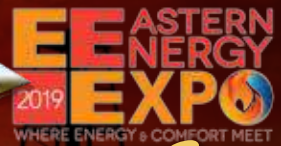


OESP News



Oil & Energy Service Professionals

EEE Convention 2019 Issue

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OESP Annual Student Competition: School vs. School

OESP's mission of education has no clearer example than the New York area annual student competition, which took place on May 1 between Saunders Trades and Technical School in Westchester and the Bronx Design and Construction Academy.

More than 75 people consisting of students, field judges and teachers came together at Saunders with countless sets of tools and instructions for a day of education with the best and the brightest up-and-coming service techs competing for their school to be proclaimed the competition champion.

OESP members and industry professionals donate their time and materials to ensure that these rising stars will have this critical hands-on training. Students spend three to four years preparing for this competition, which often leads them to plenty of competitive job offers.

High school students competed in five areas: Hydronic boiler piping; Steam Boiler Wiring; Hydronic Boiler Troubleshooting; Combustion Analysis and Parts Identification. Special events for 10th graders included completing a pipe square in sweat pipe and a low-voltage wiring board.

The day is spent displaying their knowledge as their teachers, judges and industry professionals look on. Diagrams are created that the students follow to complete their projects. The students are judged in areas such as accuracy, technical knowledge, safety, time,



Instructor **Pete Gonzalez** (left) with **Anthony Cruz** and **Aaron Gonzalez**

teamwork, workmanship and manipulative skill. A specific rubric is followed for scoring. The highest scoring school overall is crowned the champion.

Chris Montalvo and **Jason Hallock** are the instructors for Saunders who led this year's competition. The OESP New York and Westchester chapters were instrumental in planning every detail of the day from the bus transportation to the tools, safety equipment, winners' plaques and even meals.

"I would like to thank the Westchester and New York City OESP chapters for their unwavering support for this annual event," Montalvo added.

This is Montalvo's fourth year participating with Saunders, having taken over from OESP veteran **Tom Sabia**. Montalvo won the Dan Holohan Grant in 2017 and has been able to use that money to improve his program.

"With the grant I was able to buy material for the students to practice on and get ready



Instructor **Martin Figueroa** (back left) with **Esteban Rayo** (kneeling) and **Aneel Baljit** (standing)

(cont'd on page 16)

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A Word from Taco Comfort Solutions

For almost a century, Taco Comfort Solutions has been a leader in providing the latest technical advancements in wet rotor circulators, starting with the Perfecta model in the 1960s, through the "00" Series (to include the venerable 007 model), to today's ECM equipped, high-efficiency 00e® Series.

This technology is where high-efficiency and comfort come together as one. Our current family of 00e ECM circulators – the 007e®, 00e VR/ VT models; the 0015e3® (for three easy settings); the variable speed 006e3™ for domestic hot water recirculation systems; the 0018e™ featuring Bluetooth® and a mobile app to see and control real-time system performance; and the 1915e light commercial circ, designed for hot or chilled water hydronic applications, also available in stainless steel for potable water systems.

All of our latest ECM circulators are equipped with the SureStart® unblocking and air purging feature, and most have BioBarrier® protection against system contaminants. They use up to 85% less electricity than conventional circulators and have been engineered the Taco Way for easy installation and trouble-free operation over the life of a hydronic system.



A Taco Family Company

Along with state-of-the-art products built for American systems, Taco is a leader in training and education across the HVAC professional spectrum – from plumbers and mechanical contractors to engineers, facility managers, architects and building owners. We support their efforts with an ever-evolving range of software tools and building management systems to make their jobs easier, and our technical support – over the phone, online, in person or in the

field – is second to none in the industry.

As a company with a long history and deep involvement in the industry we all support, we believe in relationship building and the importance of people-to-people associations. To us, people always come first, and the all-important comfort goal we work for every day means more than just hardware; it's about caring, too.

At Taco Comfort Solutions, we care especially for the dedicated professionals in the deliverable fuels business and organizations like OESP that support them, because our company started and has survived and prospered for almost 100 years because of you.

You are in Taco's DNA, and we hope we are in yours, too.

Message from the President

By Ralph Adams

Welcome to the spring issue of The OESP News, coinciding with the annual not-to-miss Eastern Energy Expo, "Where Energy and Comfort Meet!"

It has been an honor to serve as President, this third year of my term. I am happy to say that plenty has been accomplished by the OESP leadership team. Our National Board, chapters and committees are full of so many talented contributors, there are simply too many to thank. But in as best as it can be said, we could not have accomplished so much this year without the extensive support of so many.

Our financials remain strong, thanks, in large part, to the partnership created by the Eastern Energy Expo. We are happy to report that OESP ended 2018 with a healthy profit for the third year in a row and we expect the same success in 2019. We feel confident that OESP is becoming stronger than ever.

We have continued to improve our communications to members and our numbers are holding steady thanks to the diligent work of our membership team under the leadership of **George Fantacone**. It is the testament to a hard-working and effective board, committee and management office.

This spring we are welcoming back the Pine Tree Chapter in Maine. Thank you to **Jim Mack** of Estes Oil for spearheading this effort. And thank you to Estes Oil and Northern Burner Supply for sponsoring the initial meeting last month. We also have interest in starting chapters in State College, PA and Albany, NY and are eagerly looking for volunteers to help. If you are located in one of those areas, please contact me and we'll get the chapter going.

Our corporate member numbers have remained strong in 2019. We see this as a positive sign that OESP continues to thrive in our industry. The fact that these companies value visibility to our members speaks volumes about our chapters, programs and mission. I commend those who are on the front line of the association continuing to provide this value every day.

Whether you are a manufacturer, a service manager or a technician, OESP provides critical opportunities for education at all levels. Just attend one of our many chapter meetings held each month and you'll receive education. That's why so many of your peers dedicate themselves to the membership effort. While it requires time, energy and passion, we all benefit from a strong and growing, consistent base of opportunity. Please join us in our efforts as often as possible.

As education is a passion of mine, I believe that this effort is critically important to the mission of OESP and I thank the chapters for enabling the future of our industry.

I am also very passionate about Oil Heat Cares, which has done some fantastic work this season, providing heat to many needy families in the various regions served by OESP. I would like to once again thank **Dave Bessette** and his dedicated committee for reviewing the applications and approving such vital projects throughout the year.

Another initiative that I feel very strongly about is supporting our youth – the next generation of our industry. I thank our Dave Nelsen Scholarship sponsors for their support as we once again award scholarships at this year's annual awards banquet, where we will also present this year's prestigious industry awards. And another thank you goes to **George Fantacone** for organizing the annual golf outing, the only major fundraiser for the scholarship.

This fall's Oilheat Retreat will be taking place at the Wyndham Gettysburg in Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 13-15, 2019. This was a favorite destination from a few years ago. Please join us, get even more involved and make an even bigger difference in OESP.

Thank you for empowering me to lead the charge for the past three years. It has been a memorable experience and I am grateful for the opportunity and trust. I look forward to speaking with you at the EEE about ways in which we can work even harder to advance the goals of our industry.



Oil Heat Cares Helps a Family in Terryville, Conn.

Salvatore Traino's house in Terryville, Conn. was in extreme disrepair. When the home needed a new roof, his family went without heat or hot water for months.

Burdened with medical bills from COPD, Mr. Traino could not afford to fix the boiler to provide heat. They would turn it on and off when they had to. But when it was on, it leaked water from the side and Mr. Traino was constantly vacuuming water. There was a kerosene heater in the middle of the house, but this was not a safe solution because of his health condition.

Mr. Traino was also helping his daughter by caring for her two young children during her work day. This made for an even more dire situation when there was no heat in the house.

Under the leadership of **Danny Gentile** of Torrco, Oil Heat Cares stepped in to make a difference. Together with **Dave Sousa** of JA Waterville and **Mark Wilcox** from Wilcox Heating, the team replaced the boiler, providing Mr. Traino with much needed heat and hot water.

"It was pretty rough with that kerosene heater running in the house when we were there," **Danny Gentile** said. "I was very happy that we could get this done for him and we wish Mr. Traino well."

Pictured right: Mark Wilcox (right) and Dave Sousa.





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Questions? Contact Lisa Strug at OESP HQ · 1-888-552-0900 · info@thinkoesp.org



Fairfield County

More than 35 people attended the Fairfield County chapter meeting last month – it was a great turnout! **John Doht** of MCN Distributors served as last month's speaker and spoke on the timely topic of AC seasonal start-up.

For more information on the Fairfield County Chapter, please visit fairfield-county.thinkoesp.org.

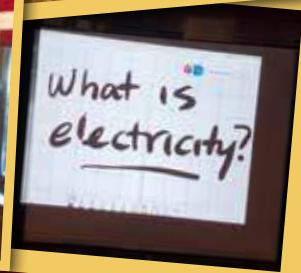
New York City

The New York City Chapter was busy in April.

First, Chapter President **Pete Gonzalez** taught a three-day "hands-on" basic electricity training course. It was designed for entry-level technicians in the heating industry, teaching students basic electrical wiring using low voltage circuits. Thank you to Pete for a great class experience!

Then, at the Chapter's regular monthly meeting, **Leszek Zielinski**, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, discussed the state's Petroleum Bulk Storage Program, including new revisions to regulations. The group also heard from **Dave Wagner** who does a monthly update on NYC Department of Buildings' Boiler and Oil Tank Code Update.

For more information on the New York City Chapter, please visit nyc.thinkoesp.org.



Rhode Island

Twenty-five members attended the Rhode Island chapter's April meeting to hear from **Guy Woolard** of Heat Flo. The group enjoyed Guy's discussion about sizing water tanks.

For more information on the Rhode Island Chapter, please visit rhode-island.thinkoesp.org.



Garden State

The Garden State Chapter met last month at Libretti's Restaurant to hear from **Bob Bruno** of Venco Sales. Bob discussed the Testo line of testing equipment. He covered combustion testing, air flow testing, electrical measurement and thermal imaging. The 26 attendees, including eight service techs, enjoyed a great presentation, great food and, of course, great company.

For more information on the Garden State Chapter, please visit gardenstate.thinkoesp.org.



Thank you to our dedicated photographers around OESP for sending in these fantastic chapter updates! Please remember to give us the names of the people in your photos!



New Haven

Mark Stellmach of Fuel Management Services offered an enlightening discussion about Fuel Changes, ULSHO & Biodiesel, and the impacts of fuel storage to the New Haven Chapter last month. More than 25 members and guests attended this informative presentation.

For more information on the New Haven Chapter, please visit newhaven.thinkoesp.org.

Lehigh Valley

Moe Lami of Honeywell spoke at the Lehigh Valley OESP Chapter last month. Moe discussed Honeywell's new products within the thermostat line. A chapter member at the March meeting had suggested this product line; attendees appreciated the detailed information on wired and wireless thermostats that Moe provided.

For more information on the Lehigh Valley Chapter, please visit lehigh-valley.thinkoesp.org.



Brian Kiernan, Energy Kinetics - Chapter President



Long Island

The Long Island Chapter enjoyed an impressive turnout of 32 members and guests for its April meeting. **Mark Schmittzeh** of Rinnai discussed his company's line of boilers and tankless water heaters.

For more information on the Long Island Chapter, please visit long-island.thinkoesp.org.



Southeast PA Chapter

In April, the Southeast PA Chapter hosted 14 members and guests at Conestoga Restaurant in Lancaster to hear from **Anthony Reikow** of BJ Terroni. Anthony spoke about the TACO line of hot water circulators, specifically the 0018e product that is designed to accommodate new and retrofit existing systems. Anthony gave practical examples of how the ECM Motor could help solve issues in the field and make diagnosis easier via a Bluetooth app on a smartphone.

For more information on the Southeast PA Chapter, please visit southeastpa.thinkoesp.org.



Anthony Reikow delivers a great presentation



Scott Ansel of Meyer Oil with **Curt Martin** of RW Beckett



From left: **Anthony Reikow** of BJ Terroni, who served as program speaker, with **Matt Bixler Thaddeus** of Stevens Institute of Technology - behind Anthony is **Jon Dunkle** of BJ Terroni

Westchester

The Westchester Chapter was fortunate to host the Chief Plumbing Inspector of White Plains, **Chris Bartolini**, at its April Meeting. Chris, a former plumber who is well versed in his chosen field, offered great insight.

He discussed a new approach to enforcement, offering to work with licensed professionals to deliver residents a quality job at a realistic price. Chris updated some policies and covered both residential and commercial installations. The Chapter appreciated his candor and the meeting was extremely well attended. All attendees came away with a new understanding of the codes in White Plains, the largest city in our area.

For more information on the Westchester Chapter, please visit heatcoolpros.com.



Chris Bartolini of White Plains, addressing the attendees



Chris Bartolini makes a great point about enforcement



There was an excellent turnout among members and guests



Now presenting our official resident chimney expert...

Delaware Valley, Bucks-Mont and Lehigh Valley Chapters Joint Technical Meeting with Montco PHCC

Last month at the American Legion Post 10 in Ft Washington, Pa., **Tony Calderone** of Weil McClain presented steam training to a full house of more than 55 technicians, managers and wholesalers. The meeting started with live-fire steam boiler training and was followed by a very informative review of the theory of steam systems. Tony provided great literature for the attendees to use in the field and to help them properly size replacement steam boilers.

Thanks to the Delaware Valley, Bucks-Mont and Lehigh Valley OESP Chapters and Montco PHCC all working together, this joint tech night was a huge success.

For more information about the Delaware Valley chapter, please visit delaware-valley.thinkoesp.org.

For more information on the Lehigh Valley Chapter, please visit lehigh-valley.thinkoesp.org.

For more information on the Bucks-Mont Chapter, please visit bucks-mont.thinkoesp.org.

It's easy to have your chapter featured! Just take some photos and send us information about your meeting. Email the pictures and details to the OESP office at lstrug@thinkoesp.org.

Message from the Executive Director

By Lisa Strug

Hello OESP and all attendees of the fourth-annual Eastern Energy Expo! Many of you will be reading this in Hershey, Pa. So, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the most important event of the year for our industry and the "sweetest place on earth."

More than 4,000 people have traveled to Hershey this week for a variety of training, networking and events that are essential to running a successful business. Please be sure to visit the OESP booth at the EEE – we will be stationed in the hallway across from registration. Also, make sure to pick up your badge ribbons so you can display that you are a proud OESP member.

We will also have our new OESP quarter-zip, long-sleeve shirts available for pickup. If you didn't place a preorder – no worries – we do have a limited number of extras. But come quickly – they will sell out.

On Monday night, OESP's opening reception will be taking place together with the EEE Hospitality night. Stop by our party, shoot some hoops with **Velocity Boiler Works**, play some skee-ball with **Biasi**, enjoy entertainment sponsored by **Riello**, drink a special "Carlin-tini" or "Hydro-politan," enjoy some great food at a station sponsored by **Taco**, and relax with us. And we have a surprise or two up our sleeves, so don't miss it.

And don't miss the annual OESP Awards banquet Tuesday night, when we will recognize terrific OESP members who will be honored with our prestigious industry awards. And, a special acknowledgement to **Advanced Fuel Solutions** for sponsoring dessert.

Also at the banquet, The **Dave Nelsen** Scholarship awards will be

presented to deserving students pursuing a career in the energy services industry. We would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support of this worthy cause: **RW Beckett, ECR International, the South Central Pennsylvania Energy Association, the New York and Westchester chapters, and the Mid Atlantic chapter.**

By now, you have seen plenty from our amazing advertisers. Thank you to **Beckett, Taco, Suntec Industries, Wohler, Sid Harvey and Carlin/Hyrdolevel.** And, welcome to **General Filters** who joined our advertiser family this year. Their ads are featured in this issue. Yours could be too – contact us to find out how.

Our Oil Heat Cares program has been on the move in every region of OESP. Your generosity continues to directly enhance lives. Thank you to the team led by OHC Chair **Dave Bessette** for enabling well-deserving people to be warm and safe each year. And thank you to the service companies who have graciously donated their time. Take a look at the article in this newsletter detailing some of the great work that has been completed this season, and we're sure there's much more to come. We are tremendously proud of Oil Heat Cares and the OESP members who support this incredible cause.

The fall Oil Heat Retreat has been announced. It will be held at the Wyndham Gettysburg from Sept. 13-15, 2019. We hope that you will join us.

On behalf of **Jonathan Jaffe, Meredith Levy** and the rest of your friendly OESP management team, it continues to be a pleasure to serve you. We look forward to seeing you at EEE!



A Word from R.W. Beckett Corp.

Beckett
CORPORATION

R.W. Beckett Corp. officially launched its newly rebuilt, state-of-the-art residential oil heat engineering lab and interactive customer experience room. The newest of Beckett's three labs inside its Northeast Ohio headquarters will serve as a facility for testing the application of Beckett products to OEM customers' products as well as welcoming dealer groups and industry service personnel for hands-on training and demonstrations in a real-life environment where Beckett products provide tactile and visual feedback.

After a fire devastated the old lab facility in 2018, Chairman of the Beckett Companies **John Beckett** said, "We hadn't planned on this, but it gave us an opportunity to take a fresh look at how we would reconfigure our lab. We thought, how would we build a first-class, modern laboratory that put its best foot forward from an engineering standpoint? We feel that we have to be a strong engineering company if we're going to service our customers, and we serve the marketplace best by offering well-designed, well-engineered, and well-tested products. Our lab is a great leap forward in this pursuit."

For Beckett, the residential lab symbolizes the organization's strong tradition and values as well as its devotion to the residential segment while the company explores new territories. The lab



R.W. Beckett Chairman **John Beckett**

represents Beckett's core business and ability to provide a product that adapts well to customer products while providing a foundation for tomorrow's well-engineered products.

With more than 80 years of experience in the industry, family-owned R.W. Beckett has built a lasting legacy as the North American market leader in combustion products used in heating, cleaning equipment, and for custom applications.

Update on Membership

By George Fantacone

I would like to start by thanking the membership chairs from each chapter who continue to monitor dues payments and follow up with members, ensuring that our numbers stay strong.

We are pleased by the prospect of welcoming back the Pine Tree chapter of Maine this year. Thanks to efforts by **Jim Mack** of Estes Oil and sponsorship by both Estes Oil and Northern Burner Supply, the chapter held an exploratory meeting in April. We look forward to welcoming new members soon.

There are also possibilities for forming chapters in State College, PA and Albany, NY. If you are in that area, please contact **Ralph Adams** or me and we'll help you get going.

We need each and every chapter's involvement to help meet our aggressive membership recruitment goals. If you would like to get involved, please plan to join our membership committee. Please contact **Lisa Strug** at the association office for the next date and time.

OESP needs your help to continue to build our organization.

Our recruiting offer to all OESP members still stands. We encourage you to encourage a friend or colleague to come to a meeting. You will be rewarded for your efforts. **Recruit two new members and we will mail you a \$50 gift card!**

Once new members join, we want them to get engaged right away. So, new members, please join us at a chapter meeting for FREE. Just RSVP to the chapter so they know to count you for dinner and your first meeting is on us!

If you are reading this message, but you're not exactly a new member and you haven't been to a chapter meeting in six months, we'd still like to invite you to come to any meeting **for free!** Again, just RSVP to the chapter so they know to count you in.

Since our last printed issue, we are proud to welcome these new members:

John Abril

Abrilairre HVAC Service Inc

Harold Case

Countryside Propane

David Deblois

QHT, Inc.

Mike DiBenedetto

Dominick Fuel Inc.

Randy Dominick

Dominick Fuel Inc.

Brad Froggatt

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Joseph Goldman

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Alex Greene

QHT, Inc.

Stanley Hersom

Petro Home Services

David Lenkowski

Dal Fuel Oil Company, LLC

James Mack

Estes Oil & Propane

Adam Rasmussen

Sid Harvey

Joseph Solari

Aim Tank Services

Chris Sprague

Giroux Energy Solutions

Rick Zongora

Zongora Comfort Solutions



The benefits of membership are boundless. For example, each month there are 15-22 opportunities for training. The chapters offer monthly classes on processes, products and services that make our jobs easier, more profitable and better serve the customer.

Our goal is not only to increase our membership, but to engage our members. We believe this goal is clearly achievable; we just need your help to spread the word about the enormous value of membership.

Membership recruitment is truly the lifeblood of our organization and the Membership Committee needs your help to make our campaigns successful. Our team of dedicated professionals, representing all of the local chapters, is happy to lend time and energy to membership campaigns and many other membership initiatives. Please join us in our efforts as often as possible.

The bottom line?

Our members have terrific resources available to them, including the best educational material developed by the top trainers in the industry. Without you, there would be no OESP. And without OESP, there would be fewer sources of industry education and networking opportunities for our members.

Thank you for working together to ensure our industry remains healthy and vibrant.



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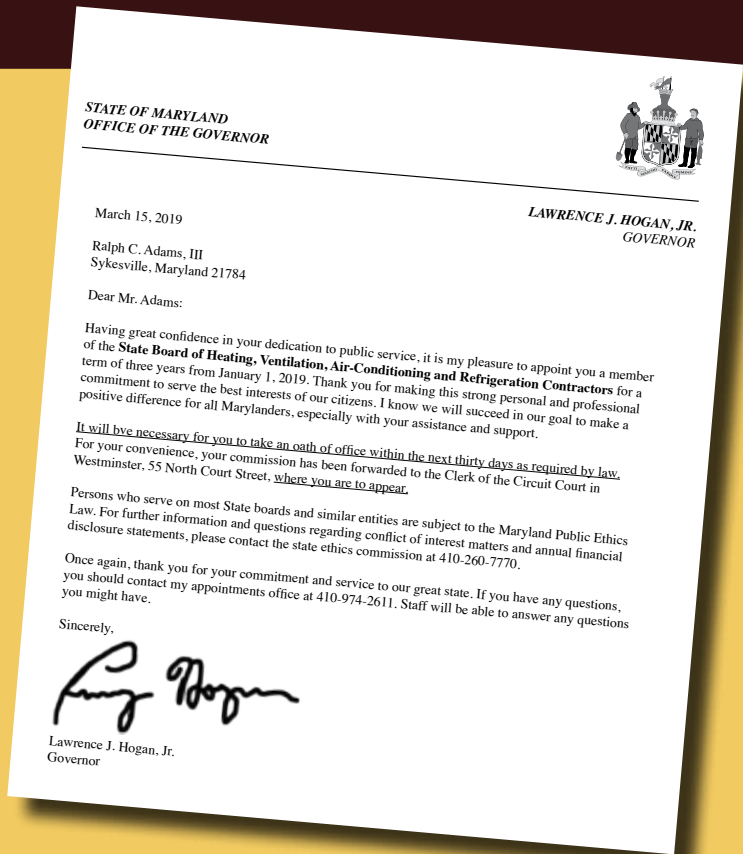
Opening Reception Arcade Game Sponsors



Congratulations to Ralph Adams!

Our very own **Ralph Adams** was appointed by Maryland Governor **Larry Hogan** to the state's **Board of Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors**.

Ralph will serve three years on the state HVACR Board, which issues licenses and regulations and adopts codes, standards and guidelines for Maryland's heating and comfort industries.



Pictured: Denise & Ralph Adams

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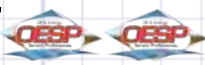
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OESP Annual Student Competition: School vs. School

(continued from page 1)

for the competition," Montalvo said. "I was also able to replenish material that is used up for every year on student projects. Materials included copper and black pipe and associated fittings. I am very thankful to OESP for the opportunity."

Pete Gonzalez and **Orvil Boatswain** are Work Based Learning/HVAC instructors for the Bronx Design and Construction Academy. Together, they are a seasoned team with more than 40 years of teaching experience between them. Boatswain was OESP's instructor of the year in 2018.

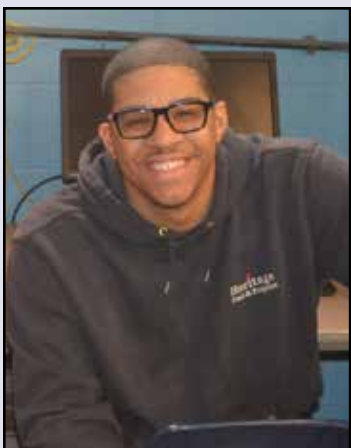
"It was an honor to receive the recognition from OESP and I am proud to continue participating in this competition," he said.

"The kids love it because they want to showcase what they have learned over the last three years," Gonzalez said. "They also know that industry professionals are here judging them and then want to demonstrate they are employable."



Instructor **Alex Taliana** (left) with **Amanda Martinez**

The teams are each given a piping diagram with parts identification and dimensions. They are expected to connect all piping and devices to the boiler at their respective stations. The



John Murray of Heritage Fuel



Angel Gonzalez looks on as Saunders students show off their skills - from left: **Malik Edwards, Gabriel Garcia, Alex Rodriguez**

Although the two schools are in competition, their teachers definitely agree: The favorite event of the day is the hydronic boiler install.

"The hydronic boiler piping installation is the main event - it takes the whole day," Montalvo said. "A team of two from each school works on it and unlike other events that demonstrate one skill, the students on this project are showcasing multiple skills."

The layout must be as specified in the drawings with particular attention to dimension and flow direction. Choice of fitting and pipe may be at the discretion of the participant. Students are judged on their knowledge of the equipment, fittings and all parts associated with the specified task.

"It's quite complicated and takes a long time to build and connect the entire system," Gonzalez said. "It's quite a source of pride to show off the finished product."

John Murray, a 2016 Saunders graduate, was on-hand this year as a judge. When he participated three years ago, he came in first place in the hydronic boiler troubleshooting competition. John now works for Heritage Fuel & Propane under the leadership of **Bob Daros** of the Westchester OESP chapter.

"I've been participating as a judge in the student competition for many years," Bob said. "So when we were looking for a new hire, it was only fitting that I would call **Chris Montalvo** and ask for a recommendation. Chris felt that John was the perfect fit, and he has been."

"I benefitted a lot from the experience of this competition," John said. "I am thankful that OESP puts this on each year and I am proud that I was asked to return as a judge. Participating on this side is my way of paying it forward and giving back to the process that made me who I am now. I really appreciate the whole thing now that I've been able to come back and be on the other side."



Judges included OESP **Elijah Peguero** (left) members and professionals in the field, many of whom graduated from Saunders, Bronx Design or other similar technical programs in the New York area. **Angel Gonzalez, John Masini, Alex Taliana, Bob O'Rourke, Bob Daros, Tom Sabia, John Hachmann, Justin Romano, Juan Alejandro, William Ausberger, Peter Gasperini** and **Brendan Grace**, all OESP members, were judges of this competition. Women in Energy Executive Director **Judy Garber** also joined the group for the day.



Angel Gonzalez (left) of Carlin/Hyrdolevel and **Bob Daros** of Heritage Fuel

OESP Annual Student Competition: School vs. School



From left: **John Masini**, **Angel Gonzalez**, **Sean Robinson** and **Jason Hallock**

Angel Gonzalez of Carlin/Hydrolevel and OESP National Vice President acted as “master of ceremonies.” He said he comes back each year because it’s a great way to give back to the industry.

“The students see that people from the industry come back every year to support them and it motivates them to do the best job they can do. They learn so much from this hands-on experience – it’s incredibly valuable,” Gonzalez said. “And personally, I love mentoring the kids. It gives me great pleasure to go back to my servicing days, passing on what I know, and I really feel that it is critical to continue to bring high quality education to future service technicians.”

Brendan Grace of RW Beckett recounted that Beckett donated a whole set of burners about 15 years ago. “It’s a source of great pride for RW Beckett to continue to be involved in this event year after year,” Grace said. “To see some of those burners still in action is terrific.”

Saunders principal **Steven Mazzola** added that he is thankful to OESP for hosting this competition every year. “This is the best way to teach our kids,” he said. “This hands-on experience is what makes our school a model for other schools around the country. None of this could happen without the support of the industry and OESP,” he said.



Carlin Gaud (left) and **Andy Rodriguez** display their completed work



From left: **Jonathan Tupa** of **Burke Energy**, with **Jimmy Barragan** and **Jonathan Jimenez**

Organizers also expressed appreciation to manufacturer representatives and individual companies who donated time and material: Consolidated Plumbing Supply, InterCounty Plumbing Supply, Wales Darby, Carlin/Hydrolevel, Energy Kinetics, Beckett, Park Place Plumbing, Edwards Platt, M.M.I. Mechanical, Guaranteed Home Improvements, Northerast Radiant and Burke Energy.

And of course, none of this would be possible without the ongoing dedication of the NYC and Westchester Chapters of OESP.

This competition, named “*The Annual **Steve Rinaldo** Student Competition*” also serves to keep the memory of Westchester chapter member **Steve Rinaldo** alive.

He had a big heart, loved the kids and worked as an original organizer of the event. The team worked with sales representatives and manufacturers to ensure the students received goody bags afterwards.

So who won? Congratulations to the Bronx Design and Construction Academy for being the champs of the day for the second year in a row. And, congratulations to all for another outstanding educational event.



From left: **Chris Montalvo** of Saunders, OESP Executive Director **Lisa Strug** and **Pete Gonzalez** of BDCA

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