

September 2013

WEST TORONTO CHAPTER
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS ONTARIO
<http://www.westtoronto.peo.on.ca>

Chair's Message for Fall 2013 By Eugen Karanxha, P.Eng.

Before it becomes a profession, engineering is your choice. This choice not only involves the work we will do but also the profession we represent. The collective of our work and everyday interactions as the representatives of our profession makes the image of engineering and its impact on society. We have come together through PEO to regulate and promote our profession.

The past months West Toronto Chapter of PEO has continued the work to expand the reach of our presence. In addition to our regular monthly seminars and tours, we have developed many connections with other organizations. Our collaboration with U of T MIE department has been very successful and our TECS toastmaster club is thriving with many new members.

In March with Engineering Innovation Forum we had a successful symposium on Toronto Union Station Revitalization for National Engineering month. We had an excellent EIT event on March with successful engineers sharing their path story to the new graduates. Together with Kingsway chapter we are following up with another EIT event next month focusing on social media use and networking. West Toronto GLP committee has been present on many local political events meeting with our local government representatives.

Our very successful "Writing Secrets" event was followed up by leadership seminars with help from TECS. We have created a new committee and fostered a better connection liaising with OSPE. As a result, in October we will host a multi-chapter event on employment for engineers together with OSPE and the City of Toronto.

On the education front we connected with U of T on their DEEP program, sponsored a FIRST robotic team and selected students for PEO's scholarship program. Our social media channels have been active with many new members and a committee is working on the transition to a new web site.

We had great amenities, delicious food, drinks and even cake on our summer barbeque, but the success was in the warm atmosphere and great time shared with fellow engineers. These activities have created a bigger need for members to step up and volunteer with the chapter and new ways to be involved through our LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook page.

There has never been a better time to join your local engineering chapter efforts to promote engineering in the local community through our social events, in local government through GLP program, help new engineers through EIT, or in a mentorship program, and represent our profession in many activities with other professional organizations.

Environment Committee by Tom Markowitz

Following the chapter-wide Environmental Survey, in February, the Environment Committee is working toward one evening information session, in the fall, and one site visit, in the spring.

The Survey results showed that the most popular topic among chapter environmental enthusiasts is renewable energy. The Chapter will present one evening information session on a Renewable Energy topic at one of our regular evening meetings in the fall.

We are also planning a visit to the Portlands Energy Centre, probably in mid-May. The Centre is open to visitors during Doors Open Toronto.

Social Media Committee Update by Sergey Slynko

Many people use social media for personal entertainment purposes - they chat with their friends, share pictures and videos, collect "likes", post comments, and update their statuses. However, social media has much more to offer, and it's especially important when it comes to our professional development and career. Everybody would agree that being a member of a professional association is beneficial and can be a valuable experience. So where is social media in this picture?

Nowadays, time is often a bottle-neck, and investing it wisely and carefully is a key to success. Social media offers the opportunity to network easily regardless our geographical location. It does not involve commuting or necessity to adjust schedules for interactions.

The West Toronto Chapter successfully benefits from its pages on Facebook (<http://tinyurl.com/7zhhqxn>), LinkedIn (<http://tinyurl.com/844ackc>) and Twitter (<http://tinyurl.com/79bmo8l>) and adapts to suit the needs of its members providing them with a place to connect, build relationships, and get involved in discussions at their own convenience. The volunteers responsible for the Chapter's social media facilitate the discussions, engage members in conversations and keep information fresh. All these make social media a powerful tool that allows professionals to effectively network anywhere, on their own terms, and in their own free time.

Since the Chapter started using social media and post information about upcoming events, the attendance and participation in these events increased. The Chapter's members are more updated and are getting an opportunity to be exposed to the valuable information well in advance which lets them adjust their plans accordingly.

And all this would be impossible without our amazing volunteers who bring up creative ideas, plan new initiatives, and implement them. If you are willing to volunteer, expand your professional network, develop organizational and interpersonal skills, contribute and become an active part of the West Toronto Chapter, please contact us at peo.wtchapter.linkedin@gmail.com.

Welcome New P.Eng. License Recipients - Licensing Ceremony, Tuesday, May 15, 2012 by Georg Kralik

On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, the West Toronto Chapter of the Professional Engineers of Ontario welcomed 23 new Professional Engineers to the PEO and our Chapter. The ceremony was held at the Islington Golf and Country Club, Toronto, and presided over by **George Comrie**, P.Eng., PEO Vice President, who welcomed recipients individually to the profession; **Danny Chui**, P.Eng., PEO West Central Region Junior Councillor, who brought greetings and a welcome from the PEO Council; and **Sebrina Natalizio**, PEO Chapters Coordinator. Our Master of Ceremonies was **Richard Weldon**, P.Eng.

<p>Ahmad Wail Al-Dabbagh, P.Eng. Richard Anselmo, P.Eng. Justin Alexander Refe Chin, P.Eng. Shaina Beth Collin, P.Eng. Farzin Dehmeshki, P.Eng. James Ivan Des Cotes, P.Eng. Bien Antonio Feria Ferrer, P.Eng. Ronald Alan French, P.Eng. Mark Clifford Furgala, P.Eng. Amir Ghiassi, P.Eng. Hongmei Hao, P.Eng. Shatha Jawda, P.Eng. Taylor Linton Jones, P.Eng.</p>	<p>Michael Eduard Kuebler, P.Eng. Adrian Chi-Yang Kwan, P.Eng. Florence Kwong, P.Eng. Samuel Blake Lingwood, P.Eng. Goran Markovic, P.Eng. Matthew James Lee McMahon, P.Eng. Aaron Jason Mickle, P.Eng. Jennifer Lyn Sheila Ogrodnick, P.Eng. Yves Raymond Rivard, P.Eng. Antonio Ruberto, P.Eng. Ryszard Ryszaneck, P.Eng. Daniel James Snodgrass, P.Eng.</p>	<p>Mirela Subashi, P.Eng. Michael Synowiec, P.Eng. Kimberley Thomas, P.Eng. Abdel-Fattah Toukan, P.Eng. Howard Jia-Hao Tran, P.Eng. Virgijl Turtulli, P.Eng. Chun Yu John Wong, P.Eng. Maureen Wong, P.Eng. Tiffany Mai-Yin Wong, P.Eng. Wei Ning Wu, P.Eng. Graeme Thomas Samuel Young, P.Eng. Bai Mei Zhuang, P.Eng.</p>
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The head table guests presiding over the ceremony, included **Matthew Ng**, P.Eng., PEO Chapter Manager; **Danny Chui**, P.Eng., PEO Senior Regional Councillor, West Central Region; **Thomas Chong**, P.Eng., PEO Vice President; and our guest speaker **Mike Branch**, CEO, Inovex Inc.

On behalf of **Eugen Karanxha**, P.Eng, West Toronto Chapter Chair and the chapter, we want to congratulate all who received their license at this ceremony. We also want to gratefully acknowledge the contributions made by all your friends, family, and guests who accompanied you to the ceremony, especially those who were instrumental in helping our license recipients achieve their career goals.

The chapter executive would like to also take this opportunity to join us at upcoming seminars and events organized by our membership. Please check repeatedly the calendar on the chapter website (http://members.peo.on.ca/index.cfm/ci_id/3044/la_id/1.html) for upcoming chapter events.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make this one of the smoothest running ceremonies.

For pictures of this ceremony please visit http://members.peo.on.ca/index.cfm/document/1/ci_id/90885/la_id/1.

Activities of the GLP Committee of the PEO West Toronto Chapter in 2013

March 27, 2013: Celebration of Nowruz at Queen's Park:

Parvin Marzban, P.Eng, GLP Chair of the PEO west Toronto Chapter participated in a reception held by Dr. Reza Moridi MPP (Richmond Hill) and the Minister of Research and Innovation at the Queen's Park to celebrate Nowruz, the beginning of the spring and the Persian New Year. The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, was the special "Guest of Honor". The event featured several members of the parliament and many representatives of various national cultures including those who celebrate this ancient tradition.

June 8, 2013: the inaugural PEO East and West Central Region GLP Academy

Members of the GLP committee of West Toronto Chapter, Parvin Marzban, Jim Chisholm and Jacob Kachuba, attended the PEO inaugural East Central and West Central region on June 8, 2013. Rob Wilson, the West Central region councilor was also among attendees. As a member of the organizing team, Parvin Marzban also helped in organizing this first joint GLP event.

June 19, 2013: Meeting with Minister Glen Murray

Parvin Marzban, the GLP chair of the PEO West Toronto Chapter, attended an annual dinner held by Consumer Council of Canada at the Toronto National Club On June 19, 2013.

At this event Honorable Glen Murray MPP (Toronto Centre) and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure was the guest speaker. This was the first meeting of the WTPEO with Minister Murray, as the Toronto center riding was recently assigned to our Chapter. Altogether the meeting was a good introduction to a productive working relationship between WTPEO and Minister Murray.

June 20, 2013, Teleconference call on Repeal of section 12(3)(a) of the Professional Engineers Act

Parvin Marzban participated in a teleconference call with all the GLP chairs held by PEO in order to discuss the Repeal of Repeal of Industrial Exception. Jeannette Chau, Manager of Government Liaison Programs and Marisa Sterling, the lead on the Repeal, were on the call to answer questions.

June 25: Laura Albanese Fundraising Event

On June 25, Parvin Marzban participated in a reception for Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier Laura Albanese MPP (York South-Weston) with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Linda Jeffrey MPP (Brampton-Springdale) in Toronto.

Saskia Martini-Wong also attended the event. Ms. Marzban and Ms. Martini-Wong had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Albanese and her brother Michael Albanese, P.Eng., as well as the chance to meet with Minister Jeffrey. Also in attendance was Brown & Cohen Public Affairs Consultant Sinead Anderson.

July 12, 2013: An Event with Justin Trudeau

At the invitation of Dr. Reza Moridi, Minister of Research and Innovation MPP (Richmond Hill), the PEO West Toronto Chapter GLP Chair, Parvin Marzban, P.Eng., and the PEO East Central Region's Councilors Changiz Sadr participated in a reception on July 12th in Richmond Hill, Ont. The event was held in support of Justin Trudeau, MP and the federal leader of the Liberal Party of Canada. These engineers had a chance to meet federal Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau MP (Papineau) and Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation Reza Moridi MPP (Richmond Hill) at the event

EIT Committee by Jacob Kachuba

The event entitled "Path of an Engineer" was held on March 20, 2013, at the University of Toronto – MC 254. It drew over forty attendees. It was directed towards 4th year engineering students attending the University of Toronto. The event had 3 speakers;

Jeanette Chau MBA P. Eng.
Professional Engineers Ontario
"What it takes to become a
professional Engineer"

Michael Simpson Ph.D., P. Eng.
Chief Structural Engineer – Consultec Inc.
"Live local and work globally"

Emily Moore Ph.D., P. Eng.
Global Director of Water - Hatch
"One Framework, Many Paths"

Each speaker discussed the “path” in which they took in order to get to their current positions. Each speaker had a described a defining moment in their life/career that set them in a direction that enabled them to become leaders within their respective discipline. Students who attended had asked many questions of the panelists and were very engaged with the networking portion after Q&A’s. This is an event that WTPEO will further develop in the years to come.

We are also planning an EIT Networking Event for October 2013 (tentative date). We anticipate the same strong attendance. The venue will be within the Chapter’s boundary limits, and has yet to be chosen. The event will focus on bringing together EIT’s. It has yet to be fully developed but the focus will be on expanding EIT’s engineering network.

Advocacy work and OSPE Liaison Committee by Vesna Nedic

On April 24, 2013 in the U of T Mechanical Engineering building, we held an event entitled “**Writing secrets for career success**”. The presentation was provided by Jeff Richardson, M.A., from the WordTask Information Strategies firm.

The abstract of the event was to learn writing secrets, customized for the Professional Engineers of Ontario. Participants learned how to:

- improve control over ideas using the principles of plain language in communication;
- apply the conventions of effective writing to technical documents, emails, job applications and other documents;
- apply tips and tricks for clear and persuasive writing

The event was very successful, with more than 50 participants.

WEST TORONTO CHAPTER BOARD			
<i>Officer Positions:</i>			
Eugen Karanxha, P.Eng.	Chair	Lise Eamer, EIT	Secretary, Logistics (co-chair)
Barry J. Westhead, P.Eng., FEC	Vice-Chair	Pat Scanga, P.Eng., FEC	Treasurer
<i>Executive Positions:</i>			
Ahmad Al-Dabbagh, P. Eng.	Executive at Large	Thomas Markowitz, P. Eng.	Environmental
Jim Chisholm, P. Eng.	Volunteers, TECS and OCEPP Liaison	Parvin Marzban, P.Eng.	Gov’t Liaison Program (GLP)
Catherine Hancharek, EIT	Women in Engineering, Logistics (Co-chair)	Richard Mraz, P.Eng.	I.T.
Jacob Kachuba, P.Eng.	EIT and U of T Engineering Liaison	Vesna Nedic, P. Eng.	Advocacy work, OSPE Liaison
Georg A. Kralik, P.Eng.	Licensing, Photographer	Armando Sanchez, P. Eng.	Education
<i>Committee Members (Non-voting):</i>			
Gotam Bhardwaj, P. Eng.	Member at Large	Roman Lysiak, P. Eng., FEC	Member at Large
Peter Elad	Member at Large	Faizul Mohee	Outreach and OSPE Liaison
Sarah Gastle	Member at Large	Heather Murdock, EIT	Member at Large
Marina Friere-Gormaly, EIT	EIT and U of T Engineering Liaison, Outreach and OSPE Liaison	Sergey Slynko, EIT	I.T. (Social Media)
Ervan Kolic, EIT	Member at Large	Jeff Wiseman, P. Eng.	Newsletter
Steven Lum, P. Eng.	Education (Scholarships)		