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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Tennessee

1968

40th ANNIVERSARY

2008

The Voice

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Gresham, Smith and Partners Wins Grand Iris Award for Excellence

Gresham, Smith and Partners won the 2009 *Grand Iris Award for Engineering Excellence*, top prize in the annual statewide awards competition sponsored by ACEC of Tennessee. The firm was honored for its water resources engineering work on the New Orleans Pump Station Expansion, a project completed in Louisiana for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District.

Gresham, Smith and Partners demonstrated ingenuity and creativity in its work on the storm water pumping station system designed to withstand a threshold category 5 hurricane. Within an eight-month timeframe, the firm's team designed and constructed two pumping stations capable of unmanned operation. The project confirmed that marine structures can be adapted to accommodate large pumps instead of a more typical concrete structure. In addition to increasing the safety and welfare of the New Orleans community, the project may lead to new standards in pumping station design.

More than 250 Tennessee engineers, business and civic leaders, and state, city and county officials were in the audience at the March 3 awards event. Firms across the state received awards for their projects in the various entry categories. An *Honor Award for Engineering Excellence* was presented to: Allen & Hoshall; AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc.; Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, Inc.; Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.; Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM); EnSafe Inc.; K.S. Ware and Associates, LLC; Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc.; Parsons Transportation Group; and RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC/Lose & Associates, Inc.

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



Top Honors - Mark Markham PE, and Alan Aront, PE, proudly display The Grand Iris Award for Engineering Excellence, presented to Gresham, Smith and Partners.

Sizing Up VW's Impact on Chattanooga

by J. Ed. Marston,
Vice President of Marketing and
Communications, Chattanooga Area
Chamber of Commerce

Volkswagen represents an unprecedented opportunity for Chattanooga, Hamilton County and the surrounding area, but it also represents a major challenge. How can the region make the most of its newfound growth potential while maintaining its distinctiveness and quality as a community?



J. Ed. Marston

(continued on page 2)

VW's Impact on Chattanooga *(continued from page 1)*

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Volkswagen's plan to invest \$1 billion and create 2,000 jobs will ripple through the local economy creating waves of additional growth. According to the University of Tennessee Center for Economic Research, Volkswagen's business operation will support an additional 9,477 jobs. That means a total of 11,477 jobs will be added to our economy over the next few years as a result of this singular investment.

Businesses of all sizes will benefit as the people who hold these new jobs take home a combined total of \$511 million in new wages and salaries every single year. This new spending power will dramatically increase the market for local businesses of all kinds.

At the same time, Volkswagen will pay all local school property taxes related to its Chattanooga investment, which will add about \$4.7 million a year to our education funding. In addition, the UT study estimates that state and local governments will split \$55.7 million in new annual tax revenue almost equally.

Long-Range Benefits

Those positive impacts may be just the beginning if the Volkswagen project follows a course similar to the BMW facility established in South Carolina's Greenville-Spartanburg area about 15 years ago. Like the planned Volkswagen facility, BMW initially announced 2,000 jobs and an investment of about \$1 billion when adjusted to net present value.

Today, the company's South Carolina complex supports 23,050 jobs and generates \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries every year. Regular retrofits and expansions at the BMW facility have grown its initial investment to a total of \$5 billion, which has provided a regular boost to construction and related industries over the years.

Beyond the numbers, Greenville leveraged the

optimism of its citizens to create a very impressive downtown revitalization effort. Visitors enjoy a long boulevard of local restaurants and retailers canopied by lush trees and served by free, angled parking. They have also transformed the small river that runs through town with a network of bridges and walking paths.

At the same time, Greenville County's population has grown much faster than Hamilton County's since the year 2000, but their poverty rate has gone up a bit (10.5% in 2000 to 13.6% in 2006), while ours has remained virtually flat during the same period (13.1% to 13.4%).

That more Greenville County residents would experience poverty even as so many others are enjoying much greater prosperity may indicate the importance of the Chattanooga area's continued efforts to ensure that every child has access to excellent educational opportunities, so they can take full advantage of economic opportunities as adults.

Growth Brings Challenges

Of course, population growth also presents many challenges in terms of infrastructure and how to manage development most effectively. According to Brad Wyche, who leads Upstate Forever, a recent study projects that urban sprawl in the Greenville area will seriously impact quality of life unless the community undertakes serious efforts to increase population density and preserve special places.

The experiences of the Greenville-Spartanburg area underscore the opportunities and potential challenges that the Chattanooga area now faces. Those experiences can serve us well as Chattanoogaans position themselves to capitalize on the enormous opportunities Volkswagen presents and at the same time to anticipate and manage the challenges.

Congressman Cooper & Finance Director Riebeling Provide Update on Infrastructure Stimulus Package



Congressman Jim Cooper; Lester Smith, Smith Seckman Reid



Dan Terranova, TTL; Tom Green, EnSafe; Jon Meadows, Hart Freeland Roberts

More than 100 members of ACEC of Tennessee gathered on February 16 at the Tennessee Engineering Center in Nashville for an update from Congressman Jim Cooper and Metro Nashville Finance Director Rich Riebeling on the federal infrastructure economic stimulus package.



Bob Murphy, RPM Transportation Consultants; Candy Toler, executive director of ACEC of Tennessee; Rich Riebeling, director of Metro Nashville Department of Finance

Engineers Visit Legislators at State Capitol

There was a record turnout for Engineers' Day on the Hill 2009. During their visits with state legislators, engineers reminded lawmakers about the important role that engineers play in improving Tennessee's communities and protecting the public's health, safety and welfare.



Wayne Robertson, PE, Vaughn & Melton; Gary Tysinger, PE, Tysinger Hampton and Partners; Kathy Toler; Speaker of the House Kent Williams; Kathy Nichols, ATA; Dan Boles, PE, S&ME.

Ed Hargraves, PE, Askew Hargraves Harcourt; Senator Jim Kyle; Claire Barnett, EnSafe



Gary Tysinger, PE, Tysinger Hampton and Partners; Kathy Nichols, President of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE); Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey; Candy Toler, Executive Director of ACEC of Tennessee and TSPE.



UT-Chattanooga Student Awarded Scholarship

Ipshta Thomas, an engineering student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, has received a \$1,000 scholarship from ACEC of Tennessee. Thomas, who is expected to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in May 2009, was selected to receive the state scholarship from among the engineering students at colleges and universities throughout Tennessee who submitted applications.



Ipshta Thomas

As the state winner, she will compete for national scholarships with students throughout the United States. National scholarship winners will be announced in October 2009.

Thomas, age 20, is a resident of Chattanooga. She is a 2005 graduate of both Hamilton County Middle College High School and Chattanooga State Technical Community College with an Associate of Science degree. In addition to maintaining a 3.8 grade point average at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, she is currently an Environmental Compliance and Dam Safety Intern with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). She will enter a Master of Science program in fall 2009.

Stephen Barnes, Senior Water Regulatory Specialist at the TVA, said of Thomas, "Ipshta has unlimited academic potential, truly enjoys work-

ing in this field, and consistently takes initiative. She is mature beyond her age, and her academic record is outstanding. She shows exceptional potential as a professional engineer."

"Our scholarship program is another example of how ACEC of Tennessee is committed to the future of our profession. I am pleased that interest in the scholarship program is increasing," said Everett Cowan, PE, Gresham, Smith and Partners, Nashville, who chaired the 2009 Scholarship Committee. Other members of the Scholarship Committee were David Davidson, PE, Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Nashville; Lamar Dunn, PE, Lamar Dunn and Associates, Knoxville; and Steve Hays, PE, Gobbell Hays Partners, Nashville.

This is the seventh scholarship that ACEC of Tennessee has awarded to a Tennessee engineering student since 2003.

MEMBER NEWS

- Daniel Terranova, PE, has been promoted to Vice President of TTL, Inc., and now serves as the Geotechnical Discipline Leader. He is in the firm's Nashville office.
- Ray Flake, PE, has joined Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, Inc. (BWSC) as a Civil Engineer in the firm's Nashville office where he will focus on commercial development projects.

CALENDAR

**APRIL
14**

Memphis Chapter Meeting
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,
Racquet Club
Information:
smorris@eticorp.com

**APRIL
17**

ACEC of TN Planning Retreat
9:00 a.m., Tennessee Engineering Center

And

ACEC of TN Board Meeting
1:00 p.m., Tennessee Engineering Center

**APRIL
26-29**

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

**MAY
27**

Cumberland Region Tomorrow Summit
Nashville
Information:
www.10power.org

**JUNE
17**

Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament, Vanderbilt Legends Club, Franklin
Information:
www.acectn.org/Events.htm

**JUNE
18-19**

ACEC of TN/TSPE Joint Annual Meeting
Embassy Suites, Mufreesboro

Engineering Excellence Honored



Geotechnical exploration and assessment work on Runway 2L-20R at the Metro Nashville Airport won an Honor Award in the special project category for K.S. Ware & Associates. Pictured with the award are (left to right) Mark Luskin and Greg Brubaker with K.S. Ware; Harry Pratt with Allen & Hoshall; Tim Smith and John Godfrey with K.S. Ware.



Lillard Teasley, president of ACEC of Tennessee, presents the Honor Award for Engineering Excellence in the energy category to Bruce Fisackerly, Allen & Hoshall, for the firm's work on the David Crockett State Park Energy Conservation Project in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.



Askew Hargraves Harcourt and Associates (A2H) received the Honor Award in the small project category for the firm's work on the Highland/ Getwell Force Main and Pumping Station in Memphis completed for the City of Memphis. Displaying the award are Tim Gibson, Ed Hargraves, and Pat Harcourt, all with A2H.



Jim Speakman and Claire Barnett, EnSafe, proudly display the Honor Award presented to EnSafe for its work on the Smarthouse Way Southern Tract in North Little Rock, Arkansas, an environmental project completed for Main Street Argenta, Inc.



Ian Engstrom and Robert McIvor with Parsons Transportation Group display the Honor Award presented to Parsons for the firm's winning work in the structural system category for the US 90 Bridge over Biloxi Bay, a project completed for the Mississippi Department of Transportation.



Mike Wyre, Lose & Associates; Patti Miller, MTSU; and Daniel Spann, RPM Transportation Consultants, accepted an Honor Award for work on the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Traffic and Parking Master plan, Phase I and II Construction, a transportation engineering project completed for MTSU.



Kati Bell and Josh Norton, Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), display the project panel describing the firm's work for the Knoxville Utilities Board Wastewater Capacity Information Management System. CDM won an Honor Award for the project in the studies, research and consulting engineering category.



AMEC Earth & Environmental won an Honor Award for the Wolf Creek Dam Integrated GIS Database, Website and 3D model, a surveying and mapping technology project completed for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District. Andy Clevenger and Laura Benneyworth with AMEC accepted the firm's award.



A project in Iraq won the Honor Award in the water and wastewater category for Lamar Dunn & Associates, Inc. The firm's project, Dibis to Kirkuk Water Transmission Project, was completed for Millennium Relief and Development Services. Pictured at the award presentation are (left to right) Lillard Teasley, president of ACEC of Tennessee; Lamar Dunn, Lamar Dunn & Associates, and Paula Harris, chair of the EEA Committee.



Its work on Volkswagen's new production facility site in Chattanooga won an Honor Award for Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon (BWSC) in the water resources category. The Firms award for Stream Relocation/Restoration was accepted by Todd Leamon and Matt Stovall, BWSC.

EEA Reception: Meet, Greet & Mingle



Jerry Stump, Wilbur Smith Associates; Jim Morinec, AECOM; Ed Cole, Tennessee Department of Transportation



Tim Gibson and Brian Pecon, Askew Hargraves Harcourt and Associates



Commissioner Matt Kisber, Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, is welcomed to the EEA banquet by EEA Committee Chair Paula Harris, Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon.



Linda and Steve Putney, Florence & Hutcheson; Candy Toler, ACEC of Tennessee



David Harrell, Vaughan & Melton; Todd Knuckey, Hanson Professional Services

Thank You to Our EEA COMMITTEE

Paula Harris, *Committee Chair*
Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.
Rick Gafford, PE, *Committee Co-Chair*
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Steve Field, PE,
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Greg Brubaker, PE,
Sponsorship Subcommittee
K.S. Ware & Associates, LLC
Tiffany Henderson
Graphics and A/V Coordinator,
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Bob Beaver, PE,
Scoring, Beaver Engineering, Inc.
Brad Winkler, PE,
Photography Coordinator
Long Engineering, Inc
Kim King, PE,
AECOM
Mike Stomer, PG,
S&ME, Inc.
Susan Thrasher, PE,
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Candy Toler,
ACEC of Tennessee
Judy Logue,
ACEC of Tennessee

Engineers' Statewide Annual Meeting Set for June in Murfreesboro

Professional development, golf, networking and fun will be on the agenda at the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of ACEC of Tennessee and the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.

The place will be the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro; the dates are Thursday, June 18, and Friday, June 19. You will want to 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. Room reservations are due on or before May 27, 2009, by contacting the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro at 615-890-4464 or 1-800-EMBASSY. Identify yourself with ACEC Annual Meeting to be assigned to a room block and receive the special reduced rate of \$139.00.

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

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Legislators Hosted at Annual Reception



Rob Barrick, Smith Seckman Reid; Garland Rose, BWSC; and Speaker of the House Kent Williams, Butler

Rep. Jimmy Eldridge, Jackson; Mike Poblman, Pickering



Rep. Ryan Haynes, Knoxville; Robert Campbell Jr., Robert G. Campbell & Associates; Mike Stomer, S&ME ▼



John Wimberley, IC Thomasson Associates; Rep. David Shepard, Dickson; Don Williams, Littlejohn & Associates



Jerry Stump, Wilbur Smith Associates; Senator Jack Johnson, College Grove



Senator Paul Stanley, Germantown; Jim Speakman, EnSafe

Thank You to Our 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 2009 Engineering Excellence Awards competition. Pictured reviewing project panels are (left to right) Michael Oakes, PE, County Engineer, Shelby County; Herschell Parker, Interim Exhibits and Collections Manager, Adventure Science Center, Nashville; David Huddleston, PhD, PE, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Tennessee Technological University; Marilyn Lewis, PE, Assistant Chief of the Engineering Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District; and Greg D. Reed, PE, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

WELCOME, New Partner Program Member

SourceCorp Professional Services
6316 Sweetgum Lane
Nashville, TN 37221
615-944-3872, www.sourcecorptax.com

Key Contact: Robbin Hill
robbin.hill@sourcecorptax.com

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MARCH - APRIL 2009

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WELCOME, New Member

MAZZETTI & ASSOCIATES
3322 W. End Ave., Ste. 620
Nashville, TN 37203-6868
888-340-5987
www.nlbengineering.com

Key Contact:
Steve Burch, PE
Principal/Mechanical Engineer
sburch@nlbengineering.com

Founded in 1962, Mazzetti serves the healthcare, mission critical, laboratory, and higher education sectors. Mazzetti has become a leading expert in climate change engineering for buildings of all types. Mazzetti recently merged with Nash Lipsey Burch. Together the firms provide full-service mechanical, electrical, and plumbing consulting and design engineering and technology services, as well as medical equipment planning and procurement.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Proud Moments; Record Participation

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

What a great celebration of engineering excellence on March 3! Thank you to all who participated by showcasing your most innovative engineering projects and by attending the banquet.



Candy Toler

There were 28 projects entered and more than 250 people at the gala. Paula Harris (Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon), Rick Gafford (Fisher & Arnold) and Judy Logue (ACEC of Tennessee) did an outstanding job in creating an evening to remember. Congratulations to **Gresham, Smith and Partners** on winning the Grand Iris Award for the New Orleans Pump Station Expansion.

It was the year for records. We had a record turnout of engineers and legislators at the legislative reception on March 2. We also had record attendance on March 3 at Engineers' Day on the Hill when engineers talked with lawmakers about the important role engineers play in improving Tennessee's communities and protecting the public's health, safety and welfare. We talked with

senators and representatives to address concerns about legislation to:

- allow unlicensed individuals to design signs 150 sq ft overall size and 25 ft high;
- make it difficult for engineers to get accurate information about underground utilities;
- establish a uniform interval for yellow lights at intersections with surveillance cameras;
- create a "practice" act for interior designers;
- establish NFPA standards (rather than the International Fire Code);
- eliminate professionals on environmental boards; and
- establish new standards for energy reduction.

We also supported legislation to hold engineers and contractors harmless for accidents in construction zones if the driver was driving recklessly or under the influence of alcohol or drugs; expand the number of pilot projects under the Tennessee Tollway Act; and limit the state's ability to raid the State Highway Fund.

The ACEC of Tennessee/TSPE Annual Meeting in Murfreesboro, June 18-19, is the next big event on the horizon. Also coming up: the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Golf Tournament on Wednesday, June 17, at Vanderbilt Legends Club. Make plans now to participate in both events.