



# Kansas Professional Engineer

## Inside this issue:

Board Prepares Bylaws Changes	1
Reception for PE Exam Participants	1
President's Message	2
KSPE Annual Conference	2
EVP Column	3
KU Professor Honored	3
Interview	4

## Board Prepares Bylaws Changes

Updating the KSPE Constitution and Bylaws has been a year-long project for KSPE President Jay Freund, PE, and Professional Engineers in Industry Chairman Don Taylor, PE. Ballots for the proposed Constitution changes were distributed to all KSPE members in early April and are currently being returned.

Anticipating that the Constitution changes will be approved by Society members, KSPE Board members have been working on draft changes to the Bylaws. A key premise of the Constitution and Bylaws changes are to allow a more flexible and responsive management of the Society. Management practices that previously were locked in place via the Constitution will become Bylaws issues, allowing KSPE Board members the opportunity to adjust Society practices to meet the changing needs of Society membership.

Board members have recently revised a draft of proposed Bylaws changes. Input has been re-

ceived and incorporated into an updated draft that was reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, May 2.

Among the changes being considered are; elimination of the Professional Engineer Discipline authority (a function that is fulfilled by the State Board of Technical Professions) and the requirement that the Secretary direct the work of the Executive Vice President (in practice, the EVP reports directly to the Executive Committee). Changes are also being drafted to reflect the current working relationship between KSPE and Kansas Consulting Engineers.

KSPE President Freund plans for a final review and approval of draft Bylaws changes at the Annual Conference Board meeting on June 11 in Overland Park.

## Reception for PE Exam Participants a Success

All young engineers completing the Professional Engineer licensure exam on Friday, April 11 were invited to a reception at the nearby Capitol Plaza Hotel sponsored by the KSPE membership committee. Approximately 45 exam participants attended, mostly KSPE nonmembers. They were joined by about eight KSPE members, including Society President Jay Freund, PE, Membership Committee Chair Amy Martens, PE, Professional Engineers in Industry Chairman Don Taylor, PE, and NSPE Regional Vice President Larry Emig, PE.

"The reception was great fun," noted Martens, "and the turnout was excellent for a first time

event. Several participants told me how great it was to have a chance to relax with friends and visit with some new people."

Martens' plans include contacting all exam participants and encouraging them to become KSPE members. "Making a good first impression is important. We've done that," Martens explained. "Now we need to describe the long-term benefits of belonging to the Society and ask for them to become members."

Plans are already underway to repeat the reception at the next PE exam in the fall of 2003.

## President's Message

By Jay Freund, P.E.

I hope your spring is going well. I know many of you are planning summer events at work or with your families. KSPE has a busy summer as well, highlighted by our upcoming Annual Conference in Overland Park.

The June 11-13 Annual Conference is quickly approaching. Those of you who have not yet registered, please take the time to go to the KSPE website or look in your mail for the registration and agenda materials that were sent to you in early April. Please register as soon as possible to assist us with final preparations for the conference.

Chris Price, P.E. and his planning team have accepted the challenge of providing our members with the best conference ever. Their efforts have produced a conference that promises to be excellent in every way. For starters, we're playing golf on one of the premier public golf courses in Kansas City, our ice breaker will be held at the Kansas Speedway, the Professional Development courses provide more cutting edge information on broader topics than ever before, and there is even a tour of the Harley Davidson plant.

As has been the practice in recent years, we are increasing the selection of PDHs,

offering insight from special speakers like KDOT Secretary Deb Miller and Kansas legendary historian-humorist, William Jennings Bryan Oleander, offering a remarkable opportunity to network with colleagues and friends, and still maintaining a reasonable price on the entire package. The KSPE conference maximizes the bang for your buck. We couldn't do it without the outstanding leadership of individuals like Chris and the support of our numerous sponsors.

Registrations, sponsorships and participation in our vendor showcase are still available. Visit the KSPE website at [www.kansasengineer.org](http://www.kansasengineer.org) or contact Pam Lower at 785-233-2121 for details.

Recently, a ballot for the election of officers and for ratification of the proposed changes to the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers Constitution was distributed to all KSPE members. I'd like to personally thank our KSPE Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Don Taylor, P.E. and Wade Culwell, P.E. for their tireless work in developing the proposed Constitution. Without the outstanding contributions of Don and Wade, we would not have produced such a high quality product; a constitution that I believe will carry the

Society forward for many years.

As provided for in the current constitution, a two-thirds majority of those voting is required to effect the proposed changes in the constitution. Additionally, votes from a minimum of twenty percent of those eligible to vote are required in order to classify the vote as valid. Your vote is important to you and to our membership. The deadline for returning your ballot is approaching as this column is being written.

You will note on our office ballot that Chris Bohm, PE, was nominated to become the next Secretary/Treasurer of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers. Chris has been very active with the Society in a number of important ways. His recent work includes serving as the state Annual Conference Committee chair and chairing the chapter committee for the conference when it was held in Wichita four years ago. He has served in the leadership chairs with the Wichita Chapter and on the KSPE Board. He is very familiar with the operations of the chapters and with business at the state level and will make a fine addition to the Executive Committee.

I hope to see you at the conference.

## Racing to the Future

Your KSPE Annual Conference planning committee, chaired by Chris Price, PE, has produced an agenda packed with top speakers, cutting edge Professional Development Hours speakers, and tons of fun.

Conference highlights include presentations by Secretary of Kansas Department of Transportation Deb Miller; Craig Musselman, discussing changing

engineering education and licensure requirements; KCE/APWA Partnering Open Forum; and a panel discussion of current regulatory issues with the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions.

Special guest presentations will feature professional driver Jennifer Cobb of Kansas City (at the Awards Luncheon) and William Jennings Bryan Oleander

of Here, Kansas (at the Installation of Officers Banquet).

Conference agenda and registration information has already been forwarded to all KSPE members via email or hard copy. If you have not received conference registration information visit the KSPE website at [www.kansasengineer.org](http://www.kansasengineer.org) or call Pam Lower at 785-233-2121.

## EVP Column

By Ron Gaches, JD

### Who is looking for your cheese?

A recent dinner conversation with KSPE President-Elect, Rick Ens, PE, reminded me of a book I'd read. In *Who Moved My Cheese*, Dr. Spencer Johnson teaches that to achieve success you must not wait for change to happen, you have to seek it out, anticipate it, and enjoy new challenges.

Rick and I were discussing his upcoming term as President of the Society, what he hoped to accomplish, what our meetings and programs should look like, and who he wanted as committee chairs. In short, what should we be doing to be successful next year and who could help us?

In addition, we were observing some of the changes in the engineering profes-

sion. The economy is in the doldrums, employers are starting to eliminate jobs, future funding for the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is uncertain, state and local government budgets are under stress, and our top universities are losing key staff to other schools.

In the vernacular of Dr. Johnson, someone has moved our cheese. Dr. Johnson's premise is that your individual success is up to your performance in the "maze," which is where you look for what you want. If somebody moves your cheese in the maze, you've got to go find it. Nobody is going to bring it to you.

The success of KSPE isn't fundamentally different from that of our members.

Somebody has moved our cheese. The soft economy and demanding professional environment is challenging KSPE just as it challenges our members.

The Society must continuously evolve to keep up with the changing needs of our members. Our recent membership development activities and 2003 Annual Conference have been designed, at least in part, to reflect those changes. Your input is needed to ensure that all of our programs, services, meetings and publications stay abreast of your changing needs. Rick and I, and the rest of the KSPE Board, welcome your input and ideas.

## Kansas University Professor Honored as Distinguished Alumnus

David Darwin, Deane E. Ackers distinguished professor of civil, environmental & architectural engineering at the University of Kansas, was recognized Friday, April 25, as a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"The selection was based on his professional accomplishments and contributions to the profession," said Marilyn Boland, coordinator of alumni relations and development for the University of Illinois Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

This is the 35th year of the award. The selection is made by a committee composed primarily of alumni who judge the merits of each nomination. The

Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association is presenting seven awards to distinguished alumni this year. The civil engineering program at the University of Illinois is consistently ranked among the top programs in the nation.

Darwin has been with the University of Kansas since earning his doctorate at Illinois in 1974. He earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree in civil engineering from Cornell University. His research interests include, structural engineering, engineering materials, reinforced concrete design and analysis, plain concrete, composite construction, finite element analysis, earthquake engineering, and experimental studies.

Darwin is currently the president of the Kansas Section of the American Society

of Civil Engineers. He also is one of three authors of the second edition of "Concrete," published by Prentice Hall. Darwin joined authors Sydney Mindess of the University of British Columbia and J. Francis Young of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on the revision. First published in 1981, "Concrete" is the most widely adopted text covering concrete materials. The new edition represents a thorough update of the original, with additional chapters. Darwin served as the editor of the text, as well as having principal responsibility for one-third of the chapters.

Information for this article was provided by Jill Hummels, director of public relations, University of Kansas School of Engineering.

## Getting Beyond the Screener and Into the Interview

By Deborah Walker, CCMC

I had an interesting conversation a while back with a hiring manager who made a comment about the surprising number of resumes she gets from people seemingly overqualified or from unrelated industries. Most of the resumes she tosses aside with disinterest.

I share her comments in case you fit the profile of candidate she mentioned. If so, there are steps to take to make certain your resume is seriously considered when applying for position outside your industry or for which you are overqualified.

1. Address the issue in your cover letter. State clearly your interest in changing industries. Express your knowledge of the industry and its challenges. Point out how your background experiences make you a great candidate. If you are

seemingly overqualified, demonstrate your value: better perspective, more patient, and extensive industry knowledge.

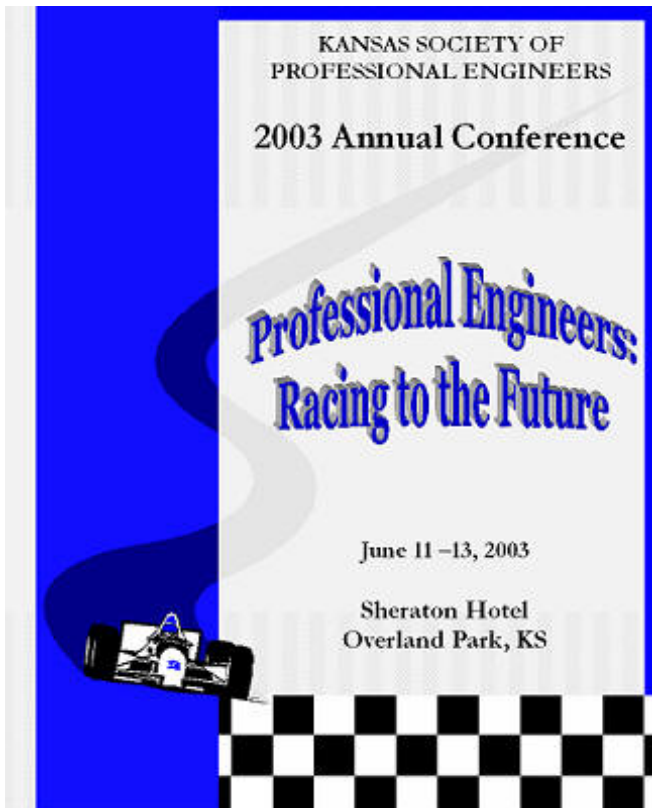
2. If transitioning to a new industry, focus your resume on your transferable skills rather than routine responsibilities. Back up your transferable skills with illustrative accomplishments. Translate industry-specific jargon into general terminology. Give less “white space” to company names if they are commonly connected with your industry. White space is just what it sounds like: white area around words. Words or phrases surrounded by white space stand out and attract the eye.

3. If over qualified, downplay your managerial responsibilities and highlight your hands-on activities and contribu-

tions. Give less “white space” to your job title. Don’t quantify information such as number of employees managed, amount of budget overseen, etc.

Many job seekers feel that if they can just get the interview they can sell the interviewer on their qualifications. That may be so, but without a convincing cover letter and resume, the interview won’t happen. If you feel you’re being screened out unjustly, try these suggestions and see if you don’t get better results.

Deborah Walker, CCMC  
Resume Writer ~ Career Coach  
888-828-0814 or  
Deb@AlphaAdvantage.com  
Call for FREE resume critique



### Special points of interest:

- To update your membership record, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org).
- Mark your calendar for June 11-13 to attend the 2003 KSPE Annual Conference in Overland Park.
- The *Kansas Professional Engineer* newsletter will now be available to you on a monthly basis. Watch your inbox!