

# Texas Society of Professional Engineers Bexar Chapter

**VOLUME 2008, NUMBER 6**

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

## From the President's Desk...

Greetings to my Fellow Professional Engineers:

Welcome to the first edition of the 2008-2009 TSPE Bexar Chapter Newsletter, and the first of nine "From the Presidents desk" articles. As I write this article, I am starting to fully appreciate the magnitude and responsibilities of the Bexar Chapter Presidency, at least what they should and need to be. I'm more than a little apprehensive about my leadership abilities, but at the same time, excited about the experience and personal growth opportunities this year will bring.

The longer I've been involved with TSPE and it's leaders, the more humbled I've become by their sincere dedication and commitment to promoting the image and stature of the Professional Engineer. This might sound hokey or platitudinous, but the majority of us owe them a great debt for their efforts to advance our status and stature in society. Each of us has a responsibility to promote ourselves as Professional Engineers. If we don't honor and respect our profession, we certainly shouldn't expect greater recognition from the general public than what we're willing to exhibit.

This past weekend I attended the TSPE Leadership Conference in Kerrville. Although I've been to several conferences over the past six years, I really felt like my time was well invested this year. I believe the single most important message I came away with was the challenge to determine and internalize what it means to be a Professional Engineer – not just an engineer.

As engineers, we are universally recognized and accepted as being honest, technically competent problem solvers, and guardians of the public health and safety. Although this recognition is very gratifying, James Dalton, the Leadership Conference speaker, challenged us to understand there is still yet a higher degree of recognition we must all strive for as Professional Engineers. During the conference, James challenged us to identify three characteristics that "brand" the meaning of Professional Engineer. His point was – if we don't know and agree upon how we want to be perceived, how are we going to convey to the rest of society that the label Professional Engineer represents anything more than merely another technical credential.

If you have labored this far through this article and haven't cast it aside as yet more ramblings and space filler, I'd like for you to seriously contemplate what it really means to be a Professional Engineer. If it's any consolation, 75+/- Professional Engineers at the conference had difficulty reaching consensus on this issue. It's a very import question.

We are going to try to do a few new things this year. For one, we want to open the curtains and provide you with better insight into the inner-workings of the Bexar Chapter. To advance this idea, we will be publishing the board meeting minutes and financial statements in our newsletters to keep you informed. Additionally, please accept this as your personal invitation to attend the monthly board meetings. We would appreciate your input and involvement with our various committees. We have many opportunities in this coming year, and with your help and support, we can more effectively promote and advance our image as Professional Engineers.

All the best,

Frosty Forster, P.E., P.G.  
TSPE Bexar Chapter President

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### SEPTEMBER 2

Chapter Board Meeting  
7:00 am, Pape-Dawson

### SEPTEMBER 5

PEPP Executive Committee Meeting  
7:00 am, Bain Medina Bain

### SEPTEMBER 8

Chapter Lunch Meeting  
"San Antonio BRAC Program"  
Speaker: Randy Holman, P.E.  
11:30 am, Anne Marie's at Devonshire. Please reserve online at [www.saasce.org](http://www.saasce.org) See complete details inside

### SEPTEMBER 9

PEG Board Meeting  
Meeting time and location TBD

### SEPTEMBER 24

PEPP Membership Meeting  
6:45 am, The Barn Door

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER 10

Mathcounts Practice Competition  
11:30 am, AT&T Center



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**MEETINGS**

**BEXAR CHAPTER TSPE/ASCE MEETING**

**SPEAKERS:**

Randy Holman, P.E.  
San Antonio BRAC Program  
Deputy Director, Strategic Communications  
Joint Program Management Office

**SUBJECT:**

“San Antonio BRAC program  
and the Economic Impacts”

**DATE:**

September 8, 2008

**TIME:**

Registration & Networking: 11:30 to 12:00 am  
Lunch and Speaker: 12:00am to 1:00 pm

**LOCATION:**

Anne Marie’s at Devonshire Place  
12475 Starcrest, #102, Celebration Room  
San Antonio, TX.

**COST:**

ASCE/TSPE members with reservation: \$20.00  
ASCE/TSPE members w/o reservation: \$30.00  
Students: \$5.00

**RSVP:**

Deadline: September 3, 2008 by noon.  
No shows are responsible for payment

**CONTACT:**

Please reserve at [www.saasce.org](http://www.saasce.org)  
Please provide Name, Company Name, Phone  
Number, and Member/Nonmember/Student  
Status

**NOTE:**

**“Reservations Required”**

**Announcement from the Editor...**

Contribute to your chapter and community by submitting engineering related articles. Articles may be eligible for PDH time so hurry up and submit yours. The **October Newsletter deadline** for receiving articles or ads is **September 10**. Thank you all.

If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [edgarmunoz@coyleengineering.com](mailto:edgarmunoz@coyleengineering.com) or by phone at (830) 755-8434.

Sincerely,  
Edgar A. Munoz, E.I.T.

2008-2009 BEXAR CHAPTER TSPE  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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| Tech. Challenge          | Becky Carroll, P.E.              | 375-9000              |
| Science Fair             | David Detelich, P.E.             | 353-3037              |
| <br>                     |                                  |                       |
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| Membership               | T. Ian Perez, P.E.               | 699-9090              |
| Awards                   | Robin Buske                      | 375-9000              |
| Reservations             | Tiffany Sanders                  | 375-9000              |
| Attn. & Recep.           | Becky Carroll, P.E.              | 375-9000              |
| UTSA Liason              | Damien Herrera, P.E.             | 681-2951              |
| <br>                     |                                  |                       |
| <b>Director 4</b>        | <b>Abel Guzman, P.E.</b>         | <b>341-2042</b>       |
| Engineers Week           | Vacant                           |                       |
| Eng. of the Year         | Steve Horvath, P.E.              | 349-3271              |
| Young Engineer           | Ian Cude, P.E.                   | 681-2951              |
| SUCCESS Rep.             | Vacant                           |                       |
| <br>                     |                                  |                       |
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| Mathcounts               | Robin Simmons, E.I.T.            | 375-9000              |
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| Speakers Bureau          | Vacant                           |                       |
| Legis./ Gov. Aff.        | Vacant                           |                       |
| <br>                     |                                  |                       |
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| <br>                     |                                  |                       |
| <b>Director 7 (PEPP)</b> | <b>Carl Bain, P.E.</b>           | <b>494-7223</b>       |
| Executive Director       | Diane Hoskins, C.I.C.            | 862-8300              |



**BEXAR TSPE WEBPAGE**

The TSPE, Bexar Chapter webpage is online. Our web address is [www.bexartspe.org](http://www.bexartspe.org). The webpage has important chapter information including an officer list and calendar of upcoming events!



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## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

### “September ASCE/TSPE Lunch Meeting Guest Speaker - Randy Holman, P.E.”



Randy Holman began his professional career with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in 1993, after he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Oklahoma State University. He worked for NAVFAC until 1996 as Co-Base Closure Manger under BRAC for the Long Beach, California Naval Hospital, and Complex.

From 1996 until 2003, Mr. Holman served in various capacities for U.S. Army Europe and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at several locations in Germany. His positions included Environmental Engineer, Life Cycle Program Manager and Supervisory Chief of the Construction Branch in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel and Installation Management. Among his responsibilities were environmental remediation; coordinating the planning, design, construction, warranty, maintenance, and repair of U.S. military facilities; and planning, programming, and executing \$600 million in military construction and Capital Purchase Minor Construction projects. During his time in Europe, Mr. Holman also served one tour down range in Bosnia-Herzegovina with Task Force Eagle.

Since 2003, Mr. Holman has been in San Antonio assigned to the Southwest Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He worked initially as IMCOM-West Liaison Officer, before he joined the Joint Program Management Office (JPMO) to help launch the San Antonio BRAC Program. He currently serves as the JPMO's chief spokesperson in his role as Deputy Director, Strategic Communications.

### “BRACing for San Antonio's BRAC Program”

by Jesse Guerra

On Friday, August 1st, 2008, the Bexar Chapter's Professional Engineers in Government Practice Division hosted their 5th annual Training Day & Golf Tournament. The Northern Hills Golf Club was the site of a panel discussion with representatives of Fort Sam, SAWS, CPS Energy, Bexar County, City of San Antonio, and TxDOT speaking on their respective involvement with the San Antonio BRAC Program.

Planning is well underway for the investment of over \$2 billion dollars into San Antonio's economy for the development of 78 diverse facilities (totaling greater than 6 million square feet in size!) located at Camp Bullis, Fort Sam Houston, and the air force bases at Lackland and Randolph. Through June 2009, this expenditure will account for roughly 33% of all the local construction activity. Over half of the \$2 billion dollars will go to a new Medical Education Training Campus (12 total facilities) and the San Antonio Military Medical Center (7 total facilities).

The BRAC timeline was said to be 55% executed, with a deadline of September 2011. The Bexar County Economic Development Office estimates that 11,200 jobs will be generated as a result of this program.

Speakers from the various governmental entities each discussed what their ongoing activities consisted of, in order to support this truly monumental program.



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

## “UTSA Welcomes Engineers Without Borders”

The University of Texas at San Antonio has always had strong ties with the local engineering community, but a new student organization hopes to reach out even farther. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008, UTSA officially recognized the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a non-profit humanitarian organization, focusing on helping communities in developing countries by putting to use sustainable, and economically efficient engineering systems. At the same time EWB helps to train a new generation of engineers who hold themselves to the highest standards by putting to use their knowledge of engineering to better the standard of living for those who need it most.

The creation of the chapter at UTSA was spearheaded by just two students, but has since been greeted with enthusiasm and encouragement. Their first meeting was attended by 30 students, and has continued to grow. For the chapter's first project they volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in an effort to promote teamwork and give something back to the community. The day was a great success with the EWB making “more progress on the house” than was expected, according to the Habitat team leader.

One project that is currently under consideration is to help rebuild and rehabilitate an orphanage in the town of Piedras Negras, Mexico which was ravaged by both tornados and floods in the past several years. The UTSA chapter of EWB plans on helping the orphanage by reconstructing several damaged rooms in the school, repairing their inadequate electric and plumbing systems, and providing them with several computers.

Future ambitions for the chapter include working on projects overseas that may involve things like water and wastewater treatment, structural design, and renewable energy, as well as taking part in research efforts done by EWB. Efforts such as these require help from the local professional engineering community, not only in funding, but also in mentoring EWB students. In this way EWB helps facilitate students gaining real world experience, while at the same time building strong relationships with potential employers and peers. EWB is not only building better communities, it's building better engineers.

*More information on the chapter can be found at [www.ewb-utsa.org](http://www.ewb-utsa.org). If you are interested in helping the UTSA chapter of EWB, either by being a professional mentor or by monetary support, please email them at [ewb.utsa@gmail.com](mailto:ewb.utsa@gmail.com). EWB projects are funded entirely by donations and the chapter welcomes any support that can be given from the local engineering community and UTSA alumni.*

## “Post Your Article Here”

edgarmunoz@coyleengineering.com  
October Newsletter Deadline - September 10

**REMINDER****CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

**September 2, 7:00 am at Pape-Dawson**

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

### “Governor Perry Appoints Curt Raabe, P.E. to Nueces River Authority Board of Directors”

AUSTIN – Curt Raabe, P.E. of Poth is among seven appointees named to the Nueces River Authority Board of Directors by Governor Rick Perry.



Raabe is an engineer and project manager with CDS/Muery Services. He is a member of the National and Texas Societies of Professional Engineers, American Water Works Association and is past president of the Texas Water Utilities Association Mission District. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Three Oaks Water Supply Corporation. Raabe received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. He replaces August Linnartz Jr. for a term to expire Feb. 1, 2009.

The Nueces River Authority provides water, manages floods and protects the quality of water for the Nueces River.

The other six appointed by Gov. Rick Perry include Joe Cantu of Pipe Creek, Scott Petty of Hondo, Thomas Reding Jr. of Portland, Karen Bonner of Corpus Christi, Rebecca Bradford of Corpus Christi, and Dan Leyendecker of Corpus Christi.

### Volunteers Needed For 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spurs/MATHCOUNTS “Mathletes® in Action” Competition

October 18, 2008

Volunteers to grade tests and to act as proctors are needed to participate in this annual event. Approximately 400 middle school students from every corner of Texas will start the 2009 MATHCOUNTS season in an effort to send Texas to its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive National MATHCOUNTS Championship.

As in years past, all volunteers will be served pizza and drinks and will also receive a free Spurs game ticket for that night’s game against the Indiana Pacers. Volunteers may also purchase additional game tickets for that night’s game for \$20 each (\$25.35 regular price).

Volunteers will be requested to arrive at the AT&T Center at 10:30 am on the day of the event. All volunteers will first assist in setting up tables and chairs on the floor of the arena and then will be broken up into groups of graders and proctors.

This competition is one of the two NBA/MATHCOUNTS partnerships in the United States and it is consistently the largest in terms of number of participants. The Bexar Chapter of TSPE is proud to lead the way in organizing this event and its success is due to the strong participation of the members of this Chapter.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact John Krauss, P.E. @ 375-9000 (or email: [jkrauss@pape-dawson.com](mailto:jkrauss@pape-dawson.com)). Be sure to let John how many tickets you will need if you want to purchase additional tickets for the game. Checks/money orders for additional game tickets should be made payable to “San Antonio Spurs/MATHCOUNTS”. The deadline to register as a volunteer and to pay for additional tickets is October 1, 2008.

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

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