

# ACEC Tennessee

*American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee*

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## 2015: A Hundred Years of the Tennessee Department of Transportation

by *Luanne Grandinetti*,  
*TDOT Communications Manager,*  
*Coordinator of the*  
*TDOT Centennial Celebration*

Next year, TDOT will celebrate its Centennial. Much has been accomplished during those 100 years, but it wasn't without lots of struggles and lots of difficulty. This July, we kick off a year-long celebration of our agency and transportation in Tennessee and the value brought to our state by both. A short history lesson on how we came to be so successful serves to



**Luanne Grandinetti**

help us appreciate our partners and all of those at the top and in the trenches during those 100 years.

Leading up to the creation of a statewide transportation agency, the national conversation centered on providing better roads but there was no central authority in Tennessee. Counties handled a big part of the job with some direction from both the governor and the legislature. There were just 5,000 miles of state roads.

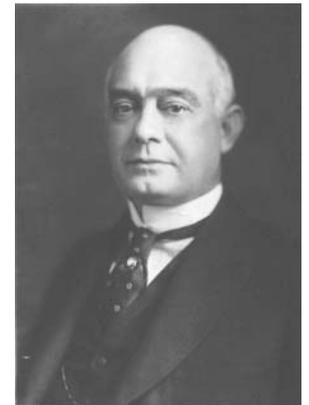
In 1915, a six-person state highway commission was created with the task of collecting information to create a connected highway plan and a map for the plan. The new statute established road construction and maintenance standards to be used by the state and recommended to the counties. The

commission acted in an advisory capacity to county authorities on matters pertaining to highway construction and maintenance and the commission could execute contracts with the federal government for the expenditure of any federal funds provided to the state. That's it. It was very simple. It was almost too simple as more structure was needed.

In 1919 a salaried commission was appointed. In 1922 on the campaign trail, Austin Peay believed the transportation agency had become political, stumping across Tennessee saying, "politics and roads don't mix." In his first address to the legislature, Gov. Peay, often called "the road building governor," proposed the one commissioner, four-region and headquarters structure we have today, along with the first gas tax of two cents.

Debates raged across the nation over issuing bonds versus paying for projects as you had the money.

Gov. Peay stuck steadfastly to his belief that you only spend what you receive and the Tennessee philosophy of "pay as you go" was born. He also was successful in shifting the financial burden of roads from



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*Governor Austin Peay*

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# Building a Legacy Through Service

by David Harrell, PE  
ACEC of Tennessee President

This past month the Knoxville community lost an iconic figure with the passing of Bobby Denton. Many of you may not recognize the name, but you would recognize his distinctive voice if you had ever attended a UT home football game. Prior to every game opening kick-off you would hear his voice over the public address system as he announced, "It's football time in Tennessee!"



David Harrell

Mr. Denton had served as the PA announcer since 1967, nearly half a century. His was the only voice I had ever known while attending UT football games since my early youth. He left quite a legacy in this community not only as the Neyland Stadium PA announcer, but also through his work in building local country radio station WIVK into one of the top stations in the United States.

Most of us don't like to think about death, but have you ever thought about what kind of legacy you will leave after you take your final breath? Whose lives will you have touched? How will you be remembered? Suffice it to say that most people aren't remembered for

the day-to-day work they do for their employer. They are typically remembered for how they treated the people with whom they interacted, both at their job and in the community. When those who new Bobby Denton were interviewed, they didn't speak of him as the public address announcer or the station manager at WIVK. They spoke of him as an individual, a man who truly cared about those around him and who gave back to the community that enabled his successful career.

We are blessed to be in a profession where we can readily see the tangible benefits of how our efforts help to enrich the lives of those around us. But if we stop there, we are really selling ourselves and our profession short. We should be willing to get involved in organizations, such as ACEC and NSPE that help set the stage for our profession and our businesses to be as successful as they can be.

As we begin to plan for the upcoming year, you will be given many opportunities to get involved in ACEC of Tennessee. If you are called upon to serve, let me encourage you to do so with the understanding that the work you do for this organization can help make a difference in the profession that has provided you the ability to make a difference in the lives of those around you. It's never too late to begin building the legacy for which others will remember you.

## TDOT (cont. from page 1)

property owners to those who use the road, the motorist. This is another key philosophy we follow today.

We are proud of our heritage and those forerunners who got Tennessee off on the right foot in the early days of this agency. It is our sincere desire that as we begin the next hundred years, we will have the forethought and the fortitude to set our agency on a solid path with a clear vision of the future.

Note: If you have any history of TDOT or transportation during this period you'd like to share please contact Luanne.Grandinetti@tn.gov



*The Cotton States Building in the 1950s. Constructed in 1925, the building served as home for the state's Highway Department for many years. It was demolished to make room for the Rachel Jackson State Office Building in the early 1980s.*

## MEMBER NEWS

- **Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.**, has added Jeffrey Rose, PE, to its Civil and Environmental program in Knoxville as Client Services Partner.
- **Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon's Nashville Office** was recently recognized at the Second Annual Mayor's Workplace Challenge celebration breakfast as "Most Improved" in the Health category, and received platinum status.
- **HFR Design, Inc.** (formerly known as Hart Freeland Roberts) has named Ron Franks, AIA, as President. Franks has 35 years of experience, primarily in health care facility design.
- **Stantec** has added Kent B. Evetts, PG, as senior associate for environmental services in its Nashville office.



## ACEC Heads to D.C.

**A**CEC of Tennessee took a team to Washington D.C. recently for the ACEC Annual Convention & Legislative Summit. The group was able to visit with several lawmakers including Rep. Marsha Blackburn,

Rep. Jim Cooper, Rep. Jimmy Duncan, and Rep. Phil Roe. Pictured left to right are Congressman Marsha Blackburn; Everett Cowan, PE, AE Guidance; and Candy Toler, ACEC of Tennessee. Others attending the meeting from Tennessee include David Harrell, Angie and Harold Cannon, Lamar Dunn, and Randy Scott.

## Scholarships Awarded

**A**CEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Engineering Foundation recently awarded scholarships to outstanding engineering students.

**Nicholas True, Chattanooga, TN**, won the \$4,000 Dorothy and Arthur Crouch Memorial Scholarship and an ACEC scholarship. True is a junior mechanical engineering student at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

**Ethan Johnson, Nashville, TN**, won a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of TN. Johnson is working toward a graduate degree in Civil Engineering and Structural Mechanics at Vanderbilt University.

**Kevin Brown, Winchester, TN**, won a \$3,500 TEF scholarship. Brown is a junior in mechanical engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

**Brandy Manka, Knoxville, TN**, won a \$3,500 TEF scholarship. Manka is a sophomore in civil engineering at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

**Benjamin Morton, Nashville, TN**, won a \$3,500 TEF scholarship. Morton is a junior in mechanical engineering at Tennessee State University in Nashville.

*Left to Right:  
Bill Johnson, PE,  
Swift Creek, Inc.;  
Nicholas True,  
Scholarship  
Recipient; Mack  
McCarley, PE,  
PDM*



*Engineering Associates.*



*Left to Right:  
Sanjiv Gokhale,  
Ph.D., PE,  
Vanderbilt; Ethan  
Johnson, ACEC of  
TN Scholarship  
Recipient; Steve  
Lane, PE, Smith  
Seckman Reid.*

## 2014-2015

### Officers

The 2014-2015 ACEC of TN officers have been selected. The candidates were chosen by the nominating committee chaired by Mike Pohlman. As President-elect, Chuck Saunders, PE, Energy Land and Infrastructure, Inc., will automatically become President.

President Elect - John Kenny, PE, Facility Systems Consultants, LLC

First Vice President - Joe Ledford, PE, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.

Second Vice President - Amy Spann, PE, EnSafe Inc.

Secretary - Patrick Neal, PE, Pickering Firm, Inc.

Treasurer - Tim Verner, PE, Fisher & Arnold, Inc.

Director at Large - Logan Meeks, PE, A2H, Inc.

National Director - Steve Field, PE, Stantec Consulting Services

The officers will assume their new positions on July 1. They will formally be sworn into office during the Annual Meeting in September

### Tennessee Engineers' Conference

You will not want to miss the ACEC, TSPE, and ASCE conference Sept. 25-26 in Murfreesboro. Education tracks include: civil, geotechnical, transportation, and mechanical/electrical engineering, as well as engineering management. The program will start off with 4 hours of ethics. Based on feedback from the last conference, we will begin at 8 am on Thursday morning, so participants can earn at least 13 professional development hours by attending the conference. It's not too early to put this on your calendar!

## CALENDAR

### 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

# 26

Offices Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

### JULY

# 4

Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday

### SEPTEMBER

# 25-26

Tennessee Engineers' Annual Conference

Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro, TN

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

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## Welcome, New Members!

GEOservices, LLC  
2561 Willow Point Way  
Knoxville, TN 37931  
(865) 539-8242  
www.TennesseeGeotechnicalEngineering.com

Key Contact: Dennis Huckaba, PE  
dhuckaba@geoservicesllc.com

GEOservices, LLC, provides geotechnical engineering consulting services, materials testing and environmental due diligence, serving the Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Sevierville and Tri-Cities.

Strategic Services Company, LLC  
4661 W. McCammon Court  
Maryville, TN 37804  
(865) 207-3113

Key Contact: C. Lamar Dunn, PE  
ldunn@ssc-mgt.com

Strategic Services, LLC, provides civil-general, construction management, environmental, hydrology, and water/wastewater consulting services.

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Architects' and Engineers' Board Grants Announced*

by *Candy Toler*  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Every year the Architects' and Engineers' Board awards grants to Tennessee universities. This helps the universities with things like computers to be utilized by students, laboratory or instructional equipment, library resources, or to pay examination fees for students in accredited architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, and interior design programs.



**Candy Toler**

John Cothron, Executive Director of the Board, recently announced the grants for 2013-14. In the announcement, he observed "Education lays the foundation for developing the knowledge and skills needed to practice the design professions and to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare."

Engineering schools receiving

grant funds are:

- Christian Brothers University - \$14,167 to purchase a 3D liquid resin printer, a 3D extrusion printer, a group 3D visualization station, and an activated sludge unit. This equipment will enable students to gain firsthand experience with new methods of design and manufacturing and in the process of using activated sludge in wastewater treatment.
- Lipscomb University - a \$13,099 grant to pay Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination fees for students and to purchase a hydraulic bench and Venturi meter experiment for the Fluids/Thermal Science Laboratory. The FE

exam may be taken by students in the senior year of an engineering curriculum.

- Tennessee State - \$17,833 for the purchase of surveying instruments and devices to provide engineering students with surveying skills.

- Tennessee Tech - \$39,709 for a Computer Numerical Control system and 3D printers for the process discovery learning laboratory.

- Union University - \$12,375 to pay FE examination fees for students, and purchase an infrared camera and research laboratory equipment/software.

- University of Memphis - \$22,268 to purchase a multi-channel data acquisition system capable of reading and recording voltage-based instrumentation commonly used in undergraduate engineering labs.

- UT-Chattanooga - \$24,347 to pay FE examination fees for students and to purchase tablet computers, computer workstations, and associated equipment to improve the design interaction environment for students in engineering design courses.

- UT-Knoxville - \$44,397 to purchase hydraulics laboratory teaching equipment.

- UT-Martin - \$15,121 for laboratory equipment to enhance instructional capabilities in numerous upper-division engineering courses.

- Vanderbilt - \$26,484 to pay FE examination fees for students and to purchase a full spectrum laser for design prototyping.

We are grateful that the General Assembly and Governor authorized funding for the grants to engineering schools, which began in 2002. Since then the Board has awarded over \$2.6 million in grant funds.