louisville. This lock is one of many along the Ohio River that lifts or lowers river barge traffic as they move along the Ohio to and from the Mississippi River. This lock was opened in April of this year and replaces an older, smaller lock. This new structure allows full length river tows to pass through the lock without breaking them down into smaller lengths to pass through. The lock is 1200 feet long and raises or lowers a river tow 35 feet. Quite an engineering marvel.

The business sessions were conducted smoothly and without controversy. Joe Timms, P.E. of West Virginia was elected President Elect for this fiscal year. Joe served as Vice President of the Northeast Zone this past year and was elected by acclimation as there was no other candidate for the office. The Treasurer's office was contested and Gene Dinkins P.E. from the Southern Zone won that contest.

The perennial discussion of whether to require a bachelor's degree plus 30 semester hours or a Masters degree for licensure in the Model Law resulted with the NCEES Engineering Education Task Force being charged with further study of alternative solutions to the concept of additional education: and that the study include reform to the bachelor's degree program such that the B.S. degree be modified to contain the appropriate educational requirements to practice at a professional level.

Depending on how this discussion is ultimately resolved and how the Model Law is adopted it may lead to comity problems between licensing jurisdictions in the future. Stay tuned for further developments.

An interesting session I attended was on the work NCEES is doing in an effort to communicate with the younger generation on the importance of becoming licensed. They are committing a substantial amount of time and resource on this subject in an effort to reach young men and women early on in school to inform them of the importance of becoming a licensed professional engineer. Communicating with the younger generation is a significantly different problem than it has been in the past and they are adapting to these changes.

As a member of the NCEES Committee for Finance, the budget presented to the annual meeting was approved. NCEES is on sound financial footing and will end the current fiscal year with a surplus as it will with the new budget. The committee looks forward to working with the newly elected treasurer of NCEES.

DAPE representatives continue to participate in national regulatory issues with their service on NCEES committees.

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

These past few months have been extremely busy in the offices of DAPE. During that time, we had been searching for suitable office space in the same general vicinity. We had even considered renovating or enlarging our current space; purchasing property; etc. All options were on the table.

With just weeks prior to the expiration of our lease, we identified the perfect office space, began lease negotiations, retrofitted an office, packed up our files and here we are settled in our new offices in New Castle Corporate Commons. We've made some technology upgrades, designed the space to permit usage by other engineering groups, and most importantly have sufficient space to house our records and conduct business appropriately and securely. In early Fall, we'll be hosting an Open House to showcase our new facility, but, in the interim if you are in the area, stop by to see us.

On June 18, 2009 Governor Markell signed legislation (SB 39) to reduce the engineering experience necessary for an individual who has a non-EAC of ABET accredited engineering program and a Master's degree in engineering to 5 years vs. 8 years. And, graduates of non-EAC of ABET accredited engineering programs who have doctoral degrees in engineering to 4 years vs. 8 years. The previous law permitted applicants with a Master's degree or PhD in engineering to receive one year's experience credit for each of these degrees, but still required a total of 8 years of experience.

In other news, we've renewed 854 Certificates of Authorization for the 911 firms listed on the Certificate of Authorization roster; conducted a Council election among the 1136 residents of Delaware to fill three Council seat vacancies; mailed out grades for the April 2009 exam administration to 283 examinees; processed FE and PE applications for the upcoming October, 2009 exam administration; and other routine administrative tasks.

Check on our website to make sure your firm has renewed their authority to practice engineering in the State. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll see the results of the Council election. Congratulate the winners. And share your congratulations with the new Engineer Interns and Professional Engineers, also listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

## ***IS DISTANCE LEARNING NOW WHAT IT WAS BACK WHEN?***
***By Robert A. Chagnon, P.E., SECB***

**Introduction:** Our engineering regulation laws governing over the requirement for licensure, under Delaware Code Title 24 Chapter 28, call for licensure applicants to have graduated with a baccalaureate degree from a Council approved 4-year educational program in engineering, among other related provisions. Here-to-fore, Council has declined to accept applicants with educational credentials obtained from what is currently referred to as "distance learning" programs.

These were initially titled as "correspondence courses or programs", one of the originators being the "International Correspondence Schools", founded in 1897, which later became known simply as "ICS". Although not particularly thought of as being high on the academic scale, at least they, and others that followed, required one to complete a prescribed set of study and test assignments in order to be awarded a diploma or certificate of completion. In its hay-day, one could earn a diploma in most all branches of engineering as well as many other professional fields of study. ICS is still in operation today under the name, "Education Direct", but mainly offers entry-level education courses involving service-industry jobs as does several other of its competitors such as Penn-Foster Career School, ITT Technical Institute, Stratford Career Institute and many more.

The downfall of it all was, and still is, the flourishing of "diploma mills". A diploma mill is a business that makes a profit by disguising itself as a legitimate academic institution, selling printed degrees and academic honors, and providing academic references and falsified transcripts to individuals that are willing to fork out the thousands of dollars that are charged for their products. Some of these mills may require an individual to write a dissertation but provide no interaction with any faculty whatsoever. These individuals generally fall within two categories. They're people that are in search of genuine academic programs but unaware that they're being ripped-off or they're people who are fully aware that they are committing fraud but are willing to take the risk involved in exchange for obtaining quickly needed credentials for academic or professional benefits. The resulting degrees or academic honors that are issued mostly carry the distinction of having been accredited

by "The Adult Higher Education Alliance", which the U.S. Department of Education has identified as being a fake accrediting agency.

What's described above forms the basis for DAPE Council's past and on-going tradition of simply not recognizing what is now being referred to as "distance learning" programs.

**What Do We Have Now?** Over the very recent few years, distance learning programs have risen to new and creditable levels of academic learning backed mainly by the availability of on-line lectures and self-paced individualized learning programs being provided by many of the country's leading academic institutions. One cannot only earn college credits for courses offered in most all majors but can earn fully accredited BS, MS and PhD degrees (including most all fields of engineering) from none other than colleges and universities such as Villanova, Iowa State, University of Florida, Drexel, North Carolina State University, John Hopkins University, University of Michigan, Kansas State University, Norwich University, University of North Dakota, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and many, many more, even including MIT. These are course credits and degrees recognized by the U.S. Department of Education which also recognizes two of the most common related accrediting agencies for distance learning programs, the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) and Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET).

**They Do It But Don't Know It:** Does the DAPE Council accept engineering or engineering related courses taken through distance learning? No, but they really are. They're simply not aware of it. Not all courses that appear on an applicant's transcript have to necessarily have been taken in a classroom environment. Many full time students enrolled in a college or university can and do take on-line courses offered through their institution during the course of completing their prescribed curriculum. That's par for the course these days.

**What About Lab Work?** Many degree programs offered by recognized colleges and universities do require students to spend a specific amount of time on-campus. That can be accomplished on weekends, brief sessions that extend over a period of one or more weeks, or in some cases, a full semester. These on-campus periods are generally used for monitored exams and exposure to learning activities that cannot affectively be met via the internet.

**Should Council Reconsider?** In this writer's opinion and as one that has served on DAPE's Examining Committee for several years, I say absolutely yes. ABET, which was once formally known as the "Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology" can no longer be relied on for certifying how many units of study a student has been exposed to and in what areas. They have gone to what is referred to as "outcomes assessment". If an engineering curriculum provided by an institution can be shown to be effective through the positive results laid claim by the organizations that hire its graduates, the program is a go. In this writer's opinion, if a distance learning program is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education it should also be good enough for DAPE to allow a graduate from such a program to sit for the FE exam. And if the graduates of such programs demonstrate that they have successfully been integrated into the work force as productive engineers, Council should also allow them to sit for the P&PE exam. However, that's just one man's opinion.

**What Say Ye All?**

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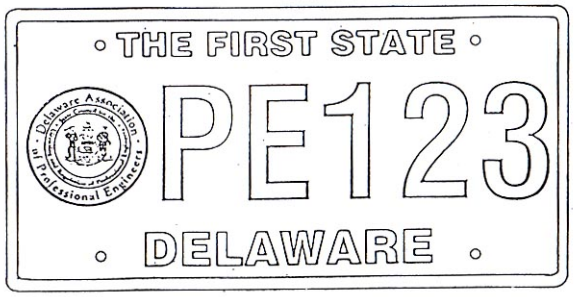
***UPDATE: WE STILL NEED YOU!***

**Special License Plate For Delaware PE's**




**Is Anyone Else Interested?**
**Progress Stalled!**

Progress has stalled in our search for 200 PE's interested in displaying their pride in the engineering profession. We are still in need of about 100 interested participants in order to meet the Division of Motor Vehicle requirement of 200 applications for our special license plates. We have more than 1100 members that reside in Delaware and are eligible to be among this group. Contact the DAPE office today!

(Here's the background info:)

As a Delaware non-profit organization, DAPE can qualify for special registration plates for its members.

To do so, DAPE must provide a minimum of 200 applications for such before the Division of Motor Vehicles can consider issuing a special license plate for Delaware Professional Engineers. A one-time fee of $10.00 is charged for each special plate. That fee is to be paid for by the individual that will be receiving the plate. For "special" license plates, as compared to "vanity plates", yearly license renewal costs are the same as for conventional license renewals. Special plates are limited to passenger vehicles and trucks rated at 3/4-ton capacity or smaller. The vehicle must also have a current Delaware registration.

If interested, please call, e-mail or fax Peggy Abshagen at DAPE and provide her with your name, your PE license number and how to best get back to you with a follow-up application form and $10.00 fee submittal. **We need a minimum of 200 interested applicants to pull this off so please get to Peggy ASAP, if interested.** DAPE's phone number is 302/323-4588. Fax number is 302-323-4590 and Peggy's e-mail address is peggy@dape.org.

## ***WHO'S HIRING ENGINEERS TODAY?***

***By Gregory G. Pawlowski, P.E.***

For the spring 2008 newsletter I wrote an article touting the sky was falling as a result of an unavoidable engineering shortage. Well I was partially correct; the economic sky did fall with completely opposite results. Many well-qualified engineers have been laid off in the last year, including myself, and now employers have their pick of the litter. To make matters worse, our engineering institutions dumped even more into the pool that are competing with seasoned engineers. Fortunately, I was only unemployed for five months, before finding employment at DelDOT, and am very happy with my new home. So what did I learn about the engineering market and can I impart such knowledge to others?

First and foremost, being laid off has nothing to do with your skill set or the lack of. When I was laid off I truly didn't worry. For goodness sake I was a licensed engineer with 24 years of experience in heavy highway and building construction management, as well as teaching civil engineering and construction management at DelTech. At best I figured it would take two months to be sitting in a new job. Boy was I wrong. We have all heard that most jobs, at least the better ones, are not publicly advertised and are filled through word of mouth. With the exception of civil design, which I really have little experience in, I contacted everyone I knew immediately in both the heavy highway and building industries to let them know I was on the open market. Naturally, I still pursued what few positions were listed in CareerBuilder, Monster, and any other employment website. The overwhelming response from my contacts across the board was that they were all struggling to hold onto the staff they had, let alone hire any new ones. So then I expanded my search to include a larger search area and gave consideration to positions I normally would not have, for example field inspection, material vendors, and subcontractors. Once again this produced neither job offers nor even an interview. In the meantime I began hearing about layoffs of many of my friends who had years of experience in professional and sub-professional jobs and knew the market was worse than I had originally thought. It also confirmed that skill set was not the issue. There simply was no work to support a workforce and layoffs were the only solution for a business to stay afloat.

As mentioned earlier, recent graduates made matters worse by seeking entry-level positions within companies who had difficulty in holding onto more productive and seasoned engineers. There went my idea of accepting a lower level position. Employers are wise enough to see that in the future when our economy improves, and the optimism in me says it will, most likely I will leave them for a better position. Frankly, I have to admit they are probably right. The other side of the coin is that duties normally assigned to lower level engineers were shifted to higher level engineers in an effort to keep them employed.

Let me remind you that a ripple effect occurred in the building industry, which affected engineers across all disciplines. No building means no civil engineer to design the site, foundations, and structural skeleton. Additionally there's no need for mechanical or electrical engineers to design the systems. And there are numerous ancillary disciplines that were hit hard too, including construction management. For a small sect of civil engineers, highway design seemed to be the only market open. Even though government cutbacks have been occurring everywhere, some key and critical public works projects already had funding for them so work continued.

One option I gave consideration to was non-traditional governmental agency opportunities. The FBI not only hires lawyers and criminal justice majors but also employs mechanical, software, electronics, and computer engineers. I couldn't tell you why, but these

are listed on their website. The CIA hires similar engineers as well as program managers and network engineers. And NSA seems to be looking for computer and electrical engineers. The obvious caveat to filling these positions is that you must be willing to relocate and this is not an option for many engineers with families. While on the subject of relocation, short and long term positions can be found nationwide where pockets of work in both design and construction exist.

Once again, where are the engineering jobs? Here is a recap of options to consider:

- Notify as many contacts, including competitors, as soon as possible of your employment availability. Keep in mind you are seeking word-of-mouth positions.
- Do check the many employment websites and consider all possibilities.
- Rethink your skill set and determine what other professional and sub-professional positions you can fill regardless of whether or not these are your dream jobs.
- Investigate non-traditional jobs at all levels of government.
- Open your search to a larger commuting radius.
- Give consideration to accepting a position out of town for the interim. This may result in a permanent move for the family if mutually agreed upon.

In the six months I have been employed by DelDOT, my outside engineering contacts have questioned me numerous times on whether DelDOT has any open positions. Despite the state-wide hiring freeze and budget cuts, positions do occasionally open which are considered critical to the Department. Unfortunately, I typically point them in another direction. This is certainly a time in our history to be optimistic that we are at the bottom of a cyclic job market and opportunities will indeed improve.

## ***COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS***

Ballots have been tallied; election results ratified by Council at its August meeting; and new Council members join the DAPE Council.

We welcome **Daniel P. Barbato, P.E.,** in the "Other" engineering seat. Dan has been active on our Law Enforcement/Ethics Committee, and routine proctoring of our exams. **Hans M. Medlarz, P.E.** has won the Government Employment seat.

**David G. Clark, P.E.** has been re-elected to the Chemical Engineering seat.

We look forward to the participation of all of these Council members during the next four years!

## ***DEPARTING COUNCIL MEMBERS***

It is bittersweet when we welcome new members to the DAPE Council, as we must also say goodbye to the departing members.

Council recognized the eight years of service of both Pat Canzano, P.E., and J. Paul Jones, P.E. at a dinner on August 19, 2009.

**Pasquale "Pat" Canzano, P.E.**

Has served in the Government Employment Council seat. Pat has been active in many committee activities, serving on the Executive, Finance, Government Affairs, Law Enforcement/Ethics Committees to name a few. He was instrumental in several law revisions including administrative penalties to insure compliance with the law.

**J. Paul Jones, P.E.**

Paul has served as Past President of DAPE during 2004-2006. Serving as Chair of the Government Affairs Committee for numerous years, he has been instrumental in the many changes in our legislation during his tenure.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to both of these professionals and wish them well. We hope to continue to work with them through our committees.

## ***NEW PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS***

Congratulations to the following new Professional Engineers who successfully passed the April, 2009 PE exam, and were approved for licensure on August 19, 2009.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bochanski, Daniel | #16105 |
| Das, Sekhar | #15540 |
| Gilani, Farah | #15595 |
| Ginder, Michael | #16043 |
| Granter, Michael | #15333 |
| Horsford, Jesse | #15948 |
| Hussein, Mohamed | #16114 |
| Jawawdeh, Walid | #12928 |
| Keegan, Zachary | #16002 |
| Lardner, Ring | #15647 |
| McNeill, Corbin | #16143 |
| Murphy, Kenneth | #15007 |
| O'Brien, Daniel | #16140 |
| Penman, Robert | #14960 |
| Ponsi, Adam | #15536 |
| Sacks, Michael | #16141 |
| Scholz, Donald | #15484 |
| Seifert, John | #15890 |
| Shertz, Kevin | #15921 |
| Sinha, Rajiv | #14361 |

## ***NEW ENGINEER INTERNS***

The following new Engineer Interns successfully passed the April, 2009 Fundamentals of Engineering exam:

Alfrey, Alex
Allen, John
Allmond, Bradley
Alvarez, M. Jacob
Ayres, Ronald
Azeez, Sherif
Bartlett, Jerry
Beauchamp, Christopher
Benton, Kyle
Boettger, John
Brownstein, Jeremy
Burke, Timothy
Cahoy, Andy
Campbell, Kevin
Canataro, Thomas
Carrero, Rafael
Chang, Allen
Cioffi, Michael
Comden, Joshua
Constans, Eric
Daley, Kevin
Dastis, Timothy
Decktor, Alan
Desjarlais, James
Devaney, Conor
Diven, Scott
Do, Tan
Doshi, Ankur
Dybeck, Martin
Erbe, Patrick
Farooqi, Wajiha
Farrell, Frank
Fenlason, Gordon
Festa, Peter
Fiore, Matthew
Fitzpatrick, Daniel
Frasch, Benjamin
Freeman, Glenn
Gangloff, John
Gao, Belinda
Golias, Michael
Greblunas, John
Greenblatt, Aliza
Guma, Jarrett
Gupta, Nitika
Harpen, Henry
Harrigan, Patrick
Harrington, Timothy
Henderson, Alex
Hoffmann, Kyle
Hunt, James
Hyduke, Joel
Jacob, Cedric
Jones, Robert
Kane, Colleen
Kauffman, Randal
Kavinski, Kyle
Kelly, Sean
Kendall, Robert
Khan, Muhammad
Knopf, Jeffrey
Komal, Mark
LaPerle, Jeffrey
Lazzeri, Jonathan
Levy, Brian
Liu, Baolong
Loesch, Joseph
Lort, Richard
Lyon, Jason
Malaviya, Sharang
Malins, Joseph
Martin, Anne
Mauro, Nicholas
McCauley, Raymond
McDaniels, Susan
Meyer, Jeffrey
Michaud, Kervin
Miller, Brad
Miner, Thomas
Moglia, Robert
Morales, Joshua
Moran, Scott
Morfitt, Jordan
Mumford, Clifton
Muriel, Keicha
Myers, Merrill
Nette, Eric
Noel, Georges
Pace, Christie
Parseghian, Steven
Penskar, David
Pomeroy, Daniel
Powell, Benjamin
Rabe, Tyler
Radcliffe, Amanda
Reed, Paul
Rogliano, Luigi
Romano, Joseph
Ronca, Matthew
Rymer, Ian
Sands, Nicholas
Schein, Joshua
Schlabach, Nevin
Schmiedel, Lindsay
Seaman, Emily
Senkewicz, Timothy
Shaffer, Brett
Shah, Kamlesh
Shah, Sapan
Shay, Daniel
Showler, John
Siegel, Tristan
Sneeringer, Frank
Sok, Veasna
Spalt, Frank
Sporik, Daniel
Staub, John-Michael
Stirparo, Gregory
Stoddard, Scott
Strab, Timothy
Taylor, Fitz-William
Terry, Kyle
Thompson, Andre
Turner, Matthew
Uthgenannt, Chris.
Wagner, Justin
Walker, Bryan
Wells, Peter
Whitcombe, Chris.
Wong, Edwin
Woodson, Christopher
Woodward, Kristen
Wright, William
Zorn, Sarah

## ***CALLING ALL PROCTORS***

Mark your calendars! The October exams are right around the corner, and, of course, we could use your assistance. If you are available on **Friday, October 23, 2009 or Saturday, October 24, 2009**, for a few hours, and are willing to work alongside your peers, enjoy a good lunch and even receive a token of our appreciation, while at the same time, insuring the security of our exam process, we need to hear from you. Veterans and rookies are welcome!

Call, write, email, fax . . . .

Name:_____

Email:_____

Availability: Friday a.m._____ Friday p.m._____

Saturday a.m.____ Saturday p.m.____

Many, many thanks!!!


***Council Executive Committee***

Frank A. Newton
**President**
Gregory G. Pawlowski, P.E.
**Vice President**
Keith R. Kooker, P.E
**Secretary**
Charles L. McAllister, P.E.
**Treasurer**
Guy F. Marcozzi, P.E.
**Immediate Past President**

***Council Members***

| | |
|---|---|
| Daniel P. Barbato, P.E., "Other" Eng. | 8/31/13 |
| David G. Clark, P.E., Chemical Engineering | 8/31/13 |
| W. Zachary Crouch, P.E., Sussex County | 8/31/12 |
| Alfred S. DeLuca, P.E., Electrical Eng. | 8/31/11 |
| Keith R. Kooker, P.E. , Kent County | 8/31/11 |
| Guy F. Marcozzi, P.E., Private Cons. | 8/31/11 |
| Charles L. McAllister, P.E., Industry | 8/31/10 |
| Robert W. McClure, P.E., New Castle Co | 8/31/10 |
| Hans M. Medlarz, P.E., Government Employment | 8/31/13 |
| Frank A. Newton, Kent Co.-Apptd. | 1/30/10 |
| Gregory G. Pawlowski, P.E., Civil Engineering | 8/31/10 |
| Vincent Robertson, Esq.—Sussex Co.—Apptd. | 9/27/12 |
| Annette D. Shine, P.E. – Education | 8/31/12 |
| Richard M. Walsh, P.E. – Mechanical Engineering | 8/31/12 |
| (New Castle Co.-Apptd.) | vacant |

***Council Staff:***

Peggy Abshagen, Executive Director
Donna Weaver, Administrative Asst.

***Council Office:***

92 Read's Way, Suite 208, New Castle, DE 19720
(302) 323-4588 / (302) 323-4590 – FAX

e-mail: office@dape.org
website: www.dape.org

## Moving? 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, please complete the following form and mail or fax it to the Council office in order that our records may be updated accordingly.

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

**DELAWARE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**
**92 Read's Way, Suite 208**
**New Castle, DE 19720**

## Change of Address Notice

(Please print all information)

License Number:_____

Name:_____

Old Address:_____

New Address:_____

_____

Date:_____