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Order of the Engineer *almanac*

Letter from the Chair

The Order of the Engineer (OE) has had another good year in terms of adding new links and reactivating older links. We are embarking on some new initiatives beginning in 2016. We will be revising our logo to make it more contemporary so stay tuned to the new look. We will also be shortening the Obligation of the Engineer statement, making it present-day and much speedier to recite the entire statement by inductees during induction ceremonies.

Again this year, I am very pleased to recognize the 2016 three recipients of the Outstanding Link Coordinator Award:

- Laurie Bonini of the University of Wyoming;
 - Dr. Raymond Cook, P.E., University of New Hampshire; and
 - Professor Gregory Bucks of the University of Cincinnati.
- See article inset later in the newsletter. These individuals exemplify link coordinators that have a special impact on young engineers before they begin their practicing careers.

I would like to thank retiring Past Chair and long-time Governor Don Rathbone, PhD, P.E., for his many contributions to OE over the years.

Current Vice-Chair Paul Hale, Jr., PhD, P.E. and I will be initiating a three-year OE strategic plan to facilitate growth and provide direction as we move the organization forward in the coming years.

Like other national technical and professional organizations, we are asking our leadership to read the book titled *Race for Relevance: 5 Radical Changes for Associations* written by Harrison Coerver and Mary Byers, CAE in an attempt to better understand need for change.

Sincerely, **Kenneth McGowan, P.E. , F. NSPE**
Chair, Board of Governors

AN UNFAMILIAR RING

The Order of the Engineer is an important symbol of our professional responsibilities. Unfortunately, too few faculty and students are encouraged to join. Each year, more than 140,000 baccalaureate or master's degree students graduate from our engineering programs. Yet only 15,000 are initiated annually into the Order of the Engineer, a symbol of our profession's duty to serve humanity, respect the Earth, and, as the Obligation says, "participate in none but honest enterprises."

Why the yawning gap in numbers? Most newly graduated engineers are not offered the opportunity to take the Obligation. One reason may be that most faculty do not belong and may even be unfamiliar with it. Look around you. How many of your colleagues wear the stainless steel ring that signifies membership?

The paucity of faculty in the Order is a missed opportunity for engineering education. For many students, the only engineer they know is the one who is in the front of their class. They respect and emulate teachers who transform their lives. ABET Criterion 3f requires that students display "an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility." While a number of engineering schools offer ethics classes or weave ethics into introductory courses, the sight of faculty members sporting the ring serves to reinforce those lessons. It's an unspoken reminder to students of the ethical dimension of engineering and a sign that their instructors take it seriously.

We all know what makes a good engineer: technical prowess that is grounded by theory, problem-solving acumen, design intelligence and virtuous character. Undergraduate engineer curricula are tightly connected to the society our graduates serve. Quality is maintained by a nearly universal commitment to accreditation. Virtue - synonymous with good thinking - isn't just about adopting the right technique. It's a moral enterprise that is tested daily. Borrowing from the 2007 book *Intellectual Virtues* by Robert C. Roberts and W. Jay Wood, good thinking consists of a love of learning, courage, firmness, generosity, autonomy, and humility.

The Obligation embodies all of these characteristics of intellectual virtue. It is readily available to all engineers who have graduated from an ABET accredited program, and have publically pledged to practice integrity and fair dealing, tolerance and respect, and to uphold devotion to the standards and dignity of the profession. There are no exams, no applications, no dues, no meetings to attend, and no formal membership responsibilities. Simply, members are asked to accept the Obligation; to ethical

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practice and serving with humility.

Induction is easy. It takes two or three members of the Order to officiate a ceremony, often held in association with commencement. They provide a welcome, a history, and a presentation on the significance of the Order and the ring. They lead the candidates through the Obligation, which is then followed by the awarding of certificates and rings. An hour later, another group of engineers have become members of the Order, proudly wearing the ring of a dignified profession with ethical responsibilities.

Simple though it is, the ceremony can make a deep impression on new engineering graduates. I asked a recent mechanical engineering graduate who is starting an exciting career in the mobile computing industry - an industry that does not require engineering licensure - why she took the Obligation. She said: "I want to be reminded that I am an engineer with certain values that I need to abide by. I want to announce to the world that I am part of something important."

Let's provide each of our newly minted graduates with the opportunity to take the Obligation, to wear the ring of our profession, and to be reminded daily about the responsibility to serve without reservation for public good. Making this available to all - especially to the many of our colleagues in non-PE disciplines - can strengthen the standing of the profession in society.

Let's do this by first inviting our very own faculty into the Order. Helpful hints, ring logistics, and suggested scripts are provided on the Order's website at www.order-of-theengineer.org. Then let's organize ceremonies for our graduates. Accepting the Obligation and wearing the ring are great first steps for engineers to take in building the moral fortitude to do the right thing. Their character will be tested daily. Let's help them pass the next set of tests outside the halls of academy.

Author: Debra Larson, Dean of Engineering at CalPoly San Luis Obispo. Reprinted from ASEE's Prism

2016 Outstanding Link Coordinators Named

In January, 2016, the Order's *Recognition Committee* selected three individuals for our *Outstanding Link Coordinator Award*. These selections were made from a group of distinguished nominees each deserving of this prestigious recognition. This award was developed by the Order in 2013 to recognize the outstanding efforts of Link Coordinators throughout the Nation who have provided exemplary service to the Order in the development, organization, and administration of a Regional Link and their Ring Ceremonies. Every year, up to four individual awards are to

be presented to eligible candidates representing each of the US Regions including the Northeast (Region I), Southeast (Region II), Midwest (Region III), and the West (Region VI).

We are proud to present the following individuals as the Outstanding Link Coordinator recipients in 2015:



Professor Raymond Cook, PE, Associate Professor-Department of Civil Engineering, University of New Hampshire, Link #148 (Region I)

Professor Cook "Ray" is the Associate Professor of (Civil) Engineering and has served as a Link Coordinator/Faculty Advisor at UNH for over 20-years having been involved in the University's first induction ceremony in 1994. He works closely with the students to schedule and arrange all aspects of the Order Ceremonies for more than 1,500 graduating engineering students while providing his unique energy and personality to the program that continues to engage the students year after year.

"For many people, the Order of the Engineer is a 1-day ceremony where one recites a pledge and gets a ring. For Ray, the Order of the Engineer is a lifetime commitment to the fundamentals of what it means to be a professional engineer. He does this as a role model for students in his classes and by his commitment to his hometown and University Communities."



Professor Gregory Bucks, Student Advising Coordinator, University of Cincinnati, Link #142 (Region II)

Professor Bucks joined the University of Cincinnati in 2012 in the Department of Engineering Education and since that time has been coordinating the University's Order of the Engineer induction ceremonies and offering ways to improve and enhance the overall experience for participants and attendees. Clark Beck, Regional Order

Governor, offers these words.... *"In just four years he has made a notable improvement in the number of inductees, the knowledge of the Ring on the UC Campus and the support of the Dean's office"* and in the words of Dean Teik C. Lim, PhD, PE. *".....he exemplifies the spirit of pride and responsibility in the engineering profession"*.



Ms. Laurie Bonini, Student Advising Coordinator, University of Wyoming, Link #103 (Region IV)

Ms. Bonini has served as the University's Link Coordinator since 2013 and each year inducts over 150 graduating engineers in two separate ceremonies - one in May and the other in December. Ms. Bonini has a long record of accomplishment at the University of Wyoming.

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In 2007 she became the recruiting and retention coordinator in the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources. In 2011 she became the recruiting and retention coordinator in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. In 2013 she moved to her current position as the Student Advising Coordinator for the College of Engineering and Applied Science and now coordinates new student orientation and provides college-wide support to students, faculty, academic professionals and staff on student advising issues, including college and UW policies and student information systems. Laurie manages the Engineering Science courses, coordinates PowerGroups (i.e., learning communities for incoming freshmen), and coordinates the yearly articulation meeting for the college and its Wyoming community college colleagues. Finally, Ms. Bonini coordinates the College Scholarship Program, the College's two yearly Commencement Ceremonies, and works with UW's Tau Beta Pi Chapter in planning the annual College Scholarship and Awards Banquet. Laurie Bonini does all of the above while finding time to provide exemplary service to The Order of the Engineer as a key Link Coordinator for our organization.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN INDUCTION CEREMONY

To view instructions for conducting an Order of the Engineer induction ceremony, see Manual for Conducting Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremonies on the Order website. Web address: www.order-of-the-engineer.org

For mandatory and optional ceremony requirements see table below.

Matrix of Available Resources (www.order-of-the-engineer.org)			
	Element	Requirement	On Website
1	Welcome	Suggested	Y
2	Invocation	Optional	Y
3	History of the Order	Mandatory	Y
4	Significance of the Ring	Mandatory	Y
5	Acceptance of the Ring	Mandatory	Y
6	Presentation of Obligation (Certificate/Ring)	Mandatory	Y
7	Engineering: Responsibility, Ethics & Obligation	Optional	Y
8	Graduation	Optional	-
9	Commencement Speech	Optional	-
10	Technical Presentation	Optional	N
11	Presentations of License or Certificate (any)	Optional	N
12	Concluding Remarks	Suggested	Y

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2015 - 2016 Updated March 29, 2016



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