



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee



The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Wilbur Smith Associates Wins Grand Award for Engineering Excellence for Franklin Project

Wilbur Smith Associates, Franklin, received the 2008 *Grand Award for Engineering Excellence*, the top prize in the annual statewide awards competition sponsored by ACEC of Tennessee. The engineering firm was recognized for its work on the Mack Hatcher Parkway Context Sensitive Design Project in Franklin, a project completed for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

The Mack Hatcher Parkway roadway improvement and extension was a unique project, representing the first time that the Tennessee Department of Transportation utilized a true Context Sensitive Design process to develop a roadway complementing its surroundings. To complete the project, Wilbur Smith Associates worked in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the City of Franklin and local stakeholders, including a Citizen Design Team and Agency Resource Team. The firm guided the Context Sensitive Design process and provided the necessary tools for the Citizen Design Team and Agency Resource Team to make informed decisions on potential design solutions. The Wilbur Smith consulting team listened to all stakeholders and then developed design recommendations for the Mack Hatcher Parkway western extension and improvement to the existing parkway to correspond to the team's vision for a fully integrated transportation facility.

In addition, eight other Tennessee engineering firms received *Honor Awards for Engineering Excellence*. Announcement of

the awards was made in Nashville on the evening of March 4 before an audience of approximately 230 Tennessee engineers, business and civic leaders, and state, city and county officials from across the state.

EnSafe Inc., Memphis, and Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., Nashville, each received two *Honor Awards*. Additional *Honor Awards* were presented to Gresham, Smith & Partners, Nashville; Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc., Nashville; K.S. Ware & Associates, Nashville; PBS&J, Inc., Nashville; Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., Nashville; and S&ME, Knoxville.

Note: Additional Engineering Excellence Awards information and photos appear on pages 4, 5 and 6 of this newsletter.



Top Honors - Brad Thompson, PE, Wilbur Smith Associates; Jerry Stump, PE, Wilbur Smith Associates; and Darrell Moore, Tennessee Department of Transportation, proudly display the Grand Award for Engineering Excellence.

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Engineers: Advocacy Role is Important

by James D. Morinec, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee

Congratulations to all the firms that entered projects in the 2008 *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition. The banquet is always an enjoyable opportunity to see old friends and check out what the competition is doing. More importantly, this is one of the most effective means we have to publicize the tremendous impact our profession has on business activity, economic growth, transportation, and every aspect of daily life in the communities of our state and nation.



James D. Morinec

Thanks to all that were able to participate in the annual legislative reception and *Engineers' Day on the Hill*. With so many people participating, ACEC of Tennessee was able to demonstrate to the legislators that it represents a strong voice for issues that impact the engineering profession in Tennessee. In my meetings with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey and Speaker of the House Jimmy Naifeh, I learned that Tennessee is one of the most regulated states in the nation with regard to the professions. This reinforces the need for ACEC of Tennessee to stay on top of legislation that could impose even more regulation on the industry.

Be an Advocate in D.C.

April presents another opportunity to make our combined voices heard by legislators. This time it will be at the federal level. For many years I felt my efforts to inform legislators of issues impacting the profession were better spent at the local and state level. With the general state of the economy and the repeated rescission of federal program funding, I am changing my opinion. The ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be held at the end of April. The Legislative Summit will provide a coordinated forum for engineers from across the nation to lobby the Congress on water, transportation, land development, tax and other key issues.

Atlanta's water supply crisis and the failure of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River are vivid examples of the importance of adequately funded federal public works programs. The competition for these limited resources will be fiercer with the looming change in administration. Adequate and reliable infrastructure is crucial to public safety and welfare. It is also what companies look at first when they are considering investing in new facilities. To keep the Tennessee economy growing, we need to make sure our congressional delegation hears the message. The more participants we have during the Capitol Hill visits, the stronger the message will be. If at all possible, I encourage you to attend this year's event.

Engineers Visit Legislators at the State Capitol

There was a record turnout for *Engineers' Day on the Hill 2008*. During their visits with state legislators, participants reminded lawmakers of an engineer's responsibility to protect the welfare and safety of the public, and the important role engineers play in improving Tennessee's communities.



Gary Tysinger, PE, Tysinger, Hampton & Partners (left), was among the people who visited Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey.



ACEC of Tennessee President James Morinec, PE, CTE; Bob Campbell, PE, Robert G. Campbell & Associates; Rep. Joe McCord; Robert Campbell, PE; and Dave Buck, PE, Continental Aerial Surveys.



Robert Campbell, PE, Robert G. Campbell & Associates; Sen. Jim Kyle; James Morinec, PE; and Ed Hargraves, PE, Askew Hargraves & Harcourt.

Transportation Partnering Committee: Funding Issues Top Agenda

reported by Bob Campbell, Sr., PE
Partnering Committee Member
R. G. Campbell and Associates

The TDOT/ACEC Partnering Committee met February 28 at the TDOT headquarters in Nashville. Paul Degges, PE, TDOT chief engineer, presented an overview of budget and funding issues. The increases in gasoline costs have reduced the amount of funds available for TDOT projects. This, along with increased costs of projects, has affected the new starts of projects for Tennessee as well as the country. Rescissions in federal funding have already occurred and more are expected. TDOT may have state funds available for fully funded state projects; these project funds were originally intended to match projected federal funds, which will not be available.

Mr. Degges emphasized the importance of meeting the schedules stated in the engineering agreements. The delay or roll back of a project schedule for R.O.W. or construction should not be considered justification for missing the engineering contract provisions.

Jeff Jones, TDOT Design Division director, distributed the revised Consultant Performance Evaluation criteria. The importance of schedule is reflected in the weight value of schedule. This

function weight value has doubled for the review period. The evaluations are presently being processed and should be available within the next few weeks.

Angie Duncan, PE, TDOT Innovative Contracting, discussed the Design Build process, which is now moving through the rulemaking process. The legislation set limits on the dollar amounts of pilot projects to be developed using design build. Projects are presently being identified which will be within the range of the project amounts.

Edison e-Supplier

Tennessee is in the process of developing a system titled Edison e-Supplier. This process is designed to streamline business dealings with the State including TDOT. Tennessee is making the change to move from a paper-based to a web-based system. As "suppliers," engineering firms will be affected. For example, firms will be able to obtain information relative to contracts in place or proposed contracts from the web site. Member firms will be receiving requests for information from the Edison Project. Please respond to these requests in a timely manner. Outreach meetings will be scheduled to provide the opportunity to more completely explain the process, probably in June of this year.

ACEC of Tennessee Prepares to Celebrate Its 40th Anniversary

The year 1968 is memorable for many reasons. The Boeing 747 made its maiden voyage. Yale University announced it was going co-educational. It was also the year that the Consulting Engineers of Tennessee was established, the organization known today as the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee.

At age 40, it is time to celebrate! Lamar Dunn, PE, Lamar Dunn & Associates, is chair of the ACEC of Tennessee 40th Anniversary Committee. Among its many plans and projects, the Committee is working to assemble old photographs, news articles and other organization mementos. Your memories are one of the items that they are requesting!

Please share your notes of remembrances of CET / ACEC of Tennessee. Send them by e-mail to cldunn@ldassoc.com or ctoler@tnec.org or jlogue@tnec.org. Thank you.

Engineers' Statewide Annual Meeting Set for June in Franklin

Professional development, golf, networking and fun will be on the agenda at the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of ACEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers. The place will be the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs and the dates are Thursday, June 12, and Friday, June 13. Reserve these dates on your calendar now.

Events will include the legendary, surprise-packed PAC auction, the installation of new officers and professional development programs. There also will be a special event as ACEC of Tennessee celebrates its 40th Anniversary Year.

Room reservations are due on or before May 21 by contacting the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs at 615-261-6100. Identify yourself with ACEC to be assigned to a room block and received the special reduced rate of \$129.00.

Complete meeting details and registration information will soon be posted at www.acectn.org.

CALENDAR

APRIL

27-30

ACEC Annual
Convention & Legislative
Summit
Washington, D.C.

JUNE

12-13

ACEC of TN/TSPE Joint
Annual Meeting
Franklin Marriott
Cool Springs

MEMBER NEWS

- Randall (Randy) A. Neuhaus, PE, has been named president of S&ME, Inc., a Southeastern engineering and environment services company with 22 offices in Tennessee and five other states. Neuhaus has been associated with S&ME since 1988.
- George Garden, PE, vice president in the Nashville office of Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC), has received certification from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers as a Board Certified Environmental Engineer.
- Jim Speakman, PhD, PE, EnSafe senior vice president, recently received the Memphis-Area Joint Engineers Council's 2008 Award of Excellence, recognizing his contributions to the engineering profession over a career spanning three decades.
- Dyan Damron, PE, Neel-Schaffer project manager (Nashville), was recently recognized as the *Young Engineer of the Year* by the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.
- Steve Lane, PE, Smith Seckman Reid executive vice president (Nashville), was recently recognized as the *Engineer of the Year* by the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.

Engineering Excellence Honored at Awards Gala



EnSafe received an *Honor Award* in the studies, research or consulting engineering services category for a **wetlands investigation study in Pensacola, Florida, completed for the U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast**. Pictured at the awards presentation are James Morinec, PE, president of ACEC of Tennessee; Allison Harris, EnSafe; David Harrell, PE, chair of the *Engineering Excellence Awards Committee*; and Paul Stoddard, EnSafe.



Scott Hefflinger, PE, and Shaun Winter, display the *Honor Award for Environmental Engineering Excellence* presented to EnSafe for revitalization of a site in Nashville for **Metal Management, Inc.**



The *Honor Award for Surveying / Mapping Technology* was presented to **Hart Freeland & Roberts, Inc.** for its work on the **Laurel Snow Boundary Survey in Dayton, Tennessee, completed for the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation**. Pictured at the award presentation are James Morinec, PE; Kevin Edmonson and Rodney Wilson, PE, both with Hart Freeland & Roberts; and David Harrell, PE.



Smith Seckman Reid received an *Honor Award* in the water and wastewater category for the **Alcoa Water Treatment Plant project completed for the City of Alcoa, Tennessee**. Pictured are Sam Harrison, PE, and Steve Lane, PE, both with Smith Seckman Reid; Ken Reynolds, City of Alcoa; and Mike Bernard, PE, Smith Seckman Reid.

Smith Seckman Reid received the *Honor Award for Building / Technology Systems Engineering* for the **Vanderbilt TVC Highbay Generator project completed for Vanderbilt Medical Center**. Pictured prior to the awards ceremony are Chris Buckner, PE, Vanderbilt University; and Eric Martin; John Ross, PE; and Chad Miller, PE, all with Smith Seckman Reid.





S&ME received an *Honor Award* for the Love Creek realignment and restoration in Knoxville, a project for its client Wal-mart. Displaying the *Honor Award* are proud S&ME staff members (left to right) Eric Solt, PG; Mike Stomer, PG; John Agee, PE; Shannon Looney, PE; Liz Porter, PG; Brad McCarter, PE; Ken Barry, PE; Earl Johnson, EI; Sandy Reagan, Brent Wood, PE; Randy Neuhaus, PE; and Don Haynes.



Dr. John Petersen, president of the University of Tennessee, was the featured speaker at the EEA banquet. Dr. Petersen (left) was welcomed to the event by Paula Harris, EEA co-chair, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon; and David Harrell, PE, EEA chair, Vaughn & Melton. Yes, Dr. Petersen's tie was orange!



◀ The Biloxi Bay Bridge Reconstruction Materials Testing Management project in Biloxi, Mississippi, garnered an *Honor Award* for K.S. Ware & Associates. The project was completed for Volkert & Associates, Inc. Pausing for a photo after the award presentation are left to right James Morinec, PE, ACEC of Tennessee president; Greg Brubaker, PE, K.S. Ware & Associates; Tony Newman, Volkert & Associates; and David Harrell, PE, EEA chair.

Gresham Smith & Partners received an *Honor Award* for its ► work on the McEwen Drive Single Point Urban Interchange in Franklin, a project completed for the City of Franklin and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Pictured left to right are Eric Gardner, PE, City of Franklin; Carolyn Stonecipher, PE, TDOT; Paul Degges, PE, TDOT; and Robin Lovett, PE; Everett Cowan, PE; and Marshall Elizer, PE, all with Gresham Smith & Partners.



An *Honor Award* went to PBS&J for its project, Nashville International Airport Master Drainage Study, completed for the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority. Attending the EEA event representing the project team were (left to right) Stefan Bobot, PE, PBS&J; David Schilling, PE, PBS&J; Kinney Baxter, PE, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; and Janelle Zweifel, PE; Peter Nielson, PE; and Darren Duckworth, PE, all with PBS&J.



With the help of UT President Dr. John Petersen, the team at Ross Bryan displays its *Honor Award* for the new club level and concourses at Neyland Stadium in Knoxville, work completed for McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Inc. Left to right are Randall Wilson, PE; Elizabeth Surface, PE; Dr. Petersen; Valentina Ramey; Bill Fleenor, PE, and David Wayman.

EEA Reception: Smiles All Around



Dave and Anna Holbert, and Russell Moorehead, PE, all with Lamar Dunn & Associates



Anne Engstrom, and Ian Engstrom, PE, Parsons Transportation Group and Steve Fields, PE, and Melissa Fields, Stantec



Randy Neuhaus, PE, S&ME, and Candy Toler, ACEC of Tennessee



Bob Campbell Sr., PE, Robert G. Campbell & Associates, and Lillard Teasley, PE, Teasley Services Group

Thank You to Our EEA COMMITTEE

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David Harrell, PE
Vaughn & Melton, Inc.

Co-Chair

Paula Harris
Barge Waggoner Sumner &
Cannon, Inc.

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Door Prizes

Arun Wagh, Inc.
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Franklin Marriott
Hilton Nashville Downtown
Vaughn & Melton, Inc.

Candy Toler Elected to ACEC National Executive Committee

Candy Toler, executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee, was recently elected a member of the 11-person Executive Committee of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) which represents more than 5,500 engineering firms nationwide. The Executive Committee advises the ACEC Board of Directors on all financial and policy matters governing the organization.

Toler, who is president of the National Association of Engineering Council Executives (NAECE), represents the 51 member organizations that are affiliated with ACEC. She is the only non-engineer to serve on the ACEC Executive Committee and is the first Tennessean to serve as president of NAECE.

She has served as executive director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee (ACEC of Tennessee) and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) since 1999.

Legislators Hosted at Annual Reception



Jerry Stump, PE, Wilbur Smith Associates; Rob Barrick, PE, Smith Seckman Reid; Senator Jim Kyle; and Mickey Sullivan, PE, Gresham Smith & Partners.



Rep. Joe McCord; Rep. Richard Montgomery; Candy Toler, executive director of ACEC of Tennessee; Speaker Jimmy Naifeh; and John Wimberly, PE, I.C. Thomasson Associates.



Rep. Jimmy Eldridge; Dennis Henderson, PE, TLM Associates; Rep. Johnny Shaw; and Rep. Jim Coley.



Rep. John Hood; David Davidson, PE, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon; Senator John Wilder.

Thank You, *Engineering Excellence Awards* Judges



ACEC of Tennessee expresses its appreciation to the outstanding independent panel of judges from across that state that reviewed, evaluated, and ranked all of the entries in the 2008 *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition. Pictured left to right are Marilyn Lewis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Greg Reed, PE, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Kimberly McClurkin, Department of Public Works, city of Chattanooga; Diane Neighbors, Vice Mayor of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County; David Huddleston, PhD, Dean of the College of Engineering, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville; Herschell Parker, Curator/Collections Manager, Adventure Science Center, Nashville; and Wain Gaskins, PE, Director, Engineering Department, city of Memphis.

Engineering Days at Adventure Science Center



During Engineering Days at Nashville's Adventure Science Center, Lance Wagner, PE, Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon (BWSC), helped children build three-dimensional structures using spaghetti and marshmallows to demonstrate how loads can be supported. BWSC was one of the many firms that participated in the annual event which is designed to introduce children to the science and profession of engineering.

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee

1968 40th ANNIVERSARY 2008

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FEBRUARY 2008

INSIDE

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- **Photos, Photos, Photos!** – throughout this newsletter!

Winning in 2008

ACEC's Annual Convention
April 27 – 30 in Washington, D.C.

ACEC's 2008 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit is the most comprehensive and relevant political advocacy event in the industry. Make plans to attend on April 27-30, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

This is the premier opportunity in 2008 for engineers to obtain top-tier business education, interact with top government officials, learn about future business opportunities with government agencies, and network with colleagues from across the nation. This election year, the meeting will also include an analysis of the U.S. presidential race by Chris Wallace, host of Fox News Sunday, and The Great Debate: Who Will Win in 2008? featuring Tucker Carlson, host of MSNBC's Tucker, and Paul Begala, former Clinton Administration advisor.

For more information or to register, visit www.acec.org.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Many Proud Moments for Tennessee's Engineers

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

March was filled with many proud moments for Tennessee's engineering community. We had a record turnout for *Engineers' Day on the Hill*, where participants reminded lawmakers of



Candy Toler

an engineer's responsibility to protect the welfare and safety of the public and the important role you play in improving Tennessee's communities. We continue to work with sponsors on several bills. If you would like copies of the issue briefs, please let me know (ctoler@tnec.org).

We were also pleased by the number of engineers and legislators who attended the legislative reception the evening before our *Day on the Hill*. Next year I hope that you will all join us for this informal event to meet our state's lawmakers.

What a great celebration of engineering excellence we had on March 4! We appreciate all of you who participated by showcasing your cre-

ativity in engineering projects and attending the awards banquet. Congratulations to **Wilbur Smith Associates** on winning the *Grand Award* for the *Mack Hatcher Parkway Context Sensitive Design* in Franklin.

David Harrell (Vaughn and Melton), Paula Harris (Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon), and Judy Logue (ACEC of Tennessee) did an outstanding job in creating a banquet to remember. Thanks for all of your efforts. I do not know what they could do to make it even better next year, but I am confident that they will, under the leadership of Paula Harris. If you did not enter a project this year, I hope you are already thinking about your project entry for 2009.

Now that our major state events are behind us, it is time to shift our focus to Washington, D.C. ACEC's Annual Convention and Legislative Summit will be April 27-30. I hope you will join the Tennessee group in our nation's Capitol as we visit our legislators and encourage their support of the ACEC's national initiatives, including infrastructure funding. Make plans now to participate.