

June 2017

**Arkansas  
Professional**

**ENGINEER**

Official Magazine of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas & the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers



## **New leaders, same old values**

Mike Burns, P.E., with Crafton Tull, left, will lead ACEC/A, while Paul Speers, P.E., retired from Entergy, is the new ASPE president.

# Jacobs: Global reach, active state office

Dallas-based firm with more than 230 locations offers services in many disciplines

Founded in 1947 by Joseph Jacobs, the Dallas-based Jacobs engineering firm has grown to 54,000 employees in more than 230 locations worldwide, including one in Arkansas with 30 employees.

The Arkansas-based civil engineering office opened in 1993 and is now under the leadership of Mark Asher, P.E., engineering manager, buildings & infrastructure. It offers primarily transportation services including planning, environmental, design, and construction engineering and inspection.

The office originally opened to provide planning and environmental services for 13 miles of the Arkansas Department of Transportation's U.S. 71 project south of Texarkana. It soon offered design services for the project, including the fully directional interchange with Loop 245. Through the years, Jacobs has provided transportation services to other Arkansas-based projects, including the new Fulbright Expressway Flyover Bridge in Fayetteville, the Marion Berry Parkway in Jonesboro, and the I-530/AR-530 interchange and four miles of new alignment in Pine Bluff.

With \$10.9 billion in revenues, Jacobs is truly a worldwide company with capabilities across many engineering disciplines, including aerospace and defense, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, telecommunications and even nuclear assets. More than 94 percent of its business comes from repeat customers. Engineering News-Record ranked Jacobs number two on its latest Top 500 Design Firms listing.

Among Jacobs' more interesting recent projects was working with the National Parks Service during the presidential inauguration to quickly construct and deploy a mobile cellular tower and modify more than 400 other cell sites to boost wireless network capacity. Jacobs also supports the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer on the International Space Station, a physics experiment searching for



**JACOBS' ARKANSAS PROJECTS.** Dallas-based Jacobs has had a presence in Arkansas since 1993. Top, the Fulbright Expressway Flyover Bridge in Fayetteville. Photo by Sapp Construction. Above left, the I-530/AR-530 I-69 Connector Interchange. Above right, a rendering of the Marion Berry Parkway. Photos by Jacobs. Right, U.S. 71 in Texarkana. Photo by ©SkyCam Aerial & Commercial.

evidence of natural antimatter and dark matter. The firm designed and built the structural framework supporting the experiment during its Space Shuttle launch and during in-orbit operations.

Since 2009, Jacobs has provided full life cycle support for Patriot Excalibur (PEX), a government-owned software system that enables Air Force, Joint Ser-

vice and foreign military personnel to conduct operational tasks, share information and improve situational awareness. The PEX is used by 50,000 people to manage 1,200 squadrons across 190 sites worldwide. Jacobs has offered services in design, development, testing, fielding, sustainment, training and operation of a help desk.





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# Arkansas Professional / ENGINEER

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**14** *Mike Burns, P.E., of Crafton Tull, left, is the new president of ACEC/A. Paul Speers, P.E., CEM, CPQ, a retired Entergy executive, is the new president of ASPE.*

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# Thanks for another great year!



**Andy Dibble, P.E.**  
**ACEC President**

I can hardly fathom it, but the end of ACEC/A's fiscal year is right around the corner.

We recently met in Washington, D.C., for the annual spring convention, and turnout from the various state member organizations, as well as from the Arkansas delegation, was outstanding. I believe I heard that more than 1,600 engineers registered for the meeting. It is encouraging to see the participation from around the nation and to have a sense that the health of ACEC is strong. While there were no "major" voting items on the agenda for the national board, it was still interesting to attend the meeting as a representative for Arkansas. Dan Williams, P.E., our national director, and Angie Cooper, our executive director, represented us on the floor as well.

The Arkansas contingent met with Senator Boozman and separately with a staff member of Senator Cotton's office. We also were able to meet face to face with Representatives Westerman and Womack and talk with staff members from Representatives Hill's and Crawford's offices. It is an experience that I find very interesting and engaging, and one I hope that many of you reading this column will have in the future, if you have not already done so. I believe that our Arkansas legis-

lators are interested in what we engineers have to say, and being an active "citizen lobbyist" is a part of our representative republic that I have really enjoyed.

While with our legislators, we discussed the federal funding issues that were a very current topic at the time of our visit, requested relief from burdensome regulations, and implored each office to fully support the funding of our nation's infrastructure so that America's roads, bridges and water/wastewater systems remain robust and efficient. I believe they are generally in agreement with our stated positions, and in most cases, actively support our goals in Congress.

My last official meeting as president is the Deep South Regional Conference in Destin, Florida July 26-30. This is a great opportunity to meet with our colleagues from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. PDH certificates are in abundance for attending topical classes, and networking is a huge part of the experience. Staying on the Gulf Coast with access to sugar sand beaches and the tantalizing water is not bad either! I hope you can attend and get active in the organization – it is so worthwhile!

Mike Burns, P.E., from Crafton Tull is the president-elect and will assume the presidency of ACEC/A at the Deep South meeting. Please support Mike and the board if you are asked to serve in the coming year.

I wish I could adequately describe how enjoyable the last number of years have been serving on the board, becoming friends with my fellow board and committee members, and becoming exposed to the many facets of the business of engineering and the myriad issues that affect our firms and employees. Thanks for the opportunity to be a small part of our board's efforts to improve our profession. God bless.



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# Engineers' roles based on service, obligation

In a previous article, I discussed the role of ASPE in our professional lives. However, I feel it is also important for each of us to look inward and ask "What is my role as an engineer?"

On the surface, this could take many forms, from consulting, designing, researching, teaching and governing in all the various disciplines and specialties that engineering provides.

However, I also believe that if you dig deeper, the role of the engineer is almost always service. Whether that be service to the general public, our employer, a client or to our peers, service is at the heart of engineering.

But if we are in a service business, wouldn't that make us servants? Although it sometimes has negative connotations in the professional industry, "servant" is partially defined as a person who is devoted to or guided by something. Nothing places the spotlight on this aspect of engineering more than engineering licensure and the Engineers' Creed. We as engineers should be, among other things, devoted to and guided by the rules of professional conduct for our chosen profession.

If you read the rules of professional conduct for engineers licensed in the state of Arkansas, you will find three main topics: the Licensee's Obligation to Society; the Licensee's Obligation to Employers, Clients and Customers; and the Licensee's Obligation to Other Licensees. If you have not read these obligations for quite some time, or at all, I would encourage you to review them in detail and weigh the gravity of our chosen profession. The obligations to society include our duty to only approve and seal design documents that conform to accepted engineering standards and safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public. This is listed first for somewhat obvious reasons and echoes the first fundamental canon of engineering. The obligations to society also



**Alan Pugh, P.E.**  
**ASPE President**

include other principles, such as being honest and upholding the integrity of the profession. The obligations to employer, clients and customers in part include only working in those areas in which we are competent, maintaining confidentiality, and revealing our conflicts of interest. Lastly, we have an obligation to each other by not permitting misrepresentation of qualifications, not offering gifts in exchange for work, not indiscriminately criticizing each other's work, and reporting any potential violations of these obligations to the board.

As you can see, the common word throughout the rules of professional conduct is "obligation." The dictionary defines obligation as an act or course of action to which a person is morally or legally bound; a duty or commitment. These obligations help mold engineering into the profession it is today, and it is our duty to uphold these obligations if we want engineering to continue to be held in high regard. Many of these may appear to be common sense, but it is important to remind ourselves of the principles that guide our profession. In reviewing these obligations, along with the Engineers' Creed below, we should always remember that the actions of each licensee impact the profession as a whole.

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## Engineers' Creed

As a Professional Engineer, I dedicate my professional knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare. I pledge: To give the utmost of performance; To participate in none but honest enterprise; To live and work according to the laws of man and the highest standards of professional conduct; To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations.

In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.

Adopted by National Society of Professional Engineers June, 1954

## In the News

### Garver moves up to 166 on ENR's annual rankings

Garver was ranked No. 166 on Engineering News-Record's latest ranking of Top 500 design firms nationwide.

The ranking is Garver's best showing on the prestigious list after ranking No. 174 last year, and it marks an increase of 60 spots over the last five years. The list was compiled by ENR based on revenue for design services performed in 2016.

"Our continued rise in these rankings confirms what we and our clients already know, which is that Garver is one of the industry's most reliable and trusted choices when it comes to design services," said President and CEO Dan Williams, P.E., in a press release. "We're going to build on this latest improvement by continuing to provide our clients with even more specialized capabilities from our offices spread across the country."

### Hawkins-Weir's Oswald inducted into Hall of Fame

Fred Oswald, P.E., senior environmental consultant for Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc., is this year's inductee to the Kellogg Hall of Fame presented by the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA). The award was presented at the organization's annual conference in Hot Springs May 1.



**HALL-OF-FAMER.** Fred Oswald, P.E., of Hawkins-Weir Engineers is this year's inductee to the Kellogg Hall of Fame presented by the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association. With him is Vickey Lloyd, wife of Larry S. Lloyd, P.E., BCEE. Larry Lloyd is chief operating officer for Beaver Water District.

Established in 1984, the Kellogg award is the highest and most prestigious award given by the AWW&WEA to its members. It is presented for contributions to the organization and to the water and wastewater industry.

Oswald's career in the water/wastewater industry spans 40 years. He was born and raised in Little Rock and graduated from Catholic High School for Boys. He holds a B.S. in chemical engineering and an M.S. in environmental engineering from the University of Arkansas. Following his service and discharge as a captain in the United States Army during the Vietnam era, he returned to Arkansas and began his engineering career.

He has two daughters who followed his example and received undergraduate engineering degrees – one in chemical engineering and one in biomedical engineering.

### Hawkins-Weir opens new office in Fort Smith

Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc. (HW) will soon be opening its newest office in Fort Smith.

The new location will join HW's current offices in Van Buren, Little Rock, and Fayetteville, and demonstrates the firm's continued commitment to the professional engineering needs of Fort Smith, Sebastian County, and the surrounding cities of Greenwood, Lavaca, Huntington, and Barling, the company says.

"With our newest office opening, the level of service that our clients have come to expect from HW can only grow stronger. We are proud to invest in the economic development of downtown Fort Smith and look forward to joining its historic neighborhood," said the company's president and chief executive officer, Brett D. Peters, P.E., in a press release.



**HAWKINS-WEIR'S** new office will be located in downtown Fort Smith.

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Springdale Water Utilities



## McBrayer to lead Hawkins-Weir's electrical designs

Scott McBrayer, P.E., has joined the staff of Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc. (HW) and will lead all of the firm's electrical and instrumentation design efforts.



**McBrayer**

McBrayer is licensed in Arkansas and Oklahoma and possesses extensive experience in electrical power distribution, standby power generation, electrical motors, variable frequency drives, lighting design, process and instrumentation design, and automated systems startup. His experience also includes design of process control panels, programming, maintenance of PLC systems, equipment networking,

fiber optic networking, telemetry for remote control monitoring of systems, and equipment integration with electrical systems.

Company President and CEO Brett D. Peters, P.E., said in a press release that "Among Scott's many professional talents, what differentiates him as an electrical and instrumentation engineer is his understanding of water and wastewater applications. Another distinguishing attribute is his ability to troubleshoot, diagnose and resolve electrical and instrumentation issues during project start-up and thereafter during operation."

## MCE does design work for Benton's Riverside Park

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. provided survey and civil engineering design services for the \$53 million Riverside Park in Benton.

The Riverside Recreation Center complex can accommodate up to 5,200 people for basketball tournaments, volleyball tournaments and/or other community events. The new park also features an 18,000-square-foot senior center that can host up to 200 people. The new Boys & Girls Club of Saline County building is capable of accommodating 800 people in a new 50,000-square-foot facility. Additionally, the park includes a youth soccer complex and a natatorium.

The design elements on the 56-acre site included challenging drainage design, utility relocation, a full softball and soccer complex, roadways, parking for hundreds and multi-use trails that border and connect areas of the park.

The drainage for the project was a major concern and the culmination of a 10-year study. Grading the site was formidable in that approximately one-fourth of the city's drainage runs through the park complex. Through an extensive HECRAS analysis, MCE was able to

*Continued on next page*

# RIVERSIDE PARK

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## In the News (Cont'd)



**THIS ROUNDABOUT** leads into Riverside Park in Benton. MCE's did the design work on the \$53 million project.

correct drainage issues, all while avoiding mitigation. Roadways that abut the property were upgraded, and the new Citizens Drive was constructed as the major access road within the park.

Byron Hicks, P.E., M.C.E.'s chairman and CEO, led the team and spoke at the grand opening April 1. He was assisted in the design work by project engineer Maneesh Krishnan, P.E., as well as others who also worked extensively on this project. Also working on the project were Black Corley Owens + Hughes Architects and CDI Contractors.

## Five promoted at McClelland

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. (MCE), a regional multidisciplinary consulting engineering firm, has announced five internal promotions.



**Vineyard**

**Matthew Vineyard, P.E.**, has been promoted to partner. Vineyard has been with the company since 2007. His scope of work has ranged from small general aviation airports

to large fixed-based operator ramp development. He regularly attends FAA-sponsored conferences and reviews changes in design and funding.

**Maneesh Krishnan, P.E.**, was promoted to senior associate. Krishnan graduated with his master's in civil engineering (traffic/transportation engineering) from the University of Arkansas and worked as a civil engineering intern with



**Calendar of events**

**July 13-14**  
ACEC/A Board Retreat  
Northwest Arkansas

**July 27-29**  
ACEC Deep South Convention  
Destin, Florida



**Krishnan**

the Little Rock Public Works Department. He has been working as a project engineer since joining the McClelland team in August 2007. His primary focus has been on roadway and intersection design. On all projects, he provides the design and also a traffic management plan.



**Head**

**Steven Head, P.E.**, was recently promoted to senior associate. He joined MCE in 2012 with six years of experience in the geotechnical and construction materials testing industry. As the supervisor of MCE's in-house construction materials testing laboratory, he oversees the performance and scheduling of tests, special inspections, and subsurface drilling operations. He has worked as a field testing technician, on-site testing consultant, and a staff engineer, in addition to coordinating geotechnical operations and writing geotechnical drafts and reports.

**Adam Osweiler, P.E.**, a project engineer for MCE, was recently promoted to associate. He has experience in the design, permitting, and construction processes for all types of site design proj-



**Osweiler**

ects. As a project engineer, Osweiler's design experience includes sustainable design practices, site layout, and design of improvements related to commercial, educational, medical, and residential projects. Osweiler is proficient in SITEOPS software, a conceptual site design software providing rapid site evaluations, cost optimization, and value engineering.



**McGraw**

**Rick McGraw**, a landscape architect, was promoted to associate. His responsibilities include conceptual planning, design, and coordination of various development projects. He coordinates between the client and municipal officials and can draft all site/civil related documents. He routinely assists with higher education projects, private commercial development projects, and municipal facilities.

"Our staff is what makes MCE such a great company," said Byron Hicks, P.E., chairman and CEO, in a press release. "For 40 years, we have prided ourselves on only hiring the best and nurturing our employees so they can reach their fullest potential. Matthew, Maneesh, Steven, Adam, and Rick are all shining examples of dedicated employees."

MCE has offices in Little Rock, Fayetteville and Tulsa. Services include civil

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engineering, geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, airport engineering, landscape architecture and professional land surveying.

**GABE FREY, left, son of Crafton Tull surveyor Monica Frey, is pictured with Crafton Tull president and CEO Matt Crafton, P.E.**



## Crafton Tull awards college scholarship to employee's son

Crafton Tull, an architecture, engineering, and surveying firm, awarded a scholarship to Gabe Frey, son of Monica Frey, a professional surveyor in the firm's Conway office.

The firm awards an annual scholarship to an employee's dependent child. Frey is the salutatorian at Bigelow High School and plans to major in electrical engineering at Arkansas Tech.

Crafton Tull supports schools in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Employees serve on school boards, booster clubs, and education advocacy groups in their communities.

## MWY adds specialist in advanced technologies

McGoodwin, Williams & Yates, Inc. (MWY), of Fayetteville has added Dr. Erin Needham, Ph.D., E.I., to its team.



**Needham**

Needham comes to MWY having in 2017 simultaneously completed both her Ph.D. and master's of civil engineering at the University of Arkansas. She obtained her bachelor's of civil engineering along with a minor in sustainability in 2013, also from the University of Arkansas.

According to the firm, Needham brings an added level to the MWY team in the application of advanced water and wastewater technologies and the ever-increasing need to incorporate sustainable design practices. She completed her upper level degrees with a grade point average of 3.86 combined with an extensive research/presentation background.

In addition, she has been extensively involved with the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association, participating with the student chapter on the UA campus, as well as at the state and regional levels as a presenter at various conferences in Arkansas and other states.

## Time to enroll participants in Emerging Leaders program

ACEC/A and ASPE are once again offering the Emerging Leaders program, which teaches young design professionals skills in creativity, communication and management.

The program, offered for the ninth year, includes classes in contracts and risk reduction, public speaking, conflict resolution, business, and state government. It also includes a senior leadership roundtable and a challenge course.

The class is limited to 10 participants and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Angie Cooper, executive director, at [awcooper@arkansasengineers.org](mailto:awcooper@arkansasengineers.org) or at 501.912.4099.

## Correction

In the April 2017 Arkansas Professional Engineer, two ACEC/A Engineering Excellence Award Honor Award winners were improperly listed as being in Category E: Environmental. The awards actually were for Category H: Transportation.

The Honor Award winners were Crafton Tull, for Highway 264 interchange improvements, and Garver, for the I-40 at I-430 interchange. Both projects were for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

**Environmentally Friendly & Fiscally Responsible: That's Green!**

A 3D architectural rendering of a large industrial facility with multiple buildings and a tall silo.

City of Russellville, AR  
Solids Handling Project

A close-up of industrial machinery, possibly a conveyor system.
Another view of industrial machinery.
A third view of industrial machinery.

City Corporation was the first utility in Arkansas to recognize the benefits of the Schwing Bioset Process installed as a part of their 2016 Solids Handling Project. This process protects the environment by transforming the City of Russellville's wastewater sludge into a beneficial Class A supplement for local farms. They were also an early adopter of the design-build project delivery method which helped the project finish below budget and ahead of schedule. City Corporation selected the accomplished and trusted team of Van Horn Construction and Hawkins Weir Engineers to deliver this important project.

**HAWKINS WEIR**  
ENGINEERS, INC.

Van Buren
Fort Smith
Fayetteville
Little Rock



**AWARD WINNERS.** Left photo, Bob Crafton, P.E., of Crafton Tull, right, is congratulated by John English, P.E., dean of the University of Arkansas College of Engineering after being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Middle, Larry Stephens, P.E., of Mid-South Engineering speaks after his induction. Right photo, Rep. Andy Davis, P.E., right, received an Early Career Award.

## UA College honors outstanding alumni

**Crafton, Stephens, Yates, and Rep. Davis among those graduates honored**

Bob Crafton, P.E., of Crafton Tull; Larry Stephens, P.E., of Mid-South Engineering; Carl Yates, P.E., of McGoodwin, Williams and Yates; and state Rep. Andy Davis, P.E., were among 16 recipients of Alumni Awards given by the University of Arkansas College of Engineering at its annual banquet April 29.

"Our alumni are among our college's biggest strengths, and their accomplishments speak directly to the quality of our academic program," said John English, P.E., dean of the college, in a press release. "We are proud of all our alumni, and this group shows how talented individuals use engineering education to benefit Arkansas and the world."

Crafton and Stephens were inducted into the college's Hall of Fame, which was established in 1965. Crafton received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1957 and went on to co-found Crafton Tull, a civil engineering, surveying, architecture, landscape architecture, and planning firm with six offices across Arkansas and Oklahoma. Stephens received a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1958 and co-founded Mid-South Engineering in 1969. Mid-South is a full-

service consulting engineering firm with expertise in the wood products industry.

Seven graduates received the Distinguished Alumni Award, including L. Carl Yates, P.E., chief executive officer of McGoodwin, Williams & Yates. Yates graduated in 1958 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

Other distinguished alumni were:

- L. Patrick Bourne, B.S.E.E. 1968, director of transmission policy, Southwest Power Pool;
- Robert Harrison, B.S.M.E. 1974, vice president and principal engineer, ECCI;
- Pam McGinnis, B.S.I.E. 1990, president, global marketing, Phillips 66;
- Lynn Moore, B.S.C.S.E. 1994, M.S.C.S.E. 1996, chief executive officer, Motio Inc.;
- Michael Shook, B.S.A.G.E. 1982, principal, Agri Process Innovations;
- Michael Wood, B.S.Ch.E. 1984, chief engineer, space launch system program, Boeing.

The Early Career Award recognizes exceptional professional and personal achievements of recent College of Engineering graduates. Among the awardees was Davis, who graduated in 1999 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering and earned his master's in 2001. He is the owner and president of New Water Systems, LLC, a distributor of water

and wastewater treatment and collection systems. As a legislator, Davis represents the 31st District in the Arkansas House of Representatives.

Other Early Career Award winners were:

- Adam Ekenseair, B.S.Ch.E. 2005, assistant professor of chemical engineering, Northeastern University;
- A. Matthew Francis, B.S.E.E. 2003, B.S. 2004, M.S.E.E. 2007, Ph.D. 2009, founder, president and chief executive officer, Ozark Integrated Circuits Inc.;
- Amanda Furr, B.S.I.E. 2003, chief of engineering service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System;
- Toni Peacock McCrory, B.S.B.E. 2007, environmental, health and safety compliance senior manager II, Walmart Stores Inc.;
- Jonathan Schisler, B.S.Cmp.E. 2004, M.S.Cmp.E. 2005, senior information systems manager-mobile applications, J.B. Hunt Transport Inc.;
- Matt Zwicker, B.S.M.E. 2003, senior research and development engineer, Airborne Systems.

With more than 4,000 students, the College of Engineering is the state's largest engineering program. It offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in nine engineering fields.



# After the crisis, and before the next one

Now that the election and legislative session are over, let's lay the foundation for when things get crazy again

Remember 2016? Thank goodness THAT'S over.

Last year's presidential election was the most bitter and divisive of our lifetimes. In Arkansas, it was followed by a legislative session that kept the engineering community busy defending licensing requirements and qualifications-based selection.

In other words, we were forced into a state of crisis for much of the past year. It wasn't until April that we could all take a breath.

Now that the crises are past, the state's engineering associations have a window of time to think proactively. In Washington, we know that President Trump is pushing for major infrastructure investments, but the details are still fuzzy and unannounced. Other important policy changes, such as tax cuts and health care reform, are still simmering but not ready to be removed from the stove. In Little Rock, a task force is meeting to consider tax reform, the general idea being to reduce taxes by ending deductions that are so numerous that the task force is hiring a consultant just to figure out what they are. It's possible that the task force's work could identify more stable sources of revenue for the state's woefully underfunded highway system.

In this brief period of time when there's no immediate crisis, let's prepare for the future, when we know the crises are coming. Both the ACEC/A and the ASPE are looking for committee members, including those that deal with legislation at the state and national levels. By laying a foundation now, we can better react to whatever comes our way, as well as work to prevent the crises from happening in the first place.

## Emerging Leaders ready to start ninth class

Speaking of laying foundations, nothing benefits engineering firms more than preparing the next generation for leadership, and that's why the Emerging Leaders program is so beneficial. The annual class offered by ACEC/A and the ASPE includes classes in contracts and risk reduction, public speaking, conflict resolution, business, and state government. A senior leadership roundtable gives participants a chance to learn from experienced members of the profession. A challenge course develops relationships among the participants and forces them to create solutions while working as a team.

This year will be the ninth time Emerging Leaders has been offered. We'll have space for 10 participants as always. The deadline for enrollment is approaching, so sign up your firm's own emerging leaders soon.

Meanwhile, let me put in a good word for this magazine. It's mailed or delivered to ASPE members and engineers working for ACEC/A member firms. It's also mailed to public officials and state agency employees who are important to our industry

– almost 300 mayors, all the state's legislators and congressional representatives, city engineers, various water utility executives, Highway Department employees, and others.

By participating in this magazine by advertising and/or sharing news briefs, you are communicating to two groups – your peers and some of your potential clients and/or regulators. And keep in mind that consulting engineers often are each other's clients. Having a presence in this well-done magazine gives your firm a unique and ongoing voice in the engineering community.

Finally, July is one of the more eventful and enjoyable months on the calendar. The ACEC/A Board retreat will be July 13-14, while the ACEC Deep South Convention will be July 27-29 at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Destin, Florida.

In other words, the next month will be a nice mix of business and pleasure. Then things soon will get crazy again. Congress is still debating the issues, the Legislature will meet in fiscal session next year, and the party primary elections will occur in May – about 10 months from now.

So the crises are coming. Let's prepare for them and, where we can, try to prevent them.



**Angie W. Cooper**  
Executive Director

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# Burns: Let's play offense

ACEC/A's incoming president says it's not enough just to oppose bad legislation; the association also needs to support positive change

By Steve Brawner  
Editor

It's often said that the best offense is a good defense, but on the other hand, you can't win if you don't score. That being the case, Mike Burns, P.E., wants engineers to be more aggressive when it comes to legislative issues.

"We want to be more on offense and not on defense, and we have to plan ahead of time," said the ACEC/A's incoming president. "You can't just wait until all the laws start coming out, and then you're constantly just playing defense. So in the future, we want to be more ahead of the game, not waiting and seeing what happens and then reacting to that. If we get a reputation of all we ever do is say no, we're against everything, then people won't listen to you on that."

Burns, 57, Crafton Tull's vice president of transportation, points to the successes of the national ACEC organization in 2016 – more than 1,600 members converging on D.C. during the Annual Convention to make a statement and visit their representatives, and more than \$1 million raised for the ACEC's political action committee.

At the state level, Burns would like ACEC/A to become more assertive on issues like highway funding to counteract the hardball tactics of some anti-tax advocates. His other priorities will be increasing ACEC's membership so it will have more money to do more things. Officers should recruit new members, which he said he has done during his time on the board.

## A circuitous path

Burns' path to becoming an engineer was a circuitous one, and it almost never got started. At age 16, he was driving to work at a grocery store at his home in Seligman, Missouri, when his tires rolled off the vertical drop-off on a fresh



**COMMITTED TO SAFETY.** At age 16, Mike Burns was involved in an auto accident caused by a steep vertical drop on a fresh overlay. He was unharmed, but it's one reason he was inspired to become a transportation engineer – to make the roads safer for all motorists.

overlay. He tried to correct the problem but instead crashed in a ditch. He wasn't wearing a seat belt, but he wasn't hurt.

When he graduated high school, he didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, and he'd seen too many people go to college and end up with careers that

didn't match their degrees. So he went to work full time at a grocery store cutting meat for the next seven years. Eventually, he was making \$20,000 a year – not bad money at the time for Seligman.

It wasn't until he was 24 years old and getting married that he decided he need-



ed to make a change. His dad had worked on Beaver Dam and on the road leading to it, so he had a connection to engineering. Plus, he wanted to try to reduce the number of traffic fatalities knowing he could have been one of them that day when he was 16 years old.

In 1984, he enrolled in the University of Arkansas as a nontraditional student and spent the next six years plus a semester earning his degree in civil engineering, working part-time. He spent three years learning real-world lessons working at Crafton Tull, knowing the entire time that his interest was in transportation.

### From Crafton Tull to Crafton Tull

When he graduated in 1991, he had several offers, including from Crafton Tull, but he chose to work for the Missouri Department of Transportation. It was a secure job and he thought he'd stay there for life, but after seven years he accepted a position with Oklahoma-based Benham, which was managing two major projects and was hiring transportation engineers. One year later, Crafton Tull made him an offer to come back to work for them, the understanding being that he would lead the transportation section. He accepted, and in 2000 became vice president of transportation, a position he still holds. The section includes 12 employees doing roadway and bridge design and surveying.

At Crafton Tull, his major projects have included his first, the I-530 loop

around Pine Bluff; the I-40 rehabilitation program during the decade of the 2000s; and the Promenade Boulevard/I-49 interchange in Rogers. He said his specialty is relocated interstates, which he enjoys designing because he likes the challenge of finding the best route amidst environmental constraints and landmarks to be avoided.

Another challenging project involved replacing a bridge over a railroad in Chanute, Kansas. The project was located in town in a constrained area and required a unique solution.

"That's what engineers do," he said. "My motto is, if it was easy, anyone would do it because everything's usually a pretty challenging project where you run into situations, and you have to figure out the best way to handle that."

Some projects enable him to focus on his original commitment to safety. Those include a wire rope safety fence on Highway 412 from Tontitown to Siloam Springs and another one on I-40 from the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line to Clarksville.

"It wasn't a glamorous design project, but we were very glad to be a part of that because there's no telling how many lives those have saved," he said of the I-40 project. "You see those wire rope safety fences, and you can see how many times they're hit, and every time they're hit, that's a potential that they could have gone over in that other lane and killed someone."

His involvement in industry-related organizations began when he served a three-year term on a partnership committee including representatives from the ACEC/A and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. The committee gives members of both organizations a chance to share concerns, including once when ACEC/A representatives were able to communicate a problem with slow invoicing that the department corrected. When his term ended there, he joined the ACEC/A board.

"It's very rewarding to me," he said. "Everyone on the board, I like. We've got a great group of guys there ... and past members, we've had some great past members, too."

Burns also serves on Arkansas' State Transportation Innovation Council, part of the Federal Highway Administration's Every Day Counts initiative. That association was especially meaningful when the STIC adopted an emphasis on safety edge treatment, a technique that uses angles rather than a vertical drop on overlays, lessening the chance for the kind of accident he suffered when he was 16.

Outside of the office, Burns and his wife of 33 years, Connie, are active in the Bella Vista Assembly of God church, where daughter Lauren is a children's pastor. Son Wade is a senior kinesiology major at the University of Arkansas studying to be a coach or trainer, and son Carter is attending Evangel University to be a youth pastor.

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**RETIRED, BUT BUSY.** At 55, Speers is focusing on his family and on enjoying new activities like kayaking. He wants ASPE activities to be so compelling that both members and nonmembers get involved. "It's a volunteer organization. ... I don't want to try to guilt people into participating." Photo by Judy Speers.

## Speers' curiosity led to engineering

Paul Speers spent 32 years at Entergy. Now retired, he wants ASPE to attract new members from new places

By Steve Brawner  
Editor

Growing up in Jessieville, Paul Speers, P.E., CEM, CPQ, didn't even know what an engineer did. Now, he's the incoming president of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers.

Speers, who lives in Hot Springs, first became involved in the ASPE with the Hot Springs chapter when it was being revived. As president of the statewide organization, he likewise wants to increase the involvement of current members and also attract new ones by offering compelling reasons to participate. He wants events like the Annual Conference, moved to Hot Springs this year,

to showcase activities for the family and be "something that (members) can look forward to instead of something they feel obligated to do."

"It's a volunteer organization," he said. "They don't have to be there. And so I don't want to try to guilt people into participating. I don't want it to be that way, you know, try to pressure people into it because that's going to be short-term, doesn't work very well."

Speers retired in February at age 55 after 32 years at Entergy, so his background is in electrical engineering at a large company. He says the organization, composed largely of civil engineers working for consulting firms, should reach out to engineers in other walks of life – to electrical engineers, for example, and to engineers employed by different kinds of companies or working independently. At Entergy, he said it could be difficult finding electrical engineers for open positions. ASPE could be a useful networking tool for companies like that.

At first glance, Speers might appear an unlikely engineering candidate. He is the first person in his family to go to college and had no background in engineering. His family worked in construction and logging, and his dad poured concrete. He was better in English than he was in math.

"When I was growing up, I didn't even know what an engineer was. ... In high school, one of the boys was talking about his uncle, and talking about how much money he made as an engineer. Well, we all thought that was the guy that drove the trains," he said.

He started college by studying pre-dentistry at the University of Central Arkansas, but his interests were turned toward engineering – the design kind, not the train-driving kind – by discussions with his physics instructor about subjects that interested him, particularly energy efficiency. Eventually, he decided to major in electrical engineering, which meant transferring to Arkansas Tech University.



He earned a master's in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas.

Why electrical? "I think it was just because I didn't know anything about it. I wanted to learn about it," he said.

He compares electricity to his Christian faith. While mankind understands what electricity can do, no one really understands exactly how it works.

"Some people say if I can't see it, smell it, taste it, I don't believe it," he said. "Well, one of the examples I would use is like an electrical field or magnetic field. You can't see it, smell it, taste it – you just see the evidence of it, and unless it's changed, at the time, nobody really understood where that came from. ...

"I accept that I don't understand everything about electricity, for example. I'm OK with that. That doesn't make it less true. Just because I don't understand it all, that doesn't mean that it's less true, and I kind of think of that with faith, too."

After graduating with his bachelor's degree, he took a job at an electrical con-

tracting company but stayed only seven or eight months before moving to what then was Arkansas Power & Light and is now Entergy.

### A career at Entergy

He spent the majority of his 32 years there working with large industrial and commercial customers on energy efficiency and power quality issues, becoming certified in both and in green building engineering. He enjoyed both roles, though he noticed that firms tended to emphasize one or the other. In hard times, they focused on energy efficiency to try to eke out savings where they could. In good times, they focused on power quality to be sure they could keep producing at all times.

"With all the electronics, you've got equipment that you don't even see the lights blink, and it will cause equipment to shut down sometimes, or things can happen," he said. "And so power quality can be pretty complex."

About four or five years ago, he became the company's southwest region engineering supervisor, which put him in charge of electrical distribution and the management of 21 employees plus contractors working from Hot Springs to El Dorado.

Speers retired in February, but he's staying busy. He and his wife, Judy, have three children whom they homeschooled. The youngest, Whitney, 17, is still at home, and he's helping her prepare to take her ACT test. The others are Valerie, 24, who is working on her master's degree in counseling at John Brown University, and Candace, 22, who also is in college and studying to teach computer science classes. She recently was married. He's always been a hunter, and now he has more time for his growing interest in raised bed gardening. The family just bought kayaks.

"The good thing is that I'm getting to do more of what I want to do and less of what I have to do," he said.



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**MAKING HIS CASE.**

Matt Crafton, P.E., president and chief executive officer of Crafton Tull, left, testifies against Senate Bill 521 by Sen. Jimmy Hickey, R-Texas, right. The bill would have required price to be at least 30 percent of the weight of evaluation in requests for proposals. The ACEC/A believed the bill would weaken qualifications-based selection.



# Session ends, but what now?

Ultimate results won't be known until tax task force reports, voters decide

By Steve Brawner  
Editor

For engineers, potentially the two most important pieces of legislation to come out of this year's legislative session still await further action – in one case, by voters, and in the other, by legislators.

The first proposes a constitutional amendment to limit lawsuit awards that will be considered by voters in November 2018. The second created a task force to recommend changes to the state's tax code before 2019.

The tort reform proposal by Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View, would limit punitive damages in civil lawsuits to the greater of \$500,000 or three times the compensatory damages awarded in the case. However, no limits would be

involved when the harm is caused intentionally. Noneconomic damages also would be limited to \$500,000. The Legislature would be empowered to increase both of those amounts with a two-thirds vote. Lawyers' contingency fees would be limited to one-third of the judgment.

The amendment, which must be approved by voters in the November 2018 election, is supported by powerful groups, including the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and groups representing health care providers. They say passage would reduce the risk of jackpot jury verdicts that raise insurance rates and costs to consumers.

Rep. Andy Davis, R-Little Rock, a professional engineer, said the amendment would allow the Legislature to create certificates of merit, a long-desired goal of engineers where lawsuits don't proceed until an independent, third party engineer says the case has merit.

Opponents include the Arkansas Bar Association, which says the amendment would limit the fundamental right of juries to make decisions in individual cases, and that the low damage awards will not deter bad actors. They say the upfront costs of lawsuits can be daunting with no guarantee of a payout, so capping attorneys' fees will make it harder for average Arkansans to find a lawyer willing to represent their case. On June 16, the Bar's House of Delegates was scheduled to vote on whether or not to collect signatures for a competing proposal that would ban lawsuit award limits.

## Taxes and highways

Engineers also will be monitoring the Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force that is considering changes to the tax code, the general idea being to lower rates in part by eliminating deductions. Its findings will be used to create a leg-



# ACEC/A: 2,300 man-hours, mostly volunteer

The ACEC/A's Government Affairs Committee worked more than 2,300 man-hours, nearly two-thirds of them volunteer, while actively tracking more than 50 bills affecting the engineering profession during this year's General Assembly of the Arkansas Legislature.

The committee reviewed bills daily and testified or was present to testify at more than a dozen legislative committee meetings. Government Affairs Committee members received daily updates. Bills identified as those of interest were reviewed by the entire committee, with the ACEC/A Board of Directors making the final decisions on the Council's positions. Executive Director Angie Cooper issued several calls for action, and ACEC/A members responded.

Fifteen individuals were active at one time or another and at least two or three, including Cooper, were present at the session every day. Some committee meetings occurred late in the evening, and members had to be ready for a bill affecting engineers to be slipped into a meeting's agenda.

In the end, engineers were largely successful in defending their positions, most notably regarding bills weakening qualifications-based selection and licensing.



**BYRON HICKS, P.E.**, chairman and CEO of McClelland Consulting Engineers, testifies against Senate Bill 521.

islative package to be considered by the 2019 General Assembly.

It's called the Tax Reform and Relief Legislative Task Force because significant "relief" will only occur if accompanied by significant "reform." However, each deduction will have its own defenders, so many battles remain to be fought.

Under the best-case scenario, the task force's work will result in a fairer, flatter tax code that reduces taxes and the cost of compliance. A simpler tax code and lower taxes could remove some of the brakes hindering the state's growth. As the task force's chairman, Sen. Jim Hendren, R-Gravette, said, "Economic development spurs work for engineers."

Hendren, an electrical engineer, said the task force also could address another issue of critical importance to engineers – highway funding.

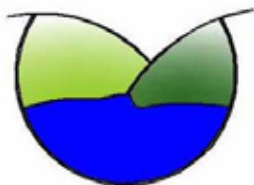
Once again, legislators failed to pass a mechanism to increase money for highways. Rep. Dan Douglas, R-Bentonville, proposed legislation that would have asked voters to approve a 20-year bond

issue funded by a 6.5-cent wholesale fuel tax, but it never came close to passing the House. Douglas in 2015 had tried to transfer to highways the revenues from the sales taxes paid for vehicles and vehicle parts. It failed amidst strong opposition from other interests funded by those dollars.

The problem is not new. The primary means of funding highways, the fuel tax, has not been raised in Arkansas since 2001 and at the federal level since 1993,

though Arkansas voters did approve an interstate bond issue in 2011 and a half-cent sales tax for highways in 2012. Both fell far short of the need. Fuel taxes have not kept up with overall inflation or the specific cost of road construction, and as vehicles have become more fuel efficient, the government is collecting fewer taxes per mile driven. And at the same time roads are becoming more expensive to fix with less available money, they also are

*Continued on next page*



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becoming more congested.

According to Davis, Douglas' latest proposal didn't have much support from legislators from the beginning.

"This proposal didn't even keep up with the rate of inflation on the highway construction costs, and that's one reason why a lot of legislators didn't support it was because they knew five years down the road they were going to be dealing with it again," he said. "So the Legislature really wants to address the underlying problems of the funding not keeping up with costs."

Davis said another reason legislators voted against Douglas' bill was because they were waiting to see what would come from the Tax Relief and Reform Task Force. Hendren said the task force could address the state's highway funding needs. He doesn't expect it to propose major alternative highway funding mechanisms. However, it will consider changes to make the "revenue track closer to demand," perhaps through indexing highway-related revenues to inflation.

"If we have a need that we know is going to grow as the state grows and as more people move in, we need to make sure that we have the funding of that tied to a revenue stream that grows," he said.

Hendren said extra revenues for highways likely would be offset by decreased revenues elsewhere.

"I can't see us looking at proposals that are going to be tax increases," he said.

Davis said a group of legislators are meeting informally to consider transportation funding alternatives based on two guiding principles – highways should be funded by their users, and increased funding for highways should be virtually "revenue neutral," meaning it is offset by tax cuts elsewhere. He said there's a "75 percent probability" the Legislature will enact increased highway funding in 2019, probably through a mix of revenue transfers like those in Douglas' 2015 bill, wholesale sales taxes, and consumption tax increases.



**Davis**



**DAN WILLIAMS, P.E., Garver president and chief executive officer, testifies against Senate Bill 521.**

However, that could change if voters act before then. The Arkansas Highway Commission in June voted to pursue a voter-initiated act that would raise up to \$400 million annually for highways. Supporters would have to raise money, collect 67,887 signatures, and then convince voters to say yes in 2018.

Davis said such an action would be premature until the work of the tax task force is completed. But he acknowledged that highway advocates are frustrated.

"I would say if the tax task force can't adequately address reform and highway funding at the same time, then all bets are off," he said.

### **Procurement, licensure bills**

Meanwhile, engineers and their allies successfully opposed a bill that would have allowed price to be considered when government agencies and higher education institutions make requests for qualifications for solicited professional work. Under Senate Bill 521 by Sen. Jimmy Hickey, R-Texarkana, price would have been at least 30 percent of the weight of evaluation. Under the state's current law, price is not considered until the negotiation process. Design professionals opposed the bill and defended the qualifications-based selection process. They argued that using price as a bid spec would lead to work done by the lowest bidder, potentially endangering public health and safety. The bill died in

the House State Agencies and Government Affairs Committee.

Davis said there is general agreement that the state's procurement processes need further study. The issue was referred to the Arkansas Legislative Council Review Subcommittee for further consideration. He said engineers should continue to monitor the issue and be prepared to make the case for qualifications-based selection.

Meanwhile, a bill that would have enabled individuals in certain occupations to challenge reg-

ulations failed to advance past a House committee. Under House Bill 1551 by Rep. Richard Womack, R-Arkadelphia, private individuals would have had the "right to engage in a lawful occupation." They could have challenged unreasonable and overly restrictive regulations at their own expense in a judicial or administrative proceeding. Womack said the bill would not have repealed any licensure standards. But design professionals, including engineers, argued that it would have made it easier for unlicensed individuals to engage in activities best done by licensed personnel.

Rep. Jack Ladyman, R-Jonesboro, a mechanical engineer, said he expects the issue to continue to arise as the Legislature seeks to eliminate regulations and costs. Some say Arkansas has excessive licensing requirements compared to other states. Each time the issue is discussed, engineers could be affected.

"These bills have had difficulty getting passed," he said. "I don't know whether that's going to change or not. ... I think the subject will keep coming up, yes."

Engineers also successfully opposed Senate Bill 332 by Hendren, which instructed government agencies to consider all acceptable piping material when determining project requirements. It also would have required requests for qualifications to allow for the use of any acceptable material meeting the project's specifications. The bill's language did not



mandate a particular piping material, but the engineering community opposed it out of concerns that it could lead to bureaucratic intrusion into professional engineering decisions.

Other legislation of interest to engineers included Act 627 by Rep. Ken Bragg, R-Sheridan, which legalizes design-build projects in municipal sewage projects of at least \$2 million. Act 170 by Rep. Jeff Williams, R-Springdale, allows cities and towns to accept competitive bids in an electronic format. Act 813 by Sen. David Sanders, R-Little Rock, and Rep. Warwick Sabin, D-Little Rock, created a mechanism for public-private partnerships for public projects. Act 1056 by Sen. Alan Clark, R-Lonsdale, created a Water Provider Legislative Task Force to create plans to enhance water security and development.

Rep. Tim Lemons, R-Cabot, a professional engineer, said more engineers are needed in the Legislature. In 2015, engineers considered creating their own caucus but fell short of the 10 required to do so.

"An engineer, the way that they look at things, they do a cost-benefit analysis on just about everything they do in life," he said. "They look at things very analytically. They're not as prone to let politics get involved, or special interests to get involved as some other professions. ... I think we just bring a perspective to legislation to where we use a lot of common sense."

## Westerman: Privatize air traffic

Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., this year sits on committees dealing with health care reform, the federal budget, and a possible effort to privatize the nation's air traffic control system.



Westerman

The state's only congressional representative with a P.E. license, and one of the few in Congress, serves on some of the most relevant committees for engineers. Those include the 36-member House Budget Committee, where he and Rep. Steve Womack, R-Ark., voted to advance the American Health Care Act, the House version of health care reform. Westerman also serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with Rep. Rick Crawford, R-Ark.

Westerman again was assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources. With that committee, he is vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Federal Lands and is a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

The House Transportation Committee could have special importance this

year. President Trump has promised a \$1 trillion infrastructure package, though he has released few details.

Aviation could be particularly interesting. The FAA's authorization expires in September and will have to be renewed. Trump has called for privatizing the nation's air traffic control system so that it would be managed by an independent nonprofit and funded by users.

Westerman said the committee's chairman, Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Penn., is passionate about modernizing the system. Shuster invited Westerman and Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to Ottawa, where they studied Canada's system, which was privatized in 1996. They also toured the control tower at Reagan National Airport.

"We're probably 30 or 40 years behind the Canadians in technology, and if we can get a better air traffic control system, we can get more efficient use of the airspace," Westerman said in an interview. "It makes it safer. Plus you can utilize your takeoffs and landings much better. Airline passengers, we spend a lot of time holding and waiting for a queue in air traffic control, so if you can better utilize the airspace, you're going to cut down people's travel time. Plus you're going to save all that fuel costs from flying around just because you can't get a landing space."



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**Founder serves small firms after working for big ones**

Allen Engstrom worked for big companies until he decided he wanted to work with small companies, and he always knew he wanted to come home.

Engstrom in 2005 started CFO Network, a North Little Rock-based firm and ACEC/A Affiliate member that provides internal accounting services from bookkeeping to the duties of a chief financial officer.

CFO Network handles what Engstrom calls internal accounting – not taxes but bookkeeping, budgeting, bill paying, payroll, mergers, acquisitions, selling a firm, transitioning ownership, data analysis, etc. The company currently has 37 employees, about two-thirds of them accountants, and about 400 clients.

He said CFO Network understands engineering companies and other professional services providers and is a better alternative for many small and medium-sized firms than hiring, for example, a single bookkeeper.

“The bottom line is, we take worrying about your accounting and your books off the table,” he said. We help you guys focus on what you do best, which is engineering.”



**ALLEN ENGSTROM** grew up in Little Rock and then worked for Maersk, Motorola and Intel Capital before starting CFO Network.

Engstrom, 46, started CFO Network after previously working for Intel Capital. The venture capital division of the

huge technology firm managed acquisitions and private equity investments and partnered with small technology startups with 1-100 employees and zero to \$50 million in revenues.

“That’s where I just kind of got a window seat into these startup companies, and I just saw all the awesome stuff they were doing with limited resources,” he said.

Engstrom, the grandson of civil engineer Harold Engstrom, grew up in Little Rock and always wanted to come home despite a path that took him across the globe working for some of the world’s biggest companies. After graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder, he worked in logistics for Maersk, the huge transport and logistics company, in Boulder and Tokyo. He then worked for Motorola as a financial analyst in Austin, Texas, before taking the job with Intel. He earned an MBA at the University of Texas at Austin.

“I always knew I wanted to own my own business, and I always knew I wanted to come back to Arkansas, so it was just a matter of time,” he said from a temporary office while his was being remodeled. “(The year) 2005 seemed like the right time. We were having kids and thought it was now or never.”

## BancorpSouth offers business insurance

**ACEC business trust program covers more than 900 firms**

BancorpSouth Insurance Services is now an authorized sub producer in Arkansas with direct access to the ACEC Business Insurance Trust (BIT) program, which covers more than 900 engineering firms nationwide.

Contact Ken Estes, senior vice president of BancorpSouth Insurance Services, at 501.614.1572 for quotes.

The BIT ([www.acecbit.com](http://www.acecbit.com)) provides opportunities not typically available in the local insurance marketplace. Underwritten by The Hartford insurance company since 1983, ACEC members



**Estes**

data breach; and drone coverage.

ACEC BIT members also have access to exclusive offers including insurance royalty sharing and reimbursements of up to \$1,000 per claim for deductibles

have access to proprietary policy forms for the following coverages: property/general liability; workers’ compensation; commercial auto; umbrella liability; management liability; cyber-

for property and automobile losses. The BIT also pays on the clients’ behalf \$150 annually toward the ACEC Coalition for the Small Firm Council, the Council of American Structural Engineers, the Council of Professional Surveyors, the Council of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, or the Land Development Coalition. The BIT also shares part of its royalties with ACEC’s state and national organizations.

The BIT’s trustees are all engineers and business owners. The program is administered in partnership with Marsh Sponsored Programs. There are no hidden fees, and the coverage can be tailored to meet the member firms’ needs.



## New Water Systems adds two product lines

New Water Systems has welcomed two new product lines, Tank Connection and Glasco UV.

Tank Connection manufactures the number one bolted storage tank available worldwide, according to New Water Systems. Its LIQ Fusion 7000 FBE™ coating system is stronger than porcelain enamel (glass) and is superior to all field-applied storage tank coating systems. Its product lines cover everything from municipal water, fire protection, anaerobic digesters, and elevated water storage tanks. Tank Connection's APEX aluminum dome line is a geodesic design available for any odor control or cover application.

For more than 50 years, Glasco UV has been delivering state-of-the-art UV light technology equipment from its New Jersey – USA manufacturing facility. Its product line consists of many applications including horizontal, vertical, flow-through, chambered, and non-contact UV for wastewater disinfection. New installations currently are under construction in Arkansas.

In other news from New Water Systems, Calvin Reynolds, an outside sales professional with New Water Systems, has been appointed chair of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment

Association's Young Professionals Committee.

For more information about New Water Systems' offerings, contact the company at 501.888.0500 or go to [www.newwatersystems.com](http://www.newwatersystems.com).



Reynolds

## McFadden moves to ICM chairman; Bell is new CEO



McFadden

Bruce McFadden, founder of ICM, is beginning his first phase of retirement and has moved to chairman of the board. He has selected Harry Bell to replace him as CEO.

The ICM employee stock ownership plan is being scheduled to start the phased purchase of Bruce and wife Anita's stock.

The board now consists of Bruce and Anita McFadden, Bell, CFO Mark Campbell, and the company's first outside di-

rector, Jerry Burchfield, a Little Rock accountant and family friend since the early 1970s.

One more outside director might be added soon. Anyone interested can contact McFadden at 501.912.7715 or at [bruce@icminc.us](mailto:bruce@icminc.us).

## Van Horn awarded for Ouachita plant improvements

Van Horn Construction has completed a \$2.8 million improvement project for the Hot Springs Ouachita Water Treatment Plant.

The project's goal was to increase the plant basin capacity from eight to 16 million gallons per day and furnish the city of Hot Springs with its first fluoride treatment system. The project consisted of a fluoridation system, flocculation sedimentation basins, and rapid mix effluent control additions to the existing facility.

The project was completed significantly under budget and within the time frames specified by the owner, all while keeping the city constantly supplied with water with no forced outages.

The project received an Excellence in Construction Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors Arkansas Chapter in the Public Works/Environment Over \$1 Million category.



The Tritan™ BFP, shown here at Stigler, Okla. 0.720 MGD Sequox®



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501.888.0500 / [www.newwatersystems.com](http://www.newwatersystems.com)

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