



LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
 PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties
(Organized 1935)

Valley Engineer Newsletter

February 2020

2020 MATHCOUNTS

Francee Fuller



**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
 OF
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
 (ORGANIZED 1935)**

CARBON, LEHIGH, MONROE, & NORTHAMPTON COUNTIES

Springhouse Middle School students Kevin Yao and Ryan Wu took first and second place honors at the 36th Annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS[®] competition, held on Saturday, February 8 at Trexler Middle School, organized by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. An army of more than 60 volunteers from the engineering profession worked hard to make the event a success.

In a gripping Jeopardy-style countdown round held before an audience of more than 500 on-lookers, 10 mathletes who earned top scores during a morning of written tests took to the stage to verbally answer questions. Kevin and Ryan were among 213-plus students from 26 schools from Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe Counties who participated in the regional "Olympics of Math" to win individual and team honors.



LVPSPE President presenting the first-place award to Springhouse Middle School Coach Kevin Hallman

Continued on page 2

All members of the top team, from Springhouse Middle School, coached by Kevin Hallman, will advance to the state competition in Harrisburg on March 13 and 14. They will be joined by the third place winner, Kellar Yan, a 7th grade student at Southern Lehigh Middle School and fourth place winner Matthew You, a 7th grade student at Easton Area Middle School. The PA Society of Professional Engineers hosts the state competition.

Southern Lehigh Middle School, coached by Ronnette Mays, took second place team honors while Easton Area Middle School, coached by Eric and Alex Adams, placed third.

The four top state winners will move on to the 2019 National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando, FL May 9 to 12 with Raytheon Corporation as the title sponsor. The National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in partnership with state engineering societies is the founding sponsor of the event, geared to promote math proficiency among middle school students.

The students spent the morning taking written tests with questions like:

A set of distinct positive integers has a total of 11 digits, and all the digits are 1s. What is the smallest possible sum of the integers in the set? (Answer 11,234)

Tests were sent to a scoring room for grading and ranking. The afternoon session featured the top ten ranking individuals paired in a lightning-round stage competition to determine final ranking. The top 10 individuals were:

1. Kevin Yao – 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School
2. Ryan Wu – 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School
3. Keller Yan – 7th grade, Southern Lehigh Middle School
4. Matthew You – 7th grade, Easton Area Middle School
5. Ben Brodhead – 8th grade, Saucon Valley Middle School
6. Sophie Karlson – 7th grade, Southern Lehigh School District
7. Jeffrey Holzbaaur – 8th grade, Saucon Valley Middle School
8. Brandon Cai – 7th grade, Springhouse Middle School

9. Jonathan You – 8th grade, Easton Area Middle School
10. Hansen Fan – 8th grade, Southern Lehigh Middle School

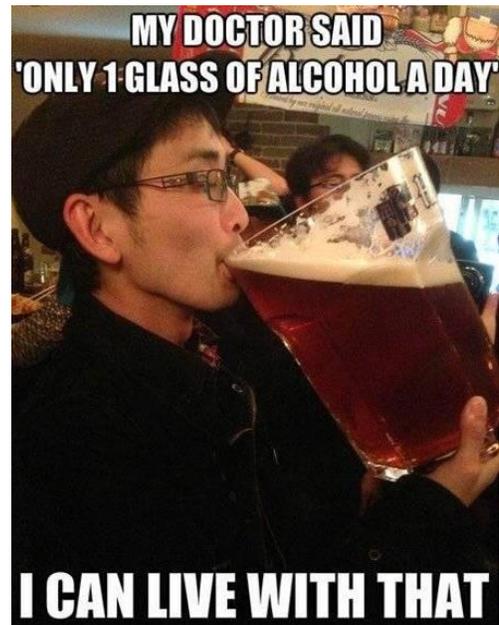
Cedar Crest College presented the three top-scoring young women with a math or science course in their junior or senior year of high school. They are:

1. Sophie Karlson – 7th grade, Southern Lehigh Middle School
2. Ellie Corvino – 8th grade Southern Lehigh Middle School
3. Lila Shelton – 7th grade, Pocono Mountain East Middle School

Moravian College, Lafayette College, Lehigh Carbon Community College and Northampton Community College also provided top winners with scholarships for mathematics courses.

Nationwide approximately 40,000 students, representing more than 5,500 schools will participate in the 2020 MATHCOUNTS competition.

We congratulate and thank the students, their coaches, and the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers for their fine effort to ensure another generation of engineers.



2019 ENGINEER OF THE YEAR



Sean Dooley, P.E., Ph.D.
Project Engineer

Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc.
2870 Emrick Boulevard
Bethlehem, PA

Sean Dooley has a unique professional profile. He graduated from Lehigh University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a focus in structural engineering. The day he graduated, Sean flew to Switzerland where he interned with the Swiss engineering firm of Conzett Bronzini Partner AG for six months. Sean went on to complete his doctorate at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he researched the historic development of structural materials. In Switzerland, Sean was the Owner's Representative for the church he attended during various restoration projects of the 19th Century stone building they occupied.

While finishing his doctoral work, Sean and his wife Lucienne became involved in a project in Sierra Leone (Africa) with the NGO Mercy Ships. Sean and Lucienne oversaw the design and construction of a 33,000 square foot rehabilitation and occupational training facility. This experience inspired Sean to change his focus to land planning and development. Upon completion of his doctorate and return to the United States in 2005, Sean started work in the land development and municipal engineering field.

Sean is currently a Project Manager at Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc. (KCE) in their Bethlehem, PA office. He provides various subdivision and land development projects. Other work

includes environmental permitting and various services to several utility companies.

From 2013 through 2018, Sean was a professor at Lafayette College's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering where he taught the Department's Senior Capstone Design course, as well as core curriculum classes to first and second year engineering majors. During this time, he continued professional work at KCE and returned to full-time professional status after the 2017-18 school year.

Sean is a founding member of the Lehigh Valley Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders USA (EWB-LVP). In 2010, he helped the chapter start work at a secondary school campus in Mattru, Sierra Leone. Through 2016, the Chapter established a clean water supply with campus-wide distribution system, sanitary facility improvements, rehabilitation of several school buildings, and a limited solar-generated electric supply. EWB-LVP continues its work in Mattru at the local hospital where Sean just returned from helping to put a roof on a hospital building. The Chapter had previously constructed new toilet facilities at two locations of the hospital. On the most recent trip, the team outfitted a training room with communications equipment to facilitate web-interfaced training partnerships with hospitals in the United States. This facility will assist the Mattru Hospital staff improve their knowledge and skills. Sean encourages you to visit the Chapter's website at <http://ewb-lvp.org/> to see the great work they are doing both in Sierra Leone and the Dominican Republic and consider getting involved and/or donating.

In addition to his professional work, Sean is Chair of the Stockertown Borough Planning Commission, serves on the Nazareth Area Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, is a member and past-Secretary of ASCE's Lehigh Valley Section, serves on the Development Committee of the Community Action Development Corporation-Bethlehem's Southside Vision Program, and is an Advisory Committee Member of LVEDC's Land Recycling Initiative.

2019 YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR



Minal Amin
Assistant Project Manager

Civitas Regio, LLC
532 W Hamilton Street, Suite 2
Allentown, PA

Minal Amin has been named the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers – Lehigh Valley Chapter Young Engineer of the Year. She is being honored at the 40th Annual Engineer's Week Banquet on February 21, 2020.

Minal earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University (PSU). During her junior and senior years, she was actively involved in the PSU Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), including participation on the Chapter's Concrete Canoe Team. Minal's other activities included serving as a member of the Rules and Regulations Committee to coordinate fundraising and event safety/security during Penn State's THON weekend; serving as a Volunteer Host at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts; and active involvement in the South Asian Student Association.

Seeking an opportunity to accelerate her professional development, Minal relocated from her home in the Harrisburg area to the Lehigh Valley to join a start-up engineering company, Civitas Regio. In spite of the uncertainty associated with relocation and leaving employment with a long-established firm, Minal sought the unique opportunity to gain exposure to literally every aspect of the new company's projects along with the potential to actively participate in building the organization from the ground up. In addition, she recognized the potential personal and profes-

sional benefits to be derived from the firm's emphasis on local community engagement.

As an Assistant Project Manager at Civitas Regio, Minal is responsible for special studies, design, and permitting associated with land development projects. Her responsibilities focus on site/civil engineering, engaging in all facets of a project from initial proposal and site visits to design, permitting, and recording of final plans. Her responsibilities also include coordinating directly with state and local reviewing agencies, utility providers, owners, other engineering, environmental, and planning professionals to facilitate projects. In the course of her responsibilities, Minal continues to assume greater independence, expand her technical skills, and cultivate the engineering judgment necessary to advance in the engineering profession.

Minal's current work includes urban redevelopment projects such as the Seville, a \$16 million mixed-use project in downtown Easton; Grand Plaza, the redesign and reconstruction of the former PPL Plaza in downtown Allentown; and a \$7.5 million mixed-use project in downtown Bethlehem. In addition, her projects currently include a 387,000 square foot warehouse and logistics center, and the expansion of a waste-to-energy resource recovery facility in the Philadelphia region.

Minal's professional development and community service efforts include earning a Certified Citizen Planner certificate for completion of three courses at the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's Government Academy including: Community Planning, Subdivision and Land Development Review, and Zoning Administration. She is a member to the Society of Women Engineers and also recently served as a panelist for a Lehigh University International Student Women's Career Development Forum to relay her own experiences to international students considering a career in STEM fields. Minal has volunteered extensively with the Hindu American Religious Institute (Hari) Temple, organizing events for elderly members and assisting with Indian language instruction for children.

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the **LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

If you would like to contribute in any amount – please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

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P.O. Box 3441
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Please note “LVPSPE Scholarship Fund” on the comment line.

Or, you may also contribute via the LVPSPE website <http://www.lvpspe.org/Donations>.

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE
610-597-2007
Scholarship@LVPSPE.org

PSPE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation currently administers the following scholarships for engineering students:

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- \$1,000 PEF Grant: (2 awards)

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- \$2,000 Pennsylvania Engineering Foundation Grant

Applications and guidelines are on-line now at <http://www.pspe.org/scholarships>

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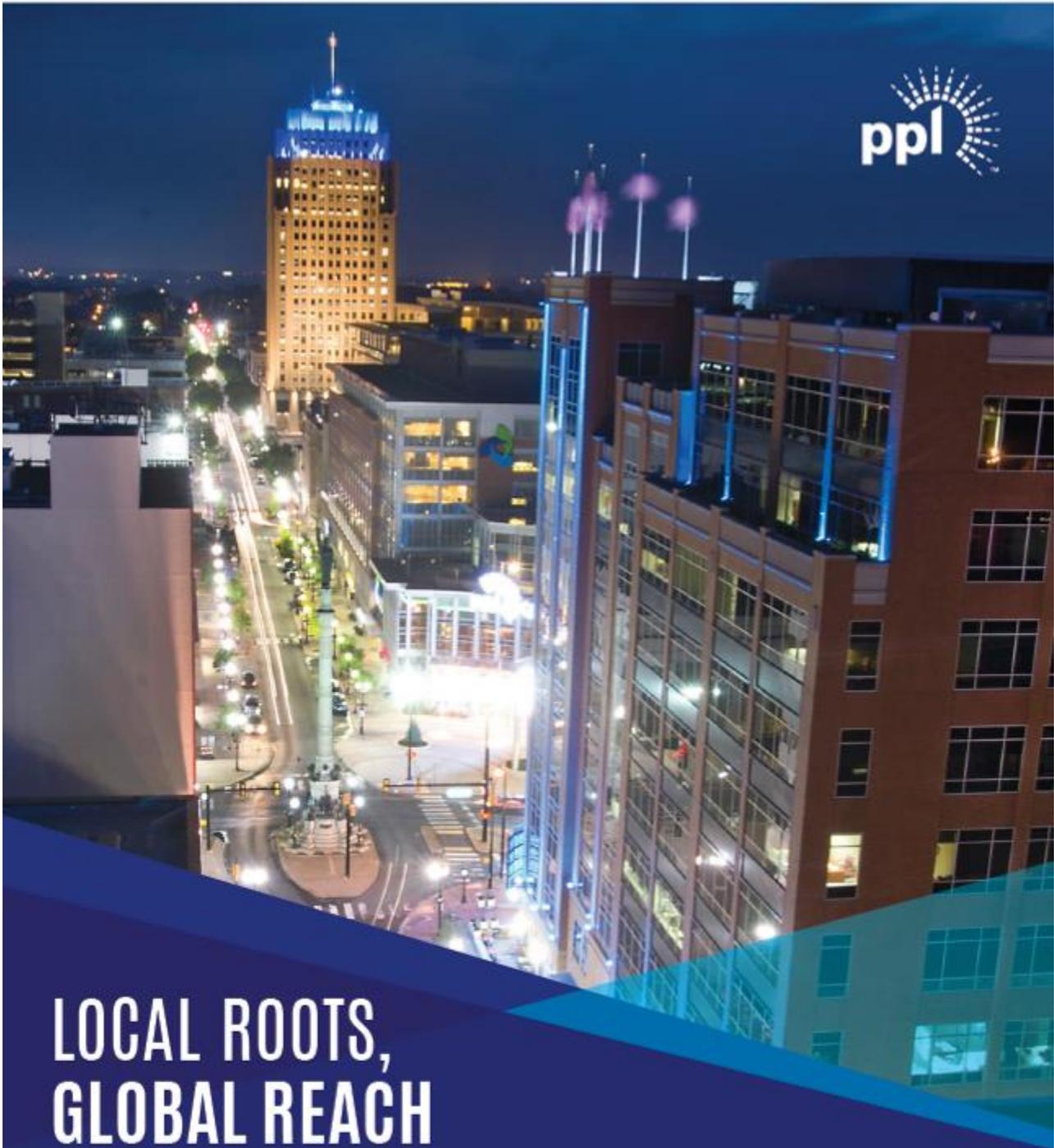
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Board of Direction Meetings

The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Liberty Property Trust, 74 W. Broad Street, Suite 240, Bethlehem, PA.

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Eating in, in Egypt
Alfred Gruenke PE

Egypt was my first overseas assignment. I have always prided myself on my adaptability but Egypt was (and is) the ultimate challenge. Everyone associated with this project rates this project as the most difficult, on many levels.

The customer was Suez Cement, located about fifty miles south of Suez, ninety miles from Cairo, in the Eastern Desert. The plant was a USAID project, given to Egypt as part of a peace treaty worked out by Henry Kissinger during the aftermath of the 1973 Egypt-Israel war. Israel received an air base, Egypt received a cement plant. We always felt that Israel had the better part of the deal.

The plant was located about ten miles from the Red Sea, in the middle of a military reservation. I think Kissinger picked this location in order to force the Egyptian military out of the area. Remnants of the military presence littered the area. When Moses led the Israelis out of Egypt and to the Red Sea he must have passed through here. We could still see the footprints.

The first year of my assignment we lived in a guest house in Heliopolis, a "suburb" of Cairo. More about that in future issues. We then moved to site, inside the com-



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Congratulations to all of the LVPSPE scholarship recipients!



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pound aside the plant, surrounded by a wall. One cannot say the site was in the middle of nowhere, but you could definitely see nowhere from there if you climbed a tree! That is, if you could find a tree. We lived there for a year and a half in housing we lovingly called "Siberia."



"Nowhere" is the other side of the horizon.
Note plant in the distance.



A game of skill. Stand on a beer can with one foot, bend over, collapse the can by pushing the sides of the can. Quickly pull out fingers.



No, it's not a fish. It's the remnants of a shell from a tank.

The accommodations were not bad, unless the air conditioning died. There was a cafeteria that served wholesome but monotonous meals. They tried to cook "American", but that really didn't work out. I'd rather have eaten Egyptian food, something the cooks knew how to cook.



Our barbecue grill, with Home Sweet Home in the background.

A couple of guys built a barbecue to give some variety in our meals. Once a week we had shrimp (gambare), steaks (lahm), chicken (firak), salad, whatever I could buy. I knew where to buy these things since that's what I did when we lived in Heliopolis. For the record, between cook-

Continued on page 17

ing and eating I'm infinitely better doing the latter, so I let others prepare the meals. We had a couple of people from Louisiana and Maryland so we had experts prepare shrimp! I brought horseradish from home to mix with ketchup for a cocktail dip.

Near the end of our assignment we had hired a local contractor to do some work for us, and he gave us a sheep. The Egyptians did the honors, and we had a nice feast together.

One of the customs in Egypt is, the testicles of the sheep are presented to the chief of the guests. At that time, that was me.

The two testicles, about the size of cherries, were given to me. I'm not squeamish as to what I eat, but this was far beyond my limits. I squirmed a bit. What to do? What if I refuse and cause an international incident? Certainly, I would be insulting our host! I took them, grimaced, and ate them. Everyone was staring at me, waiting for my reaction. I smiled, said "Very good", and drank a beer. Everyone cheered. The things we do for our company, and for international relations!

A little while later we received another sheep, on the hoof. It was a holiday for the Egyptians, so they had all left site, leaving us to ourselves.

Fortunately, Tony Baldere, an engineer from our Plant Engineering group, knew how to butcher. He dispatched the sheep, skinned and gutted it, and prepared it for our barbecue. I did not ask what happened to the testicles, or the gender of the critter. Once was more than enough.

The thing one learns! Tony made a rotisserie out of a pipe; however, rotate the pipe, and the sheep stays still. He knew enough about such things and drilled holes in the pipe and wired the sheep to the pipe as shown in the following picture.

We set a big stack of wood on fire and let it burn down to hot coals, then placed the sheep as shown below. We slow cooked it for about five hours, frequently basting it with Stella beer.



Lookin' good. The sheep, not me.



Good to the last bite.

There were about a dozen of us, and we dined well. Someone prepared a delectable salad and a side dish of local vegetables. Washed down with various grain fermentations, it was time and effort well spent.

Life was not good, but not too bad.

**Lehigh Valley Chapter
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe and Carbon Counties**

Minutes for the February 10, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
6:00 pm at the Office of Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. – 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA 18106

Attendees: Chris Williams, Al Gruenke, Al Dezubay, Mary Rooney, Frank Walsh

I. Call to Order: Al Dezubay called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

II. Programs

- Activities – Jeff Kutz
 - No report
 - Al Dezubay will check with Jeff Kutz on date for May banquet
- Newsletter – Al Gruenke
 - January newsletter went out. Let's include an article on MATHCOUNTS for next year.

III. MATHCOUNTS

- February 8th. Event went very well. Big thanks to Kevin Campbell for running the event.

IV. Lehigh Valley EOY/YEOY & Scholarships

- EOY/YEOY
 - All set for this year's recipients
 - EOY: Sean Dooley
 - YEOY: Minal Amin
- Fundraising – Frank Walsh
 - \$6,250 pledged, plus a couple expected donations
 - \$4,950 received
- Scholarships – Al Dezubay
 - Reached out to schools
 - Extended deadline to March 15th

V. Treasurer

- Treasurer Report – Ray Szczucki
 - Checking balance: \$2,867
 - Savings balance: \$10,496
 - PayPal balance: approximately \$6,000+
 - Ray reviewed various deposits and payments

VI. State Director

- State Director Report – Peter Staffeld, no report

VII. Past President

- Past President Report – Brian Kutz, no report

VIII. Old Business/New Business

- New website
 - Reviewed new website proposal
 - Will cost \$3,300 up front, yearly hosting fee of \$475
 - Wild Apricot costs \$108/month currently
 - Will take about four years to recoup costs
 - Board will consider offer and follow up at a later time
- Quarterly report
 - Al Dezubay will follow up with Peter to determine what should be in the quarterly report, and when
- Upcoming Board of Directors meetings for the 2019-2020 year:
 - March 9th
 - April 13th
 - May TBD – LVPSPE Scholarships and Installation of Officers Banquet

IX. Adjournment at 7:03 on a motion by Frank, seconded by Mary