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# AGCBLUEPRINT

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# Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame



THE ARKANSAS CONSTRUCTION HALL OF FAME RECOGNIZES, HONORS AND CELEBRATES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARKANSANS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS OF ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING.

Inductees are selected from a nomination process which measures their professional contributions, personal character and involvement in other organizations or activities that further the well-being of the state of Arkansas and its communities.

On April 19, AGC Arkansas along with ACEC Arkansas and AIA Arkansas, inducted the 2018 Class of the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame.

### Hall of Fame

This award recognizes those individuals who have left a lasting footprint on the built environment in Arkansas through their work in the fields of architecture, construction and engineering. Excellence is measured not only by their professional contributions through the projects they have developed but also through the esteem and regard through

which they are held by their peers and contemporaries.

### **Champion of Construction**

This award is given to an individual, public official, member of any allied profession, company or not-for-profit group who exhibits vision, passion and interest in advancing opportunities for Arkansans through the development of infrastructure. This individual or entity is not affiliated with an architecture, construction or engineering firm but is worthy of recognition due to their commitment to and investment in improving the lives of their fellow citizens.

### **Emerging Professional Awards**

This award recognizes a new professional who, through civic involvement, advocacy efforts or professional development, has advanced the public perception of those industries working in the built environment.

# T.R. "Tommy" Bond PE, PS

### BOND CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Tommy was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and attended elementary school at Forest Park in Little Rock. His family moved to Jacksonville in 1948. He graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1956 and started his freshman year in the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas. In January of 1961 he graduated from the U of A with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.



The previous summer Tommy

had married Pat Parker from Lewisville. He accepted a job offer from the Arkansas Highway Department and started to work in their engineer in training program. In the spring of 1962 the City of West Memphis offered him a job as the city engineer. Two years later he took a job with Ray Russell Consulting Engineers.

Tommy started Bond Consulting Engineers, Inc. on March 1, 1966, in Jacksonville with his father M. T. "Cy" Bond and his cousin C. H. "Cy" Bond. Both of the original partners are now deceased.

In 1980 with interest rates rising and engineering work almost nonexistent, Tommy started Bond Kinman Construction, Inc. with Dave Kinman. The construction company did a wide range of projects including highway lighting, airport navigation systems, roof systems, sewage pump stations, industrial buildings, bridge water and sewer lines, and electrical transmission lines. During that same period of time, Utility Management and Construction was licensed by the state which started operating rural water systems in Central Arkansas. UMC operated five rural water systems including billing, collecting, maintaining, new construction and compliance with the Arkansas Health Department regulations.

The construction business was closed by mutual understanding in the early 90's as the engineering business came back to life. UMC continued to operate the rural water systems until the mid to late 90's when the assets were purchased by the rural systems it served. Tommy is still active in the engineering business and still works 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. most days.

Tommy is a Registered Professional Engineer as well as a Registered Land Surveyor. He is a member of AGC Arkansas, Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers, Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, American Waterworks Association and a Life Member Arkansas Rural Water Association and has held many leadership roles within these organizations among others. Tommy is an active member of his Jacksonville community and has served the First United Methodist Church, First Arkansas Bank and Trust Board of Directors, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Commission to Redistrict Jacksonville, Jacksonville Municipal Building Construction Committee, Jacksonville Waste Water Commission and Jacksonville Residential Housing Board.

Tommy and Pat have three children Melissa Bond Keil, Kelly Bond Emerson and Will Bond and five grandchildren Katie, Molly, Cy, Elliot, and Marlee.

### HALL OF FAME

# Bill Hannah

### NABHOLZ CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Bill graduated from the University of Louisiana Monroe in 1972 and soon after began his 46-year career at Nabholz. During that time, Bill served as an estimator, general manager of Nabco (now a separate entity from Nabholz), project manager for the construction division, and concurrently as senior vice president of business development and president of Nabholz' central and northeast Arkansas operations. In 2002, Bill



became Chief Executive Officer of Nabholz Construction and was then named Chairman of the Board in 2013.

In his role as Chairman, Bill leads the board in sensible growth strategies and ensures the values and guiding principles of the corporation remain strong. Bill also monitors quality, safety, and client satisfaction measures throughout the company and continues to build lasting relationships within Nabholz' communities that contribute to the company's long-term success.

Along with Chairman Emeritus Charles Nabholz and current CEO Greg Williams, Bill guides the Nabholz Charitable Foundation. Through his work on the foundation, Bill has a direct role in deciding how Nabholz' charitable dollars are spent to build communities.

From a professional perspective, Bill has served as an active member and in leadership roles for AGC Arkansas, the American Institute of Constructors, Faulkner County Leadership Institute, UALR Construction Management Program Advisory Board, University of Arkansas School of Architecture Dean's Circle, Conway Development Corporation, Arkansas Children's Hospital Foundation Board, Associated Industries of Arkansas Executive Committee, American Contractors Insurance Group, First Security Bank of Conway and American Institute of Constructors National Professional Standards Committee.

Bill's accolades include being named the National Constructor of the Year from the American Institute of Constructors and both the Distinguished Service Award and Chairman of the Year from AGC Arkansas. He was also the recipient of the Arkansas Service Award from Skills USA and the Governor's Citation for Service on the Joint Committee on Education Facilities.

Bill is an active outdoorsman and enjoys hunting and fishing of all kinds. In his long career at Nabholz, he has brought Cajun flare to company events, often cooking gumbo and crawfish to serve to employees, clients, and community members. He and his wife Earlene have lived in Conway for 46 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

# Cloud Keyes

**ALESSI KEYES CONSTRUCTION** 

Born in 1945, Cloud Keyes' early childhood was spent on Scott, Arkansas's Old River. Before entering the 8th grade, the family returned to Cloud's birth city of Little Rock, where his education, football and track career were continued at Forest Heights Junior High and Hall High School.

After graduation, Cloud set his sights on higher education at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. There, he proudly pledged SAE frater-



nity and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business. Upon graduation in 1969, Cloud began work at Pickens-Bond Construction Company, where he spent the next ten years working in positions ranging from Estimating to Project Manager. After a two year-long stint living in Maracaibo, Venezuela, working for his father in law's drilling company, Cloud returned to his hometown of Little Rock, where he resides today.

Once back in the U.S., it wasn't long before he and former Pickens-Bond coworker, Ron Robinette, reunited and founded Robinette Keyes Construction Company in 1979.

It wasn't until 1991 though, that Cloud made a decision that would change the direction of his business future while attending Wild Dog Bible Study. It was at this 6:30 a.m. weekly study that Cloud was reunited with his future business partner, Jimmy Alessi, and just two years later, Alessi Keyes Construction was born. But what sets this construction company apart? "Honesty and integrity," says Keyes. "We've got good people, and we turn over a good project. If there's something wrong at the end of a job, we'll take care of it."

Although Cloud has had a successful 50-year tenure in construction, he's never shied away from sharing his time and finances with the community, including volunteering with Easter Seals and the Rotary Club, and spending many years serving the Arkansas Division of the Associated General Contractors, where he evolved from member to Board Member to President. He previously served as Deacon at Second Presbyterian Church, and is still an active member in the catalyst of Alessi Keyes Construction, his Wild Dog Bible Study.

When asked about how he did it, Keyes' answer is simple. "My motto has always been God first, family second and business third. When that gets out of order, it jumbles up your life." Cloud and his wife Nancy will celebrate 20 years of marriage this year with their children, Kristin, Night (Casie) and John Keyes; Lauren and Drs. Michael (Natalie) Bishop and five grandchildren.

This year, Alessi Keyes Construction celebrates its 25th anniversary, and after successfully completing 450+ construction projects, (including Arkansas Children's Hospital-Clark Center, Camp Aldersgate and UALR Alumni & Friends Center) Cloud plans to retire. "As I leave the company this year," says Keyes, "I'm proud of our reputation and the people and families we represent every day."

# Reese Rowland, FAIA

POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS

Reese Rowland's dedication to crafting meaningful spaces through innovative, sustainable architecture has been rewarded with over 60 National, Regional and State Design Awards. He is one of just roughly 3000 architects nationally elected to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows. His Heifer International World Headquarters design received the Nation's highest honor for architecture, a 2008 AIA National



Institute Honor Award. The South's first LEED Platinum building was also named a National AIA/COTE Top 10 Green Building, Arkansas' only winner. His CALS Arkansas Studies Institute received one of just five 2011 National AIA/ALA Awards of Excellence, honoring the best library architecture worldwide. In 2015, his Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library won the same Award. Arkansas Business named Reese to its list of "25 Entrepreneurs & Innovators of the last 25 years" in 2009, crediting his work with helping transform downtown Little Rock. His visionary designs have been published in 25 national and international periodicals, as well as 13 books. He is a sought-out speaker nationally, and spoke on Experiential Architecture for Children at Arkansas' first TEDX Conference in 2015.

AY Magazine named Reese to its list of "12 Powerful Men in Arkansas" for having influence, making a difference, and serving others. Additionally, Arkansas Times Magazine named him as one of "50 Influential Arkansans" as well in 2012. Each year, World Services for the Blind selects a distinguished Arkansan with a personal commitment to community to receive their "Vision Award". This individual's work must successfully orchestrate events that help better our society and impact for the broader good. The 2013 recipient was Reese Rowland, the first architect ever selected. Recently in 2017, Reese received the "Individual Artist" Award for his contribution to the state as part of the Governor's Arts Awards sponsored by the Arkansas Arts Council. Reese was the first architect chosen since Fay Jones in 1997.

Reese is a native of Paris, Arkansas, and is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. While Reese's work is deeply rooted in his home state, it transcends any regionalist pigeonholes; however, it is the clean lines, natural materials and sensitive response to site that have generated much attention for our state.

He has designed some of Arkansas' most recognized buildings, including Acxiom's River Market Tower, The Bank of the Ozarks Head-quarters, Heifer's Education Center, the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the soon to be built U.S. Marshal's Museum in Fort Smith. His reputation among clients is that of a strong collaborator and a partner in distilling their vision into physical, yet personal narratives.

Reese and his wife Kami are the proud parents of two sons, Preston and Pierce, whom Reese credits as his greatest influences and achievements above any professional recognition.



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extended family are the reason for his success in construction, military, education, and life.

A year after graduating Thomas Edison High School, Tramel joined the U.S. Army and became a Special Forces Demolition Engineer and fought in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1969. Served in MACVSOG as a team leader and served in several Bright Light missions to rescue downed pilots and service members missing in action. For his service, Tramel has received many military honors, including the Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars for Valor, and six Air Medals.

He received an M.S. degree at Arizona State University, two B.S. degrees – one in construction supervision and one in industrial psychology – from Northern Arizona University, and an Associate of Science degree from Glendale Community College.

After more than 25 years in the construction industry, working on multi-million dollar projects with Bechtel, Tramel entered academic life as an instructor at Northern Arizona University. Tramel arrived at UA Little Rock in 1997 to run a new program in construction management, which at the time had about 40 students and just one other faculty member. Today, the department has grown to about 250 students with 10 full-time and four part-time faculty members.

UA Little Rock is home to the only undergraduate construction management program at a public university in Arkansas and the only graduate-level construction management program in Arkansas. Tramel was instrumental in the implementation of the department's new bachelor's degree in professional studies, which is designed to help members of the military and those working full time in the construction industry to earn a bachelor's degree.

Tramel is secretary for the American Institute of Constructors Certification Commission Board of Governors and on the Arkansas Construction Education Foundation as a sponsor, instructor, and guest presenter at its apprenticeship graduation ceremonies. He is the Local Education Administrator for 28 construction apprenticeship programs located across Arkansas. He is a member of the UA Little Rock Faculty Senate, where he is the longtime Chair of the Undergraduate Council, and provided operational and technical support for outreach programs like Engineering Olympics and Best Robotics Competition.

He is a three-time winner of the UA Little Rock Graduation and Retention Advocate Award. He also is the recipient of the Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology Excellence in Teaching award in 2012 as well as the Faculty Excellence Award for Public Service in the College of Engineering and Information Technology in 2001 and 2011.

### EMERGING PROFESSIONAL

# Patricia Opitz

POLK STANLEY WILCOX ARCHITECTS

A graduate from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Patty Opitz is a licensed Senior Associate architect of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects responsible for project production and coordination in all phases of a project from conception through construction. With over 13 years of combined experience in residential and commercial construction for various facility types, Patty provides diverse knowledge of project man-



agement and architectural planning. Patty currently assists in serving as a supervisor for the Architectural Experience Program for new hires at PSW, mentoring architectural associates and new hires by creating goals and strategies for completing their required hours in several experience areas to work towards the completion of their architectural exams. In addition, Patty also assists in coordinating the firm's graphic design and marketing efforts, managing the numerous design award submissions entered each year. Past and current project experience includes; the Bank of the Ozarks Headquarters and Master Plan, University of Central Arkansas Donaghey Hall and District Master Plan, The Village at Hendrix Market Square South, The Purple Cow Restaurants, Mosaic Church of Central

Arkansas, Rayonier Corporate Offices, and numerous private residences across the state.

In 2016, Patty was awarded the AIA Arkansas Emerging Professional Award, recognizing a professional who has expanded the role of the architect through civic participation and professional mentorship. Currently, Patty sits on the Board of Directors for the AIA Arkansas Chapter as a Director, and is researching and assisting in efforts with others to help to launch the states Diversity and Women in Architecture Committee within the AIA Arkansas Chapter. In addition to Patty's involvement with AIA Arkansas, she volunteers her time with the Architecture + Design Network, serving as Director of the organization.

Patty is a graduate of the Leadership Greater Little Rock, Class XXXII, and in 2014, she was honored as one of Little Rock Soirée's Women to Watch, which included 29 local women in Central Arkansas making a big impact on business, philanthropy and in the community.

Outside of the AIA, Patty serves as a Board Member as Vice President of Marketing for the Junior League of Little Rock. Patty has served and excelled in various capacities of the JLLR, ranging from various community and development projects, and overseeing every administrative aspect of the League and the JLLR headquarters building, the historic Women's City Club. She also served as Chair of the Construction Committee for the Capital Campaign, which was charged with overseeing the third and final phase of the planned renovations to the Women's City Club building, an extensive renovation exceeding \$1 million that included work on all 4 levels of the building, the surrounding grounds, and incorporating start up nonprofit spaces on the upper level.











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Lance Wright is a project manager at Nabholz Construction. He has been with the company 12 years and worked on a diverse group of projects in sectors ranging from higher education and K-12 to healthcare. Most recently, Wright managed the historic renovation of the 1928 Griffin Auto building in El Dorado.

After high school, Wright enrolled in the construction management program at UA Little Rock.



During this time, he attended classes during evenings and weekends and worked in the industry during the day.

In 2006, he joined Nabholz as a project coordinator and began the Nabholz Carpentry Apprentice Program. He later graduated from the program and was named Apprentice of the Year.

Wright completed his Construction Management degree at UA Little Rock in 2009 and then enrolled in the University of Arkansas'

Operational Management program, graduating with a master's degree in 2011.

In addition to his project management role, Wright has also been involved in helping with Nabholz sustainability and lean initiatives and chaired multiple committees.

Outside Nabholz, he has been engaged with UA Little Rock, serving on their Construction Management advisory board and EIT advisory board. Wright also helped found and chair the Construction Management Operational committee, which was created to maintain the strong relationship between the construction program and industry. He has also been very active in AGC Arkansas, serving as chair of the Future Leaders Division and on the AGC Arkansas Board. Wright also served at the national level on the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) steering committee and Industry Education task force.

Wright has completed courses in LEAN Construction, USGBC Dynamic Governance, and Green Advantage. He is a LEED AP BD+C, an AIC Certified Professional Constructor, and graduate of the Faulkner County Leadership and Leadership Arkansas programs.

Wright and his wife Monica have been married for 13 years and live in Conway. They have one son, Landon, who is six years old. Lance and Monica are both very involved at Central Baptist Church where Monica helps with the youth programs and Lance helps in men's min-

Wright looks forward to his continued career at Nabholz and involvement with AGC and UA Little Rock. He is very thankful for the opportunities he has been given and relationships that have been created.



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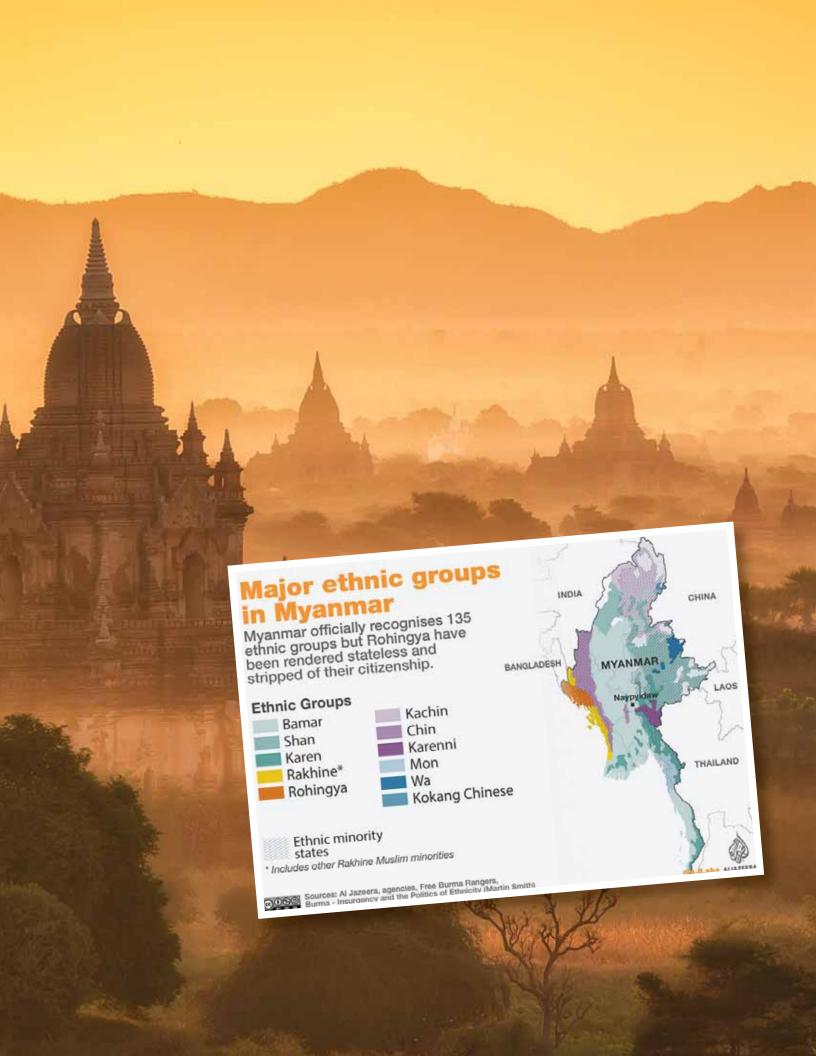


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### 13

# Arkansas contractors support medical work in Myanmar

by Jim Caldwell Department Head of Construction Management, John Brown University A JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR AND STUDENT SPENT THIS PAST CHRISTMAS VACATION SERVING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

The focus of the work was to gather topographic data to begin the planning for the construction of a new teaching hospital in rural Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

Myanmar has been caught in the middle of the longest running civil war in modern times, dating back more than 70 years. It is one of the most landmine-contaminated countries in the world, with the highest concentration being in the northern state of Kachin. The western portion of Myanmar has also been in the international spotlight in recent years when over 600,000 Rohingya were displaced into neighboring Bangladesh. Despite this conflict and other unrest in the country, a Siloam Springs Arkansas based non-profit named Earth Mission (EM) is actively working to meet the needs in this country. The stated vision of EM is "to see a future for a people which is health promoting, economically stimulating, free of oppression and meets spiritual needs."

This Southeast Asia country has a population of over 50 million, occupying a land area about the size of Texas. Its topography consists of a central plain region flanked by hills and mountains to the west and east. This is where most of the dozen ethnic minority people reside. The Karen are a people group of several million located in the mountains of eastern Myanmar and western Thailand. Health care facilities are very scarce in this region and there are few trained medical staff to treat the Karen. Decades of conflict have also made it difficult to establish permanent medical facilities that can be staffed and maintained for long-term care.

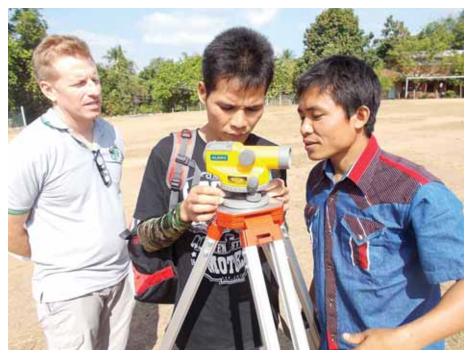
Dan Ryan, owner of Ryan Engineering in Siloam Springs, manages over forty-five Earth Mission Asia (EMA) staff. These are medical doctors, teachers,

and support staff that run the Physician Assistant (PA) program, now in its third year of operation. Roughly half

of the EMA staff work out of their operational base in Chiang Mai, Thailand, a modern city of over 200,000 people. The other half live and work in Kyaukkyi, Myanmar, a small town of about 10,000 people where there is a basic clinic and temporary housing for second year PA students.

The goal of EMA is to train Karen medical personnel to return to the remote areas of Myanmar and provide basic health care. More importantly, prospective students are identified in these remote areas, are given proper training, and then return to these remote areas where health care is most needed.

In order for the JBU team to complete the topographic survey, they had to obtain surveying instruments necessary for this project. A number of AGC Arkansas contractors provided funds through the JBU Industry Advisory board to purchase a used total station, data collector, automatic level, and accessories to make the 8,000 mile journey to Myanmar. Nabholz Construction, Clark Contractors, Flintco, CR Crawford, along with AGC of Arkansas and Ryan Engineering were among the companies that contributed to this fund. Along with purchasing the surveying instruments, these funds helped with the travel expenses.



Dan Ryan coaching the two Karen technicians how to setup an automatic level.

The JBU team landed in Chiang Mai Thailand on December 22, 2017 and spent the next week checking out the equipment and picking up additional supplies for the trip. This also allowed the team to recover from jet lag and adjust to the climate and diet. The team also visited several international high schools to discuss opportunities for students to attend universities in the United States. One of the larger high schools had just begun an eight million dollar build-out of a new campus, so the team was able to observe the building techniques typically used in that part of Southeast Asia.

After a detailed review of the packing list, the JBU team departed Chiang Mai on a two hour flight into Yangon, the capital of Myanmar. All of the luggage containing the surveying instruments and supplies made it through customs and into the country without incident. A local contact arranged the four hour van ride north to the town of Kyaukkyi. Housing accommodations involved sleeping in the EMA four room office building with morning and evening meals provided by a local cook. The team joined the medical students and staff at the clinic for lunch each day.

The first order of business upon arriving in Kyaukkyi was for the JBU professor and student to introduce the concepts of surveying to the two Karen technicians. These students were in their second year of an Engineering Technology program started by Dan Ryan and EMA. The first year of training helped these students develop core competencies in English, math, basic construction techniques (wood, steel, and masonry), along with drafting and basic mechanics. With this foundational knowledge they moved into more advanced instruction in math, science, welding, electrical and plumbing. Both students were well prepared to assist in the topographic mapping of the hospital site.





Even with all the necessary tools and personnel to complete the topographic survey in hand, security issues prevented the JBU team from accessing the seventeen acre site. This was not a total surprise, but certainly disappointing to the JBU team. Working in a developing country context requires flexibility and adjusting to local conditions. Despite having formal approval for EMA to purchase the 17-acre site, the local authorities wanted additional documentation before the site surveying project could begin.

Since a week was dedicated to completing this topographic survey, there was adequate time for the JBU team to train Ryan and the two Karen technicians the procedures for doing the preliminary site planning survey. Instruction began with several hours in the classroom on basic instrument care and setup procedures. The team used an as-built surveying project for the existing clinic site as well as topographic mapping of the neighboring soccer pitch and road as a training exercise. This involved running a vertical level loop over several control points. This was followed by a closed traverse on the same points to calculate closure and to assign horizontal coordinates. Each team member gained practice in setting up the instruments, holding the rod, and recording data in the collector.

After the IBU team returned to the USA, the Karen team did finally get permission to access the site in March. This was achieved by EMA purchasing the property. Once the official deeds were presented to local security officials, the Karen team mobilized to the project site and established a horizontal and vertical control network. The positional accuracy was checked followed by several days of gathering the topographic information. With fairly good internet connections in Kyaukkyi, the data was emailed back to JBU for processing into a preliminary contour drawing.

Even though the seven days on the ground in Myanmar were filled with work, teaching, and travel, the team did find time to see some of the local points of interest. A short trek into the hills adjacent to Kyaukkyi provided a tour of a rice paddy. The two Karen student tour guides were very comfortable navigating the thick forest trail. Their life prior to the EMA training program was one immersed in that type of landscape. The team also experienced a local church service and a pot luck dinner that followed. On the return flight home the team was also able to visit several JBU alumni in the neighboring country of Laos as well as a brief tour of some major high-rise buildings in Seoul South Korea. A lot of activity was packed into this three week adventure.

Peter Choi, the JBU student who assisted on this trip, made the following comments. "I was particularly touched by the commitment of EMA to equip the Karen to serve their own people. I have learned an important lesson from this trip: it takes more than just planning and knowledge for a successful project. There will always be risks, and circumstances that will be beyond my grasp. It takes a determined heart that strives to persist and see things through in good faith."

A draft of the site contour map is now in the hands of a volunteer architect who is beginning the master planning for this new hospital. The JBU Architectural Design One class will be charged with generating conceptual designs for some of the support buildings for the hospital campus this fall. Construction of stucontinued on page 16



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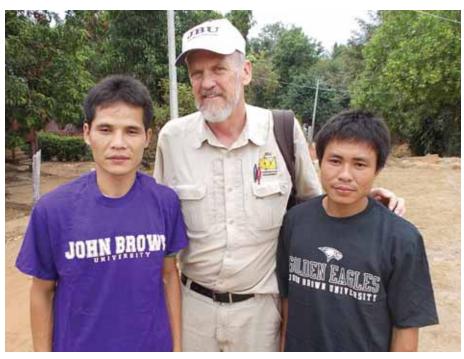
Myanmar from page 15

dent dormitories is beginning this summer as their current space near the clinic will not be available for housing stu-

dents after January 2019.

Dr. Sha Kler Law, the medical director for the Physician Assistant program, encouraged the students at the 2017 year one graduation ceremony: "You are more than Physician Assistant students. You are also ambassadors of peace. In all of Myanmar, there couldn't be two more needed roles: healthcare provider and peacemaker." The work of Earth Mission Asia training program helps students to excel in both.

The JBU Construction Management Department is excited to be supporting a work like this half way around the world. It was made possible by financial gifts from Arkansas contractors who support the JBU mission of serving people around the world in developing countries. If you would like more information on how to be involved with this project, contact Jim Caldwell at jcaldwel@jbu.edu.



Jim Caldwell, Department Head of Construction Management, has been serving at John Brown University for thirty-three years. He has completed construction and surveying projects in more than twelve countries internationally.

Jim Caldwell with the Karen technicians at the end of the week long training.





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by Leon Jones, Jr. Director, Department of Labor When I arrived at the Arkansas Department of Labor in 2015, I quickly realized our agency was one for doing-good. Besides our code enforcement and labor standards divisions, we also have our OSHA consultation division.

As I began to learn more about what we do and how we help Arkansas citizens, it became apparent, there is a service, free of charge, that many businesses are simply not taking advantage of from our agency.

These services are our SHARP (Safety and Health Recognition Program) and VPP (Voluntary Protection Programs). This article will give a basic overview of each with the benefits and how your company can take advantage of the services.

OSHA's On-Site Consultation Program or SHARP is the agency's primary program for providing small business owners no-cost consultation services to address hazards and improve work-

place safety and health without fear of citations or monetary penalties from the Federal OSHA. These programs, funded by OSHA, are run by sate grantees that are knowledgeable about the needs of the business they serve.

SHARP offers these services to small- and medium-sized businesses in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. Consultants from state agencies or universities work with employers to identify work-place hazards, provide advice for compliance with OSHA standards, and assist in establishing and improving safety and health programs.

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SHARP & VPP from page 19

It's confidential, too. Your name, your firm's name, and any information you provide about your workplace, plus

any unsafe or unhealthful working conditions that the consultant uncovers, will not be reported routinely to the OSHA inspection staff.

Your only obligation will be to correct serious job safety and health hazards -- a commitment which you are expected to make prior to the actual visit and carry out in a timely manner.

By achieving SHARP status, you have placed yourself in an elite group of small businesses that maintain exemplary safety and health. By using a no-cost consultation service, employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve their safety and health programs, and even qualify for an exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

The service is delivered by the Arkansas Department of Labor using well-trained professional staff. Most consultations take place on-site, though limited services away from the worksite are available.

Primarily targeted for smaller businesses, this safety and health consultation program is completely separate from the OSHA inspection effort. In addition, no citations are issued or penalties proposed.

SHARP can save money with lower worker comp premiums and improved worker retention and fewer days away from work.

After you satisfy all SHARP requirements, your Consultation Project Manager will recommend your worksite for SHARP approval. The ADOL and OSHA will formally recognize your worksite with a SHARP Certificate and hold a ceremony to recognize your achievements.

When you are initially certified as a SHARP site, you will be granted an exemption from OSHA programmed inspections for up to 2 years; however, your participation in SHARP does not eliminate the responsibilities of owners or rights of workers under OSHA. There are still certain types of incidents; which can trigger an OSHA enforcement inspection at SHARP sites, such as formal complaints, fatalities and other factors. As mentioned above, you will be grant-

ed an exemption for up to 2 years from OSHA programmed inspections, but you can request an additional year, making it 3 years, if you renew during your last quarter of the exemption period and follow additional guidelines as outlined by your Consultation Program Manager. To be eligible for SHARP status your company must have 250 or fewer onsite employees and fewer than 500 corporate-wide employees, but this doesn't apply to individual franchisees.

Being part of the SHARP program helps to protect workers from all safety and health hazards that may exist at your workplace; identifies and implements best practices to protect your workers; develops an innovative safety and health program for your business and creates



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a culture that will have a better working environment free of safety and health hazards; boost worker morale, improve communications among workers and management; and encourage safety in the community.

SHARP status achievement can help you save money with lower worker compensation insurance premiums; improved worker retention and reduce costly turnover; and reduce worker days away from work, keeping operations and production running smoothly.

If, at this time, you meet most but not all of the SHARP eligibility criteria and are committed to working towards SHARP approval, you may be recommended for Pre-SHARP status. With this you will be granted a deferral from OSHA programmed inspections for a period not to exceed 18 months.

OSHA is always looking for ways to ensure that compliance assistance resources are used as effectively as possible to help small businesses. When it came to OSHA's attention that subsidiaries of large, multi-national corporations, some with tens or hundreds of thousands of employees, were participating in SHARP, OSHA concluded that additional requirements were needed to ensure that SHARP resources would be more effectively targeted to the small employers that really needed them. The subsidiaries of larger employers likely had the economic means to provide safety and health assistance without Federal Assistance and the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP); which is designed to recognize larger companies, was created.

VPP promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. In the VPP, management, labor, and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system. Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

VPP recognizes employers and workers in the private industry and federal agencies who have implemented effective safety and health management systems and maintain injury and illness rates below national Bureau of Labor Statistics averages for their respective industries. In VPP, management, labor, and OSHA work cooperatively and proactively to prevent fatalities, injuries, and

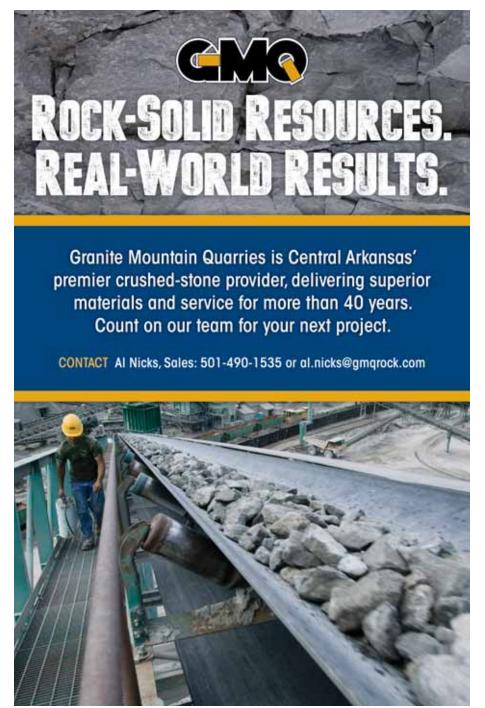
illnesses through a system focused on: hazard prevention and control; worksite analysis; training; and management commitment and worker involvement.

To participate, employers must submit an application to OSHA and undergo a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of safety and health professionals. Union support is required for applicants represented by a bargaining unit. VPP participants are re-evaluated every three to five years to remain in the programs. VPP participants are exempt from OSHA programmed inspections while they maintain their VPP status.

VPP sets performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system, invites sites to apply, and then assesses applicants against these criteria. OS-HA's verification includes an application review and a rigorous onsite evaluation by a team of OSHA safety and health experts.

OSHA approves qualified sites to one of three programs:

**Star:** Recognition for employers and employees who demonstrate continued on page 22



# **SHARP & VPP**

exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards, the development,

implementation and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.

Merit: Recognition for employers and employees who have developed and implemented good safety and health management systems but who must take additional

steps to reach Star quality.

**Demonstration:** Recognition for employers and employees who operate effective safety and health management systems that differ from current VPP requirements. This program enables OSHA to test the efficacy of different approaches.

Statistical evidence for VPP's success is impressive. The average VPP worksite has a Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) case rate of 52% below the average for its industry.

These sites typically do not start out with such low rates. Reductions in injuries and illnesses begin when the site commits to the VPP approach to safety and health management and the challenging VPP application process.

Fewer injuries and illnesses mean greater profits as workers' compensation premiums and other costs plummet; which is a tremendous benefit to employers. Entire industries benefit as VPP sites evolve into models of excellence and influence practices industry-wide.

OSHA gains a corp of ambassadors enthusiastically spreading the message of safety and health system management. These partners also provide OSHA with valuable input and augment its limited resources.

Another benefit to OSHA is a safety and health advocacy group that came into existence as a result of the VPP, the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA). The VPPPA is a nonprofit organization founded in 1985. As part of its efforts to share the benefits of cooperative programs, the VPPPA works closely with OSHA and State Plan States in the development and implementation of cooperative programs. The VPPPA also provides expertise to these groups in the form of comments and stakeholder feedback on agency rulemaking and policies. Additionally, the Association provides comments and testimony to members of Congress regarding legislative bills on

Several unique innovations have come from VPP; particularly noteworthy

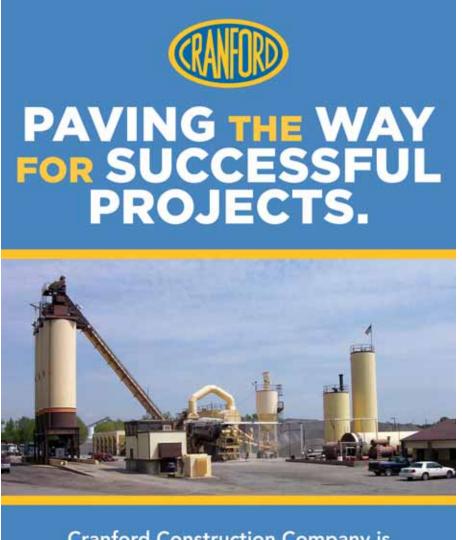
of excellence

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industry-wide.

practices

health and safety issues. is the OSHA Special Government Em-VPP sites evolve into models



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ployees Program (SGE) created in 1994. The SGE Program offers private and public-sector safety and health professionals and other qualified participants the opportunity to exchange ideas, gain new perspectives, and grow professionally while serving as full-fledged team members on OSHA's VPP onsite evaluations.

OSHA has long recognized the value of cooperative efforts by employers, employees, and government agencies to reduce hazards and strengthen worker protection. VPP has been particularly successful in this arena. However, VPP was designed primarily for fixed worksites, and many businesses were excluded from participation because of the "mobile" nature of their operations.

Based on positive experiences with past VPP Mobile Workforce Demonstrations and other VPP Demonstrations, OSHA introduced a new VPP program designed for mobile workforces; which became effective on May 9, 2009. OSHA believes this alternate way to participate will work for companies that typically function as contractors or subcontractors who may or may not have the authority for safety and health for an entire worksite and for those companies that have employees that move site-to-site such as a specialty trade contractor or repair and maintenance company regardless of size or length and duration of the project or service.

Following OSHA's review and acceptance of the application, a two-phased on-site evaluation takes place. In the first phase, OSHA's onsite evaluation team will review the applicant's corporate, division or business unit policies and procedures: which include a review of safety and health management programs, document review and assessment of the management commitment to safety and health, and to VPP. The second phase is dedicated to review one or more worksites to verify the safety and health management programs are actually working outside the home office where employees may work unsupervised at sites that are not owned or controlled by the applicant.

Applicants should submit their application to the VPP Manager in the OSHA Regional Office with jurisdiction over their headquarters or home office normally responsible for providing oversight for their mobile workforce operations. Application guidelines can be obtained from the Regional Office

or downloaded from OSHA's website. (Note: Applicants with Federal jurisdiction worksites whose headquarters fall under State Plan jurisdiction should submit their application to the corresponding Regional VPP Manager.)

For more information about these programs, visit www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/sharp.html or www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/index.html.

Leon Jones, Jr., Director of the Department of Labor, is responsible for the regulatory oversight of wage and hour claims, child labor laws, health and safety consultation, elevator inspections, electrical inspections and permitting, boiler inspections and compilation of statistical data on injuries and fatalities for the Bureau of Labor Standards. The Department is also responsible for inspecting all amusement park rides and blasting operations in Arkansas.



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# Devil's Road Cut Construction Memorialized

by D.B. Hill III

I am often asked what the most fun or interesting aspect of building a highway is. I have answered the question in different ways through the years. I have always enjoyed the bidding aspect of the work. It is fun to analyze a job being let and figure out the best and most economical way to build it. Once the job is awarded, the actual building presents challenges and opportunities throughout. It is always a great feeling when a job is completed and I can drive over the completed roadway.

As I have gotten older and had the opportunity to rebuild roads built earlier in my career or ones our company built many years ago, I would answer the question in a different way. I now believe rebuilding a road we built earlier is my greatest pleasure.

On March 23, a plaque was erected

on top of Backbone Mountain adjacent to US Highway 65 south of Marshall in Searcy County. The plaque was the idea of James Johnston, the Searcy County Historical Society and the Marshall Rotary Club. The idea behind the plaque was to commemorate the geological structure of the rock outcropping and the con-

struction of the highway in 1928 when it was relocated over Backbone Mountain and then again in 1972 when it was rebuilt to accommodate increased traffic on Highway 65.

My Grandfather, D. B. Hill, Sr., moved to Arkansas in 1920 from Tennessee where he was in the earthwork busi-

ness. D. B. Hill & Company was the original company and in 1928 was awarded the contract to relocate Highway 65 over Backbone Mountain. James Johnston's





for ALL of Arkansas.

father, William C. Johnston, was the job engineer. My Grandfather utilized a lot of "modern" equipment in 1928 and 1929: steam shovels, Hug trucks and handheld rock drills!

In late 1971, D. B. Hill Contractor was awarded a \$2.5 million contract to again



rebuild Highway 65 from just north of Leslie to the north city limits of Marshall. Work began in March 1972 and completed in October 1974. Again, "modern" equipment was utilized: 61/2 CY front end loader, 40-ton haul trucks and pneumatic rock drills. AGC member companies: Freshour Construction Co., Crouse Construction Co. and Weaver-Bailey Contractors were among the subcontractors.

I am thankful and pleased to have the plaque placed on Backbone Mountain to memorialize our company and the work to build Highway 65 twice by three generations!

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# Student Spotlight

# UA Little Rock Student Studies in Iceland's GREEN Program

An Interview with Meridith Williams In October of 2017, I applied to the GREEN Program to visit and study abroad in Iceland. The GREEN Program is a non-traditional based study abroad program; I was the only Arkansan chosen from among 2,000 applicants to participate in this program. Thanks to support from AGC Arkansas and others, I was able to attend the program in January.

### About the Iceland Program

This nine-day conference featured presentations by industry experts on sustainability, hydropower, geology, biofuels and geothermal energy. At the end of this conference, I presented a capstone project on renewable energy to fellow students and professors. The GREEN Program provided exclusive educational opportunities, industry access, and unique cultural experiences around the world. As the greenest country on our planet, Iceland produces 100% of its electricity from renewable energy sources, making it the ideal location for a truly

hands-on educational experience.

# What were your expectations going into this trip? Were they met?

My expectations on this trip were initially just learning about the "green aspects" of the country. For example, learning how geothermal technology works as they harness energy from dormant volcanoes to power a city.

My least expectations were met above and beyond what I initially thought. I not only learned and visited their hydropower and geothermal plants but I learned about their culture, the way they eat, live, and prosper in such a harsh climate.

# What about the construction industry attracted you in the first place?

As a child I have always been curious about what makes something work, and how it is put together. Growing up I would always use up my mom's tape and copy paper constructing models of buildings. She always joked about me becoming an architect. After high school, construction caught my eye because it is always growing, and I wanted to be a part of my community. Constructing facilities in the area was something I wanted to be a part of. Also, my grandfather was a superintendent for 30 years in Texas, so I guess I have it in my blood to build.

# What do you want other young people - particularly women - to know about the industry?

I want other women to know that this is not just a "man's field." For a long time it has mainly been dominated by men, but times are changing and women are becoming a crucial part of the building process. I want women who have an interest in this industry to take a chance and try it. No matter what others say or do, I want women to fight back and to speak up and use their voice to break through stereotypes in construction. As a young woman in this field I have seen,

Williams at Iceland's first hydroelectric power plant in the town of Hafnarfjörður. The plant was decommissioned in 2014 and is now open to the public and serves as a museum.



heard, and been through some harsh times. This experience has taught me to never give up, and never let anyone take away my dreams. Through hard times, however, I have had some remarkable people in my line of work that want to see me succeed and have been great mentors.

In Iceland the culture is equally divided meaning that they just passed a law requiring equal pay for men and women. It was also amazing that the country is led by 80% women. For example, their newly appointed prime minister is a woman and 70% of the Reykjavik women professors have their master's degree and work in education and plants around the city.

# How did this program fit in with your career goals?

This program was exactly what I needed to foster my career goals, but more importantly this program and this trip helped fulfill me as a person. Going to Iceland has opened my eyes to different cultures and technologies and the need for GREEN energy here in the U.S. I want to help fight for a cleaner earth and help invent and grow the use for GREEN energy.

# What was the highlight of this trip for you?

The most memorable thing was our first hiking trip in the Sveitarfelgio Moun-



tains. The hike itself was scary yet exciting; we hiked for approximately 6 hours to the natural hot springs which reach up to 120 degrees. As we hiked back it was pitch black. There were no lights and we were at least 60 miles from the nearest city. As we got half way back we were standing on a high point and our guide told us to turn off our head lamps and look up. As we did the sight was unbelievable. We gazed at what looked like thousands of stars and the aurora borealis. We all stopped talking and were mes-

merized by what we saw. In that moment, I realized how small humanity really was, and how we take things for granted. In that moment I thought about everything I have done up until this point, and a fire was relit in me to do more.

### Tell us about your Capstone project.

I presented my capstone project at the end of the conference to the Reykjavik professors and other GREEN program students. My capstone was about a company called RISE, Inc. that my team invented. The company name stands for Renewable, Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Ecosystem. We had to pitch our company and explain why it is GREEN and how the world could benefit from it. We received a score of 100 out of 100.

### What's next for you?

Currently, I am Marketing Coordinator, CTP@PTC Program Manager and Project Administrator Intern at CDI Contractors. I will be transitioning to project engineer at CDI this summer.



# What's Next?

July 13 Mid-Year Golf Tournament

& Dinner

July 14 Mid-Year Board Retreat

Aug. 22 Membership Luncheon

Sept. 26 Membership Luncheon

Sept. 30 NCLC/AGC of America

- Oct. 3 Centennial Celebration in D.C.

Oct. 11 Sporting Clays Tournament

Oct. 22 Knight Cashion Scholarship

Golf Tournament

Nov. 8 Annual Meeting

Dec. 6 FLD End-of-the-Year Social

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### 20

# JBU Hosts National Competition

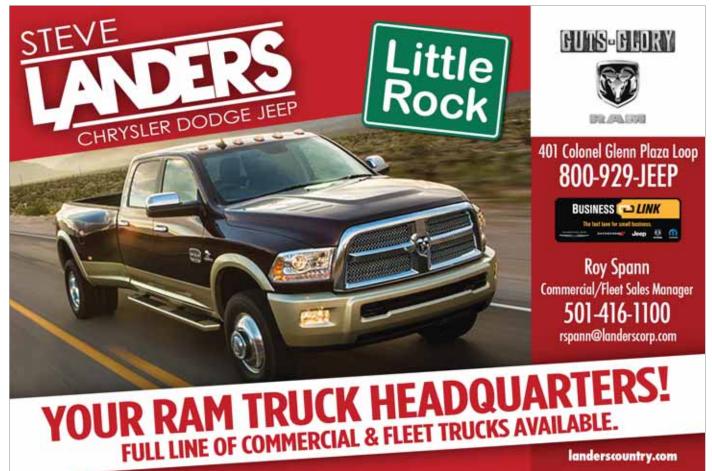
In late April, John Brown University hosted the 7th Annual Samaritan's Purse Disaster Shelter Design Competition at the JBU Campus. Nine teams from eight colleges and universities designed and built a prototype disaster shelter that could be used to provide shelter for individuals who had been through an earthquake, similar to the one in Nepal in 2015.

The competition is designed to allow students to design and build a structure that would meet real-world requirements and standards. The teams were required to take into account culture, weather, geography and several other factors to design a shelter that would best meet the needs of those affected by the disaster.

Each team built a prototype of their shelter and brought it to JBU for testing, which included an earthquake shake table (to test resistance to earthquakes), a thermal booth (to test heat retention), a large spray rack (to test water-tightness), and a wind generating apparatus (to test

resistance to high winds), as well as a timed assembly and presentation to a panel of judges. After all of the testing and judging was complete, Calvin College from Michigan placed first, Letourneau University from Texas placed second, and JBU placed third. The students found this competition to be invaluable to their learning experience, allowing them to apply much of the knowledge they have gained during their university education.





# Comings & Goings





Bonds



Caudle



A. Davis

### Job Changes & Employee News

Jim Minor, a twenty-four-year veteran with Baldwin and Shell Construction Company, has been promoted to Vice President/COO. Minor, who currently resides in Springdale and serves on the company's board and as Vice President over their Northwest Arkansas Division will make the move to Little Rock to take over the operations of the 71-year-old company.

Lion Oil Company/Delek US Holdings is proud to welcome Jill Marchese as the new Asphalt Sales Representative responsible for the overall sales and marketing of asphalt sales. Marchese's territory includes eight of ten ArDOT districts and the private sector within the state of Arkansas. She brings with her nearly 25 years of construction industry sales and marketing experience.

John Doyle, P.E. has joined Crow Construction as the newest member of the project management team. Doyle is a Professional Engineer with more than 13 years of engineering design experience. He most recently worked as a design engineer for Harbor Environmental and Safety in Little Rock. Doyle holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Louisiana Tech University and is a member of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

McGeorge is proud to announce the promotion of Austin Davis from Heavy Equipment Finish Operator to a Key Operator. Austin has worked safely and industriously with McGeorge Contracting Company for 5 years.

Ryan McClafferty of Risk Services of Arkansas was selected as a finalist for the 2018 Construction Powerbroker award by Risk & Insurance Magazine, a top national insurance publication. Ryan exclusively serves the construction industry by creating risk management, insurance, and bond programs

for growing contractors. He serves on the board at the Associated General Contractors and the American Subcontractors Association.

Hydco is pleased to announce that Jeremy Hyde is now the COO/VP. And, congratulations to **Tony** Graham, Estimator/Project Manager for Hydco, on receiving his CPE in just four months.

**CDI Contractors** announces the addition of **Chris** Davis, Garland Strickland and Mark Vetter to the company's on-site project staff as superintendents. Davis is a Licensed Master Plumber with 24 years of experience that includes work as a general contractor and plumbing subcontractor. Strickland has completed AGC's Supervisory Training and Advanced Management programs and has nearly four decades of experience supervising major construction projects throughout the southeastern United States. Vetter is a LEED Accredited Professional whose 20+ years of experience includes estimating, business development, preconstruction and project management.

Harrison Energy Partners (HEP) announces the promotion of Greg Blair to Vice President of Sales and Marketing; Charles Caudle, Jr., to Vice President of Service; and Ben Dye to Vice President – Oklahoma. With 18 years at HEP, Greg has held the position of Sales Manager since 2015. Under his helm, HEP sales teams achieved record market share and sales growth in the Arkansas market. These teams have been nationally recognized by their partners for their achievements. Greg will provide cohesiveness to HEP's sales strategies throughout the organization.

Similarly, Charles Caudle, Jr., has served the company as the Service Operations Manager since 2006. Starting as a service technician at HEP 28 years ago, Charles knows the commitment and level of excellence required from technicians to appropriately serve clients. Charles has also implemented training pro-



C. Davis



Doyle



Dye



Eggburn



Faught



Garcia



Graham



House



Hyde



Jones



Mayfield

grams and initiatives that improve safety, communication and technology for the technicians.

Ben Dye has spent 12 years with HEP and, most recently, has been leading the expansion into Oklahoma. He has excelled at recruiting stellar teams, managing resources efficiently and gaining early ground with new clients. Ben is an Industrial Engineer with his MBA.

**Sterling Seacrest Partners** is pleased to announce the addition of Roberta White to our Little Rock team. Roberta has more than 30 years of insurance experience and has handled contractors, oil marketers, and clients in other industries that SSP specializes in.

The University of Arkansas College of Engineering honored two ARDOT employees for career excellence. Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer Lorie Tudor was inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers. She is one of 30 ARDOT engineers honored by the Academy and the Department's first female inductee. The University of Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers is an accomplished group of civil engineering alumni who have shown exceptional merit.

Transportation Planning and Policy Division Head Jessie Jones received the University of Arkansas College of Engineering Early Career Alumni Award. She is ARDOT's second engineer to receive this award and the Department's first female recip-

Joe Eggburn recently joined the project management team in the Nabholz Conway office. He will be estimating and working under Project Executive Doug Bonds. Joe graduated from UALR in December of 2017 with a bachelor of science in construction management. Before coming to Nabholz, he spent time at CDI and Kiewit.

Nabholz employees Maria Garcia and Joy Moseley graduated from Northwest Arkansas Commu-

nity College with an Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology. Both graduated with honors and Joy graduated Magna Cum Laude. Christy Newsom received a Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Technology from Northwest Arkansas Community College. She plans to graduate in May 2019.

Nabholz has promoted Amanda House to project manager in its Little Rock office. Amanda graduated UALR's Construction Management degree, earning both a BS in 2011 and a Masters in 2014 while working fulltime as a Project Engineer. Amanda worked at TME, Inc. and the Cone Group before joining the Nabholz team in June of 2014. She has been a member of the Arkansas Children's team and has played a big role in Nabholz' continued success there. Amanda has excelled at the fast-paced ACH environment.

Armando Pineda has been promoted to lead foreman for Nabholz' concrete group in Rogers. Armando was hired in 2011 as a carpenter. He moved to wall foreman on multiple projects. On the Arkansas Children's Northwest project, he stepped into the assistant foreman role for the crew. Armando was promoted to Lead Foreman for the concrete crew on the First Place Parking Garage project located in Downtown Tulsa.

Project Executive Phil Moffitt has been promoted to Nabholz EVP of Construction in Tulsa. This move comes after Phil's track record of many successful projects in the Central Arkansas market including the University of Arkansas of Little Rock Engineering and Information Technology, Conway High School, Roberts Elementary, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock energy project. While at Nabholz, Phil's held the role of project manager and senior project manager. He was promoted to Project Executive in 2016. Phil has earned several commendations for his solid performance, including the Nabholz Hammer award in 2014, the

Nabholz Excellence in Leadership award twice, and the AIC Constructor of the Year award. He has also mentored many Nabholz project managers just starting in their careers, something he will continue to do in his new role in Oklahoma. Phil's transition to the Southwest region will also bring changes to the Little Rock office and South region. Andrew Norman and Billy Mayfield will assume more responsibility as senior project managers. They've both proved they are capable of running complex projects with excellent rates of client satisfaction. Senior PM Doug Bonds will now be a project executive. In this role, he will oversee multiple projects and project management personnel, ensuring all projects meet Nabholz' standards.

### Company News

W&W|AFCO Steel became the largest steel fabricator and erector in North America with the recent acquisition of Hirschfeld Industries, headquartered in San Angelo, Texas. This acquisition brings two industry giants together to form one company with unmatched experience, production capacity, capability and customer service. Together, with many dedicated, hard-working employees, WaW/AFCO and Hirschfeld will operate 14 production facilities in seven states from Colorado to North Carolina.

Congratulations to Michael Faught and the Roberts-McNutt team on your 50th company anniversary. Last year was their biggest year in total volume in company history.

Congratulations to the following AGC Members on the grand openings of their new facilities:

> Stribling Equipment: 10600 I-30, Little Rock, AR 72209 ACE Glass: 3101 Dugan Drive, Little Rock, AR 72206

Tri State Truck Center: 8901 Diamond Dr, North Little Rock, AR 72117



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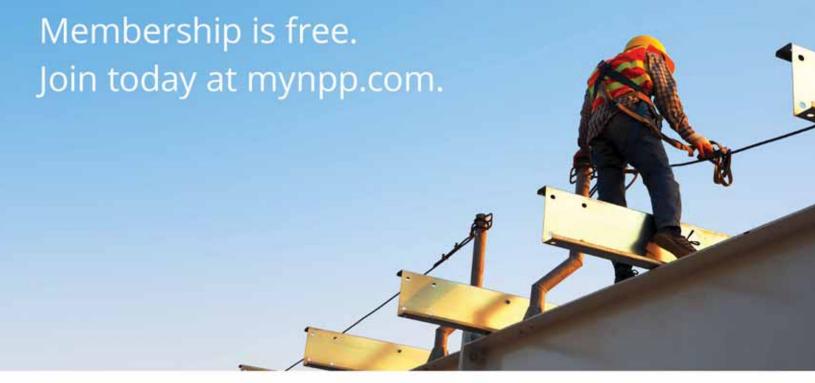
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