



# THE OBSERVER

Published by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers

September 2001

## ► A Word From The President

A few years ago I was attending the ANSPE Consensus Congress in Washington DC, when the then President-Elect from Illinois stood up in front of his peers and asked the meeting moderator, ***“What does NSPE do? I have no clue.”*** A few in the audience chuckled but the predominance of the group were just as curious as I was. The response took several individuals a long time to respond. It made me realize why I got involved in NSPE back in the mid 1980's.

NSPE is involved in many different tasks as they follow our national Strategic Plan. I will try to summarize some of them here:

- Legislative and Government Affairs
- Mathcounts (Getting young people involved with mathematics)
- American Engineering Campaign (Enhancing the image of the Engineer through media events and coverage).
- Professional Development Programs (education for the licensed and licensed tracked professional)
- Keeping Members abreast of the latest professional news through
- Engineering Times (quarterly NSPE periodical)
- NSPE Web Site [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org)
- Resource publications in:
- Licensure Assistance
- Ethics
- Career Management
- Practice Management
- Employee Relations
- Communication
- Marketing
- Global Marketing
- Resources for the Young Engineer
- Continuing Education
- Contract Documents
- Annual Salary Survey

*[Word From President, continued on page 2]*

## John R. M. Alger Awarded 2000-2001 NSPE Fellow Membership Grade

The NSPE Board of Directors established the Fellow recognition program to honor those active NSPE members who have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession, the Society, and the community. Each state society is allowed to make one nomination for each 500 members in its society.



*John Alger, P.E. receives NSPE Fellow Membership Grade from NSPE Vice President Elizabeth Catania-Smith*

This past spring, the NHSPE Board of Directors had the honor of nominating Mr. John R. Alger, P.E. for this most prestigious award.

During the May 2001 NHSPE Annual Meeting, Ms. Lisa Catania-Smith, NSPE Regional Vice President, presented Mr. Alger with this recognition. Mr. Alger was one of only 12 such Fellow Membership Grades awarded by NSPE this year. In the following paragraphs, I will try to summarize John's 50-year+ notable career in the electrical engineering field:

John graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering in 1950. During his 38 year career at General Electric, John worked as an Engineer, Manager, technical

author, and teacher involved in: the design and production of synchronous motors and generators for industrial and military customers; the production of improved laundry products including larger capacity, improved quality, and a new product gas fired home dryer; the development of computer systems for industrial companies; the development of product line plans and products for large screen color TV; hybrid and integrated circuit operation development; air conditioning business development; the evaluation of advanced power generation systems in flue gas treatment technology, and power plants using fluidized-bed boilers and gasification combined cycle; and cogeneration power plant marketing and development.

From 1986 to 1988, John was the Vice President of Power Funding

*[John Alger Awarded, continued on page 6]*



*The Smith Bridge was toured as part of the annual meeting. See page 6 for related article.*

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## Word From The President

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- Ethics Consultation and Educations
- Engineering Leadership and Management Training
- Mentoring programs for Young Engineers
- Networking and Communication Forums across all engineering disciplines both over the NSPE Website and through periodic meetings.
- Job Board for employment
- Discounts on car rentals, airlines, and hotels

Still many fellow engineers, when I solicit them to join the organization, inevitably ask me:

### "Why should I join NSPE?"

My response typically involves the statements such as:

*"Who else is going to represent the interests of the engineering profession in legislative issues?"*

*"Where else can you get legal standard contract documents that are fair, flexible, and available in a format that can be utilized by a word processor?"*

*"What other engineering organization actively promotes the competent, ethical, and professional practice of Engineering?"*

*"Is another organization doing more to enhance the image of the Engineer than NSPE through its American Engineering Campaign?"*

### THE OBSERVER

The Observer is published quarterly by the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers for its members. Its purpose is to inform members of NHSPE activities and related topics.

Address all correspondence to the Editor:  
Paul Schmidt, P.E.  
c/o CMA Engineers, Inc.  
35 Bow Street  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
(603) 431-6196  
fax (603) 431-5376  
pschmidt@cmaengineers.com

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As NHSPE progresses further into the new century it is positive to note that NHSPE membership is growing. That members and potential members realize the value of participating in an organization that seeks to enhance their status in the community. Letting the general public know how engineers positively affect everyday life.

For the next year look I look forward to meeting as many new members and old colleagues as possible. The first opportunity will be on November 8 at The Yard in Manchester where NHSPE will host a general membership meeting with a presentation by AES to discuss their new 750 MW power facility near the Manchester Airport.

Matthew Purcell, P.E.  
NHSPE President

## MATHCOUNTS 2001-2002

For those who have not already heard the results of last year's National Competition, the New Hampshire State Team, coached by Joshua Frost of the Cooperative Middle School, placed 33rd out of 57 teams; the top individual placed 71st out of 228 competitors. This is an improvement in position for our team.

NHSPE is now getting the 19th year of MATHCOUNTS under way with school materials to be mailed shortly after a planned September 6 evening of packaging the materials at Bedford Design Consultants.

We need to continue to increase the number of schools participating in this important educational program. Presently approximately one third of the eligible schools register and actively are involved. Your promotion of the program in your community is requested. Contact me if you need to know whether the school(s) in your community are involved.

This year the Regional Competitions will be scheduled between February 2 and 24, 2002; the State Competition will be between March 2 and 24; and the National Competition will be in Chicago from June 13 to 16.

Lee F Carroll, P.E.  
State Coordinator — MATHCOUNTS  
lcarroll@ncia.net

## Outgoing President Message

This past year has certainly been a busy one for the NHSPE Board of Directors. The 2000/01 Board has outdone itself in providing outstanding support of NSPE, its NH members and the NH engineering community. EVERY person on the NH Board, including Committee chairs, had a big part in this year's success of the organization. The following accomplishments are worthy of recognition:

✓ In the fall, a committee made up of several NHSPE officers spent many hours in developing a comprehensive, workable Strategic Plan for the operation of the NHSPE Board of Directors.

✓ We organized and sponsored 3 very successful general membership dinner meetings: one jointly with the NH Chapter of the ASCE that highlighted the "Intelligent Highway" for the Central Artery project in Boston; one jointly with the NH PE Board to welcome the recently licensed NH PEs; and a joint meeting and site visit with the Historic Smith Bridge Committee in Plymouth.

✓ NHSPE board members were integrally involved in the support and the successful passing of NH Legislation regarding the appropriation of State funds for required renovations to the engineering building, Kingsbury Hall, at UNH in Durham. (see separate article in this issue).

✓ We re-initiated the NHSPE State Scholarship program by developing a State application, and contacting and distributing the application to NH high schools and universities. Our first \$500 scholarship under the new program will go to Jason Brown, a senior at Manchester's Memorial High School, who plans to attend UNH.

✓ Due to the increased efforts by Board members, and promotion of the organization through membership meetings, our newsletter and website page, and networking, our membership has increased this year.

✓ On the fiscal side of things, we made great headway in filing the necessary

[Continued on next page]

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paperwork to the Federal IRS to acknowledge NHSPE as a non-profit organization per Federal requirements. This is the final step that will allow NHSPE to locally accept and distribute tax-exempt donations to the NHSPE Scholarship and Mathcounts programs without them first going through the National organization.

✓ In February, NHSPE coordinated and sponsored the largest attended National Engineers Week program that we have EVER put together! With the Engineering Mall Display at the Concord Steeplegate Mall bringing engineering to the public, and almost 400 people attending the Awards Banquet and Exhibition in Manchester.

✓ We have initiated discussions with the FIRST Corporation in Manchester, on the idea of developing central office and meeting space for all of the members of the NH Joint Committee of Engineering Societies.

✓ We developed a committee to review and revise the organization's Constitution and By-Laws to update them per the new NHSPE Strategic Plan and National's current programs.

✓ The NHSPE Board has developed a listing of topics and made preliminary contacts to coordinate continuing education opportunities for our membership.

✓ And lastly, we sent NHSPE representation to 2 National and Regional NSPE meetings this year.

I'm sure I've missed something here! I congratulate the 2000-2001 NHSPE Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for a year well done. It has been a privilege and an honor to represent NHSPE and to work with this great group of people. I look forward to working with Matt

and the new 2001/02 Board, and to the future endeavors of this organization.  
THANK YOU ALL!!

Judith E. Houston, P.E.,  
NHSPE Past-President

## A HELLO TO NEW P.E.s

NHSPE, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Joint Board of Licensure and Certification, held the second annual dinner for newly licensed engineers at the Cat and Fiddle Restaurant in Concord NH on

May 1, 2001. The meeting has become an opportunity for those of us in the professional engineering community to welcome engineers who received their license within the past year. Presentations on Engineering Ethics were presented by Craig Musselman, P.E., Ed Bergeron, P.E. and John Alger, P.E. This year's event was another success and was well attended by both new and 'old' Professional Engineers. NHSPE would like to thank the Joint Board for their assistance with the meeting. We look forward to continuing this program in the future.

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# National Report

The annual NSPE convention was held at the Detroit Renaissance Center in Detroit MI on July 26th through 29th. This was the first annual convention held with the smaller national Board of Directors structure. In an effort to streamline the decision making process NSPE reduced the Board size down to 24 members. New Hampshire is currently represented on the National Board by the two Northeastern Regional Vice Presidents Russ Martin (Maine) and Lisa Catania-Smith (Pennsylvania).

The American Engineering Campaign was launched on April 3rd and to date has made over 28 million media "hits" through newspaper articles, and in radio news items. The American Engineering Campaign evolved from NSPE's Strategic Plan Goal of enhancing the image and stature of engineering professionals. NSPE enlisted the internationally respected Edelman Public Relations to assist us in informing the general public of what engineers do and how we contribute to society. Currently funding for the campaign has been by NSPE alone. NSPE solicited the

other engineering societies to assist with financing the program, however, to date none have come forward to assist NSPE with this effort.

The NSPE Membership campaign is showing success. For the first time in many years national membership is growing, in the past year membership has grown from 54,000 to 57,000 members. NSPE credits the multi-faceted membership recruitment and retention programs, newly hired membership consultant, new print ads for NSPE in major engineering trade magazines, the beefed up internal membership staff, and the calling on NSPE members recruiting new members through the E-Team, and the small card-sized membership application for members to pass to nonmembers.

NSPE initiated the Enterprise Membership program. This program focuses on corporations that employ a number of engineers and educates the companies on the benefits of professional licensing and of membership in NSPE. Recently NSPE completed the deal with Corning Cable Systems in North Carolina and enlisted 72 new NSPE members. Annette Petrick of Petrick Associates, the

national membership consultant, is currently scheduled to meet with representatives from New Hampshire and Vermont in late November. This meeting, referred to as a "Road Show", is when Annette visits the state societies, by invitation, to create a unique membership marketing plan based on our own distinctive issues.

NSPE has agreed to serve as special ethics consultant to New Hampshire's Attorney General's Office in connection with the appointment of New Hampshire Transportation Commissioner Carol Murray, P.E. See the related article in this issue.

NSPE Ethics in Employment Task Force developed guide for engineers facing ethical dilemmas in the workplace that can result in fear of losing one's job, litigation, and disruptions in personal and professional lives. The report outlines basic principles for dealing with ethical dilemmas and provide questions that employees should consider before taking action. The full report is available at [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) under the "Ethics" button. The NE Regional meeting will be in Newport R.I. on November 1-3

*Matt Purcell, P.E.  
NHSPE President*

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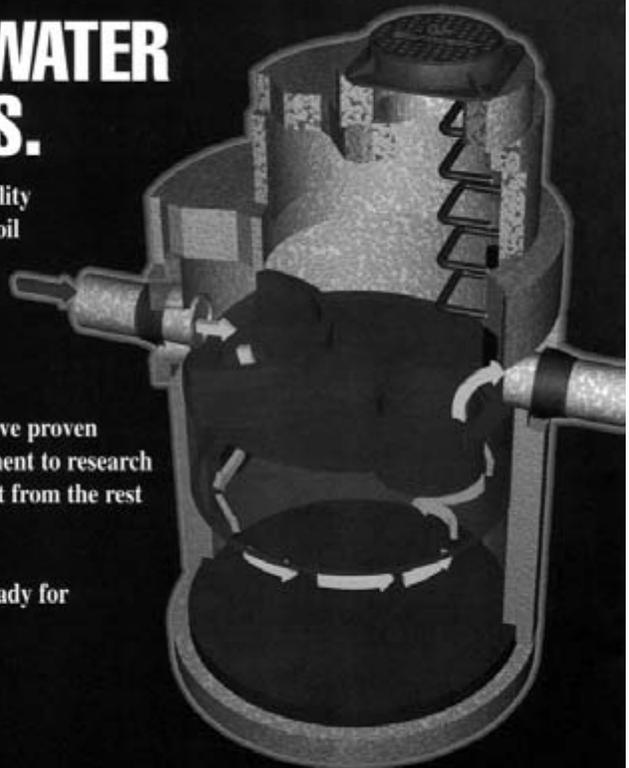
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# UNH Capital Funding Succeeds in Legislature with Kingsbury Hall Funding

On July 9, 2001, Governor Shaheen signed into law House Bill 25, which had previously passed both houses of the legislature, providing \$100 Million over six years for capital projects in the University System of New Hampshire. Of critical importance to the engineering community was the inclusion of \$44 million for the renovation of Kingsbury Hall at UNH in Durham. Passage of the legislation allows the much needed renovation of Kingsbury Hall, the home to NH's only comprehensive ABET accredited engineering programs, to proceed to completion. NHSPE followed the legislation closely, and provided needed testimony to the legislature at key points.

The success of the legislative process, dubbed KEEP New Hampshire (Knowledge Economy Education Plan), was a win for the engineering interests in the state. Continuing accreditation of the

engineering programs at UNH required commitments for substantial improvements to the building and facilities at Kingsbury, and the funding of the comprehensive rehabilitation of Kingsbury Hall should satisfy that requirement.

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*Of critical importance  
to the engineering community  
was the inclusion of  
\$44 million for the renovation  
of Kingsbury Hall at UNH*

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Anyone visiting Kingsbury Hall can see that the facilities are very substandard, dating back 40 or 50 years. The programs are excellent, but the facilities are in need. The capital funding of the project will result in excellent, competitive

facilities to support the engineering programs.

NHSPE, along with other engineering organizations in the State strongly lobbied the legislature throughout the process for inclusion of the Kingsbury project in the funding package, which was not assured as the legislative process unfolded. The process extended from March through June, 2001. NHSPE provided effective testimony at key points in the process, demonstrating the necessity of the Kingsbury project for the long term health of professional engineering, and the link between that and New Hampshire's economic health. This testimony was judged by NHSPE, and University system officials as being necessary and effective in the ultimate success of the legislation.

*William Straub, P.E.  
President Elect*

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## John Alger Awarded

[Continued from page 1]

Corporation (a GE Subsidiary) where he served as technical liaison between GE utility operations and a newly acquired brokerage company, Kidder-Peabody (KP).

Since the 1950s, John has also authored or co-authored many papers and made presentations on a variety of technical and non-technical topics. John also holds three (3) patents on home laundry concepts dealing with fluid dynamic concepts applied to automatic dispensing of additives and electric drive washing machines.

John has been an active member of AIEE (IEEE predecessor) and NSPE. He was on the Board of Governors for the National Institute for Engineering Ethics as well as serving as editor for their Newsletter "Engineering Ethics Update". From 1990 to present, he has held offices on the NHSPE Board of Directors, including President. He currently acts as the Legislative Chair for NHSPE, providing valuable information on activities of State government.

Throughout his tenure with GE John was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations on his work and contribu-



New Board Members: L-R Holly Gallagher; Dave Eckman, Paul Schmidt, Roch Larochelle, Joe Ducharme, Matt Purcell (absent, Bill Straub)

tion to the engineering profession. In 1997, John was awarded Engineer-of-the-Year for the State of New Hampshire. He is very active in community affairs and is involved in many community-related organizations and elected positions.

In 1996, John was elected to a two-(2) year term as State Representative for Grafton County, District 9. He has been re-elected for two (2) additional terms and is currently serving.

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Mr. John Alger for this well-deserved recognition by his peers. Thank



Matt Purcell, NHSPE's New President

you, John, for your years of exemplary service to the engineering profession, your community, and your associates. We look forward to working with you for many more years to come!

Judith E. Houston, P.E.  
NHSPE Past-President

## ANNUAL MEETING SMITH COVERED BRIDGE

This year's annual meeting was held in Plymouth, NH and was highlighted by a tour and presentation of the Smith Covered Bridge. The evening began with a tour of the new Smith Bridge, a 176 foot long full load two lane wooden covered bridge over the Baker River in Plymouth, NH. The new span, which was nearing completion at the time of the meeting, replaces a bridge built in 1850 that burned mysteriously in 1992. The bridge is massive, constructed with 425 tons of wood, and is believed to be the longest single arch bridge in the nation. After the on-site tour, Mr. Steve Glines, P.E. of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, who was the resident engineer for the project, and Mr. Stanley Granton II, of 3G Construction, who was responsible for construction of the bridge,

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gave a first hand account of the challenges of construction of this unique structure. Articles covering the history and construction of the Smith Bridge have been featured in the November 2000 issue of *The Observer*, the March/April 2001 issue of *New Hampshire Highways* and other local and state publications.

The bridge presentation, dinner and annual meeting were held at the Greenhouse of the Italian Farmhouse restaurant in Plymouth, NH. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Smith Bridge Restoration Committee and was well attended by members of both groups. Ms. Elizabeth Catania-Smith, P.E., NSPE Regional Vice President, gave an update on regional and national matters of interest and presided over the induction of this year's Board of Directors for NHSPE. Ms. Judith Houston, P.E., last year's President, and Mr. Matthew Purcell, P.E., this year's President, talked about NHSPE, where we have been and where we are going.

The evening was completed with the presentation by NSPE Vice President Elizabeth Catania-Smith, P.E. of the NSPE Fellow Membership Grade to Mr.

## Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control

The Northeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association is sponsoring a series of reviews and exams for the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC).

The CPESC designation identifies specialists who have met nationally established standards of expertise, experience and knowledge in the field of erosion and sediment control. Through a process of peer review and a written examination, applicants can obtain certification. Co-sponsored by the International Erosion Control Association and the Soil and Water Conservation Society, CPESC is the industry's only certification program and includes more than 2000 professionals in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency endorse the program. Six U.S. states and numerous counties now require the use of CPESCs for erosion and sediment control implementation.

The 1-day review will be held on Friday October 12 in Concord, NH and Wednesday, November 7, 2001 in Portland, ME. The exam will be given on October 24 in Windsor, CT, December 20 in Portland ME, and January 11, 2002 in Concord, NH. You must be pre-qualified to sit for the exam and application for the exam require a minimum of a 30-day review

For additional information contact the NH/VT CPESC representative - Jim Spaulding, PE at (603)228-1122. Alternatively information is available at the following internet sites:

[www.cpesc.net](http://www.cpesc.net) [www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)  
[www.swcw.org](http://www.swcw.org)

John Alger, P.E. This honor is bestowed upon active NSPE members who have demonstrated exemplary service to the profession, the Society, and the commu-

nity. The presentation at this meeting was particularly poignant given John's active involvement in the local commu-

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**Matthew Purcell**, P.E., 448-1600  
matthew.r.purcell@valley.net

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**Judith Houston**, P.E., 647-8700 x236  
jhouston@sfceng.com

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**William Straub**, P.E., 431-6196  
wstraub@cmaengineers.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Joseph Ducharme, Jr.**, P.E., 228-1122  
jducharme@hlturner.com

**SECRETARY**

**Holly Gallagher**, EIT, 330-3120  
h.gallagher@rcn.com

**TREASURER**

**David Eckman**, P.E., 862-3623  
David.Eckman@unh.edu

**STATE DIRECTORS**

**Paul Schmidt**, P.E., 431-6196  
pschmidt@cmaengineers.com

**Roch Larochelle**, P.E., 668-8223  
RochL@cldengineers.com

**NATIONAL DIRECTOR**

**George Fredette**, P.E., 647-8700  
gfredette@sfceng.com

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**ENGINEERS WEEK**

**George Fredette**, P.E., 647-8700  
gfredette@sfceng.com

**LEGISLATION**

**John Alger**, P.E., 786-9562  
john.alger@connriver.net

**MATHCOUNTS**

**Lee Carroll**, P.E., 466-5065  
lcarroll@ncia.net

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Holly Gallagher**, EIT, 330-3120  
h.gallagher@rcn.com

**THE OBSERVER EDITOR**

**Paul Schmidt**, P.E., 431-6196  
pschmidt@cmaengineers.com

**SCHOLARSHIP**

**Roch Larochelle**, P.E., 668-8223  
RochL@cldengineers.com

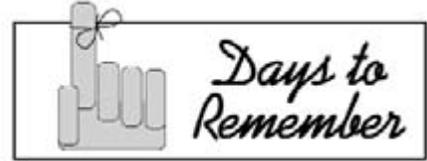
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### FALL MEETING

A Fall meeting has been tentatively scheduled as follows. Look for a program announcement shortly.

**Topic** — New AES Power Plant, Londonderry, NH (new 720 megawatt combined cycle natural gas fired power plant)

**Location** — Yard Restaurant, Manchester, NH

**Date** — November 8, 2001

### LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

NHSPE is looking for people to help:

- Maintain our Web Site
- Assist with Annual Mall Display

If you are interested in getting involved in NHSPE, please call Matt Purcell, President, 448-1600

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