



# THE OBSERVER

April 2004

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## A Word From The President

Joseph M. Ducharme, Jr., P.E.  
NHSPE President

### Call to Membership

Isn't it about time you got more involved in NHSPE, our professional engineering organization that promotes the ethical, competent practice of licensed engineers? Wouldn't it be rewarding to know that you were responsible for providing scholarships to aspiring engineering students, developing awards for outstanding math and science teachers, participating in MATHCOUNTS, supporting "Project Lead The Way" or participating in planning the 2005 Northeast Regional Meeting for the National Society of Professional Engineers? Fortunately, many dedicated professionals have already answered the call. We need you to consider doing the same.

*(Word from President continued on Page 3)*

## ENGINEERS' WEEK BANQUET

New Hampshire celebrated the "first in the nation" Engineers' Week Banquet on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Center of New Hampshire in Manchester. This year's event featured recognition of two outstanding engineering professionals. Craig Musselman, P.E., President of CMA Engineers was honored as 2004 Engineer-of-the-Year and Jeffrey Shaw, formerly of GeoInsight was named this year's Young-Engineer-of-the-Year. Mr. Shaw's recognition marks the first time that this honor was bestowed posthumously. We proudly welcome both to the roles of New Hampshire's best!



Our keynote speaker was Debbie Douglas, the curator of science and technology at the MIT Museum. Ms. Douglas' presentation escorted us through the logic and influences behind the Wright brothers' efforts to fly. She emphasized that we celebrate a single event as the beginning of powered flight, but the real story is about the men and their persistence leading up to that event and their continued quest after the much-heralded flight on December 17, 1903. The pioneering spirit of these men is the same spirit that makes our profession exciting.

*E-Week continued on Page 4*

## Goings-on at NSPE - Licensure Requirements and More

Paul Schmidt, P.E. and Roch Larochelle, P.E. attended the NSPE Annual Meeting in Washington DC in January to keep NHSPE up-to-date on Regional and National matters. Here's a quick overview of some issues raised at the meeting, and other Regional and National news:

### Licensure Requirements

There has been more and more talk in several of the engineering societies about the possibility of increasing the education requirements for licensure. The annual meeting included a presentation by a representative from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) (also an NSPE member) on ASCE's recent review of licensure requirements. Their current focus is on defining the "Body of Knowledge" necessary for Engineers to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Also, the recent recommendations by the National Council of Engineering Examiners (NCEES) for increased requirements were also discussed. Among the more poignant facts are statistics on significant decreases in the number of credits required to receive a Bachelors degree in Engineering at many ABET schools, despite the continuing need for engineers to have well rounded general knowledge, specialized technical knowledge, and various management and leadership skills.

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## 2004 E-Week Mall Exhibition

Once again the Mall Exhibition turned out to be a wonderful success and all that were involved are to be thanked for their efforts. As in the past, the event was hosted by the Steeplegate Mall in Concord, NH and ran from Saturday, February 21st through the 25th. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to experience the Exhibition, here is a little background on the annual volunteer effort... The Mall Exhibition is a public awareness event that strives to promote and recognize our local engineering professionals, organizations, engineering colleges and local engineering achievements by putting out display materials in a public setting that shows everyone what it is that we do. Typically, this has involved display material from local colleges and engineering firms to highlight some local projects and programs that are of interest to the public or the aspiring engineer. The Mall Exhibition, as well as other events that are celebrated during National Engineers Week are ways that we can reach into our local communities to provide the awareness and exposure that seeds the positive view of our profession and helps us to meet the challenges of our future.



As part of this program, we also co-sponsored the “*Zoom Into Engineering*” program with the New Hampshire Section of *ASCE* for the third year in a row. “Zoom Into Engineering” is a hands-on educational program where kids of ages from 4-8 years interact with engineers on projects that apply engineering principals using fun games. These games include building bridges and buildings using toothpicks and gumdrops, newspaper towers, and racecars made out of Lifesavers and straws. Also exhibiting for the second year was the “First Lego League” (FLL) as represented by a team sponsored by “Girls Incorporated of NH”. FLL is part of a national competitive program involving middle-school teams that compete by building a series of motorized, pre-programmed Lego vehicles that must complete a series of pre-determined tasks or navigate an obstacle course on a large game board. “Girls Incorporated of NH” is part of a national organization inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold! Also exhibiting again this year was Pembroke Academy who was kind enough to lend us last year’s robot for the US FIRST competition which went on to compete at the National competition in Houston Texas in April, 2003.

Lastly, one of this year’s additions to the exhibition was a Public Informational display for the NHDOT’s Bow to Concord I-93 Corridor Study. What was innovative about the piece was that the NHDOT/McFarland-Johnson team took the opportunity to use the E-Week engineering display to solicit public input on a project that has the potential for a tremendous impact on the Concord area. They did this by displaying large scale aerial mapping of the project area and supplying comment cards and “trouble-spot dots” which people used to indicate where they perceive problems are within the project area by sticking the dots on the map. I thought this was a great use of the event and worked well in terms of public outreach, awareness and perception of one particular engineering project. Thanks again to all those who were able to offer their time and participate in this wonderful event.

*Submitted by Roch D. Larochelle, P.E.*

### NHSPE Holds Successful Dinner Meeting at UNH in January

NHSPE held a successful dinner meeting at Huddleston Hall at the University of New Hampshire on January 29, 2004. The setting on the UNH campus was conducive to the evening’s topic of discussion. The speaker was Taylor Eighmy, PhD Director of the UNH Recycled Materials Resources Center., which is a partnership between...

*Continued on Page 8*

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## Word From The President

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The Slate of Officers for 2004-2005 has been set. You will find an official ballot in this issue of The Observer. Please cast your vote and return your ballot promptly to: The NHSPE, PO Box 1343, Concord, NH 03302-1343. Step up, get involved and maybe your name will appear on next year's ballot!

### Looking Forward

It is my belief that the NHSPE will continue to evolve into a more dynamic, broad-based professional engineering society over the coming years. With that vision in mind I am making it my personal goal to introduce the many programs run by the NHSPE to the leadership at each of the other nine engineering societies active in New Hampshire. In April, NHSPE will send a special invitation to the Board's of Directors of ASHRAE-NH, ASCE-NH, SENH, IEEE-NH, NHPW&MEA, ITE-NH, SME-NH, ACEC-NH and SAME-NH to attend the New PE Recognition Dinner (May 26th). In May 2004, the NHSPE Board will develop a draft meeting agenda to accompany a formal invitation to these technical society leaders to attend an informational exchange meeting in September 2004. The general goals of this meeting will be to share our ideas for improving membership programs, collaborating on educational opportunities and improving the Engineers Week programs.

As an NHSPE member, and perhaps a member of one or more of the technical engineering societies, we welcome your suggestions and ideas for making the September meeting productive.

## Scholarship Update

For those of you who are new to the organization, the state scholarship program has been up and running in its current form since 2001 and is funded primarily from donations made by NHSPE members and/or member firms, as well as other fund-raising events such as membership meeting raffles. This program is intended to provide financial assistance to one or more students (NH resident) who are already, or will be attending an ABET-EAC accredited college/university for studies in the field of Engineering with a goal of encouraging growth and career development in the engineering field at the state level.

As of the writing of this article, we have already received a number of student applications from around the State, which clearly shows that our program is seeing a wide distribution after its forth-running year. This years application deadline was April 1st and we are now putting our selection committee together to start reviewing the applications. We expect to have selections completed by May 1st and will be awarding at least two scholarships for a minimum of \$1,000 each. Stay tuned for this year's winners whom we hope to introduce at the Annual Meeting in May and also in the next issue of the *Observer*!

### Scholarship Contributions

The NHSPE State Scholarship Program has proven to be very successful and would not be possible without the very generous donations of a number of individual members as well as NH firms. The following NH firms or individuals have contributed to this year's scholarship program:

<u>Gold (Over \$500)</u>	<u>Bronze (Under \$250)</u>	
None	Robert L. Couture, P.E.	H.E. Bergeron Engineers, PA
<u>Silver (\$250 to \$500)</u>	Mechanical Forensics Eng. Services, LLC	Simpson Gumperitz & Heger, Inc.
SMR Engineering, PC	Marguise & Morano, LLC	Petersen Engineering, Inc.
Meridian Land Services, Inc.	Weston & Sampson Engineering, LLC	Ambit Engineering, LLC
	David W. Gates, P.E.	Shivik Associates
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	Eckman Engineering, LLC	CMA Engineers, Inc.

### Thanks for your continued support!

If you care to make a tax-deductible donation to this important program, checks can be made out to "NHSPE State Scholarship" and mailed to:

NHSPE, State Scholarship Program  
PO Box 1343  
Concord, NH 03302-1343

### Need more information?

You can find eligibility and selection criteria, last year's winners, and download applications from our website ([nhspe.org](http://nhspe.org)).

Submitted by: Roch D. Larochelle, P.E.

## March Membership Meeting - "The Blackout of 2003"

The topic of our March Membership Meeting was the Blackout of 2003. Our meeting was held at Fratellos on the 18<sup>th</sup> and we were very fortunate to host **Mr. Dennis Mullen, P.E.** who provided an informative presentation on the causes, results and post-trauma activity to a group of about 20 individuals and engineers from around the State. Mr. Mullen is a graduate of UNH (1976) and later received an MBA from Boston University (1998). He is also a licensed professional engineer in the State of NH and a member of IEEE. He has worked for PSNH since 1976 where he started his career working as an engineer in the Electric System Control Center (ESCC) and since then has filled various roles as a Senior Engineer and Supervisor. Since 2001, Dennis has served as System Operations Manager where he is responsible for the safe, efficient and economical operation of the transmission, distribution and generating facilities throughout the State that fall under their jurisdiction... what does that all mean? Well, as a "non-electrical eningeer", my simple understanding of his responsibility is that he is in a unique position of authority for the Utility and can generally decide whether or not my lights will come on (hold your jokes please!), just by pushing a button on a very large console back at his office!



Dennis gave a great presentation on the cascading events leading up to the August 2003 Blackout of the Eastern Interconnection of North America. He also reviewed the findings and recommendations found in the Interim Report generated by the joint US and Canadian investigative task force. I think basic flaws could be generally summarized as issues with Communications, Transmission, Tree-Trimming and Training that placed a large burden on a fragmented system that ran out of redundancy. If you would like more information on this topic you can visit the North American Electric Reliability Council website at [www.nerc.com/~filez/blackout.html](http://www.nerc.com/~filez/blackout.html). Thanks Dennis for providing us with your unique perspective of this event!

*Submitted by Roch D. Larochelle, P.E.*

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## E-Week

continued from previous page

The family of Jeff Shaw accepted the Young Engineer award with a fine touch of class. Jeff's wife and his mother both took to the podium to share their memories and appreciation of the values that Jeff held during his life. Those same values are what earned Jeff the respect of his employers and his peers as an engineer.

Craig Musselman spoke reverently of the legion of men who came before him as Engineers of the Year. Craig employed his characteristic humor, and clear insight while accepting his award. New Hampshire chose well in electing him to this hall of fame!



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NHSPE extends many thanks to the engineering societies who participated, supported, and made this years event possible: ASCE, ASHRAE, SENH, ACEC-NH, SAME, ITE, NHPW&ME, and IEEE.

The annual banquet is where acquaintances are renewed, friendships are celebrated, and new memories are made. I have had the honor to work closely with the folks who coordinate this event. We are committed to continuous improvement. Please contact us if you have any ideas to help us make New Hampshire's 2005 celebration the "best in the nation".

*Submitted by George R. Fredette, P.E.*

## NHSPE Annual Meeting

**May 26, 2004**  
**Portsmouth, NH**

On May 26, 2004, the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers and Maine Society of Professional Engineers welcome their special guest Teresa A. Helmlinger, P.E., President NSPE to our Annual Meeting.

Prior to the meeting NHSPE and MSPE members are encouraged to attend the Strawberry Banke Museum in downtown Portsmouth, NH. The Strawberry Banke Museum recreates life in the Puddle Dock neighborhood of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, spanning a 300-year period. Each of nine furnished houses and period gardens on the 10-acre site introduces a different era in American history. Six exhibit houses also show tools, building methods and archeology. A special rate of \$10/person was established for our group and we will be meeting in the Visitor's Center at 3PM.

The dinner and meeting will be held at The Rosa Restaurant starting at 6PM with a social hour prior to dinner and presentations.

*Continued on Page 5.*

## Licensure

*Continued from Page 1*

It is being acknowledged that implementation of increased educational requirements for licensure has many challenges that would need to be met, and would have long lasting impacts on the engineering profession. There isn't enough space here to fully summarize the various issues; additional information can be found on the NSPE and ASCE web sites, or feel free to contact any of the Board members. NSPE and NHSPE have been following these important issues and we expect to have more detailed summaries in the future.

### *Improvements at NSPE*

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing and prioritizing NSPE's programs, services, goals, and direction. The NSPE leadership, including a newly established task force, is currently reviewing programs looking toward the future of NSPE and possible areas of improvement. Much of the input from attendees focused on supporting programs that promote licensure, ethics, and professional development. Additional information can be found in the last issue of *Engineering Times*. If you have suggestions, complaints, or specific requests of NHSPE or NSPE, please contact any one of the Board members.

### *NSPE Regional Vice-President Visit*

Gene O'Brien, P.E., NSPE's Northeast Region Vice-President, visited New Hampshire on February 19, 2004 to discuss Regional and National issues. Gene is one of the two Regional representatives on the NSPE Board of Directors. This meeting provided a discussion and sharing of ideas to improve our organization at both the State and National levels. In addition to a working lunch and presentations at our Board meeting, Gene was able to attend the Engineers Banquet.

### *Maine and New York add Continuing Education Requirements*

In regional matters, Maine and New York recently joined New Hampshire in the growing list of states that require continuing education for maintaining licensure. The requirements in Maine, effective January 1, are in general similar to requirements in New Hampshire. New York has implemented requirements for continuing education in technical subjects.

### *2005 Regional Meeting coming to New Hampshire*

NHSPE has agreed to host the Northeast Regional meeting in the Fall of 2005. We are looking forward to b event to New Hampshire.

If you have any questions on any of the above, or questions regarding NSPE or NHSPE, please feel free to call or e-mail any one of our Board members.

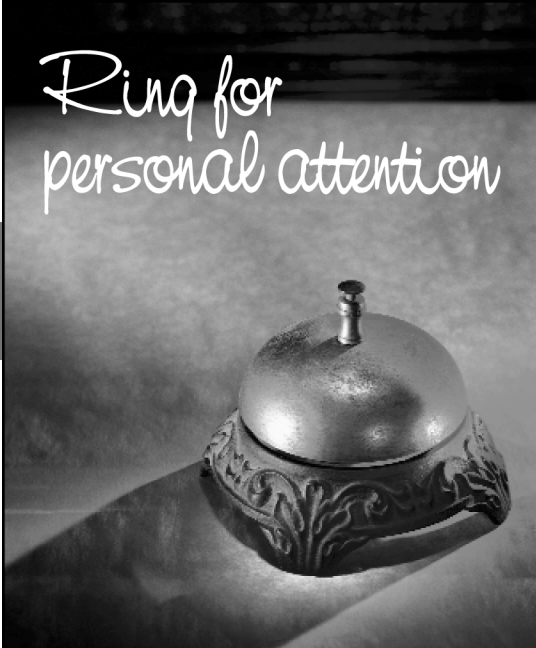
*Submitted by Paul Schmidt, P.E.*

## Our Next Meeting - New PE Dinner

Our next membership meeting is the **Annual New PE Dinner** which is co-hosted by the NH Joint Board, and is used to recognize this year's newly licensed Professional Engineers and to introduce them to the engineering community. This year's meeting will be held on **April 27<sup>th</sup>** at the Court-yard Marriott in Concord and the speaker will be NHDOT Commissioner **Carol Murray, P.E.**

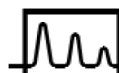
The topic for the evening is "Things I Didn't learn in Engineering School - Thoughts on a Profession from the Most Influential PE in State Government." Look for upcoming announcements in the mail or on our website at [www.nhspe.org](http://www.nhspe.org).

*Submitted by Roch D. Larochelle, P.E.*



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## MATHCOUNTS Competition Results

The MATHCOUNTS State Competition was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Plymouth State University. A total of 88 competitors (18 teams and 16 individuals) took part. The activities were coordinated by Dr. Jack Barry, head of the Mathematics Department. Members of NHSPE and students from Plymouth State assisted with registration and the grading the exams.

The individual winners who will make up the New Hampshire team that will go to Washington, DC to compete in the national contest on May 7th are:

- 1st place - Travers Rhodes, Crossroads Academy, Lyme
- 2nd place - Ben Singleton, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham
- 3rd place - Han-Woong Lee, Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan
- 4th place - Kevin McNamara, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham

The three winning teams are:

- 1st place - Cooperative Middle School, Stratham - Coach Joshua Frost
- 2nd place - Richmond Middle School, Hanover - Coach David Plaut
- 3rd place - Derryfield School, Manchester - Coaches Jennie Roberge and Heather Evans

As coach of the winning team, Joshua Frost will be the state team coach and will go with the team to Washington, DC.

The winners of the Masters Round are:

- 1st place - Travers Rhodes, Crossroads Academy, Lyme - Coach Alison Gorman
- 2nd place - Han-Woong Lee, Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan - Coach Joel Harms and Ed Ramos
- 3rd place - Kevin McNamara, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham - Coach Joshua Frost

The winners of the Countdown Round are:

- 1st place - Matthew Dean, Cooperative Middle School, Stratham
- 2nd place - Chris Jones, Villa Augustina, Goffstown
- 3rd place - Allison Fink, Derryfield School, Manchester
- 4th place - Han-Woong Lee, Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan

*Submitted by Benjamin Pratt, P.E*

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## Membership Report

Please join me in congratulating the following member for outstanding service to the Society: **Augie Stratoti**, of Nashua, NH, a member of NSPE for over 30 years, achieved Life Member status. After receiving his BS and MS degrees in engineering, he spent the earlier part of his 40-year career in private industry working on research and development of antenna systems for application to radar and communication systems and for satellite tracking. He held technical and management positions at various companies including: manager of the Advanced Antenna Techniques Section of GTE Sylvania, Chief Engineer of the Lockheed Sanders Microwave Division and Senior Systems Engineer for the MITRE Corporation.

After his industry career, he accepted a position as Deputy Chief of Electronics Engineering for the First Coast Guard District where he had overall responsibility for the Electronics Systems design, acquisition and support for all Coast Guard units from New York to the Canadian border. Subsequently, Mr. Stratoti went to work for the Air Force at Hanscom AFB, where he was involved as a Program Manager for the research and development of Electronics Systems. On his retirement from Government service, he was awarded the AIR Force Exemplary Civilian Service Medal, where he was cited for outstanding service in technical and managerial leadership.

He was granted one patent and authored a number of articles for technical journals and symposiums. He is Past President of the NH Section of IEEE and Past President of the Boston Chapter of the Antennas and Propagation Society of the IEEE, and is currently serving as the President of the NH Federation of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE).

Members are invited to encourage colleagues to join NHSPE. Any P.E., E.I.T., or student currently enrolled in an ABET-accredited engineering program may join. Membership in the State Society includes membership with the National Society and all the benefits offered by both societies. To join online, please visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and select the membership application tab. Any member who encourages two new members to join will receive a discount in dues, so be sure to ask your colleagues to mention your name when they join.

As Chairman of the NHSPE membership committee, I work closely with National to see that changes regarding your membership status are executed efficiently. Contact me at [hclark@underwoodeng.com](mailto:hclark@underwoodeng.com) if you have any questions or comments regarding membership.

*Submitted by Holly Clark, E.I.T.*

### NHSPE Meeting at UNH in January

*Continued from Page 2*

...the Federal Highway Administration and the University of New Hampshire.

The UNH RMRC is a national and international leader in research into the beneficial use of recycled materials in transportation applications. Dr. Eighthy gave a very interesting presentation about the barriers and opportunities for reclaiming of construction materials (masonry, brick, pavements, ash, other discarded materials) into materials of new construction. The current research and specific programs at UNH were discussed, as well as the status of beneficial uses around the world.

The meeting was attended by members and associates of NHSPE, and by numerous students at UNH, with the support of the College of Engineering and Physical Science. Those assembled enjoyed meaningful interaction between the engineers in practice, and students and faculty at UNH.

*Submitted by Bill Straub, P.E.*



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### THE OBSERVER

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## Legislative Report

The 2004 legislative session has passed the "crossover" date so that House originated bills that passed are now in the Senate and Senate bills that passed are in the House for consideration. If the planned schedule is achieved, the General Court will complete its work in May, one month earlier than constitutionally allowed.

The Senate, after much debate and heartburn, passed an amended version of SB 302 allocating \$428 million in state grants for public education. It is distributed to the city and town school districts by a formula invented last year by Senator Gatsas based on equalized property value per student. The higher that is, the less the grant becomes. English as a second language and special education are also assisted. It eliminates donor towns (except Rye and Waterville Valley) and sends more money to property-poor towns, those with relatively low values of property per student, than last year. However, it skims money from towns of moderate property-wealth and reduces the amount available for distribution by about \$32 million, which was the donor town contribution last year. The House Finance Committee now has the bill and yet another amendment is expected for consideration. Final vote in the House will probably occur in April. If the bill voted is different than the Senate version, there may be a committee of conference taking that bill into May for approval.

Another tough issue involves the State and County budgets. The State is on budget so far (YTD February) but a deficit of about \$7 million is projected by June 30<sup>th</sup> and is forecasted to grow to \$52 million by June 30, 2005, the end of the biennium. Therefore, the Governor is working on cuts in spending and the Joint Fiscal Committee approved some \$4.4 million last week. The Governor cannot reduce such spending without approval of that committee. The federal government is waffling on sending their usual support for Medicaid/Medicare; but the Governor is working that issue and seems to be having some success.

Scorecard for bills involving professions this biennium is one passed (Representative Bruno's adding the state geologist to that board) and one killed (Representative Gilman's to require prior notice of expiration to all holders of professional licenses).

A number of bills have been filed that deal with various professions including certified public accountants, dieticians, medicine, and physicians assistants, but none for professional engineers. However, HB 287 creating a malpractice claims commission has passed into law primarily to explore medical malpractice with an eye to reducing liability insurance costs; but on reading, could extend more broadly I believe. Also, HB 1348 has passed the House and will be heard in the Senate on March 31 in E.D. and A. Committee regarding registration of business organizations. It is quite elaborate and possibly may impact engineering organizations it seems to me. Finally SB 534 passed the Senate and will be heard in the House in Finance and E.D and A. Committees jointly on April 7th. It proposes to make a considerable number of changes to the organization of state agencies, which makes it another bill of interest to those of use doing business with the state government.

*Submitted by State Representative John Alger, PE  
F'NSPE*

### NHSPE Annual Meeting

*Continued from Page 5*

Teri Helmlinger is the current President of the National Society of Professional Engineers and is the first female President of the Society. Ms. Helmlinger has long been active in the engineering community, holding the offices of President and National Director of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina. In 1999 she received PENC's Distinguished Service Award. She was recently named to the Impact 100 list by *Business Leader* magazine, a list honoring exceptional individuals within the North Carolina Research Triangle business community. She serves her alma mater, North Carolina State University on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Ms. Helmlinger is a licensed professional engineer in North Carolina, holds a B.S. in engineering operations from NC State University and an M.B.A from Duke University.

*Submitted by Matt Purcell, P.E.*

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- Hard Armor—Armorflex<sup>®</sup> and Petraflex
- Keystone<sup>®</sup> Block & Bin Type Retaining Walls
- TENSAR<sup>®</sup> Reinforced Steep Slopes

**For more information or assistance in selecting a CONTECH<sup>®</sup> product  
to meet your site development needs, please contact:**

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## Mark your Calendars

- April 27th New PE Dinner
- May 6th - 9th National MATHCOUNTS Competitions
- May 12th BOD Meeting
- May 26th NHSPE Annual Meeting

### April New PE Meeting :

**When:** Thursday, April 27, 2004

**Where:** Courtyard Marriott  
Concord NH

**Speaker:** NHDOT Commissioner  
Carol Murray, P.E.

RSVP: Joe Ducharme, P.E.

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Please contact National with address corrections at 1-888-285-6773 or change on-line at [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org).