Growing up in Massachusetts, this time of year I was filled with hope that during the night, enough snow had fallen to cancel school for the next day. I would gladly shovel out the driveway for a chance to build snow forts and watch The Price is Right! Not much has changed, I still do like the occasional snowfall and what is typically a slower few months after the holidays.

This winter has been a little different than those of recent memory. Not only have we seen little to no snow, but also for the last few months both my workload and PSPE events have been keeping me very busy! I wanted to highlight a few of the PSPE sponsored events and activities that our Board has been involved with which shine a light at the amount of talent that can be found right here in Berks County and our state of Pennsylvania.

A hearty thanks to those who volunteered at the annual MathCounts competition, which our Chapter organizes and runs. We had about 100 middle-school students ranging from 6th to 8th grade participate. The highlight for me is the lightning round, which is more like a Jeopardy-style question and answer. Questions which would take me about 2 minutes to answer are typically answered by competitors within 10 seconds!

During the past week, I was lucky enough to serve as a judge in the BCIU (Berks County Intermediate Unit) PA Governor’s STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) Competition. There were seven Berks high schools that competed in a written and oral presentation on a product that would improve the lives of Pennsylvanians. Products to improve the nutrient removal in our waterways were a highlight and very creative.

As some may have heard, the annual NSPE conference will be held in Philadelphia this year. Our Chapter assisted in deciding the presentations and seminars which will be held during this event. After reading through multiple abstracts regarding innovation in engineering, the conference should be an exciting event not to be missed!

Events planned in March include the annual Science Fair for high school students held at Albright College and a seminar being held at Penn State Berks on the first Monday of the month. Many more opportunities will be forthcoming for those who are interested in getting involved. Feel free to contact me.

