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## Wilbur Smith Associates Wins Top Honor in Awards Competition

**W**ilbur Smith Associates won the 2010 Grand Iris Award for Engineering Excellence, the top prize in the statewide 2010 *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition sponsored by ACEC of Tennessee. The firm was honored for its work on the SmartFIX40 project in Knoxville completed for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The \$220 million SmartFix40 project was the most expensive road construction project ever undertaken by TDOT. In a bold effort to minimize community disruption and motorist inconvenience, I-40 was closed for 14 months while through traffic was rerouted, saving over two years of construction delays.

In addition, a Grand Award for Engineering Excellence was presented in each of the compe-

dition's entry categories. Firms receiving a Grand Award were: Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc.; CDM; EnSafe Inc.; Gresham Smith and Partners; K.S. Ware & Associates; RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC; Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.; Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; and Tetra Tech, Inc. The award winners were announced on the evening of March 2 during a gala awards event at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs before an audience of more than 250 Tennessee engineers, business and civic leaders, and state, city and county officials from across the state.

**NOTE:** Please see pages 4, 5 & 6 of this newsletter for additional awards information and photos.



*The Grand Iris Award Winner* — Representatives of Wilbur Smith Associates were joined by TDOT officials and construction company managers to display the project panel for the award-winning SmartFIX40 project, which took top honors for engineering excellence. Left to right are Jeremy Mitchell, Ray Bell Construction; Paul Degges, TDOT; Terry Grubb, Wilbur Smith Associates; Bruce Nicely, Ray Bell Construction; Ed Cole, TDOT; Jeff Mize, Wilbur Smith Associates; Frank Bale, Wilbur Smith Associates, and Antonio Montiel, Wilbur Smith Associates.

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# Face-to-Face: It Makes a Difference

by Ed Hargraves, P.E.  
 President, ACEC of Tennessee

The annual legislative reception and Engineers' Day on the Hill activities of ACEC of Tennessee are crucial to our profession's ability to tell its story to decision makers in Nashville. Why? Face-to-face conversation about the issues of concern to you



**Ed Hargraves**

with your elected representatives has a positive impact on them. There is no substitute for this type of personal communication.

During these events in early March, I met with Mark Norris, my state Senator and the Republican leader in the Senate. I found him to be open and forthcoming on the issues identified as important to engineers and supportive of our positions. Ron Lollar, my state Representative, and I enjoyed a wide-ranging discussion on the legislature and how much he enjoys his position in helping the people of Shelby County. I was also pleased to meet with Senator Democrat Leader Jim

Kyle (Memphis); House Speaker Kent Williams (Carter County) and House Democratic Leader Gary Odom (Nashville). They were all open to hearing our concerns about several bills before the General Assembly that would negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Tennesseans.

Successful communication with legislators is a team effort. Candy Toler, our executive director, closely monitors all pending legislation to determine if any will affect the engineering profession. The bills she identifies are reviewed by our Board through email, conference call, and by electronic vote for either support, modification recommendations, or defeat. Then during Engineers' Day on the Hill, each participant receives a packet which contains position papers for each bill to provide clearly defined talking points to discuss with appropriate legislators.

This team approach is well planned and professionally orchestrated. Most importantly, it works to focus legislators' attention on our issues. I recommend you participate next year. I believe you will find it both rewarding and educational as you observe and participate in the legislative process in Tennessee.

## Engineers' Day on the Hill Visits in Nashville



Chuck Saunders, Fisher & Arnold; Senator Jim Tracy, Jim Morinec, AECOM; and Alan Aront, Gresham, Smith & Partners.



ACEC Executive Director Candy Toler joined Tom Needham (left) and Ed Hargraves (right) for a visit with their state senator, Sen. Mark Norris.



After a visit, came a photo opportunity in the office of the Speaker of the House Kent Williams. Left to right are Gary Tysinger, Tysinger, Hampton & Partners; Tom Needham, SSR Ellers; Candy Toler, ACEC of Tennessee executive director; Speaker Williams; Ed Hargraves, ACEC of Tennessee president, Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates; Dan Boles, S & ME, and Wayne Robertson, Vaughn & Melton.



Representative Ron Lollar (center) welcomed ACEC President Ed Hargraves and Tom Needham. Rep. Lollar represents their district.

# Legislators Hosted at Annual Reception



Steve Lane, Smith Seckman Reid; Rep. Curtis Halford; Rep. Phillip Johnson; Rep. Charles Sargent; Rep. Ryan Haynes; Rep. Curry Todd; Rep. Mike Harrison, Rep. Joe McCord; Chuck Saunders, Fisher & Arnold; Rep. Richard Montgomery



Hal Balthrop, Metro Nashville Water Services; Sen. Jim Tracy, Sen. Reggie Tate, Sen. Delores Gresham; Steve Lane, Smith Seckman Reid



Bob Murphy, RPM  
Transportation Consultants,  
& Rep. Charles Sargent



Rep. Curry Todd  
& Mike Pohlman, Pickering



David Harrell, Vaughn & Melton; Rep. Richard Montgomery, Bryon Fortner, City of Sevierville

## Two Engineering Students Awarded \$1,000 Scholarships

**P**aul A. “Sparks” Sparks, 23, a graduate engineering student at Vanderbilt University, and Emily Epperson, 19, an undergraduate civil engineering student at Tennessee Technological University, each received a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee. As the state winners, Sparks and Epperson will compete for national scholarships with students throughout the U.S. National scholarship winners will be announced in October 2010. Last year’s winner of the Tennessee scholarship also won the national competition and received an additional \$10,000 scholarship. “Our scholarship program is another exam-



Paul Sparks



Emily Epperson

ple of how ACEC of Tennessee is committed to the future of our profession. We demonstrated that commitment this year by awarding two scholarships for the first time since our scholarship program began in 2003,” said Everett Cowan, PE, Gresham Smith and Partners, Nashville, the chairman of the 2010 Scholarship Committee. Steve Hays, Gobbell Hays Partners, Nashville, was Committee co-chair.

The scholarship was presented to Sparks during the *Engineering Excellence Awards* banquet on March 2. Epperson received her scholarship during a presentation at Tennessee Tech.

## CALENDAR

**APRIL  
20**

Chattanooga Chapter Meeting  
Sugar’s Ribs, 12 noon  
2450 15th Avenue  
Information:  
Bill Johnson  
423-756-7193  
bjohnson@arcadis-us.com

**APRIL  
25 - 28**

ACEC Annual National Convention  
The Grand Hyatt  
Washington, D.C.

**MAY  
6**

Memphis Chapter Meeting  
Memphis Racquet Club, 6:00 p.m.  
Guest Speaker:  
Senator Mark Norris  
Information:  
Tim Verner  
901-748-1811  
tverner@fisherarnold.com

**MAY  
13**

ACEC of TN Planning Retreat  
Tennessee Engineering Center

**AUGUST  
25**

Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament

**AUGUST  
26 - 27**

ACEC of TN / TSPE Annual Meeting  
Embassy Suites  
Murfreesboro, TN

# Award Winners: Engineering Excellence Honored



*The Grand Award in the special projects category was won by CDM for its work for the City of Kingsport on Kingsport Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades Construction Management at Risk Implementation. Pictured (left to right) are Steve King, CDM; Ryan McReynolds, City of Kingsport; Josh Norton and Yari Hernandez, both with CDM.*



*RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC, was presented the Grand Award in the studies, research and consulting engineering services category for its work on the Greater Nashville Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study completed for Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Pictured with the award are Preston Elliott, RPM Transportation Consultants; Leslie Meehan, Nashville Metropolitan Planning Organization; Bob Murphy and Jeff Hammond with RPM Transportation Consultants and Gary Hawkins, Hawkins Partners Inc.*



*A project at Marshall Space Flight Center won the Grand Award in the building/technology systems category for Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc. The project to rehabilitate building systems for Building 4207 was completed for National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA). Pictured are Mike Williams and David Schuler, both with BWSC.*



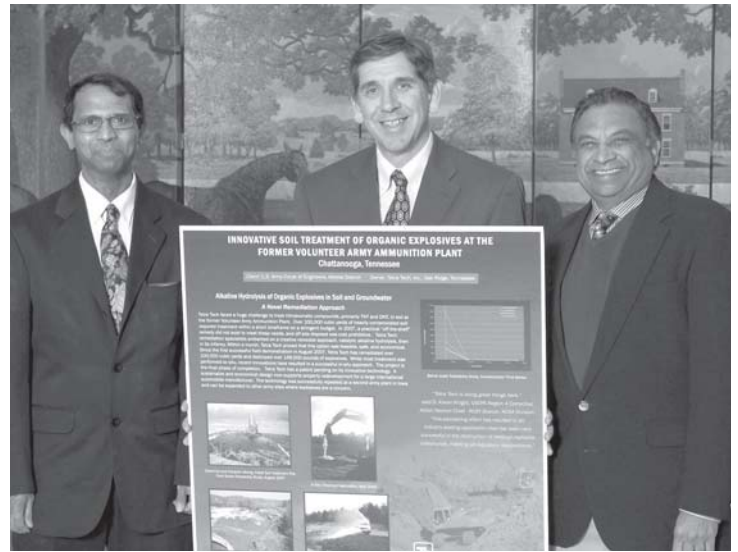
*Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., won the Grand Award in the structural systems category for Thompson-Boling Arena improvements in Knoxville completed for Studio Four Design. Representing Ross Bryan were (left to right) Brent Thornton, Dale Collins, David Wayman, Randall Wilson, Elizabeth Surface, and Mark Dunning*



◀ *The Tennessee Department of Transportation Smartway Memphis project won the Grand Award for Gresham Smith and Partners in the transportation category. Proudly displaying the award are Greg Dotson, Gresham Smith and Partners; Joe Warren, TDOT; and Marshall Elizer, Gresham Smith and Partners.*



The Grand Award in the water & wastewater category was won by **Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.** for the Stones River Treatment Plant expansion and upgrade in Murfreesboro completed for Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department. Pictured are (left to right) Mike Bernard, Smith Seckman Reid; Alan Cranford, Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department, and Sam Harrison, Smith Seckman Reid.



An environmental project in Chattanooga won a Grand Award for **Tetra Tech, Inc.** The project, the Innovative Soil Treatment of Organic Explosives at the Former Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant, was completed for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. Displaying the project panel for their winning project are Tetra Tech employees (left to right) Ronnie Britto, Bill Moore and Madhu Patel.



**EnSafe Inc.** received the Grand Award in the surveying/mapping technology category for its project, Optimizing I-69 Route Design Via Geophysics, Memphis and Millington, completed for Tennessee Department of Transportation. Pictured with the project panel are (left to right) Suzanne Herron, TDOT; Tammy Keim, EnSafe; Ann Epperson, TDOT; Larry Hughes, EnSafe, and Claire Barnett, EnSafe.



**K.S. Ware & Associates** had the distinction of winning two Grand Awards. The firm received a Grand Award in the small projects category for its work, Omohundro Water Treatment Plant Hazardous Materials Abatement, completed for Metro Nashville Water Services. Another Grand Award was presented to K.S. Ware in the water resources category for Wolf Creek Dam exploratory drilling and pressure testing in Jamestown, Kentucky, a project completed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District. Proudly displaying the awards are (left to right) Greg Brubaker and Kathy Ware, K.S. Ware & Associates; Emily Carr, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Jim Thompson, Centric Architecture; Heidi Wilbarger, Jason Wilson, Mark Luskin, John Godfrey and Michael Barry, all with K. S. Ware & Associates.

# Our Distinguished Panel of Project Judges



ACEC of Tennessee expresses its appreciation to the outstanding independent panel of judges from across the state that reviewed, evaluated and ranked all of the entries in the 2010 Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Pictured reviewing the project panels on “judgment day” are (left to right) **Marlin Keel, PE, RLS**, director of public works / city engineer, City of Mt. Juliet; **Diane Neighbors**, vice mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County; **Greg Reed, PE, Ph.D.**, associate vice chancellor for research at the University of Knoxville; **Daniel Badoe, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tennessee Technological University; **Ipshita Thomas**, 2009 ACEC and ACEC of Tennessee scholarship winner; **Peter Heidenreich**, consultant, Hall Strategies, Nashville; **Michael Oakes, PE**, county engineer, Shelby County Government; and **Michael Skipper**, director of the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

## Congratulations, Jerry Stump



**Jerry Stump**

**C**ongratulations to Tennessee’s own Gerald (Jerry) Stump, PE, vice president of Wilbur Smith Associates, who will be installed as Chairman of ACEC during ACEC’s Annual Convention and Legislative Summit, April 25-28, in Washington, D.C. ACEC’s national membership includes more than 5,500 engineering companies in the United States.

## Member News

- **Terracon Consultants, Inc.** has acquired three engineering companies—Gallet & Associates, Inc., Aquaterra Engineering and WPC, Inc. The acquisitions allow Terracon Consultants to further expand its service offerings and geographic presence in the Southeast with 35 offices in TN, NC, GA, SC, AL, FL, LA, and MS, and more than 100 offices nationwide.
- **S & M E, Inc.** recently acquired Atlanta-based Qore, Inc., increasing the size of the company to 1,000 employees working in 28 offices in TN, NC, AL, GA, FL, KY, SC and VA. Both are engineering and environmental firms primarily serving the Southeast.

## In Memoriam

**B**ob Campbell, PE, founder of Robert G. Campbell & Associates, Knoxville, died recently of cancer. Until his death, he served on the state licensing board. Bob was an active member of ACEC and served as President of Consulting Engineers of Tennessee, as ACEC was known then, in 1999-2000.



**Bob Campbell**

Upon learning of Bob’s passing, Candy Toler, executive director of ACEC of Tennessee, said, “I will always treasure the experience of knowing and working with Bob Campbell. He was president when I started working for ACEC. He was a great man who will be missed by the engineering profession and by his many colleagues and friends.”

## Thank You to Our EEA COMMITTEE

- Rick Gafford, PE, Committee Chair**  
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- Tennessee Road Builders Association

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### Door Prizes

- Embassy Suites Murfreesboro
- Franklin Marriott Cool Springs
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- S&ME, Inc.
- Vaughn & Melton, Inc.

# Environmental Committee Meets with TDEC and TDOT Representatives

by Liz Porter, PG, Chair

ACEC of Tennessee Environmental Committee  
S & ME, Inc.

The January 26 meeting of the ACEC Environmental Committee was well attended by nine committee members and representatives of both the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) and the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The participation of TDOT environmental regulatory personnel was in response to the specific request of committee members.



Liz Porter

TDOT representative Joe Matlock, a transportation planner in the Environmental Division, discussed the TDOT environmental review process for local programs. He provided helpful information on how to navigate the process to obtain a TDOT

Categorical Exclusion (CE), which is essentially the minimum level of environmental review required for state or federally funded projects.

## New Impoundment Requirements

Saya Qualls, TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control, updated committee members on the status of several topics. New requirements for impoundments were presented; these new requirements were developed in part in response to the Kingston ash spill. In addition, recent EPA changes to the construction storm water program were discussed. An approved numerical turbidity limit for storm water runoff from construction sites will present site development challenges as it is implemented, and the engineering community will benefit from a thorough understanding of these regulations. In addition, recent developments in the regulation and classification of wet-weather conveyances were also presented, along with an update on the MS4 program.

Scotty Sorrells, TDEC Division of Water Supply, provided some interesting examples of the types of water supply issues his Division encounters on a regular basis. These examples gave committee members a better understanding of the Divisions' role in controlling unauthorized discharges to state water supplies.

The next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for May 25. Suggestions from ACEC members for topics of discussion at the meeting are always welcome.

# Reception Precedes Awards Gala

The more than 250 people attending the *Engineering Excellence Awards* gala event viewed the panels of all the project entries and visited with colleagues from across the state during a reception prior to dinner.



▲ Kim and Gary Hawkins, Hawkins Partners, Nashville; Judy Steele, Tennessee Department of Transportation; and Jim Morinec, AECOM, Nashville.



◀ Steven Field, Co-Chair of Engineering Excellence Awards Committee, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.; and Terry McCormick, Nashville City Paper, featured speaker at the awards dinner.



◀ Mickey Sullivan, Gresham Smith and Partners; and Michael Barry, K.S. Ware & Associates



▲ Ann & Lee Hinson, Shelby County Public Works; Claire Barnett and Larry Hughes, EnSafe



◀ Amber and Jeff Hammond, RPM Transportation Consultants, Franklin



▲ Dr. Wayne T. Davis, Dean of College of Engineering, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Sylvia Davis; Rick Gafford, Chair of Engineering Excellence Awards Committee, Fisher & Arnold, Inc.



▲ Jon Storey, Florence & Hutcheson, Nashville; Jerry Stump, Wilbur Smith Associates, Franklin, and national chairman-elect of the American Council of Engineering Companies; Stan and Amy King, Florence & Hutcheson, Nashville

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**MARCH-APRIL 2010**

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### *Courage, Innovation & Numbers Count*

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

“It took courage to close down an interstate through downtown to fix a problem quicker. The result was outstanding!” These were the comments of one judge when reviewing the 29 projects



**Candy Toler**

entered by 24 firms in the *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition.

The project entries demonstrated the unique ability of engineers to solve problems with creativity and innovation as well as courage. All those qualities were combined by Wilbur Smith Associates on the SmartFix40 project, which won the Grand Iris Award for 2010. Thanks to all for making this awards competition the signature event for ACEC of Tennessee.

#### **Numbers Count**

A record number attended the celebration of engineering excellence. Speaking of records, we outdid ourselves at *Engineers' Day on the Hill* this year, too. Perhaps it was the issues being considered by the legislature that drew more than 75 participants . . . licensure of engineering technology graduates, local preferential purchasing policies,

allowing a company to use the word “engineering” in its name even though no PEs work there, the discovery of liability insurance limits, or efforts to define the practice of interior design. I am grateful for the assistance of these engineers to educate their legislators on these and other issues.

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

Coming up is ACEC's Annual Convention and Legislative Summit, April 25-28, in Washington. There will be special focus on the economic recovery agenda before Congress as well as special sessions with federal agencies focused on new business opportunities. The lobbying effort at the convention will come at an important time as Congress works on the passage of jobs bills that will provide new investments in transportation, environmental and energy infrastructure, as well as other tax and regulatory initiatives to promote economic growth. Tennesseans will visit with our national legislators to discuss these issues. *Plus*, Tennessee's own Jerry Stump will be installed as Chairman of ACEC during the conference. For more info about the meeting, go to [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org)