STV/Ralph Whitehead Clinches Top "Engineering Excellence Awards" Honors

STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates in Charlotte has received the top honor for engineering excellence by the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina.

The Charlotte engineering firm was presented the 2009 “Henry A. Stikes Grand Conceptor Award” for its design work and construction management of the South Corridor Light Rail Transit System in Charlotte. The top honor was presented to company officials at ACEC/NC’s annual awards gala, which was held at Preston Wood Country Club in Cary on November 19.

Firms presented “Grand Awards” were:
- CDM, Raleigh
- McKim & Creed, Wilmington
- S&ME, Inc., Raleigh
- Stantec, Winston-Salem
- Stewart Engineering, Inc., Raleigh
- Trigone, Kleinfelder, Inc., Greensboro

Companies receiving “Honors Awards” were:
- AECOM, Cary
- ARCADIS, Greensboro
- Michael Baker Engineering, Inc., Cary
- Black & Veatch, Charlotte
- Dewberry, Raleigh
- WK Dickson & Co., Inc., Raleigh
- ECS Carolinas, LLP, Greensboro
- Froehling & Robertson, Inc., Raleigh
- Hazen and Sawyer, Greensboro
- HNTB North Carolina, P.C., Raleigh
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., Raleigh
- KingGuinn Associates, P.A., Charlotte
- S&ME, Inc., Greensboro
- URS Corporation, Morrisville
- Vaughn & Melton, Asheville
- Withers & Ravenel, Cary

ACEC/NC annually presents the “Engineering Excellence Awards” to honor and recognize engineering and surveying firms located in North Carolina for projects that demonstrate the highest degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.

Congratulations to all of the 2009 award winners!

ACEC/NC Office to Poll Member Firms

Over the next two weeks, ACEC/NC members will be receiving a phone call from one of the ACEC/NC staff members, asking each member firm for data related to net changes in employee numbers since May 2008 as well as some questions related to current workloads as compared to this time last year.

ACEC/NC is gathering this information in order to get an accurate snapshot of the impact that the economic downturn has had on the engineering industry so we can share that information with our state’s political leadership. Specifically, we will use the data to support our argument that if a national or state stimulus package directed toward infrastructure is enacted, those dollars need to include projects that are ready to be engineered, not just “shovel-ready” projects in which the engineering portion of the work is already completed or don’t have an engineering component at all.

When you receive a call from Renee, Tia or Kathryn, please take a moment to share your firm’s data. We assure you that all firm-specific information will remain confidential and will not be shared outside of the ACEC/NC office, and all data collected will only be reported on an aggregate basis.

Please help ACEC/NC be the best advocate for your firm and the engineering industry on the whole by sharing this information and arming us with the facts we need to fight for you.
Positions Available

HESM&A is currently seeking a full time Mid/Senior Level Mechanical Engineer to join our Charlotte, NC, office. We are looking for someone with 6-8 years experience and excellent verbal and written communication skills. The ideal candidate would need the ability to do their own CAD design, materials selection, design and trade coordination with minimal input. EIT is required. P.E. license is preferred. Commercial and institutional experience is a plus, as are LEED accreditation and commissioning certification. Visit our website for more information: www.hesm.com. For consideration, please forward your resume to: careers@hesm.com.

WK Dickson & Co., Inc. is seeking a Branch Manager for our Columbia Regional office. Individual must have 15 years experience with PE licensure, strong marketing capabilities and proven people management experience. Company offers very competitive salary with incentive compensation and other excellent benefits in a progressive, career-oriented work environment. Interested candidates should send resume to hrdept@wktdickson.com.

HDR, Inc. is currently in need of the following professionals:
- Bridge Project Manager to work in the Transportation Business Group of our Raleigh, NC, location. The Bridge Project Manager will be responsible for bridge analysis/design, production, and project management. They will also be expected to have strong budgeting, scheduling, and marketing-related skills with potential clients to help HDR effectively continue to grow our Raleigh practice. Mentoring related skills to assist with junior level staff development are also a must. Experience Required: BS in Civil Engineering required, MS degree preferred, PE license required, 10+ years’ related experience in bridge engineering, analysis, design, and project management. Apply Online: http://www.gojobs.com/search/bo1?JobNum=32147512888784299588&785JBD=1936
E-mail: Tia Jones at tia.jones@hdrinc.com
- Senior Rail Engineer to work as part of our Transportation Business Group in our Raleigh, NC, location. Their responsibilities will include managing clients and design teams for commuter, short-

Congratulations to the 2008-09 Class of “Future Leaders”

Earlier this year, ACEC/NC member firms nominated their “rising stars” to participate in the 2008-09 “Future Leaders” class.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been chosen to participate in this prestigious program:
- Ryan Akers, The John R. McAdams Company
- Ladson Brearley, HSMM | AECOM
- Matthew Daves, United Engineering
- Charles Davis, The Wooten Company
- Joe Doane, Trigon | Kleinfelder
- Andrea Dvorak-Grantz, Stantec
- Brian Eason, HW Lohner
- William Grimes, MACTEC
- Carter Hubbard, WK Dickson
- Shiv Iyer, GHD Consultants
- Scott Jacobs, ECS
- Jason Kennedy, CLH Design
- John Oglesby, Trigon | Kleinfelder
- Renee Pfeifer, CLH Design
- Joe Robbins, Trigon | Kleinfelder
- Scott Sigmon, WK Dickson
- Keith Skinner, RK&K
- Marty Stone, The Wooten Company
- Anna Teague, HDR
- Matt Wallace, MACTEC

For information about how to nominate one of your employees for the next class of “Future Leaders” or to learn more about the program itself, please contact Tia Jones by calling the ACEC/NC office or via email by clicking here.

E-PAC Update

In the past election cycle, your political action committee, the Engineers PAC of North Carolina, contributed more than $52,000 to support candidates for the North Carolina General Assembly and Council of State who are leaders on issues important to the engineering industry.

Of the contributions made, 85.7% of those were made to winning candidates.

The schedule for the E-PAC luncheons to take place in the new year will be available soon, and we will send that out to you once it has been established.

To make a contribution to E-PAC, send your personal check made to “E-PAC” to:

E-PAC
C/O Betsy Bailey
920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 101
Raleigh, NC 27606

December 17 Webinar: “Marketing Practices That Pay Off in a Down Economy”

So, how is your backlog? Is the worsening economy making you anxious for the coming year?

Come learn how to focus marketing resources on efforts that will win work and increase the bottom line in today’s challenging economic climate. Learn 10 Best Practices for Effective Proposal Development and 10 Profitable Marketing Practices that you can take back and apply to your firm today!

Presenter Deirdre Booth of Small Giants, LLC, is a practiced professional in the A/E/C industry focusing on marketing and business development. With 10 years of experience, her career has spanned from small niche firms to three of the top ENR firms in the nation.

For more information on the webinar and to register online, click here to be redirected to the event page on the ACEC/NC website.

Want More Bang for Your Membership Buck? Join an ACEC/NC Committee or Forum!

At any time throughout the year, you can – and are encouraged to – become involved in one or more of ACEC/NC’s Committees and Forums. There are few better ways to realize the return on your membership dollar than through your active participation in one or more of these peer networking and information-sharing groups. Additionally, encouraging your younger staff in your firm to get involved with these committees is a great way to help them grow into stronger, more networked members of your company’s team.

ACEC/NC Committees include:
- Economic Development Committee
- State Construction/UNC Systems Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Federal Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Programs Committee
- Public Relations Committee/Mktg Forum
- Design/Build Forum
- Financial Management/Operations Management Forum
- Human Resources Forum
- Small Business Forum

For more information on these committees or to sign up, please contact Renee Katsifos at (919) 781-7934 or via email by clicking here.
January 15 Seminar: “Improving the Effectiveness of Teams”

The use of teams continues to expand and change in these turbulent times. The mix of designers, general contractors, subcontractors, regulators, and end clients can make for a complex dynamic. This presentation will include powerful insights on how to optimize the output from you and your staff’s involvement in teams.

Dr. Dick Kracht, PE, owner of “A Constructive Influence” and an executive coaching and development training specialist will lead the course, which will include discussions on:
- When and when not to use teams
- How to effectively form a team
- Getting a team off to a good start
- Habits of effective teams
- Individual behaviors that impact team effectiveness

For more information on the webinar and to register online, CLICK HERE to be redirected to the event page on the ACEC/NC website.

Mark Your Calendars! Consulting Congress Day (April 28-29, 2009)

With the new Congress expected to consider multiple waves of infrastructure-focused stimulus packages when they convene in the new year, never has it been more important—or a better use of your time—to participate in ACEC/NC’s annual trip to Washington, D.C., to lobby our North Carolina members of Congress.

For those of you in the membership who we’ve heard from who fondly recall the days when ACEC/NC charted a bus for this trip, you’ll be excited to hear that we are going back to our “bus days” this year! Details are still being worked out, but the bus will depart on the morning of April 28 and will return on the evening of April 29.

Stay tuned for more details to come, but mark your calendars today to join your colleagues in our nation’s Capitol (and for networking time on the bus ride to and from D.C.) on April 28-29, 2009!

Member Firms in the News

CLH Design, P.A.

As a result of slow and steady growth, CLH moved into new digs on November 24th. New address is: CLH Design, P.A., 400 Regency Forest Dr., Suite 120, Cary, NC 27513, 919-319-6716.

ECS Carolinas, LLP

ECS Carolinas, LLP, is pleased to announce the promotion of Aric V. Geda, PE, to Vice President and Branch Manager of the Raleigh Office. Originally from Michigan, Aric has over 21 years of experience with a wide range of services including geotechnical and environmental engineering, construction materials testing, and special inspections. Aric has been the Professional Services Manager for ECS’s Raleigh office since March, and his practical and cost-effective approach to engineering has and will continue to serve the ECS office and community well.

Greenhoe & O’Mara

Engineering consulting firm, Greenhoe & O’Mara, Inc. (G&O), announces that President Frank R. Finch, P.E., will assume the added role of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective November 1, 2008. Current CEO John Healey, Ph.D., P.E., will continue as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Finch joined G&O 6 years ago as Senior Vice President of Water & Environment, and in March of 2007 was selected for the position of President. He has more than 30 years of broad-based experience in the engineering consulting and construction industries, serving in significant positions as a senior officer with the U.S. military, and in executive positions in the private and public sectors. This move is a component of a carefully planned transition of leadership that has been in development for more than 2 years. “I am fully confident that Frank will continue to lead G&O on the path of sound accomplishments and improved performance that was started almost 10 years ago. We’ve built a solid foundation, and Frank is the ideal individual to take G&O to the next level,” said Dr. Healey. Mr. Finch and Dr. Healey have collaborated closely over the past 2 years to ensure a smooth transition. “I have benefited significantly from John’s counsel and support, and I look forward to working closely with him in the future. I am honored to lead G&O – a results-oriented firm built on strong values over the course of our 60 year history. Our people are incredibly committed and work very hard to produce inspired solutions for our clients,” said Mr. Finch. As Chairman, Dr. Healey will be responsible for the management and performance of the Board of Directors. He will remain active in seeking opportunities for continued growth for G&O and for solidifying its reputation as one of the top engineering firms in the country.

The John R. McAdams Company

The John R. McAdams Company recently named Mike Sanchez, PE, as a Director of Land De- continued, see “MEMBER NEWS” on page 4 –
experienced engineering and land development industry experience. His responsibilities as a director include leading a team of engineers, planners and landscape architects. Sanchez’s main focus will be securing opportunities for The John R. McAdams Company to partner with architectural and construction management firms to deliver comprehensive and well-coordinated design, development and construction services. He will be pursuing partnership opportunities in the education, military facilities, healthcare and commercial sectors. “Mike has been with the McAdams Company for five years,” said John McAdams, founder and president of The John R. McAdams Company. “He is a proven leader and has the experience to expand our focus to provide unparalleled services to a variety of new sectors.”

Brian Purdy has been selected to participate in the current class of Leadership Cary. Leadership Cary is a year-long program in which participants hone their leadership skills while learning more about the community and the issues it is facing. Participants will learn about economic, social, cultural and political facets of the community from current community leaders. The goal of Leadership Cary is to foster community leadership by providing a diverse group of emerging and existing leaders with the opportunity to increase their community knowledge, civic network and service to the community. Purdy is a senior project manager and landscape architect at the McAdams Company where he is responsible for all aspects of land use planning, site planning, grading design, landscape and hardscape design and construction documents. He also assists with construction administration. “Participating in Leadership Cary is an honor,” said Purdy. “To be able to learn from community leaders and discuss issues affecting the community is a true privilege. This program shows where the needs of the community exist and how we as business leaders can get involved in order to make it a better place to live and work.”

Greg Sallee, PE, is the new Director of Construction Services. With close to a decade of industry experience, Sallee will be responsible for providing internal and external construction services through the completion of a client’s project. Sallee will work with staff to assist clients with construction budget preparation, management of the bidding process including contractor selection as well as construction staking for commercial, residential and public construction projects. Additionally, the construction services team will also provide construction observation services including support during erosion control, grading, utility installation, etc. Post-construction closeout services will also be part of Sallee’s responsibility. “The Director of Construction Services needs to be a detail-oriented multi-tasker who can provide impeccable client service,” said John McAdams, founder and president of The John R. McAdams Company. “I know that Greg is that person. He has tremendous experience and is committed to providing the highest quality of service to our clients.”

McKim & Creed

McKim & Creed announces that the following professionals have joined McKim & Creed’s North Carolina offices:

Jeff Adkins, PE, has joined McKim & Creed’s Raleigh office as a senior project manager. Adkins received his B.S. in mechanical engineering and his M.S. in civil engineering from Clemson University. He has over 17 years of experience in water resources engineering and project management. Prior to joining McKim & Creed, Adkins worked at CH2M Hill.

Ida Buckles, PE, has joined the Fayetteville office as a project engineer. Buckles received her B.S. in civil engineering from San Diego State University and has more than 15 years of diverse field of experience ranging from preparation of residential subdivision and commercial construction plans to design of military helicopter unit security systems. Prior to joining McKim & Creed, she worked for The Engineering Group Inc. in Fredericksburg, VA.

Ed Oliveras has joined McKim & Creed as the director of 3-D imaging and applied metrology. Oliveras is a laser scanning-focused project manager with over nine years of experience in the survey and laser scanning fields.

Jamie Peacock, S1, has joined McKim & Creed’s Fayetteville office as a survey CAD technician. Peacock has 12 years’ experience managing crews and handling general field maintenance with extensive experience in all phases of the survey project, from operating survey equipment and developing CAD maps/plans to managing field engineering.

Katie Pekarek, EI, has joined the Raleigh office as an engineering intern in the stormwater group. Pekarek received her B.S. in biological systems engineering from University of Nebraska at Lincoln and her M.S. in biological and agricultural engineering, with a concentration in water resources, from NC State University.

Tom Porter has joined McKim & Creed’s Charlotte office as a Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) analyst. Porter began his career in the utility location industry in 1996, and during his 12-year career he has managed a variety of projects requiring various levels of geophysical investigating techniques to locate and identify underground utilities.

Dan Smith, PLS, has returned to the firm’s Charlotte office as a Geomatics project manager.

— continued, see “MEMBER NEWS” on page 5 —
Smith graduated from the West Virginia University of Technology in 1996 with a B.S. in engineering technology and two A.S. degrees in civil and design technology. He has more than 14 years of progressive experience in municipal improvement projects, residential and commercial development, construction projects, and highway improvement projects.

Nick Lauretta, an engineer intern at McKim & Creed. Lauretta joined McKim & Creed in 2008 and received his B.S. in environmental engineering from Northern Arizona University. Established by the U.S. Green Building Council, LEED is a rating system that encourages the use of sustainable green building and development practices. LEED Accredited Professionals are engineers, architects and other design professionals who, by passing a national examination, have proven that they understand green building practices and principles and are familiar with LEED requirements, resources and processes.

W. Leslie Hall, Jr., PE, FNSPE, executive vice president, and J. Michael Osborne, PE, senior project manager, both of McKim & Creed, have been appointed chair and trustee, respectively, of the North Carolina American Water Works Association / Water Environment Association. They were sworn in to their positions on November 18 at the organization’s annual conference in Winston-Salem. NC AWWA-WEA is a volunteer organization of professionals dedicated to providing water and wastewater education, training and service to protect public health and the environment. NC AWWA-WEA has approximately 3,500 members. Hall joined McKim & Creed in 1984 as partner-in-charge of civil, environmental and planning services. Today, he serves as executive vice president, is a member of the Board of Directors, and oversees the firm’s engineering activities. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering. He is past national director of WEA and a fellow in the National Society of Professional Engineers. Osborne joined McKim & Creed in January 2008. He is a graduate of Campbell University, where he earned a degree in biology, and UNC Charlotte, where he received undergraduate and graduate degrees in civil engineering.

PBS&J
Mitchell L. Holmes has joined PBS&J as a division manager in the company's east region aviation practice where he will manage all aspects of project delivery, client maintenance, and performance metrics. He brings more than 23 years of experience to PBS&J in managing capital renewal programs, strategic business planning and development, and airport process improvements. His past experience includes 20 years in a leadership role at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport with 12 of those years as assistant vice president of airport development and engineering. He was responsible for managing a $7-million annual operating budget, providing code enforcement, developing airside and landside standards, as well as managing a professional staff of civil, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineers; architects; architect interns; and engineers-in-training. He is a demonstrated leader in the areas of work culture improvement, productivity, and team orientation and strengthening. "Mitch has an excellent technical background, which is particularly helpful in this role. He brings to PBS&J invaluable insight from a client's perspective on winning and delivering projects," stated Chris Spann, national aviation business sector manager for PBS&J. Holmes will be located in the firm's Fort Worth, Texas office and can be reached at 817.987.0184 or by email at mholmes@pbsj.com.

David Maurstad has joined PBS&J as vice president and national business manager for its risk and emergency management (REM) division, federal services. Mr. David Maurstad has joined PBS&J as vice president and national business manager for its risk and emergency management (REM) division, federal services. Maurstad most recently served as assistant administrator and federal insurance administrator, mitigation directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In that position, he was administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), responsible for the nationwide Map Modernization Program and led its recent transition to Risk MAP, and provided oversight of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP), National Dam Safety Program, and National Hurricane Program. He was previously the FEMA Region VIII regional director. "Mr. Maurstad's expertise in the disciplines of emergency management and floodplain mapping enables him to provide the leadership necessary to build our business into a world-class operation," stated PBS&J Senior Vice President Scott Lawson. In 2001 he became director of FEMA Region VIII, where he coordinated federal, state, tribal, and local management of emergencies through planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Maurstad was the senior FEMA official for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games, working with the FBI; U.S. Secret Service; and Utah city, county, and state governments. He led FEMA’s response during the 2002 wildfire season (the worst in Region VIII history with a record 24 federal fire declarations), initiated the formulation of a strategic plan to define the region’s mission in the aftermath of 9/11, and chaired an agency-wide committee charged with restructuring FEMA’s ten regional offices under DHS. His early experience includes 14 years in public service, including terms as a school board member and mayor of Beatrice, Nebraska; Nebraska state senator; and lieutenant governor of Nebraska. In that office, he served as senior advisor on policy and budget; chaired the Nebraska Information and Technology Commission; and served as federal liaison, monitoring and advocating legislation and negotiating with federal agencies on behalf of the governor's office and state agencies. Maurstad will be located in the firm’s Chantilly, Virginia office and can be reached at 703.471.7275 or by email at dmaurstad@pbsj.com.

Schnabel Engineering, Inc.
Schnabel Engineering, Inc., Glen Allen, Virginia, is pleased to announce that they again have been named as one of the "Best Civil Engineering Firms to Work For" by CE News magazine. The criteria used to make the selection included culture, benefits, compensation, performance/recognition, recruiting and employee retention, and professional development, as well as an employee satisfaction survey. Schnabel ranked #38 on the list, moving up from #45 on the 2007 list. Schnabel's CEO, Gordon M. Matheson, Ph.D., P.E., P.G., states, "We at Schnabel are proud of this accomplishment. We understand that Schnabel's future depends on our ability to serve our clients by creating an inviting workplace to attract and retain quality staff, and we are committed to that goal." Schnabel is an ENR Top 10 geotechnical engineering firm employing nearly 400 in offices coast to coast. Schnabel specializes in geotechnical engineering, geosynthetic design, dam engineering, tunnel and underground engineering, environmental services, geophysical and geoscience services, construction monitoring, and resident engineering services for the government and commercial sectors. Reach us on the web at www.schnabel-eng.com.

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