

July 2018

Arkansas  
Professional

# ENGINEER

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

## 'Engineering was a huge part of his life.'

Garver's Aaron Stallmann, P.E., is the 2018 ASPE Engineer of the Year.



Plus, a tribute to Carl Yates, P.E.



# A new year begins with old challenges

Spring is the season for new beginnings, but for ACEC/A and ASPE, summer is the time for a new birth.

That's when our fiscal year ends and the new year begins with new officers, new committee assignments, and old challenges.

For ASPE, the "transfer of power" has already occurred at the ASPE Annual Conference, when Paul Speers, P.E., who is retired from Entergy Arkansas, "passed the gavel" to Fred Harper, P.E., of Michael Baker International. The next time you read this magazine, Fred's face will accompany the president's column.

For ACEC/A, new officers are sworn in at the Deep South Convention, which will be July 26-28 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Florida. The convention is one of the year's highlights, offering a chance to see old friends in a beautiful resort. There, Byron Hicks, P.E., of McClelland Consulting Engineers will assume the presidency. Mike Burns, P.E., of Crafton Tull will become what is jokingly known as the most coveted leadership post in any volunteer organization: past president.

That convention is one of the highlights of the year. By the time you read this, it will be about three weeks away – perhaps too late for you to attend this year. However, there's always next year: July 11-13 in the same location.



**Angie W. Cooper**  
Executive Director

Fred and Byron will have the most visible jobs in our two associations, but we'll need leaders – and committed followers – everywhere. That's because the challenges that existed in fiscal year 2018 will still exist in 2019 and beyond.

## A challenge to QBS

One of those challenges is protecting qualifications-based selection. Many legislators believe the state's current procurement process is broken and doesn't emphasize costs enough. We agree that government should be as efficient as possible with the taxpayers' money, but it should not sacrifice public safety. Qualifications-based selection provides the best bang for the buck, ensuring the most qualified firm wins the job while also ensuring value if the agency and the firm can't negotiate a fair price.

So far, so good. A consulting firm hired by legislators has written a draft report that is favorable to engineers. But that report will only serve as a guide for legislators, and we must remain vigilant lest something slip through the chaos that will occur when the Legislature meets next January.

## A challenge to licensure

Legislators also are studying relaxing the state's licensure requirements. There are legitimate concerns that some professions face too much red tape. For example, a cosmetologist must complete 1,500 training hours in order to be licensed. With all due respect to that profession, hair will grow back after a bad haircut. Engineers make life and death decisions. The chairs of the task force studying the issue have indicated engineers are safe, but again, vigilance is required.

We'll be at the Capitol throughout the legislative process. Meanwhile, at both the state and national levels, we'll support pro-engineering, pro-business, pro-infrastructure candidates.

But to make that happen, we need your help. The more voices we have, the louder we become, and the harder we are to ignore. So get active in our organizations, and invite others to do the same. In this new year, let's overcome old challenges by working together.

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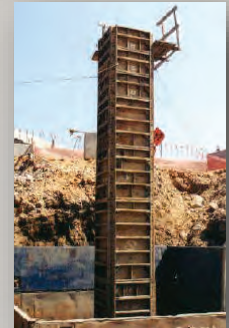
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# Arkansas Professional

# ENGINEER

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**18** The late Aaron Stallmann, P.E., Garver's Arkansas Water Team leader, is the 2018 ASPE Engineer of the Year. His widow, Jayme Stallmann, accepted his award on his behalf at the Annual Conference in Hot Springs.

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His career was marked by integrity, he made Arkansas a better place, and he always had fun. Look back on his engineering life with this article by Brad Hammond, P.E., his nephew and now the team leader of Olsson Associates' McGoodwin, Williams & Yates office in Fayetteville.

### 18 **Cover / Stallmann is ASPE Engineer of the Year**

Aaron Stallman, P.E., Eagle Scout, dad, and youth baseball coach, led Garver's Arkansas Water Team. Although his life ended far too soon, he built a lasting legacy inside and outside of engineering.

### 20 **Report backs state's QBS process**

A report by a legislative consultant regarding the state's procurement laws recommends against changes that could affect qualifications-based selection, but engineers must remain vigilant when the Legislature meets next year.

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And engineering firms need all 10 – even if they don't have that many engineers, said Rick Geraci, P.E., FACEC, vice president and senior project manager of Brown Engineers.

### 22 **Spotlight / Bridgefarmer & Associates**

Bridgefarmer won the 2017 Grand Conceptor Award with its Big Rock Interchange and is helping expand I-630 and also I-30 past Benton.





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# Toward Zero Deaths: Emergency Services

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of ACEC/A's fiscal year. It has been a very busy year! We held our first ACEC Arkansas Industry Update at ARDOT; saw a record number of entries for the Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the Governor's Mansion; met a group of impressive engineers through the Emerging Leaders program; and continued to champion efforts to protect qualifications-based selection.



**Mike Burns, P.E.**  
**ACEC/A President**

On that last issue, the draft report prepared by the Legislature's consultant has been written, and it recommends few changes to engineering procurement. Thank you to all member firms that voluntarily contributed funds to monitor the process. Nevertheless, it is imperative that we remain vigilant throughout the next legislative session to head off the possibility of any future challenges to QBS.

When I was named ACEC/A president and was told I would be writing a column for this publication, I knew I wanted to focus on promoting the goals of the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program. My previous entries explored the first three steps outlined when the Arkansas State Police, Arkansas Department of Health, and ARDOT updated the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). We discussed **education, enforcement, and engineering**.

The final step is **emergency services/public policy**. Just as we aim to influence policy that affects QBS, we have the ability to support state laws that could reduce the number of distracted driving deaths in Arkansas. The SHSP offers several ideas on how best to accomplish this. As engineers, the most meaningful con-

tribution we can make is to support legislation focusing on road safety programs. By helping law enforcement and public officials determine where safety assessments are most needed, we can help drastically reduce fatalities in known high-risk locations.

My last official meeting as president will be at the Deep South Regional Conference in Destin, Florida, July 26-28. This is a fun, family-friendly event, and many attendees

bring their families for an extended stay. I hope to see you there!

Byron Hicks, P.E., from McClelland Consulting Engineers is the president-elect and will assume the presidency of ACEC/A at the Deep South meeting. Please show your support for Byron and the board if you are asked to serve in the coming year.

I wish to thank our executive director, Angie Cooper, for all her hard work for ACEC/A. I would also like to thank the existing board and previous board members I have worked with over the last six years. It has been a very rewarding experience, and I have learned many new things. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a part of ACEC/A.

I will end this column as I have ended my previous columns. The mission of the ACEC is to be the voice of the engineering industry through government advocacy, political action, and business education. By including proven measures to protect citizens, we put a voice to the importance of our industry.

For more information about Toward Zero Deaths, visit [tzdarkansas.org](http://tzdarkansas.org). The goal for every individual, every family, and every community should be zero deaths on Arkansas roads.

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# Teleporting isn't an option, but these are

Well, my time as ASPE president is coming to the end. Thankfully, the organization didn't collapse. Although good things are happening, everything I hoped for didn't get accomplished.

For example, I'd like to have doubled ASPE membership. That may sound crazy, but consider that we currently have three ASPE chapters: the Northwest chapter, Hot Springs, and Little Rock. These generally reach only people within driving distance for lunch meetings, which means most parts of the state don't have access. Russellville, for example, is in the middle of these three sites but too far from any one site for ASPE members to attend. El Dorado has industries with engineers, but they would have to drive to Little Rock or Hot Springs for chapter meetings. That's over four hours round trip! There are no chapters in east Arkansas, which includes cities like Jonesboro. It's a long drive from Jonesboro to Little Rock.

What if we could give those members access to meetings, learning opportunities, networking, etc., without developing and maintaining a separate chapter? It would be great if people could teleport, but that's not an option ... yet. Another option that's nearly as good is remote attendance. If that were the case, engineers in one of these cities could gather and attend one of the other meetings without the work of having officers, planning speakers and such. They could start small and then grow.

Even if remote attendance were an option, those engineers still won't participate in chapter activities if they are not aware of the opportunities. NSPE's new membership model will better inform engineers of what our society can do for them. With NSPE having consistent policies across the various states, the NSPE website can be made more useful to potential members.



**Paul Speers, P.E.**  
**ASPE President**

I'm hopeful NSPE will leverage resources and do a much better job of marketing with this new model.

Another positive has been improvements in the annual ASPE Conference. I've heard several good comments on this year's location at the Hot Springs Convention Center the last couple of years. The meeting environment has improved.

We have added little things to try to make it more fun. Of course, it's always a challenge to get speakers that appeal to everyone, so we've tried to create a mix. If you know any speakers who would have a wide appeal, please tell someone on the board. By increasing the number of attendees, we could justify having several speakers present in concurrent sessions, and letting people choose the session that best suits their needs and interests. Naturally, having more attendees spreads costs around, potentially reducing the costs each attendee pays. And now we are back to the importance of attracting more members.

Russellville and Jonesboro were mentioned earlier. Both cities have universities with accredited engineering programs. We have one student chapter at the University of Arkansas that is currently inactive. What if universities began telling engineering students about the ASPE's importance to the profession? Getting students involved with the engineering society early would surely increase membership.

Hopefully we can show engineering students the value of being in NSPE/ASPE. We also should continue pursuing technology to improve access to ASPE for engineers across Arkansas. Although we are busy with the daily requirements of life, I'm optimistic we can develop these opportunities that will benefit engineers throughout the state, our society, and the engineering profession.

## In the News

### Garver improves to 146th on ENR's Top Firms list

Garver's continued focus on providing a variety of services while strategically expanding into new markets was reflected in this year's Engineering News-Record's Top 500 Design Firms ranking. Garver is No. 146 this year, its highest showing and an improvement of 20 spots from last year on the prestigious list based on revenue for design services completed in 2017.

In 2017, Garver continued its expansion, including the acquisition of Wichita, Kansas-based firm Ruggles & Bohn, and the opening of a San Antonio, Texas office, among others in the state. Garver now boasts 500 employees providing aviation, construction, facilities design, federal, power, transportation, survey, and water services from 24 offices in 10 states.

### Dollerschell to be Garver's state Water Team Leader

Garver has named Joe Dollerschell, P.E., as its Arkansas Water Team Leader, and from the firm's Fayetteville office he will concentrate on providing water and wastewater infrastructure

improvements to all corners of the state.

Dollerschell has more than three decades of experience as a civil and environmental engineer. He has managed multi-million dollar projects involving water distribution and treatment facilities, pump stations, storm and sanitary sewers, wastewater treatment facilities, and biosolids handling facilities.

In his new role, Dollerschell will be in charge of a diverse team of engineers, designers, and technicians who will deliver water system improvements for Arkansas clients. He will work with Garver's Fayetteville-based Water Design Center, which has formed a strategic relationship with the University of Arkansas College of Engineering that has led to admission into the National Science Foundation's Membrane, Science, Engineering and Technology Program.



**Dollerschell**

### Garver to lead Southwest Trail project design

Garver is providing preliminary design services for the Southwest Trail project, an approximately 60-mile multi-use trail that will stretch between Hot Springs and Little Rock. The trail project, which will cross through Pulaski, Garland, and Saline counties, includes one of the state's oldest bridges.

When complete, it will be one of the state's premier recreational trails, connecting Hot Springs National Park with Little Rock and central Arkansas. Travelers will be greeted by trailhead identifications, mile markers, maps to chart progress, and information kiosks. As part of preliminary design, Garver will chart the trails' course, which will include the Old River Bridge, which opened in 1891 to provide a crossing over the Saline River. Garver is also conducting an environmental assessment as the first step of the project.

"Garver is committed to providing our communities with unique and exciting recreational opportunities," said Garver Director of Federal Services Wallace Smith. "This new trail will provide all within central Arkansas an accessible and top-of-the-line trail with access to some of the state's most recognizable landmarks."



**Smith**

### MWY Batesville biofilm wastewater project honored

Batesville's new moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR) wastewater treatment system continues to receive recognition for its innovative design and technology.

*In the News is continued on page 10*

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## In the News (Cont'd)

Recently, the city of Batesville received an Arkansas Business Trendsetter City award for the impact the wastewater treatment system has on the environment. The project has been honored by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Green Project, received top peer honors from the ACEC/A, and has won several awards for environmental stewardship.

The project was designed and engineered by McGoodwin Williams & Yates, a division of Olsson Associates.

The treatment system was the first in Arkansas to use MBBR technology, and it is the largest MBBR system following lagoon treatment with the largest micro-bubble dissolved air flotation system in the United States. MBBR technology delivers a flexible, cost-effective, easy-to-operate system that lends itself to a rapid means of expansion as needed.

Not only did the project improve the capacity of the treatment facility, but engineers also reduced energy costs by taking advantage of the natural landscape. The new system needs about a third of the energy of the former system, which translates into a \$90,000 savings annually.

With the new system, wastewater undergoes treatment through an organic process by applying aerated water and bacteria to help remove toxins from the water. In fact, the plant's discharge water comes out cleaner than the White River.

"The technology used in Batesville's wastewater treatment system helps

purify millions of gallons of water that is returned to the White River each day," said Brad Hammond, P.E., leader of the Fayetteville water/wastewater team. "We designed the project to have a lasting impact on the ecosystems within the river, and it will benefit thousands of species for years to come."

MWY and Batesville city engineers designed the system to accommodate a near-instantaneous expansion of treatment capacity from 9 to 10.8 million gallons a day with the simple addition of carrier media to the MBBR basin.

Read more about the project at [www.cityofbatesville.com](http://www.cityofbatesville.com).

## MWY Olsson team adds two EIs

Alan S. Caster, Jr., E.I., and Andrew Stengel, E.I., were recently brought on board the MWY Olsson team as engineering interns. Both attended the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.



**Caster**

Caster graduated in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Though a recent graduate, Caster brings nearly 20 years of experience as a seasoned surveyor and project manager after having worked in that industry since 1999, including working his family's engineering and survey business before returning to school to attain his degree in civil engineering.

Stengel is on track to graduate in May 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Among other scholastic awards, Stengel was a UA Chancellor's Scholar. During his education he gained experience as an intern with the Arkansas Department of Transportation and as an active member of the College of Engineering's structural materials lab team.



**Stengel**



**Vaught**



**DeGarmo**

## Vaught, DeGarmo join FTN staff

FTN Associates, Ltd. recently has hired two new staff members at its Fayetteville and Little Rock offices.

Melissa Vaught joined the firm as an environmental engineer at the Fayetteville branch office.

She graduated from Fayetteville High School and has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She has been an environmental consultant since 2005. She lives in Fayetteville with her husband, Chris, and four-year-old son, Carsten.

Chris DeGarmo is FTN's newest field geologist and works out of FTN's headquarters in Little Rock. He has a Bachelor of Science in Geology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and an associate of science from Pulaski Technical College in Little Rock. You might see DeGarmo when you are in Arkansas' great outdoors. He loves climbing, hiking, canoeing, and trail running.



**Hammond**

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## Zoo roundabout wins Project of Year Award for MCE

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc. (MCE) recently won a state American Public Works Association Award for Public Works Project of the Year for the Zoo Drive Roundabout project.

The roundabout is located at the intersection of Fair Park Boulevard and Zoo Drive, just north of the intersection of Interstate 630 and Fair Park Boulevard in Little Rock.

Because of the high traffic volume and the proximity of the project site to the Little Rock Zoo, War Memorial Stadium, UAMS, and UA-Little Rock, maintenance of traffic and construction staging was crucial for this project. Engineers had to carefully plan the construction phasing to accommodate or detour daily traffic as well as traffic for events at the stadium and the zoo.

AutoTURN, a state-of-the-art CAD software program, simulated truck turning movements to justify the design layout. As a result, the completed roadway is suitable even for semi-trailer trucks. MCE also designed 10-inch sidewalks around the exterior. The design plans included topographic survey, typical sections, plan and profile sheets, cross-section sheets, drainage design, traffic maintenance, detour plans, signage and striping (which includes bike lanes), lighting and electrical design, and erosion control.

Utility coordination was also a vital component of the design phase. MCE

worked closely with the city of Little Rock and utility companies/agencies to ensure relocations were completed in a timely process and to avoid utility grade conflicts. Public meetings were held during the design phase to gain input from citizens and stakeholders.

Maneesh Krishnan, P.E., senior associate and assistant transportation department manager, led the project.

## Krishnan now MCE assistant transport department manager

Maneesh Krishnan, P.E., McClelland Consulting Engineers senior associate, recently was promoted to assistant transportation department manager.

Krishnan joined the firm in 2007 and has primarily worked on roadway and intersection design. He has substantial experience in conducting traffic stud-

*Continued on next page*

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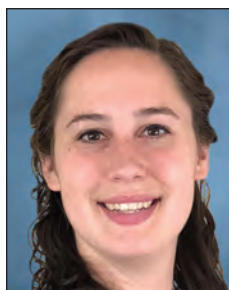
ies, transportation planning, drainage plans, designing roundabouts, pavement design, and signing and pavement marking.

“Maneesh consistently demonstrates a high level of professionalism in his work. To this end he has earned the respect of both his colleagues and clients,” said Kevin Beaumont, C Eng/MICE, vice president and transportation department head for MCE. “He is an excellent role model for others as he is highly motivated, dependable, and passionate about his work and, also of great importance, he is very personable. I am very confident in his technical knowledge and abilities. This allows me to focus my attention on other business-related matters.”

Krishnan graduated with his Master's of Science in Civil Engineering (traffic/transportation engineering) from the University of Arkansas.



**Krishnan**



**Fox**



**Osweiler**

working on LEED projects. LEED is a rating system devised by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to evaluate the environmental performance of a building and encourage market transformation towards sustainable design.

Osweiler, Fox and Hankins join an international community of more than 201,000 professionals who have earned a LEED credential and are helping projects save energy, use fewer resources, reduce pollution and contribute to healthier environments for their occupants and the community. LEED Green Associates must earn 15 hours of continuing education hours within two years of earning the credential.

“LEED is a green building rating system used around the world and can be used for virtually all project types. LEED offers a framework that design teams can apply to construct healthy, efficient, and cost-saving green buildings” states Nathan Streett, PLA, land development department head at MCE. “MCE has been

active with the USGBC for many years and has provided design and permitting services on numerous LEED-certified projects. We encourage our clients and staff to practice sustainability in their projects by offering green design solutions.”

## MCE's Irby passes HR exam



**Irby**

MCClelland Consulting Engineers' human resources administrator, Angela Irby, has passed the Professional in Human Resources® exam. The PHR demonstrates mastery of the technical and operational aspects of HR management, including U.S. laws and regulations.

Irby has been with MCE since August 2016. Prior to this, she worked in Accounting and HR at Pleasant Valley Country Club.

“I love HR because of the multiple facets involved,” Irby said. “Employment law, recruiting, workplace planning, employee relations, compensation, and benefits – I love it all! I really enjoy being progressive and contributing to changes that improve the work environment and employee satisfaction. In HR, you never stop learning as the workplace evolves and new experience happen.”

“I love HR because of the multiple facets involved,” Irby said. “Employment law, recruiting, workplace planning, employee relations, compensation, and benefits – I love it all! I really enjoy being progressive and contributing to changes that improve the work environment and employee satisfaction. In HR, you never stop learning as the workplace evolves and new experience happen.”

## George, Ward make partner at B&F Engineering

Daniel George, P.E., and Dustin Ward, P.E., have been named partners at B&F Engineering.

The two work as project directors at the Hot Springs-based firm. George was the 2017 ASPE Young Engineer of the Year. Ward was the 2016 ASPE Young Engineer of the Year.

George earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 2009 from the

## Three with MCE earn LEED cred

McClelland Consulting Engineers' Adam Osweiler, P.E., Caroline Fox, E.I., and Edwin Hankins IV, PLA, have earned the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Associate credential.

As a credentialed professional, they each possess knowledge of green building practices and how to support others



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University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He is a native of Hot Springs and graduated from Lakeside High School in 2005.

Ward earned his Bachelor of Science in 2007 and a Master's in Civil Engineering in 2010 from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

"Both Daniel and Dustin have proven themselves to be leaders in our firm," said James Montgomery, president.

B&F is a locally owned consulting firm providing civil engineering, structural engineering and land surveying services since 1972.



Ward



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## Hawkins-Weir's Posey, Morris earn PE licenses

Hawkins-Weir Engineers, Inc.'s Caleb H. Posey, P.E., and Christopher P. Morris, P.E., have earned their professional engineering licenses.



Posey

Posey, headquartered in the firm's Fayetteville office, has assisted with key design services on rural wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater collection systems and equalization facilities, and water distribution systems. He has worked on public sector projects with responsibility for preliminary engineering, cost analysis, final design and construction management.

Posey graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 2013 and joined Hawkins-Weir Engineers in July of that year. In 2015, he traveled abroad and spent two years working on water

*Continued on next page*

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# In the News (Cont'd)



## NSPE Professional Engineers Conference

July 18-22  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## ACEC Deep South Convention & ACEC/A Annual Meeting

July 26-29  
Sandestin, Florida

## ACEC Fall Conference

Oct. 28-31  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## ACEC Agency Forum

Nov. 7  
Little Rock

and wastewater projects for a disaster relief organization before returning to Hawkins-Weir in 2017. He lives in Fayetteville and enjoys hiking, kayaking, camping and climbing.

Morris, headquartered in the firm's Fort Smith office, specializes in structural design and has played a key role on many projects. Morris has assisted with public sector projects with responsi-



Morris

bility for conceptual design, cost analysis, computer modeling utilizing structural analysis software, and construction management.

Morris graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 2013. He joined Hawkins-Weir Engineers in January 2014. He lives near Alma and enjoys cycling, running, and listening to baseball games.



The Pauline Whittaker Parkway Interchange in Rogers.

## Crafton Tull studies Rogers plan for infrastructure

Crafton Tull recently completed a comprehensive infrastructure study for the city of Rogers.

This study assisted the city with planning its next bond issue program and updating its master street and trail plan. The study included a thorough review of previous planning documents, interviews with city departments and other organizations, tabulation of an unconstrained list of potential city infrastructure proj-

ects, and assistance with ranking and prioritization for the next bond issue program. The study included management of a traffic engineering sub-consultant to analyze existing and projected traffic volumes and patterns.

Also included was an update to the city's master street and trail plan with an emphasis on reinstituting a city street grid and connecting isolated neighborhoods to increase the efficiency of traffic flow in the city.

## ACEC Deep South meeting set for Sandestin Resort

Arkansas engineering firms are preparing for the annual ACEC Deep South Convention, which brings together design professionals from four states and also serves as the venue for ACEC/A's annual meeting.

The event will be July 26-28 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Destin, Florida. It will bring together engineers and other design professionals from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Attendees will earn up to 8.5 professional development hours. Among the planned sessions are an update from Steve Hall, ACEC's vice president, government affairs. Chef and author Robert S. John's keynote speech will cover the topic, "Doing Business in the 21st Century South."

Among the other speakers will be conflict resolution consultant Melinda Stallings, who will discuss employee retention. Jeff Echols, managing principal of marketing and sales consultant Revenue Path Group, will discuss how engineers can avoid becoming commoditized. Attorney Nicole Mangino with XL Caitlin Insurance's design professional group will present on "Give Me Your Documents – Ownership in the Digital Age."

ACEC/A will install its officers at its annual meeting at the resort.

Angie Cooper, ACEC/A and ASPE executive director, said the convention has a family atmosphere and is designed to mix business with fun.



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"We schedule it so that people can actually take a vacation with their families," she said. "We're usually finished each day by around lunch time. That gives people afternoons to socialize, and then we get back together in the evening for a reception."

The resort offers accommodations on a 2,400-acre vacation spot with ocean beach access on one side and bay access on the other. Amenities include golf, tennis, and the Village of Baytowne Wharf.

Next year's convention will be July 11-13 at the same location.

## Hastings becomes a partner at Crist Engineers

Chad Hastings, P.E., has been named partner at Crist Engineers.

He joined the firm in 2007 as a staff engineer and has served as an associate since 2015.



**Hastings**

treatment, transmission, and distribution design; permitting; project management; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; and utility operations, maintenance, maintenance planning, and construction management.

In addition to being licensed in Arkansas, he also is licensed as a professional engineer in South Carolina.

Founded in 1938, Crist Engineers, Inc. is one of Arkansas' oldest consulting engineering firms. It offers specialized experience in water treatment and distribution, wastewater collection and treatment, and other engineering services including

Hastings is a registered professional engineer with more than 21 years of experience in the municipal water and wastewater service area. His experience includes water and wastewater

planning and construction management to clients throughout Arkansas and surrounding states.

Hastings joins Stewart Noland, P.E., president; Matt Dunn, P.E., vice president; Les Price, P.E., secretary/treasurer; and Craig Johnson, P.E. as the firm's other partners.

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# Carl Yates an engineering icon

His career was marked by integrity, he made Arkansas a better place, and he always had fun.

By Brad Hammond, P.E.

Contributor

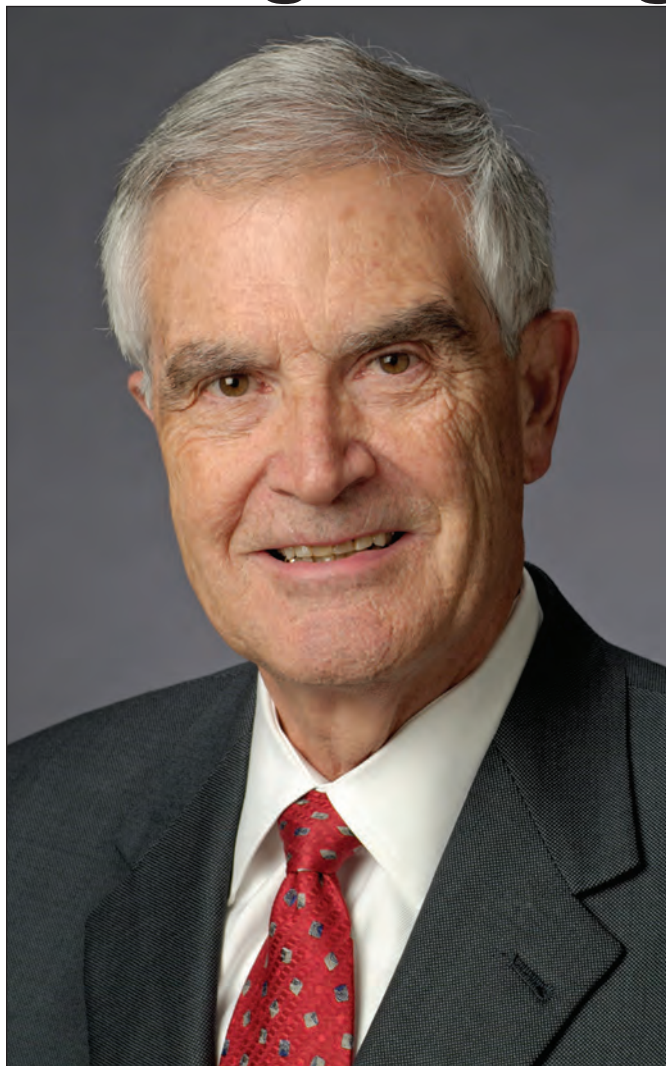
It is no exaggeration to say that Carl Yates was an *icon* in the consulting engineering profession as well as the water and wastewater industry. Carl mentored numerous people over his 62-year career, and many of his proteges moved on to become CEOs of consulting firms and water utilities, mayors, and even Navy admirals. Carl passed away on April 1. But his legacy will carry on through the lives he touched and his many accomplishments.

It all started when he began working for Mr. McGoodwin (L.M. McGoodwin Consulting Engineers) in 1956. Back then, his salary was \$1.50 per hour, which in his words, put him in “tall cotton.” And throughout the decades that followed, he incorporated several important values into his work, and he shaped the engineering industry through those values as well as his leadership.

One value was integrity. Carl would not compromise his integrity, and he knew that trust was a vital part of any relationship – and professional relationships were no exception. In an interview for a story published in Arkansas Professional Engineer in 2016, he said, “I think our clients value honesty above all else.”

Carl’s clients agreed. One client said, “Carl is known not only for his intelligence, but also for his compassion. He has more integrity than any person I’ve ever worked with, and I’ve appreciated the fact that he always shoots it straight; you know where you stand with Carl.”

Carl had a lot of short sayings with deep meanings. One saying was, “We don’t work in a vacuum.” By that he meant we need to listen to everyone and work as a team. That attitude led to large collaborations, exemplified by Carl’s involvement in the formation and development of both the Beaver Water District and the Carroll-Boone Water District – two regional districts that now serve water to almost 400,000 people in north and Northwest Arkansas.



**NOT FORGOTTEN.** Yates, 88, died April 1. He first started working for what became McGoodwin, Williams & Yates in 1956 and became the first Arkansas engineer inducted into the ACEC College of Fellows.

Carl also liked to say, “You have to work with people as you find them.” That meant that in our industry, and really life in general, you meet a lot of different people. You cannot change them, and you shouldn’t try. Not all of them will have your education, background, or views. But in many cases, they will have good ideas and input that will make the project better – and you have to figure out the best way to work with them.

## A love for people

Carl loved to be around people, and everyone who met Carl knew he was genuinely interested in them. This was true both for people in the community, clients, and his “office family” as he referred to those who worked for him.

Carl always said, “You don’t ask; you don’t get.” And it was hard to say no to Carl. As an example, Beth Parnell, a long-time McGoodwin, Williams & Yates employee, shared this anecdote that took place back when she was answering the company phones years ago. At the time Drake Field was the major airport in the area with a few major airlines serving it with smaller planes. “One morning Carl came dashing out of his office, and as he passed my desk he said, ‘Call the airport and have them hold my plane!’ and he was out the door.” It was within a couple of minutes before the flight was due to take off! Beth dutifully called Drake Field and gave them his name and flight number and asked if they could hold the plane – he was on his way. Whomever

she contacted laughed at her and said they would pass the message along. “I expected to see him coming back through the door. But the day went on and after lunch he called in. He was in Little Rock. They had held the plane.”

What did Beth learn from this experience? “Always have high expectations. And NEVER underestimate Carl Yates.”

Carl taught his engineers to be *advocates*. He didn’t sit on the sideline and let others do the work. He taught us to get involved and make a difference even if it didn’t directly benefit the firm.

Because of this, he was well-known as a pioneer for the engineering industry and a tireless advocate for changes in regulations, standards, and legislation that would positively impact municipal water

and wastewater systems. He continually put client needs above his own.

He worked for many years on the ACEC/EPA Region 6 Liaison Committee to advise the EPA on policy development. One of his most far-reaching accomplishments dates back to the 1970s at a time the EPA was not funding wastewater projects. Carl's willingness to challenge the EPA's funding approach led to a more defined application method and the release of needed funding throughout the region. Carl also served on the Arkansas Policy Advisory Committee for Water Quality Management and Planning, where he helped develop initial water quality management plans for Arkansas. In 1981, he testified before the Water Resources Subcommittee of the U.S. House Public Works and Transportation Committee concerning revisions to the nation's Clean Water Act.

Additionally, Carl devoted significant energy to ACEC, for which he has served as state president and two terms as

a national director, and he served on the board of directors for the International Ozone Association.

Regarding his advocacy, Ann Hamilton, the former executive director of ACEC/A and ASPE, said, "Carl is a complex man. He has a quiet presence, but whether at a local, state, or national level, everybody knows that when Carl says something, that's the way it is."

All these values led to a long, successful career in which Carl received almost every award possible. Here are just a few:

- Alumni Distinguished Career Award, University of Arkansas College of Engineering, 2017
- Glen T. Kellogg Water & Wastewater Hall of Fame, 2015
- Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service Award from ACEC
- Inducted into the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame, 2004
- Engineer of the Year, Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers, 1998

• Engineer of the Year by the Arkansas Associated General Contractors, 1979

• He was the first Arkansan named to the ACEC College of Fellows

• He was one of 19 charter members inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering in recognition of outstanding contributions to the civil engineering profession, 1981

People were always asking Carl when he was going to retire. He always said, "I'll retire when it stops being fun." Well, it never stopped being fun for Carl. Unfortunately, it stopped being fun for his body, and he had to reduce his efforts over the last few years.

Although Carl is not here with us now, his legacy lives on through the profession, the industry, and the lives that he improved.

*Editor's note: Brad Hammond, P.E., is the team leader of Olsson Associates' McGoodwin, Williams & Yates office in Fayetteville. He is Yates' nephew.*



## Crow Construction installs odor controls

Crow Construction completed installation of an odor control system at the 65-acre Tupelo Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant in Conway in 2017.

The scope of work operated by Conway Corp, included the installation of two separately located and operated odor control systems including construction of concrete equipment pads; installation of odor control vessels, blower fans, and related electrical controls; and installing a series of fiberglass reinforced plastic ductwork and PVC ductwork. The completed system pulls air from high odor producing sources through the ductwork and into the odor control vessels, and the vessel processes absorb and eliminate hazardous odorous air.

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## ASPE Annual Conference

# Stallmann is Engineer of the Year

Dad, Eagle Scout, youth baseball coach led Garver's Arkansas Water Team

By Steve Brawner  
Editor

The redfish suddenly were biting everybody's lines in southern Louisiana – everybody's except Aaron Stallmann's. But instead of focusing on his line, he was watching someone else's.

Stallmann had gone on the trip with Michael Graves, Garver's vice president and Central Region water director, and two others. It probably was only a matter of time before Stallmann caught a fish, too. But Graves had hooked a big one and was having trouble reeling it in, so Stallmann let go of his pole and helped him with his catch. Stallmann didn't catch a fish that night and may not have caught one during the whole trip, but Graves still has a photo of the two of them with his catch.

The episode, Graves said, "epitomizes his personal qualities and character as he was always anxious to help others before himself."

Stallmann, P.E., 39, was Garver's Arkansas Water Team leader. A resident of Benton, he died Feb. 9 after a long battle with colon cancer. He was honored as this year's ASPE Engineer of the Year at the Annual Conference April 6. His widow, Jayme, accepted the award.

"Engineering was a huge part of his life," she said that day. "He loved it."

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Stallmann came to Garver in 2008. Eventually, he became a partner in the firm. Among his team's projects was the Conway Tupelo Bayou Wastewater Treatment plant, a 32-million-gallon-per-day facility. It was one of the largest treatment plants Garver has done and won the ACEC/A's People's Choice Award. Stallmann became an authority regarding wastewater collection systems and presented at conferences in Arkansas, Alabama and Texas.

As Arkansas Water Team leader, Stallmann was responsible for dozens of



**TEAM LEADER.** Aaron Stallmann oversaw Garver's water operations in Arkansas. Michael Graves, Garver's vice president and Central Region water director, said he built a strong team by trusting his people. Below, his widow, Jayme Stallmann, accepts his Engineer of the Year Award from ASPE President Paul Speers, P.E. Opposite page, Stallmann was active in the firm's Garver Gives program.

professional development is ahead of schedule because of things that Aaron instituted in his day-to-day management of that team."

Paul Strickland, P.E., worked alongside Stallmann for eight or nine years. They also on occasion went hunting and fishing together. He said Stallmann respected others, took an interest in them and liked to tell jokes.

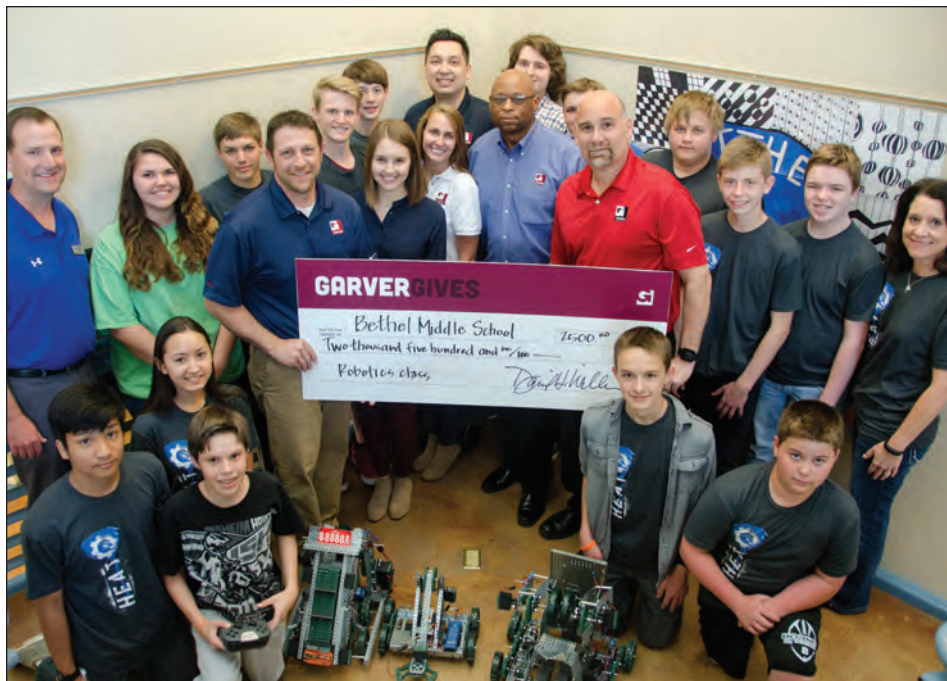
"Aaron, he was very thorough, very detailed, from a design standpoint, very well rounded in my mind," he said. "From a client service standpoint, all the people that he worked with really liked him. He was very, very personal, very easy to get along with. Everyone that had some dealings with him always speaks highly of him."

But while engineering was a "huge part of his life," it wasn't his whole life. Stallmann, who had earned his Eagle Scout rank in 1993, was active in the company's Garver Gives program and appeared on a local TV news station during a drive collecting Legos for schoolchildren. Outside of the office, Stallmann was a committed husband and father of daughter Klara, 13, and son, A.J., 9. He coached his son's traveling baseball team and was an elder at Zion Lutheran Church in Avilla.

Zion Pastor Mike Schleider said Stallmann was elected to spearhead the effort to replace the church's original sanctuary after it burned. He was a unifying influence as the church worked to replace a treasured building, part of which had been built in the 1800s. He was professional, precise and determined, but also tactful and gentle. That precision also was reflected in his approach to Bible study, as Schleider recalls him once gently correcting him about taking a verse out of context. Occasionally Stallmann preached

projects and seven or 10 staff members. Graves said he had a broad base of technical expertise. Moreover, he was a "great people person" who could explain engineering in layman's terms, and he developed his staff members by trusting them, mentoring them and giving them responsibilities ahead of schedule. He developed business planning goals for the team and then created the framework for turning those goals into a reality.

"I always knew he was a good team leader, but you don't really ever realize that until somebody's gone, and they're not doing it for you on a regular basis," he said. "And he certainly did a great job preparing his team. They have excelled in his absence. They have picked up the ball and ran with it, and ... I think their



during Monday night services when Schleider was absent.

"Aaron built a legacy here," Schleider said. "He really did, and not just in his

plans for building the church, but also he built relationships. He built unity. He built up others, even with the word of God as well as using his gifts in engi-

neering and organization. His precision in saying things right but saying it in a clear way and gentle way was really helpful when you're going through something like that. We kind of mourned that loss of a building and what we had to replace and what we didn't have. We had to make some tough decisions, and he was helpful in all that."

Stallmann battled colon cancer for a couple of years. He informed his office group of his illness but then continued to work full-time until a few months before his passing. Graves said he was emailing and texting until the last week of his life. Strickland said it wasn't obvious he was sick for much of his illness.

"Up until even December, Aaron had a very, very positive attitude, that it's beatable, I'm going to beat it, and he never, ever showed really any sign that it was going to take him," Strickland said. "I've said this a couple of times to a few other people that if attitude could beat cancer, then he would have beaten it for sure."

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## ASPE Annual Conference

# Report backs state's QBS process

**Says Arkansas in line with national best practices**

A report by a legislative consultant regarding the state's procurement laws recommends against changes that could affect qualifications-based selection, but engineers must remain vigilant when the Legislature meets next year.

Ikaso Consulting said in its report released to the Arkansas Legislative Council's Review Subcommittee April 19 that the state's process for procuring design professionals "aligns with national best practices" and "is appropriate and controlled in terms of cost and industry expectations."

Professional service bidding and contracts are scheduled to be discussed in the subcommittee's August 13 meeting. Final recommendations will be made by December 2018 before next year's legislative session.

Attendees of the ASPE Annual Conference were provided an update on the report and on other legislative matters April 6. The conference occurred prior to the report's release.

The report came about after legislators in the 2017 session declined to endorse SB540 by Sen. Jimmy Hickey, R-Texarkana, which would have changed the process for procuring state contracts. Potentially, engineering contracts could have been written through more of a request for proposal process. The bill passed the Senate with the minimum 18 votes but failed in the House and was pushed to an interim study.

Robert Coon with the political consulting firm Impact Management said some legislators who normally are supportive of engineering principles voted yes because of a general feeling that the

procurement process is broken, and there are too many instances where price doesn't count enough.

Impact Management was hired with funds provided by ACEC/A and the ASPE Northwest Arkansas Chapter. Angie W. Cooper, ACEC/A and ASPE executive director, said about 2,300 man-



Coon

hours were expended over three months on that bill alone.

"It would basically change QBS as we know it," she said at the conference. "We met with (Hickey) very early on. We recognized that this was going to be a life-changing event for you guys if it went through."

The bill instead was moved to interim study by a subcommittee of the Legislative Council, which was to make recommendations by December 2018. That committee hired Ikaso Consulting, which considered other states' policies and national best practices.

### Remain vigilant

While the report was favorable to engineers, ACEC/A and ASPE must keep a watchful eye on the Legislature. Sessions are chaotic. Legislators consider thousands of bills in a short amount of time, so mistakes can slip through.

Coon said common "advocacy points" that should be pushed by the engineering community include: QBS is a best practice in other states and at the federal level; it provides a clear benefit for architectural and engineering projects and protects public safety and welfare; it is difficult for a firm to low-bid a design before it knows the project's scope and goals; and QBS does include a price component. After a

bid is selected, the agency negotiates with the firm and can reopen the process if it's not satisfied with the price.

"That's really important for us because there is kind of a misconception that price is really not an issue, or not a component of qualifications-based selection," Coon said.

Another issue: If a project includes any federal funding, it must be awarded through QBS. The bill was silent on this aspect, but it inspired the state's airports to get involved because mixed-funding projects would have been jeopardized.

### Professional licensure

The bill was one of about 50 that ACEC/A and ASPE tracked during the session and one of about a dozen it worked. Another bill, House Bill 1551 by Rep. Richard Womack, R-Arkadelphia, would have weakened the state's licensure laws by saying private individuals have a "right to engage in a lawful occupation."

A Red Tape Reduction Working Group is studying the issue, and Arkansas is part of an 11-state consortium doing the same. The working group's chairs, Rep. Bruce Cozart, R-Hot Springs, and Sen. John Cooper, R-Jonesboro, indicated in the group's first meeting that professions dealing with public safety wouldn't be affected.

Still, as with procurement, engineers must be vigilant because so many bills are filed so quickly.

"You just can't sit by and watch it happen," said Heather Richardson, executive director of the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors. "You're going to have to be involved. And the reason why is because anybody can file pretty much anything."

## Geraci: 10 types of engineering leaders

**And firms, regardless of their size, need all 10**

There are 10 types of leaders, and engineering firms need all of them – even if they don't have that many professionals

on staff, said Rick Geraci, P.E., FACEC, vice president and senior project manager of Brown Engineers.

Geraci offered his thoughts at the ASPE Annual Conference April 6. He later said his observations came from at-

tending three seminars, mostly regarding financial matters, and adapting them to engineering.

"All of these individuals in your company, all 10 faces, need to exist for a good, functional, operative, profit-making



Geraci

company, and maintain their ethical positions. ... It takes a plastic sort of operation, if you will, to mold itself with its individuals. ... And every one of you is going to be one of these guys, one of these personalities or one of the faces at any given day," he said.

The types of leaders are:

- **The anthropologist**, who knows what problem needs solved, finds its root, and sees what others might have overlooked. It's the most important type of leader for an engineering firm.
- **The experimenter**, who tries different things. Curious, they find innovative and cost-saving ways of achieving goals.
- **The cross-pollinator**, who combines elements that might not seem to fit together, such as chocolate and peanut butter. The cross-pollinator can drive creativity but also can get a firm in trouble.
- **The hurdler**, who does more with less, sidestepping problems and obstacles leading to great achievements. He or she recognizes that problems don't have to be attacked head on.
- **The collaborator**, who brings people together to get things done. He or she is a team-builder and a listener capable of navigating political waters.
- **The director**, who leads the office, sets the tone and orchestrates the company's innovation efforts, giving other professionals room to do their best work and allowing them to occupy center stage.
- **The experienced architect**, who has been around a long time, recognizes the big picture, and knows how to talk to fellow staff members and clients, including difficult ones. He or she is a calming influence who looks for negative or neutral elements in the status quo and seeks opportunities to stand out.
- **The set designer**, who creates a workplace that allows staff members to be their best. He or she understands per-

sonalities and how to physically organize group work.

• **The storyteller**, who naturally builds credibility and communicates on a personal level with clients by telling stories.

• **The caregiver**, who understands clients, develops relationships with them, and offers them a safety net. His or her impulses, however, could lead to ethically questionable decisions.

Behind each of those leaders is a personality type: the nerd, the manager, the leader, the charismatic and the eccentric, Geraci said. Certain personalities fit better with certain types of leaders, but all five can fit into all 10 roles.

"It's hard for the nerd to be in the director's position," Geraci said in an interview after the session. "That's a little bit out of character for him. But that doesn't mean that at some point your director can't be a little nerdy because that makes his firm, makes his employees feel a little bit more comfortable that he's not a stuffed shirt."



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## ACEC/A Member Spotlight

# From Big Rock across Little Rock

Bridgefarmer won the 2017 Grand Conceptor Award with its Big Rock Interchange and is helping expand I-630 and I-30 past Benton

In the future, if you travel from west Little Rock across the city on I-630 and then head southwest on I-30 past Benton, you're going to see some big projects designed by Bridgefarmer & Associates.

The Dallas-based firm won the 2017 ACEC/A Grand Conceptor Award for its Big Rock Interchange connecting I-430 and I-630. The \$128 million project replaced four bridges and one overpass and constructed three flyovers. The project was divided into three construction packages due to funding limitations, and it faced numerous challenges – among them traffic control, inconsistent soils, and, of course, the big rock that the Arkansas Department of Transportation ultimately decided to leave where it was.

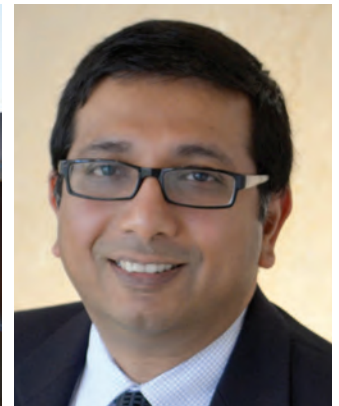
The project's design manager was Shahriar Azad, P.E., the Dallas-based senior project manager who oversees Bridgefarmer's Arkansas office. It has been one of Arkansas' most visible highway projects in recent years, as more than 180,000 vehicles were using it at the time of the award's announcement.

### A major Arkansas presence

And it's just one of many projects in Arkansas designed by the firm, which in addition to Azad has three engineers in its Little Rock office, including Chris Silver, P.E. Azad recently led the design work for the future widening of I-630 from six lanes to eight lanes from the Big Rock Interchange to University Avenue. Like the interchange, it was challenging. The project will require several bridges to be widened, and noise walls will be constructed along much of the route. Azad said planners have sought to keep six lanes open as much as possible, with closures limited mostly to nighttimes.

That project has already been let and the contractor selected. Activity should begin in July.

Another major project designed by Bridgefarmer is the widening of I-30 to



**BRIDGEFARMER PROJECTS.** Top, the Big Rock Interchange in Little Rock. Left, the Black River bridge on U.S. Highway 63 at Black Rock. Above, Shahriar Azad, P.E., senior project manager.

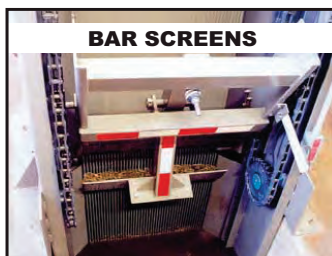
six lanes from the south side of Benton almost to Highway 70 at the 111 exit.

Azad is based in Dallas, where the firm was founded by Joe Bridgefarmer, P.E., in 1976. Mansoor Ahsan, P.E., is the current CEO. Under his leadership, it has grown to more than 80 staff members with offices in Houston, Round Rock outside of Austin, Denver and Atlanta. It specializes in transportation infrastructure planning

and design. It works with departments of transportation, cities, counties and railroads. Most of the company's business is in the southern United States, but the firm has done work in Panama.

"In our business, the market is, you know the clients," Azad said. "The only way you can survive is if you can and do quality work, and that's how you get the repeat business."

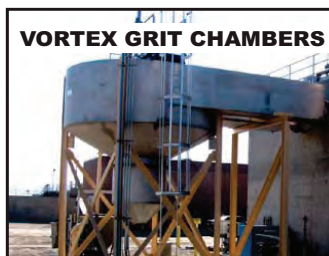




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