



# NEWSLETTER

## TOLEDO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

### Upcoming Event TSPE March Chapter Meeting

- Investment in the Northwest Ohio Area. The Regional Growth Partnership
- Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>
  - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- Room 1022 N Eng. at UT.

#### Chapter Officers

- President – Vincent DiPofi, PE
- President Elect – James Gonya, EI
- State Representative - Travis Rhoades, PE
- Secretary - Alexandra Anhwere, PE
- Treasurer - Trent Hathaway
- 1st Past President – Richard Martinko, PE
- 2nd Past President – Open

#### (2018-20) - Trustees

- Amy Zimmerman, PE
- Douglas Nims, PhD, PE
- Joe Cherry, PE, F.NSPE
- Richard Springman, PE

#### (2011-2020) - Trustees

- Bernadette Caris, EI
- Ariya Fathi, EI
- Ahmed Hamid, PE
- Dean Michael Toole, PhD, PE

Membership & Growth - James Gonya  
Student Chapter President - Jennifer Abney  
Records - Justin Fleming

#### 2019-20 Board Meeting Schedule

- 4:30pm UT N. Engineering Conf. Rm.
- September 4, 2019
  - October 1, 2019
  - November 5, 2019
  - December 3, 2019
  - January 7, 2020
  - February 4, 2020
  - March 3, 2020
  - April 7, 2020
  - May 5, 2020
  - July 9, 2020 (Planning Meeting)

### Message from: Vince DiPofi, PE, President, TSPE



We've just finished another successful Engineer's Week. Our MATHCOUNTS, Engineer of the Year Luncheon, Engineer for a Day, and Engineer of the Year Banquet all had excellent turnout. We had 126 Luncheon and 315 Banquet registrations. Of special note, was our annual Girls Day at the University of

Toledo where over 600 girls participated from as far away as Cleveland! Congratulations to our Young Engineer of the Year, Bernadette Caris and our Engineer of the Year, Mike Gramza, PE. The Toledo area has once again shown why our E-Week is annually the best in the State of Ohio. Thanks to all of you for your personal and financial support. You make a difference in Northwest Ohio

#### 2020 ENGINEERS WEEK COMMITTEE

**Vince DiPofi, P.E. - General Chair**  
**Richard Martinko, P.E. - Vice Chair**

- Elected Officials Liaison:** Tom Uhler, P.E.  
**Engineer for a Day:** Drew Mekus, P.E. & Shelly Nielsen - Co-Chairs; Bryan Bosch  
**Engineer of the Year Selection:** Tom Uhler, P.E. - Chair  
Fred Tito, P.E.; Richard Martinko, P.E. (Past EOY - 2018); Laurie Adams, P.E. (Past EOY - 2019)  
**Event Coordination:** Carrie Powers  
**Facilities/Reservations:** Denise Krupp  
**Fundraising:** Bernadette Caris; Gabriel Michel, E.I.  
**MATHCOUNTS:** Dan Stark, P.E., - Co-Chair  
Adrienne Taylor, P.E. - Co-Chair  
Bernadette Caris - Co-Chair  
Joseph Cherry, P.E.; Fred Tito, P.E.; Bryan Bosch; Anna Turski, Gloria Messner; Richard Springman, P.E.; Sandy Stewart  
**Past Engineers Week Chair:** Chett Siefing, P.E.  
**Publicity:** Adrienne Taylor, P.E., Jim Burnnett-Grigsby, P.E.  
**Scholarship Selection:** Richard Springman, P.E.  
**Speaker Selection:** Amy Zimmerman, P.E. - Chair  
Richard Springman, P.E.  
**Treasurer:** Fred Tito, P.E.  
**TSPE President:** Vince DiPofi, P.E.  
**UT Liaison:** Bryan Bosch



### NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK® February 16 - 22, 2020 **BANQUET**



## Michael T. Gramza II, P.E. 2020 Northwest Ohio Engineer Of The Year



Mike recently retired from the Ohio Department of Transportation after three decades of service, where he was instrumental in leading many of northwest Ohio's most notable transportation improvement projects. After his retirement, Mike joined national Architectural, Engineering and Planning firm Bergmann as its Ohio Infrastructure Practice Leader. In this capacity, Mike is responsible for continuing to provide the transportation

leadership to the region and throughout Ohio, while continuing to develop our next generation of engineers.

Mike's engineering career began in 1986 at ODOT District Two as an Engineering Co-op while attending the University of Toledo. Upon his graduation with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Mike joined ODOT District Two as a design engineer. Mike began his career designing projects in the eight counties under the responsibility of District Two. Mike was promoted to District Design Engineer in 1993, where he led transportation engineers and technicians to execute the in-house design program. Mike also represented the District on various statewide committees such as the Pavement Committee that established pavement condition rating goals for Ohio's roadways.

Mike was elevated to the position of District Construction Engineer in 2000 where he held that position for two separate periods of time until January 2011. Mike coordinated a team of engineers and inspectors in the management and oversight of highway construction projects which totaled approximately \$90 million dollars per year. Mike's time as District Construction Engineer was interrupted between 2001 and 2007 when he was designated as the Construction Project Manager for the Veterans' Glass City Skyway (VGCS). At a project cost of \$219 million, the VGCS project was the single largest ODOT contract at that time. The segmental, cable-stayed structure that spans the Maumee River on I-280 is an engineering marvel and one of Mike's career highlights to date.

In addition to managing the contract, Mike's duties during the VGCS construction included briefing media and public agencies on the status of the project. During this time Mike was interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR) for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Interstate System. He also presented the project at several speaking engagements that included the American Segmental Bridge Institute and the Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference, among numerous others. Mike was most proud of the direction ODOT took in terms of sharing this "engineering marvel" during construction by providing presentations and tours to thousands from the community, universities and engineering industry.

In January 2011, following a reorganization of ODOT District offices, Mike was asked to serve as District Planning and Engineering Administrator (PEA).

As PEA, Mike led all aspects of project development and he spoke annually at the TMACOG Transportation Summit to communicate ODOT's program to the region's stakeholders. Additionally, Mike was selected by the University of Toledo as the keynote speaker for the 2015 American Society of Civil Engineers North Central Student Conference. In July 2017, ODOT added Construction to his Planning and Engineering duties. Mike's new department, Capital Programs, included over 100 engineers, inspectors, technicians and support staff.

From 2011 until his 2019 ODOT retirement, Mike was responsible for the oversight of over \$1.3 billion dollars in construction projects. The projects included widening I-75 in various sections between Findlay and I-280 and planning for the widening of I-475 from US24 to US20 including new interchanges at US20A and Dorr Street. Other major projects included the replacement of the Waterville Bridge and reconstruction of the Anthony Wayne Bridge. Mike takes satisfaction in his role in bringing the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) to SR25 and I-475 in Perrysburg. Mike considers the DDI the greatest single traffic improvement that he witnessed during his ODOT career.

Upon Mike's retirement from ODOT, he was recognized for his 32 years of public service to the citizens of Northwest Ohio by the Ohio House, Senate, Lieutenant Governor Jon Husted and Governor Mike DeWine. After a brief vacation, Mike embarked on a new and exciting professional challenge in accepting an offer from Bergmann (Architects | Engineers | Planners) to be its Ohio Infrastructure Practice Leader. Mike found Bergmann's values (Our People, Excellence, Teamwork/Collaboration, Service and Integrity/Ethics) and passion for industry

Mike continues to exemplify the leadership that his ODOT co-workers experienced within Bergmann's Toledo Office and Midwest Region. Mike's team has been successful in securing ODOT work in multiple Districts around Ohio, local transportation infrastructure assignments, water resource/flood control projects and safety project assignments for Bergmann's railroad customers. In accordance with Bergmann's values, Mike continues to be actively engaged with Northwest Ohio's transportation societies and is further expanding his civic responsibilities with organizations such as: American Council of Engineering Companies, National/State/Toledo Professional Engineers Societies and charitable causes.

Mike grew up and still resides in Maumee with his wife Lisa where they raised their two children Kristin and Ben. Kristin is a senior communication specialist with GRANGE in Columbus and continues to pursue her passion for music. Ben is a graduate assistant at Bowling Green State University, teaching statistics while he pursues his master's degree in Statistics. Lisa and Mike celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past October.

Mike is especially proud of the cooperation that he has witnessed by the communities in northwest Ohio over his 32 years in public service to accomplish the numerous transportation projects that have made for one of the most efficient transportation systems in the development and he spoke annually at the TMACOG Transportation Summit to communicate ODOT's program to the region's stakeholders

# Bernadette A. Carris

## 2020 Toledo Society of Professional Engineers Young Engineer Of The Year



Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, Bernadette (McCarthy) Carris graduated from Notre Dame Academy in 2012. Bernadette always had a passion for math and science growing up. However, it was an engineering course taught by Dr. Stuart Salmon that she took during high school that fueled her desire to study engineering. After graduating high school,

Bernadette began working part-time at TTL Associates before starting at the University of Toledo in the fall.

While attending The University of Toledo, she was involved with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter as well as the ASCE concrete canoe competition. She also volunteered her time for UT's career expo, UT's engineering experience days, and as a peer mentor.

During her studies at the University of Toledo, Bernadette worked as a co-op for TTL Associates getting the opportunity to learn in TTL's soils laboratory in Toledo as well as perform quality control testing for runway projects at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Detroit, Michigan and the Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware.

In 2016, Bernadette graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering and a minor in Business Administration from the University of Toledo. Upon graduation, Bernadette was hired full-time as a staff engineer for the Geotechnical Engineering department at TTL Associates. She enjoyed her time working in the field on these notable projects: City of Oregon road improvement project as a project inspector and various US Army Corps of Engineer geotechnical subsurface investigation projects as a field engineer. After switching to the Materials Testing and Inspection Services department, being promoted to a project manager, and ultimately the department assistant manager, she now manages projects from the office and coordinates engineering technician's field work.

Bernadette enjoys being active in the engineering profession outside of the office. She currently serves as a Trustee for the Toledo Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) and is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). She appreciates the opportunity to give back to her high school alma mater as a committee member for Notre Dame Academy's Building and Grounds Committee. Bernadette is a firm believer in helping students learn about the engineering profession. She volunteers for the "Engineer for a Day" and "Girls Day" programs that promote the engineering profession to junior high and high school students and occur every year during the annual National Engineers Week celebration. As well, Bernadette is the co-coordinator for Toledo Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition that helps promote problem solving and math skills for middle school students.

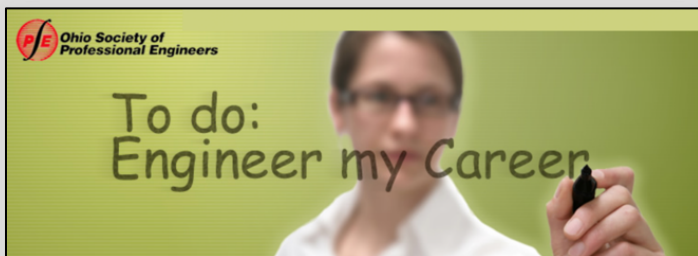
Bernadette met her husband Mark, a Bioengineer, at the University of Toledo in 2013 and they got married in 2018. They live in Sylvania, Ohio together where they are raising their 7-month-old daughter, Leah.

# E Week 2020

## Pioneers For Progress Luncheon and Banquet



### Congratulations TSPE, 4 Star Chapter Again



### Congratulations, OSPE Star Chapters!

Our Star Chapters for fiscal year 2019 are:

- Dayton Chapter \*\*\*\*\*
- Franklin County Chapter \*\*\*\*\*
- **Toledo Chapter \*\*\*\***

Chapters of the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) may earn points toward stars by demonstrating their participation in programs, activities and services endorsed by OSPE and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio.



### 2020 E Week Sponsors

**NSPE-OH** TOLEDO CHAPTER  
OHIO SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

The Engineers Week Committee gratefully acknowledge the continued support from our sponsors. A \* indicates additional support to our MATHCOUNTS program.

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NOTE: Due to printing deadline, sponsorships received AFTER DEADLINE were unable to be included on this poster; however, we gratefully acknowledge your support of our Engineers Week activities.

## Worth Noteing

### 50<sup>th</sup> Aniversary of The Order of The Engineer



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the origination of The Order of the Engineer. The official date is June 4, 1970, when 80 forward-

thinking individuals, students, faculty and engineering professionals at the Fenn College of Engineering at Cleveland State University (CSU), created the first link ceremony, accepted the Obligation and placed a symbol of unity, the Steel Ring, on the last digit of their working hand

The Order of the Engineer has its roots in a Canadian tradition known as The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer. At a meeting of the seven past presidents of the Engineering Institute of Canada in 1922, Prof. Edward Haultain proposed a ceremony and a standard of ethics for engineers. To quote Rudyard Kipling, who composed the ritual at the request of Prof. Haultain:

“The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer has been instituted with the simple end of directing the young engineer towards a consciousness of his profession and its significance, and indicating to the older engineer his responsibilities in receiving, welcoming and supporting young engineers in their beginnings.”

The first Ritual was held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 1925.

A similar such discussion ensued in the US in 1966, culminating in the formation of the Order of the Engineer, with the first ring ceremony being held at Cleveland State University in 1970. The Order of the Engineer is the roster of engineers in the United States who have participated in an Engineer’s Ring Ceremony and who have publicly accepted the “Obligation of an Engineer”.

The “Obligation of an Engineer” is the formal statement of an engineer’s responsibilities to the public and to the profession. The Engineer’s Ring Ceremony is the public induction of candidates into the Order of the Engineer, during which the candidates formally accept the Obligation of an Engineer and receive a stainless steel ring to be worn on the fifth finger of the working hand. The ring – a symbol of continuity and community – is worn for all to see and, in effect, says: “Here is an engineer possessed of a publicly avowed dedication to the profession and those it serves.”

### MATHCOUNTS



Competition was held at the University of Toledo College of Engineering on February 1, 2020, 16 schools participated.

- 1st Place Team-Ottawa Hills JHS
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Place Team-Perrysburg JHS
- 1st Place Individual-Razzi Masroor, Ottawa Hills JHS, Perfect Score.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Individual-Julia Xi, Perrysburg JHS

Recognition was given to the winners and coaches at the E Week Banquet.

### Thank You Dan Stark!



Dan Stark will be stepping down as Mathcounts Chair for E-Week after this year.

Though Dan will continue to be involved in Mathcounts, his 29 years of leadership has made Mathcounts the premiere event in the Toledo E-Week events.

TSPE President Vince DiPofi noted... “I watched in his very first year as Mathcounts Chair and observed the passion and energy he put into the program to build it into the program it is today. We thank Dan for all that he has done for the students to make this a great program!”

Adrian Taylor, P.E. and Bernadete Caris will be Co-Chairs for MATHCOUNTS in the future.