

# ACEC Tennessee

*American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee*

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## City of Memphis – Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping & Modeling

by *John E. Cameron, P.E.*  
*City Engineer, City of Memphis*

The City of Memphis recently launched an effort to study the hydrologic and hydraulic characteristics of selected drainage basins throughout the city and to develop a series of recommendations to improve



**John Cameron**

drainage conditions throughout each study area. These study areas represent the initial phase of a multi-year project to map, study, and improve the drainage infrastructure across the City of Memphis.

The City of Memphis was originally founded in 1819 on the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff along the Mississippi River. During its history, Memphis has long been a hub for commerce and transportation of goods. During the late 1800's, several yellow fever epidemics decimated much of the city. Those epidemics, although ultimately costing Memphis its City Charter for 14 years, were the catalyst behind city-wide infrastructure improvements in the early 20th century, including separate sanitary sewage collection and drainage systems. Since that time, Memphis has continued to grow in an eastward manner from the original riverside developments to its current boundaries.

Since the 1800's, several drainage criteria have been used to develop or improve infrastructure. Although well-intended, the

drainage criteria implemented throughout many areas of the city were inadequate to properly characterize the stormwater runoff and flooding potential in Memphis. The result is numerous areas of the city with repetitive flooding problems affecting roadways and structures, particularly in older areas of the city. The drainage design standards have been continuously improved over the years, most recently in 2006, but infrastructure improvements in these older areas are still needed.

Acting on a recommendation from the city's Storm Water Advisory Board, Memphis established a stormwater utility fee in 2006 to be assessed to households and businesses throughout the city. The intent of the fee is to provide a reliable funding source for the maintenance and improvement of the city's stormwater drainage infrastructure and streams. Maintenance activities are largely managed through the Division of Public Works, while drainage studies and capital improvement projects are managed through the Division of Engineering.

A 2012 review of the stormwater program identified 7 major study districts, largely corresponding to City Council districts, which have been subdivided into numerous drainage basin study areas. The intent and goal of the Division of Engineering is to complete one drainage basin study in each of the 7 larger districts each year, starting in FY 2014.

*(cont. on page 2)*

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# Look at What We've Done

by David Harrell, PE  
 ACEC of Tennessee President

The end of this month will mark the end of my term as your president. This milestone causes me to reflect on this past year and ponder what we were able to accomplish and



David Harrell

what items were left undone. At the beginning of my term we had much discussion about continuing our "Infrastructure Initiative," which was to enlighten the citizens of this state so they understand the need for a more stable and reliable source of funding for our trans-

portation infrastructure. Further discussions with TDOT and the Tennessee Road Builders Association convinced us to place this on hold until we could speak with a more unified voice among the three organizations.

While I was disappointed that we didn't make more progress with the "Infrastructure Initiative," I was pleased with several other accomplishments this past year. On the state level we continued to be the voice of the engineering consultant community as we turned out in record numbers with our fellow TSPE members for Engineers' Day on the Hill. We

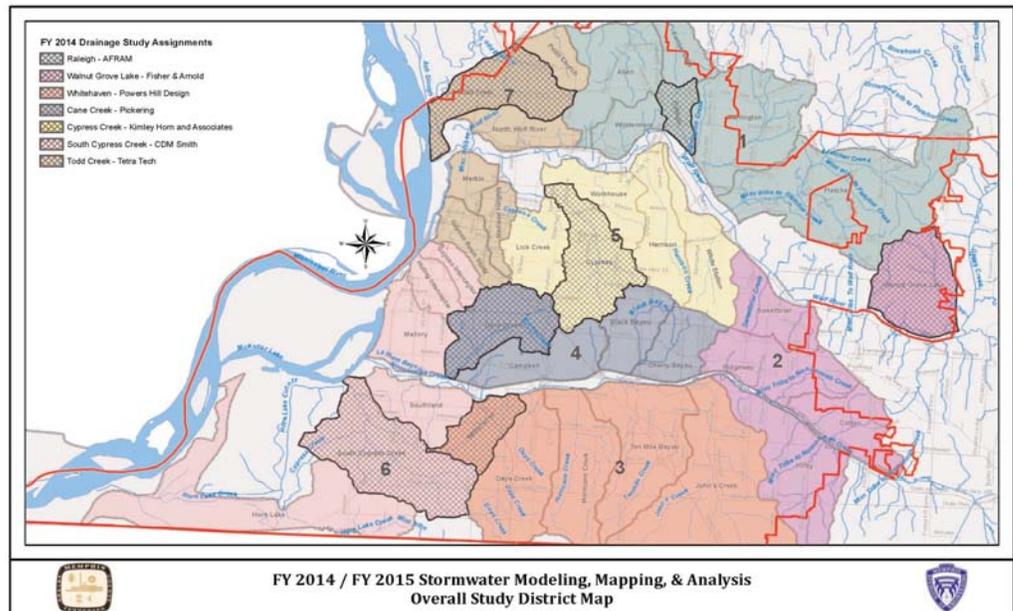
also had another highly successful Annual Meeting as members from ACEC of TN, ASCE of TN, and TSPE joined together for the second consecutive year. We were also able to make significant progress in reorganizing our Transportation Committee into a more productive working group that should be of great benefit to both ACEC of TN and TDOT.

On the national level, ACEC of TN was highly recognized as well. We not only met our 2013 PAC goal but we were just one of six states that met our 2014 PAC goal prior to the spring conference, which was held at the end of April. In ACEC National's membership recruitment and retention report, we were one of the top six states in the percent increase in both the number of firms and employees.

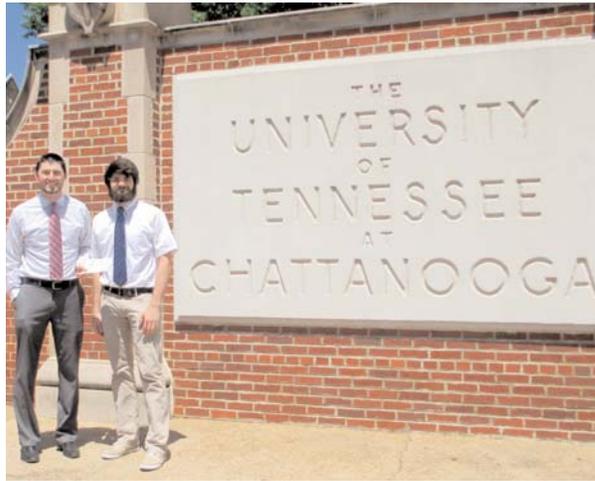
There are many folks to thank for the successes we have had this year but I would like to give a special thanks to our Executive Director, Candy Toler, whose guidance and "gentle prodding" were essential. As I turn the reins over to President-elect Chuck Saunders, I would ask that each of you support him in the same way you supported me. As I have noted on several occasions, the success of this organization depends upon everyone pitching in and lending a hand wherever it is needed. If we continue to do this, then ACEC of Tennessee will continue to be the voice of Tennessee's engineering industry.

## Memphis Stormwater (continued from page 1)

These basin study areas will be systematically analyzed, at an anticipated rate of one per year per study area based on priority. The eventual goal is to study each drainage basin in the city and undertake projects in each basin to mitigate the impacts of future storm events on the public infrastructure and private property.



# Tennessee Student Wins National Scholarship



Left to Right: Eddie Wade, PE, LDA Engineering, Inc., ACEC of TN Chattanooga Chapter President and Nicholas True, National ACEC Scholarship Recipient

A Tennessee engineering student has taken the top prize in the ACEC National Scholarship competition. Nicholas True, of Chattanooga, has been awarded the \$10,000 scholarship.

True is a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average and is continually named to the Dean's List. When school is in session, True works 18 hours each week at a Chattanooga engineering firm in the Hydro Power Generation Group. He works a full 40 hour week each summer.

In addition to the \$10,000 scholarship, True was recently awarded the \$4,000 Dorothy and Arthur Crouch Memorial Scholarship from the Tennessee Engineering Foundation and a \$1,000 Scholarship from ACEC of TN. He was also the 2013 ACEC of TN award winner.

# Opportunities Galore at the Tennessee Engineers' Conference

For the third consecutive year, ACEC of Tennessee will join with the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers-Tennessee Section for an annual meeting on September 25-26, 2014, at Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The two-day conference provides significant opportunities to network with peers in the industry and complete continuing education requirements. Individuals who participate in all of the seminars can earn thirteen professional

development hours (PDH), including ethics, which makes the conference an extremely easy, cost-effective way to meet the PDH requirement.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are now available! For additional information, contact Judy Logue at 615-242-2486 (jlogue@tnec.org). More details on activities, educational offerings, and speakers are still developing, so look for additional information in the coming weeks!

# More TEF Scholarship Winners!



Left to Right: Dr. Keith Hargrove, Tennessee State University Dean of Engineering; Benjamin Morton, Tennessee Engineering Foundation Scholarship Recipient (\$3,500); Martin Keel, PE, TEF Trustee



Left to Right: Dr. Masood Parang, Professor & Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, University of Tennessee; Kevin Brown, Tennessee Engineering Foundation Scholarship Recipient (\$3,500); Brandy Manka, TEF Scholarship Recipient (\$3,500); Dale Davis, TEF Trustee; Michael Carroll, Director of Entrepreneur Development for Tech 20/20.

# CALENDAR

**JUNE  
18**

ACEC of TN  
PR Committee Mtg.

TEC

**JULY  
4**

Offices closed for  
Independence Day  
Holiday

**SEPTEMBER  
1**

Offices closed for  
Labor Day Holiday

**SEPTEMBER  
25-26**

Tennessee  
Engineers' Annual  
Conference

Embassy Suites in  
Murfreesboro, TN

**OCTOBER  
22-25**

ACEC Fall  
Conference

Waikoloa, HI

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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## JUNE 2014 INSIDE

- Memphis Stormwater Study I – page 1
- Annual Meeting – page 3
- TN Student Wins Big – page 3

## Member News

- Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon has added Civil Engineer Jimmy Wiseman to its Nashville office.
- Everett Cowan, President, AE Guidance and past Cumberland Region Tomorrow Board member, was recently recognized by Cumberland Region Tomorrow for his leadership in visioning, planning, design and implementation of Quality Growth and support of effective regional collaboration in Middle Tennessee.
- Charles Poskas has joined GRW in Nashville and will focus on client development and project management on water, wastewater and stormwater projects.
- In celebration of its 25th year, Littlejohn Engineering Associates, a Nashville planning, engineering and environmental firm, announced that it has changed its name to Littlejohn to reflect the firm's growth and expanded services.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### ACEC of TN Meets With Lawmakers During National Conference

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

**A**CEC's recent conference in Washington was a great opportunity to learn more about the national economic outlook (Martin Regalia, Chief Economist with the US Chamber of Commerce), why the political climate is the way it is (Bob Schieffer, moderator of CBS's Face The Nation), our country's security threats (Retired General Michael Hayden, former director of the NSA and CIA), teaming for large and small firms, and federal market opportunities, to name a few.



Candy Toler

Mixed in with the business side of the conference were meetings with our federal solons. The delegation from Tennessee met with Marsha Blackburn, Jimmy Duncan, Phil Roe, Jim Cooper, as well as the staffs of Scott DesLarlais, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

The issues were:

- Approval of the WRDA conference report; Jimmy Duncan served on the conference com-

mittee which resolves differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions;

- Transportation reauthorization and interim funding until a new program is approved; and
- Tax reform - a draft bill includes several items near and dear to engineering companies' hearts, like allowing cash accounting, rather than requiring accrual accounting.

You won't want to miss the fall conference, which will be October 22-25 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. Next year's spring meeting and legislative summit will be April 19-22, 2015, at the Marriott Wardman Park.

ACEC is coming to Nashville in February 2015 for the Small Firms Council - you might want to put that on your calendar also.

A little closer to home, you will not want to miss the Tennessee Engineers' Conference September 25-26 at Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. Teams are pulling together the education right now. We hope to include a schedule of sessions in the next newsletter.

There is no shortage of opportunities to network with your colleagues and earn professional development hours while you are at it. We hope you will take advantage of these.