



Georgia Society of Professional Engineers

January 2009

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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### GSPE

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[www.gspe.org](http://www.gspe.org)

**GSPE**  
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### Your 2009 Recession Survival Guide

Here's how to weather the downturn and take advantage of the tough times in 2009

*By Kimberly Palmer , James Pethokoukis , Luke Mullins  
Featured in the December 2, 2008 U.S. News & World Report*

So you think it's bad news that a recession has been "officially declared"? (Turns out, it started back in December of last year.) Puh-lease. First of all, it shouldn't be news to anyone that the economy has been in the tank for a while.

Unemployment has been climbing (from 4.4 percent in March 2007 to 6.5 percent now), and the stock market has been plummeting (down roughly 40 percent so far this year). Ouch!

Second, the recession announcement by the National Bureau of Economic Research can be a handy catalyst for action. Now that there's not a shadow of a doubt that the economy is terrible, you can look ahead to 2009, make smart plans to weather the downturn, and-if you're savvy-figure out how to take advantage of the tough times we'll be facing all next year:

**The economic outlook.** Oh, it's going to be nasty out there. Not so nasty that your great-grandparents will quit telling those Great Depression stories, but bad nonetheless. For a while, economists thought we might luck out and get away with a downturn no worse than the 1990-91 recession. That one lasted eight months, with back-to-back quarters of negative GDP growth of 2.9 percent and 2 percent. Unemployment rose from 5.2 percent to 7.8 percent. But now it looks as if the 1981-82 downturn is the better comparison. It lasted 16 months, had several quarters where the economy shrank 3 percent more, and saw unemployment rise as high as 10.8 percent. So what about the recession of 2008-2009?

**Weakening big picture.** There have been two quarters so far during the recession where the economy has gotten smaller, each time by less than 1 percent. Those days are over. "We are

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Georgia Engineers Summer  
Conference

**Betty Jean Jordan, P.E.**

currently forecasting a 4 percent decline in real GDP in the fourth quarter, placing it among the worst quarters for economic growth in the postwar period," says Jason Trennert of Strategas Research. The first three months of next year could be just as bad. And even once the economy begins to grow again, the overhang from the credit crisis will probably crimp significant growth until until 2010.

**Worsening unemployment.** It's the sharp jump in job losses that really pushed the NBER to make its recession call. And things only seem to be getting worse. "Current conditions in the economy are terrible," notes IHS Global Insight economist Brian Bethune. "Employment continues to go south, the unemployment rate is ramping up sharply, and households are seeing their net financial worth evaporate before their eyes on a daily basis." Economists say that an 8 percent unemployment rate is likely-and 10 percent is not out of the question. Even worse, more people without jobs will make it that much tougher for the housing market to rebound anytime soon.

**Sickly stock market.** The stock market often begins to perk up about three to six months before the end of a recession. But economist Michael Darda of MKM Advisers says the time to buy has yet to arrive. "We don't expect the current recession to end until late 2009, which means equities may not put in a durable bottom until the first half of 2009."

**Tight credit.** Since the housing bubble started to unravel, credit card companies have been cutting credit limits and, in some cases, raising interest rates, partly because they fear more consumers will default as financial stress spreads. "We haven't hit bottom yet in terms of credit card companies trying to protect themselves," says Justin McHenry, president of IndexCreditCards.com. Even if the Federal Reserve continues to hold down interest rates, McHenry says credit card companies will probably raise rates and cut credit limits through early 2009. That means people who have credit cards with decent rates should hold onto them, because they might not find a better deal elsewhere.

**Food prices may drop.** After spikes in the prices of milk, eggs, and other staples earlier this year, shoppers may be in for some relief in 2009. The price increases were partly caused by the high price of gasoline, which is used to transport much of our food. Now gas prices are dropping, leading some analysts to expect lower supermarket prices. But it won't happen overnight, because the cost of diesel is still high, and farmers need to recover from the high input costs they faced over the summer.

MATHCOUNTS

**Steve Skalko, P.E.**  
Membership Committee

**Luther Cox, P.E.**  
New P.E. Recognition Reception

**Patrick Rhodes, P.E.**  
PDH Day

**Scott Godefroy, P.E.**  
QBSGeorgia

**Francis Fiegle, P.E.**  
Sustaining Firms Committee

**Paul Cook, P.E.**  
The Georgia Engineer Magazine

([For the complete article click here](#))

**\*\*\* Georgia Secretary of State \*\*\*  
To Speak At The  
GSPE Cobb Chapter Meeting  
January 22, 2009**

**ALL GSPE MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

Mark your calendars for January 22, 2009, and plan to attend the GSPE Cobb Chapter meeting to hear Georgia Secretary of State, Karen Handel, address licensing as it pertains to the professional engineers in Georgia. The Cobb Chapter extends an invitation to all GSPE members to attend this significant meeting which will begin at 11:45 AM at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia.

Forward your RSVP to attend the January 22, 2009 Cobb Chapter meeting to Earl Ferguson, Cobb Chapter Program Chair, at [EA Ferguson@aol.com](mailto:EA Ferguson@aol.com). Due to the location of the meeting on a college campus, parking passes will be provided when requested in advance.

For additional information please contact Earl Ferguson at 404-667-1065 or Carolyn Jones, GSPE Executive Director at 404-521-2324.

**2009 Georgia MATHCOUNTS**

The Georgia MATHCOUNTS is an annual competition presented by the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers and sponsored by a host of engineering companies, organizations and businesses that utilize the engineering profession.

GSPE is a strong advocate of MATHCOUNTS because it encourages students at the middle school level to strive for excellence in math and science. Enjoying the thrill and excitement of these core academic classes at the middle school level will lay the ground work for youth to recognize the importance of math and science as they mature into young adults making career choices.

There is growing concern regarding what appears to be a lack of interest in American students in the primary and intermediate education levels in math and science. This can lead to a lower number of students entering college majoring in

Engineering and/or Technology fields. The effect of this decline in interest for math and science can impact America's innovation and strength in engineering and technology in the future.

Remind our youth about the importance of math and science while they are in school, and for our country's future. With this in mind, contact your local GSPE Chapter and volunteer to work with the MATHCOUNTS competition in your area. The following GSPE chapters host local MATHCOUNTS competitions that send their top teams and individuals to the state MATHCOUNTS competition.

### **GSPE Chapter Competitions**

Atlanta Metro -Saturday, February 14, 2009

Augusta - Saturday, February 21, 2009

Cobb - *TBA*

Columbus - *TBA*

Northeast - Friday, February 20, 2009

Northwest - Friday, February 6, 2009

Middle Georgia - Friday, February 13, 2009

Savannah - Saturday, February 14, 2009

South Georgia - Friday, February 27, 2009

West Georgia - Friday, February 6, 2009

The **Georgia State MATHCOUNTS** competition will be held **Saturday, March 21, 2009** at Zoo Atlanta.

For additional information on Georgia MATHCOUNTS, contact Carolyn Jones via e-mail at [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org).

### **GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon**

The Georgia Society of Professional Engineers will host a GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon in 2009. GSPE is looking for members that would like to participate in this event at the local chapter level.

The purpose of the event is to contact past and potential GSPE members regarding renewing their membership or joining GSPE.

Contact your local GSPE Chapter representative to find out if your chapter is participating in the 2009 GSPE Membership Phone-A-Thon or contact Carolyn Jones at the GSPE headquarters at 404-521-2324 or via e-mail at [carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org](mailto:carolyn.jones@gaengineers.org).

**Atlanta Metro**  
Robert Kurz

[robertkurz@bellsouth.net](mailto:robertkurz@bellsouth.net)

-or-

Steve Strong  
PH: (404) 978-8051  
[s.strong@ieee.org](mailto:s.strong@ieee.org)

### **Augusta**

William "Trey" Wingate  
PH: (706) 722-3479  
[twingate@wkdickson.com](mailto:twingate@wkdickson.com)

### **Cobb**

Earl Ferguson  
PH: (404) 667-1065  
[EA Ferguson@aol.com](mailto:EA Ferguson@aol.com)

### **Columbus**

Jason Cooper  
[jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)

### **Middle Georgia**

Patrick Rhodes  
PH: 770-376-3000  
[pat@pacegeotech.com](mailto:pat@pacegeotech.com)

### **Northeast**

John Oliaro  
PH: (706) 549-3300 x141  
[joliaro@fowlerproducts.com](mailto:joliaro@fowlerproducts.com)

### **Northwest**

John Pillsbury  
PH: (706) 295-2201

### **Savannah**

Tim Baumgartner  
[tim\\_baumgartner@emc-eng.com](mailto:tim_baumgartner@emc-eng.com)

### **South Georgia**

Jason Cooper  
[jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)

### **West Georgia**

Ed Fiegle  
[ed\\_fiegle@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:ed_fiegle@dnr.state.ga.us)



## 2009 Engineers Week Awards Gala

Attend an elegant evening that celebrates the engineering profession and honors the winners of Georgia Engineering Excellence Awards and the Georgia Engineer of the Year Awards. The evening will be held Saturday, February 28, 2009, at the Carlos Hellenic Community Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The program showcases the superior work and community support of your fellow engineers. The night begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7:30 p.m., by dinner and the program.

Visit the [Georgia Engineers Week](#) web site for additional information.

## GSPE Members To Be Honored At The 2009 Engineers Week Awards Gala

GSPE is proud to announce the selection of GSPE members Kristen Courson of Stantec Consulting in Macon for the 2009 Young Engineer of the Year and Peter Villhauer of Mikart Pharmaceutical in Atlanta for the 2009 Engineer of the Year in Industry.

These awards are presented to engineers to honor the outstanding contributions they have made in the engineering profession, the public welfare, and/or humankind.

Please join your fellow engineers on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Engineers Week Awards Gala to congratulate your GSPE members on their rewarding accomplishment.

## LAST CHANCE FOR PDHs!!!

If you have not gotten all your PDHs for this reporting period you are in luck!

### Florida Engineering Ethics - Laws & Rules

Florida law requires that all engineers registered in Florida earn 4 PDHs of continuing education credits on Florida "Laws & Rules" for engineers. You need these credits to renew your license. This session is a DVD delivered course of the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) meeting. The training DVD is an alternative to attending a Florida Board meeting and has been approved by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers. If you are not registered in Florida, the session will be beneficial to you as it relates to engineering ethics in general. This could be your last chance to earn more PDHs before the end of the year!

**Where:** Georgia Engineering Alliance Office  
233 Peachtree Street  
Harris Tower, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**When:** January 14, 2009  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Cost:** \$85 per person plus \$28 for filing the exam

To register on-line or download the registration form [click here!](#)

## UPS Discounted Rates

UPS understands your need for consistent and reliable delivery service. They value the relationship with GSPE and our members, so please take advantage of the discounted rates UPS provides.

Dependable service is key to meeting business goals and having personal packages delivered. UPS ranked above all competitors when it comes to reliability. In fact, UPS ranked first in the 2007 Morgan Stanley parcel industry customer survey on reliability.

UPS has more express delivery options than any other carrier, giving you more ways to meet your budget and customer service needs. Plus, their international service includes three time definite express options to more than 215 countries and territories - more than any other major carrier.

**GSPE Discounted UPS Rates:**

\$1.50 OFF Daily Rate for Next Day Air Letters

10% OFF Next Day Air Packages, 2 Day Air Early AM Letters and Packages

20% OFF the Worldwide Express Services

When using the GSPE Discount Program with UPS remember to use the GSPE Bid# CP450001778. If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact the GSPE UPS Representative Bill Jacobs at 404-699-6489 or via e-mail at [wjacobs@ups.com](mailto:wjacobs@ups.com).

**2009 Georgia Engineers  
Summer Conference**

**Join us at the 2009 Georgia Engineers Summer Conference to converse with fellow engineers on how to survive and thrive in a world of uncertain economic times.**

**Callaway Gardens  
Pine Mountain, Georgia  
June 11 - 14, 2009**

**Mark your calendars!!!!**

*PDH credits can be earned at the  
Georgia Engineers Summer Conference*

**It will be a weekend filled with informative presentations, networking and fun activities for the whole family!**

## GSPE Chapter Meetings

Mark Your Calendars And Plan To Attend

### Atlanta Metro Chapter

Bring a friend the 2nd Monday of each month.

Monday, January 12, 2009

#### LOCATION

#### **Picadilly Cafeteria**

2000 Crescent Centre Blvd.  
Tucker, GA

#### TOPIC

#### **Galvanic Corrosion Industries**

#### SPEAKER

#### **Matthew Hayden**

Allied Corrosion Industries

#### **Gather**

6:00pm

#### **Announcements and Introductions**

6:20pm

#### Dinner

6:30pm

#### **Brief Presentation**

#### **of Interesting and Useful Internet Sites**

7:10 pm

#### **Presentation**

7:15pm

#### **Adjourn**

8:30pm

**Cost:** \$10+ depending on your meal selection

**Reservations are necessary.** Please RSVP: Robert Kurz, [robertkurz@bellsouth.net](mailto:robertkurz@bellsouth.net) by 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

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### Augusta Chapter

The Augusta Chapter will hold its next chapter meeting in January 2009. Contact Judith Simmons at [jsimmons@wkdickson.com](mailto:jsimmons@wkdickson.com) or call Ms. Simmons at (706) 722-3479 for additional information.

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## Cobb Chapter

Thursday, January 22, 2009  
Southern Polytechnic State University  
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Speaker  
Karen Handel  
Georgia Secretary of State

Contact Earl Ferguson,  
Program Chairman, at  
[EA Ferguson@aol.com](mailto:EA Ferguson@aol.com)  
or 404-667-1065 for information on the next meeting and to  
obtain campus parking pass.

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## Columbus Chapter

Contact Vice President for Region III  
Jason Cooper at [jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)  
for information on this chapter.

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## Middle Georgia Chapter

Contact Betty Jean Jordan at  
[bettyjean@jordan-eng.com](mailto:bettyjean@jordan-eng.com) or (706) 468-8999  
for information on the January 2009 meeting.

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## Northeast Chapter

Contact Kyle McKay at [kyle.mckay@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:kyle.mckay@erdc.usace.army.mil)  
or call 706-850-1974 for information on the next meeting.

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## Northwest Chapter

Tuesday, January 13, 2009  
Provino's Restaurant

Topic

**Update on U.S. Dept. of Revenue Tax Codes for 2009 As  
related to Engineers & Land Surveyors**

For detailed information:  
Program Chairman - John Pillsbury  
Contact #: 706-295-2201  
PDH Credits Will Be Issued

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## Savannah Chapter

Contact Vice President At Large  
Timothy Baumgartner at [tim\\_baumgartner@emc-eng.com](mailto:tim_baumgartner@emc-eng.com) for  
information on this chapter.

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## South Georgia

Contact Vice President for Region III  
Jason Cooper at [jcooper@geconsultants.com](mailto:jcooper@geconsultants.com)  
for information on this chapter.

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## West Georgia

January 14, 2009  
University of West Georgia Building Z6  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**Speaker**

Buddy Powers

Contact Ed Fiegle for further information at [ed\\_fiegle@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:ed_fiegle@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)  
for information on this chapter.

Please take advantage of the programs, events and chapter meeting GSPE presents. As you meet Professional Engineers that are not members of NSPE/GSPE, encourage them to become members of the society that supports your profession.

**Sincerely,**

Carolyn Jones  
Georgia Society of Professional Engineers  
Executive Director

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