

The Voice

VOICE

JUNE 2007

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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\$21 Million Sky & Space Wing featuring New Planetarium under Construction at Adventure Science Center

by Virginia Crowe, Director of Marketing,
Adventure Science Center

Earlier this year, Adventure Science Center in Nashville began its biggest expansion project since the center moved to its home on Fort Negley Boulevard in 1974.

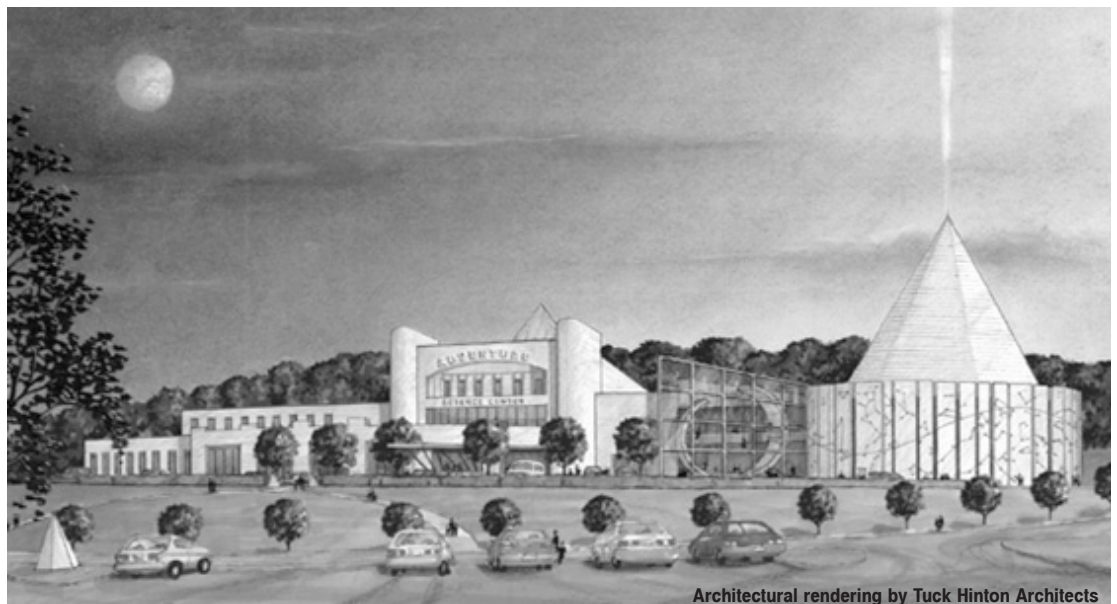
The \$21 million Sky & Space Wing will include a transformed Sudekum Planetarium and a variety of exciting exhibits devoted to space. The end result will provide families the opportunity to visit one of the premier planetariums in the country and to experience the wonders of the universe with state-of-the-art exhibits. With this undertaking, Nashville, already at the vanguard in areas such as music, urban development and healthcare, will become a national leader in space education as well.

"Members of ACEC of Tennessee are very excited about this project for a number of reasons," said Bill Johnson, president of ACEC of Tennessee. "Enhanced science and math education is one of our organization's priorities. In addition, the office of ACEC of Tennessee is located in the Tennessee Engineering Center (TEC) at Adventure Science Center." ACEC of Tennessee was one of six engineering organizations participating in the establishment of TEC in 2002.

Plans for Planetarium

The planetarium's dome will increase to 60 feet from 40 feet, making it among the largest in the nation. The highly interactive

(continued on page 2)



Architectural rendering by Tuck Hinton Architects

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It Was a Very Good Year

by Bill Johnson, P.E.
President, ACEC of Tennessee

As I approach the end of my term of office as President, I want to thank all the many people who have worked so hard this year by participating on committees, attending chapter meetings, attending all of the events in March, and going to Washington to represent us on Capitol Hill. Your support, enthusiasm and dedication have been inspiring and gratifying to me.



Bill Johnson

ACEC continues to be the leading organization for engineering companies in the Americas. ACEC helps us all to be stronger and more effective in our local communities. The most recent example of this was the ACEC Annual Con-

vention in Washington, D.C. Tennessee had many members there who helped to promote legislation for the continued funding of roads, water and waste water projects. We also pushed for continued funding for educational programs that encourage our nation's youth to prepare for careers in engineering and science, which will allow for the continued leadership by our country in the future. I am particularly pleased that ACEC of Tennessee has demonstrated its commitment to this purpose through its scholarship program, its relationship with the Adventure Science Center and career day representation.

I am proud of what our organization stands for and has accomplished. I say "thank you" to all who have served in many different capacities. To Jim Morinec, I offer my best wishes on your year of service as president. I know it will be a great one.

\$21 Million Sky & Space Wing *continued from page 1*

Sky & Space wing - comprising 12,000 feet of exhibition space, 30 original displays and 63 interactive stations - will allow visitors the chance to ask questions about the universe at the Cosmic Café, experience weightlessness in the interactive Test Bed, and step into the void in the Infinity Star Chamber.

At the public announcement of the project in October 2006, Metropolitan Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell said, "The significance of this project cannot be underestimated, particularly today when we are working to improve children's proficiency in math and science."

Mayor Purcell noted, "This new addition to Adventure Science Center will be unmatched by any facility in the Southeast and will open up a new world of exploration, adventure and discovery to children and adults alike."

The existing planetarium was demolished in January 2007, and the project is expected to be completed summer 2008. The project began after an initial \$1.77 contribution from the Sudekum Memorial Trust, which is the charitable foundation established by the Sudekum family, longtime supporters of science education in Nashville. The City of Nashville is contributing \$5 million and the federal government \$1.5 million. The remainder will be raised through individual and corporate donations.

The Sudekum family, for whom the planetarium is named, made its first contribution to astronomy education in Nashville in 1946 with a \$5,000 gift, given in memory of Nashville entrepreneur Tony Sudekum, to install a dome inside the former Nashville Children's Museum. The families of Tony and Nettie Sudekum's four daughters, all deceased, continue to substantially enhance science education in Tennessee with their recent \$1.77 million gift to help fund the new planetarium and Sky & Space wing.

ACEC of Tennessee's president Bill Johnson observed, "The Tennessee Engineering Center's location is coupled to Adventure Science Center to support the goal of igniting interest in science and engineering in young minds, to increase the visibility of the engineering profession, and to raise awareness of its importance and value to society. The new Sky & Space Wing will advance all of these objectives."

Member News

- K.S. Ware & Associates, LLC, Nashville, marked its 10th Anniversary in May.
- S&ME, Inc. is ranked 80th on the Top 100 Pure Design Firm (firms not providing construction) annual listing prepared by Engineering News-Record (ENR) magazine, a national industry weekly. S&ME is ranked 121st on the listing of Top 500 Design Firms. S&ME has five offices in Tennessee.

How Can We Help During a Disaster?

Engineers Urged to Participate in July 25 Training Program

by John Kenny, PE
Chairman, ACEC of Tennessee Interpro Committee

The core values of professional engineers include providing assistance to the public and solving problems. When it comes to a disaster situation — such as Hurricane Katrina or 9/11 — how can engineers with particular expertise help? How can emergency management officials reach us when they need our assistance?



John Kenny

Last year when the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) celebrated its 150th anniversary, all of the organization's state components nationwide were challenged to develop a community-based project, demonstrating the value that building professionals contribute to their communities every day. AIA of Tennessee decided to organize

and promote "Tennessee Disaster Preparedness" as its project.

Organizations Partner for Disaster Preparedness

AIA Tennessee organized a partnership for the project; ACEC of Tennessee is one of the partners. The other partner organizations are Associated General Contractors of Tennessee, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), Tennessee Building Officials Association, and The University of Tennessee.

Members of the Partnership have met over the past eight months to coordinate the effort to fulfill its mission. The mission of the Tennessee Disaster Preparedness Partnership is to:

- Use the talents and expertise of qualified archi-

texts, engineers, contractors and building officials in Tennessee when a disaster occurs.

- Prepare guidelines related to statewide coordination of efforts in damage assessment and emergency repair.
- Create a training program for individuals to perform disaster assistance and an emergency response kit for damage assessment of buildings.
- Create a database of trained volunteers, by region, with a designated team leader for each.
- Serve as advisors for local communities, upon request.
- Improve public awareness of how our citizens can best prepare themselves in the event of a disaster.

July 25 Training Session

The Partnership's first volunteer training session will be held in Nashville on Wednesday, July 25. The 8-hour workshop, featuring Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and TEMA instructors, will also provide an opportunity for professional development hours.

The July 25 training session is an important part of the Partnership's effort to promote Tennessee Disaster Preparedness and coordinate efforts with emergency management officials. As described by Cecil Whaley, Jr., TEMA Director of Natural Hazards, "... we saw a great opportunity to combine their manpower and financial resources with our disaster preparedness staff to offer additional support to our citizens."

For additional information about the July 25 training session or to register, please contact Connie Wallace, AIA Tennessee, at 615-255-3860.

John Kenny is president of Facilities Systems Consultants, LLC, Knoxville.

Tennesseans in Washington, D.C.



Visits to Capitol Hill were among the highlights of activities at the ACEC Annual Conference in May. Some members of ACEC of Tennessee's delegation are pictured visiting with Congressman David Davis (R-Kingsport). Left to right are David Harrell, Danny Longworth and Phil Ottinger (Vaughn & Melton), Rep. Davis, Wayne Robertson (Vaughn & Melton), Candy Toler, ACEC of Tennessee executive director, and Matt Farrand, (Vaughn & Melton). ACEC's Tennesseans also visited with Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Rep. Steve Cohen, Rep. Jimmy Duncan and Rep. Zack Wamp, and staff members of Sen. Bob Corker, Rep. Bart Gordon, Rep. Jim Cooper, and Rep. John Tanner.



Representatives of ACEC of Tennessee visited with Senator Lamar Alexander. Pictured left to right are Candy Toler, Bill Johnson, president of ACEC of Tennessee (ARCADIS), Sen. Alexander, and Everett Cowan (Gresham Smith & Partners). In addition to the people pictured, the Tennessee delegation to the ACEC national meeting also included Jeff Arnold (Fisher & Arnold), Mark Askew (Askew Hargraves), Harold and Angie Cannon (Cannon & Cannon), David Davidson (BWSC), Carlton Norris (ARCADIS), Jim Morinec (CTEIAECOM), Lamar Dunn (Lamar Dunn & Associates), and Jerry Stump (Wilbur Smith).

CALENDAR

JUNE
7

Annual Golf Tournament

8:00 a.m. shotgun start
Forrest Crossing Golf
Course, Franklin, TN

Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

JUNE
7 - 8

ACEC of TN / TSPE
Joint Annual Meeting

Franklin Marriott
Cool Springs

Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

JUNE
26

Engineers' Nashville
Mayoral Forum

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tennessee Engineering
Center

Information:
jlogue@tnec.org

JULY
25

Disaster Preparedness
Partnership Training
Program

Nashville

Information: Connie
Wallace, AIA Tennessee,
615-255-3860

AUGUST
1

Luncheon Honoring
Gerald Nicely

Keynote Speaker:
Governor Phil Bredesen

11:30 a.m.

Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

SEPTEMBER
26 - 29

ACEC Fall Conference
Grand Wailea Resort,
Maui, HI

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

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JUNE 2007

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Notice regarding Newsletter

The next issue of ACEC of Tennessee's newsletter will be a combined July/August edition. This will edition will feature photos from the Joint Annual Meeting of ACEC of Tennessee and TSPE.

News from your firm should be submitted to ctoler@tnec.org by June 18 to be included in the July/August edition. We look forward to hearing from you.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Update from Washington

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

ACEC of Tennessee was well represented (22 people!) at the ACEC national convention in Washington last month. In addition to the national Engineering Excellence Awards celebration, networking, and professional development, Tennesseans visited with our Members of Congress and Senators. Some of the issues on our federal agenda were:



Candy Toler

- **Overturning the 3% withholding mandate.** This provision, scheduled to begin in 2011, requires that federal, state and local governments withhold 3% from payment for goods and services exceeding \$100 million to ensure that federal taxes are paid.
- **Water and wastewater funding.** We thanked House members for passing the legislation and encouraged Senators to act quickly to expand funding for the state revolving fund for the Clean Water Act so that our aging water infrastructure can be repaired or replaced.
- **Transportation funding.** This is an ongoing concern because the Highway Trust Fund revenue is not expected to meet spending levels set in legisla-

tion passed last year. Both short and long term solutions need consideration, including redirecting existing transportation-related taxes and adjusting the gasoline tax for inflation or increasing the tax.

- **Math and Science Education.** We encouraged promoting math and science in grades K-12 and discussed local efforts to address the shortage of engineers. We asked that barriers to hiring foreign students be reduced.

ACEC Board Meeting Highlights

Board meeting attendees heard a presentation on the QBS study commissioned by ACEC that is being conducted by two academics. They appealed to the states for more examples of projects for which QBS was or was not used. More project data is needed to prove the case for QBS. Please participate in the study by going to www.qbsstudy.com

Mark Askew (Askew Hargraves Harcourt, Memphis) represents Tennessee on the ACEC Board. The Board approved a 3-year budget that includes national dues increases of the CPI (in Washington) plus 1.9%. Thanks to Jerry Stump (Wilbur Smith Associates, Nashville), who also sits on the Board, ACEC of Tennessee was recognized for achieving its 2007 PAC goal and for increasing membership.

Plan to attend the ACEC Fall Conference in Maui, September 26-29. It's business, after all!