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WSPE eNews

A monthly publication from the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers

June 2015 Edition

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1. President's Message

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

WSPE Colleagues,

Although I am writing this prior to our Discovery Conference and GNPA Awards Banquet, I trust that those of you who attended found it to be an educational and beneficial experience. Thanks to Ed Rodden, Dale Swenson and the Fox River Valley Chapter for their leadership.



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

STILL Wanted: WSPE officers for 2015-16! We need members to fill our President-Elect and Treasurer positions next year. These are great leadership opportunities so please consider volunteering – your state society needs you. I am happy to discuss the duties of these positions with anyone who might be interested – they aren't horrendously time consuming if that's what you're worried about.

Our Wisconsin MATHCOUNTS team finished 19th in the national competition in Boston. Congratulations to our mathletes and hopefully they'll be our future engineers.

On the national front, NSPE is going to be interviewing Congressman Bruce Westerman, PE, (from Arkansas) about the importance of licensure and being active in legislative affairs. This will be recorded and uploaded to NSPE's YouTube channel and promoted through social media. Should be interesting!

It has been my pleasure to serve as your President this past year and I look forward to continuing on the executive committee as Past President next year. I'm leaving you in the very capable hands of John Parisi, who will be your President next year.

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2. The Wisdom of "Lead, Follow, or Stay Out of the Way"

By Randall C. Iliff, VP at bb7

Origin

I first heard the phrase from an Apollo-era design engineer at McDonnell-Douglas. Bud was sharing one of the key operating principles for the advanced development group I'd just joined.

"Son, there are only three possible operating modes for a person to be in around here: Lead, Follow, and Stay Out of the Way. All are honorable, but wisdom is required to know which mode you should be in at any given time."

Bud's version was slightly more colorful, but in any rendition I've found the message of enormous value. Practical wisdom is always worth passing along, so here is my build on advice from a generous mentor.

When to Lead

- Lead when you are given responsibility, regardless of whether you feel ready yet.
- Lead when others around you are foundering and unwilling to take responsibility, regardless of whether you think they approve.
- Lead when people are critically endangered by the poor leadership of others, regardless of the future consequences you incur.

When to Follow

- Follow when you have the capacity to move the effort forward, regardless of whether you are tired or inspired.
- Follow when doing so will attract others that are needed, regardless of whether you feel comfortable being a symbol.
- Follow when you wish to learn, regardless of whether you think you already know the subject by heart.

When to Stay Out of the Way

- Stay out of the way whenever you are not leading or following. Don't feel bad, just stay out of the way. Please
- Stay out of the way to allow room for others to grow, but do not leave a situation leaderless or short on followers.
- Stay out of the way if you are a danger to others, even if you are supposed to be leading or following.

Life Is Granular

We are constantly in and switching between each of these modes, with every individual circumstance requiring the correct decision about engagement.

No one gets them all right, but the better your ratio throughout the days / months / years the better the outcome is likely to be.

About Me

I'm part of a very cool team of product development professionals located in Madison Wisconsin. We help companies around the world quickly turn medical,

consumer and scientific ideas into profitable products.

The company is called [bb7](#) and we have a [newsletter](#) if you'd care to hear more about our activities. We do interesting things in our spare time too. (Like keep bees, make honey beer, and turn a Studebaker into a high-tech electric vehicle.)

My role is to package and share the unique product development insight bb7 has built-up during thousands of projects and from time to time throw in a little from my own professional experience. That happens in the form of posts like this, webinars, training classes, and consulting / mentoring activities.

I'd be delighted if you care to follow me, and honored if you choose to share these ideas with others!

In other news, bb7 will be offering a number of CE and general training opportunities throughout the rest of the year. I'm hopeful we'll have dates and enrollment information available in time to share in the June newsletter, will certainly let you know if we can pull that off!

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3. MATHCOUNTS Wisconsin National Team Photo Collage

By Submitted by Norman Arendt, PhD, CFII



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4. SouthEast Chapter Annual Dinner and Scholarship Awards

By Mark Conti, PE, *SouthEast Chapter*

The Southeast Chapter is held its annual dinner to award our local chapter Scholarships. We awarded a total of \$500.00 to three students, one each from Elkhorn, Kenosha and Racine Counties.

WHO:

Brian C. Newberry, Pleasant Prairie - \$200
Christine J. Kujawa, Racine - \$150
Amanda R. Mudlaff, Elkhorn - \$150

WHEN: Wednesday, May 27, 2015

6:00 pm - Hospitality Time
6:30 pm - Dinner, followed by the Presentation

WHERE: The Summit Restaurant
6825 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53406

5. Quality Learning in an Online Environment: Meet Mark S. Meyers, PhD, PE

By Karen Adams, Corporate Marketing Director
University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Distance Learning Center

Since its debut, online learning has had its share of doubters. Some felt that institutions simply could not offer education in a virtual environment that would compare in quality and experience to that of a face-to-face environment. Employers had hesitations about the online degrees their employees were earning. But at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, it is not the degree that is online; it is the delivery of the coursework that is online. The online degrees are cut from the same cloth of excellence as those that have been delivered on campus for over 150 years. Mark S. Meyers, PhD, PE, teaches engineering online at UW-Platteville, providing his students with a unique blend of instruction based on current engineering topics and his own personal experience in the field.

Dr. Meyers is a professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and teaches in the 100% online Master of Science in Engineering program offered through UW-Platteville's Distance Learning Center. He is a 1981 Civil Engineering graduate of UW-Platteville who, because of some great experiences during his senior year, knew that he wanted to return to UW-Platteville to teach. To prepare, he continued his education at the University of Cincinnati (UC), earning a master's degree specializing in hydraulics and water resources and a PhD in geotechnical engineering. During his time at UC, he was involved in research projects investigating soil-bentonite cutoff walls (also referred to as slurry walls) and the development of a state-of-the-art knowledge-based expert system to assist environmental engineers in the solidification and stabilization of hazardous waste materials.

Meyers then moved on to a position as a geotechnical engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Assigned to the Rochester, Minnesota, Flood Control Project design team, Meyers gained a wealth of valuable geotechnical engineering experience including design, field observation, subsurface investigation (soil borings, rock coring, and seismic refraction), and ongoing construction of project features such as the foundations for retaining walls and bridges.

Dr. Meyers came to UW-Platteville in January of 2000, and his course load includes Geotechnical Engineering I (formerly known as Soil Mechanics), Geotechnical Engineering Laboratory, Geotechnical Engineering II (formerly known as Advanced Soil Mechanics), Fluid Mechanics, Fluid Mechanics Laboratory, Statistics, and Geosynthetics Engineering. In all, Meyers has over 30 years of combined professional, academic, and research experience as a civil engineer. "One of my goals for the online graduate courses is to impart to the students as much of my professional experience as I can with the goal of helping them become better geotechnical engineers," said Meyers. "I am a pragmatic geotechnical engineer, using theory only as a basis for the practical application of geotechnical engineering to solve real-world design and analysis problems. Plus, I really enjoy teaching in the online environment."

Are you ready to learn more about the high-quality, affordable, and workplace-relevant 100% online Master of Science in Engineering program at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville? Visit us at GoUWP.com/WSPE or give us a call at 800.362.5460. Dr. Meyers is waiting for you!

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6. Professional Engineers! Earn PDHs at MSOE's PEAK Mini-Conference on June 13!

By Brittney Lynn, Graduate & Professional Education, MSOE

Register now for our next [PEAK Mini-Conference](#) on Saturday, June 13.

Professional Engineers can earn the professional development hours (PDHs) now required for maintaining licensure in Wisconsin by attending a PEAK Mini-Conference. This event is a collaborative knowledge exchange among engineering and technical professionals facilitated by MSOE, with the goal of providing a cost-effective way for engineers and technical professionals to learn about new topics.

One PDH is awarded for each one hour of session completion, which means participants can earn up to 9 PDHs for attending the PEAK Mini-Conference.

Featured sessions include:

- * Ethics in Engineering
- * Why do 100 Year Rainfalls Happen So Often?
- * Intellectual Property Protection
- * Can You Sell It? Technical Sales Skills for the Engineer
- * Heat Transfer Fundamentals
- * Writing Queries Using SQL
- * How to do Technology Forecasting
- * Quality Management
- * ...and more!

[View session schedule and register here](#)

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7. Thank You, WSPE Supporters!

Gold Level



Silver Level





WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bronze Level



Are you interested in having your company support Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers? See our 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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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!

- Is your chapter hosting an event?
- Did your chapter get some new members?
- Have you started your own business?
- 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:(414)531-1129).

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.

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