



WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

December 2014 Edition

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1. President's Message

By Pam Mazur, PE, *Fox River Valley Chapter*

Greetings Everyone,

We're starting to plan for the 2015 Discovery Conference, which will be in the Green Bay area at the end of May. If you have any ideas for speakers, topics or presentations please let Ed Rodden know (ExecDir@wspe.org). We want to make sure that the conference meets your needs and interests.



*Pam Mazur, PE
WSPE President, 2014 - 2015*

Also at the conference we will be presenting our annual awards: Teacher of the Year, Professional Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. Please think about anyone you feel deserves to be considered for one of these awards and let us know if you have a good candidate.

WSPE is looking at offering apparel with our logo on it for members to purchase. Refer to the [WSPE Apparel article #5 below](#) and look for more information on this in the future on the website.

The November PE magazine had an interesting article about how the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers reaches out to elementary schools to teach kids about engineering. This made me think that with Engineers Week right around the corner (February 22-28), now might be a good time to investigate how our members could reach out to schools. The DiscoverE (Engineers Week) website has lots of ideas and resources: <http://www.discovere.org/our-programs/engineers-week>. Check it out and think of a school near you that you could visit!

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2. [Mark Your Calendars: NW Chapter MATHCOUNTS Regional Competition](#)
By Brad B. Volker, PE

Please mark your calendars for February 5th! The Northwest Chapter of WSPE will hold its regional MATHCOUNTS competition on Thursday, February 5th, at Delong Middle School in Eau Claire. In recent years the competition has attracted approximately 175 Mathletes from approximately 14 middle schools. The competition starts mid-morning and ends in late afternoon. Please consider

helping on the day of the competition; we can use help with many areas: proctoring, scoring tests, and other reas. The event requires approximately 35 volunteers and anyhelp is greatly appreciated. Please call Brad Volker at [715-234-7008](tel:715-234-7008) or email him at bvolker@cooperengineering.net.

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3. U.S. Team with All Former MATHCOUNTS National Competitors Wins 2nd Place in 55th International Math Olympiad

Submitted by Norman Arendt, CHS III, CMAS, PhD, CFEII

Imagine taking a test with just six problems that cover topics one might encounter in a typical high school math class—number theory, algebra, geometry, combinatorics. Imagine having nine hours split across two days to complete those six problems...

For someone not familiar with the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), the exam might sound straightforward—even easy. But the IMO is (in)famous for having questions that seem simple at first glance, and that in reality require exceptional skill to solve. High school students who competed at the 2014 IMO on July 8–9 in Cape Town, South Africa were confronted with complex problems, including:

Let $n > 2$ be an integer. Consider an $n \times n$ chessboard consisting of n^2 unit squares. A configuration of n rooks on this board is peaceful if every row and every column contains exactly one rook. Find the greatest positive integer k such that, for each peaceful configuration of n rooks, there is a $k \times k$ square which does not contain a rook on any of its k^2 unit squares. (Problem #2)

The U.S. team won second place, with competitors earning a remarkable five gold medals and one silver medal! All six team members, as well as their coach, Po-Shen Loh, are former MATHCOUNTS national competitors. "We are incredibly proud of these Mathletes," said MATHCOUNTS executive director Lou DiGioia. "It takes a tremendous amount of hard work and preparation even to qualify for the IMO, let alone win second place."



Team members (from left) Joshua Brakensiek, James Tao, Yang Liu, Mark Sellke, Sammy Luo and Allen Liu in Cape Town, South Africa.



Razvan Gelca, Deputy Leader of the 2013 USA IMO Team (far left) and John Berman, an Observer assisting the 2014 USA IMO Team (far right) pose with Yang Liu, Sammy Luo, Allen Liu, Mark Sellke, James Tao and coach Po-Shen Loh at the IMO Closing Ceremony.

Loh, a math professor at Carnegie Mellon University, who competed in MATHCOUNTS as a representative of **Jefferson Middle School in Madison, Wisconsin**, is also the Co-Founder of ExpII, Inc., an Official Sponsor of MATHCOUNTS. ExpII is building a one-stop destination for truly engaging, exciting and interactive expositions. It adopts the Wikipedia approach, empowering everyone to create rich, interactive content on an open platform, and share their love for math and science with the world.

"MATHCOUNTS introduced the fun side of math to many of us at ExpII, and we now seek to magnify that impact through the Internet," explains Loh. "We're uniting math and science enthusiasts worldwide to share our collective insights on how best to motivate and explain, so that many more people can come to enjoy these subjects. We're thrilled to be able to support this community by sponsoring MATHCOUNTS!" Learn more about ExpII and join their global community at www.expII.com.

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4. You are Invited: MSOE's Corporate Parnter Network

By Brittney Lynn, Graduate and Professional Education at MSOE

The [Graduate and Professional Education \(GPE\) department](#) of the Rader School of Business at MSOE is responding to employers' needs to provide practical,

applications-oriented training on demand – at the graduate and professional level. Membership in the Corporate Partner Network (CPN) guarantees its members benefits that can raise the performance of their professionals and staff, and offers firms a competitive advantage locally, nationally and on a global level with a:

- 1 30% reduced graduate tuition rate of \$500/credit for eligible applicants for the [Master of Business Administration \(MBA\)](#) and [Master of Nursing \(MSN\)](#) programs in the 2014-2015 academic year
- 1 Discounted rate for all [Graduate and Professional Education \(GPE\) course offerings](#)

...and more.

Employers are welcome to come and learn about GPE's offerings and network with Milwaukee-area firms at our CPN kickoff event on **February 3, from 3:00-5:00 pm** in the Todd Wehr Auditorium on MSOE's campus.

Register for this event here: <http://msoe.edu/cpn>.

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5. WSPE Apparel

By Ed Rodden II, WSPE Executive Director

Dale Swenson, our GNPA chairperson, asked me about purchasing some WSPE Apparel. So, I've decided to open this up to all our membership and sponsors.

You can select items from the online catalog here:

<http://www.companycasuals.com/geigerawards/start.jsp> If you would like an item embroidered with the WSPE logo as shown below, you can just pay the listed price of the polo shirt, long sleeve, jacket, bag, or other item, WSPE will cover the extra cost for the logo.



The best way to express your interest in WSPE apparel is to email me at execdir@wspe.org or call (414)531-1129. Our goal is the order items by January, 2015. One last reminder will be sent out before then.

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6. Job Board Posting

WSPE has posted a new job opportunity on the Job Board:

http://www.wspe.org/job_board.shtml

A summary of this posting is as follows:

Structural Metals and Fabrication Quality Assurance Inspection Unit Supervisor

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)'s Division of Transportation System Development is currently seeking to fill a **Structural Metals and Fabrication Quality Assurance Inspection Unit Supervisor** position in the Bureau of Structures (BOS). This position works under general policy direction of the Chief of Structures Maintenance. This position is responsible for the complete supervision of WisDOT Fabrication Process that supports BOS' quality assurance of the shop fabrication drawings and fabrication shop inspections.

Link: http://wisc.jobs/public/job_view.asp?annoid=79123&jobid=78638&org=395&class=26820&index=true

Please direct any questions to Ashley McGree, 608-267-8932 or Ashley.McGree@dot.wi.gov.

If you are interested in posting a job or your resume on our website, please contact Ed Rodden II at ExecDir@wspe.org or (414)531-1129.

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7. Ed Rodden to Join NSPE Membership Committee

By Ed Rodden II, WSPE Executive Director

I've been asked by NSPE President Harve Hnatiuk to join him representing the State Society Executive Committee (SSEC) to serve on a NSPE Membership Committee. We will be meeting monthly to discuss ways we can improve membership both behind the scenes and in ways noticeable to members like you.

I have had several recent discussions with NSPE regarding better ways to provide uniformity to invoicing, improvements to handling when members are dropped and then rejoin, and other items.

If you have any comments that you think would benefit this committee, please share your thoughts by emailing me at execdir@wspe.org or calling me at (414) 531-1129.

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8. Thank You WSPE Supporters!

Gold Level



Silver Level



Bronze Level



Morgan & Parmley, Ltd.

Are you interested in having your company support Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers? Review out webpage dedicated to this initiative <http://www.wspe.org/sponsors.shtml>

Contact Ed at execdir@wspe.org (414) 531-1129 to understand this program further.

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9. WSPE Design-Build Practice Statement

Submitted by Ed Rodden, Executive Director

NSPE has put together a Design-Build Position Statement which I wanted to share with you. The link can be found here:

<http://www.nspe.org/resources/issues-and-advocacy/take-action/position-statements/designbuild-public-sector>.

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10. Call for WSPE's Governors New Product Award (GNPA) Entries

By Dale R. Swenson, P.E., *Metro Chapter Member*

Registration for WSPE's 2014 GNPA competition has been open since October 1, 2014 and we already have at least six companies interested in entering. As WSPE members, please spread the word about this prestigious statewide competition.

The deadline for GNPA entries is February 16, 2015. WSPE's GNPA banquet and awards ceremony will be held during WSPE's Discovery Conference in Green Bay, May 2015. If you cannot enter or participate in WSPE's GNPA competition, please consider WSPE GNPA Corporate Sponsorship.

Please refer to following link for latest entry information or to find out more about Corporate Sponsorship.

<http://www.wspe.org/gnpa.shtml>

WSPE's GNPA competition eligibility: Any new product, machine, process or material that has been developed in Wisconsin may be entered, provided that it was first placed on the market between 2009 - 2013.

Please contact myself or Ed Rodden with questions or interest. Thank you!

Dale R. Swenson, P.E., WSPE GNPA Chair
gnpa@wspe.org (262) 366-5686

Ed Rodden II, E.I.T., WSPE Executive Director
ExecDir@wspe.org (414) 531-1129

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FREE 6-Month Trial Membership!

Interested in WSPE but not sure if you want to join? Try a 6-month FREE trial membership, courtesy of WSPE.

Go to www.wspe.org/WI%206%20months%20Free%20Membership%20Application.pdf to download an application.

Contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org for details.

We Need Your News!

- 1 Is your chapter hosting an event?
- 1 Did your chapter get some new members?
- 1 Have you started your own business?
- 1 Is your company taking on a really challenging project?

If you said "yes" to any one of these questions, or would like to share anything even remotely newsworthy with the rest of WSPE, please contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org.

We look forward to including your news in our monthly updates!



Join the discussion at [WSPE's LinkedIn Group](#) or



["Like" us on Facebook.](#)



[Follow us on Twitter.](#)

We Need Your Email Address!

If you are reading a paper copy of the WSPE eNews, you're missing out! Send your email address to Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or call him at (414) 531-1129 to receive electronic eNews.

Advertisers Wanted

Help us offset the costs of producing this eNews by placing an advertisement here! If you are interested in advertising your company here, please contact Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or [\(414\) 531-1129](tel:4145311129).

Thanks for your help.

Update Your Information with WSPE

Did you...
...get a new job?
...get promoted?
...get a new phone number or email address?
...get your PE license?

You can update your information yourself on the NSPE website!
[Click this link to update your membership information.](#)

Alternatively, you can send your new information to Ed Rodden, WSPE Executive Director, at ExecDir@wspe.org or call him at (414) 531-1129 and he'll make sure your information is updated in both the WSPE and NSPE databases. We'd also like to include an article in the next eNews summarizing your recent change or accomplishment to inform your fellow WSPE members.

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WSPE Mission Statement

WSPE is an organization of licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) and Engineering Interns/Engineers in Training (EIs/EITs).

WSPE enhances the image of its members and their ability to ethically and professionally practice engineering through education, licensure advocacy, leadership training, multi-disciplinary networking, and outreach.