



BLACKLINES

*A Monthly Newsletter for Members of the
Treasure Coast Chapter of the Florida Engineering Society*

Volume 31, Issue 04

November 2017

PRESIDENT'S SPOTLIGHT

Instead of the normal "President's Message" this month, we're going to learn more about our current Treasure Coast FES president, Colt Schwerdt. Colt was kind enough to answer some questions about himself as well as discuss the impact of FES on his professional development:



Q. Where did you go to College?

A. I went to the University of Missouri Rolla, now known as Missouri University of Science and Technology

Q. What was your major?

A. I majored in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in structural and obtained a second degree in Architectural Engineering.

Q. What inspired you to get into engineering?

A. I guess you could say engineering in my blood. My dad was the Public Works Director for the City of Warrenton, Missouri from as soon as I can remember until I was through college. As a kid, I would sometimes go to work with him during the summer and we would go out to construction sites. He would explain what the project was, why was the project necessary, the construction methods, and show me the plans. From there, I would go home and build my own highway systems for my hot wheels out of paper, complete with bridges, tunnels, etc. LOL! I kind of wish I still had some of those. During school, my teachers noticed that I liked construction and was decent in math and science which helped push me towards engineering.

Q. What brought you to Florida from Missouri?

A. To be honest, a free weekend vacation for myself and my then girlfriend Andrea (now wife). LBFH (now AECOM) was at the University of Missouri – Rolla career fair. The company seemed like a company I

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Calendar of Events for Upcoming Months



December 2	TCFES Party in the Park
January 9	ACEC FL / FICE Transportation Committee Meeting—Kissimmee, FL
January 28	TCFES Shrimp Boil
Jan 30-31	Professional Engineer Legislative Days Tallahassee
Feb 22	E-week Banquet

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TREASURE COAST FES PARTY IN THE PARK

- grill some burgers and dogs
- washers
- play yard games
- football
- bocce ball
- Frisbee
- corn hole
- and perhaps have a cold beverage.

The Second Annual Party in the Park will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 11:00 am at Sandsprit Park.

Bring the family, bring the dog, and enjoy our beautiful Florida weather!

This year, we are collecting non-perishable food donations. Any donations received will be delivered to the Treasure Coast Food Bank.

Please RSVP to Logan Huber at vicepresident@tcfes.org

Engineering Joke of the Month

Reaching the end of an extensive job interview, the HR person asked a young Engineer fresh out of college, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The engineering graduate said, "In the range of \$100,000 - 125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The HR person said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, a company matching retirement fund for 50% of your salary, and a company car leased every 2 years -- say, a brand new BMW?"

The engineering graduate sat up straight and said, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

And the interviewer replied, "Yeah, but you started it."

Upcoming Events!

At our November meeting, the board mapped out our upcoming events for the rest of the chapter year. One of the chapter's major goals for the year is to increase participation in FES, which starts by letting all of our members know what's on the upcoming calendar. While many of the events are typical for the chapter, we do have one new idea that is already generating excitement—entering a car in the St. Lucie County Fair Demolition Derby, with potential sponsorships and raffle ticket proceeds supporting our scholarship efforts. More information will follow in the coming months!

2017—2018 TREASURE COAST FES CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Party in the Park	Saturday December 2, 2017 11:00 am	Sandsprit Park 3443 SE St. Lucie Boulevard Stuart, FL 34997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grilling, yard games, and enjoying the weather! Bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Donations accepted
Shrimp Boil	Friday January 26, 2018	Indian Riverside Park 1707 NE Indian River Drive Jensen Beach, FL 34957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Shrimp market to provide the food Special shrimp boil themed beer to be brewed by Etienne Bourgeois
E-week Banquet	Thursday February 22, 2018	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speaker TBD Recognition of the founding members of Treasure Coast FES
Demolition Derby (tentative)	Saturday March 3, 2018 6:00 pm	St. Lucie County Fairgrounds 15601 West Midway Road Fort Pierce, FL 34945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCFES is interested in entering the demolition derby at the St. Lucie County Fair! More details to follow!
Golf Tournament	April or May 2018	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual TCFES Golf Tournament
Scholarship Banquet	April or May 2018	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual TCFES Scholarship Banquet
Fishing Tournament	June 2018	CAPTEC Docks Stuart, FL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual TCFES Fishing Tournament
Officer Installation	Thursday July 28, 2018	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of the 2018-2019 TCFES Board members

President's Spotlight

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would like, a smaller family oriented company; so I began discussing the job opportunities with them and they offered to fly me and my girlfriend down for a weekend interview. As college kids, who wouldn't go to Florida during the middle of a Missouri winter for a free weekend?! They offered me a job and my girlfriend and I decided to move to Florida with a 5 year plan, and then we would move back. Well almost 11 years later, Florida seems like home and we have no plans on moving back anytime soon.

Q. How did you hear about FES?

A. I first heard about FES from my co-workers at LBFH. It seemed as if everyone there was a member, and I started attending some events with them.

Q. How has FES helped you grow as an engineer?

A. FES has helped me grow as an engineer through all the various other engineers that I get to meet and discuss projects with; as well as the presentations that are provided. By discussing and hearing the various topics through FES, it has broadened my view of engineering and given me the potential to see solutions that I may not have seen in the past. Plus I know there is, and I have used in the past, a network of talented individuals to discuss project related issues and get advice from.

Q. What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

A. Lately, I have been enjoying spending a lot of my time with my 7 month old daughter Skylar and watching her grow and try and figure the world out. Everyday it's something new with her! When I am not spending time with my daughter and wife I like to watch sports and play video games. Even though I have moved away from Missouri, I am still a diehard Cardinals baseball fan and watch games probably more than my family would like. LOL. I enjoy other sports as well like golf, basketball, soccer and football; but baseball is my go to sport. As far as video games go, I am not too picky and like racing, sports, war games etc. Essentially give me an entertaining story and I will play it. I'm really looking forward to when my daughter hopefully starts playing and I can show her Mario and some of the classics.

Q. Anything else you think our members would like to know?

A. Just that I consider myself an extremely lucky man because I married my best friend in the world, Andrea Schwerdt, for 8 years. And, she gave me my beautiful daughter, Skylar Reese Schwerdt. We also have two furry companions in our dogs, Irie and Ash, which we consider family and not just pets. If they would like to know anything else just ask me.



Colt, Andrea, and Skylar Schwerdt

FES Membership Renewal

Thank you for your membership in the Florida Engineering Society. Our Society is successful because of your support and involvement. With over 3,000 members who, like you, believe in advancement through united efforts, we continue to realize our vision and mission of promoting and defending the professional interests of all engineers in the state of Florida.

Please continue to endorse our collective goals by renewing your membership as soon as possible. [Renew your FES membership online today!](#)

Let's make this a great year together!

FES Membership Renewal

Thank you to all our members who have renewed! If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please take a moment and renew your membership *as soon as possible*.

[Renew online](#)

Florida MATHCOUNTS®

We are excited to announce that the [2018 Florida MATHCOUNTS State Competition](#) will take place on March 22-23, 2018 at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort.

As the competition continues to grow, we need your help to sustain the success of this exciting and impactful event. At last year's state competition, 76 schools throughout Florida were represented by 244 Mathletes and 65 coaches. Only with the support of our members and member firms is Florida MATHCOUNTS® possible. These talented middle school students would miss this opportunity to shine without your help! **Make a Difference** [2018](#)

[Sponsorship Information](#)

Inspiring the Future - Engineers Week

Engineers, with their abilities to solve problems and build innovative solutions, can help inspire younger generations to pursue STEM-related fields. That's part of the motivation behind the next Engineers Week theme, "Engineers: Inspiring Wonder."

The 2018 Engineers Week will take place February 18-24, and Girl Day (Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day) will be on February 22.

DiscoverE will provide 2018 volunteer kits for Engineers Week and Girl Day with helpful resources to promote the events. The kits will include newly designed posters, bookmarks, and an activity guide with over 125 activities and lesson plans organized by grade, topic, engineering discipline, time, and language. You can order a print copy or download the copyright-free artwork at [DiscoverE.org](#).

Now Accepting 2018 GMEC Award Nominations

Nomination Deadline: February 28, 2018

The GMEC Award is given to an individual who has, by virtue of his/her service, had a significant positive impact on the geotechnical and materials engineering profession. Nominees for the GMEC Award must have a consistent record of service over a period of at least ten years.

[Award Criteria and Application](#)

Questions? Contact Cherie Pinsky at the FICE Headquarters by e-mail cpinsky@fleng.org, or by telephone 850-224-7121.



Statewide—Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

[ACEC FL/FICE Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

1/9/2018

Location: Kissimmee, Florida *Time:* 10:00 am

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

[2018 Professional Engineer Legislative Days](#)

1/30/2018 » 1/31/2018

Time: 4:00 pm

Monday, February 26, 2018

[2018 Winter Water Seminar](#)

2/26/2018 » 2/27/2018

Location: Tallahassee, Florida *Time:* 12:00 pm

Thursday, March 22, 2018

[2018 State MATHCOUNTS® Competition Information](#)

3/22/2018 » 3/23/2018

Location: Daytona Beach, Florida

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

[ACEC FL/FICE Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

4/3/2018

Location: Fort Lauderdale, Florida *Time:* 10:00 am

Friday, April 6, 2018

[2018 GMEC Conference](#)

4/6/2018 » 4/7/2018

Location: Cocoa Beach, Florida *Time:* 07:30 am

Sunday, April 15, 2018

[ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit](#)

4/15/2018 » 4/18/2018

Location: Washington, District of Columbia

Wednesday, May 10, 2018

[2018 ACEC-FL Transportation Conference](#)

05/30,2018 » 5/31/2018

Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

[ACEC FL/FICE Transportation Committee Meeting](#)

7/10/2018

Location: Tampa, Florida *Time:* 10:00 am

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

[2018 FES/ACEC-FL Annual Conference](#)

8/1/2018 » 8/4/2018

Location: Marco Island, FL *Time:* 08:00 am

NSPE Code of Ethics

Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

Fundamental Canons

Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:

- Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.
- Perform services only in areas of their competence.
- Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.
- Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.
- Avoid deceptive acts.
- Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and law fully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.

The FES Mission Statement

The mission of the Florida Engineering Society is to support engineering education, advocate licensure, promote the ethical and competent practice of engineering and enhance the image and well-being of all engineers in the state of Florida; and furthers the public's knowledge and understanding of the importance of the profession.



Please visit our website!

<http://www.tcfes.org>



**Send your comments and suggestions
about our website or Facebook page to
treasurer@tcfes.org**

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions/comments, or if you would like something included in the monthly publication, please contact Ben Fecko at (772) 485-7766 or secretary@tcfes.org

2017 — 2018 Treasure Coast Chapter Board Members

Colt Schwerdt, P.E., President president@tcfes.org
Logan Huber, P.E., Vice President vicepresident@tcfes.org
Dylan O'Berry, E.I., Treasurer treasurer@tcfes.org
Ben Fecko, P.E., Secretary secretary@tcfes.org
Adam Schildmeier, P.E., Regional Vice President regionalvp@tcfes.org
Heath Stocton, P.E., Past-President pastpresident@tcfes.org
Will Cornelius, P.E. State Director statedirector@tcfes.org

TREASURE COAST CHAPTER

Chartered 1987

FLORIDA ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Affiliated with

**NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 8764, PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34985**

