



January 2006 Newsletter

Message from the President

Welcome

Welcome to 2006! Hopefully 2005 was a good year for everyone -- and hopefully 2006 will be even better! We in the Potomac Chapter have big plans for 2006. We ended 2005 on a high note with one of our largest and most interesting meetings ever, and we plan to take that momentum with us into the new year.

This year, we plan to sponsor our standard Chapter activities (engaging monthly meetings, E-Week activities including MATHCOUNTS and Family Day, etc.), and we also plan to push the envelope with new partnering relationships, advertising opportunities, and initiatives. For example, even though 2006 is only days old, we already have partnerships with the Society of Women Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, and numerous governmental and technical organizations. We also have plans to bring the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) Student Chapter of MDSPE to fruition. Given all of our scheduled activities, we are really going to need the help of college students this year. We hope and expect that they will get as much out of their participation as we do.

MATHCOUNTS: Competition Date Nearing

We are just weeks away from the 2006 MATHCOUNTS Competition. As you may recall, the event is scheduled to take place on February 11th at UMCP in the Chemistry Building (Room 1407). This year, 117 students from 18 middle schools in Prince George's, Montgomery, and Howard counties are scheduled to participate -- once again making the Potomac Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition the largest in the state. Everything is in place regarding the competition . . . **except you!** While we have a number of volunteers scheduled to facilitate the event, we could still benefit from the help of others. Although the competition is an all day event, we only need help during certain limited time periods (grading/scoring tests, distributing refreshments, providing building/campus navigation assistance to parents, etc.). We welcome everyone to assist us in making this year's event a success -- we especially encourage UMCP students to spend an hour or two with us. Your proximity to the event, coupled with your general knowledge of mathematics and the campus could be a big help!

MATHCOUNTS: General Information

For those who would like additional background concerning the MATHCOUNTS program, I have provided a brief summary below.

MATHCOUNTS is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement. The program is active in every U.S. state and territory. With over twenty-two years experience, MATHCOUNTS is one of the most successful education partnerships involving volunteers, educators, industry sponsors, and students.

After several months of coaching, participating schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in one of the more than 500 written and oral competitions held nationwide and in U.S. schools overseas. Winners at the local level proceed to state competitions, where the top four "Mathletes" and the top coach earn the right to represent their state or territory at the national level competition, which is shown on ESPN. At all levels, MATHCOUNTS challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence and rewards them for their achievements.

The Potomac Chapter is proud of the strong participation and performance of the Mathletes that have participated in years past. Many of our winners have performed well enough to represent the state at the national level. We are expecting to continue the tradition in 2006. If you would like to contribute as a sponsor or volunteer, let me know.

Family Day: What a Way to Start E-Week!

E-Week is right around the corner. Like last year, we plan to begin the week at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC with the **Discover Engineering Family Day** activities. This year's Family Day event will occur on Saturday, February 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Family Day gives students of all ages and their parents an opportunity to meet engineers and discover how they turn their ideas into reality through engaging in hands-on activities and demonstrations. Due to the success of our exhibit last year, we are planning to offer the same stimulating and challenging activities this year. Again, we plan to partner with the Society of Women Engineers and sponsor a Paper Bridge Competition with quality, practical prizes to our most successful participants.

The Paper Bridge Competition enables students to use their imaginations and elementary engineering skills to design a build a bridge that meets both detailed and generalized engineering specifications. The bridge is then evaluated by an engineer and tested for its ability to support several pounds of weight. Those with bridges that support the most weight win prizes.

We could benefit from volunteers to offer basic assistance to the students designing bridges, evaluating and testing the bridges, etc. As always, we welcome help from everyone who is willing to offer assistance. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tom Dixon at tomdixon@verizon.net.

Oh, and by the way . . .

• **Thursday, February 23rd (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)**

The Potomac Chapter will participate in a UMCP College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Black History Month panel session: **“A Lasting Legacy: African Americans in Science and Technology.”**

January Meeting

I look forward to seeing everyone at this month's meeting at Tony Lin's in Rockville, MD. If you have any questions/comments for me, please feel free to call or e-mail me. My contact information can be found in the Listing of Officers at the end of this newsletter.

Dwight L. Williams, Ph.D., P.E.
President, Potomac Chapter, MDSPE

January 2006 Meeting

Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Update and Plans

Location:	Agenda:
Tony Lin's Restaurant	Thursday 01/16/06
12015-G Rockville Pike	Networking, 6:30 p.m.
Rockville, MD 20852	Dinner, 7:00 p.m.
301-468-5858	Meeting, 8:00 p.m.

This month's meeting will feature a distinguished speaker: **Mr. Scott Perry**, Chief of Staff, Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, Missile Defense Agency. Mr. Perry is scheduled to address several aspects of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System including plans to ensure that:

- relevant capability is delivered to the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) in the near term;
- the system is increasingly capable and responsive to potentially emerging threats;
- the system complements other Ballistic Missile Defense Programs; and
- the system continues to be the most operationally ready and deployable BMDS element.

Speaker's Biographical Summary

Scott Perry is Chief of Staff and Head of Strategic Plans and Communications at the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Program Directorate. Prior to coming to Aegis BMD, he was asked to serve with the Ballistic

Missile Defense System (BMDS) Technical Director in the newly established Missile Defense Agency (MDA) from 2001-2003. In addition, he was the first Navy Theater-wide Project Engineer and the first Navy Theater Ballistic Missile Defense Test Manager.

Mr. Perry's past professional experience includes assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Chairman for the Joint Navy-BMDO Naval National Missile Defense Concept Definition Study, member of the "Triple S" team to redefine the Nation's missile defense efforts. He is a sought after expert consulting to numerous government agencies.

Mr. Perry is a native of upstate New York. He holds a B.A. in Aerospace and Ocean Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). He resides with his wife of 23 years, two children, two cats, one guinea pig, and one frog in Fredericksburg, VA.

Potomac Chapter 2005 - 2006 Calendar

February 2006

Activities: *MATHCOUNTS, E-Week, Family Day*
EWeek, 2/19/06 - 2/25/06
Mathcounts, 2/11/06
Family Day, 2/18/06

March 2006 (Thursday 3/30/06)

Activity: *The Air and Space Museum*

April 2006 (Thursday 4/27/06)

Activity: *Multidisciplinary Engineering Panel*

May 2006 (Thursday 5/20/06)

Activity: *Year in Review/Transition Meeting*

Potomac Chapter 2005 - 2006 Officers

President: Dwight L. Williams, Ph.D., P.E.
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Vice President: Bruce Cranford, P.E.
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Treasurer: Jayadev Telikicherla, P.E.

Secretary (Acting): Randy Petersen, P.E.

Past President: Randy Petersen, P.E.

Chapter Directors: Tom Dixon, P.E.
Karin Castro-Kass, P.E. Leslie A Grant, P.E.
Issa Khozeimeh, Sc.D., P.E. Frank Winfield, P.E.