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Ross Bryan Associates, Inc. Wins the Grand Iris!

Engineering firm Ross Bryan Associates, Inc. was recognized with the Grand Iris Award at the 2014 Engineering Excellence Awards, sponsored by ACEC of Tennessee. The awards honor the work of Tennessee engineers, and the Grand Iris Award is the highest honor a project team can receive. The award was presented to Ross Bryan for the structural engineering on the Music City Center, a project that changed the landscape of downtown Nashville. Completed for Nashville's Convention Center Authority, the Music City Center was one of the most highly anticipated projects of 2013.

Located at the corner of 5th Avenue South and Demonbreun, the Music City Center enhances the already booming SoBro (South of Broadway) area of Nashville. The building was designed with a "rolling hills" theme. This includes a vegetated green roof built on top of the eight-acre Exhibit Hall - all meant to mimic the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee. In addition, several "musical nods" are built into the design such as the grand ballroom shaped like a guitar. Because of the number and complexity of its design elements, there were several challenges for the team at Ross Bryan Associates to overcome structurally. Yet, the team rose to the challenge and the building officially opened in May 2013.

In addition to the Grand Iris Award, Grand Award recognition was also presented in the competition's

various entry categories. The 2014 Grand Award Winners are: Environmental: Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc.; Small Projects: LDA Engineering; Special Projects: Geotechnology, Inc.; Studies, Research, and Consulting: EnSafe Inc.; Surveying and Mapping: EnSafe Inc.; Transportation: Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; Water and Stormwater: ARCADIS; Water Resources (Tie): LDA Engineering and S&CME, Inc.

The awards were presented on March 11, 2014, during a special banquet in Franklin, Tennessee. Almost 250 engineers, business and civic leaders, and officials from across the state attended the big event. Kevin Dyson, former Tennessee Titan, delivered the keynote address.

"These projects highlight some of the most innovative and experienced solutions developed by our members to solve engineering challenges across Tennessee and beyond the state's borders," said EEA Chair Donna Corlew, CPSM, FSMP, C*Connect. "By recognizing the 'best of Tennessee,' the Engineering Excellence Awards help reinforce the contributions made by engineers that affect the welfare of every Tennessean." Kyle Peters, PE, CPESC, K.S. Ware co-chaired the event.

NOTE: Please see pages 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 for additional awards information and photos.



(Left to Right) ACEC of TN President David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers; Brent Thornton, PE, Don Yarbrough, PE, and Kurt Boyd, PE, Ross Bryan Associates.

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ACEC of TN: Stepping Up to the Plate

by David Harrell, PE
 ACEC of Tennessee President

Thanks to everyone who participated in ACEC of Tennessee's version of "March Madness." This is the term we affectionately use for our annual Legislative Reception, Engineers' Day on the Hill and the Engineering Excellence Awards banquet. Because of your efforts, each of these activities was a huge success.

On Monday evening, March 10, the Nashville Chapter of ACEC of TN hosted its legislative reception at the Hermitage Hotel. This gave us the opportunity to meet with legislators in a very informal, relaxed setting and give them a brief overview of the issues we would be discussing with them during our "Day on the Hill." Then, on Tuesday, an estimated 80 engineers charged up Capitol Hill as citizen lobbyists to meet with our legislators and persuade them on various bills affecting our profession and the citizens of this state. A special 'thank you' goes out to Candy Toler and Jerry Stump, our Government Advocacy Committee Chair, for preparing the way for our success.

Then on Tuesday evening nearly 250 attendees enjoyed themselves at the Engineering Excellence

Awards Banquet as twenty-two projects were celebrated for their positive impact on their communities. In addition to recognizing these projects and the firms responsible for them, we were entertained by former Tennessee Titan wide receiver Kevin Dyson, who was the keynote speaker. As I noted at the banquet, unless you have served on the EEA Committee it is difficult to fathom the amount of work it takes to make this event a success. I would like to give a BIG "thank-you" to EEA Committee Chair Donna Corlew and Co-chair Kyle Peters, as well as Judy Logue for their hard work. Their efforts made the banquet continue to be an event of which we can be extremely proud.

Now that March Madness is over we can ill afford to take very much time to sit back and enjoy our accomplishments. We need to look forward to our next challenge, which is ACEC National's Annual Meeting and Engineers Day on the Hill in Washington the last week of April. Never has there been a more important time for all of us to participate in this event as we are facing severe implications should Congress not act before August to preserve the Highway Trust Fund.

We should all take pride in what we have accomplished this past month but also be prepared to step up to the plate again to encourage Congress to take action on the issues that are important to not only our profession but our country as well.



David Harrell

Engineers' Day on the Hill



▲ Randy McKinnon, PE, TLM Associates, Jackson and Rep. Jimmy Eldridge



▲ David Harrell, PE; Candy Toler, ACEC of TN; Chad McMurray, PE, AMT & Associates, Kingsport; Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey; Eugene Coleman, PE, AMT & Associates, Kingsport; and TSPE President Patrick Smith, PE, Smith Seckman Reid, Jackson.



▲ Patrick Smith, PE; House Speaker Beth Harwell; Laura Reinbold, PE, TTL, Inc.



▲ Sen. Becky Massey chats with ACEC of TN Executive Director Candy Toler and ACEC of TN President David Harrell, PE, Vaughn & Melton, Knoxville.

Engineering Excellence Pre-Awards Reception

Before the Engineering Excellence Awards were announced, guests enjoyed a reception where they were able to review the project panels up close. They also had the opportunity to vote on their favorite project for the People's Choice Award!



*Kyle Peters, PE, K.S. Ware; Kevin Dyson, Former TN Titan, Keynote Speaker; Donna Corlew, CPSM, FSMPS, C*Connect*



Ed Crowell, LDA Engineering; Kathy Ware, PE, K S Ware & Associates; and Anna Holbert, LDA Engineering



Dan Spann, PE, RPM Transportation Consultants; Jon Sparkman, PE, Stantec Consulting Services; and Ron Woody, Roane County Executive



Paula Harris, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon; Ethan Johnson, Vanderbilt University (ACEC of TN Scholarship Winner), and Karen Tendelde, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon



Claire Barnett, PE and Wes Goodnight, PE, EnSafe Inc.



Chuck Saunders, PE, Energy Land & Infrastructure, and Beth Saunders, DDS

CALENDAR

APRIL

27 - 30

ACEC Annual
Convention & Summit
Washington, D.C.
Information at
www.acec.org

MAY

8

ACEC of TN Board
Retreat
1 p.m.
Tennessee Engineering
Center

MAY

9

ACEC of TN Board
Meeting
8 a.m.
Tennessee Engineering
Center

MAY

28

ACEC of TN and TSPE
Offices Close for
Memorial Day Holiday

SEPTEMBER

25-26

ACEC, TSPE, ASCE Fall
Conference

Engineering Excellence Award Winners



In the Environmental category, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. won for “Beaver Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Decommissioning.” Pictured are: Barney Fullington, PE, and Randy Ferguson, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.



Geotechnology, Inc., won in the Special Projects category for the “Memphis Pyramid.” The project also picked up an Honor Award recently from ACEC of Missouri. Pictured are: Pat Donovan, PE, and Ash Elsayed, PE, Geotechnology, Inc.



The People’s Choice Award went to Ross Bryan Associates for the Music City Center. Pictured are: David Harrell, PE, ACEC of TN President and Vaughn & Melton; and Don Yarbrough, PE, Ross Bryan Associates.



In the Studies & Research category, EnSafe Inc. won for its project “Stormwater Runoff from TN Highways.” Pictured are: Barry Brown, PE, TDOT and Jerry Truitt, PE, EnSafe Inc.

In the Small Projects category, LDA Engineering won for “Spring Creek 1A Horizontal Directional Drilling.” Pictured are: Greg Jones, PE, LDA; Mike Howard, PE, Morristown Utility Systems; and Lamar Dunn, PE, LDA. ►





ARCADIS won in the Water & Stormwater category for “City of Chattanooga Area 2 Closure Construction.” Pictured are: David Harrell, PE, and Brian Givens, PE, ARCADIS.



In the Transportation category, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. won for the “Wolf River Boulevard Connector.” Pictured are: Nick Taylor, PE, Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. and Tim Gwaltney, PE, City of Germantown.

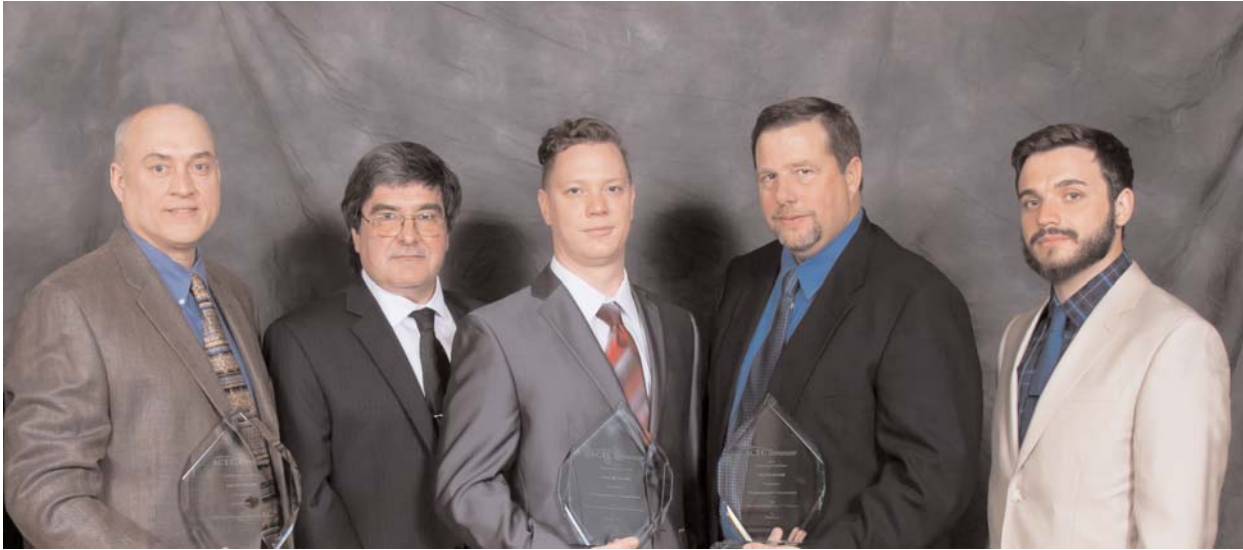


S&ME, Inc. tied for top honors in the Water Resources category for its project “Paw Paw Creek Mitigation.” Pictured are: Leira Douthat, S&ME and Ron Woody, Roane County Executive.



Also in the Water Resources category, LDA Engineering tied for its project “Founders Park.” Pictured are: Don Mauldin, PE, LDA Engineering; Phil Pindzola, City of Johnson City; and Lee Gentry, PE, LDA Engineering.

EnSafe Inc. won in the Surveying & Mapping category for its project “TDOT Facility Surveying and GIS Data Management.” Pictured are: Barry Brown, PE, TDOT; Jerry Truitt, PE, Andy Zimmerman, Greg Olin and Mark Senne, all with EnSafe Inc. ▶



EEA Judging & Media Preview Day



WTVF Photographer Terry Godfrey shoots video for EEA story during the judging.

The Engineering Excellence Awards are all about recognizing the important work of engineers in Tennessee. So this year, when the distinguished panel of judges convened on February 7th to take on the difficult task of choosing the 2014 winners, ACEC invited members of the local media to the Tennessee Engineering Center for *Media Preview Day*. It was a chance for news outlets to learn more about the projects and firms represented in the EEA program. *Media Preview Day* generated an evening news story by the local Nashville CBS-affiliate and renewed interest from other news outlets. ACEC of Tennessee is thankful to the panel of judges that dedicated their time and talents to this endeavor.

The 2014 panel of judges were: **Sandra Dudley, PhD, PE**, Director of Water Services, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; **Gary Gilmartin**, President, Gilmartin Engineering Works; **Les Johnson, MSFC** Advanced Concepts Office Deputy, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center; **Kevin Line**, Regional Engineer, LP Building Products; **Karen Rennich**, Deputy Director TPO Coordinator, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning



Rhori Johnston, WTVF News Anchor; and Donna Corleu, EEA Chair

Agency; **Philip Stuckert, PE**, City Engineer, City of Lakeland; **Mike Wilson, PE**, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, Nashville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



EEA Judges Kevin Line, Karen Rennich, and Gary Gilmartin review information and score each project.

ACEC of TN Scholarships Awarded

Ethan Johnson, a graduate Engineering student at Vanderbilt University, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee. Johnson is working toward a Master of Science degree, with a focus on Civil Engineering and Structural Mechanics. He expects to graduate in December 2014. Johnson maintains a 3.8 grade point average and has completed a number of internships including one with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He completed his undergraduate work at Lipscomb University, where he obtained a B.S. in Civil Engineering. Johnson will now be eligible to compete for national

ACEC scholarships in the fall with award amounts as high as \$10,000.

University of Tennessee-Chattanooga mechanical engineering student and 2013 scholarship winner Nicholas True has also received a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee. He is from Georgetown, TN. He maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average and is continually named on the Dean's List. When school is in session, True works 18 hours each week at Mesa Associates, Inc., in the Hydro Power Generation group. He works a full 40 hour per week schedule over the summer. Nick True will also be considered for national scholarships.

MEMBER NEWS

- **Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.** has added Bob Banyai as Senior Mechanical Designer in its Industrial and Building Services business unit.
- **Bob Higgins, PE**, President and CEO at **Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.**, was named Engineer of the Year by the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers Nashville Chapter.
- **Gobbell Hays Partners, Inc.** has promoted Dominique Arrieta, AIA, LEED, AP, to Vice President of Strategic Operations.
- **Hanson Professional Services** is celebrating its 60th year of operations.

ACEC Hosts Legislative Reception



Before taking to the Capitol for Engineers' Day on the Hill, engineers from across the state had a chance to talk with legislators at the annual Legislative Reception, held at The Hermitage Hotel in Nashville on March 10.

◀ *Jim Littlejohn, PE, Littlejohn Engineering Associates; Senator Steve Dickerson; Everett Cowan, PE, AE Guidance; Mark Markham, PE, Stantec Consulting Services.*



Jim Morinec, PE, AECOM; Reps. Mary Littleton, Glen Casada and Jeremy Durham.



◀ *Peter Heimbach, State Architect; Randy McKinnon, PE, TLM Associates; Patrick Smith, PE, and David Bradford, PE, Smith Seckman Reid; John Kenny, PE, Facility Systems Consultants.*



Rep. Jeremy Faison and Chris Jenkins, PE, QK4.



Engineering Excellence Awards

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Ryan Search & Consulting
S&ME, Inc.
Sain Associates
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.
Southeastern Tank, Inc.
Superior Drainage Products
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Turner Construction Company
United Structural Systems, Inc.

Thank You Committee Members!

Chair

Donna Corlew, CPSM, FSMPs
C*Connect

Co-Chair

Kyle Peters, PE
K.S. Ware and Associates, LLC

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MARCH-APRIL 2014
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**Welcome, New
ACEC Members**

**LG Environmental
Engineering**

420 Elmington Ave., #402
Nashville, TN 37205
(615) 460-0122

Key contact:

Laura J. Gimpelson, PE
lg_environmental@bellsouth.net

LG is an environmental engineering firm specializing in health and safety compliance, program management, site assessments, remedial and corrective action plans.

F R O M T H E E X E C U T I V E D I R E C T O R

Now is the Time to Support Your Profession

by *Candy Toler*
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The General Assembly is on the home stretch with the goal of finishing business in mid-April, so there is a lot of committee activity now.

Thanks to all of the engineers who participated in our Day on the Hill and pushed our public safety agenda. When constituents speak to their members of the General Assembly, legislators listen!



Candy Toler

This year the issues included:

- opposing legislation to exempt churches with a maximum capacity of 400 from having fire sprinkler systems, impacting the public safety of church-goers (HB 1649 by Rep. Timothy Hill and SB 1749 by Sen. Frank Niceley - referred to "summer study" in House subcommittee);

- opposing legislation calling for a study to "... report on how this state may ensure that all proven and acceptable piping materials be included in all bids for water and wastewater projects" - thereby reducing the flexibility the utilities and engineers have to find the best solution for the piping design (HB 2210 by Rep. Andy Holt and SB 2199 by Sen. Jack Johnson - unlikely to be considered this session);

- supporting legislation giving the State Building Commission flexibility to utilize alternative delivery methods for state projects (HB 1951 by Rep. Bill Sanderson and SB 1653 by Sen. Ken Yager - expected to pass in late March);

- supporting HB 1517 by Rep. John Tidwell, PE, (SB 1504 by Sen. Mark Green) which would protect engineers from having to get an additional license to perform services for which they are trained, such as home inspections (not expected to be voted on in its current form);

- supporting legislation to reduce damage to underground utilities by creating an enforcement board of stakeholders, allowing location of utilities in the design phase, requiring utilities to join Tennessee One Call, and more (HB 2346 by Rep. Gerald McCormick and SB 2345 by Sen. Bill Ketron - scheduled for committee consideration).

If you were not able to be in Nashville for the grassroots lobbying effort on March 11, it's not too late . . . your legislators appreciate hearing from constituents and welcome your input.

Next on the horizon is ACEC's Annual Convention and Legislative Summit April 27-30 in Washington. With Congress working on infrastructure, the lobbying effort at the convention will come at an important time in the process. Tennessee engineers will visit with our federal legislators to discuss these issues.

Now is the time to continue the support of your profession at the state and national levels.