Upcoming ACEC/NC Events & Activities

December 11, 2013
Holiday Party and ACEC/PAC Auction, NC Museum of Natural Sciences Raleigh, NC

January 10th, 2014
Future Leaders Nominations Due

January 16th, 2014
Breakfast with the Board, Charlotte, NC

...for more details visit the ACEC/NC website!

2013-2014 ACEC/NC Board of Directors

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Stewart Takes Top Honors at 2014 Engineering Excellence Awards


The foyer hall was lined with boards displaying the winning projects representing North Carolina Firms at work all over the country. Twenty one projects placed in this year’s competition.

Raleigh-based Stewart received the “Henry A. Stikes Grand Conceptor Award.” This top honor was given for their project, “NCSU James B, Hunt Library” which is a LEED Silver building. The composite steel frame is braced by concrete shear wall cores, while interior space devoted to book stacking is minimized by the automated book retrieval system.

Six firms were awarded the competition’s second-highest honor. The recipients of these “Grand Awards” were:

- KCI Associates of NC, Raleigh “Prairie Creek Treatment Train”
- Michael Baker Engineering Inc., Asheville “Cherokee Road Retaining Wall”
- Stewart, Raleigh “Neuse River Greenway”
- The Wooten Company, Raleigh “Rocky Mount Oxygen Generation

“Back to the Future” Summer Conference Highlights!

ACEC/NC Members from all over North Carolina made their way to Wilmington this August for our Annual Summer Conference. There were over 100 attendees at this years conference including our dynamic group of speakers and our special guest, David Raymond, President and CEO of ACEC National.

We kicked off our weekend with a group of great sessions on Friday morning with topics from Healthcare Reform to and interactive session on how to “Grow Your Business Through People”. After a little afternoon fun in the sun and a dip in the pool, the group gathered back together for our Reception and Awards Dinner. We held the drawing from our ACEC/PAC auction and gave prizes to Paul Smits, BB&T and Michael Craig, WSP. The grand prize iPad mini winner was Josh Dalton, Sungate Design Group.

Dave Raymond was our keynote for the evening giving a presentation on what ACEC has been up to in DC to advocate for the interests of our industry. We then turned our attention to graduate the 2013 Future Leaders Class who completed their requirements in their final session on Work/Life Balance earlier that day. There were 12 graduates from this year’s class!

- Andy Abernathy, HDR Engineering
- Mitch Craig, SEPI Engineering
- Jarod Ford, S&ME, Inc.
- Denise Freund, WK Dickson
- Brian Harrington, Mulkey Engineers
- Ward Marotti, WK Dickson
- Jason Pickel, RS&H, Inc.

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Positions Available

For more information on these job postings and how to apply, please refer to the jobs board on the ACEC/NC website at www.acecnc.org/jobs.aspx.

Atkins is seeking a Senior Bridge Engineer

Carolina Ecosystems is seeking an Environmental Scientist in the Clayton office

CH Engineering, PLLC is seeking a Transportation Design in its Raleigh office

CDM Smith is seeking a Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer, a Lead Structural Engineer and a Client Service Manager - Water/Wastewater in the Raleigh office

ColeJenest & Stone is currently seeking a Civil Engineer in the Raleigh office

Davenport is seeking an Environmental Engineer in the Wilmington office

Davis-Martin-Powell & Associates is seeking a Surveying Project Manager

GEL Engineering of NC, Inc is looking to hire a Senior Hydrogeologist

HDR ENGINEERING is seeking the following for the Raleigh office

S&ME, Greensboro “Chitty Water Tank”

Withers & Ravenel, Cary “Eagle Rock Concrete Park”

Withers & Ravenel, Cary “Greensboro Downtown Greenway”

W.K. Dickson Co., Inc., Charlotte “BBQ Park”

WK Dickson & Co., Inc., Charlotte “Rainwater Harvesting Feasibility Study”

Woolpert, Charlotte “University of North Carolina Greensboro”

-position continued-

Fourteen firms received “Honors Awards.”
The recipients of these awards were:

- CDM Smith, Raleigh “Asheville River Arts District Transportation Improvement”
- Clark-Nexson, PC, Raleigh “Edson & Chappo Enlisted Dining Facilities”
- Jacobs Engineering Group, Raleigh “Cates Cogeneration Utility Plant”
- Moffatt & Nichol, Raleigh “Whalehead Subdivision Stormwater Management System”
- McKim and Creed, Inc., Charlotte “Catawba River Water Main Horizontal Direction Drill”
- S&ME, Greensboro “Chitty Water Tank”
- Withers & Ravenel, Cary “Eagle Rock Concrete Park”
- Withers & Ravenel, Cary “Greensboro Downtown Greenway”
- W.K. Dickson Co., Inc., Charlotte “BBQ Park”
- WK Dickson & Co., Inc., Charlotte “Rainwater Harvesting Feasibility Study”
- Woolpert, Charlotte “University of North Carolina Greensboro”

The “People’s Choice Award” recipient was given to STV/ Ralph Whitehead Associates, Inc. & HDR Engineering, Inc., both from Charlotte for their “I-85/Yardkin River Bridge.” Those in attendance at the dinner were asked to vote for the project that was the most impressive and the most deserving of recognition.

ACEC/NC annually presents the “Engineering Excellence Awards” to honor and recognize engineering and surveying firms located in North Carolina for projects which demonstrate the highest degree of achievement, value and ingenuity. Congratulations to all of our 2014 winners!

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- Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineering Inc., Asheville “NC DOT R-5522 Hicks Grove Road Relocation”

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- Brandon Richards, ECS Carolinas
- James Starnes, AMEC
- Katie Watkins, AMEC
- Stephen Whitley, Florence & Hutches
- Jonathan Williams, HDR Engineering

Exiting president, Randy Neuhaus, took the stage to acknowledge a few standouts from this past year’s leadership team awarding the following:

- Outstanding Forum Chair: Carla Erickson, Withers & Ravenel for the HR Forum
- Outstanding Committee Chair: Gary Hartong, The Wooten Company for the Legislative Committee
- President’s Award: Mike Krannitz, Stewart
- Golden Eagle Award: Steve Thomas, SEPI Engineering

Dave Raymond came back up to preform the ceremony of Installation of our new Board of Directors and current Board President, Valoree Elkins, wrapped up the evening with a few recognitions and words about her goals and vision for the upcoming 2013-1014 year.

Saturday was filled with another morning of educational sessions including two panel discussions. One featured a diverse panel of leaders in our industry who helped lead a dialogue on mentoring. The other panel was made up of three Freshmen from the NC Legislature who make up half of the Engineering Caucus; Rep. Rick Catlin, Rep. Chris Millis; and Rep. Dean Arp. We were very privileged to have them join us to share first-hand some feedback from what was a very crucial long session at the General Assembly. Saturday evening, we wrapped up the festivities with our 80’s themed Reception and ACEC/PAC Auction. It was a great time of networking for the attendees and chance for some of our members to get some of their questions answered first hand from a few of the attending...
speakers from earlier in the day.

The auction room was filled with great NC goodies from a romantic weekend package in Winston Salem, fun Downtown Raleigh Segway Tour, exciting outdoor adventure passes at the US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, to tickets to Broadway South shows, local microbrewery gift tub and a pair of Beach Cruiser bikes.

Everyone had a wonderful time, left with great goodies and we added nearly $3,000 towards our PAC goal! I’d call that a smashing sucess!

**ACEC/NC “Keystone Award” 2013**

This Award was created to recognize one member of the North Carolina General Assembly each year who has played a critical role in our legislative advocacy efforts. Without their leadership, key legislatives efforts to the engineering industry would not have been passed.

We choose the title “Keystone” because it is defined as the central supporting element of a whole or central cohesive source of support and stability. The recipient represents a physical keystone which is used as the center stone in an arch that locks all of its parts together.

Representative Dean Arp has established himself as a spokesperson for the Engineering industry. As a major sponsor of HB857 (DB/PPP/QBS), he worked tirelessly with ACEC, PENC, AIA, and AGC to pass this landmark bill that established new contracting mechanisms for the public sector and closed the “opt-out” loophole in the Mini-Brooks Law in North Carolina. Rep. Arp has gained a reputation as a bi-partisan legislator who reaches across the aisle to get things done.
How did Congress affect your business this month?

Here’s an overview of key issues and advocacy activity that ACEC Government Affairs staff is currently engaged with:

- The SEC approved a final municipal advisor registration rule that broadens the engineering exemption to include feasibility studies and cash-flow modeling reflecting ACEC’s recommendations to the commission.
- ACEC, joined by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of business organizations, urged congressional leaders to pass legislation to head off a shutdown of federal agencies.
- Secured passage in the House Transportation & Committee of the ACEC-backed Water Resources & Reform Development Act (WRRDA), which authorizes new Corps of Engineers water projects and makes numerous reforms in the project review and delivery process.
- Submitted testimony for the Senate Environment & Public Works committee hearing on the need to invest in the nation’s infrastructure and preserve federal transportation funding.
- Submitted comments to FASB expressing concern that its revised accounting standard on leases would have significant financial implications for firms subject to the FAR.

To learn more about this critical political program, click here or contact Cara Gavagan at cgavagan@acec.org. ACEC/PAC is your best investment in the future of your firm.
On November 13th we were privileged to have Senator Kathy Harrington as EPAC’s guest luncheon speaker. Senator Harrington is in her second term representing District 43. Kathy serves as Co-Chair of Transportation, Co-Chair of Appropriations on Department of Transportation as well as a member of other key committees such as Appropriations/Base Budget.

Senator Harrington has spoken on her efforts with regard to being a proponent of business and legislation that increases NCDOT’s utilization of the private sector. Kathy has also focused on providing funding specifically targeted toward maintaining the State’s infrastructure and being fiscally responsible for our investment.

Senator Harrington expressed the importance of government “staying out of the private sectors way” recognizing the role of government.

Kathy is very unassuming and humble in her service and commitment to the citizens of North Carolina. Senator Harrington is without question an asset to North Carolina and a resource for our membership.

-Mike Krannitz, Chair of EPAC Board of Trustees
Member Firms in the News

Cavanaugh & Associates presented at the IWA: Efficient 2013 in Paris, France

The International Water Association is hosted event, in the context of global economies that are facing tremendous challenges to protect and preserve our precious water resources and struggling to meet the growing water demand in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable way.

Cavanaugh & Associates, P.A.’s partners were honored to be making three presentations as specialists in their fields. On Tuesday, October 22nd, Marvin Cavanaugh Sr., presented their award winning Loyd Ray Farms project “Waste to Worth Manure Technology: How a Pig Farm Generates Environmental Revenue.” This paper details how the innovative Swine Waste system at a 8,600 head pig farm in N.C. generates renewable energy credits. By providing a cost-effective solution this farm converts swine waste into renewable energy, while at the same time achieving a superior level of waste treatment and reduction in the carbon footprint.

On Wednesday, Oct 23rd, CEO, Steve Cavanaugh, Jr, presented in the Best Management Practices Session: “Widespread BMP Implementation: Results of the Georgia Statewide Water Auditing and Efficiency Training.” This paper details the 10-month program which simultaneously provided technical assistance and hands-on water efficiency training to over 100 systems in the State of Georgia. This successful progressive knowledge statewide Water Efficiency training program is getting national attention as it is helping to sustain the water supply, aides in water resources management decisions and provides a model for other states to follow.

Also on Wednesday, Oct 23rd, Will Jernigan presents under the topic of Non Revenue Water, Leakage and Pressure Management: “Water You Missing? Using Water Audits to Understand Water Loss.” Will has taken his knowledge in the field of water loss to a whole new level, as he travelled to many conferences this year educating others on Water Efficiency measures. He has been working with hundreds of water utilities in the Southeast U.S. and is an active member of the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee, and its subcommittees developing tools and standards for the water industry.

McKim & Creed

Joe C. Stowe, Jr., senior management consultant with McKim & Creed, Inc., has been awarded the 2013 Robert W. Hite Outstanding Leadership Award by Water For People, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to providing safe water and sanitation services for people living in poverty. The Robert W. Hite Award is presented annually to an individual who models the best in leadership with innovation, creativity, and commitment to the principles of the work performed by Water For People. Stowe received the accolade on October 8 at the Water Environment Federation’s Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC®) in Chicago.

Ned Breslin, CEO of Water For People, said, “Joe Stowe is not only a giant within the water and wastewater community in general, but has been instrumental in Water For People’s transformation. He served with honor, dignity and passion on our Board of Directors, oversaw, among other things, the financial viability of our great organization, and helped us reshape our programming for greater impact. Joe is a gifted statesman and visionary who has made people’s lives better throughout the United States and globally. He is a clear, compelling and worthy recipient of the Hite Award.”

Stowe has more than 52 years’ experience in the water industry. For 27 years he managed municipal water utilities, including 12 years as the director of utilities for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department. Stowe joined McKim & Creed in 2008 as a senior management consultant. In this role, he provides utility management support, including strategic planning, management training, and operational optimization, to water and wastewater utilities.

Stowe has been an active volunteer with Water For People for many years, and served two terms on the organization’s board. In addition, he has held numerous leadership roles in the Water Environment Federation, including terms as president, director, chair of the millennium task force and the nominating committees, and a member of the executive, long-range and water reuse committees. He is a life member of the Water Environment Federation, the American Water Works Association, and the North Carolina Water Works Operators Association.

“The Robert W. Hite Outstanding Leadership Award honors a person who inspires a shared vision, is forward thinking, and who truly envisions a world where all people have access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Joe certainly embodies these qualities, both within and outside the context of Water For People. We congratulate Joe and appreciate his service,” said Tim Baldwin, PE, a senior vice president with McKim & Creed.
Member Firms in the News

Stantec

Stantec is pleased to announced that **Robert Bernard, PE, LEED AP** has joined its community development practice as a senior civil engineer project manager. Based in Stantec’s Charlotte, North Carolina office, Rob specializes in the design of water and transportation infrastructure for municipalities, state agencies, and institutions. He has a proven background in helping urban and rural communities develop comprehensive water system master plans to accommodate growth and address ageing infrastructure issues.

Over his nearly 20 year civil engineering career, Rob has provided design, project management, and construction administration for new and updated water, sewer, and storm sewer systems, aviation facilities, roadways, and parks.

Rob is a registered professional engineer and an LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accredited professional and a member of the American Water Works Association and the North Carolina Airports Association.

STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates

STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates is pleased to announce the following personnel additions

**Charlotte office:**

**Trisha Hartzell, PE**, Project Manager is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte with 10 years of experience in traffic engineering.

**Rob Dubnicka, PE**, Senior Engineer is a graduate of Ohio State University with 25 years of experience in traffic engineering, design, analysis and planning projects.

**Marie Schmader, PE**, Civil Engineer is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte and Penn State University with 13 years of experience in transportation, geotechnical and drainage engineering.

**Jennifer Trueblood**, Engineering Specialist is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte with 9 years of experience in transportation and design-build projects.

**Erin Callahan, EIT**, Engineering Specialist is a graduate of Clemson University with a BS in Civil Engineering.

**Michael Chit Khin, EIT**, Engineering Specialist is a graduate of NC State University with a BS in Civil Engineering.

**Brian Caldwell**, Engineering Technician with 30 years of experience in structural, mechanical and roadway design.

**Raleigh office:**

**Davidian Byrd** joins us after a 37-year career at NCDOT where he served in several roles associated with all aspects of highway/roadway design. Among other responsibilities, he will serve locally as our primary client contact with NCDOT.

**Brian Lusk** brings roadway design/plan production expertise to our new office. Brian is a NC State graduate with six years of experience, much of it on NCDOT and local municipal projects.

**Anne Lenart-Redmond** joins our Transportation Planning Group as Senior Planner and will play a major role in our growing Environmental/NEPA program.