View this email in your browser

FALL 2026

DAPE NEWS

President's Message

BY Theodore A. Thomson, Jr. PhD, PE, LEED AP

Delaware Engineering Community,

Welcome to another DAPE season!!!! The 2026-2027 season (which started with a new slate of officers elected in September 2026), is our 55th year in operation. Our new officers, who also make up the Executive Committee, are:

- Theodore A. Thomson, Jr. PhD, P.E., LEED AP, President
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Vice President
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Secretary
- Anthony Kline, P.E., Treasurer
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Immediate Past President

As we enter this new season, the DAPE Council and Committees have several initiatives we are pursuing. These consist of:

- Meetings with State and local municipalities - we are scheduling these meetings with several agencies to discuss the Engineering Law and interpretation thereof to ensure that projects are undertaken lawfully. Some items to be discussed are: definition of "responsible charge"; "Engineer of Record"; the need for Certificates of Authorization; the use of AI; and the increasing use of fraudulent seals;
- Resumption of regular meetings with the Board of Architects via the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) - This committee was formed through a Memorandum of Understanding between DAPE and the Delaware Board of Architects in June 2006, and is tasked with working together to delineate what constitutes the practice of architecture and/or the practice of engineering, and to discuss items which mutually impact our professions. This committee was suspended during COVID. We look forward to collaborating with our architect partners again!!!; and
- Succession planning and identification of a new Executive Director for DAPE, as current director Jen Wootten has announced her goal to retire by the end of 2027.

As always, our Examining Committee will continue to review applications for licensure and Certificates of Authorization and our Law Enforcement & Ethics Committees will continue to review alleged violations of the Engineering Law.

A couple of recent items our Council has taken part in:

- NCEES Annual Meeting - several of our Council Members attended the annual meeting held in Henderson, NV from August 18 to 21, 2026. Topics discussed included: the use of AI and the need to remain diligent in reviewing the results provided; the use of fraudulent seals and "work for hire" websites. A Law Enforcement Workshop was also held which provided an excellent overview on conducting investigatory cases from an engineering and legal perspective;
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - On October 14, 2026, the DAPE held our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Monroe Hite, PE from our Examining Committee received the Distinguished Service Award and Representative Ronald Gray, PE received the Outreach Champion Award. Many thanks to both for their tireless commitment to DAPE. You can read more about their contributions in this newsletter; and
- Completion of the Certificate of Authorization renewals. Not sure if your firm renewed? Check our active roster here and contact office@dape.org if you need help.

As we move forward into a new season, the Staff, Council and Committee members would like to reaffirm our commitment to serving the Delaware engineering community. I am truly and sincerely honored to represent this great organization.

I would like to close by thanking Vince Fazio, PE for his past two years as President. He leaves large shoes to fill!!!!

Executive Director's Message

BY JENNIFER WOOTTEN

"Back to School" time doesn't really hit the same once your kids move out of the house, but it still always strikes me as the most bittersweet seasonal change, from long relaxed days to noticeably shorter and much busier. Here at DAPE, September brings new Council members, new officers, new committee chairs and members, and new committee charges (a list of annual goals for each committee). I am always grateful for the collective contribution of volunteers to DAPE, and I hope you'll keep reading to learn more about our recent volunteer appreciation event and 2026

volunteer award winners. If you feel inspired, please email me to find out how you can get involved!

I did get a little taste of back to school nostalgia at multiple University of Delaware College of Engineering outreach events this fall. Most recently, I spoke to the Senior Civil Design students, and was pleasantly surprised by how many of the seniors have already passed or registered for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. NCEES has had a record-breaking year of administering the FE exam, as well as the Principles & Practice of Engineering (PE) exam. You can find more information about PE licensure trends by reading the NCEES newsletter and other publications.

As Ted mentioned in his message above, I recently let the DAPE Council and staff know that I am hoping to retire by the end of 2027 (speaking of bittersweet and nostalgia). I know many of you still think of me as the new Executive Director, but I have been here almost 9 years now. While the Employee Benefits and Compensation Committee is still working on updated job descriptions and a succession plan before officially opening the job search, please reach out to me directly if you have any candidates to recommend to DAPE, so I can pass the information along to the committee (jen@dape.org).

Distinguished Service Award

Examining Committee chair Ken Tadler (left) presented Monroe Hite with DAPE's 2026 Distinguished Service Award.

Monroe earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1996, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Wilmington University in 2009. A licensed PE since 2001, he began his 30-year career at

DelDOT in 1996. While employed with DelDOT, he worked in various positions in Planning, Design, Traffic, and Right of Way Engineering with his remaining 6 years as Chief of Right of Way for DelDOT. He recently retired from DelDOT, and entered the consulting engineering sector with Whitman, Requardt and Associates in February 2026.

Monroe joined DAPE's Examining Committee in the fall of 2022, and quickly became an invaluable DAPE volunteer. Monroe has dedicated countless hours to reviewing applications each month. He has a thoughtful and collaborative approach to the application review process. Monroe has helped this committee accomplish several big charges in the last few years, including revisions to the law and ethics questionnaire which is included on each PE application, and revisions to the Committee's application review requirements.

Monroe and his wife Kertrina have been married for 26 years and they have a grown son, Monroe IV. Both Kertrina and Monroe IV are also graduates of the University of Delaware. In addition to his service to DAPE, Monroe is also active in various engineering, social, and volunteer organizations.

Outreach Champion Award

Outgoing Council member Joseph Jakubowski presented Representative Ronald Gray with DAPE's Engineering Outreach Champion Award.

Representative Ron Gray earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1977, and a Master's in Business Administration from Indiana University in 1979. His initial P.E. license was approved in Pennsylvania, and he has been licensed as a Professional Engineer in Delaware since 1984.

He was elected to represent the 28th District in the Delaware House of Representatives in 2012, and his 16 year term will come to an end this November. Both his father and grandfather also served as Delaware State Representatives. Representative Gray is the Owner of R.E. Gray & Associates Engineering Co. and part Owner and Operator of several local family businesses. He resides in Selbyville with his wife, Candice. They are proud parents to 3 children, and 5 grandchildren.

Representative Gray has sponsored or co-sponsored many bills on behalf of DAPE since 2012. He has worked with DAPE Council and Committee members to understand underlying issues that have prompted changes in the Delaware Professional Engineers' Act, and presented summaries of these issues at countless legislative committee meetings. Most recently, he co-sponsored House Bill No. 319, which was enacted into law on June 24, 2026.

Welcome New Council Members

Each summer (between June 15-July 15), DAPE licensees who either live or work in Delaware are invited to participate in the Council election. Thank you to everyone that took the time to vote. As a result, DAPE welcomed two new Council members, and elected a current Council member to serve a full 4-year term:

- Timothy Bell, P.E., New Castle County Seat
- Jordan Jakubowski, P.E., Civil Engineering Seat
- Mark Scarborough, P.E., Industry Seat

Looking ahead to 2027, the following Council seats will be on the ballot. While Nominating Petitions are not due until May 1, 2027, feel free to reach out to learn more if you are interested in serving on Council.

- Electrical Engineering
- Private Consulting
- Kent County

Thank you outgoing Council members

As we welcome our new Council members and work on forming committees, we also send our heart-felt thanks to two outgoing Council members:

- Daniel Barbato, P.E., New Castle County Seat
- Joseph Jakubowski, P.E., Civil Engineering Seat

Dan just completed his second 8-year term on DAPE's Council, and Joe just completed an 8+ year term (since he was originally appointed to fill an open position). Both served as Council President, and each chaired a committee (or two or three). Additionally, they have both served on NCEES Committees. Thanks, Dan and Joe!

Welcome Delaware's Newest PEs

PE Number	Name	PE Number	Name
33530	Varsha Ajith	33260	Gregory McFadden
33331	Hossein Atoufi	33592	Jacob Mitchell
33263	Ty Bereskie	33329	Joey Danger Morrissiey
33529	Kyle Jared Breiman	33328	Caitlin Mulqueen
33258	Andrew John Cleek	33332	Karina Nakhshumov
33588	Joseph Collins	33330	Lauren Nalley
33267	Jeffrey W. Cox	33266	Zackery T Parker
33261	Emily Frederick	33590	Nicholas R Pellegrino
33269	Matthew Fulmer	33391	Justin J. Redding
33468	Grant M. Gano	33531	Jason Roman-Mancini
33259	Nolan R. Green	33390	Justin Roth
33270	Darian Greenfield	33393	Matthew Schilling
33526	Brayden J. Hawkins	33392	Brian E Sparks
33469	Jonathan V. Hess	33470	Julia Szabla
33528	Emily S. Hufnal	33262	Solomon Z Tafesse
33387	Caroline M. Krauss	33268	Benjamin Alan Vann
33264	Patrick A. Lacey	33334	Danielle Verdecchia
33386	Ahmad H. Mageid	33594	Matthew Edmund Wiegner
33589	Michelle L. Martz	33265	Christopher Woloszyn
33593	Joshua L. Maxson	33527	Melina N. Zeely
33271	Mitchell J. Maxwell		

Council Executive Committee

- Theodore A. Thomson, Jr. PhD, P.E., LEED AP, President
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Vice President
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Secretary
- Anthony Kline, P.E., Treasurer
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Immediate Past President

Council Members (Term Expiration Date)

- Timothy Bell, P.E., New Castle County (8/31/30)
- Diane Calloway, P.E., Sussex County (8/31/28)
- Vincent Fazio, P.E., Electrical Engineering (8/31/27)
- Anthony Ingram, New Castle Co. - Appointed (6/20/29)
- Jordan Jakubowski, P.E., Civil Engineering (8/31/30)
- Anthony Kline, P.E., Other Engineering (8/31/29)
- Chad R. Lingenfelder, Esq., Sussex Co. - Appointed (10/6/26)
- Stacy McNatt, P.E., Government Seat (8/31/29)
- James Puddicombe, P.E., Kent County (8/31/27)
- Michael Rasmussen, Kent Co. - Appointed (6/18/29)
- Mark Scarborough, P.E., Industry Seat (8/31/30)
- Melanie A. Smith, P.E., Chemical Engineering (8/31/29)
- David Reinhold, P.E., Education (8/31/28)
- Theodore A. Thomson, Jr. PhD, P.E., LEED AP, Private Consulting (8/31/27)
- Kenneth Tadler, P.E., Mechanical Engineering (8/31/28)

DAPE Staff

- Jennifer Wootten, Executive Director
- Kathy Davis, Executive Assistant
- Beth Baughman, Administrative Assistant

Copyright (C) 2026 Delaware Association of Professional Engineers. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe