



GEORGIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

A STATE SOCIETY DEDICATED TO THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS.

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ENGINEER LICENSURE

State Board of Registration. The Board of Registration (BOR) Coalition was formed to facilitate collaboration and coordinate advocacy for a high performance licensing board. In early 2007, a request was made to the new Secretary of State Karen Handel to look into the problems with the PE/RLS BOR. She requested that she be given a year to evaluate the State Licensing Boards. As of end of the 2007-2008, year not much action had been taken. Secretary Handel did appoint a new director to the Professional Licensing Boards Division, Richard Vaughn, who suggested that the BOR Coalition should for improvements by early fall 2008. BOR Coalition Chairman Bill Jorden, P.E. and Tom Leslie, P.E. met with Daren Mickler, the PE/RLS BOR Executive Director and with the Director Vaughn during the year. The BOR Coalition met regularly during the 2007-2008 year. GSPE had a representative at almost every meeting of the PE&LS Board this year also.

- **New PE Recognition Reception.** GSPE hosts this annual event to honor the newly licensed engineers. The reception was held on October 3, 2007 reception at the Georgian Club in Atlanta. The reception featured Dr. David Frost, Ph.D., P.E., Vice-Provost of the Georgia Institute of Technology and Director of its Savannah Campus, as the keynote speaker. In attendance were 23 PEs along with 50 guests.
- **Order of the Engineer.** Three Order of the Engineer ceremonies were held this past year. Three engineers were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at the New PE Recognition Reception, twenty-four at the University of Georgia on May 9, 2008 and six at the Georgia Engineers Summer Conference in Savannah.
- **PE Exam Lunch.** The Professional Engineering Licensing Exam is offered twice a year in April and October at the Centerplex in Macon. Exams are offered in April and October. The examinees have a 45-minute break between the morning and afternoon exam sessions for lunch. This limited amount of time along with the location of the Macon Centerplex makes lunch options limited. A new program was started this year to provide lunch to the examinees taking the PE exam. GSPE provided a boxed lunch to the examinees and the administrative staff at the October exam and SAMSOG joined GSPE at the April Exam and provided the registered land surveyor examinees. GSPE membership materials were provided along with the lunch. However, due to limited sponsorship of this program and declining revenues, the program will not be continued in 2008-2009 but will be considered in future years.

ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF ENGINEERS

- **The Georgia Engineer Magazine.** GSPE reaches its members through *The Georgia Engineer*, magazine, with a circulation of over 10,000 statewide. GSPE has two representatives on its Editorial Board and ensures that the magazine serves the needs of GSPE members and presents a favorable image of engineers and engineering. The current Editorial Board chair, Paul Cook, P.E., and Sam Fleming, P.E. are GSPE members.
- **GSPE Web Site.** Our web site at www.gspe.org has been continually updated during the year by Jerry Kahn, P.E., F.NSPE and Carolyn Jones. Emphasis was placed on keeping the web site current and announcing state and chapter events. New to the web site this year is Career

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Center where members can post resumes and employers can seek out job candidates. This innovative service is in partnership with Job Target.

- **Engineers Week.** The Georgia Engineers Week Celebration is organized by a long-standing inter-society committee. The committee was chaired by GSPE Mark Kilby, P.E. Events during E-week 2008 included:
 - Introduce a Girl to Engineering Event
 - Education Outreach Programs for Middle Schools and High Schools
 - Campus Activities at Georgia Tech and Southern Polytechnic
 - Future Cities Competition for Middle Schools
 - Toothpick Bridge Building Competition
 - Engineer of the Years Awards
 - Engineering Excellence Awards
 - The www.engineersweek.com web site provides access to Georgia's Engineers Week activities for the entire engineering community.
- **Awards.** This year all award categories were presented, which included:
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year in Education – Dr. David Frost, Ph.D., P.E.
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year in Industry – Peter Villhauer, P.E.
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year in Government – Steven Jones, P.E.
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year in Construction – Jerry Kahn, P.E., F.NSPE
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year in Private Practice – Jason Cooper, P.E.
 - GSPE Engineer of the Year – Patrick Rhodes, P.E.
 - Young Engineer of the Year – Kristen Courson, P.E.
 - GSPE Presidents Award – Betty Jean Jordan, P.E.

EDUCATION

- **WCCEE.** On May 20-23, 2008, Georgia Tech hosted the International Associations for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE) 11th World Conference on Continuing Engineering Education (WCCEE 2008). GSPE Past Presidents Jerry Kahn, P.E., F.NSPE and Pat Rhodes, P.E. attended and co-presented a paper that focused on how the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers is meeting the continuing education needs of professional engineers.
- **PDH Saturday.** This annual, all-day seminar was held on November 3, 2007 at Macon State University. There were 42 attendees from throughout the state.
- **Erosion/Sedimentation Control Training.** GSPE partnered with other engineering associations to offer this training, which is required for certification by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission. A class was held at the Summer Conference.
- **Georgia Engineers Summer Conference.** This year's conference was held June 12-14, 2008 at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel. The conference, cosponsored by GSPE, offered PDHs distributed among three concurrent tracks, a gala dinner, and a golf tournament to over 200 attendees.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- **Georgia Engineers Legislative Coalition.** Legislative activities are coordinated among several engineering associations through monthly meetings of the Legislative Coalition. Regular legislative updates were prepared by GSPE's lobbyist Tom Leslie, P.E. Bills were passed that created a statewide water plan, created the state transportation bank, called for a statewide strategic transportation plan, and amended the "Good Samaritan" law to include organizations such as GSPE. Transportation funding was a "hot" topic this past year and a new DOT Commissioner, Dr. Gen Abraham took office.
- **"Building Georgia" Legislative Reception.** This annual reception was held on February 19, 2008 at the Georgia Freight Depot in Atlanta. There were over 300 in attendance, which included

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members of the General Assembly, key agency managers, and colleagues from engineering, architecture, and construction.

- **QBSGeorgia.** GSPE has two representatives (Scott Godefroy, P.E. and David Flanders, P.E.) on the steering committee of this organization that promotes Qualification Based Selection (QBS) of design professional services for government entities. In the past year, they published an article entitled, “Essentials of Negotiating a Professional Services Contract”, which was published in three parts in the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) news magazine. They exhibited at the ACCG Conference in Savannah in April. QBSGeorgia continues to work on developing an education program through the Carl Vinson Institute of Governments at the University of Georgia. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) won both the state and national award for Professional Procurement Practices.

GOVERNANCE

- **Chapter Activities.** During 2007-08, meetings were held in 9 of the 10 State Chapters with the South Georgia being reactivated after a long period of inactivity due the continued efforts of Steven Jones, P.E. The Georgia Tech Student Chapter was rechartered with the help of the Metro Atlanta Chapter at the GSPE Annual Planning Meeting.
- **Strategic Plan.** The GSPE Board of Directors and Chapter representatives met at the GSPE Annual Planning Meeting held on April 27, 2006 at Georgia Tech. Our guest speaker was NSPE Treasurer Russ Devick, P.E. A scorecard of achievement of 2007-08 goals was prepared, and new goals for 2008-09 were developed.
- **Leader Handbook.** The 2007-08 edition of GSPE Leader Handbook was issued on November 13, 2007. The handbook has been and will continue to a valuable resource for GSPE.
- **Financial Management.** The GSPE ended the 2007-08 fiscal year over budget. The largest contributing factors were decreased membership dues and the added financial burden of the PE Exam Lunches.
- **Administration.** The contract with GEA to provide association management services for GSPE was updated and renewed for 2008-09.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUSTAINING FIRMS

- **Membership.** Our membership started out at around 850 members in July 2007 and had decreased to 837 as of June 10, 2008. As of the end of the 2007-2008 year, a meeting will be held with NSPE Membership Director to discuss discrepancies with the GSPE/NSPE databases. Membership increase and member retention will need to be a focus for the upcoming year.
- **Sustaining Firms.** The number of Sustaining Firms had increased to 39 by the end of the 2007-2008 year. Arcadis joined as a Gold sustaining firm this year. Sustaining Firms are very important to GSPE as they account for nearly 10% of our revenues.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **MATHCOUNTS®.** The State MATHCOUNTS Competition was held at Zoo Atlanta on March 15, 2008. There were 183 student competitors from 83 schools. Terry Drabik-O'Reilly of Shell Oil was the emcee and the participants got to meet and hang out with Kyle Massey from the Disney Channel and Christopher Massey from Nickelodeon. The top four individuals were Jiyang Xie of Elkins Point Middle School in Roswell, Edward Park of Dickerson Middle School in Marietta, and Sitan Chen and Arvind Narayan of River Trail Middle School in Suwanee. They represented GSPE at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition May 8-11 in Denver, Colorado with coach Angie Harris of River Trail Middle School. Our team placed 18th nationally. Randy Bass, P.E., chaired the committee that successfully raised over \$25,000 for MATHCOUNTS this year.

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- **MATHCOUNTS Golf Outing.** GSPE raised nearly \$4,300 for MATHCOUNTS at the Fifth Annual Golf Outing on March 17, 2007. Pat Rhodes, P.E. and Ed Fiegle, P.E. coordinated this event, which was held at the Lakeside course at Callaway Gardens. This years outing was the largest number of sponsors, participants, and funds available for the MATHCOUNTS Endowment yet. The event was held in conjunction with the ACEC Water Forum and the Industrial Wastewater Conference this year.
- **GSPE Scholarships.** The GSPE scholarships are administered by the Georgia Engineering Foundation (GEF). Jimmy Crowder, P.E. represents GSPE on the GEF Board of Directors. Two \$1000 scholarships were awarded from the C. B. and Olive Gambrell Endowed Engineering Scholarship fund. The scholarships were awarded to Mercer Engineering School students David Gross and James Klinger. Katrina White of Georgia Tech received the GSPE Auxiliary - Doris Lavoie Memorial Scholarship.

NSPE AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **NSPE Southeast Regional Meeting.** There was no Southeast Regional Meeting held this year.
- **NSPE Annual Meeting.** Gale Sights, P.E., F.NSPE and GSPE's Executive Director Carolyn Jones attended the July 2007 NSPE Summer meeting in Denver. Sights representing GSPE in the NSPE House of Delegates meeting and Jones in the SECC Meeting.

All available committee reports for 2007-2008 are attached.

Submitted, July 10, 2008



Patrick B. Rhodes, P.E.
GSPE President 2007-08