

The Voice

JULY - AUGUST 2012

Voice

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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These companies provide Tennessee engineering firms with products and services and support the activities of ACEC of Tennessee through participation in the Partners Program. Additional information about these Partner Program participants is available at www.acectn.org.

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Tennessee engineering students introduced to the spirit of volunteerism

by *Charlie Smith, PE*
Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
Chair, Public Relations Committee of ACEC of Tennessee

Tennessee engineers take pride in finding solutions to problems, both on and off the job. They frequently volunteer their prob-



Charlie Smith

lem-solving skills in support of local projects such as building homes through Habitat for Humanity or assisting with development of disaster preparedness plans through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Their volunteer

efforts also extend around the world in cooperation with groups such as Engineers without Borders.

Early in their careers, engineering students are introduced to the spirit of volunteerism among Tennessee engineers through projects sponsored by Tennessee engineering schools.

Water projects, bridges and more

For example, in recent years, engineering students at **Lipscomb University** have traveled to Guatemala and Honduras¹. Their goal: to use their growing engineering skills to help communities build a sustainable, better way of life. Some of their projects include a design and build of a 20 ft. water tower to provide consistent running water to a medical facility in the mountains. Encouraged

and energized, students returned to install a solar power electrical system and complete structural building repairs for the same mountain medical facility. Engineering students also built a composting and sanitation system, which provides fertilizer and operates without the use of hard-to-find water. Later, Lipscomb engineering students built a bridge to replace one that had been destroyed. The bridge provided a connection between two rural communities—one that did not exist without the bridge. In 2011 Lipscomb mechanical engineering students worked with several supporting organizations to design, build, and begin operating an aquaponics facility in Tegucigalpa that will provide thousands of pounds of fish, fresh vegetables, and employment for local residents.

University of Memphis students are involved in a long-term project in Bolivia. The students are working to install a pure water system to residents in the town of Yarvicoya². Over the course of five years, students will assess, oversee construction, and train the local people to operate and maintain the water system—an excellent example of improving the quality of life in a sustainable way.

Students from **Vanderbilt University** traveled to Peru in 2010 over their Winter Break to survey and set up a new water pump for villagers³. Ranging from first year students to seniors, Vanderbilt engineering students also helped educate villagers regarding clean water treatment.

(continued on page 2)

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Inspired, motivated, focused & ready to work

*by Steven Field, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee*

As I begin my term as President, I thank outgoing President Mike Pohlman, PE, for his leadership. During his tenure, member participation increased on our committees, our association maintained a watchful eye on legislation potentially affecting our businesses, and membership numbers strengthened in a trying economic climate. Thanks, Mike, for your dedication to ACEC of Tennessee during the past, present, and future! I am humbled and excited by the opportunity to follow in your footsteps and hope to continue the positive momentum you started.

**Steven Field**

Looking ahead; preparing to act

I recently had the privilege of participating in ACEC's Annual Convention and Legislative Summit. I learned about accomplishments of ACEC at the national level including repeal of the 3% withholding mandate, inclusion of contracting-out language in the Corps of Engineers Appropriations Bill and the House Transportation Bill, warding off the 1099 filing requirements, and a successful effort to enact a 4-year aviation bill that included an

endorsement of Qualifications-Based Selection for airport projects funded with Passenger Facility Charges. (For more information on these and other key issues, go to <http://www.acec.org/advocacy/keyissues.cfm>).

While in Washington, I met with legislators to encourage them to take up the cause for important initiatives like a long-term Transportation Bill, increased funding and loan programs for water/wastewater infrastructure, and development of a comprehensive energy policy for our nation. I also learned about making volunteer associations like ACEC more relevant.

During a meeting with a Middle Tennessee Congressman, we heard a plea—a call to action—in his simple question, “What have you or are you doing in Tennessee to further the discussion on infrastructure spending?”

Inspired, motivated, and focused on the issues, ACEC of Tennessee's Board and Committee Chairs participated in a planning session to discuss initiatives for the upcoming year. We collectively decided to take on **three initiatives during the 2012-13 year: membership, ACEC of Tennessee relevance, and infrastructure investment.**

Over the summer months, the Board will look at each of these initiatives and develop an action plan for the upcoming year and future years. Look for more information concerning these initiatives and how you can get involved.

Congratulations, New PEs

The following people associated with ACEC of Tennessee member firms have passed the Professional Engineering licensing examination: **Jason Douglass Black, PE**, Smith Seckman Reid; **Nicholas James DeBlasis, PE**, Neel-Schaffer; **Larry Joe Dockery, PE**, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.; **Siphay David Douangvilay, PE**, AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.; **Laura Kristin Duncan, PE**, ARCADIS; **Bryan Allen Gipson, PE**, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.; **Brian Haas, PE**, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.; **Michelle Marie Hatcher, PE**, CDM Smith; **Joseph Boyd Hillard, PE**, CDM Smith; **Sara Rose Johnson, PE**, AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.; **John William Knapek, PE**, Allen & Hoshall; **Patrick Leap, PE**, Gresham Smith & Partners; **Daniel Taylor, PE**, OGCB, Inc.; **Michael Scott Terry, PE**, Smith Seckman Reid; **Travis Laurin Todd, PE**, Littlejohn Engineering Associates; **Candace Denise Vannasdale, PE**, Cannon & Cannon, Inc.; and **Jordan Cole Wallace, PE**, Structural Design Group.

MEMBER NEWS

- **Steve Lane, PE, DEE**, executive vice president of **Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.**, has been named a Fellow of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).
- **Laura Reinbold, PE, TTL, Inc.**, has been elected to the board of ASFE, the Geoprofessional Business Association.
- **Gresham Smith and Partners** has named **Stephen Brown, PE**, an owner; he is a senior civil engineer in the Land Planning and Design Division. In addition, **Mike Orr, PE**, Water Resources Division, was named senior associate. New associates at the firm are **Ron Abraham, PE, BCEE**, a senior environmental engineer; **Nitaya Chayangkura, PE**, a civil engineer in Transportation; **Deron McIntosh, PE**, Electrical Department manager; and **Dylan Tarr, PE**, civil engineer in Land Planning and Design.

Here's an update on TDOT plans, procedures, & policies

by Robert McIvor, PE
Parsons Transportation
Chair, ACEC of Tennessee Transportation
Committee

The quarterly meetings of ACEC of Tennessee's Transportation Committee with TDOT representatives provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information that ultimately benefits the safety and welfare of Tennesseans.

At the June 7 meeting, TDOT Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer Paul Degges updated the group on the implementation of the Department's *Top to Bottom Review* that established goals for reductions in TDOT's use of consultants over the next three to five years. TDOT is currently developing a plan to meet these goals and hopes to meet with stakeholders to present the plan in August. He stressed that TDOT recognizes the long and beneficial relationship between TDOT and the consulting industry, and that ACEC, as a stakeholder, will be able to review and comment on the plan.

In addition, there was discussion of TDOT procedure and policy items.

- The Invoice Working Group reported the results of a survey pertaining to TDOT's invoicing procedures that contained responses from 18 firms. TDOT is working towards utilizing electronic submittals, and will develop standardized procedures for all divisions.
- External Audit will distribute a memo to all TDOT division managers outlining a consistent policy for consultant pricing and invoicing projects when the consultant's new overhead rates are approved. The policy will essentially state



Among those attending the June 7 meeting of the Transportation Committee were (left to right) Mike Pohlman, PE, immediate past president of ACEC of Tennessee with Pickering Firm; Jeff Jones, PE, Assistant Chief Engineer of Design at TDOT; and Robert McIvor, PE, chairman of the Transportation Committee with Parsons Transportation.

that when a firm's new overhead rate is approved, it should be used for new supplemental agreements, contracts, and cost plus fixed fee invoices. The new overhead rate will not affect the existing contract ceiling.

- TDOT's Instructional Bulletin 12-07 regarding digital signature certification will go into effect July 1. However, until the use of digital signature certification becomes a rule with the State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners, an electronic file of the registrant's signature will need to be included in the files. The rule regarding the use of digital signature certification is anticipated to be finalized after the first of 2013.

Volunteerism (continued from page 1)

At Union University, engineering students are completing capstone projects that serve a greater cause. Seniors will be designing a robot to facilitate the roasting, seasoning, and packaging process for cashews for use in third-world countries⁴.

These are just a few examples of how Tennessee's engineering schools are developing and instilling the importance of serving others in future engineers, preparing them to carry on the volunteer spirit of the profession.

¹www.lipscomb.edu/engineering/Engineering-Missions

²www.memphis.edu/herff/herff_headlines/dec11/bolivian.php

³www.vanderbilt.edu/magazines/vanderbiltengineering/2010/04/students-work-for-clean-water/

⁴www.uu.edu/dept/engineering/news.cfm

ABET Accredited Engineering Schools in Tennessee

(Accreditation Board of Engineering & Technology)

Christian Brothers University
Lipscomb University
Tennessee State University
Tennessee Technological University
Union University
University of Memphis
University of Tennessee-Knoxville
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga
University of Tennessee-Martin
Vanderbilt University

CALENDAR

JULY 17

Environment & Energy
Committee
1:30 p.m., Tennessee
Engineering Center
Information:
aspann@ensafe.com

JULY 27

Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., Tennessee
Engineering Center

JULY 27

ACEC of Tennessee
2012 Leadership
Program
Registration deadline
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

AUGUST 15

Public Relations
Committee
10:30 a.m., Tennessee
Engineering Center
Information:
csmith@hanson-inc.com

AUGUST 31

Early registration
deadline for Joint
Annual Meeting
Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

SEPTEMBER 13 - 14

ACEC of TN/TSPE/
ASCE Joint Annual
Meeting
Embassy Suites,
Murfreesboro
Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

OCTOBER 14 - 17

ACEC Fall Conference
Boca Raton Resort &
Club
Boca Raton, FL

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

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Welcome, New Members

Hethcoat and Davis, Inc.
278 Franklin Rd., Ste. 200
Brentwood, TN 37027
(615) 577-4300
www.hdengr.com

Key contact:
Alton Hethcoat, PE
President
alton.hethcoat@hdengr.com
Hethcoat and Davis is a consulting engineering firm specializing in municipal, water and wastewater engineering.

The Corradino Group, LLC
278 Franklin Rd., Ste. 238
Brentwood, TN 37027
(615) 372-6972
www.corradino.com

Key contact:
Richard H. Sullivan, PE
Vice President
rsullivan@corradino.com

The Corradino Group is a consulting engineering and planning firm specializing in civil engineering particularly related to transportation projects, environmental engineering, land use planning and urban design.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Professional development opportunities are everywhere this fall!

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Want some leadership training designed specifically for engineers? Need some professional development hours? ACEC of Tennessee has some outstanding opportunities coming up.



Candy Toler

2012 Leadership Program

The Leadership Program will be offered this fall to help firms sharpen the skills of emerging leaders. One participant said, “*Dan Ryan provides a comprehensive class with real-world tools to effectively lead and manage.*” Topics include conflict resolution,

negotiation skills, coaching and change management.

To provide a quality experience, enrollment is limited to 15 participants. Registration deadline is July 27. More information is available at <http://www.acectn.org/Events.htm>

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting and Professional Develop-

ment Conference will be a big one; ACEC of Tennessee, the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers Tennessee Section have joined forces to put on quite a show September 13-14 at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro. On-line registration is already available (<http://acecascetspe.eventbrite.com/>).

There will be something for everyone in the four educational tracks and ASCE’s traditional student competition. A Conference brochure is enclosed with this newsletter for members. Plan to attend the Engineering Foundation luncheon on September 13, too.

PAC Appeal

The telephone calls, solicitation letters and emails from legislative candidates are arriving . . . and your PAC needs your help so that we can support legislative candidates who are sympathetic to engineering issues. The Auction at the Annual Meeting is one way we raise money and have fun, too! Every year, a variety of donated items are up for bid including weekend getaways, UT football and basketball tickets, golf outings, and more. What will you donate this year? We hope that you will contribute something and participate in the auction. Contact me (ctoler@tnc.org) for more information.