

April 2019

Arkansas  
Professional

# ENGINEER

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



## Engineering excellence

**Mid-South Engineering wins the Grand Conceptor Award at the Engineering Excellence Awards for designing a \$290 million Weyerhaeuser sawmill facility in Dierks.**

**Pictured are, seated, John Westerman, P.E., and standing left to right, Tyler Avery, P.E., Rob Bullen, P.E., and Don McDonough, P.E.**

# All news is good news

This magazine's summary of the legislative session is only two pages, and I couldn't be happier.

That's because there's not much to report, and all of it is good.

The good news is that Gov. Asa Hutchinson and legislators have at long last passed a highway program, and it's a big one: potentially \$300 million for highways and \$114 million for city and county roads.

Part of it – \$95 million for highways, and \$13 million each for cities and counties – is already signed into law and will be funded by fuel taxes, casino receipts and other revenues.

The rest must be approved by voters. In November 2020, voters will be asked to make permanent the 10-year half-cent sales tax that has funded the Connecting Arkansas Program. Fifty-eight percent of the voters approved the tax in 2012.



**Angie W. Cooper**  
Executive Director

The CAP is a \$1.8 billion program completing 36 projects that are making our state's highways better and safer. It's also led to a lot of business for ACEC members. Anyone who has driven Highway 70 from Benton to Hot Springs knows the difference the program has made. It was a winding, curvy, dangerous stretch of roadway. Now it's a much safer four-lane.

Kudos to designer Michael Baker International, which won this year's People's Choice Award at the ACEC/A's Engineering Excellence Awards.

For all of those reasons, engineers and engineering firms need to be front and center in the campaign. Talk to your friends and neighbors, donate to the effort, and at the very least, vote.

As for the rest of the session, there's not much to report, and that's good news. Two years ago, legislators seriously considered bills that would have threatened public safety by weakening the state's licensure and qualifications-based selection processes. But both are safe after two years of study and lots of lobbying by ACEC/Arkansas and its members.

So for this session, all news is good news, and none of it's bad. Let's keep the good news coming through November 2020.

# ONE BRAND. ONE SYSTEM. ONE HECK OF A BACKUP PLAN.

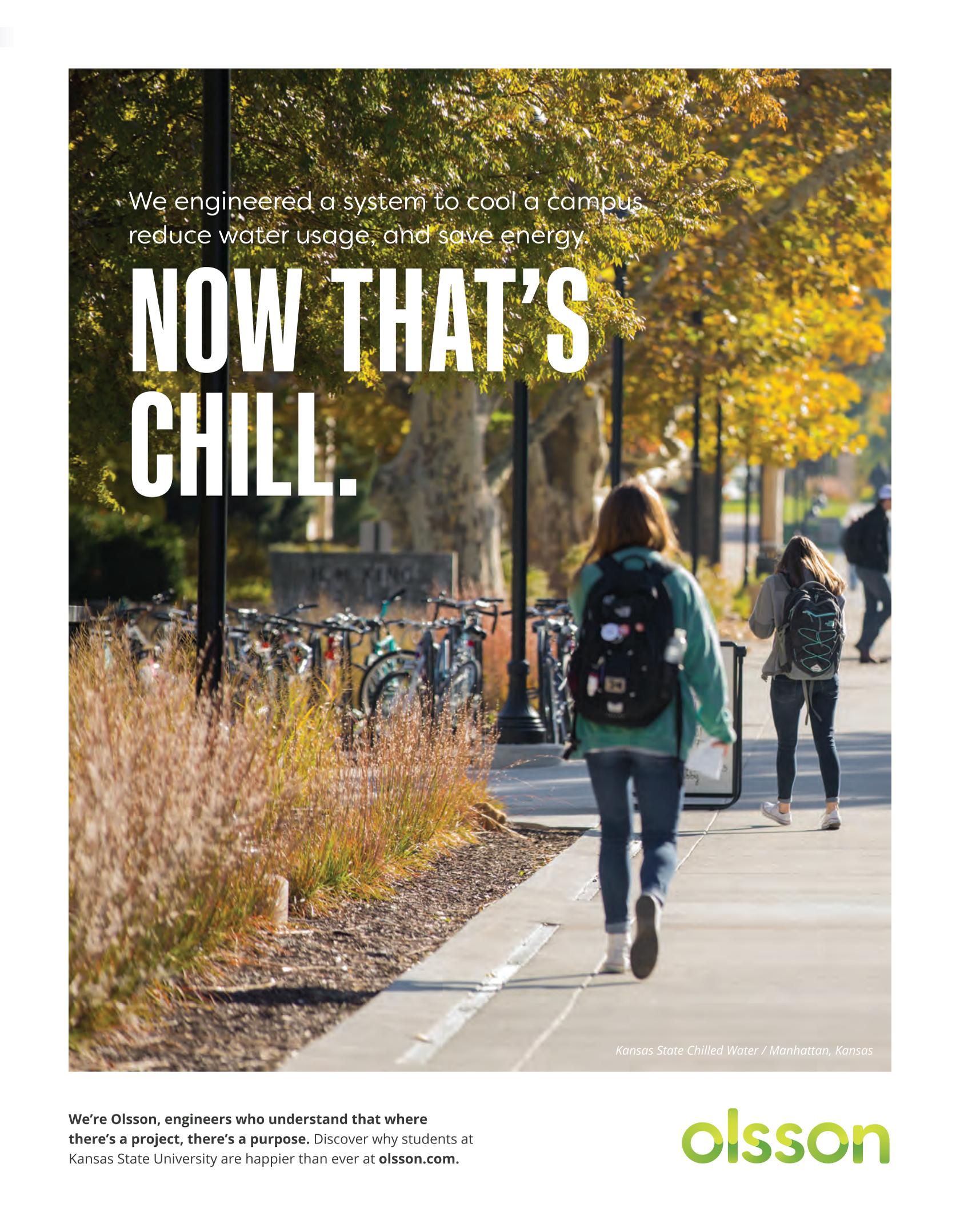


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A photograph of a university campus walkway. In the foreground, a student with a large black backpack and a green jacket walks away from the camera. To their right, another student with a backpack walks in the same direction. The path is lined with trees, some with yellowing autumn leaves. In the background, a row of bicycles is parked. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

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Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., one of the few engineers in Congress, recently told visiting female engineering students they were choosing a good field to study.

### 16 **Session best of times for engineers**

Lawmakers passed an historic highway plan, while the state's licensing and procurement policies are no worse for engineers or public safety.

### 18 **Cover / Mid-South mill a Grand Concept**

Mid-South Engineering's Weyerhaeuser sawmill in Dierks won in two categories at ACEC/Arkansas' Engineering Excellence Awards and took home the top prize, the Grand Conceptor award. Michael Baker International's work on Highway 70 between Interstate 30 and Hot Springs won the People's Choice Award, which is selected by attendees.



18 A new Weyerhaeuser sawmill in Dierks will produce up to 388 million board feet annually thanks to this year's Grand Conceptor winner, Mid-South Engineering.

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Crafton Tull

# ENGINEERING ARKANSAS

civil engineering | surveying | architecture | planning | landscape architecture



# Legislature has been keeping us busy

The legislative session was a busy time of the year for ACEC/A. We monitored and reviewed bills to determine if they would have an impact on our profession.

This task is generally overseen by our Governmental Affairs Committee, and I tip my hat to them for all of the work they poured into this effort.

You may remember a bill from the last season, Senate Bill 521, which would have altered qualifications-based selection (QBS) by introducing fees as part of the selection. We are proud to report that this year's version did not apply to the engineering profession, which is a very important win for our clients and for public safety.

As is usually the case, many bills are written with good intentions without any notion that they may have negative effects in areas seemingly unrelated to the legislation's intent. ACEC played an important role in identifying such legislation and in working with sponsors to help them meet their intent without negatively affecting our profession.

ACEC has long reported on the need for long-term funding of our highways. We are excited to have a funding plan passed by Governor Hutchinson and legislators. This is a two-part plan that should generate about \$300 million per



**Byron Hicks, P.E.**  
ACEC/A President

year. Part 1 recommends the extension of an existing half-cent sales tax that would generate approximately \$205 million per year. The recommended sales tax extension must go before the voters in the 2020 general election. Part 2 of the plan is a combination of gas tax increase, registration fees on electric/hybrid cars, and tax revenue from the casinos. This portion of the plan is expected to generate \$95 million per year.

Although this plan gained a lot of support in the Legislature, it still falls short of the more than \$400 million a year in needs that have been reported.

OK, so the Legislature has been active and keeping us on our toes. Now to digress ... just like Uncle Sam, ACEC/A wants YOU! We currently have 46 active firms in our membership, and we would like to grow. Not only do we play an important role in protecting the interests of our profession through government advocacy, but membership also offers many opportunities for your firm to participate and enjoy discounted services and continuing education programs.

If your engineering firm isn't a member of ACEC/A and would like to join, contact our executive director, Angie Cooper, at 501.912.4099 or at [awcooper@arkansasengineers.com](mailto:awcooper@arkansasengineers.com).

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# Best award is a job well done

By the time you read this, ASPE will have had its Annual Conference, where one of the highlights is honoring the Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year.

Those top honors this year go to two very deserving individuals. The Engineer of the Year is Newton White, P.E., founder, president and CEO of Instrument & Supply, Inc., a water and wastewater treatment equipment provider. The Young Engineer of the Year, Tyler Avery, P.E., is on the cover of this magazine for his major role in designing the Weyerhaeuser sawmill facility in Dierks. That project won this year's Grand Conceptor Award at the ACEC/A Engineering Excellence Awards.

White and Avery earned these well-deserved honors, and they'll probably be featured in the next issue of this magazine. It's good that ASPE takes an opportunity every year to single out specific engineers for their contributions to the profession.

But those awards have a greater purpose than simply honoring two individuals. Instead, like the Engineering Excellence Awards, they honor engineering itself.

Ours is a competitive business, but we're not really competing against each other. Instead, our opponents are human nature and its worst instincts, including bad habits, apathy, mediocrity and inattention to detail.

There are consequences whenever we lose to those opponents. For example, if I made a serious error in this column, then you would be given bad information, and I might have to run a slightly embarrassing correction in the next issue.



**Fred Harper, P.E.**  
ASPE President

But if we lose to those worst instincts in an engineering setting, the results can be catastrophic or even deadly. It's one thing to misplace a comma. It's another to misplace a support beam. Some professions only must be at their best some of the time. We have to be virtually mistake-free almost all the time.

The truth about some of these awards – and I was part of a team that won an Engineering Excellence Award this year – is that some projects are destined to be award-winning material, but most aren't.

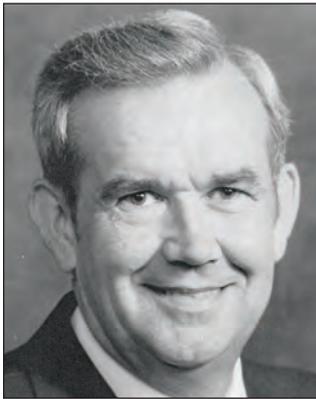
What matters isn't so much how we perform on those big, flashy projects that look good on a contest entry form. Rather, what matters is our commitment to excellence on all our projects, including those that will never win an award. How we perform on those small projects says more about us than how we perform on the ones we know will impress our peers.

Newton White is the ASPE Engineer of the Year because of his day-to-day excellence over three decades. Tyler Avery is the Young Engineer of the Year because he has exhibited those same characteristics at an early age. If he hadn't, he wouldn't have been given a chance to help design a huge, state-of-the-art sawmill. He proved himself trustworthy in small things, so he could be trusted with big things.

For engineers, that's not something that happens once in our youth. Instead, we have to prove ourselves daily. That's the way it should be. Our work is too important. And besides, as every engineer knows, the best award is a job well done.

## In the News

# Lem Tull, co-founder of Crafton Tull, dies at 85



Tull

Lem Tull, the co-founder of Crafton Tull, died Jan. 31 at Mercy Hospital in Rogers at age 85 after living in a nursing home the past few years with health issues.

In November 1963, Tull persuaded Bob Crafton, a friend and fellow engineer at the Arkansas Highway Department (now known as ARDOT), to move to Rogers and start a consulting engineering firm. He spent 33 years at Crafton Tull and led it as

its number of employees increased and it opened several branch offices in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

In a 50th anniversary video produced by the firm in 2013, Tull recalled, "I walked by and said, 'I told you I would wait, but I've changed my mind. I'm not going to wait much longer, and I'm going to go ahead and go, and you'll have 30 days to make your mind up and come with me and come with me as a full

partner. And if you don't, I'm going to have to go and find me another partner.'"

They recalled their first job as consulting engineers and surveyors, when one of the two (neither would say who it was) loaded their equipment into his station wagon but forgot to load the tripod and backed over it. They salvaged it with yellow flagging and some stakes. Three days after they started their business, they were carrying survey equipment out of the woods when a passerby in a pickup truck told them President John F. Kennedy had been shot. They opened their first "office" in two motel rooms in downtown Rogers. Their biggest early project was Holiday Island in the 1970s. That project's 5,000 acres kept the firm busy for 10 years.

Tull was born in Keo, 20 miles southeast of Little Rock, to Lilburn and Arkie Tull. He graduated from North Little Rock High School and earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from the University of Arkansas in 1955. He spent two years in the military and then went to work at the Arkansas Highway Department, where for a time he assisted Crafton as a resident engineer on the I-30 North Terminal Interchange project.

He and his wife, Margaret, had two children and six grandchildren. Their son, Jim Tull, a CPA, is Crafton Tull's chief financial officer. Lem Tull was a professional engineer in Arkansas and Missouri, a member of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Fraternity, a member of the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers, and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rogers.

## Crafton Tull hires CAO from Mercy Health of NWA



Barclay

Rick Barclay is joining the Crafton Tull team as chief administrative officer and will be based in the firm's Rogers office.

Barclay used his executive expertise in project management, leadership development, talent acquisition, and other areas as the vice president of human resources at Mercy Health of Northwest Arkansas. He went on to serve as Mercy Health's vice president of support services, lead-

ing environmental services, nutrition services, supply chain, facility engineering, and safety/security in addition to human resources.

Matt Crafton, P.E., Crafton Tull president and CEO, said "We are thrilled to have Rick on our team. We believe Rick's experience and insight in the field of human resources and administrative management will be invaluable to Crafton Tull. He brings with him an enthusiasm and passion for employee engagement, and we're excited for him to get started."

Barclay is active in the Northwest Arkansas community. He regularly participates in running and cycling fundraisers including TASC, Tour de Cure, and the Bentonville Half Marathon. He

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attends Fellowship Bible Church, where his brother is a community pastor.

Crafton Tull is an architecture, engineering, surveying, and planning firm operating out of 10 offices in nine cities across Arkansas and Oklahoma. It has been contributing to the built environment since 1963.

## Garver partners with schools to teach thinking skills

In celebrating a century of doing business, Garver is partnering with 100 schools across its footprint to pass along the types of critical thinking and creativity displayed when its founder, Neal Garver, opened the firm in 1919 in downtown Little Rock.

Garver is providing STEM kits and monetary donations to 100 schools, 43 of them located in Arkansas, that come complete with wooden planks, DC mo-



**GARVER GIVES.** Garver's Amanda Way, P.E., and Joseph Haydock, who work out of the firm's Norman office, start the Garver Chain Reaction Challenge at Pat Henry Elementary School in Lawton, Okla.

tors, balls, ramps, and a collection of additional everyday items to create Rube Goldberg-style chain reaction contraptions. Along with the STEM kits, each school is receiving a monetary donation to contribute other items to their contraptions while participating in the Garver Chain Reaction Challenge. A panel of engineers from Garver will judge the sub-

missions on total running duration, innovation, and presentation. The top five submissions will receive an additional \$1,000 for STEM education funding.

Garver kicked off the Challenge in February at Pat Henry Elementary School in Lawton, Oklahoma. Garver presented students with the STEM kits and spent the day helping them put together their contraptions.

## Garver opens office in Oklahoma City; third in that state

To enhance the commitment to Oklahoma that began more than two decades ago, Garver announced recently the opening of an Oklahoma City office, its third in the state.

Garver opened a Tulsa office in 1993, a Norman office in 2004, and since has assisted state agencies and municipalities

*In the News continues on page 10*

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## In the News (Cont'd)

on the improvement of their highways, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure, and more. Personnel in the Oklahoma City office will primarily provide transportation, water, aviation, construction, and environmental services, but can collaborate with Garver experts from across the country.

Garver now has nearly 600 employees in 27 offices in 11 states.

### MCE promotes two and hires one; Head now a partner

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc., a regional multidisciplinary firm, has promoted two employees and hired another.



Head

**Steven Head, P.E.**, the head of MCE's Geotechnical Engineering Department, has been promoted to partner.

Head, who works in the company's Fayetteville office, manages both the in-house construction materials testing laboratory and geotechnical engineering division, and he oversees all construction inspection services. He has been with MCE for seven years and is in charge of the performance scheduling of testing, special inspections and subsurface drilling operations.

Head has designed numerous University of Arkansas projects including

the Stadium Drive residence halls. Other projects are the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport's new parking deck; the Texarkana Regional Airport's new terminal facility, parallel taxiway and apron; and Arkansas Children's Hospital-Northwest.

Head graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2010 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. He is licensed in Arkansas and Oklahoma, has served as the Northwest Arkansas branch president for the American Society of Civil Engineers, and was named one of the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal's Forty Under 40 for 2018.



Bahena

**Roger Bahena** joined the MCE-Fayetteville team in 2017 as a field/lab technician in the Geotechnical Engineering Department. Recently, he was promoted to the

position of construction materials lab supervisor. He is in charge of overseeing the performance and scheduling of laboratory testing and special inspections, as well as estimating for construction materials testing for new job development. Bahena is certified through CTPP in basic aggregates, soils, concrete field testing, hot mix asphalt, and concrete strength testing. He is also certified in nuclear gauge safety and HAZMAT.

**April Lester** recently joined MCE's Little Rock office as the materials laboratory supervisor. She has more than 15 years of experience in quality assurance/



Lester

quality control materials testing methods. She is CTPP certified and is experienced in quality inspections for all phases of bridge and highway projects.

"At MCE, our team members are our greatest asset, and these promotions are reflective of the contributions they have made to the company's growth and success," said MCE CEO Byron Hicks, P.E. "It is extremely exciting that we are continuing to promote talented individuals within our company, and I am pleased to recognize Steven Head in particular, who continues to raise the bar. Steven has demonstrated strong leadership skills and is extremely knowledgeable in his roles with MCE."

### MCE employees participating in leadership programs

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc., has a record number of employees participating in leadership programs across the state.

- **Adam Osweiler, P.E., LEED® AP BD+C**, an associate and project manager with MCE's development team, is participating in the Leadership Greater Little Rock program through the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce.

#### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**B & F Engineering, Inc.** is searching for a Staff Engineer in its Hot Springs office.

**Responsibilities:** Perform introductory planning and design under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer. Produce civil development plan sheets for commercial and industrial projects including site layout, grading, drainage, erosion control, water distribution, and sanitary sewer collection using AutoCAD and AutoCAD Civil3D. Calculate earthwork quantities. Assist with preparing

public hearing displays. Attend field inspections with engineers. Nominal travel 1-2 times every two months for site inspections.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or closely-related field. Possess Arkansas P.E./Intern license or have graduated from accredited engineering program.

Mail resume to: B & F Engineering, Inc., ATTN: Tammy King, 928 Airport Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913 or email to [tammyk@bnfeng.com](mailto:tammyk@bnfeng.com)



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O.R. Colan Associates, LLC  
Shupe & Associates, Inc.  
Springdale Water Utilities  
Turner Insurance

• **Alex Smith, P.E.**, an associate and project manager with MCE's Aviation Department, is participating in the Leadership Pine Bluff program through the Pine Bluff Regional Chamber of Commerce.

• **Adam Triche, P.E.**, a partner and MCE's assistant Water/Wastewater Department head, is participating in Leadership Saline County.

• **Andy Dibble, P.E.**, a senior project manager for MCE and the office manager for MCE-Fort Smith, is participating in Leadership Fort Smith through the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce.

• **Dan Beranek, P.E., LEED® AP BD+C**, a site development project director and president of MCE-Little Rock, is participating in Leadership Arkansas via the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. This program takes a comprehensive view of the state's economic and political challenges and lets individuals see the interactions between cities, industries, governmental units and the public.

• **Jacob Gillip, P.E.**, a project engineer with MCE's Water/Wastewater Department who works out of the company's Little Rock office, is participating in the Emerging Leaders program. Emerging Leaders is the ACEC/A's and ASPE's eight-session program focusing on the people skills associated with business management and the creative and visionary skills required of effective leaders.

• **Kevin Beaumont, C Eng/MICE**, the department head for MCE's Transportation Department and the vice president of MCE-Fayetteville, is participating in Leadership Benton County through the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce.

quencing batch reactor treatment system into a membrane bioreactor treatment process, increasing the design capacity from 2.2 million gallons per day to an interim 3.8 mgd and ultimately 4.6 mgd without increasing the plant's footprint.

This progressive design-build project included the replacement of influ-

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## MCE designs MBR retrofit for Decatur plant

McClelland Consulting Engineers has helped the City of Decatur retrofit a se-

 <p>Roadway Design &amp; Signalization Vehicular &amp; Pedestrian Bridges</p>	 <p>Landscape Architecture</p>	 <p>Topographic &amp; Boundary Surveys</p>	 <p><b>MCE</b> McCLELLAND CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. <i>DESIGNED TO SERVE</i></p> <p>CREATIVE ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS = AWARD WINNING DESIGNS</p> <p><b>MCE.US.COM</b></p>
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## In the News (Cont'd)



**MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR RETROFIT.** MCE helped the city of Decatur increase its wastewater treatment plant's design capacity from 2.2 million gallons per day to ultimately 4.6 mgd without increasing the plant's footprint.

ent pumps and the installation of rotary drum screens, membrane tanks, pumps, piping, permeate pumps, UV disinfection equipment, and a sludge press.

As part of this project, MCE performed an evaluation on the fine screening requirements in order for the MBR process to properly operate. MCE selected two 1.5-millimeter rotary drum screens to operate in parallel. Each screen has a design capacity of 5.4 mgd to allow for redundancy. The screens were installed on top of the existing anaerobic tanks, resulting in nearly \$500,000 in cost savings compared to installing them upstream of the influent pump station.

Construction was to be substantially complete by the end of February 2019. The total construction cost of this project is about \$9 million.

MCE designed the original wastewater treatment plant, whose construction was



**Calendar of events**

**ACEC Annual Convention and Legislative Summit**  
May 5-9  
Marriot Wardman Park  
Washington, D.C.

**ACEC Deep South Meeting and ACEC/A Annual Conference**  
July 10-14  
Sandestin  
Hot Springs

**ACEC Fall Conference**  
Oct. 13-16  
Chicago

completed in 2010 at a cost of \$8.4 million.

It was named Small System of the Year for 2010 by the Northwest Arkansas District of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association.

In 2015, the city began accepting wastewater from Centerton, which prompted it to begin evaluating options to expand the plant in order to handle the projected increase in flows and meet the discharge permit limits. In late 2015, the city selected a design-build team consisting of Crossland Heavy Contractors and MCE to design and construct the necessary improvements.



**NEW MICHAEL BAKER ENGINEERS.** Pictured are Phillip Zeagler, E.I.; Stephane Bossio, E.I.; and Katherine Lybrand, E.I. Not pictured is Caroline Fox, E.I.

## Michael Baker announces new transportation hires

Michael Baker International's Arkansas roadway team recently announced the addition of several new design engineers to its growing transportation staff in Arkansas.

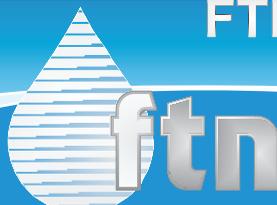
The team is focused primarily on highway, roadway, and drainage improvements for the Arkansas Department of Transportation and various municipalities across the state.

Joining the team are Caroline Fox, E.I., (July 2018); Phillip Zeagler, E.I. (October 2018); Katherine Lybrand, E.I. (January 2019); and Stephane Bossio, E.I. (February 2019).

The new engineers have experience ranging from zero to three years and have a variety of experience, backgrounds, and capabilities.

## Crow Construction's Watkins completes design-build program

David Watkins, Assoc. DBIA, a project manager with Crow Construction, has completed the Design-Build Institute of America's (DBIA) comprehensive education, training and certification testing program to become a nationally certified Associate Design-Build Professional.™



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Watkins

Watkins is a licensed professional landscape architect with more than 12 years of civil design experience. He holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the University of Arkansas and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

"I am thrilled to add this certification to my professional resume," he said in a press release. "I am most excited about the level of value this will add for our design-build clients. It's extremely rewarding to be able to take a client from the initial concept all the way through construction under one concise contract. It saves our clients time, money, and headaches, and the DBIA will be a great resource for our firm as we continue to offer that value-added service to our clients."

Three to six years of substantial design and construction experience are required to achieve the certification. Associates must complete at least 24 hours of continuing education credit every two years.

DBIA Certification is the nation's only measurable standard of an individual's knowledge of the Design-Build Done Right™ principles vital to successful project delivery. By completing these requirements, which touch on all aspects of design-build, candidates earn the right to display "Assoc. DBIA" after their names. The designation identifies them to design-build end users and the industry at large as experienced design and construction professionals with a firm understanding of design-build project delivery.

Crow Construction is a full-service design-build, construction management, and general contracting firm. It provides a diverse range of services to clients across multiple divisions including commercial, industrial, water/wastewater, and heavy civil construction. For more

information, contact Morgan Zimmerman at 479.264.4332 or [mzimmerman@crowconst.com](mailto:mzimmerman@crowconst.com).

## Perino, Brazile share stage at Convention

Dana Perino, Fox News host and former press secretary for President George W. Bush, and Donna Brazile, former interim head of the Democratic National Convention, will appear together at the ACEC Convention and Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. The convention will be May 5-8.

Author and business consultant Salim Ismail will discuss how engineering firms can position themselves to capture opportunities in a changing business climate. ACEC members also will visit their congressional delegations.

For more information and to register for the conference, go to the ACEC's website, [www.acec.org](http://www.acec.org).



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## ACEC/A Member Spotlight

# Down and dirty, and first on the scene

Geotechnical engineering is Grubbs, Hoskyn, Barton & Wyatt's area of expertise

Before other design professionals do their work, Grubbs, Hoskyn, Barton & Wyatt, Inc. Consulting Engineers is on the scene.

The geotechnical engineering firm specializes in foundation and earth structure problems and can evaluate soil and rock properties, analyze the behavior of earth materials, and provide construction advice and consultation.

"We get down and dirty," said Mark Wyatt, P.E., the firm's president and a co-owner. "We're out in the field a lot. I'm out in the field now looking at things, planning things. And a big part of what we do is subsurface exploration, so we drill sample and core borings and we dig holes, so ... we're like the first guys on the ground. Nothing's been done when we first get there."

The firm was established in 1964 and was known as Grubbs Consulting Engineers before becoming the Little Rock Division of McClelland Engineers in 1974. It formed its own firm, Grubbs, Garner & Hoskyn, in 1985. The name was changed in 1988 to reflect current ownership. It is based in Little Rock and has offices in Springdale and El Dorado.

The firm has a staff of more than 60, including six professional engineers and four engineer interns, geologists, laboratory technicians, drillers and others.

The firm's projects have included roadways, bridges, and structures in low-risk and high-risk earthquake zones. It's worked with earthen dams levees, landfills and hazardous waste facilities, including EPA Superfund sites. It has performed geotechnical studies and provided design and construction recommendations for fossil fuel and nuclear power plants, high-rise office buildings and schools. It has drilled in the Mississippi River, Arkansas River, and other bodies of water. It manages laboratories at its office and on project locations.

Among its most recognizable projects was the Clinton Presidential Center in



**STRONG FOUNDATIONS.** Top, Grubbs, Hoskyn, Barton & Wyatt performed the geotechnical engineering services for Heifer International's headquarters in Little Rock. Left, drillers work on the I-40 bridge over the White River. Grubbs, Hoskyn is one of the few Arkansas firms capable of doing marine boring.

Little Rock, which was notable both for its national importance and geotechnical engineering challenges. The site was located on an old industrial area with a lot of sloped, poor ground. The design had to include waterproof, secure underground storage for National Archives materials.

"It was a very fun job," Wyatt said. "It's a big, difficult job, a lot of pressure, but after it was over, it's something I was really proud of. Every time I go over there, I'm just really happy we were involved with it."

The firm was involved in many other Little Rock landmarks, including the Clinton Presidential Park Bridge, the River Market, the Two Rivers Park Bridge, the Arkansas River Trail, and the Big

Dam Bridge. That last job was challenging because the structure was tied to an existing Corps of Engineers dam and involved working along the Arkansas River. Grubbs, Hoskyn is one of the few firms in Arkansas capable of doing marine boring.

Among the firm's other notable projects was a series of three large bridges in the Manilla area in northeast Arkansas in a seismically active zone.

"It's a mixture of engineering science," Wyatt said of his firm's work. "There's some art involved. It takes a lot of experience. Our company's got a lot of experience. We've been around since 1964, so we've had opportunity to work on a lot of things."

# Westerman touts future female engineers

Rep. Bruce Westerman, R-Ark., one of the few engineers in Congress, recently told visiting female engineering students that they were choosing a good field to study.

"I told them that was a very wise move, and that if they are at all interested in science and math and problem solving, they couldn't find a better field to go into," he said.

Westerman spoke Feb. 13 at an "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" event in Washington, D.C. The event occurred two days after the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The audience consisted of high school and college students.

He told Arkansas Professional Engineer that few of his engineering classmates at the University of Arkansas were females, but that is changing. Nineteen percent of engineering degrees in Arkansas were earned by women in 2015, according to the Society of Women Engineers. Westerman attributed the growth to an increased focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classes and on an increased appreciation by young women of the opportunities engineering offers.

He said having more women in the engineering field is a positive change.

"I think diversity is good in any kind of work environment because you get



**U.S. REP. BRUCE WESTERMAN** said he told female students that their choosing engineering was "a very wise move."

different perspectives," he said. "I think that's true in engineering firms and other businesses as well. If you're having people come in with different perspectives and frames of reference, I think that helps the creative process and overall makes the team stronger."

Westerman's daughter, Amie, is an industrial engineering student at the University of Arkansas with what he proudly says is a 4.0 grade point average. She told him to say in his remarks, "Tell them that if you like math but aren't sure you'd want to actually design physical products, (in-

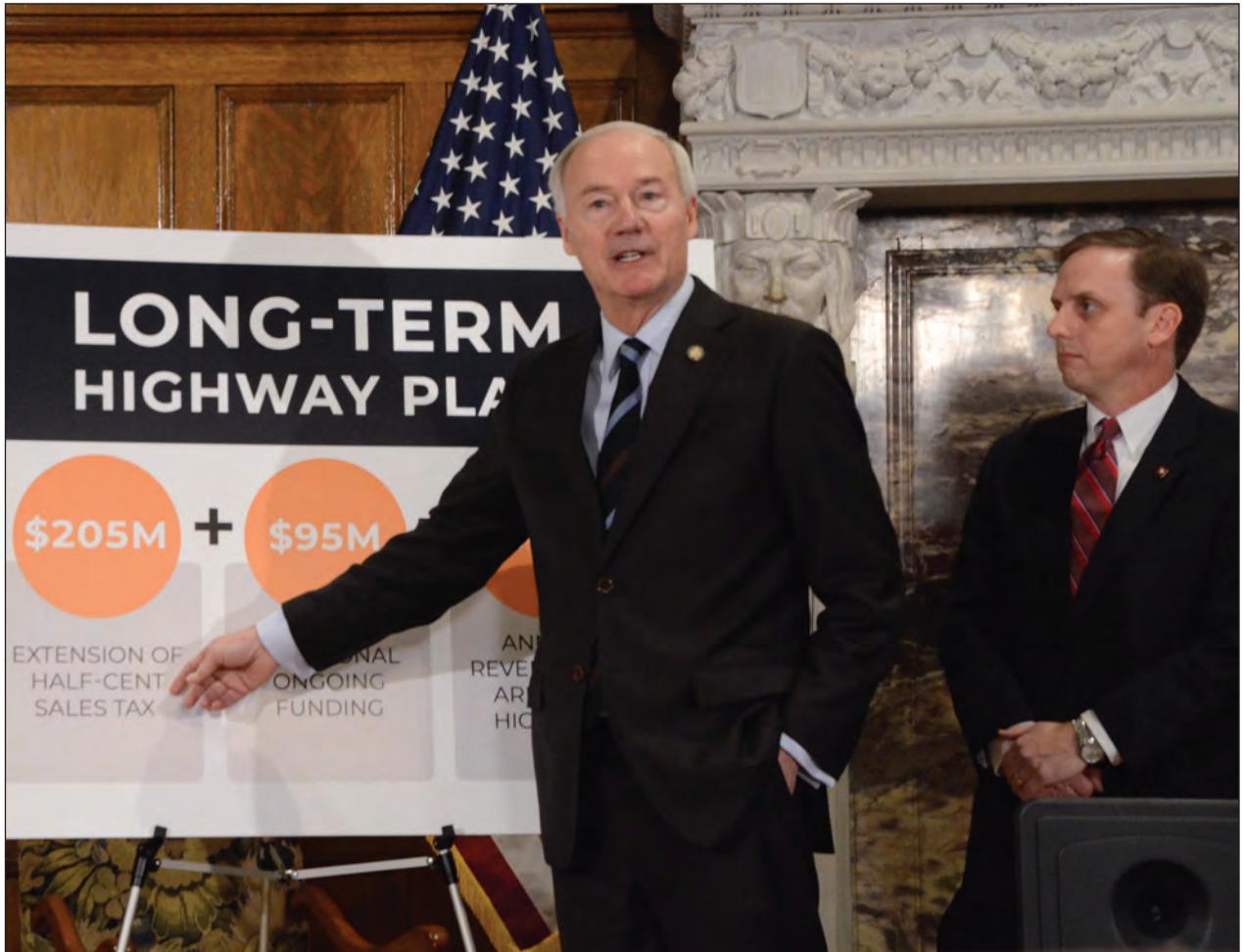
dustrial engineering) and computer science are great options with tons of job opportunities. Learning programming will be beneficial no matter what you do."

His oldest son, Eli, graduated from Yale with a chemical engineering degree and plans to attend graduate school.

Westerman, whose degree is in biological and agricultural engineering, said his children were exposed to his tinkering while growing up around him, and while he encouraged them to follow their passion, "of course I'm a little biased towards engineering."

An advertisement for CWB Engineers, Inc. The background is a photograph of industrial water treatment equipment, including large green pumps and blue pipes. Labels on the pipes read "FINISHED WATER" and "FEED TANK". The CWB Engineers, Inc. logo is in the bottom right, featuring a stylized green and blue leaf/water drop shape. Below the logo, the text reads: "CWB Engineers, Inc. -Designing a Better Arkansas- 1915 Highway 25B, Heber Springs, AR 72543 www.cwbengineers.com 501-362-3744". On the left side of the advertisement, the text reads: "What makes us unique is our approach. What makes us successful is our people."

**GOV. ASA HUTCHINSON** announces the details of his highway plan in the Governor's Conference Room at the Capitol Feb. 11. Speaker of the House Matthew Shepherd, R-EI Dorado, looks on. The centerpiece of the program is a continuation of the half-cent sales tax passed by voters in 2012. Voters will decide on permanently extending the tax in 2020.



## Session best of times for engineers

Lawmakers pass historic highway plan, while state's licensing, procurement policies are no worse for engineers or safety

**By Steve Brawner**  
Editor

As Charles Dickens wrote in "A Tale of Two Cities," "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

Well, actually for engineers, this year's legislative session was pretty much the best of times.

Lawmakers under Gov. Asa Hutchinson's leadership passed what he called "the largest highway plan in the state's history." If fully enacted, it could provide up to \$300 million annually for highways and \$114 million for city and county roadways.

Already signed into law is one part: an act that would provide \$95 million for highways and \$13 million each for cities and counties. The act includes wholesale tax increases that will add 3 cents at the

pump for gasoline and 6 cents for diesel. The measure also directs to highways at least \$35 million in general revenues raised from casinos and, if necessary, other sources. Finally, it increases registration fees for hybrid and electric cars.

The rest of the funding will occur if voters in November 2020 approve permanently extending the half-cent sales tax voters approved in 2012. That tax is set to expire in 2023. Fifty-eight percent of the voters approved that tax in 2012 to fund the Connecting Arkansas Program. Unlike the CAP, 28 percent of future revenues wouldn't be spent on finance costs because the new money would be directed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Arkansas Department of Transportation Director Scott Bennett, P.E., told lawmakers Feb. 27 that the package would fund maintenance on 10,000 of the state's 16,000 highway miles, plus fund capital improvements. He said only 18 percent of the state's highways are in good condition. Prior to the session, offi-

cials said the state had a \$4.8 billion funding shortfall over the next 10 years, which was confirmed by a legislative audit that found the state needed to invest an additional \$478 million annually in its highway network. This year's package would not completely cover the shortfall, but it would cover a lot of it, and Bennett and other highway advocates were pleased.

The package was one of Hutchinson's top priorities this legislative session after he made it a campaign issue during his re-election effort last year. Hutchinson said in announcing the plan Feb. 11 that he had "never seen the public in a greater mood for a highway plan – actually demanding of the legislators, don't come home without a highway plan." A group called the Roads and Bridges Coalition, which included many of the state's most influential organizations, lobbied hard for the funding. Members included the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Good Roads Foundation, Arkansas Trucking Association, Arkan-

sas Farm Bureau, Arkansas Municipal League, Association of Arkansas Counties, Associated General Contractors, and others. Arkansas Trucking Association President Shannon Newton said discussions have begun regarding forming the legislative question committee, the group that will run the 2020 campaign. Hutchinson has said he will campaign for the extension. Newton said polling done before the session was encouraging, with more than 60 percent showing support.

### Licensure, procurement OK

Other engineering-related bills related to procurement and licensure have also worked out in the industry's favor, said Robert Coon, a lobbyist with Impact Management, ACEC/Arkansas' lobbying firm. Two years ago, legislators considered a procurement bill that could have weakened the state's commitment to qualifications-based selection. An interim study between sessions included a consultant's recommendation in favor of

QBS. This year's version posed no threat to QBS. Likewise, legislators in 2017 considered loosening the state's licensure regulations in a bill that could have affected public safety, including engineering. After an interim study between sessions, this year's more targeted version does not affect engineering.

One new bill that caught ACEC/Arkansas' eye would have required any vendor with a \$100,000 service contract with the state, and who bills by the hour, to install monitoring software. The software would have been required for entities doing business with the state's political subdivisions as well. The bill would have added overhead costs, and there were privacy concerns. After hearing from opponents, including ACEC/Arkansas, the sponsor pulled it down and sent it to interim study.

Two of Hutchinson's other major initiatives also are of interest to engineers. Legislators passed the governor's top priority, cutting top income tax rates from

6.9 percent to 5.9 percent over a two-year period.

As of press time, legislators were still considering a 2,000-page government transformation bill that would reduce the number of state agencies from 42 to 15, and fold many boards and commissions into those agencies. It seemed likely to pass.

The transformation initiative would mean the engineering industry would be dealing with a different alphabet soup of government agencies. For example, the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors would become part of a newly formed Department of Labor and Licensing. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission would become part of the Department of Agriculture. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality would become part of the Department of Energy and Environment. But the Highway Commission would remain constitutionally separate.



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**GRAND CONCEPTOR AWARD.** Mid-South Engineering's design of a new Weyerhaeuser sawmill in Dierks was this year's Grand Conceptor winner. Pictured are from left, Richard Murders, Weyerhaeuser; Dustin Ward, P.E., B&F Engineering; Chris Brown, P.E., John Gilmore, and Tyler Avery, P.E., Mid-South Engineering; Tom Harrison, Weyerhaeuser; and John Westerman, P.E., Marc Stewart, Lee Murphy, P.E., and Don McDonough, P.E., Mid-South Engineering.

# Mid-South mill a Grand Concept

Firm's Weyerhaeuser sawmill in Dierks wins in two categories at Engineering Excellence Awards and takes home the top prize

By Steve Brawner  
Editor

A new Weyerhaeuser sawmill in Dierks will produce up to 388 million board feet annually thanks to this year's Grand Conceptor Award winner.

Mid-South Engineering Company won the top award at the ACEC/Arkansas Engineering Excellence Awards March 7 at the Governor's Mansion. The project also won first place in **Category C: Structural Systems**, and **Category I: Special Projects**.

Mid-South provided the engineering work for the \$190 million project. Built with 45,000 cubic yards of concrete and more than 1,500 tons of structural steel, it's one of the nation's largest Southern Yellow Pine facilities. Mid-South dedicated close to 55,000 man-hours to the project, which required about 1.5 million construction man-hours. Mid-South



**THE WEYERHAEUSER FACILITY** required nearly 55,000 man-hours to design. Mid-South also coordinated the efforts of manufacturing vendors and was responsible for document control, including more than 8,500 drawings. *Photo courtesy of Mid-South Engineering and Weyerhaeuser.*

did all the foundation, steel and electrical distribution design, helped Weyerhaeuser bid and purchase all the equipment machine centers, and helped hire all the contractors. It began the work in 2014 and completed it three years later. It performed the engineering work from the ground up, which involved moving 750,000 yards of dirt to level a hillside on

the 100-acre site. McGeorge Contracting did the dirt work.

The facility is rated for 388 million board feet per year. It was constructed adjacent to Weyerhaeuser's current facility in Dierks. The old facility is still in operation but is being phased out. The entire operation employs about 230 people.

The biggest challenge was the project's size, said Mid-South's John Westerman, P.E., and Tyler Avery, P.E. The facility's floor height was 50 percent higher than the conventional lumber mill. The pre-engineered metal buildings sit atop the substeel structure, which was designed by Mid-South. The support structure and walls don't go to grade, instead stopping 18.5 feet above the ground. Doing so reduced the building structure needed to cover the same eave height. It also reduced congestion in the basement level. Like other sawmills, the logs are processed on an upper level structure, so the residuals and chips fall below to lower floor equipment, and conveyors haul it off to other processes. The chips go to paper mills, the dry shavings are sent off to other markets,



**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD.** Chosen by banquet attendees, the award winner was Michael Baker International for the Highway 70 Widening project for the Arkansas Department of Transportation. From left are Kyle Yeary, P.E., and Rick Ellis, ARDOT; Fred Harper, P.E., and Bob Myers, P.E., Michael Baker International; Keli Wylie, P.E., ARDOT; Mike Stengel, P.E., Michael Baker International; John Fleming, P.E., ARDOT; and Landon Miller, P.E., Michael Baker International. The project was also the winner in Category H: Transportation.

and sawdust fuels four 40-million BTU kilns that heat and dry the lumber. In fact, no other fuel source is required to produce that enormous amount of heat.

"I think people don't realize how efficient a process lumber manufacturing actually is with the modern technology that's available," Avery said. "They can really maximize the yield and use basically every ounce of material that comes in."

One of the project's biggest challenges was coordinating and piecing together the work of 15-20 vendors, which meant that Mid-South was sometimes waiting on other firms' work while striving to maintain the original deadline. Mid-South also was responsible for document control, including more than 8,500 drawings.

Mid-South specializes in the wood products industry. This was the largest sawmill it has designed, but it has designed larger oriented strand board facilities.

*Continues on next page*

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## **Congratulations to the 2019 ACEC Arkansas Award Winners for Engineering Excellence**

Michael Baker International's Highway 70 Widening project was recognized as  
*Transportation Overall Winner • People's Choice*



**CATEGORY A: STUDIES, RESEARCH AND CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES.** The winner was Crafton Tull for the Hillsboro Gateway Master Plan for the City of El Dorado. Pictured from left are Bill Luther and Barbie Luther, El Dorado; Jerry Kelso, P.E., and Julie Kelso, AICP, ASLA, Crafton Tull; Robert Reynolds, El Dorado Works Board; and Paula Reynolds, El Dorado.

**CATEGORY A HONOR AWARD.**

Hawkins-Weir was recognized for a Pump Station/Force Main Evaluation Study for the City of Fort Smith Utility Department. Pictured are Barry McCormick, P.E. Hawkins-Weir; John Guthrie and Meg Lees, P.E., City of Fort Smith Utility Department; and Brett Peters, P.E., Hawkins-Weir.



**CATEGORY A HONOR AWARD.**

Hawkins-Weir Engineers was recognized for a Utility Regionalization for Central Arkansas Water project. Pictured are Audra Peters; Brett Peters, P.E., Hawkins-Weir; Blake Weindorf, P.E., Central Arkansas Water; Aaron Benzing, P.E., Hawkins-Weir; Mary Katherine Weindorf; and Harriett Benzing.



**CATEGORY C HONOR AWARD.**

Garver was recognized for its Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Tourist Information Centers project. Pictured is John Ramsey, RA, LEED AP BD+C.



There was one Honor Award in **Category C: Structural Systems**, for Garver for its Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) Tourist Information Centers project. **Category I: Special Projects** had three Honor Awards. Those went to Crafton Tull for the Camden Trace Trail Project for the City of Camden – Camden Connections; B & F Engineering for the Happy Ole Troll Trail for the City of Hot Springs; and CEI Engineering for the Crystal Bridges Elevator



**CATEGORY B: BUILDING/TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.** The winner was Garver for the LED High Intensity Runway Lighting project for the Blytheville-Gosnell Regional Airport Authority. Pictured are Mike Griffin, P.E., and Eric Farmer, P.E., Garver.

& Trail for the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

The winner of the **People's Choice Award** and also the winner in **Category H: Transportation** was Michael Baker International, for the Highway 70 Widening project for ARDOT. The People's Choice award is based on a vote of EEA attendees. Michael Baker International led the design in making a narrow highway with difficult site lines safer for those traveling to and from Interstate 30 and Hot Springs, one of the state's most popular tourist destinations. The 18.9 miles of highway includes four traffic lanes, a paved median and paved shoulders. The design also included straightening highway curves, four reconstructed bridges, constructed or widened box culverts, and a signalized intersection.

The People's Choice Award was sponsored by BXS Insurance Services, a subsidiary of BancorpSouth.

There were four Honor Award winners in Category H. Those were Crafton Tull for the Jenny Lind & Ingersoll Improvements for the City of Fort Smith; Garver for the U.S. 412 Springdale Northern Bypass for ARDOT; McClelland Consulting Engineers for the Stadium Drive Realignment Project for the University of Arkansas; and Olsson Associates for the Monte Ne Road Realignment for the City of Rogers.

Other Category and Honor Award winners were the following.

- **Category A: Studies, Research and Consulting Engineering Services.** The



**CATEGORY F: WATER & WASTEWATER.** The winner was Hawkins-Weir Engineers for the Beyond Solids Handling project for the City Corporation of Russellville. Pictured from left are Steve Mallett, P.E., Russellville City Corporation; John Saucier, Van Horn Construction; Taryn Childers and Randy Bradley, Russellville City Corporation; Aaron Benzing, P.E., Hawkins-Weir; Larry Collins, Russellville City Corporation; Brett Peters, P.E., Hawkins-Weir; and Lance Bartlett, P.E. LEED AP, Russellville City Corporation.



**CATEGORY F HONOR AWARD.** Olsson was recognized for the Spring Creek Lift Station project for the Springdale Water Utilities/Water & Sewer Commission. Pictured are Brad Hammond, P.E., Olsson, and Shawn Dorman, Springdale Water Utilities.



**CATEGORY G: WATER RESOURCES, LARGE PROJECT.** The winner was Garver for the HCR Dam Investigations & Repairs project for City Corporation, Russellville Water & Sewer. Pictured from left are Joe Dollerschell, P.E., BCEE, Garver; Steve Mallett, P.E., Garver; Taryn Childers, Larry Collins, and Jonathan Shipley, Russellville City Corporation; Jerry Martin, P.E., Garver; and Terry Shaddon and Lance Bartlett, P.E., LEED AP, Russellville City Corporation.

winner was Crafton Tull, for the Hillsboro Gateway Master Plan for the City of El Dorado. Crafton Tull created a community-driven master plan for an expansion of the U.S. 82B/Hillsboro corridor. The street cross section accommodates multiple modes of transportation and includes two vehicular travel lanes, a center turn lane or median, and a multi-use path along its north side. The new multi-use spine will connect schools and businesses through a growing downtown, while matching the vibrancy of El Dorado's booming local arts district.

There were five Honor Award winners in this category. Those were Brown Engineers for the Ouachita WTP Filter Process Controls project for the City of Hot Springs; Garver for the PCF Solids Handling Improvements project for Rogers Water Utilities; Hawkins-Weir Engi-

*Continues on next page*

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**CATEGORY G: WATER RESOURCES, LARGE PROJECT.** The winner was McClelland Consulting Engineers for the Main Street Phase 2 project for the City of Little Rock. Pictured from left are Jay Whisker, P.E., and Robbie Bullis, E.I., McClelland Consulting Engineers; Mike Hood, P.E., City of Little Rock; Dan Beranek, P.E., and Adam Osweiler, P.E., McClelland Consulting Engineers; Jon Honeywell, City of Little Rock; and Byron Hicks, P.E., McClelland Consulting Engineers.

**CATEGORY H: TRANSPORTATION HONOR AWARD.**

McClelland Consulting Engineers was recognized for the Stadium Drive Realignment Project for the University of Arkansas. Pictured are Robbie Bullis, E.I.; Kevin Beaumont, C Eng, MICE; Leah Tomlinson; and Jay Whisker, P.E., all of McClelland Consulting Engineers.



**CATEGORY H HONOR AWARD.** Garver was recognized for the U.S. 412 Springdale Northern Bypass for ARDOT. Pictured from left are Trinity Smith, P.E., ARDOT; John Cantabery, P.E., Garver; Steve Lawrence and Keli Wylie, P.E., ARDOT; Glynn Fulmer, P.E., and John Rudell, P.E., S.E., Garver; and Chuck Martin, P.E., ARDOT.



**CATEGORY H HONOR AWARD.** Crafton Tull was recognized for the Jenny Lind & Ingersoll Improvements for the City of Fort Smith. Pictured are Matt Crafton, P.E., and Mike Burns, P.E., Crafton Tull.



**CATEGORY H HONOR AWARD.** Olsson was recognized for the Monte Ne Road Realignment for the City of Rogers. Pictured are Chris Brackett, P.E., Olsson, and Lance Jobe, P.E., City of Rogers.

needs for a Utility Regionalization project for Central Arkansas Water; Hawkins-Weir Engineers for a Pump Station/Force Main Evaluation Study for the City of Fort Smith Utility Department; and McClelland Consulting Engineers for the Benton Bike & Pedestrian Plan for Benton Parks.

• **Category B: Building/Technology Systems.** The winner was Garver, for the LED High Intensity Runway Lighting project for the Blytheville-Gosnell Regional Airport Authority. The Arkansas International Airport is the first in Arkansas equipped with an LED high-intensity runway lighting system after Garver designed a unique installation plan. Garver worked with the airport to replace the airfield lighting electrical vault and install a new light-base junction can and conduit system for future lighting and cabling. When funding hurdles arose, Garver's master electrician and electrical engineering staff installed and aligned the light fixtures, which are more reliable and reduce energy costs by about 50 percent.

• **Category F: Water & Wastewater.** The winner was Hawkins-Weir Engineers, for the Beyond Solids Handling project for the City Corporation of Russellville. Facing a challenging timeline and limited construction funds, the City Corporation of Russellville chose a design-build team to create a facility that produces Class A sludge to be used on farms and gardens. Hawkins-Weir Engineers designed a 17-dry-tons-per-day Class A solids handling facility. Designed atop concrete splash walls for easier maintenance, it includes an operations floor, chemical storage area, office space, electrical room, and drive-through solids handling bay. The project was delivered three months ahead of schedule and under budget.

Olsson Associates received an Honor Award in this category for the Spring Creek Lift Station project for the Springdale Water Utilities/Water & Sewer Commission.

• **Category G: Water Resources, Large Project.** The winner was McClelland Consulting Engineers, for the Main Street Phase 2 project for the City of Little Rock. To improve the quality of water that runs off a downtown roadway and



**CATEGORY I HONOR AWARD.** Crafton Tull was recognized for the Camden Trace Trail Project for the City of Camden. Pictured are Crafton Tull's Frank Riggins, ASLA, CLARB; Julie Luther Kelso, AICP, ASLA; and Austin Paul.



**CATEGORY I HONOR AWARD.** B & F Engineering was recognized for the Happy Ole Troll Trail for the City of Hot Springs. Pictured from left are B & F staff members James Montgomery, P.S.; John Rogers, P.E.; Holly Vetsch, E.I.; Tommy Fenton; Daniel George, P.E.; and Dustin Ward, P.E.

into a storm drain system, McClelland used efficient and cost-effective low-impact development techniques to create a "treatment chain." The combination of filtering systems included brick pavers that filter out debris and replenish groundwater, rain gardens that act as a filter and water source while collecting runoff from the sidewalks, drain basins that collect debris

and can be removed and cleaned, and sand filter basins installed downstream of the drain basins to collect any remaining debris. The project included presentations to a local school, education signage, and the construction phase was designed to minimize disruption to traffic flow and local businesses.

• **Category G: Water Resources, Large Project.** The winner was Garver, for the HCR Dam Investigations & Repairs for City Corporation, Russellville Water & Sewer. To help the Russellville City Corporation maintain one of its premier water sources, Garver helped it first detect and then repair a leak in the Huckleberry Reservoir Dam. To find the leak, sample borings were performed and piezometers installed. While boring one of the holes, a zone of soft saturated soil and potential void was detected, which helped locate the source of the leaking water. A grouting program that utilized low-mobility grout and high-mobility grout under pressure was used to repair the leak. The method will provide a case study for future projects to address these unusual circumstances.

ACEC/Arkansas also presented its QBS Award to the University of Arkansas Facilities Management – Engineering and Construction Division. The award recognizes public organizations, private entities, and individuals that make exemplary use of the QBS selection process.

The 2019 EEA Committee was chaired by Jamie White of Garver. Other members were Holly Veatch, B & F Engineering; Travis Tolley, Crafton Tull; and Ashleigh Almond, McClelland Consulting Engineers.

Judges were Beth Franks, Associated General Contractors director of marketing; Brent Stevenson, American Institute of Architects – Arkansas executive director; Bill Roachell, ABC president; Dustin Davis, AIA, LEED Fellow, Polk Stanley Wilcox; Ken Jones, P.E., Bernhard TME; and Keith Jacks, CHC, CHFM, VP, Kinco Constructors.

Sponsors were Garver, FTN Associates, BXS Insurance, ETEC, ACEC Life/Health Trust, and Turner Insurance. Garver photographed the award winners who appear in this magazine article.

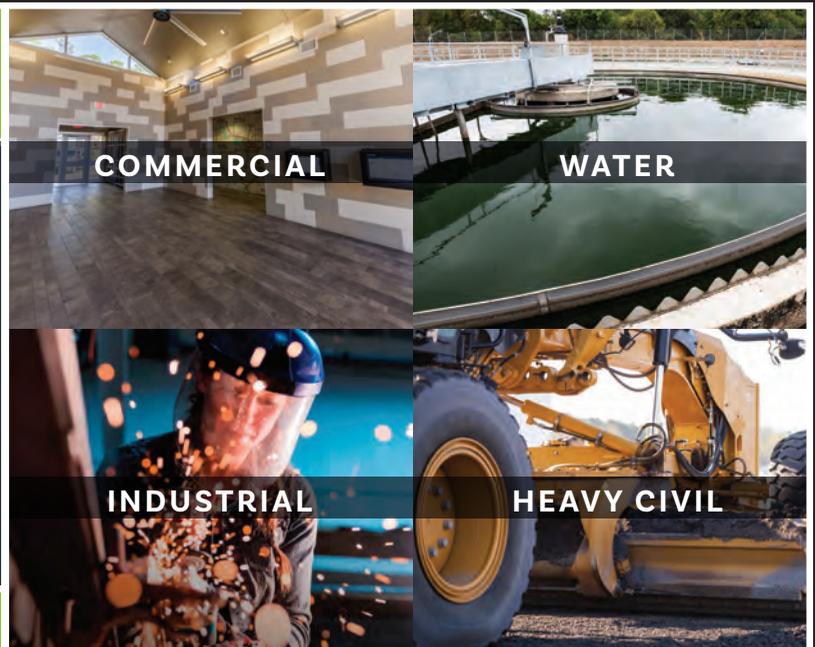


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Project Engineer David Clement is a second generation engineer and understands the importance of designing sound infrastructure for the families traveling Arkansas roads. That's why he put forth an award-winning effort as the structural engineer on ARDOT's Tourist Information Centers project. Congratulations to all the Garver project teams who were recognized by ACEC this year.



For more information, contact:  
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