

Save The Date!

Celebrate Engineers Week!

You are cordially invited to celebrate the close of Engineers Week 2009 at the E-Week banquet on Friday, February 20th 2009! Please invite all that may be interested in attending this event.

The FIRST Robotics team from St Johnsbury Academy, called the Lab Rats, will headline this year's event. The Lab Rats will be introduced by their coach, Elaine Parshall, the Academy's STEM program director. They will present on their experience competing in the 2008 Connecticut Regional *FIRST* event, their success in receiving the highest ranked rookie award, and the strategy that they employed for this year's event which started on January 3. The Lab Rats team consists of 15 students and 5 adult mentors who collaborate efforts in order to build a robot, compete in the *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC), and raise awareness about the need for increased technological education in Vermont by taking their robot to community events. PITA, the 2008 award winning robot designed by the Lab Rats, will be making an appearance at the banquet as well as the robot from the team at the Center for Technology and Essex High School.

Dean Kamen, best known for inventing the Segway PT, is the founder of the *FIRST* Competitions. *FIRST* Robotics Competition is a unique varsity sport of the mind designed to help high-school-aged young people discover how interesting and rewarding the life of engineers and researchers can be.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors from all around the world to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions designed by Dean Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers, and a committee of engineers and other professionals.

The Reception will be held at the Burlington Sheraton. The cocktail hour will commence at 5:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Awards and the presentation will follow.

The cost is \$35 per person (\$20 for students). If you wish to only attend the presentation without dinner, the cost is \$10. Also, in the past we have asked the professional society if they would like to sponsor a student to attend the meeting. We have found that many students have an interest in attending, but not the budget for it. This would be a great opportunity for the students to mingle with the engineering community especially if your company is looking to hire.

Please **RSVP to Jill Floyd by February 13th at jill.floyd@stantec.com or 864-0223.** Make sure to let her know if you will want the vegetarian meal option. Also, if you would like to send a check ahead of time please make it out to "Engineers Week / Vermont" and mail it to *Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, c/o Jason Booth, 6 Market Place, Suite 2, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452.*



National Engineers Week 2009
February 15th – 21st

