



## Chair's Message



Time flies as it's been two years since I became the Chair of York Chapter. Over the past 2 years, York Chapter has been extremely busy with the successful implementation of the following three new initiatives:

1. High School Scholarship
2. Accelerated Mentoring program
3. Pilot program for Engineer-In-Training (EIT) mentoring

The High School Scholarship program was so successful that the chapter was able to award 5 scholarships to students who chose engineering as their field of study after completing high school. PEO only provided funding for 2 scholarships but York Chapter was able to raise money from events and private donations to maintain 5 scholarships this past year; we are continually looking at more funding to be able to provide more scholarships in the future.

The Accelerated Mentoring Program which ran for the very first time this year was a success with around 100 Professional Engineering mentors and mentees. Participants' feedback was very positive and this initiative has greatly helped the participants in their career planning.

York Chapter had the honour to launch the first Pilot Program for EITs. This program helped EITs seek career guidance and provided them with first hand knowledge from mentors who are seasoned engineers in their respective disciplines. The successful completion of this Pilot Program will see this program being rolled out to the other chapters.

Additionally, York Chapter is very strong participant in the mentoring program at York and Ryerson University. This year, Ryerson was introduced to A Guest Lecturer For a Day program with Ed Poon taking the lead. The program is still at its infancy stage and should be beneficial to both mentors and students. The program provided students with what a practicing Professional Engineer does via a presentation at Ryerson.

Recently, I was asked to provide mentoring for first year students at the University of Toronto. Companies or individual engineers are asked to provide a workplace issue to the students and the students/mentor will meet 3 times in a school term to brainstorm and offer suggestions to resolve the proposed issue. The students will in turn learn valuable problem solving skills, program management, documentation of an issue, and teamwork.

I have enjoyed the past two years as Chair and now towards the end of my term, I wish to thank all the chapter executives who helped me in running the chapter. The activities that were provided by our chapter will continue to bring out our image as Professional Engineers in our community and also keep our members at York Chapter engaged. Please continue to help your chapter by volunteering. Thank you and may the new year bring many blessings to you and your family.

Kam S. Leong, P.Eng.  
Chair, York Chapter



## Vice Chair's Message



2010 is marked as another successful year for PEO York Chapter. With 6,530 P.Eng. and 516 EITs currently registered, York Chapter is growing strong in PEO and York Region. We continue to be the pioneer of many programs and projects run in PEO chapters across

Ontario. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all executives and committee volunteers who have worked hard for our chapter. I also want to thank all event participants and event sponsors who made today's achievement possible.

As always, we encourage volunteers to get involved and welcome new ideas. If you have any interest or opinion to express, please email me at [vicechair@peoyork.com](mailto:vicechair@peoyork.com)

I look forward to seeing more new faces in Year 2011.

Sarah Jin, P.Eng.  
Vice Chair, York Chapter

## Contact Us

**Mailing Address:** Professional Engineers  
Ontario - York Chapter  
Box 186, 7305 Woodbine Avenue  
Markham, ON L3R 3V7

**Web Address:** <http://www.peoyork.com>

## Chapter Board 2010/2011

### Officers

**Chair:** Kam Leong, P.Eng.  
**Vice Chair:** Sarah Jin, P.Eng.  
**Secretary:** Donald Eng, P.Eng.  
**Treasurer:** Ronnie Fong, P.Eng.  
**Past Chair:** Edward Poon, P.Eng.

### Executives

**Certificate Director:** Patrick Yeung, P.Eng.  
**Comm. Director:** Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng.  
**Education Director:** Gord Young, P.Eng.  
**GLP Director:** Gerry Meade, P.Eng.  
**Deputy GLP Director:** Ed Fung, P.Eng.  
**Program Director:** Simon Hum, P.Eng.  
**Mentorship Director:** Gordon Ip, P.Eng.



## Certificate Ceremony News

PEO York Chapter held our '2010 Fall Certificate Presentation Ceremony' event at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel on September 25, 2010. This event was well attended by nearly seventy certificate recipients. In addition, five high school graduates were presented with their scholarship awards. Total attendees reached one hundred and eighty-five, a record for Fall Ceremony Events in York Chapter's history.

To retrieve a copy of the recipients group photo, please visit the Photo Gallery section of our website. Additionally, a copy of the brochure can be downloaded from the Archive section of our website.

Our next certificate event is scheduled to be held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. If you are a new certificate recipient or you have missed the last ceremony event, please contact the Certificate Director, Patrick Yeung, at [certificate@peoyork.com](mailto:certificate@peoyork.com).

Patrick Yeung, MSc. P.Eng  
Certificate Director

## Program News

The York Chapter of PEO thanks its members for their interest and support of all program events and seminars. York Chapter is active on technical development, proactive to the needs of its members for retirement planning, and active in promoting the engineering profession regardless of territorial boundaries between chapters.

York Chapter members were able to enjoy a technical tour and presentation of Honeywell Aerospace or a VIVA tour and presentation at York Region Transit. These events provided members with the opportunities to showcase their engineering profession and pride through their companies, products, and systems.

The diverse retirement planning needs of individual members require different seminars targeted to a specific audience. Members enjoyed seminars on wills and estates, tax-planning, real estate, as well as market updates and investment strategies including

recognizing and avoiding the "Six Mistakes that Investors Make".

York Chapter is active in promoting the engineering profession regardless of territorial boundaries between chapters. The technical tour and presentation at Honeywell Aerospace was a joint event with the Grand River Chapter and is an affirmation that York Chapter is actively reaching across territorial boundaries to



promote the engineering profession regardless of physical boundaries.

Simon Hum, P.Eng.  
Program Director

## Communication News

Since we instituted our content management system last year, we are able to improve the speed of our website updates. While our system is good and stable at this moment, additional work is required to resolve some technical idiosyncrasies with our layout template. As a result of these idiosyncrasies, contents on some web pages are affected. We are hoping to resolve this soon.

In terms of our communications, we have started to embed an online registration mechanism in to our event notifications emails. Our members should have noticed this in the last 6 to 9 months. This enables members to quickly register for events. However, this will only work if your email client supports HTML.

My vision for future improvement is the integration of social networking for our chapter. This needs to be done in a balanced and non-intrusive way. More details will be provided in the months to come.

As always, I am looking for ideas to improve the communication between the members and the chapter. Please do not hesitate to send me your feedback and comments.

Dennis Woo, PhD, P.Eng.  
Communications Director

## York University Mentorship

Our past chair, Matthew Xie and Education director Gord Young volunteered their time on October 21. They delivered a Project Management key note lecture for 24 4th year engineering students. Gord covered the basic concepts and application of MS Project software. Matthew offered his team's experience in designing and delivering an innovative product for the Ford F150 truck.

Some students questioned the implication of design mistakes and human resources constraints on the project timeline. Gord and Matthew shared their personal experience on how to recover from ever-increasing customer demand and technical uncertainties. Students got a first hand exposure to many P.Engs' hard work and dedication.

Prof. George Zhu concluded the lecture by thanking the York Chapter executive team for making this event a success.

## 2011 Chapter Executive Nominations

The nominating committee of PEO York Chapter is accepting nominations for the Chapter Directorate. The chapter executives are volunteer members who donate time and effort to participate in the operations and functions of the chapter.

There is no direct monetary compensation, except for certain out-of-pocket expenses. The elected executives are required to attend monthly meetings and participate in certain events/functions. Additional time commitments will vary depending upon the particular role/function of each position.

Pertinent sections of the chapter by-laws Article 4 are:

1. The Directorate shall be not less than six (6) members and not more than twelve (12) members. A quorum shall be five (5).
2. A nominating committee comprised of one (1) member of the current directorate and two (2) members at large shall be appointed by the current executive. A notice shall be sent annually to all members requesting nominations for the directorate. The nominations must be received by the



committee two (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Nominations must bear the signature of two (2) nominators and the nominee. A nominee must be a member of the chapter.

3. A slate of candidates including all those properly nominated shall be proposed by the nominating committee for presentation at AGM.

4. The directorate shall be elected at the AGM from the proposed slate of candidates.

5. The directorate will meet immediately after the AGM to elect the officers from its members.

6. The officers shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The immediate Past Chair shall be an officer ex-officio. The office of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

To submit your name for nomination, please email your full name, PEO number, email address and phone number to [2011nomination@peoyork.com](mailto:2011nomination@peoyork.com). For a copy of the York Chapter by-laws, contact Chapter Secretary, Donald Eng, P.Eng., at [secretary@peoyork.com](mailto:secretary@peoyork.com). All nominations must be received by the committee two (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), at the address below, by January 22, 2011. All York members are encouraged to attend and partake in the election process.

Nomination Committee

### Government Liaison Program Committee

The past year has been a reasonably busy one for York Chapter's Government Liaison Committee. Dave Barrow, Mayor for Richmond Hill, attended our Feb. Annual General Meeting and Certificate Ceremony. The Design Challenge in March 2010 was supported by Ontario MPPs Frank Klees and Julia Munro, and Tony Van Bynen (Mayor of Newmarket). On June 11, 2010 the chapter hosted its 4th breakfast session with Bryon Wilfert, MP Richmond Hill. Over 40 members were in attendance to hear Mr. Wilfert speak on Development and Infrastructure Funding. We were fortunate to have MPPs Reza Moridi and Frank Klees in attendance at the September 25 Certificate Ceremony. In addition, members of the GLP and York Chapter Executive attended PEO's reception with MPPs on September 22, and fund raisers for MPP Reza Moridi on Oct 8, MPP Helena Jaczek on Oct 27 and MP Bryan Wilfert on Nov 4.

Members were encouraged to participate in the October municipal elections. Dominique Janssens, P.Eng. was acclaimed as a School Board Trustee, French Separate School Board, Oakville. Thomas Chong, P.Eng. and Peter

Cushman, P.Eng. achieved very commendable support but unfortunately came in second in their respective bids for Councillor and School Board Trustee in Richmond Hill. We hope to see more members involved in next year's provincial elections.

Gerry Meade, P.Eng.  
GLP Director

### Education News

#### Design Challenge

PEO York Chapter held its 11th annual Design Challenge for teams of grade 7 and 8 students from schools in York Region in March at Newmarket High School. A total of 74 students were registered from fifteen teams representing a mix of schools from York's catholic and public boards as well as one independent school.

This year's challenge was to design and build a car that would protect an egg from cracking after rolling down an inclined ramp and hitting a fixed barrier. The students were supplied with a list of specified requirements for the car, a fixed set of materials and then designed and built their cars during the event. The teams were judged on planning and concept development, car design and construction before the cars were crash tested on the ramp. Scoring was based on a combination of the pre-test judging and performance during the crash tests.

#### Design Challenge 2010 Winners



The crash testing was run as a single elimination competition with the ramp slope being increased through 4 different inclinations. After each test, the egg was removed from the car and inspected for damage. If the egg was cracked the team was eliminated from the competition. If there was no damage to the egg, the team could do minor repairs to the car and moved on to the next level. In the end, four teams built cars that passed the final ramp height

There were special guests in attendance at the event, including Ontario MPPs Frank Klees and Julia Munro, and Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen. The event was organized by the PEO

York Chapter Education Committee with 20 volunteers out supporting the event from PEO and OACETT.

#### Scholarship Program

For the second year, PEO York Chapter has supported 5 University Entrance Scholarships of \$500 each for students graduating from a secondary school in the York Chapter area who were going on to take engineering at a Canadian university.

The scholarships were awarded based on the each of the student's contributions in the community, their involvement in intra and extracurricular activities, and their intention to make a career in the profession of engineering.

The winners were: Sakina Essajee of Markham who is starting Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto; Beth Gimpoli of Newmarket who is starting Engineering at McMaster University; Chun Kei Tang of Markham who is starting Engineering Science



at the University of Toronto; Joshua Vermont of Aurora who is starting Nanotechnology Engineering at the University of Waterloo; and Sophie Yu of Richmond Hill who is starting Mechanical Engineering Co-op at the University of Waterloo.

#### E.I.C. Program

The Education Committee continues to run the Engineer in the Classroom (EIC) Program which is a partnership between engineers and educators that brings real-world experience to the teaching of science, technology and mathematics. The program connects teachers with volunteer engineers who spend part of a day in a classroom presenting the engineering profession to a group of young minds and helping them see the connection between what is being taught in school and its applications in industry and everyday life.

If you are interested in participating in this program and sharing your engineering experience with a class of children, please send your contact details to [education@peoyork.com](mailto:education@peoyork.com).



York Chapter Mathletics 2010

The third annual PEO York Chapter Mathletics competition was just held at Seneca College Markham Campus on November 13th. The contest was split into two levels: "junior" (up to grade 6) and "senior" (from grades 7 and 8). 80 children from across the region competed for fun and prizes. AMD generously stepped in as title sponsor for the event this year.

Mathletics is a competition designed to create a passion in the application of mathematics in solving day-to-day scientific and engineering problems. The participants used wireless clickers to enter their answers into the central computer that recorded all of the responses and compiled the results for the competition.

The chapter was honoured to have special guest Raymond Li, Sr. Director, IC Design Engineering for Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (AMD) open the ceremony with some words of encouragement and inspiration for the kids.

Gord Young, P.Eng  
Education Director

*Mentorship Program*

As one of the largest PEO chapters, we can be proud of the large number of experienced senior and executive level engineers that make up the membership of the York Chapter. We are also thankful for the growing number of internationally trained engineers and recent



Mathletics 2010

engineering school graduates who make York Region their home. Our chapter executive board strongly feels that establishing mentor-protégé relationships is one of the most beneficial ways to help our fellow engineers establish or progress their careers. The chapter has been very active over the past several years with our mentoring program for 4th year engineering students at York and Ryerson universities. As a 2010 initiative, the chapter executive board established a mentorship committee to continue and grow our mentorship programs and extend the program to our members. I am very happy to be the chapter's first Director of the Mentorship Programs.

We began our program this year with an Accelerated Mentoring Event where we had 16 executive level engineers rotate amongst 16 stations of 80 protégés to share their experiences and answer questions pertaining to career advancement, career opportunities in a down economy, soft skills, setting career goals, and overcoming challenges and how to network to find employment.

The York Chapter is also thankful to participate as 1 of 5 pilot chapters in the PEO Mentorship Program, which pairs EITs one-on-one with a senior engineer to provide guidance and support as they progress towards professional licensure. The chapter will continue to facilitate mentor-protégé follow-up, culminating in a networking event in December 2010.

The chapter is committed to continue engaging with our members to expand our mentorship program in 2011. We look forward to your participation.

Gordon Ip, P.Eng., FEC  
Mentorship Programs Director

*York Chapter & COSTI*

Our chapter is working with community organizations to encourage foreign trained engineers (FTEs) to pursue their P.Eng designation from PEO. Our Chapter Chair Kam Leong worked with Ms. Miranda Boffo

from COSTI Vaughan Employment Services to organize a workshop on October 22. About 35 FTEs attended this session. Kam outlined the flow chart for FTEs to get P.Eng licenses, Sarah Jin (Vice Chair) offered her personal advice to many FTEs during Q&A, and Matthew Xie (Past Chair) presented his approach on career management and advocated the FTEs to create a career portfolio to keep track of their career growth and collect evidence to support their job search. Matthew conducted mocked interviews with an engineer from Jordan, Russia, and India respectively.

*OSPE Update*

OSPE actively advocates for Ontario's Professional Engineers. They work hard to strengthen the cooperation with PEO chapters. OSPE's social committee successfully organized a summer BBQ in July with PEO York Chapter's support. More than 80 people attended the event. Many praised OSPE's effort to create the networking opportunities and raise P.Eng's image.

OSPE's Chapter Liaison Committee is working with PEO chapters to organize different events that matter to the members' day to day life. An event of "Managing your personal growth via social media ( Facebook, LinkedIn etc) are being planned. OSPE also has a career centre that offer skills development and job postings for its members. Please visit [www.opse.on.ca](http://www.opse.on.ca) for details. If you are interested in volunteering for OSPE to create more value-added activities at OSPE, contact Matthew Xie (member of the Board of Directors) at [matthewxie2009@yahoo.ca](mailto:matthewxie2009@yahoo.ca).

Matthew Xie, P.Eng.  
OSPE Liaison Chair

*About this Newsletter*

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the 7,000 members of the York Chapter, Professional Engineers Ontario. Its main goal is to communicate the chapter's activities and views and to be a voice of our members. Hence, your comments, letters to the editor and guest articles are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity and style. The newsletter content does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Council of Professional Engineers Ontario, nor does the association assume responsibility for the opinion expressed.

Comments and suggestions of this newsletter should be communicated via email to [communications@peoyork.com](mailto:communications@peoyork.com)

*Placeholder for mailing address*