



# The Drawingboard

## Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

February 2009

Volume 9, Number 2

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### President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.  
President*



The News Release: Headline, January 28, 2009 read: **"New York State Society of Professional Engineers files suit against the City of New York, Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner of Buildings Robert LiMandri for violation of the NYS Education Law"**. The NYSSPE lawsuit now in the NY State Supreme Court (New York County) for almost one month is seeking a Declaratory Judgment to void a recently enacted local law (Intro 755A) which is in conflict with State Law and the removal of Commissioner LiMandri due to lack of licensure.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Society and its courageous officers for standing up to misguided politicians who would just as soon wreak havoc on public safety by down playing the value of licensure. Now it's up to all professionals to step up to the plate and support the Society's Legal Fund. To date, about thirty PE's and RA's contributed various amounts to the Fund totaling about \$5,000, but a lot more is needed. Please don't just stand by a let others carry the load. Contribute!!!

Thankfully, the monthly DOB Industry Meetings continue to be held "the last Tuesday of every month" at 2:30PM in the DCAS Room (G-110) unless informed otherwise.

The thorny subject of "Special Inspections" will be further discussed by the top policy makers of the DOB with the Societies' representatives March 3, '09 (NSPE & AIA). We will keep you posted of developments as they unfold.

*(continued next page)*

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The Engineers Week Celebration at Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Thurs. February 12, '09 was well (?) attended. The Mayor's Proclamation, read by DOB First Deputy Commissioner, Ms. **Fatima Amer**, PE, acknowledged and paid tribute to the contributions to modern civilization continuously being made by Engineers. If this Mayor had anything to do with writing it, maybe there's still hope for him.

The Mathcounts competition this year was a smashing success, thanks to the bright mathletes of Queens and the tireless efforts of our Mathcounts chairperson, **Bob LoPinto**, PE, assisted by **Christina Nickolas**, PE, **George Tavoulareas**, PE, **John Sgouros**, PE, **Sal Galletta**, PE, and **Brian Flynn**, PE. Watching those kids answer those math questions so fast reminds us of how much we have forgotten.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next General Meeting, Thurs., February 26, 2009, 6:30PM at Fort Totten.

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## Upcoming Meeting Information

### Our Next Chapter Meeting

**Date:** **Thursday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – 6:30 PM**

**Sponsor:** [Park Avenue Building Supplies](#)

**Presenter:** Jim Pellegrini

**Title:** **History of Wood Windows**

**Objectives:**

- Learn the original features and designs of Historic Windows
- Recognize the advantages and disadvantages of window replacement vs. restoration
- List alternative options for replacement or restoration of windows
- Describe what window standards must be met for successful historic credits

**Location:**

**422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York**

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Office of the Mayor  
CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

WHEREAS: SAYING THAT ENGINEERS MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IS TRULY AN UNDERSTATEMENT. NEW YORKERS ARE GREATLY INDEBTED TO THE ENGINEERS WHO HAVE CONSTRUCTED THE ICONIC STRUCTURES OF OUR CITY. FROM OUR WORKPLACES IN THE BUILDINGS THAT COMPRISE THE GLOBE'S MOST BREATHTAKING SKYLINE... TO THE MOBILE PHONES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY THAT HELP OUR BUSINESSPEOPLE MAINTAIN OUR STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CAPITAL... TO THE WORLD-CLASS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT MOVES OUR CITIZENRY TO WORK, RECREATION, AND HOME WITH UNPARALLELED EFFICIENCY... THE RESULTS OF ENGINEERS' CREATIVITY, HARD WORK, AND INTELLIGENCE UNDERLIE NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF NEW YORKERS' LIVES.

WHEREAS: THIS WEEK WE JOIN THE METROPOLITAN ENGINEERING SOCIETIES COUNCIL, THE METROPOLITAN CHAPTER PRESIDENTS COUNCIL, THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, AND THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN CELEBRATING ENGINEERS WEEK. IT PROVIDES ENGINEERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY THE OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND CELEBRATE THE STRIDES THEY HAVE MADE OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. THIS WILL BE A GREAT WEEK FOR ENGINEERING, AND AN EVEN BETTER WEEK FOR NEW YORK CITY, AS WE WILL SURELY REAP THE BENEFITS OF THE COLLABORATION OF SUCH GREAT MINDS.

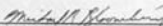
WHEREAS: FROM JOHN ROEBLING'S VISIONARY BROOKLYN BRIDGE TO INGENIOUS MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE THIRD WATER TUNNEL, OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE SHAPED AND DEFINED THE CHARACTER OF OUR CITY FOR OVER TWO CENTURIES. AS THE BIG APPLE CONTINUES TO THRIVE, THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY IS DEPENDENT ON THE EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, EACH OF WHOM WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN EXPANDING OUR CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE NEXT GENERATIONS OF NEW YORKERS.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BEAUTY, VITALITY, AND STABILITY OF OUR CITY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 15TH-21ST, 2009 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS:

"ENGINEERS WEEK"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO  
SET MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK TO BE AFFIXED.



  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
MAYOR

## QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER, NYSSPE MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

*(By Robert LoPinto, PE –Mathcounts Coordinator)*

The Queens Chapter - NYSSPE held its annual MATHCOUNTS Competition on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at JHS 189, Flushing. Nine schools from Queens registered in the MATHCOUNTS Program competed in the competition. MATHCOUNTS is a Math skills building and competition for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the CNA Foundation, Raytheon Company, Northrop Grumman Foundation, Conoco Phillips, General Motors Foundation, Lockheed Martin, 3M Foundation and Texas Instruments. Competitions are held at the local Chapter level, followed by a State competition. The top individuals from the State competition then compete at the National Competition, which is being held in Orlando, FL this year. The top winners of the National Competition can win college scholarships.

Teams of 4 students and up to 4 individuals from the schools spent about 4 hours taking various written and oral tests. There was a 40 minute, 30 question written individual test, followed by four sets of two written questions to be answered in 6 minutes each set. This was followed by a 20 minute, 10-question team test, where the 4 team members worked together to answer the questions. There was also an oral countdown round, where the top 10 individual finishers competed head to head for top honors.

The Queens Chapter Team Winners were:

1ST PLACE MS 158- MARIE CURIE MS

COACH: FREDDY SAMPSON

CHRISTOPHER CHONG

DEREK LI

DANIEL SU

ALFRED TSAI

2ND PLACE MS 74- NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE MS

COACH: BRIAN ANNELLO

MATTHEW CHOI

JEFFREY LIN

KENNETH WANG

YIMIN WANG

3RD PLACE JHS 190- RUSSEL SAGE JHS

COACH: MARY RANDOLPH

CAROLINE CHIU

ERICA KWONG

VICTOR LEI

KATIE LIN

The top Individual Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	CHRISTOPHER CHONG	MS 158
2	JEFFREY LIN	MS 74
3	DEREK LI	MS 158
4	DANIEL SU	MS 158
5	SALINA MOON	MS 67
6	YIMIN WANG	MS 74
7	KENNETH WANG	MS 74
8	MATTHEW CHOI	MS 74
9	ALFRED TSAI	MS 158
10	LILY LEE	MS 158

The Oral Countdown Round Winners were:

RANK	INDIVIDUAL	SCHOOL
1	JEFFREY LIN	MS 74
2	CHRISTOPHER CHONG	MS 158
3	KENNETH WANG	MS 74

The competitions went off without a hitch, thanks to the help of the Team Coaches, and the Professional Engineer Chapter members. At the end of the competition, an awards ceremony with Chapter President Chris Petallides, PE was held, and the trophies and other awards were presented to the Queens Chapter winners. Robert A. LoPinto, PE, Past Queens Chapter President and MATHCOUNTS Coordinator set up the day's events and ran the Countdown competition. Chapter Members Christina Nickolas, PE, Sal Galletta, PE, Bryan Flynn, PE, John Sgouros, PE, and George Tavoulareas, PE assisted in the competition. In addition to the Team Coaches, who assisted with the scoring, Michael Stritch volunteered his help through the national VolunteerMatch organization. All in all, it was an enjoyable morning for all involved. The top three teams now move on to the State Competition in March. Good Luck!



## **In Honor Of The American Engineer**

The week of **February 15 2009** has been dedicated as National Engineers' Week and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and honor the members of the American Engineering Community. I commend you for your many accomplishments and contributions to our society and our great nation.

To those who have worked in the defense sector, we owe a special gratitude because your contributions have kept our country safe and free from aggression. Our cities and shores have been free from bombings and invasion because of our nation's technological strength and your engineering capabilities.

To those in the commercial sector, we thank you for your contributions in too many areas to mention. Your signature touches everything made by mankind, no matter how small and in every industry. I can visualize the engineering effort that not only developed a product, but the equipment used to manufacture and produce it. Your presence is everywhere.

You, the members of the engineering community, have made our lives safer, healthier, easier, more enjoyable, more efficient and more productive to say the very least. You have done this often under adverse conditions, through dedicated service and personal sacrifice, and for this you also have our appreciation and our gratitude.

You are a unique breed; the better you do your work, the sooner you will be without a job, without an income and without a career. Knowing this, you always proceed and do your very best anyway. Your function is to design yourself out of a job. You have done this admirably. Engineers have not only won the wars, they have won the peace. The Cold War is over and communism, as a threat, is ended. I believe, very confidently, that our victory in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq were primarily due to the technology developed by our American Engineering Community and utilization by our skilled servicemen and women.

For many, 30 years, you have been disregarded and laid-off by the hundreds of thousands. Had you not done your job and our technologies failed in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq, had we, these United States, failed to show that we can back up our will with our engineering-developed might and capabilities; you would all still be in great demand. Had you failed, like so many others, Congress would shower the engineering community with money in the naive belief that money alone would breed success. The defense budget would increase and you would not suffer the pains of unemployment and under-utilization. However, I would not have it any other way. I am proud to be a member of the engineering community, knowing that we function to solve problems and move on to new challenges. I am proud, and you should also be proud, to be members of a profession that has performed so outstandingly.

We are still very much concerned about the crisis in engineering unemployment and under-utilization in the United States today. AEA will continue to tell others that our unemployed and under-utilized members of the engineering community must not be forgotten. We must continuously strive for a manpower balance that provides our engineers with the opportunity to pursue their careers and enhance their engineering skills and capabilities throughout a life of continued practice and professional service. We shall prevail in this endeavor.

We thank you for your efforts, dedication and achievements. We applaud you and will tell the rest of the world of your capabilities, willingness, readiness and desire to do even more. God bless you all, not only during National Engineers' Week, but throughout the year.

Richard F. Tax, President, American Engineering Association, Inc. [www.aea.org](http://www.aea.org), [rtax@aea.org](mailto:rtax@aea.org).

Think of a life without: Credit cards or Bar Code Readers and computers. How long would the lines be at the market just to ring up your order? How about the time and extra cost? Safe Automobiles, lubrication and tires. Trains, airplanes, RADAR, computers, highways, drinking water, ships our military peace keeping capabilities

Think of a life without: the transistor, solid state electronics or your TV system. No cell phones, Internet, portable radios, stereo, computerized cars or TV shows. How many people would be without jobs or careers?

Now, even the Stock Market has been driven by Technology. Members of the Engineering Community gave us these things and too many more to mention. We should honor them for just one week of the year? Feb. 15 - 21, 2009 is National Engineers' Week. Thank the engineers, programmers and high tech members of our great nation.

Please go to [www.aea.org](http://www.aea.org) for more information.



# Science Fair Help Needed!

**We need your help! Please join your fellow professionals and give back to the children and show the spark of science we all have!!  
And have fun, too!**

## **JUDGES WANTED for the 15th Annual Tri-County Science & Technology Fair (Westchester, Rockland & Putnam Counties)**

**Date:** Saturday, April 25, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 AM until approximately 1 PM (light breakfast and lunch are included!)

**Where:** **White Plains High School, 550 North Street (Route 127), White Plains, NY**  
From the south or east, take the Hutchinson River Pkwy north.  
Exit at EXIT 25 (Route 127).  
Take a left at the top of the exit ramp. Go about 1 mile. It's on the right side.  
From the north or west, take the Sprain or the Saw Mill R. Pkwy south.  
Exit at Cross Westchester (I-287 East). Take exit for and follow signs to Route 127.  
White Plains HS will be approximately 1 mile on the left.

**Grades:** Elementary through High School

**Categories:** Biology; Chemistry; Mathematics/Computers; Engineering/Technology; Environment; Earth/Space Science; Physics; Psychology

**Register online at:** [http://www.discoveryctr.org/tcsfjudges\\_app%20form.htm](http://www.discoveryctr.org/tcsfjudges_app%20form.htm)

**Please tell your colleagues and science friends about this great event and forward or post this note for others to see.**

**Thank you again for helping the children, and we look forward to another successful Fair!**

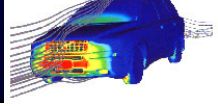
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Tri County Science & Technology Fair  
c/o Putnam Children's Discovery Center, Inc.  
PO Box 222  
Carmel, NY 10512

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As a backup, for any judge's inquiries, please contact by e-mail [Marc.Karell@ERM.com](mailto:Marc.Karell@ERM.com).





# Discover Engineering!

At

## Westchester Community College

Valhalla, New York in Westchester County

### ENGINEERING

# EXPO

## Sunday March 29, 2009

### 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

**FREE ADMISSION!**

For more information visit

# BeAnEngineer.org

Lower Hudson Valley  
**ENGINEERING**



The Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo is a project of The Foundation for Engineering Education, Inc. (FEE). FEE is a NYS Chartered 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from The Foundation for Engineering Education, Inc., 385 Jordan Rd., Ste 6, Troy, NY 12180 or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

**The Foundation for Engineering Education**

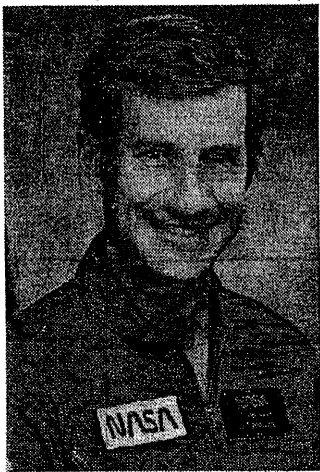
Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo - P.O. Box 332 West Nyack, 10994

# Rockland Review

FOR ROCKLAND AND BEYOND ...YOUR COMMUNITY-MINDED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1976

DECEMBER 26, 2008

## Astronaut Terry J. Hart to be featured speaker at 6th Annual Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo



### WEST NYACK, N.Y.

Terry J. Hart, a retired astronaut, Air Force fighter pilot and Bell Labs engineer, will be the marquee speaker at the sixth annual Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo. The event is set for Sunday, March 29, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Westchester Community College in Valhalla, N.Y.

The Expo's mission is to introduce middle and high school students and their families to educational opportunities and career options in the engineering industry. Leading engineering colleges from throughout the Northeast and top engineering firms from across the Hudson Valley will have interactive displays and exhibits at this free event.

"We are extremely pleased to have a person of Terry Hart's stature agree to join us at the Expo," said Malcolm G. McLaren, president and CEO of McLaren Engineering Group, a primary sponsor of the event. "His real-life exploits as an astronaut have captured the imagination of the American public and by sharing his experience and knowledge, we hope young science and math students

will be inspired to pursue a career in engineering."

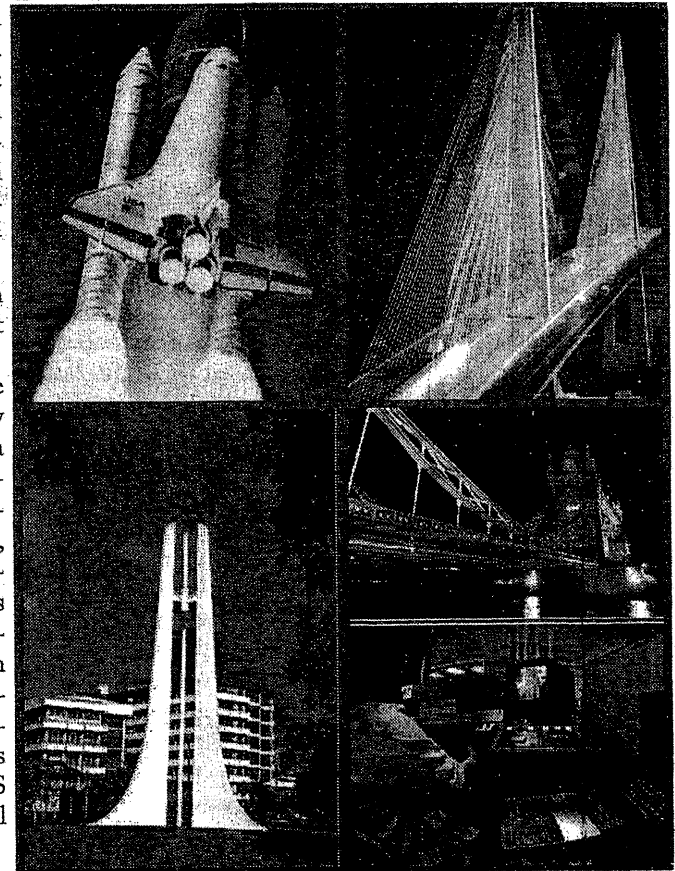
Hart was part of the first group of space shuttle astronauts, known as the "Thirty-Five New Guys," chosen by NASA in 1978. He and four others manned the Challenger on NASA's 11<sup>th</sup> shuttle mission in April 1984, logging 168 hours in orbit above the earth. He and his crew were credited with being the first astronauts to repair a satellite from the shuttle.

Hart put his engineering career at Bell Laboratories on hold for four years to be an Air Force fighter pilot and for six years to be a NASA astronaut. After retiring as an astronaut in 1985, he continued a prosperous career in the telecommunications industry. He had received two patents while employed at Bell Labs,

working on electrical and mechanical design for a variety of electronic power equipment used in the Bell System. He currently teaches courses on aircraft design and performance at Lehigh University, his alma mater.

For more information about the expo, visit [www.BeAnEngineer.org](http://www.BeAnEngineer.org).

**ABOUT EXPO:** The Lower Hudson Valley Engineering EXPO, a project of The Foundation for Engineering Education Inc. (501(c)(3)), is a collaboration of several engineering societies in the Hudson Valley including the American Society of Civil Engineers, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the NYS Society of Professional Engineers.



# QUEENS COUNTY CHAPTER

OF

THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

*(Member: National Society of Professional Engineers - NSPE)*

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website: [www.nspequeens.org](http://www.nspequeens.org)

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JOSE VELASQUEZ, PE  
Secretary/Treasurer

November 20, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Queens Chapter – NYSSPE is soliciting contributions from Engineers and Architects in the NY area to help fund a lawsuit by the NY State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) against the City of New York. As you probably already know, the NY City Council recently passed a law changing the City Charter, at the insistence of Mayor Bloomberg, which removed the licensure requirement from the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings. The new law now states that the Buildings Commissioner need not be licensed. Presently, an unlicensed lay person is Buildings Commissioner.

The Queens Chapter is leading the fight in the NY Metropolitan area AGAINST the Mayor's irresponsible actions which endanger the public's health, safety and welfare while undermining and diminishing both the Engineering and Architectural professions.

The Queens Chapter leadership is asking all Engineers and Architects to contribute to a legal fund which will support the NYSSPE legal suit against the City of New York. Please make whatever contribution is within your means.

It's about time we stand up for our Profession and the people of New York!

Suggested contributions:

\$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 750 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: "Queens Chapter – NYSSPE"      Memo: "Legal Fund"

Mail to:

**Jose A. Velasquez, P.E. - Treasurer**  
**Queens Chapter – NYSSPE**  
**130-08 122 Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Fl.)**  
**South Ozone Park, NY 11420**



# New Software Options for Hybrid Masonry/Steel and Loadbearing Masonry



Sponsored by: International Masonry Institute & National Concrete Masonry Association

## INTRODUCTION

Don't miss the exciting, national seminar series on the new concept of "hybrid" masonry/steel design featuring load-sharing reinforced masonry infill in a structural steel frame. The IMI, NCMA, Ryan Biggs Associates and Bentley Systems have teamed up to develop a new, innovative structural software program to efficiently perform a whole building analysis of both loadbearing masonry buildings and the new "hybrid" structure concept. The software uses a whole building approach – not just the analysis of individual components. Learn how this approach leads to easier and faster engineering design of masonry buildings including irregular configurations, wall openings, multi-story structures and structural infill panels in structural steel frames and more.

## PROGRAM

- Detailed engineering discussion of the basis for the hybrid wall systems.
- Demonstration of our industry leading software technology using RAM Advance for hybrid masonry & steel structures.
- Loadbearing masonry engineering design criteria and methods.
- Options for using this innovative software for loadbearing masonry structures.

## COST \$50

### Registration is due by February 20, 2009

Checks should be payable to "International Masonry Institute" and mail to 3281 Route 206, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Registration is transferable but NOT refundable. One free copy of the new Hybrid Masonry & Steel software (RAM Advance 9.5) will be given away to one lucky participant. Value of over \$1800.

## SPEAKERS

**Francisco Diego, PE** is a registered professional engineer in the state of California and in Mexico. He is a Product Manager for Bentley Systems since 2003 and previously worked as a Regional Engineer for Latin America and the Caribbean for 4 years. Prior to joining Bentley (former RAM International), he worked as a design engineer for a steel fabrication company involved in the design-build of low-rise, high-rise, commercial and industrial projects.

**Jamie Davis, PE** is Principal/Vice-President of Central NY Operations for Ryan-Biggs Associates, P.C. in Skaneateles, New York. She oversees the engineering design and renovation of educational, industrial, medical, and commercial projects.

## DATE/TIME/LOCATION

**Tuesday, March 10**

**9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**Long Island:**

**Hilton/Huntington**

598 Broadhollow Rd.

Melville, NY 11747

**Wednesday, March 11**

**9:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**Manhattan:**

**McGraw-Hill Conference Center**

1221 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10020

## CEU/PDH CREDITS

This program qualifies for 3.5 NY State professional engineering credits. In addition, it meets AIA/CES criteria for Continuing Education. Attendees will receive 3.5 AIA/CES Learning Units Hours. A Certificate of Attendance for 3.5 contact hours/PDH credits will be provided.



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Structural and Civil Engineers and others interested in learning more about structural masonry.

## REGISTRATION FORM – CHOOSE ONE: ☐ LONG ISLAND ☐ MANHATTAN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Knowledge of FEM analysis and RAM advance software is not necessary, as the sessions will be lecture and Demonstration based, not hands on.

**To officially register, please FAX this form to: (609) 291-8228**

*For more information, call the International Masonry Institute at 800-464-0988*

Please contact IMI [www.imiweb.org](http://www.imiweb.org) or 1-800-464-0988 and NCMA [www.ncma.org](http://www.ncma.org) or 1-703-713-1900 for more information on these seminars including additional seminars. For more information on Bentley's structural products please visit: <http://www.bentley.com/en-US/Products/RAM+Advance/>



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