



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Colorado

THE VOICE

OF COLORADO'S ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

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Vol. 9 Issue 5
May 2009

Features

MEMBER NEWS

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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Programs

MAY GENERAL MEETING

8 on 8 with Municipalities May 19th, 11:30 am at the Four Points by Sheraton Southeast

ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS WORKSHOP

June 19th, 7:30-9:30 am at URS, 8181 E Tufts Ave., Denver

Future Leaders

- [Management Series](#)

Resources

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Presidents Report

The 2009-2010 year will be interesting and challenging. The business of engineering has not been spared in this economic downturn. Many of our member firms have seen reductions in their total work force. For some of our companies it is "just hang-in-there baby" for the next year. Yet I am confident that we will begin to see things turn around starting in mid-2010.

In the meantime, the business and political landscape is changing. Beginning with Enron, then the banking sector, a negative view of business and the free enterprise system is being formed in the minds of the public. Combine that with the recent Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report on our business and you have a climate primed to hit businesses hard with new and more restrictive regulations. (See an article outlining ACEC's concerns on the OIG's report [here](#).)

To continue to be successful in the current business climate...[Read More..](#)



ACEC/CO President
Rob Refvem

ACEC/CO 2009 Annual Meeting and Awards

At the 2009 Annual Meeting held on Friday, May 8th, we recognized and celebrated outstanding individuals from the past year. We also recognized this year's new officers, board members and directors. [Read More..](#)

Congratulations 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Eleven engineering students will receive \$32,500 in scholarships, the largest scholarship fund in ACEC Colorado's history. On April 9th, all the 2009 recipients were recognized at the scholarship reception. [Read More..](#)

ACEC/CO Members Help Improve Quality of NEPA Documents



Organizers of the CDOT/FHWA/ACEC Workshops on Quality NEPA Documents: (L-R) Jennifer Finch, CDOT; Stephanie Gibson, FHWA; Michael Davies, FHWA; Jane Boand, David Evans (representing ACEC/CO); Karla Petty, Lamar Smith, and Keith Moore, FHWA; Sharleen Bakeman, CDOT; Rod Vaughn, FHWA. Not pictured: Brad Beckman, CDOT; Marilen Reimer, ACEC/CO

Over the past year, four workshops have been presented to the combined groups of CDOT Environmental Group, FHWA and ACEC/CO on the quality of NEPA documents.

These working sessions have produced excellent examples of NEPA documents and suggestions from all on how to improve the process.

Quarterly forums are being planned to continue the discussions with the three organizations.

Membership Notices and Engineers in the News

See our [Membership Notices](#) section for new and prospective members and other membership

[Job Center](#)

[LEGISLATIVE updates](#)

[Podcast Center](#)
Wake-up Call
Breakfast Series
podcasts available
\$20/members

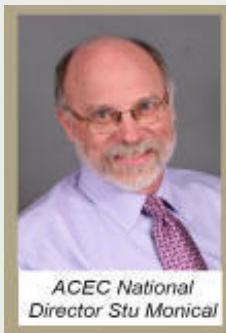
[OTHER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

changes, and our [Engineers in the News](#) to hear the latest from our member firms.

News from National

ACEC Director's Report



The ACEC Board of Directors meeting was held on April 26, 2009 in Washington DC and was attended by Marilen Reimer, Lauren Evans and Stu Monical. Colorado still remains 6th in national voting strength behind California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois.

There were three voting items, which were presented by David L. Wright – ACEC Membership Chairman. These items had all been discussed at the 2008 Fall Convention in Montreal.

- Dues Cap Adjustment
- National Membership Eligibility for Surveying Firms
- Reciprocity with States on Non-Regular Membership [Read More...](#)

ACEC President's Report

News from ACEC's successful Annual Convention celebrating its 100th anniversary and the latest from ACEC's government affairs. [Read More..](#)

Call for Nominations for 2009 ACEC Community Service Awards

The ACEC Committee of Fellows is now accepting nominations for the ACEC Community Service Awards to recognize individuals who have at least 5 years experience as a principal or manager in an ACEC member firm, and who have made a significant impact on the quality of life in their communities. **Completed forms for Colorado nominees must be sent to ACEC-Colorado by May 22.** [Click here](#) to access the Community Service Awards program criteria and nomination form. For more information contact Daisy Nappier at dnappier@acec.org.

Eighty Percent of Success is "Showing Up"

One fantastic opportunity to market both your firm and recognize your clients is the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards. Demonstrate your strength to your clients, as our industry endures the dynamic nature of today's economic environment. Show your clients that your firm has the tenacity and patience to weather the storm, and the loyalty and determination to stand by them by showcasing their projects in this exciting awards program. [Read More..](#)

ACEC/CO Events and Professional Development

Register [online](#), by calling 303-832-2200, or by [e-mail](#) for ACEC/CO programs.

- **May General Meeting -- 8 on 8 with Municipalities**
Tuesday, May 19, 11:30 a.m. at Four Points by Sheraton Southeast. **SOLD OUT!**
- **Awards Workshop**
Friday, June 19, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. at URS, 8181 E. Tufts Ave., Cost is \$40 per person including continental breakfast. [Read more..](#)
- **Wake-up Breakfast Series Podcasts Available** [Read more..](#)
- **Future Leaders Management Workshop--Employment Law - Legal Guidelines**
Wednesday, June 3, 1:00 p.m. at ACEC/CO offices, 6th floor boardroom. Don't miss out on a great opportunity to hear about the latest HR laws and applications from Holland and Hart, one of Denver's top employment law firms!

RECOVER 09 Job Board Sale

Save 25% on all job postings through June 30!

ACEC/CO's job board, the Engineering Science Career Network, helps you identify the best technical staff for your firm. Your job posting will be viewed by thousands of applicants from all over the country—or set parameters to search the résumé database and notify you when a résumé is posted by a candidate with the skills you're looking for. [Read more...](#)



Marketing and Business Development

Stimulus Resources for your Business

The *Denver Business Journal* provides online resources to help you answer your questions about the economic stimulus and bailouts, and what they can do for your company. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

[Read more](#) about the following programs...

- UCD Engineering Students Open House
- SWE Fort Collins Networking Event
- SWEP Brownfield Revitalization Overview
- COMTO Colorado Trade Fair
- Colorado Small Business Forum Labor Law Seminar
- Recognizing the Snares and Pitfalls in A/E/C Industry Contracts
- Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities

Welcome to our interactive newsletter! We designed the new format to be easier to read and easier to forward to colleagues. [Let us know](#) what you think.



President's Report

The Power of Our Community

The 2009-2010 year will be interesting and challenging. The business of engineering has not been spared in this economic downturn. Many of our member firms have seen reductions in their total work force. For some of our companies it is "just hang-in-there baby" for the next year. Yet I am confident that we will begin to see things turn around starting in mid-2010.

In the meantime, the business and political landscape is changing. Beginning with Enron, then the banking sector, a negative view of business and the free enterprise system is being formed in the minds of the public. Combine that with the recent Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report on our business and you have a climate primed to hit businesses hard with new and more restrictive regulations. (See an article

outlining ACEC's concerns on the OIG's report [here](#).)

To continue to be successful in the current business climate, we must:

1. Demonstrate our business ethics and professionalism through our actions at every opportunity.
2. Stand together as a business organization.
3. Advocate for our industry and our individual firms to the public and the politicians to emphasize the value we bring to everyone's quality of life.

ACEC/CO stands for the maintenance of high professional standards and the protection of the public safety and welfare (Article V, Articles of Incorporation). We must show that we are truly **ethical** individuals and businesses. We can demonstrate this through our individual actions and in all our business dealings. This is the only effective way to combat the erroneous report put out by the OIG, and the overall negative view of business created by the banks, AIG, Enron and the auto industry.

In this downturn, it is even more important that we stick together as one in promoting the business of engineering. Yes, we must all look for ways to cut expenses. Many of us have fewer employees now than we did one year ago. The dues revenues for ACEC/CO will be impacted. Our budget committee and ACEC staff are working hard to find ways to cut expenses and yet maintain the quality programs that we all enjoy.

The only way our voice is heard is by speaking as one and we can only do that by maintaining our membership in ACEC/CO. Our PR efforts (with ùli Creative) have helped shine the light on what we do for the public and the politicians, and will continue to do so. This has allowed us to build a positive image with the public at large. They see us as one of the most ethical professions—the latest polls rate engineers' ethics as "high" or "very high."

We combat changes to the laws that affect our businesses through advocacy. Advocacy is more important than ever as the politicians will be working to reduce outsourcing, limit overhead costs, cap salaries and implement other measures that would be detrimental to our businesses. When we speak as one, representing over 245 firms employing over 10,000 people in

Colorado, we create a much louder, more powerful voice.

Start by taking just one small step—get to know your State Representative and State Senator. This gives legislators a connection with our businesses and with one of their constituents. Being a member of ACEC/CO also gives your message an added punch. Help us support those candidates who help us the most by supporting the CEPAC with the suggested donation on your dues statement. Our national ACEC/PAC has a bipartisan focus and is now one of the largest PACs in Washington. This gives us added strength in our messages to Congress. ACEC nationally has fought legislation to prevent major cuts in transportation funding, has secured water and aviation legislation to expand funding for projects, has broadened requirements for QBS, and is continuing to oppose legislation that could be harmful to our businesses.

With your continued support in membership dues and in your time, we can all look forward to that brighter future in 2010.

-Rob Refvem, ACEC/CO President

ACEC/CO 2009 Annual Meeting

At the 2009 Annual Meeting held on Friday, May 8th, we recognized and celebrated outstanding individuals from the past year.

Orley O. Phillips Award

This award is given to an ACEC/CO member or staff member who has made significant contributions to the profession, the council, and its programs. It was established to honor one of our founding members. This year the Presidents Council and Board of Directors unanimously chose two nominees to receive the 2009 Orley O. Phillips Award; **Gordon Meurer** and **David Austin**, (posthumously).



Stan Neujahr (in his role as Orley Phillips' ghost) congratulates Gordon Meurer on his Orley Phillips Award. Dave Sellards (not pictured) presented the award recognition and created the script that had Stan appearing in this role.



(L-R) Lauren Evans, Gordon Meurer, and Dave Sellards

Gordon Meurer is the latest contributor in a long family history of contributions to the Colorado engineering industry. After graduating from CSU in 1969 with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering, and from CU in 1977 with a Master's in Business Administration, he was ready to follow his father's and uncle's footsteps into a career in consulting engineering. He formed Meurer and Associates in 1978, and developed it into a successful and well-respected business. The firm was acquired by Kennedy/Jenks last year and Gordon continues to fill an important role there.

Gordon has served ACEC/CO for over 25 years and has been recognized as being a representative of ACEC's values of ethics, professionalism and leadership. He was a member of the ACEC/CO Board of Directors, and served as President in 1996-97. He was a trustee for the ACEC Life/Health Trust for four years, and chaired the Certified Consulting Engineers of Colorado. He was recognized as a

Fellow of ACEC in 2003. In 2004, along with Bob Bates of Bates Engineering, Gordon established the Malcolm and Charles Meurer Memorial Scholarship. This contribution has totaled \$20,000 over the past five years, offering a \$4000 scholarship to a Colorado engineering student each year.



Dave Austin's wife, Mirie (center) and his daughters Renee Austin Schonberger (L) and Judi Austin Barchet (R), accepted the 2009 ACEC/CO George Washington Award on Dave's behalf.

Dave Austin was fondly referred to as the "A" in KKBNA (Ketchum, Konkel, Barrett, Nickel and Austin). Dave joined KKBNA, which was a predecessor firm of Martin/Martin, in 1956. He served as the firm's Chief Engineer for many years and retired in 1997. Dave was a solid, talented structural engineer who derived great pleasure from mentoring young engineers and providing personal service to clients.

Dave was a Fellow in several engineering societies. He was a graduate of the University of Colorado/Boulder, and designed many projects on that campus as well as notable projects all over Colorado. His experience also includes the evaluation, remodeling, and/or restoration of many existing building structures, some of which were over 100 years old.



Dave Austin, photo taken during his years at Martin/Martin

The General Palmer Award

The General Palmer Award is given to an engineer in industry for his or her contribution to the State of Colorado and advancement of the engineering

community, recognition in the community, and the impact of their contributions on future generations. This year **John Fetcher** was selected posthumously as the 2009 General Palmer Award recipient.

A Harvard-trained engineer, John was also a ski pioneer, rancher and reservoir builder. He was an original visionary for the future development of the Steamboat Springs ski area.

In the early 60's, John assisted in launching Storm Mountain Ski area on Mount Werner, home to the now Steamboat Springs Ski area. From 1959 to 1962, John was vice president and chief engineer for Storm Mountain Ski Corporation. When the company was having financial troubles in 1962, it was John himself who traveled to California to retrieve the essential bull wheel for the first chair lift opening. He was president of Mount Werner Ski Company from 1962 to 1971, and oversaw construction of the original Chrisite, Thunderhead, Four Points and Burgess Creek chairlifts.

Another of John's most valuable accomplishments was building the Yamcolo Reservoir at the headwaters of the Yampa River in the late 1970's. The reservoir resolved the problems of many ranchers who were affected by drought and struggling to retrieve water from the river.

John was also secretary of the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy district where he was instrumental in the funding and building of the Stagecoach Reservoir. The reservoir provides a solid and reliable water source for Yampa Valley today. It was John's idea to incorporate hydropower into the reservoir.

John was named the Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year in 1994 and received the Colorado Foundation for Water Education's President's Award in 2007, to name just two awards he received. He has created a tourist economy for Routt County and his influence in helping preserve Northwest Colorado water was monumental.

The George Washington Award

The George Washington Award is presented to an individual who has exhibited leadership and has had an impact on public policy-making and general societal issues. This award is given to an ACEC/CO member for outstanding service to the community, the progress of Colorado and the enhancement of the public image of consulting engineering as a profession. The 2009 George Washington Award was given to **Ralph Peterson** for his major contributions to the public sector and the engineering industry, and for his unselfish giving back to the community.

Ralph has worked at CH2M Hill since 1965 and led the company as Chairman and CEO for 17 years. The company now has over 25,000 employees worldwide, and is ranked #8 among engineering and construction firms in Fortune's list of 1,000 biggest American companies. It's Colorado's biggest private company. During Ralph's tenure, it grew from a \$400 million company into a \$5.8 billion company.

Among many remarkable projects completed under Ralph's guidance, CH2M Hill's Kaiser-Hill joint venture completed cleanup of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons factory, turning what the Dept. of Energy estimated as a \$36 billion, 70-year cleanup into a \$7 billion, 10-year long project.

Under Ralph's leadership, CH2M Hill was ranked among the top 100 best places to work in 2009 by Fortune magazine. Mayor Hickenlooper described Ralph's management style as transparent and open. "He consistently looks beyond his own self-interest," Hickenlooper said in the Denver Business Journal. Ralph has a reputation for mingling with everyone, regardless of their status. He greets employees by name. He instituted an unusual employee stock-ownership plan that extended to all CH2M Hill employees the right to own company stock.



Ralph Peterson, retiring Chairman and CEO of CH2M Hill, accepts the 2009 George Washington Award.



(L-R) Naomi Taggart, Janet Williams, Gregg Ten Eyck accepting the 2009 President's Award. Naomi Taggart accepted on behalf of Bill Taggart who passed away last year. Awardees not pictured: Darrell Holmquist and Frank Holliday.

President's Award

This award is chosen by the ACEC/CO president and is given to those who have shown consistent effort to go the extra mile in surpassing any expectations for what they have done for the organization. This year President Evans chose to award all of the past chairs of the ACEC/CO Expert Witness committee in recognition of their success in developing the model for the national ACEC Expert Witness Designation program. The 2009 Presidents Award recipients are **Darrel Holmquist, Frank Holliday, Janet Williams, Gregg Ten Eyck, and Bill Taggart** (posthumously).

Educator of the Year

The 2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year award was given to **Andy Leonard** for his contributions and support of programs in math, science and engineering.

Andy Leonard is a Physics teacher at Overland High School and Director for the Overland Institute of Mathematics, Science and Technology. Andy's classroom is a hub of project-based learning activity. He challenges students to extend their learning beyond the classroom, and is committed to his own life-long learning as well. He is a remarkable role model for his students and other staff in the building.

In addition to working with the students, Andy has worked very closely with businesses and representatives from higher education. The result allows students who graduate from Overland, completing all of the Institute requirements, guaranteed admittance to Colorado School of Mines or The University of Colorado at Denver. This articulation between our school and the universities has created a one-of-a-kind program for our students.

Andy Leonard has dedicated his life to educating young people. Further, he has combined his love of teaching with his passion for promoting Science and Math. He has been an inspiration to many of our students. Both of his own children are currently enrolled in engineering programs.



Andrew Leonard, Overland High School, accepts the 2009 Outstanding Educator of the Year from ACEC/CO President Lauren Evans.

Committee Chair of the Year

For the past seventeen years, the Council has recognized exceptional performance by a Committee Chair. The caliber and performance of our ACEC/CO Committees has become so outstanding over the years that it becomes increasingly more difficult to single out one committee for recognition. This year the Board chose to recognize the Programs and Professional Development Committee, chaired by **Sally Corey**. Because Sally was unable to attend the Annual Meeting on its rescheduled date, we will honor her at the [May General Meeting](#), and we'll publish a report in the June newsletter.

2009-2010 Board of Directors and Officers

This year's new Officers are:

President: **Robert Refvem**, Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig
Vice President: **William Hoffmann Jr.**, CTL/Thompson, Inc.
Secretary-Treasurer: **Eric Young**, EMC Engineers, Inc.
Immediate Past President: **Lauren Evans**, Pinyon Environmental Engineering
National Director: **Stuart Monical**, MKK Consulting Engineers

This year's new Board of Directors are:

Director- Metro Region: **Janet Williams**, Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc. and **Greg Sekera**, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Director- West Region: **Peter Monroe**, Monroe & Newell Engineers, Inc.
Director- South Region: **Roger Barker**, Kumar & Associates, Inc.

Continuing Board Members are:

Director- Metro Region: **Marvinetta Hartwig**, Hartwig & Associates, and **Michael Ellsberry**, Huitt-Zollars, Inc.
Director- North Region: **Richard Huwa**, RLH Engineering, Inc.

ACEC/CO 2009 Scholarship Recipients

Each year the ACEC/CO scholarships are awarded to students who attend Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)-accredited undergraduate engineering programs in Colorado. Our scholarship program is designed to help grow the

engineering workforce needed to address future challenges and demands.

Scholarship Recipients for 2009-2010



ACEC/CO Scholarship Recipients
 (L-R) Charles Bohac, Nicholas Mander, Heather Oretli, Alexander Fosdick, Richard Vidal, Holly Stevenson, Rebekah Squires, Anna Herring, Yevgeniy Kaufman, Not Pictured: Bronson Stagner and Hedi Kasimer

Alex Fosdick	CU-Boulder	Leonard Rice Memorial	\$6,000
Richard Vidal	Mines	William Russell Stoneman	\$5,000
Holly Stevenson	CU-Boulder	Malcolm and Charles Meurer	\$4,000
Heather Oertli	Mines	Fu Hua Chen	\$3,500
Chad Bohac	CSU	Jack Bruce Memorial/APWA	\$2,000
Yevgeniy Kaufman	CU-Boulder	Urban Watershed (APWA)	\$2,500
Bronson Stagner	UCCS	ACEC/CO	\$2,000
Nick Mander	CU-Boulder	ACEC/CO	\$2,000
Rebekah Squires	CU-Boulder	ACEC/CO	\$2,000
Anna Herring	CU-Boulder	ACEC/CO	\$2,000
Heidi Kasemir	CU-Boulder	ACEC/CO	\$1,500

Alexander Fosdick is this year's top scholarship recipient of the Leonard Rice Memorial Scholarship of \$6,000, which was established three years ago in memory of the firm's founder, Lee Rice. Fosdick, who is studying electrical engineering, will automatically be entered into the national ACEC scholarship competition, which will award three scholarships with a maximum amount of \$10,000.

This year ACEC/CO also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to **Max Vanatta**, a sophomore at Cheyenne Mountain High in Colorado Springs, for his bridge design entry in the Region 2 High School Bridge Building contest, co-sponsored with Professional Engineers of Colorado, the Bureau of Reclamation and ACEC/CO.

Additionally ACEC/CO is providing \$1,000 in scholarships to the Colorado Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program, for disadvantaged Colorado high schools students planning to study engineering.

"The council is pleased to offer our scholarship program and to actually increase the amount of scholarship funds awarded this year," said Marilen Reimer, executive director of ACEC/CO. "We continue to have increased interest in our scholarship program and received 53 applications from 13 schools across the state. The recipients not only carry a heavy academic load, but are active in student chapters of professional organizations, provide community service, and have part-time jobs. They are the future and we congratulate them on their achievements today and wish them continued success as they pursue their studies."



Max Vanetta, Region 2 Bridge Building competition winner, with **Lauren Evans**, ACEC/CO President

"We know there will continue to be a high demand for engineers and this program will help to ensure that we continue to have the engineering workforce needed in place," she added.



Leonard Rice Scholarship Winner Alex Fosdick accepts his award from Les Botham of Leonard Rice Engineering

ACEC/CO has awarded 126 scholarships since the program's inception in 1982 and has provided \$189,500 in student engineering scholarships since 2000. Scholarship funding is provided by ACEC/CO Council members, the American Public Works Association and private sources, including the Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc., and the Malcolm & Charles Meurer Memorial Scholarship funds. ACEC/CO scholarship program funds are also raised through contributions of ACEC/CO members and proceeds from its Annual Member/Guest Golf Tournament, which raised \$7,000 for the program in 2008. The [2009 tournament](#) will be held on August 10, 2009 at Hiwan Golf Club in Evergreen.

Scholarship applications are open to engineering students pursuing a bachelor's degree in ABET-accredited Colorado engineering and surveying programs. Students must be entering their junior, senior, or fifth year in a five-year undergraduate program in the fall of 2010. For more information on the scholarship program, eligibility or to obtain an application, visit www.acec-co.org/education.

Membership Notices

Welcome Affiliate Member:

Thomas Cole, Terracon: 10625 W. I-70 Frontage Road, Suite 3, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033. 303-423-3300 tccole@terracon.com. Thomas is a graduate of Fresno State with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering. Recommendations came from Lewis Israel, Dave Harwood, and Andy Garner.

Prospective Individual Members:

Karlene Thomas, Pinyon Environmental Engineering Resources, Inc.
Kari McDowell, McDowell Engineering
Jeffrey Sickles, Enginuity Engineering Solutions

Prospective Sustaining Members:

Sara Jones, Volt Technical Services
Rod Hoffman, S&H Consulting, LLC

Engineers in the News

Kumar & Associates has named **Greg Monley** as a principal, coinciding with the celebration of his 10th anniversary with the firm.

Martin/Martin, Inc., Consulting Engineers announced that the following engineers have recently received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accreditation from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). Structural Department engineers include **Charles Keyes, PE, SE, Michael Goldstein, PE, Gregory Gillmor, PE, Nicole Lane, PE, Eric Sobel, PE, SE, Brian Tinkey, PE,** and **Jonathan Oltman**. Civil Department engineers are **William Raatz, PE** and **Kristina Stoll**.

The **Olsson Associates'** **Erin Cummings, Amy Gabor, Ben Messersmith, Lisa Pine** and **Dave Skuodas** have recently achieved LEED accreditation from the USGBC. Cummings and Gabor are assistant engineers for the Lakewood Water Resources team and joined Olsson in 2007 and 2005, respectively. Messersmith, an assistant engineer for the Lakewood Land Development team, has been with Olsson since 2007. Pine, a senior scientist for the Golden Compliance and Permitting team, joined the firm in 2008. Skuodas, a project engineer for the Lakewood Water Resources team, joined Olsson in 2004. Olsson Associates' Golden office has named **Mike Yost** as Community Services Practice Group Leader. Yost has been with Olsson since 1993 and will lead the firm's efforts in municipal, airports and community consulting work.

Given and Associates Inc. announces additions to its staff with **Joshua Armstrong** joining the mechanical engineering department, **Jodi Ross** as director of business development, **Daniel Siddall** as the firm's accountant/financial analyst, and **Jeremy Streepey** as a CAD operator. The firm congratulates **Tim Adams** and **Joshua Armstrong** for becoming newly accredited LEED APs.

Barney Fix, vice president and manager of the civil-infrastructure business-unit operations for **Merrick & Co.** was recognized for his 20 years of service to the Bear Creek Water and Sanitation District as district engineer. Merrick has appointed **Mary Horan** as the human resources manager, and named **Deborah Schindler** as corporate communications manager.

News from National

National Director's Report



The ACEC Board of Directors meeting was held on April 26, 2009 in Washington DC and was attended by Marilen Reimer, Lauren Evans and Stu Monical. Colorado still remains 6th in national voting strength behind California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois.

The Treasurer's report noted that the projected revenue is 5.4% below the budgeted amount for FY 09' and that the projected expense has been reduced to this same level by cuts in the operating budget as well as the suspending of contributions to the Minuteman Fund and the Reserve Fund.

There were three voting items, which were presented by David L. Wright – ACEC Membership Chairman. These items had all been discussed at the 2008 Fall Convention in Montreal.

- Dues Cap Adjustment
- National Membership Eligibility for Surveying Firms
- Reciprocity with States on Non-Regular Membership

The first voting item "Dues Cap Adjustment" was around adjusting the dues cap to address the erosion of dues revenue caused by mergers and acquisitions and to achieve greater equity in the distribution of dues among the member firms. Currently the dues cap is at 2140 employees. The voting item was to adjust the dues cap on a one time basis starting on July 1, 2009 from 2140 to 5000 employees and subject this cap to whatever inflation factor is applied to the dues of all member firms. An amendment was made to modify this voting item to phase this increase in over a three year period. This amendment was approved by the majority of votes with Colorado voting for it. A vote was then taken on the amended voting item, which passed with Colorado voting for it.

The second voting item "National Membership Eligibility for Surveying Firms" was around allowing land surveying firms located in States that do not offer land surveying firm membership to be eligible for national membership. This item required the Bylaws to be changed. The only discussion around this item was if a land surveying firm was granted national membership because the State did not offer this type of membership at the time but later did allow it, the land surveying firm would then need to become a member at the State level. This item passed with a majority vote with Colorado voting for it.

The third voting item "Reciprocity with States on Non-Regular Membership" was around allowing non-regular member firms to join at the national level whether they joined at the State level or not. There was a concern raised by a few States, including Colorado that this change might allow some current non-regular members at the State to drop their State membership to become only be a member at the national level. After this concern was discussed, a vote was taken and the item passed with a majority vote with Colorado voting against it. Our objection to this item was allowing non-regular member firms to become members at the national level and not the State level even though these non-regular members have the ability to join at the State level in Colorado.

After the voting was completed, we heard a presentation by Robert D. Atkinson – Chairman of the Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission. Robert's presentation was around the current highway funding system based on taxing vehicle fuel was antiquated and the better approach would be to move towards having the user's pay for the system through programs such as taxing vehicle miles driven. He mentioned that the committee had looked into several of the areas of concern: privacy with vehicle GPS systems, rural areas feeling they would be adversely affected due to greater distances needed to be driven, environmental and emission issues, and fraud with this type of system; all of which the committee felt could be overcome with proper planning. A copy of the Committee's report "Paving Our Way – A New Framework for Transportation Finance" can be found on the following web site: <http://financecommission.dot.gov/>.

Also at the Board Meeting we were given a copy of the final draft of the national study on QBS for review. A copy of this study can be found at the ACEC-CO office. There was no discussion at the meeting around this study.

The next National Director's meeting will be held in Palm Springs, CA in October 2009 during the fall ACEC Conference. If you have any questions or would like to give input on any of the issues presented here, please feel free to email or call me.

Stuart Monical, ACEC/CO National Director

ACEC President's Report

General

- Attendance of over 1,000 at the 100th Anniversary Annual Convention; featured speakers included U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, General Robert Van Antwerp, CNN Political Analyst David Gergen, Congressman John Duncan (R-TN), Congressman Kendrick Meek (D-FL), Congressman John Boozman (R-AR)
- ACEC/California's Tim Psomas succeeded John Hennessy as the 2009-2010 ACEC chairman; Jerry Stump (TN) chair-elect; new national vice chairs on the Executive Committee: Robin Greenleaf (MA), Bart Patton (CA), Ken Wightman (OR); and Scott Heidner (KS) NAECE representative



Government Affairs

- Minuteman Fund grants awarded to: ACEC/Florida for an amicus brief to defend limitation of liability provisions; and ACEC/ New Hampshire to fight state legislation that could force design firms in civil lawsuits to pay a disproportionate share of the damages.

- ACEC/West Virginia successfully defended the state's QBS law with funding from the Minuteman Fund.
- ACEC testified on behalf of the Government Withholding Relief Coalition at an IRS public hearing, opposing the 3% withholding mandate.
- Successfully lobbied House and Senate budget negotiators to accept the House's higher baseline funding totals for highway and transit programs and provide more flexibility for transportation committee leaders in writing a robust six-year reauthorization bill.

Institute for Business Management

- Issued the final draft of the Qualifications-Based Selection study by Profs. Paul Chinowsky and Gordon Kingsley of U. Colorado and Georgia Tech.
- Posted a free powerpoint presentation on ContractsCentral.net entitled "How to Contract for a Green Infrastructure Project."
- Distributed Expert Witness Designation (EXW) application kits to attendees at the recent "Engineering Expert Witness" course held in Kansas City; the next Engineering Expert Witness program is scheduled for June 18 - 19 in Philadelphia.

Eighty Percent of Success is "Showing Up"

Engineering Excellence Awards

As consulting firms in Colorado, we are facing some challenging times due to the current economic status of our country. On a positive note, we also need to prepare ourselves for the economic upswing that inherently follows each downturn. I challenge each of you to think about your current repeat clients and the role that they play in these tough times. I would venture to guess that they are the ones who are loyal and forward-thinking right now. Is this not the perfect time to recognize them and let them know how much we truly value each and every one of them? Let's make sure that each of us pauses a moment and considers the recognition each of those clients deserve.

One fantastic opportunity to market both your firm and recognize your clients is the ACEC Engineering Excellence Awards. Demonstrate your strength to your clients, as we, as an industry, endure the dynamic nature of today's economic environment. Show your clients that your firm has the tenacity and patience to weather the storm, and the loyalty and determination to stand by them by showcasing their projects in this exciting awards program. The important dates for this year's program are as follows:

Awards Workshop – Friday, June 19

Invitation to Enter Form – Friday, July 24

Submit Panel and Notebook to ACEC/CO – Monday, September 7

Awards Luncheon at Brown Palace – Monday, November 2

The Awards Workshop is designed not only to help new entrants, but also to inform veteran entrants of "What's New" with the program. The workshop will provide perspectives from past award winners as well as a judge's perspective. A continental breakfast is included.

Do you have a project that has made a difference to our society and our built environment? If so, get recognized for your hard work and visionary excellence. No matter how big or small your project is, plan to submit it for an Engineering Excellence Award and take advantage of these benefits:

- Great Marketing and Networking Opportunity
- High Profile Local and Potential National Exposure
 - Recognition in numerous publications
 - Panel displayed at State Capitol
 - Panel can also be displayed at your office and at your client's office
- Client Recognition – Client relationship enhancement

For helpful hints and examples of previous entries, please plan to attend the Awards Workshop on Friday, June 19 at URS , 8181 East Tufts Avenue, Denver from 7:30am to 9:30am. The topics to be covered will include: Preparing Your Entry; Planning Your Design; Rules and Guidelines; A Judge's Perspective; A New Entrant's Perspective; and Public Relations and Marketing Opportunities.

Woody Allen once said: "Eighty percent of success is showing up." Make your firm successful by showing up for your clients at ACEC's 2010 Engineering Excellence Awards program.

Please contact Leslie Shivers at 303-832-2200 for more information.

*Submitted by Tara Schutter,
Chair, ACEC/CO Awards Committee*

ACEC/CO Events

Register [online](#), by calling 303-832-2200, or by [e-mail](#) for any ACEC/CO program or event.



Engineering Excellence Awards Workshop

The Awards Workshop is sponsored by ACEC/CO Awards Committee and URS. See the [article](#) for information about the competition. The workshop is Friday, June 19, 7:30 - 9:30 am at URS, 8181 E. Tufts Ave., Denver. Cost is \$40 including continental breakfast. Register by phone at 303-832-2200 or email jennifer@acec-co.org.

Breakfast Series Podcasts For Sale

Missed a Wake-up Call Breakfast Series? Not to worry! Now you can catch up by purchasing our breakfast series presentations podcasts. Available to members for \$20 each or 3 for \$45. To purchase, contact jennifer@acec-co.org or call 303-832-2200. The following are now available:



- May 6th, 2009, *The Current Economic Meltdown & Its Implications For Infrastructure Planning*, by Edward F. Harvey, Harvey Economics
- April 1st, 2009, *Colorado Economy*, by Richard Wobbekind, of the Business Research Division and Associate Dean for External Relations at the University of Colorado at Boulder
- March 4th, 2009, *Renewable Energy Sources and Costs* by Lee Boughey, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- January 7th, 2009: *It's Not As Bad As You Think: An Economic Review* by Brian Coggon, Engineered Finance, LLC
- December 3rd, 2008: *Important Emerging Trends & Issues* by Bill Wallace of Wallace Futures Group, LLC,
- November 5th, 2008: *Demographics and the World of Predicting Your Market* by Rod Hoffman, CEO and co-founder of S&H Consulting

Job Board

RECOVER 09

ACEC/CO understands the importance of finding quality employees to help businesses grow in a tough economy. That's why you can now **save 25%** on all job postings when you post on ACEC-CO Job Board through June 30th. Use promo code RECOVER09 (case sensitive) to receive 25% savings.



Investing in the infrastructure of your organization is vital to your success. By posting jobs on the ACEC-CO Job Board, you will get more traffic from engineering professionals. Plus you can widen your talent search with access to thousands of resumes. Visit the ACEC-CO Job Board today and discover your next employee!

- **FIND QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES**
- **SEARCH RESUME**
- **GAIN MORE EXPOSURE**
- **WIDEN TALENT SEARCH**

jobboard.acec-co.org 303-832-2200

Additional Professional Development Opportunities and Events

Engineering Student Design Open House

You are invited to attend the Engineering Student Design Open House where students at the UC Denver College of Engineering will be presenting their senior design projects on **Friday, May 15**, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the North Classroom Atrium at UCD. Come show your support for these students as they showcase a culmination of knowledge and hard work. Your feedback is invaluable to the students. [Click here](#) for further information.

SWEP Presents Kelly Black on *Getting SMARTer about Brownfields*

The Society of Women Environmental Professionals (SWEP) Rocky Mountain Chapter is hosting Kelly Black on an overview of Brownfield Revitalization on **Monday, May 18**, noon to 1:00 p.m. at GeoTech Environmental Equipment Inc., 2650 East 40th Avenue, Denver. Black is an environmental statistician for Neptune and Company in Lakewood. Cost is \$15 per person for members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP to Dianne McNeill at dmcneill@ecc.net.

SWE Fort Collins Networking Event

The Society of Women Engineers will be meeting **Wednesday, May 20**, 5:30 p.m., at the Fort Collins Museum, 200 Mathews St. Former civil engineer Jodee Hinton will be discussing a new project at the Discover Science Center that she thinks SWE members will be interested in. Wine and finger foods will be provided. RSVP by May 15 to Judy Gates at 970-224-5957 or jgates23@comcast.net.

SWE-RMS South Denver Networking Night

The SWE-RMS South Denver networking night will be **Wednesday, May 20**, at 6:00 p.m., at CB & Potts Restaurant and Brewery, 6575 Greenwood Plaza Blvd, Englewood. There is no cost to attend, except for the cost of your food and drinks. RSVP by May 15 to anikaahaimer@gmail.com.

COMTO Colorado DBE/Prime Trade Fair



COMTO (Conference of Minority Transportation Officials) Colorado Chapter is presenting a Trade Fair opportunity to meet face to face with your local COMTO/DBE community. The fair is **Thursday, May 21, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** at Red Lion Hotel, 4040 Quebec St., Denver. Register for this free event and fill out the attached form before April, 29. [Click here](#) for registration and more information. COMTO will follow up with phone calls in early

May to connect you with the DBE companies that meet your needs!

Colorado Small Business Forum - Labor Law

Have you ever wanted to know more about US Labor Laws? Colorado Labor Laws? Employee vs. Contract Labor? IRS is hosting a Small Business Forum (SBF) with US Department of Labor, & CO Division of Labor to provide small business owners & organization/association members with information on this important area for employers, **May 27, 9 am to noon**, at 1999 Broadway, Denver. This event is **free of charge** so register early as seating is limited. For questions and more information contact Ann Burton at 303-603-4723 or Ann.Burton@irs.gov. To register, e-mail: sl.northwest@irs.gov.

Recognizing the Snares and Pitfalls in A/E/C Industry Contracts

ACEC hosts this 1 1/2 day course **May 28-29**, in Philadelphia, PA. Identify and demystify two dozen "red-flag contract provisions" that you must understand to maintain professional standards and protect your business. For information, contact education@acec.org or call 202-347-7474, ext. 338. Information also available online at www.acec.org.

COLLABORATIVE BIM: Transforming the Design & Construction Process

Colorado Construction, AGC of Colorado, and the ACE Mentor Program of America invite you to attend COLLABORATIVE BIM on **June 10**, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Lakewood Country Club. This event will help you learn how teams are getting more out of the use of BIM actively collaborating throughout the design and construction process to integrate information, reduce risk and achieve better project outcomes. To register for the conference [click here](#) or call (800) 371-3238.

Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities

Opportunities in New Markets - ACEC with Colorado State University are presenting this unique four-day certificate course **July 13 -16** at the Colorado State University Denver Center. The Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Communities course systematically lays out the complex interdisciplinary challenges of real-world sustainability problems. The curriculum examines key environmental planning and design processes and showcases applications of sustainable engineering by some of the leading practitioners in the United States. [View brochure](#) for more information and registration.

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