

# The Voice



THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## ACEC OF TENNESSEE PARTNERS

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](http://www.acectn.org).

**Architectural Wall Solutions**

**Bechtel Power Corporation**

**Crow Friedman Group, LLC**

**Greenleaf 3D, Inc.**

**Jacobs Technology**

**Lellyett & Rogers Company**

**ModernTech**

**Sherman-Dixie Concrete Industries**

**SourceCorp Professional Services**

**Strategies Group, Inc.**

**Tennessee Concrete Association**

**The Crom Corporation**

**United Structural Systems, Inc.**

## SmartFIX40: Success is Example for Future Urban Interstate Construction

by Jeff Mize, PE  
Project Manager, SmartFIX40  
Wilbur Smith Associates

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) celebrated a significant event on June 12, 2009 when the large urban interchange project, known as SmartFIX40, came to a conclusion with the reopening of a mile-long stretch of I-40 through downtown Knoxville. SmartFIX40 was the most expensive road construction project ever undertaken by TDOT. Based on many years of planning and preparation, the SmartFIX40 project successfully improved



Jeff Mize

existing roadway deficiencies through the use of innovative techniques that minimized construction time, cost and adverse community impacts while improving quality, traffic control and safety.

The project involved widening I-40 to six through lanes with four auxiliary lanes. The project also included demolition and reconstruction of 25 bridges, 48 retaining walls, seven ramps, three noise walls, eight miles of new roadway and the improvement of 29 city streets. Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA) of Knoxville provided concept planning, roadway design, bridge and utility design, right-of-way appraisals, public and community information specialists and construction engineering inspection services.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Countdown Concludes for Road Project**  
*With the push of a giant red control button, Tennessee and Knoxville officials stopped the countdown clock --18 days ahead of schedule -- for the SmartFIX40 project. Participants in the June 12 ceremony to open the roadway were (left to right) Bill Williams, event emcee and retired news anchor for WBIR-TV; Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development; Mayor Bill Haslam, City of Knoxville; Commissioner Gerald Nicely, Tennessee Department of Transportation; Mayor Mike Ragsdale, Knox County; and State Rep. Ryan Haynes. State Rep. Harry Brooks also participated in the ceremony.*



**Board of Directors****President  
Ed Hargraves, PE**

Askew Hargraves  
Harcourt & Associates,  
Memphis

**President-Elect  
Steve Bostic, PE**

Lamar Dunn & Associates,  
Inc., Knoxville

**First Vice President  
Mike Pohlman, PE**

Pickering, Inc., Memphis

**Second Vice President  
Steven Field, PE**

Stantec Consulting  
Services, Inc., Nashville

**Secretary  
David Harrell, PE**

Vaughn & Melton, Inc.,  
Knoxville

**Treasurer  
Chuck Saunders, PE**

Fisher & Arnold, Nashville

**Past President  
Lillard Teasley, PE**

Teasley Services Group,  
Nashville

**National Director to  
ACEC**

**Steve Lane, PE**  
Smith Seckman Reid,  
Nashville

**Director at Large  
John Wimberly, PE**

I.C. Thomasson  
Associates, Inc.,  
Nashville

**Chattanooga Chapter  
President**

**Bill Johnson, PE**  
ARCADIS, Chattanooga

**East TN Chapter  
President**

**Mike Stomer, PG**  
S & ME, Knoxville

**Memphis Chapter  
President**

**Tim Verner, PE**  
Fisher & Arnold, Inc.,  
Memphis

**Nashville Chapter  
President**

**Bob Murphy, PE**  
RPM Transportation  
Consultants, Brentwood

**ACEC Staff  
Candy Toler**

Executive Director

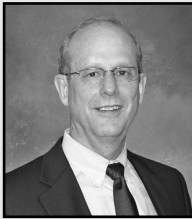
**Judy Logue**

Manager of Member  
Services

# Plan Now to Enter *Engineering Excellence Awards* Competition

by Ed Hargraves  
President, ACEC of Tennessee

**N**ow is the time to consider which of your firm's projects will be submitted for the 2010 *Engineering Excellence Awards* (EEA) competition held annually by ACEC of Tennessee. This competition provides the Tennessee engineering community as a whole, and ACEC members in particular, an opportunity to obtain statewide and regional recognition and to showcase their talent and expertise. November 6 is the deadline to submit the initial project entry application.



**Ed Hargraves**

The application, detailed information about the 2010 awards competition, and the timetable of events will be available soon according to Rick Gafford, Fisher & Arnold, Inc., chair of the EEA Committee this year, and Steve Field, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., co-chair.

Categories for the competition are broad enough so that almost every type of project can be submitted for consideration. Currently the 11 entry categories are: Studies, Research, and Consulting Engineering Services; Building Technology Systems; Structural Systems; Surveying Mapping Technology; Environmental; Water and Wastewater; Water Resources; Transportation; Special Projects; Small Projects; and Energy.

Entries are scored by an independent panel of judges based on a variety of criteria such as original or innovative application of new or existing techniques; future value to the engineering profession; social, economic, and sustainable design considerations; complexity of the project; and exceeding client/owner needs. Remember -- any engineering or surveying firm in Tennessee is eligible to enter the EEA competition.

I urge you to enter. Your entry is the first step toward recognition for your firm and toward another exciting and successful EEA competition for Tennessee's engineering community.

## SmartFIX40 *(continued from page 1)*

In 1982, TDOT hired WSA to evaluate alternative designs for the section of I-40 through downtown Knoxville with respect to feasibility, cost, safety and improved operational characteristics. Multiple design configurations were created, but TDOT, citing lack of funding and public support, temporarily suspended further design studies of the project until the early 1990s. The project was eventually revived in 2003 with a new focus that engaged the local community and all stakeholders in the project development process.

After extensive public outreach and community input, the \$200 million project began in May 2005 and was divided into two major contracts. The first contract included the construction of Hall of Fame Drive and a new interchange at Hall of Fame Drive and Broadway with a new "signature" bridge that now spans I-40. The construction also included demolition and reconstruction of a number of ramps, bridges, a new cut-and-cover tunnel, and new roadway on the James White Parkway.

### Portion of Interstate Closed

The second contract included the complete closure

of a one-mile section of I-40 through downtown Knoxville for 14 months. By closing this section of I-40 and allowing full access to the contractors, the construction period was reduced by years, thereby minimizing impact to the traveling public and greatly reducing the construction costs. Originally built during the 1960s, I-40 passed through a heavily developed urban area comprised of historic neighborhoods and commercial properties near downtown. As the city grew, the interstate was unable to keep up with the volume and demands of modern day traffic. In 2008, an estimated 101,000 vehicles a day used this section of I-40 before the closure.

Gerald Nicely, TDOT Commissioner, noted that "It was a radical idea, shutting down a major interstate in the heart of a large urban area. We had to have everyone from the local leadership all the way to the Governor onboard with the idea. Using the SmartFIX concept saved motorists two to three years of construction tie-ups and long delays and we'll certainly look at this project as an example for urban interstate revitalization in the future."

## Award Received for 40th Anniversary Celebration

ACEC of Tennessee marked its 40th Anniversary in October 2008, but there is still reason to celebrate. On July 31, the Tennessee Society of Association Executives (TSAE) presented its Best Special Event Award to ACEC of Tennessee in recognition of its gala anniversary party held at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum on October 10, 2008, attended by more than 300 people. Cue the applause! Candy Toler, executive director of ACEC of Tennessee, attended the TSAE awards luncheon to accept the honor on behalf of ACEC of Tennessee and members of the 40th Anniversary Steering Committee chaired by Lamar Dunn, PE.

# Environmental Committee: Regulatory Updates; Legislative Input; Stimulus Dollars Recommendations

by Liz Porter, PG, Chair  
ACEC of Tennessee Environmental Committee  
S&ME, Inc.

Over the past year, the Environmental Committee has participated in a variety of activities to encourage communication with regulatory agencies regarding current issues and regulatory trends. Environmental Committee meetings held in August 2008, November 2008, and April 2009 provided opportunity for interaction with representatives from most of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation regulatory disciplines. In addition, one meeting included representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers. At the April 2009 meeting, Scott Thomas, an attorney with Bass Barry and Sims, participated as a representative of the Environmental Affairs Subcommittee of the Tennessee Chamber. He was instrumental in a discussion of recent regulatory changes regarding groundwater reporting requirements.



Liz Porter

Environmental Committee members participated in the legislative review process for a variety of legislation introduced this year that dealt specifically with environmental issues. Stream classification legislation was introduced in a variety of formats, and the Committee participated in discussions with regulatory personnel to understand the scope and implications of these various bills.

During the past several months, the availability of federal stimulus dollars prompted numerous requests for input on "shovel ready" water and watershed projects. Committee members statewide have been working to identify and promote these projects in an effort to maximize federal investment in the state.

## Coming Up

The ACEC Environmental Committee has tentatively set meeting dates for September 24, 2009; January 26, 2010; and May 25, 2010. At the September meeting, Saya Qualls, TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control, will discuss the Division's new policy for pond integrity for Tennessee dischargers and water permittees. Suggestions for other meeting topics of interest to ACEC members are always welcome.

# CALENDAR

**OCTOBER  
7-10**

ACEC Fall Conference  
Palm Springs, CA

**OCTOBER  
16**

Board Meeting  
ACEC of Tennessee  
Tennessee Engineering  
Center

**OCTOBER  
23**

State Architects' and  
Engineers' Board Open  
Forum for Registrants  
Lipscomb University,  
Nashville

## Information:

[www.state.tn.us/commerce/  
boards/ae/index.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/boards/ae/index.shtml)

# Member News

- Robert Higgins Jr., PE, has been named president and CEO at Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon Inc. (BWSC). Higgins was previously vice president and water services manager at the firm. In addition, Randy Hudgings, PE, has been promoted to vice president with responsibility for managing aviation projects in west Tennessee and northern Mississippi, and overseeing the structural engineering staff in BWSC's Memphis office.
- Randy Rainwater, PE, has been promoted to manager of the construction materials laboratory in the Knoxville office of S&ME, Inc. He joined S&ME in 2006 with 15 years of experience.
- Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers, Inc. (V&M) has relocated its upper East Tennessee office from Greeneville to Gray, TN. The office is now located at Suncrest Professional Plaza, 127 Bob Fitz Road, Gray, TN 37615. For information, call (865) 546-5800.

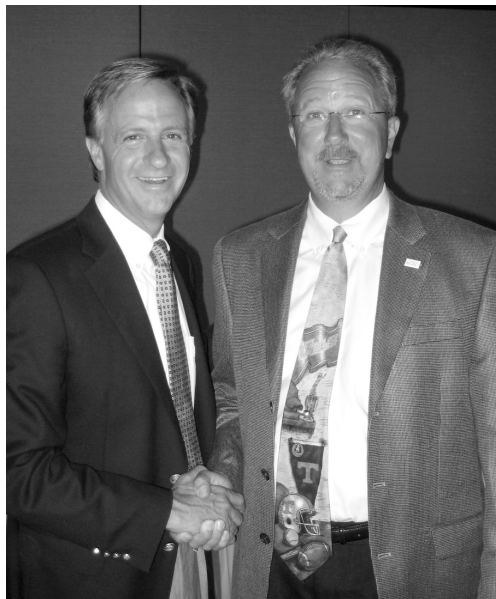
## East Tennessee Chapter Welcomes Mayor Haslam

Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam (left) is greeted by East Tennessee Chapter president Mike Stomer, S&ME, Knoxville. Mayor Haslam was the speaker at the Chapter's August meeting. ►



Carol Haynes, EnSafe; John Dix, Cannon & Cannon; Russell Moorehead, Lamar Dunn & Associates; Bridget Brown, EnSafe; and Bruce Giles, Cannon & Cannon.

Knoxville Mayor Bill Haslam (left) discusses issues with Craig Parker, Gresham Smith & Partners (right), as Jim Hall, LPA Group, listens. ►



# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Tennessee

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

## WELCOME, New Members

### TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC.

5217 Linbar Drive, Ste. 309  
Nashville, TN 37211-1018  
615-333-6444  
www.terracon.com

**Key Contact:** Timothy LaGrow, PE  
Regional Manager, Vice President  
tglagrow@terracon.com

**Branch Office:**  
7876 Stage Hills Blvd., #105  
Bartlett, TN 38133  
910-377-7325  
Mark Christian, PE, Manager  
mchristian@terracon.com

Terracon is a national engineering firm providing geotechnical, environmental, construction materials, and facilities consulting throughout the United States for large and small projects in both the private and public sectors. Services are related and intended to assist clients during site selection and acquisition, through the construction process, and during the operation of the facility or structure.

### SUMMIT CONSULTING ENGINEERS, PLLC

5800 Vine Ridge Drive  
Nashville, TN 37205  
919-215-3877  
www.summit-engineer.com

**Key Contact:** Emmanuel Castel, PE  
Branch Manager  
manu.castel@summit-engineer.com

Summit Consulting Engineers is a multi-disciplined engineering, architectural, and surveying firm that provides excellence in professional services to a wide range of private clients and public agencies. Its many services include civil engineering, geotechnical engineering, land development, land planning, stormwater management, construction engineering & inspection, construction materials testing, and consulting construction management.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No. 1078

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Engineering Students: Scholarship Opportunities Are Here!

by Candy Toler  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Once again, ACEC will offer scholarships at the state and national levels in an effort to encourage more students to study engineering. ACEC of Tennessee has awarded scholarships for the last eight years. Our 2009 winner, Ipshita Thomas, also won the ACEC national scholarship of \$10,000. We certainly hope we will have another national winner in 2010!



Candy Toler

Do you know someone who will be entering his/her junior, senior, or fifth year or graduate school in the fall of 2010? Applicants must be U.S. citizens and pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctor of Philosophy degree in an engineering or land surveying program in Tennessee. A student's interest and commitment to the business and management of the profession will be considered. An essay on the role of the consulting engineer or surveyor in shaping and protecting the natural environment is part of the application. Grade point average and college activities are also factors in the evaluation.

Scholarship applications must be submitted to ACEC of Tennessee no later than January 29, 2010. Details about eligibility and the application are available on <http://www.acectn.org/Scholar.htm>. The committee will be chaired by Everett Cowan, PE, Gresham Smith and Partners, Nashville. ACEC of Tennessee will announce its

scholarship winner in March 2010 and the national winners will be announced in October 2010.



**Our National Winner:** Everett Cowan, PE, Gresham Smith and Partners of Nashville and chair of the ACEC of Tennessee scholarship committee, recently presented a \$10,000 scholarship to Ipshita Thomas, a student at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. She won the national scholarship in competition with engineering students throughout the US. Pictured, left to right, are Everett Cowan; Ipshita Thomas; Ed Hargraves, PE, Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates of Memphis and president of ACEC of Tennessee; and Bill Johnson, PE, ARCADIS of Chattanooga and president of the Chattanooga Chapter of ACEC of Tennessee. Ms. Thomas also received a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee.