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of Tennessee



The Voice

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Knoxville Revitalized: Downtown Projects Spark More Redevelopment Plans

by Ken Barry, P.E., D. WRE
Senior Project Engineer/Project Manager
S & M E, Knoxville

Downtown Knoxville has undergone at least two generations of changes since James Agee described the city of his youth as it was about 1915 in his novel *A Death in the Family*. The Market House, draught horses, and street cars of the novel were replaced by department stores, delivery



Ken Barry

trucks, and automobiles by mid-century. Later, suburbanization brought the decline of downtown as the retail center for the area. Construction of I-40/75, the Business Loop, and various urban renewal projects in the 1960s significantly altered

the downtown landscape.

Diverse Projects

While the 1982 World's Fair gave downtown a boost, it wasn't until the last half of the 1990s that community and commercial support coalesced to move downtown revitalization efforts forward. Reconstruction of the I-40/75, I-275, and U.S. 129 junction improved access to downtown. Public and private financing helped to move many building projects off the CADD screens and into the field. Projects that have been completed within the recent past include the Gay Street Bridge rehabilitation, Knoxville Convention Center, Emporium Building, Market Street

public space, conversion of the Sterchi Furniture Building (as well as other buildings) into residential lofts, World's Fair Park reconstruction, renovation of the Tennessee Theatre to provide a world-class performance space, conversion of the old Millers Department Store into the central offices for the Knoxville Utilities Board, construction of an eight screen movie theater on Gay Street, and the opening of new retail facilities. Numerous new restaurants have also opened on Market Square and Gay Street to support the increasing downtown activity. Today, downtown Knoxville is a viable neighborhood as well as a growing recreation and entertainment destination.

Latest Efforts & Plans

Downtown revitalization has also generated renewal efforts in neighborhoods surrounding downtown. The Mechanicsville,

Fourth and Gill, and Fort Sanders neighborhoods have all witnessed significant improvements. A study is underway to provide options for a new streetscape on Cumberland Avenue near the University of Tennessee.

And new work continues downtown. I-40/75 and the James White Parkway (former Business Loop) are being reconstructed in the most expensive project TDOT has ever undertaken, a new hotel has been constructed across from the Convention Center, more former retail and warehouse buildings are being converted into

Today, downtown Knoxville is a viable neighborhood as well as a growing recreation and entertainment destination.

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Occasion for Reflection

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

It's time to put the finishing touches on your entries for the 2008 *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition. January 18 is the deadline to submit EEA notebooks and panels for judging. The awards banquet, highlighted by the announcement of the winners, is always an enjoyable evening. This year's event on March 4 promises to be another gala night as ACEC of Tennessee honors the work of engineers. However, the announcement of the awards may not be the most important part of the EEA event.



James D. Morinec

Reflect on Achievements

This year as our staff at CTE evaluated possible projects to enter, I had the opportunity to ponder the many ways in which our profession impacts the lives of everyone. Clean water, transportation, safe buildings, waste disposal,

and technology operations: there is no part of daily living that is not impacted in some way by the profession of engineering. Because we do our work so well, most people need to be reminded how important engineering is. Even clients sometimes must be reminded about how special completed projects are and why they are worthy of consideration for an engineering excellence award!

The EEA competition also provides a reminder of how hard our employees work. In the day-to-day shuffle of running a business, it's easy to miss opportunities to thank the people who keep us in business. Our employees are proud of what they do, and when they are able to combine education and experience with creativity, they do amazing things to solve complex problems. Like great athletes, great engineers make overcoming obstacles and achieving outstanding performance seem easy.

As you complete your entry notebooks and panels, remember how society benefits from our profession and thank the people who work so hard keep us in business. After that, the awards are just the frosting on the cake.

Knoxville Revitalized *continued from page 1*

apartments, a new transit center that will be LEED certified is in the final planning stages, and serious plans are being made to redevelop the south waterfront along the Tennessee River.

I recently took my family to the observation deck of the newly restored SunSphere at the World's Fair Park. The view from the SunSphere, along with the interpretative materials presented there, provide a fascinating narrative of the history and future of the city. You can see how the

lessons of the last 100 years are being applied to create a new, adaptable downtown Knoxville.

ACEC member firms have provided extensive geotechnical, environmental, and design support to the downtown Knoxville redevelopment. They can be proud of their efforts in restoring a sustainable and livable community, a community that may inspire some young people to write about Knoxville, 2015, the vibrant city of their youth.

Scholarship Committee Meets to Select Winner

The ACEC of Tennessee Scholarship Committee met in December to review applications from engineering students for the state and national awards. Pictured left to right are Andrew Hutsell, PE, Vaughn and Melton, Knoxville; Chair David Sparkes, PE, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Memphis; Rebecca Brooks, PE, Wilbur Smith Associates, Nashville; and Lee Wilson, PE, Tetra Tech, Memphis. Hunter McClelland was selected to receive the 2008 scholarship. A profile of Hunter is presented on page 4 of this newsletter in the Executive Director's article.



EEA Entries Reflect Firms' Abilities

The diversity of the projects entered in the 2008 EEA competition is a striking reflection of the outstanding capabilities of Tennessee's engineering firms. To emphasize the variety of projects, the entrants are arranged by project title in this edition of *The Voice*, beginning with the Alcoa Water Treatment Plant and concluding with a Wetlands Investigation in Pensacola, Florida.

"In January, our panel of seven judges will convene to review the entries. Their decisions will be announced on the evening of March 4 during the EEA banquet," said David Harrell, PE, chair of the awards program and vice president of Vaughn and Melton, Knoxville.

Serving as judges in 2008 will be: **Susan Duvenhage**, President/CEO, Adventure Science Center; **Wain Gaskins**, PE, Director of the Engineering Department, City of Memphis; **David Huddleston**, Dean of the College of Engineering, Tennessee Tech University; **Marilyn Lewis**, US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District; **Kimberly McClurkin**, Department of Public Works, City of Chattanooga; **Diane Neighbors**, Vice Mayor, Metro Government of Nashville & Davidson County; and **Greg Reed**, PE, Associate Vice Chancellor

for Research, University of Tennessee.

"The EEA banquet is attended by hundreds of state and city officials, business leaders and engineers from across the state," said Paula Harris, EEA co-chair and vice president of corporate business development at Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Nashville. "It is a wonderful evening of networking and celebrating. We are very grateful to our sponsors for helping to make the EEA banquet a memorable and successful event."

Legislative Reception Set for March 3

On March 3, ACEC of Tennessee's Annual Legislative Reception will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Nashville. The Nashville Chapter of ACEC of Tennessee takes the lead in planning, financing and hosting this event, assisted and supported by the other chapters.

The next day, March 4, is *Engineers' Day on the Hill*. In 2007, a record numbers of engineers came to Nashville to visit with state legislators and discuss the legislative efforts important to the engineering profession. A high level of attendance and participation in both activities led directly to legislative successes throughout the year. A big turnout on March 3 and March 4 will make a difference as ACEC of Tennessee works with legislators in 2008. Make your plans now to participate!

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For sponsorship information,

please contact Judy Logue at

615-242-2486 or

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2008 EEA Project Entries

Alcoa Water Treatment Plant; *Client:* City of Alcoa; *Location:* Alcoa, TN; *Firm:* Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; *Category:* Water & Wastewater

Ashland City Water Plant Renovation & Additions; *Client:* City of Ashland City; *Location:* Ashland City, TN; *Firm:* Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc.; *Category:* Water & Wastewater

Biloxi Bay Bridge Replacement Materials Testing Management; *Client:* Volkert & Associates, Inc.; *Location:* Biloxi, MS; *Firm:* K.S. Ware & Associates; *Category:* Special Projects

East Tennessee State University Natural History and Fossil Museum; *Client:* ETSU; *Location:* Gray, TN; *Firm:* Vaughn & Melton, Inc. / Bullock-Smith & Partners; *Category:* Structural Systems

Historic Renovation of the Market Street Bridge; *Client:* Tennessee Department of Transportation; *Location:* Chattanooga, TN; *Firm:* Parsons; *Category:* Structural Systems

Inbound Roadway Improvements; *Client:* Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority; *Location:* Memphis, TN; *Firm:* Pickering, Inc.; *Category:* Transportation

Laurel Snow Boundary Survey; *Client:* Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation; *Location:* Dayton, TN; *Firm:* Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc.; *Category:* Surveying / Mapping Technology

Love Creek Realignment and Restoration; *Client:* Wal-Mart; *Location:* Knoxville, TN; *Firm:* S&ME; *Category:* Water Resources

Mack Hatcher Parkway Context Sensitive Design; *Client:* Tennessee Department of Transportation; *Location:* Franklin, TN; *Firm:* Wilbur Smith Associates; *Category:* Transportation

McEwen Interchange; *Client:* City of Franklin / Tennessee Department of Transportation; *Location:* Franklin, TN; *Firm:* Gresham, Smith & Partners; *Category:* Transportation

Metal Management: Engineering Revitalization; *Client:* Metal Management, Inc.; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Firm:* EnSafe Inc.; *Category:* Environmental

Morris Boulevard Program Management; *Client:* City of Morristown; *Location:* Morristown, TN; *Firm:* Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc.; *Category:* Special Projects

Nashville International Airport Master Drainage Study; *Client:* Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Firm:* PBS&J, Inc.; *Category:* Small Projects

Neyland Stadium - New Club Level and Concourse; *Client:* McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Inc.; *Location:* Knoxville, TN; *Firm:* Ross Bryan Associates, Inc.; *Category:* Structural Systems

Runway Safety Area at Nashville International; *Client:* Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Firm:* CTE; *Category:* Transportation

Vanderbilt TVC Highbay Generator Project; *Client:* Vanderbilt Medical Center; *Location:* Nashville, TN; *Firm:* Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; *Category:* Building / Technology Systems

Wetlands Investigation: A Study in Cost-Avoidance; *Client:* U.S. Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast; *Location:* Pensacola, FL; *Firm:* EnSafe Inc.; *Category:* Studies, Research or Consulting Engineering Services

CALENDAR

JANUARY
18

Deadline to submit EEA Notebooks & Panels

FEBRUARY
16

Engineering Day
Adventure Science Center,
Nashville

FEBRUARY
17-23

Engineers' Week

MARCH
3

Legislative Reception
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sheraton Nashville
Downtown

MARCH
4

Engineers' Day on the Hill
9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol

4th Annual Senior Principals' Forum
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hilton Nashville
Downtown

Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hilton Nashville
Downtown

MARCH
5

Board Meeting
Hilton Nashville
Downtown

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JANUARY 2008

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Welcome, NEW MEMBER

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EMC Structural Engineers provides complete structural engineering consulting services for all building types.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Future of Engineering

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The shortage of engineers has been a common topic in the profession for several years now: there are not enough students entering engineering programs . . . it's harder for some engineering students to maintain the grades to keep their Hope scholarships . . . engineering school is just a stepping stone . . . after graduation, they don't practice engineering, they go to law school or medical school.



Candy Toler

One of the bright spots in the future of engineering for Tennessee is **Hunter McClelland**. Hunter, the winner of our 2008 scholarship, is a mechanical engineering student at Tennessee Tech. Sally Pardue, Associate Professor at Tech, said, "Hunter is a deep thinker, able to see the scope and intricacies of complex technological problems." That describes the engineers that I know, and Hunter is only a college junior!

In addition to maintaining a 4.0 grade point

average, Hunter has been involved in college activities, including Tech's honors program, Autonomous Robotics team, First Lego League, and intramural sports.

Dr. Pardue went on to say, "He exhibits great facilitation skills inside and outside of class. . . . He carefully considers options and demonstrates a level of maturity and understanding of leadership that far exceeds his peers' general tendencies. Having worked with PEs, I see the required traits for professionalism exhibited, indeed already well developed, in Hunter's approach to engineering."

Hunter was selected to receive the scholarship from among students at engineering colleges and universities across Tennessee. He is expected to graduate in May 2009. Students at Tennessee Tech have received four of the six scholarships ACEC of Tennessee has awarded. As the state winner, Hunter will compete for national scholarships with students throughout the United States.

We wish Hunter well in the national competition! The winners of ACEC's national scholarship competition will be announced in May 2008.