



DAPE

NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY CARMINE BALASCIO, PH.D., P.E.

WINTER 2019

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When you read this, it will no doubt be somewhere in the vicinity of this year's celebration of Engineer's Week. Beyond recognizing the importance of engineers, their work, and their contributions to society, a major point of Engineer's Week is to inspire young people to consider joining the engineering profession. In my last president's message I talked about opportunities for you to contribute to the profession by volunteering with DAPE on its committees. In keeping with the spirit of Engineer's Week, here's a chance for you to help spread the message about the importance of engineering licensure to an audience of future engineers whose awareness of licensure may be limited.

As you may know, Meghan Lester, P.E., a recent member of DAPE Council who occupied the New Castle County seat, was

this year's recipient of the DAPE Distinguished Service Award for her work on DAPE committees. Among her many contributions over her years on Council and on its committees has been to organize outreach efforts to the University of Delaware's College of Engineering to bring practicing professional engineers to the university to speak to junior and senior-level engineering students about the importance and personal benefits of engineering licensure.

Building on the groundwork Meghan has provided, we'd like to get you involved this year! We will arrange to have licensed practitioners such as yourselves talk with upper division engineering students during regularly scheduled class times. The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) has professionally-produced promotional materials available to supplement our presentations, but the biggest impact on the students will result from their personal interactions with you and from the impressions you make on them. If you are enthusiastic about the engineering work you do and would like the chance to convey that enthusiasm to UD students, we'd really like to talk to you about making it happen! We are especially interested in new licensees who are also relatively recent graduates who feel they can make a connection with a college student audience.

We need volunteers from all UD engineering disciplines: Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Construction, Electrical, Environmental, and Mechanical. We'll help you structure your presentation, and you don't need to worry about presenting alone - we'll attempt to pair you up with someone who's done it before. If you think you can contribute, please contact our Executive Director, Jen Wootten, at the DAPE office (jen@dape.org or 302-323-4588). You'll be working with Michael Clendaniel, P.E. who chairs DAPE's Public Information Committee.

In recent news, Executive Director Jen Wootten and I attended NCEES meetings for member board administrators and board presidents, respectively. These meetings are held every other year and are forums for board administrators and presidents to network with their counterparts in other jurisdictions, exchange information and experiences, and to be updated on the latest issues in licensure for engineers and surveyors. In the board presidents' meeting, we learned about international agreements recognizing substantial equivalency in accreditation of engineering educational programs (The Washington Accord) and in engineering licensure standards (International Engineering Alliance). These agreements provide mechanisms for international recognition of engineering education credentials and for increased mobility of licensed engineers between countries. In future columns, I plan to look at these agreements in more detail and discuss how the benefits they offer might be incorporated in our Delaware engineering licensing law.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

BY: JEN WOOTTEN

Now that I have experienced "a year in the life" of DAPE, I want to start this message by thanking the Council and Committee members that have helped me climb a steep learning curve. To echo our Council President's message above, DAPE (and I) rely on the expertise and dedication of our volunteer Council and Committee members. We welcome new volunteers that are interested in becoming more involved in the Delaware engineer community, and to help promote and protect professional engineering licensure. You can read about the three Council seats that will be on the member ballot this spring on page 4.

Another resource that I've relied on this year is the network of NCEES member boards. Why our laws and licensure requirements vary, we all share the same core cause of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare. DAPE, along with many other member boards, is exploring ways to make our process more efficient and improve license mobility while remaining true to this cause. One recent step that our Council has taken in this area is to propose a change to the Delaware Professional Engineers' Act to allow "decoupling," which would enable applicants for PE licensure to sit for the PE exam prior to acquiring the required work experience. You can read more about decoupling on page 3.

Two projects that I'll be working on in the coming months are new channels of communications with our members and a new website design. While it is always going to be each member's responsibility to keep track of renewal deadlines, we'll be trying to find new ways to send out news and reminders, and hope to make our website more user friendly.

CPC OPPORTUNITY



ETHICS WORKSHOP MAY 16

DAPE is offering its members the opportunity to participate in an ethics workshop on Thursday May 16, 2019 (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.), at the Executive Banquet & Conference Center, 205 Executive Center, Newark, DE 19702. Presenter Amigo Wade will review ethical decision-making models and conflicts of interest, as well as taking a deep dive into DAPE's Code of Ethics. Several Council/Committee members met Amigo at his law enforcement presentation at the 2018 NCEES annual meeting, and found him to be an engaging and informative presenter. If interested, please email kathy@dape.org to reserve your seat. Seating is limited.

DECOUPLING IN DELAWARE?

“Decoupling” is a policy that is becoming more common among Professional Engineering licensing boards across the country. Briefly, the term refers to the policy of allowing candidates to take the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PP&E) exam prior to completing the requisite amount of approved engineering experience (usually 4 years for an application with an ABET-accredited undergraduate degree). Decoupling DOES NOT reduce the engineering experience requirement for PE licensure; it only changes the timing of when an applicant can take the exam.

Decoupling has been recommended to member boards of NCEES and has been part of the NCEES Model Law since 2014. There are currently 16 states that allow candidates to take the PP&E exam before completing their experience requirement. In fact, current Delaware law allows a waiver of the requirement that the P&PE exam be taken after completion of the experience requirement for applicants who have previously passed the exam in jurisdictions that allow decoupling.

DAPE formed an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the topic of decoupling. After hearing the Committee’s findings, DAPE’s Council approved a plan to propose an amendment to the Delaware Professional Engineers’ Act to allow decoupling. We’ll keep our members posted on the progress of this amendment, as it moves through the Delaware State legislature.

NATIONAL LICENSING NEWS & CPC RESOURCES

The NCEES publication “**Licensure Exchange**” is a great resource for members to stay up to date on professional engineering licensure news. For example, [the February 2019 issue](#) includes details about a National Transportation Safety Board report issued in response to a 2018 gas explosion in Massachusetts. The NTSB report is a reminder of the importance of engineering licensure in public protection.

NCEES offers a **FREE CPC tracking tool** to anyone with a MyNCEES account. You can enter course information and supporting documentation as you go, track your progress by state, and transmit a completed CPC report to DAPE (or other member boards) as needed. You can [find details and get started here](#).

All late renewals trigger an automatic CPC audit, and must be reviewed and approved by DAPE before the license will be put back into active status. As the 350+ PEs that have completed a CPC audit since July 1, 2018 can tell you, good record-keeping is key to a quick and painless audit.

Speaking of CPC Tracking...

Don’t forget that DAPE will not accept carryover CPC hours during the next renewal period. That means that the hours you claim when you renew your license by June 30, 2020 will have to be acquired between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2020.

2019 COUNCIL ELECTION

One of the things that sets DAPE apart from other regulatory boards across the nation is our ability to elect our Council representatives. The law specifically states the composition of the Council (engineering disciplines, fields of employment and representatives from each of its three counties). It also states that each year three members of Council shall be elected for a four-year term (limited to two consecutive terms). In 2019, the open seats are:

Electrical Engineering Seat
Kent County Seat
Private Consulting Seat

Delaware law §2807 requires petitioners to be a citizen of the U.S., a resident of Delaware, a member of the Association, and be qualified to represent the constituency of the seat. DAPE's Council meets the second Wednesday of each month (6 meetings are at our office in New Castle County, 3 in Kent County, and 3 in Sussex County).

If you meet these qualifications and are interested, please contact the DAPE office to obtain a petition, which is required to be filed by May 1, 2019. Electronic election ballots will be distributed to the membership on June 15th.

THANK YOU, TERRY!

As a Delaware State licensing board, DAPE is fortunate to have a Deputy Attorney General present at our Council meetings, our Law Enforcement & Ethics Committee meetings, and available to help us interpret and enforce the law regarding professional engineering licensure. In January, our long-time DAG Terry Hickey retired from the Delaware Department of Justice. We send her our gratitude for her years of service with DAPE and best wishes for a happy retirement!

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION RENEWAL CHANGES & REMINDERS

Our members approved a few changes to the DAPE bylaws in 2018, including the Certificate of Authorization renewal deadline. As a result, **September 30 will be the new date for the annual renewal of Certificates of Authorization**, beginning in 2019.

Any firm that is practicing or offering to practice engineering in the State of Delaware needs a Certificate of Authorization. Not sure if your firm is authorized? You can [check our online roster](#). Feel free to call our office with questions if you need to apply for an initial Certificate or cannot find your firm on our active roster.

2019 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



DAPE honored Meghan Lester, P.E. at our January 2019 Council & Committee Appreciation Dinner as our 2019 Distinguished Service Award winner. Meghan Lester earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in civil engineering from Lehigh University and the University of Delaware, respectively. She was issued her Delaware Professional Engineer's license in September 2004 and is also licensed in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Meghan is a Vice President with Geo-Technology Associates, Inc., responsible for managing the geotechnical department and construction observation and testing staff at the New Castle, Delaware location.

Meghan joined DAPE's Examining Committee in 2008 and co-chaired this committee for many years. Through her involvement with the Examining Committee, Meghan helped develop and refine DAPE's Continuing Professional Engineering Guidelines and volunteered many times as an exam proctor. She was elected to serve in the New Castle County seat of DAPE's Council in 2010, completing her second four-year term in 2018.

A natural mentor, Meghan has served as an ambassador for DAPE to the engineering community. She has maintained contacts with faculty at the University of Delaware and spearheaded DAPE efforts to promote professional engineering licensure to countless University of Delaware students.

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR ALAN STEINLE

BY: CHARLES MCALLISTER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Each year during the third week in February, the nation celebrates the engineering profession with a week of education and honors. This year was no different. On February 21 the State honored one of its own outstanding engineers at a dinner to recognize his achievements.

This year the honor of being the "Engineer of the Year" was bestowed upon Alan Steinle. I had the honor of recommending Alan and also asking him to serve a vital position on DAPE's Law Enforcement and Ethics Committee, reviewing structural issues as they come before the committee.



Alan was born and raised in Wilmington Delaware, attended public schools, loved math and science classes and played percussion instruments in the Band and Orchestras. He continued playing Guitar/Bass in dance and rock & roll bands throughout college. He attended the University of Delaware, beginning in the Fall of 1965. His original plan was to be a medical doctor but changed to the Civil Engineering Program after 3 semesters.

The summer of his sophomore year he worked for a joint venture of 2 contractors (Buckley & Schiavone) pouring concrete for the main anchorage towers for the construction of the new Delaware Memorial Bridge Span II. He worked under the direction of a Civil Engineer from South Africa, shooting form grades and making concrete cylinders. This work experience really surged his interest in Civil Engineering. He remembers early concrete pours beginning at 4AM, pouring 300 yards of concrete with a single crane and a one cubic yard concrete bucket.

ROTC was mandatory for the first two years at the University and Alan decided to take the Advanced ROTC curriculum during his final 2 years. He graduated in 1970 with a class of 16 Civil Engineers and received his commission in the U.S. Army, as a Corps of Engineers 2nd Lieutenant. He began active duty in the Army in 1971 at Ft. Belvoir, VA for Construction Engineer's Schools and finally to Ft. Benning, GA where he became a Platoon Leader in Company A of the 43rd Engineer Battalion where he was promoted to a 1st Lieutenant and served the balance of his military obligation until 1972. Returning to Wilmington he later joined the Delaware National Guard part-time as a Captain and Commander of the 249th Engineer Detachment, New Castle.

He worked for a local heavy construction company and then for the Port of Wilmington as Port Engineer from 1973 to 1982. His career continued as a Project Manager for a large local steel fabrication/erection company in Wilmington erecting the Port of Wilmington's first container crane along with the construction of the new Hercules Building. In 1982 he became a Principal and Sr. Structural Engineer for a local geotechnical engineering company.

With his business plan prepared and a computer borrowed from an associate, Alan formed Steinle Construction Engineers, Inc. (SCE) in 1993 in a subletted office from a local MEP Consulting firm, offering

structural engineering services for industry, state and local agencies and performing Building Code Review Services. SCE continued to grow over the next 18 years and was acquired by VanDemark & Lynch, Inc. in 2011, as the Steinle Construction Engineers Division, where Alan is the Vice President of Structural Engineering and preparing structural designs and specifications for renovations, new construction, repairs and improvements for commercial, institutional, residential, industrial, and governmental clients and performing Building Code Review Services.

Alan is a member and past National Director of American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and past President of Delaware ACEC; Member American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC); Member of the International Code Council (ICC); Life Member and Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); Past Chairman of and currently the ACEC Delegate Chair to the Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee (EJCDC); Member of National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA); Member of the Delaware Valley Association of Structural Engineers (DVASE); a Model Law Engineer designation with National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES); Member of the Council of American Structural Engineers' (CASE) Contracts Committee. In the mid 1980's he was ACEC Delaware's Young Engineer of the Year. He was ACEC's representative publishing CAD LAYER GUIDELINES in 1990 with the American Association of Architects (AIA), ASCE and the International Facility Management Association publishing recommended designation for Architecture, Engineering and Facility Management Computer-Aided Design. and a STEM advisor/teacher at Middletown Odessa Charter School (MOT) and a past member of the State of Delaware Architectural Accessibility Board. Alan is licensed in seven states.

Alan was presented the prestigious James M. Delahay Award by the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA) in 2013. This award is presented in recognition of outstanding individual contributions towards the development of building codes and standards. Through NCSEA, Alan has represented the Structural Engineering community on the International Residential Code (IRC) Development Committee since 2006, developing the latest National Residential Building Codes.

Alan has been married to his supportive wife, Lorraine for 48+ years, and they have one daughter Tanya, a son-in-law Ross, 2 granddaughters now in college, Morgan Leigh and Ryerson, a grandson Patrick and a granddaughter Hope, already in Heaven. He is a member of Brandywine Valley Baptist Church (BVBC) where he has been a Deacon, a member of the Finance Committee and currently the Chairman of the Property Committee. For over 20 years he's played "keys" and Timpani in BVBC's Praise Band and Orchestra.

Alan's love of engineering and construction continues today, enjoying teaching and mentoring young engineers to develop their skills and talents. He is especially proud to see them achieve their professional registration credentials.

You can see from his impressive bio how deserving Alan is of this recognition. Please take the opportunity to congratulate Alan on this momentous occasion! We are fortunate to have Alan as a member of our Profession here in Delaware.

WELCOME DELAWARE'S NEWEST PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Council recently approved the licensure of the following 57 successful candidates of the October 2018 PE examinations:

Name	License Number	Name	License Number
Nathan Barry	22191	William Kocher	22322
Joshua Bennett	22107	Cecilia Kopp	22306
Amy Beri	22045	Steven Kuchinski	22326
Bryan Bleakley	21331	Jay Larson	22413
Ryan Blessing	21037	Katrina Lawrence	21485
Stephen Britt	21861	Brett Leister	22434
Neil Carlson	23299	Marykate McBride	22502
Wendy Carpenter	21708	Oudam Meas	22367
Nicholas Cincotti	21731	Tighe Meckes	21166
Ryan Connell	22258	Kate Mills	21549
Michael Day	21627	Kyle Murray	21791
Courtney DiCampi	21768	Ryan Musacchio	22011
Abdelhadi Elhashash	21382	Colleen Nauss	22293
Calvin Esham	22246	Niall Pascal	22137
Joshua Fader	21499	Monique Phillips	21607
Kyle Fink	22353	Elizabeth Piazza	20500
Ryan Fucci	22206	Luke Plante	22082
Andrew Fulton	21283	Scott Ruggiero	22175
Maurice Gans	21115	Adam Ryan	21270
Samjohn Ghattas	21012	Michael Salera	21224
Brandon Goldfine	22311	Leslie Salsbury	22099
Devon Guglietta	21779	Nathaniel Sheehan	19611
Sebastian Harrison	21960	Lena Soler Ayoroa	21486
Michael Hauske	20811	Philip Sun	21347
Christopher Hudson	21916	Sean Thornton	21286
Anthony Iacono	21950	Mark Transue	21746
Jessica Isaacs	21997	Christopher Vaile	22418
Charles Jackson	21777	Antonio Zamudio	20971
Stephen Jaskolka	19887		



DAPE hosted 15 of these newly licensed engineers as our guests at the Delaware Engineering Society's annual Engineers' Week Banquet on February 21 in Newark, Delaware.

2018-2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS

 C.C. Balascio, P.E.	 W.D. Balascio, P.E.	 D.P. Barbato, P.E.	 M.A. Clendaniel, P.E.	 S. Gharebaghi, P.E.
 R.E. Hayden, P.E.	 J. Jakubowski, P.E.	 J. Kalmbacher, P.E.	 M.A. Lennon, P.E.	 K. A. Maxson, P.E.
 C.L. McAllister, P.E.	 E.F. Retzlaff, P.E.	 R.D. Smith, Esq.	 J.E. Tracey, Esq.	 R.C. Wheatley

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carmine Balascio, P.E., **President**
 Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP **Vice President**
 Charles McAllister, P.E., **Secretary**
 Michael Clendaniel, P.E., **Treasurer**
 Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., **Immediate Past President**

COUNCIL STAFF

Jennifer Wootten, **Executive Director**
 Kathy Davis, **Executive Assistant**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

John E. Tracey, Esq., New Castle Co. -- Apptd.
 Robert C. Wheatley, Sussex Co. – Apptd.
 Ronald D. Smith, Esq., Kent Co. – Apptd.
 William D. Balascio, P.E., Electrical Engineering
 Soheil Gharebaghi, P.E., Kent County
 Charles L. McAllister, P.E., Private Consulting
 Carmine C. Balascio, P.E., Education
 Robert E. Hayden, P.E., Mechanical Engineering
 Erik F. Retzlaff, P.E., Sussex County
 Michael A. Clendaniel, P.E., Gov't Employment
 Jeremy Kalmbacher, P.E., "Other" Engineering
 Michael A. Lennon, P.E., Chemical Engineering
 Daniel Barbato, P.E., New Castle County
 Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., LEED AP, Civil Engineering
 Karen Maxson, P.E., Industry

TERM EXPIRES

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