Publisher’s Note

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Greetings All,

This issue’s message is going to be mostly about YOU, dear readers. But first, let me highlight a couple of really good happenings that took place in the past 6 months:

First, our CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) hit the ground running, thanks to Don Marske’s talents and dedication. Please be sure to read his encouraging update.

Second, we had a wonderful Denver ReUnion in September, thanks to Jim Schwing and his excellent committee. Planning has started for our 2020 ReUnion with Bob Chapman leading the charge; preliminary details will be coming in the next few months.

Now, about you. I’ve been blessed (and lucky) over the past 10 years finding enjoyable and memorable articles for the newsletter. I continue to work with my “old” connections and am delighted to have many “new” connections with folks who have been kind enough to volunteer leads and share their stories. This is where I can use more of your help. We’re receiving fewer new alumni names via Jacobs, which hopefully is good because they’re still enjoying their jobs and careers. But, please let me know about anyone you know who has left Jacobs, so we can follow-up with an update or acknowledge their retirement or move.

I’m particularly delighted with the number of folks who shared their memories and adventures for this issue. No story is too big or small (that’s why we have the “Tid-bit” Section). Also, special thanks for those of you who let us know of the loss of many dear friends, colleagues and spouses. We have no other means of obtaining that information, so please continue with your help!

Please keep me and Don in mind and send a quick note about your news, leads, comments, suggestions, kudos and concerns (if any). We appreciate all your input! My special thanks to our extraordinary newsletter production duo: Angie and Sarah; Don: our CHAA and mailing list guru; and Dan: our webmaster extraordinaire!

Best wishes to all our readers for a happy and healthful 2019!

Cheers!

Gordon

(gkoblit1@outlook.com)
The CH2M HILL Alumni Association ReUnion Planning Committee worked tirelessly to put on a successful 2018 ReUnion Denver that was held at the Embassy Suites Downtown Convention Center Hotel September 20–22. More than 100 people from across the United States attended the 3-day event, made even more exciting by the coincident Great American Beer Festival that filled sidewalks around the hotel and along Denver’s 16th Street Mall.

Rick Luebbers served as our overall Master of Ceremonies and fulfilled all expectations for an entertaining standup comic. He certainly missed his calling.

The ReUnion opened with lunch on Thursday, September 20, including a special honor for Bob Pailthorp presented by John Filbert, who had the honor of working with Bob beginning in the 1960s.

Bob’s complete surprise and appreciation for the honor is described in his email to Jim Schwing:

“That memories session caught me—a wonderful surprise! Just about had me in tears. Thanks so very much.

So many great friends. I have greatly missed many of our CH2M friends. We certainly have spread around the country. I feel very lucky that I was hired by Cornell, Howland, Hayes and Merryfield. I had three other employment offers: State of NJ, Alaska Health Department, and City of North Bend as assistant—easy choice!”

Following this moving event, the microphone was open for others to present their memories of CH2M HILL:
Following lunch was free time with options of visiting local museums, a local distillery, or Union Station; or just hanging out with friends.

Prior to the evening activities there was a meet and greet session where friends could enjoy getting caught up with news of others.
L to R: Dave and Dotty Raby, Don Marske, Mary Koblitz, Al and Diane Amoth, and Gordon Koblitz.


The highlights of the ReUnion Dinner were the presentations by Jacque Hinman, and Greg McIntyre, now Jacobs executive VP for buildings and infrastructure. Prior to their presentations, Jacque also was recognized for her financial contributions to the ReUnion that helped it finish in the black and the Alumni Association.

Jacque presented an excellent summary of conditions at CH2M that led to the need for the sale of the firm to Jacobs; Greg’s presentation addressed the successful integration of CH2M into the Jacobs organization, illustrated with a PowerPoint summary of how both firms’ staffs, clients, and locations will blend well to serve Jacobs in the coming years.

The sessions on Friday, September 21, began with an outstanding presentation by Brandon Johnson, vice president of operations for Bridges to Prosperity, a service organization supported by CH2M. Bridges to Prosperity builds bridges in developing countries to enable local people to access normally inaccessible areas to support their lives by building foot bridges across ravines, streams, etc. Many of the audience who were moved by the discussion asked Brandon afterwards how they could help. Here’s their link for anyone who would like more information: https://bridgestoprosperity.org/.

During the break, we were delighted to catch Phil Hall and Bob Card together.

Following the break was a presentation by Bob Peters, of the Denver Water Department (DWD), about the history and future of water management in Colorado, with a focus on Denver Water. CH2M has served the DWD for more than 40 years. It was an excellent presentation, followed by Larry Schimmoller, Jacobs global technology leader – water reuse. Larry gave an interesting history of some of the most notable water projects. Bob Chapman, who had significant roles in many of the phases over the years, then shared some of his interesting insight and experiences.

Following lunch, ReUnion attendees were bussed to the Red Rocks Park and Concert Venue and the Colorado Music Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, we weren’t told ahead of time that Red Rocks facilities would be closed from mid-afternoon because of a scheduled concert that evening. However, we had fun anyway on the bus ride to and from Red Rocks and during the short time we were there.
At the famous Red Rocks Amphitheater in the foothills outside Denver.

Attendees were on their own for the Friday night dinner at the many fine local restaurants.

On Saturday morning, Don Marske and Gordon Koblitz conducted a chartering session for the new CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA). They reviewed the purpose of the CHAA, its makeup, and finances. They then asked the 25 attendees what they would like to see from the Association. Several good suggestions were offered, including:

- Add connections to volunteer organizations like Bridges to Prosperity—Doug Griffes.
- Thoughts about the CHAA: Leadership/Management, History, Recruitment, Reunions, Newsletters, University contacts, Volunteers, Affiliates, Jacobs Liaison/References, Surviving Spouse, Outside services, and CH2M Foundation. (Our website already addresses/includes some of these ideas. Look forward to exploring the others.)
- Add a tiered class of membership: Full-time alumni, aspiring alumni, potential alumni—Kurt Leininger.
- Add an affiliate (client) class of membership—Rick Luebbers and endorsed by Bob Chapman.
- Provide access to a directory of alumni with the use of a password for entry.
- Does Jacobs have an alumni association? Collaborate—Bob Davis.

Gordon and Don also shared the challenge they are having recruiting members. On August 15, they sent out over 2,600 solid deliverable email invitations. As of the ReUnion, only about 45 percent opened the invitation; of those who opened, only 170 signed up so far. Question: How do we reach and maintain our alumni? Again, several good ideas surfaced including:

- Research alums through LinkedIn.
- Recruit members via the local alumni gatherings.
- Consult with AWeber, our emailing service, for advice on how we present our email broadcasts. Which subject line gets the most opens? Which call-to-action gets the most clicks? What is best time to send? AM or PM?
- Enlist current CHAA members to reach out to our alumni within Jacobs and/or recently separated from Jacobs.

The final session of the morning was a presentation by Mark Brown of Brown and Company, financial planners for several CH2M HILL retirees. The subject was “Recession Planning During Retirement.”

The attendees’ evaluation of the Reunion concluded that it was an outstanding success. This would not have happened without the hard work of the following Planning Committee over the past year:

- Mark Alpert – Reunion Agenda
- Sheldon Barker – Planning Advisor
- Gary Beech – Planning Advisor
- Jerry Boyle – Photography Coordinator
- Bob Chapman – Planning Advisor
- Gordon Koblitz – Planning Advisor and CHAA Board Chair
- Rick Luebbers – Master of Ceremonies and Planning Advisor
- Don Marske – Mailing list
- Jeff Mather – Reunion Facilities
- Barb Osmer – Field Trip and Registration
- Jim Schwing – Chair
- Howard Thomas – Email service coordinator

Final Notes: Bob Chapman graciously agreed to be the leader of the 2020 Reunion. Thank you, Bob!!!

P.S. Please share any photos you wish to add for the ReUnion article. We can update the article through Jim Schwing or post via Jerry Boyle at his email: jerry.mary.boyle@me.com. Photos will be posted on his SmugMug website account for all to see at a later date.
Wynnlee Crisp grew up on a small farm in Muncie, Indiana, and eventually worked his way through undergraduate school on a home construction crew. That job required the purchase of his “million-dollar hammer” at $12.98. That hammer got him the construction job, and that job financed college; he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Ball State University in 1969. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force; he attained a master’s degree in natural resources management at the University of Alaska – Fairbanks in 197. He then moved to Corvallis and used his magazine-article-writing experience to join CH2M as an editor. His later environmental article in *American Forests* Magazine led to his role as the first environmental planner in the Corvallis, Oregon, office. He managed the growth of that department until he transferred to the Philadelphia office in 1991 to work on Pentagon and NASA projects.

Wynnlee then transferred to Seattle as vice president, environmental planning, managed large multidiscipline environmental impact statements for governments and industry around the West, and helped develop and teach CH2M’s Project Delivery System throughout the company.

Over his CH2M career, Wynnlee was one of the pioneering half-dozen environmental planners who started the practice in 1972 of developing Environmental Impact Statements for clients. He retired from CH2M in 2001 and travelled North America with his wife and big dog in a diesel-pusher motor home for 3 years. Then, colleagues in the UW Engineering School helped him launch his own project management trainings, conducted first for the university then for others throughout the western states and Canada over the next 13 years. He retired a second time, in 2014, and bought land east of Lake Tahoe in the Ponderosa pines north of Carson City, Nevada. There, he lived quietly retired in the high Sierra until 2018, when Alaska Department of Transportation invited him to conduct a series of project management trainings. His acceptance marked his third failed attempt at retirement.

Now, Wynnlee jokingly says his main job is “philandery,” giving money to worthy causes (i.e., “philanthropy”). His intent is to give it all away during his lifetime, with University of Alaska scholarships being his major focus. He is currently writing his second book, which, among other stories, will include short humorous and profound anecdotes about some of his CH2M colleagues.

More information on Wynnlee can be found at the CH2M HILL Alumni Association website, [here](#).
**FIRST HARVEST**

By Dave Evans  
(shootmyage72@gmail.com)

Our independent living group at Varenna has formed a wine making organization. The organization is registered as part of the Fountain Grove District American Viticultural Area (AVA) of Sonoma County.

Our in-house Varenna association of 20+ members, led by a past wine maker and two growers, has its own on property, including vines, press, fermentation vat, and filtering and corking device. We have also worked on choosing a label and bottles for our harvest. This past autumn, we had our first grape harvest and crush, where we harvested the grapes for the first time and began to learn the wine making process.

We each had our team assignments for the various tasks, which included grape picking and navigating around the vineyard (old clothes, gardening gloves, and pruning shears the necessities!); setting up the crushing equipment; transporting grapes to the crush pad; sorting, weighing, crushing, and de-stemming the grapes; and of course, clean up, observation, photography, and cheerleading!

Over a period of 4 hours, we processed more than 1,000 pounds of Primativo grapes, and then celebrated our harvest with a group dinner. Now that the harvest is done, we are getting periodic reports from our wine maker on the maceration and fermentation processes. Cheers to a great harvest and wine-making experience! The “fruits of our labor” will be disclosed in the next newsletter.😊

A closer look at the Fountain Grove District American Viticultural Area of Sonoma County.

Dave, center, sorting, weighing, and de-stemming the grapes.
A SOARING ALUMNI
By Dana Rippon (drippon@charter.net)

As I recall, my neighbor and friend, a deputy sheriff, talked me into going in with him on an ultralight. The other owner was a computer science professor at University of Florida.

We kept the ultralight on a pasture near Orange Lake, south of Gainesville. It had a set of wheels and pontoons, so we could take off and land on the pasture or go lake hopping. Orange Lake was full of alligators, so it was nice to view from a distance. I could also fly over Cross Creek and Micanopy, the sites of the movies The Yearling, Cross Creek, and Doc Hollywood.

The first time I soloed, the instructor failed to mention to me that Navy pilots occasionally buzzed Orange Lake for fun on their way back to Pensacola. Of course, they would pick that day. I got to a comfortable altitude; say, a couple of thousand feet, and was enjoying the ride when I looked down and saw the tops of two fighter jets skimming the lake. I hoped they saw me (probably not) and said a prayer that I wouldn’t get sucked into their intakes.

On another flight, a bald eagle decided to soar right beneath me. I looked down and saw him cricking his neck to look up at me, trying to figure out who I was and what I was doing there.

After flying the ultralight for a while, I went to an air show and saw a parachute team demonstration. I thought, now that’s cool! It’s like flying an ultralight, but without that loud engine a couple of inches from your ears. Hence, my excursion into skydiving.

The freefall is like doing a great imitation of a rock for about a minute, followed by a humongous jerk when you pull the ripcord. After that, it’s a terrific canopy ride for several minutes. I liked flying the canopy the best. These are a couple of fond memories that I’m glad to share. Click here for a full copy of Dana’s adventures.

ICE AGE GEOLOGY IN THE PUGET LOWLAND
By Art Storbo (astorbo@nwlink.com)

Retirement gives us opportunities to pursue interests which we didn’t have time for during our working life. My hobbies have for years been astronomy, geology, and genealogy, but my interest in geology goes back to pre-college days.

In our work at CH2M, as our geologists and geotechnical engineers explained the vagaries of soils and groundwater, the conversation inevitably turned to Ice Age history. In the Puget Lowland, from the Canadian border to Centralia and from the Cascade foothills to the Olympic foothills, there was always the question of what the last Ice Age left behind.

Glacial groove, Washington Park, Anacortes.
Following retirement, Sharon and I became members of two rock clubs and the Ice Age Floods Institute (IAFI). The Puget Lobe Chapter of the IAFI needed someone to write and illustrate a brochure for public distribution regarding the region’s Ice Age history. In late 2017, I took on the job; it was an opportunity not to be missed. Eventually we had a four-person team; one member was an experienced editor who had worked for geologists writing technical papers and books. The other two members contributed ideas and valuable guidance.

In the ensuing year, I researched technical papers, books, and Internet sources to learn the history of Puget Lowland glacial advance and retreat. I took many field trips (probably 2,000 miles of driving and 100 miles of hiking), to see an array of features, including grooved bedrock, large saltwater and freshwater troughs, kettle lakes, glacial outwash plains, moraines, huge gravel deposits, and more.

As work progressed, our product focus shifted from a paper brochure supplemented by website articles to website articles supplemented by a paper brochure, as the IAFI realized that a wider audience could be reached by electronic media. The resulting website can be found here, which contains an interactive map and Glacialscape articles. I wrote the articles; our IAFI webmaster developed the map. Read the articles first, and in the Interesting Puget Lobe Facts, which includes a brief timeline, watch the 3-minute animated video of ice advance and retreat, a good primer for the full story, here.

The project was a success – I accomplished my goal of learning about Ice Age geology in the Puget Sound basin and the Puget Lobe Chapter met its goal of having an interesting website of Ice Age features in the Puget Lowland.

AN ENGINEERING PERSPECTIVE
By Dick Horning (hundwald@aol.com)

It all started for us 39 years ago with the company ski trip to Bend, Oregon, in January 1980, as alums Debbie Young and Dan Vanluchene will remember. I was hoping to enlist another employee, Grace, as another rider to share gas cost, but she had already made a commitment. On Sunday morning she needed a ride to Mt. Bachelor and, while Dan got himself ready, we spent an hour or two just talking; neither can remember what any subject was. One thing led to another, partly thanks to Debbie’s assurance to Grace that “he isn’t as bad as some of those engineers,” and we were married the following May, just before I left for an 8-month trip on the Jones Island (Milwaukee) project. Grace learned early in the marriage what being the wife of an engineer would be like.

The years saw several changes in the firm’s org chart and logo, and a number of other project deployments, most notably a year-long one in Austin as the firm solidified a beachhead in Texas. Notable for us in moving the household, including a dog and cat and very pregnant mare, and back again to Corvallis the next year with another dog and yearling colt.

During another of my project trips, Grace used the extra time to go through a master gardener course and serve with the Benton County chapter of the OSU Extension Service. Seeking a more secure home for the horse, we moved to a small acreage in Polk County to the north, and I began learning about managing our 5-acre woodland and planting seedling evergreens to try to fill in the bare spots. Membership in the Oregon Small Woodlands Association also taught him the fine points of felling trees.
During this time Grace was now out of work but put the time to use completing the bachelor’s degree she had begun while still in Indiana years earlier. After graduation from OSU she worked part-time as the office manager for a church, and it tickled the pastor to hear her answer the phone with “Trinity Church, this is Grace.” In her spare time, she joined the Polk County Master Gardeners club and was editor for its newsletters and for the church for several years.

Eventually all things come to an end, and so it was with our careers. Grace used the move of the church to a new building to retire as its office manager. I continued to work in retired/flex status finishing projects begun before age 65, but there was progressively less demand for me with each year that passed. I had just now figured out how to be a discipline lead engineer and now it was time to quit!

With an eye to attracting our far-flung children and grandchildren to visit, we recently moved down to the southwest corner of Oregon and built a house in Bandon, with plenty of vacant ground for Grace to indulge her passion for landscaping, and with plenty of bedrooms for visitors. Because the geologists have been warning of a major event occurring on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, we trained with the local CERT group for emergency assistance to first responders. Then we decided we might be better able to assist with short wave radio communication, so we took an online course in what seemed like Greek at first, but we passed the FCC exams and added another volunteer organization with the county emergency management office to our activities. For any hams who read this, our call signs are KI7NDL (me) and KI7NDO (Grace).

Over 30 years in the country...thinking we would downsize has seen the original house footprint enlarged by a second garage, a garden house, and finally a ham radio shack. After taking a boating class and buying a boat, that interest waned (temporarily?) and no further building anticipated...except maybe a chicken coop. Bandon is friendly and intriguing with many dimensions – much to learn!
AN EXCITING YEAR OF CHANGE

By Julie Bielman (Julie.bielman@gmail.com)

[Note: We were happy to receive Julie’s Christmas update and asked if we could share. Julie is the wife of Ken, who was one of the first hires made in Corvallis, Employee No. 012!]

Julie Bielman here, hoping this finds you well and happy. For me, it’s been an exciting year bringing many changes. Fortunately, through all the changes in my life, my kids have cheered me on and helped with the decision making along the way. For example, my Bielman gang phoned, visited, and shared meals, as well as helping with various moves. In April I learned my daughter Cheryl decided to move to Colorado and invited me to live with her. Though Bonaventure Senior Living had been the perfect place for my husband Ken and me during the few years I needed help with his care, I was still in pretty good health and delighted with her wonderful offer. I started packing the next week!

June was filled with packing, family get-togethers, visits with friends, and sight-seeing. On September 1 we moved into Cheryl’s home in Greeley. Looking north, the farmland is flatter than a fritter, here and there punctuated with oil wells for which Weld County is envied. To the west we see the Rocky Mountains, and we’re an hour’s drive from Aurora where sons Mike and Scott live.

October was also a month of family celebrations, including a week in Hawaii for a week of games, snorkeling, sightseeing and golf, and celebrating retirement and birthdays.

One of my Christmas gifts this year is getting daily therapy attention from Cheryl’s three rescue cats. First is our diminutive, blue-eyed and beautiful, Bean, who is laid back and independent, and has a tiny-boned Siamese face and a body covered with thick and velvety black, gray and white fur. Green-eyed Freyja (“Norwegian Goddess”) is a sweet, orange and black tortoise shell who can be somewhat overly reactive where her big brother, Butterball, is concerned. Butterball was a huge (21 pounds), ugly, muddy, and matted feral cat when he was rescued. Down to 15 pounds now—double the size of his dainty sisters—he still walks like a burly prize fighter when he’s not flopping belly up on the couch begging for attention like a kitten. They truly are a source of TLC and therapy for me and all four of us; Butterball, Bean, Freyja and I, are more than grateful that we’ve been taken in and given a new home. It’s our Christmas 2018 story.

With the many changes in my life I feel, and am, so blessed! I wish you many blessings, much love and happiness in the New Year 2019!

PHOTOGRAPHING THE BIG CATS

By Don Russell (russelldlr@comcast.net)

I joined CH2M in 1963 in Seattle. I was the 6th employee in Seattle and the 106th in the company back in the Holly Cornell and Jim Poirot days. I left in the 1990s to run a startup company that had a patent on the use of granulated scrap tire rubber in asphalt.

Things are good for me, living in Poulsbo across the water from Seattle. I’m active in the Poulsbo Rotary, and traveling a bit—I just returned from a trip to photograph the jaguars in Brazil and have a trip booked to photograph the Bengal tigers in India next May.

Keep in touch, I had a wonderful career at CH2M and fondly remember those days. The 1960s to the 1990s was a unique time to be an employee!
AN UPDATE FROM CLARE DOWLEY
By Clare Dowley (cdowley12@gmail.com)

After graduating from University of Maryland, Baltimore County, I joined CH2M and worked out of the Wabash Avenue Metro Maintenance Facility. I worked mainly on projects for the upkeep of the current metro trains, but I also worked on some commissioning testing for the new light rail trains.

After leaving, I traveled abroad for 5 weeks to Iceland, England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland before starting a new position as a mechanical engineer with Phoenix International Holdings, Inc. I am working with many other engineers on a project to design a submarine rescue system for the Australian Navy.

Pre-Retiree/Alumni News

STEVE KAVALEC RECOGNIZED FOR ALUMNI HISTORY SERVICE

Steve Kavalec, our superb and tireless Alumni History webmaster, had to “retire” from that volunteer position to focus on his expanded Jacobs’ work responsibilities. Our Alumni History committee planned to honor him at the recent Denver Alumni ReUnion, but Steve and his wife were vacationing.

At the ReUnion dinner we announced the award, expressed our appreciation, and recognized Steve for his 10+ years of service to the Alumni History website. The special trophy was sent to him along with a request for a photo. Here it is, along with our Alumni History Committee photo from the ReUnion. Unfortunately, Susie Gaare was on vacation for that one. Steve replied, “Thanks again for everything you’ve given me over the years. I really feel appreciated. Please pass this fact on to everyone. I’ll see you in retirement!”

Steve Kavalec, AH webmaster extraordinaire!

Thank You Steve!
Gordon Koblitz, Dave Evans, Jim Schwing, Rick Luebbers, Don Marske and Susie Gaare (traveling)
Your CH2M HILL Alumni History Committee
2018 Denver Reunion
THE ROAD TO CH2M

By Jhan Schmitz (Jhan.Schmitz@jacobs.com)

I joined CH2M in April 2004. How did I get there? It was a bit of a long journey. I had originally been recruited by Bud Ahearn back in 1998. At that time, I was program manager for the new Hong Kong International Airport (working for Bechtel), which opened in July that year. Bud invited me to Denver (when the office was still at the Tech Center), and we had a lengthy series of discussions on how to grow the company’s program management practice. Unfortunately, there was no immediate opportunity to join CH2M, and I returned to Hong Kong, working with the HK Airport Authority to optimize airport operations during the initial 18 months after opening.

After Hong Kong, and after 17 years with Bechtel, I joined URS, and moved to London toward the end of 1999 as managing director of the URS project management company in the UK, and as head of the URS Aviation group in Europe. I moved back to the U.S. in 2002, still with URS, to head up the new master plan for Los Angeles International Airport. It didn’t take long for me to fall victim to politics in Los Angeles, and I left URS to go off on my own later in 2002. Most of my consulting assignments at that point were back in Europe, including a consultancy opportunity through CH2M’s London office to help shape the Transportation BG strategic business plan for international aviation opportunities.

After Gulf War II in 2003, I was retained by the World Bank to assess infrastructure needs in Iraq, and I set up and managed local teams to assess needs for airports and ports, and then water and wastewater facilities. CH2M knew that I was in Iraq, and the company was interested in bidding several contracts for reconstruction work there. I helped CH2M in planning and in linking up with potential local subcontractors in Iraq.

I was invited to Denver in late 2003 to help prepare CH2M bids for program management opportunities for the U.S. mission in Iraq and was named as program director for the transportation program management package. Award announcements were made in early 2004, and CH2M was selected for the water and wastewater program management package, not the transportation package. Don Evans had been named as program director for the water and wastewater package, and very shortly after the announcement, he gave me a call, telling me that the CH2M Board would not allow him to take the position because of perceived risk. He asked if I would take his place as program director. I accepted, and finally and officially joined CH2M in April 2004. And the rest is history.

At CH2M, I was program director of water/wastewater sector reconstruction in Iraq, based in Baghdad; and then regional business group manager (RBGM) for CH2M’s Water Business Group, based in Dubai. In between, I co-led CH2M’s response to the Asian Tsunami, based in Jakarta; acted as chairman of the C2Sea Consortium, led by CH2M, to determine feasibility of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Program; and helped initiate our program management contract for modernization of Mumbai International Airport in India.

The highlight of my career was the Panama Canal Expansion Program. I helped lead the CH2M proposal and interview efforts and was honored to take the position of program manager for this iconic program. We were awarded the program management contract in August 2007, just days after our interview with the client, and we mobilized our team within 1 week of the award notice. I led the program until early 2009, when I moved (yet again) back to London, this time to head up the program partner organization for the Crossrail program, a $20+ billion commuter rail system (and Europe’s largest construction program) connecting Heathrow Airport in the west underground through Central London to the new financial center at Canary Wharf. After a year setting up the program for Crossrail, I returned to the Panama Canal Expansion Program as program manager for the last 6 months of 2010, at the client’s request.
My wife (Connie Brennan) and I finally returned to the U.S. in 2011 after having lived most of our married life abroad, landing in Palm Springs, California. I was then called on by CH2M to help lead the positioning, proposal, interview and contract negotiations for program management of Philadelphia International Airport’s Capacity Enhancement Program, which I ran from contract award until I retired at the end of 2013. Or I should have said “pretended to retire.” I was almost immediately appointed CH2M corporate sponsor/principal-in-charge for the Panama Canal Expansion Program, and in 2014 and 2015 led a CH2M team in Sydney, Australia, bidding on a major highway program. I’ve continued as a flex employee with CH2M—and now Jacobs—taking the occasional short-term assignment that fits my otherwise expanding schedule of true retirement activities. Which now includes being on the Board of Commissioners for Palm Springs International Airport.

JACOBS IN IRELAND

By Martin McCarthy (martinmcc47@gmail.com)

I had the good fortune to have worked for CH2M HILL (IDC Division) in Ireland from 2003 to 2010 and to have met so many fantastic people such as Ralph Peterson (at an Ann Arbor training event), Greg Young (IDC Portland), Mike Kennedy, and others. CH2M HILL contributed greatly to Ireland’s industrial success, most notably as Intel’s designer. Intel is today Ireland’s largest industrial employer.

I was also fortunate to have had two terms at Jacobs, 1976 to 1981, and 1996 to 2003, and to have met Joe and the late, great, Noel Watson. Noel loved to tell us that Dublin was Jacobs’ first overseas office, started in 1974 and prosperous to this day.

Jacobs has contributed greatly to Ireland and many Irish folks have worked for Jacobs all over the world. I include John McLachlan in that, as his granny was Irish!

It is interesting to note that in 1996, Jacobs and IDC set up a full joint venture company—JIDC Ireland—to act as designer and construction manager for Intel Fab 14, a huge project in those day. We thought then, and still think now, that Jacobs and CH2M HILL are a great fit!

CH2M HILL Alumni Association News

By Don Marske (donmarske@gmail.com)

Hey! Can you believe our Alumni Association is almost a year old already? Formally incorporated on April 6, 2018, the Board of Directors—Sheldon Barker, Jerry Boyle, Bob Chapman, David Evans, Susan Gaare, Gordon Koblitz, Rick Luebbers, Don Marske, and Jim Schwing—and your officers: Gordon Koblitz, President; Jim Schwing, Vice President; Susan Gaare, Secretary; and Don Marske, Treasurer— are excited about your response to the Association and looking forward to the programs of 2019.

Our Association’s purpose is to preserve and maintain the relationships and friendships built during our association with CH2M HILL. To achieve this, we will maintain a roster of CH2M HILL alumni, publish a periodic newsletter, convene periodic reunions, and maintain and continue to build the Alumni History of CH2M HILL website.

As of today, we have 2,604 deliverable email addresses (they don’t bounce) on our master roster. The 2018 membership invitations resulted in 261 paid members. While we are excited to have 261 members, we are disappointed this is only 10 percent of our roster. We have come to recognize the challenges of email solicitations, especially the 50 percent of unopened emails. Yikes! In 2019 we will be looking at new strategies to reach our alumni. One will definitely include soliciting your help. If you have heard any news of a new alum or retiree, PLEASE drop us a line at ch2mhilla@gmail.com. You can also invite them to join the Association by going to the website at www.ch2mhillalumni.org and clicking on the Join Now button in the upper righthand corner of the home page.

Believe it or not, planning for the 2020 ReUnion is already underway under the guidance of Bob Chapman, who has stepped up to chair the event. Thank you, Bob! Look for the Save the Date message from Bob in this newsletter.

As noted above, the priceless Alumni History website has been moved to www.ch2mhillalumni.org. If you haven’t jumped on it yet, we think you will agree it is unparalleled in our industry. In 2019, we will be sprucing up the website a bit, including some interactive elements yet to be determined. And, as always, we are always looking for new contributions to the website.
Finally, as you now know, we must look to you, our fellow alums, to support the Association activities. Your support and the support of many donors is very much appreciated and assures us that the Association will be around for a while. To ensure a sustainable operation going forward, we will again be seeking new members in 2019, and sending notices this spring to existing members for 2019 membership dues of $20.

If you have any questions about the Alumni Association membership, or its programs, please feel free to contact Don at ch2mhillaa@gmail.com.

Again, thank you to all who have joined and donated to the Association in 2018!

P.S.: The Board of Directors just had their quarterly meeting on January 21 and are pleased to announce that Jory Abrams was unanimously elected as the newest member to the Board!

MEET YOUR CHAA MEMBERS

We are pleased to acknowledge and welcome our new members of the CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) as of January 10! We also welcome all spouses of our deceased alumni who will receive their membership without charge. We hope you all will look over the list, and if you DON’T see some of your good friends or colleagues, reach out to them and encourage them to join. If any of our readers haven’t yet joined and would like to support our goals and activities, please contact Don Marske at ch2mhillaa@gmail.com or go to our CHAA website: http://ch2mhillalumni.org and click on the “Join” link in the upper right corner. We will continue to welcome new CHAA members in each newsletter.

CHAA Members

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<th>Steve Aasheim</th>
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P.S.: The Board of Directors just had their quarterly meeting on January 21 and are pleased to announce that Jory Abrams was unanimously elected as the newest member to the Board!
HATS OFF TO OUR CHAA DONORS!

Very special thanks to our CHAA donors who kindly went above and beyond their annual membership fee by contributing an extra amount to help us get established in this critical first year! We wish to acknowledge all our donors and we appreciate every gift given. Listed below are all our donors (as of January 10) at several different levels we established. This is voluntary, of course, and can be done anonymously, if desired. Donors will be acknowledged in each newsletter and all donors acknowledged annually in the January issue. Donations will be accrued and donors will be acknowledged when a new level is attained. Members who attain the “Sustainers” level and above will receive a lifetime membership as a small token of our appreciation.

A major portion of the 2019 donations will be used to significantly upgrade our Association website (accessibility, content, security and enjoyment), member outreach program, and help to promote local member groups. Updates regarding these efforts will be coming in the next newsletters. Again, thank you all for your generosity!!

CHAA Supporters: $1-$99

Steve Aasheim, Thelma Byrd, Mike Fisher, Whitney Lindquist, Donald Russell
Jory Abrams, (Haines), Don Fox, Harry Mejdell, David Schertler, David Schertler
Don Amedo, Leofwin Clark, Jollee Gardner, Louis Mlcoch, Daniel Stock
James Bareinger, Dick Corrigan, Joseph Gauthier, Richard Monroe
Sheldon Barker, David Dunagan, John Hansen, Brian O’Halloran
Maria Bornheimer, Steve Ebe, Mike Harris, Elaine Praegitzer
Jane Bower, Gordon Elliott, Ed Lance, Dave Raby
Kris Buros, Dona Eskelin, John Lee, Sally Ruggles

CHAA Spouses/Widows/Widowers

Patsy Benson, Shirlene Humphrey, Adele Neukomm, Sue Silkworth, Kathy Wilson
Julie Bielman, Apple Jacobs, Vera Nevens, Sondra Smith, Marlene Wollmann
Carol Bissell, Sue Krumwick, Valerie Nichols, Diane Sterling, Jean Worth
Amanda Carr, Whitney Lindquist, Betty D. Peterson, Babs Suhr, Beverly Zeien
Sheila Coon, Sally Madden, Raeda Poiriot, Hope Thayer
Emma Erickson, Jessie McClelland, Mary Reid, Shirley Ward
Dona Eskelin, Betty Miller, Gayle F. Schilling, Laurie Weigum
Barbara Grube, Carol Moyer, Margie R. Sexsmith, Shelby Weimer

HATS OFF TO OUR CHAA DONORS!!
HELLO, RECENT RETIREES/ALUMNI

The following folks retired or left in the last 6 months from the Jacobs/CH2M companies.

Unfortunately, we’ve only received information for three long-term folks:

- John Hinman (Boise)
- Elizabeth French (Corvallis)
- Mark Rosser (Denver)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Jacobs only provides a link to the CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) for previous CH2M staff who retire or leave the firm voluntarily. Therefore, we need everyone’s help to let us know of individuals who left Jacobs, voluntarily or involuntarily, and might wish to join the CHAA network. Your help is critical, so we hear from you about retirees and alumni who leave, regardless of circumstances. Please contact: ch2mhillaa@gmail.com or gkoblitz1@outlook.com so we may respond or contact them. Thank you!!!
Goodbye, Old Friends

BERNICE (BUNNY) SCOTT

Bernice (Bunny) Scott, 91, passed away November 25, 2017, in Gainesville, Florida. She was born October 21, 1926 and grew up on a dairy farm. Upon graduating from Gainesville High School, Bunny attended Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, earning a degree in business. In 1949, Bunny joined Black Laboratories, Inc. (later Black, Crow and Eidsness, Inc.) which merged with CH2M in 1977. She was district director of human resources for its 16 offices east of the Mississippi and retired in 1987 after 38 years. She was a real “people person” and often boasted she had the best job in the world.

She enjoyed square dancing and traveling. She and her late husband, James Whiteman, served as presidents of the North Florida Square Dance Association and later presidents of the Florida State Square Dance Federation. They attended many state festivals as well as the national conventions.

It was through square dancing that she met and later married James F. Scott, Sr. in 1987. They lived in Jacksonville, Florida and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States as well as Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Bunny was also active in Altrusa International, served a couple of 2-year terms as circle president of the Mandarin Garden Club, a three-year term on the Vestry of San Jose Episcopal Church, and a 3-year term on the 440-student school board at the church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James F. Scott, Sr. She is survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

DENNIS EUGENE VAN KIRK

Dennis Eugene Van Kirk passed away peacefully in Vancouver, Washington, on December 5, 2018, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Jo Ann Fielding Van Kirk; his children: Erik C. Van Kirk and wife Stevie, Marta L. Van Kirk, Jeanne M. Whitaker and husband Joseph; and several grandchildren.

Dennis was born on November 3, 1941, in Tacoma, Washington. He graduated from AC Davis High School in Yakima and earned an associate degree at Yakima Valley Junior College. He began as a draftsman in Yakima and eventually became a cost estimating engineer. In 1975, Dennis and his family moved to Renton, Washington, where he joined CH2M.

Dennis was accomplished at playing the accordion, painting, and was an avid reader. Being a combat veteran (Vietnam) was very important to him. He took much pride in his country and what it stands for. He was a loving husband and father. His children remember him as a determined, hard-working man who always provided for his family and encouraged them to pursue their goals.

ALLEN DAVIS

Allen Davis passed away on March 28, 2018. He was born in rural Idaho and grew up on a cattle ranch. Among the many lessons from such a childhood, he learned the value of perseverance and hard work. Allen received a PhD in civil engineering and spent his entire professional career working as a hydraulic engineer at CH2M. He distinguished himself as renowned worldwide authority in his field.

He was a man of faith and service, and he spent the majority of his adult life as a volunteer ecclesiastical leader. His care, attention, and wise counsel has blessed countless lives. He now rejoins his wife Paula, who he has dearly missed these past several years.

He is survived by his five children: Paul and his wife Julie; Rebecca and her husband Charley, Mark and his wife Heidi, Brent and his wife Dawn, and Debbie and her husband Richard, as well as 20 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.
GARETH GRUBE

Gareth Alden Grube was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1944. He attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, where he received a degree in civil engineering. Following graduation, he joined the Navy as an officer in 1968, serving until 1972, including a tour in Viet Nam.

Gareth’s professional engineering career was dedicated to protecting the rivers, lakes, and other waters of the Puget Sound for the safety of drinking water and the conservation of salmon. He started his wastewater career while in college when he obtained his Alaska State certification as a water/wastewater treatment plant operator. During his naval service, he was in charge of the Navy’s first floating wastewater treatment plant vessel.

Gareth joined CH2M in 1972 in the Bellevue office and left in the early 1980s. He returned to CH2M in 2010 to work on the City of Seattle Long-Term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan for Bill Mori. Gareth was responsible for the alternative development and evaluation work coordinating between CH2M, City of Seattle, King County, and numerous subconsultants to determine the final $1-billion CSO control plan.

In his retirement, he and his wife Barbara spent their adult adventures together enjoying their many friends and family, laughing, loving, being silly, singing, sharing music, dancing, and traveling the world. Their favorite travel mode was Princess Cruises and they visited all seven continents.

Gareth passed away on June 23, 2018, in Everett, Washington, after an 8-month battle with cancer.

LILLIAN (BARBARA) BROWNSELL

Barbara Brownsell was born on April 27, 1928, in Yeovil, England, where she attended a private school and took some college courses. She met her husband, George, in Gloucester, England, where he was working as an aircraft designer for her father, a co-founder of an aircraft company. They were soon married and subsequently relocated to design major aircraft, which resulted in their living in Montreal, Toronto, and then Seattle with the Boeing Company.

Barbara joined CH2M in the Bellevue office in 1970 where she served as an administrative assistant. At her suggestion, Jim Poirot approved her creation and management of CH2M’s first Office Services Department. In this role, she was the “go to” person for the department managers when they needed administrative help ranging from additional supplies to taking care of the needs of visiting clients and dignitaries. She loved her work and the people she worked with and was very sincerely proud to be a member of CH2M. After retiring in 1981, Barbara volunteered with the American Cancer Society until she moved to St. Petersburg.

VELMA TAYLOR

Velma Taylor was born in Green, Kansas, in 1936. She grew up on farms in Riley County, Kansas, and attended grade school and high school in Cleburne, Kansas. In 1953 she moved to Idaho with her parents and graduated from Meridian High School. She worked for O.C. Tanner Company in Salt Lake City, and then for the Veterans Administration in Boise, Idaho. In 1960 she married LeRoy Taylor. They raised their family in Boise, moved to Arizona for retirement, and recently back to Boise.

In addition to raising a family she has operated a catering service and served as head cook at a Christian family camp in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho – her favorite place in the world. She has done volunteer work for Mission Builders International and Youth with a Mission on several projects in the U.S. and overseas. She also did volunteer work for food banks in Idaho and Arizona.

Velma is survived by husband, LeRoy; daughter, Stacy; son, Scott; granddaughter, Mikaela; brother, Dallas; and sisters, Lita and Bonnie.

Says David Bennion, “Velma and Roy were in the Boise office in the early 1960s; Roy arrived in Boise for a 2-week assignment in the late 1950s and never left, retiring in the 1990s. Velma was definitely one of great CH2M spouses that contributed to making CH2M a fun place to work. I remember Velma as a very sociable fun person with a big pleasant smile; she did a lot of talking for Roy (those of us that worked with Roy will remember this.”
Ramona Richards, 85, died peacefully at home in Albany on December 21, 2018. She was born October 5, 1933, to Paul and Edna Heath Chambers, the youngest of five children. She graduated from Corvallis High School in 1950 and attended Oregon State University and began her career at CH2M in 1969 as an accounting clerk, starting as a part time employee working only 1 or 2 hours a day, usually as a loaned-out worker from Olsen & Olsen. Her frequent visits to CH2M eventually developed into an offer for permanent employment by Mike Fisher, which she accepted. Ramona’s career with CH2M coincided with the years of its initial spurt of growth during the 1970s and 1980s. She contributed a great deal to the growth of the administrative and accounting departments from a handful of people to a modernized, automated, and departmentalized section numbering over 75 people, all specialists. She retired in 1995, spending much of her time volunteering at the local library. Ramona was a huge sports fan, loved music, traveling and reading. She took her family to a Seattle Mariners game to celebrate her 75th birthday, sang with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Portland, and traveled to Europe. When not traveling by car, boat or plane, Ramona traveled through books. She had a lifetime love affair with books that she shared with her family. Ramona is survived by her sister, two sons, granddaughters, a great-grandson, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Larry Woodward passed away on December 26, 2018. He was born to Darrell and Emma Woodward in 1948 and was raised in Salem, Oregon, with his five siblings. In 1968, he married the love of his life, Carol, and they started their family with the birth of their daughter, Laura, while he served at Travis Air Force Base. Following his completion of service, they returned to Oregon, where he completed college and began his long career as a successful CAD technician at CH2M, supporting a multitude of client projects around the country. They welcomed their son, Ryan, in 1975 and settled in Corvallis for the next 30 years. Larry cherished time with family. His children recall growing up with frequent trips to visit grandparents, hosting parties with aunts, uncles and cousins and vacationing to visit family far away. After his retirement, family became a hobby as he passionately researched his genealogy and built and maintained an extensive family tree. Larry also enjoyed traveling. His most recent trip was to Croatia to celebrate 50 years of marriage with Carol. He is survived by his mother, Emma; his wife, Carol; his children, grandchildren, siblings, and several nieces and nephews. Larry was an educator by nature. To quote his son, “He didn’t teach me how to do it but how to figure it out.” He continued to educate as an organ donor to science and research in order to help others “figure it out.”

Robert (Bob) Meadows

Born December 30, 1949, in Alameda, California, Bob died January 7, 2019, in Seattle. Bob came to Washington to work for CH2M HILL, and was one of the core members of the Seattle office’s economics group. Bob was a gardener and shopper, clever cook, and world traveler. He adored, and was adored by his wife of 40 years, Janice Ann Potter.

We lost this CH2M spouse as well: Dory Harem (spouse of Fred Harem). Unfortunately, no additional information was available.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We no longer receive information from CH2M/Jacobs for deceased colleagues. Therefore, it is now even more critical to hear from you about the death of any retiree or alumni colleagues or their spouses. Please forward their name, obituary or the family’s contact information to ch2mhillaa@gmail.com or gkoblitz1@outlook.com so we may respond or contact them. Thank you!!
Special Announcements

2020 ReUnion Planning Begins
Planning has begun for the next CHAA ReUnion, tentatively scheduled for September 2020!

Feedback collected in a post-ReUnion survey of our event in Denver last September was amazingly positive, and supportive of another reunion (23 of 25 respondents indicated they would attend another ReUnion if offered!) Questioned about the best time of the year to hold a ReUnion, September emerged as the strong preference of the majority or responders. On this basis, planning for our next ReUnion has begun.

Bob Chapman volunteered to chair the 2020 ReUnion planning efforts, and an Advisory Committee has been formed including alumni with experience leading previous ReUnions, including Gordon Koblitz, Don Marske, Rick Luebbers, Jim Schwing, and Jeff Mather.

The next critical steps are to integrally select a location and form a detailed Planning Committee, including a local arrangements lead, a program lead, and a tour lead. The 2018 survey showed that a majority of individuals suggested an Eastern U.S. location with the Seattle/Puget Sound area in second place. So, initial efforts will be focused on identifying an eastern location and associated key planning committee leadership. CHAA Board members also support this direction as a means of increasing membership from that area.

Suggestions as to where to hold our 2020 ReUnion, and what presentations and other activities to feature, are most welcome! All CHAA members, especially those in the eastern U.S., are encouraged to contact Bob directly with their suggestions, as well as indicate their willingness to participate in the planning and delivery of the ReUnion. Bob’s email is: bobchap43@gmail.com; his cell phone number is (360) 852-6682.

Dan Cox Appointed CH2M Hill Professor of Civil Engineering
Oregon State University Professor Dan Cox has been named the CH2M Hill Professor of Civil Engineering. This endowed professorship was established in 2017 with a $1-million gift from the CH2M Hill Foundation. Dr. Cox’s research focuses on community resilience to coastal hazards, including tsunami and hurricane surge and waves inundation in the built and natural environments. He conducts research on tsunami and wave impacts on near-coast structures, tsunami evacuation and life safety, sediment transport and erosion, and nature-based solutions for coastal hazards mitigation. Cox is “honored and deeply grateful to serve as the inaugural CH2M Hill Professor at OSU. The support and prestige this fund provides will help me advance research and best practices in addressing preparedness and mitigation of coastal natural disasters, continuing CH2M Hill’S legacy of sustainability and saving lives.”

Insurance Notice for CH2M Retirees
As many of you know, CH2M/Jacobs has terminated the medical reimbursement benefit as of December 31, 2018. Recipients were sent a taxable buyoff payment equivalent to 3 years’ worth of benefits (which were non-taxable). This amounted to between $3,600 and $7,200, depending on length of service.

This benefit was only given to retirees if they purchased their medical insurance through Towers Watson/Via Benefits, which took over administration of the medical benefits in 2015.

If you never bought medical insurance through Via, you never received this benefit, and, thus, will receive no buyoff payment. If you purchased through Via and subsequently cancelled to go with another insurer, you lost this benefit and would not be reinstated even if you reinsured with Via, and you, also, will not receive this buyoff. You may or may not have known that cancellation with Via would cause you to lose this benefit.

However, there may be some good news. A retiree who lost their benefit after cancelling with Via successfully pursued reinstatement and back payments. Ellen Moore claimed she had not been properly notified she would lose this benefit if she cancelled with Via, and, once cancelled, she claimed the Via representative told her if she reinstated her insurance with them her benefit would be reinstated, but that was not true. Ellen appealed the benefit loss to the CH2M Benefits Committee and won. In their letter reinstating her, the company admitted that:
“(T)his decision is based upon Towers Watson’s failure to clearly explain that your termination of plan participation would render you ineligible to participate in the Health Reimbursement Account in the future.”

It is thus conceivable that any of you who lost your reimbursement could appeal on the same grounds, citing this decision, receive back payments, and receive the buyoff. We’re not saying this will work, but it may be worth a try since the company is now on record admitting that recipients were not properly notified.

If you want further information about this, you can contact Ellen directly at ellen85254@gmail.com.

CH2M HILL PENSION SERVICES
The contact number for those who receive a pension and have questions, is (888) 482-6632.

CH2M HISTORY BOOK SALE UPDATE

Note: Jacobs was very kind to furnish copies of the updated CH2M history book to all who registered for the CH2M HILL Alumni Reunion held in Denver last September. Everyone was very appreciative and loved the updated and colorful edition. Please see the following on how to obtain a copy.

The CH2M history book is still available! We’ve updated Building a Better World, the story of CH2M from its humble beginnings in 1946 to the Jacobs acquisition.

The revised book includes a letter from Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and an epilogue from former CH2M Chairman and CEO Jacque Hinman. Here’s an excerpt:

_I can say with confidence that in choosing the path to combine with Jacobs, we’ve made the right choice for our employees, clients and stockholders, just as our founders would expect. It’s a choice that honors them and what they stood for because it provides the surest path to continuing to deliver the purpose they envisioned with great aspirations and promise for the future._

—Former CH2M Chairman and CEO Jacque Hinman

Books are available on a first come, first served basis. The book costs $35, and only checks or money orders will be accepted. No cash or credit cards, please. For international orders, contact Kay Cline.

To order your copy, please send your name, address and USD $35 to Kay Cline. Checks or money orders should be made out to CH2M HILL. Please write “history book” in the memo section of your check.

Kay Cline
Jacobs
9191 S. Jamaica St.
Englewood, CO 80111

Travelogues

We’ve heard from many folks about their travels in the past, and thought we’d add this section to make it easy for you to highlight your special trips and photos. Please send your highlights to Angie Kruse (scarlet.study415@gmail.com) or Gordon (gkoblit1@outlook.com).
Prior to my retirement in 2017, I was fortunate enough to have worked with some amazing teams in the U.S. and across the world during my 35 years with CH2M. Being a worldwide firm, with offices and projects in many countries, I was able to lend my support to some very intriguing projects as a construction cost estimator. With that in mind, I thought I would compose a mini-series of articles that combine work and travels under one umbrella, focusing on some of the international projects I was involved in—hence, “Ted’s Tales & Travels.” I hope that this approach provides a historic overview of experiences by adding a touch of project documentation, plus a dash of personal experiences, coupled with a sprinkling of photos. The frosting is the memories they provide.

As background, I started with CH2M under Mike Morrison in Corvallis, Oregon, in March 1979. My first overseas assignment was the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) wastewater program in Alexandria, Egypt (1984–1988 and then again 1990–1994). Next, I provided support for the USAID Palestine Water Authority project near Jerusalem (March–April 2001). Finally, I was involved in Saudi Aramco’s university project (KAUST-King Abdullah University of Science & Technology) near Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2014–2015). I’ll expand upon these three projects in the following segments. Although the domestic efforts and assignments were also very memorable for me, naturally, the overseas ones captured my greatest interest and made the deepest impressions.

Initially, as an introduction and flashback, I would like to highlight a special consequence that, for me, was most rewarding, and one I deeply cherish. On the KAUST university project, located north of Jeddah, situated on a 20-square-mile compound, I crossed paths with two previous colleagues that I had worked with in Alexandria, Egypt, 25 years earlier!!! Wow! What good fortune.

Nejib Chaouch, Maqsood Chaudhary, and myself were on the Alexandria wastewater project back in the mid-1980s. I’ve included a 1987 photo of most of the CH2M team at that time that includes us (I’ve placed a red “check mark” on our shirts to help identify).
And, speaking of families, this photo (a bit blurry) shows those “behind the scenes” who helped support not only the WWCG project, but the expat community as well. Plus, there are a couple of additional CH2M co-workers who were not included in the first photo: Nick Garcia, sitting, far left-center (and his wife behind him), and on the right, standing, just to the right of Ron Bell, is Gayle Hoffman. These photos are a snapshot in time, as staff changes and rotations occurred every couple of months over the life of the project (approximately 13 years for this initial Phase 1 effort (1981 through 1994).

Then, let’s fast forward to more recent times. Ironically, on the KAUST project, again Nejib, Maqsood and I had the opportunity to work together. So, here we are, in November 2015, just hanging out under the palm trees on the Saudi Aramco construction camp site on the university campus compound.

Left to right: CH2M employees Ted Downen, Nejib Chaouch, Rajan Patel, and Maqsood Chaudhary dry. Although Rajan was not on the Alexandria WWCG project, he was in Egypt at the same time as the rest of us. Note: it’s amazing that we haven’t changed that much after 25 years—sure, right!
UPCOMING WATER FOR PEOPLE TRIP

By Doug Griffes (dougriffes@gmail.com)

I may have a story for the next newsletter. I have been actively engaged as a volunteer with Water for People, and as it turns out, I will be headed to Uganda in January. When I get back, I’ll be able to give a little background on Water for People and the types of opportunities that there may be for anyone interested in volunteering.

Missing in Action

The Alumni History committee again seeks your help in connecting with some folks without current email addresses. We were successful with our last MIA search and found several folks who are now connected back with us. The list below is still longer than we like. Again, with the Jacobs transition, it's even more critical to help us find any CH2M folks you know who leave Jacobs without being added to the alumni mailing list.

Please respond to donmarske@gmail.com if you have any information. We've added their state to see if that helps. Thank you!!

- Steve Alters (Idaho)
- Patricia Graham (Oregon)
- David Gray (Washington)
- Grover Jones (Washington)
- Don King (Oregon)
- Glen Silbernagel (Oregon)
- Mike Stansbury (Washington)
- Nancy Winslow (Oregon)
Tidbits

This section is for folks who just want to send a photo and a few words and don’t really want to write an article, as such. It’s a fun, easy way to keep in touch. We’d love to see more submitted!

Bob Chapman writes:

I thought you might be interested that the cover of the 2019 OSU Alumni Association Calendar features the CH2M HILL Alumni Center!

Don Marske writes regarding the Geezers Party in Southern California:

Thanks to Evelyn Zupka for organizing another great get-together at Lucille’s BBQ in Tustin. It was good to visit with good friends again and get caught up on the new CH2M HILL Alumni Association.
Bob Pailthorp writes:

Summer is going well. I have had lunch with several CH2Mers. To my total surprise John Ross (retired CH2Mer) and his wife, Valery, bought the house next to me. Polly Westover, ex-librarian at Portland CH2M, and her husband rented the house on the other side of me. Talk about a coincidence!

Frank Pita writes:

To all.... I am not sure if you all ever knew or perhaps have just forgotten, but just after the eruption of Mount St. Helens, the CH2M HILL air photo plane, while flying from Redding to Seattle took some amazing black and white photos of the mountain after it erupted. I understand that the pilot, since the camera looks out the bottom of the plane, had to bring the nose up to almost a stall and then snap the photo, which must have been exciting as well. This photo was taken soon after the eruption and shows the terrible mud flows. Anyway, I somehow ended up being the keeper of three of these photos. One, for many years I had on my office wall.

Don Marske writes:

I just wanted to share a pic regarding my daughter Dawn (center, with flowers). Dawn was recently named Teacher of the Year at her school. This just represents the kids she taught that currently attend her school. It’s just a fraction of the kindergarteners she impacted over her 25 years. It blew me away! I know we as engineers have our own feeling of fulfillment, but this is way different. And after 25 years she still looks forward to it every year.
Feedback / Kudos

We love hearing from you! Thanks to all who have sent in their comments. If you have comments, ideas, suggestions, please send them to gkoblit1@outlook.com. Here are a few recent comments:

Paul Thornhill:
Wow, what a great job on the newsletter. Best one so far. Seeing Bob Davis’ story was very fulfilling. I am amazed at his work travels! After reading it through twice, I was struck by the predominance of obituary news. Too bad we can’t hear from these people while they are still with us, instead of after it’s too late. We see these folks through the lens of CH2M HILL, but they have very interesting lives as individuals and family members that we miss when we focus on the job instead of the whole life experience. I don’t have any suggestions on how to do it, just a lamentation.

Brian O’Halloran:
Thanks Don and thanks to you and Gordon for doing this work to keep CH2M HILL alive. I appreciate it very much.

Ed Lance:
Don, I am so pleased to hear of the CH2M HILL Alumni Association with all the good activities going on. I am looking forward to using the mail and website. Thanks to you and Gordon’s service to this worthy cause.

Dave Ellison:
Don, many thanks to both you and Gordon for leading the CH2M HILL Association efforts.

Bob Pailthorp:
The Denver gathering was great! Thanks for all your work, it was great to see you. I was totally surprised by the memories session. My head was spinning. I wish Dot could have been there to share the emotional high. Our lives have been so positively impacted by the friends and associates of “Our Firm.” It is wonderful to hear and know that our feelings for our CH2M HILL friends are shared.

Michael Morrison:
Thanks to you and Gordon for establishing the CH2M HILL Alumni Association to carry on the memories that so many of us cherish. I am now semi-retired. My wife, Jeanne Marie and I live in a 55+ community located in unincorporated King County.

Larry Pinson:
Don, wonderful idea and great follow-through. A bargain at that. Thanks for your leadership. P.S. – regards to Gordon. The newsletter is a gem!

Dick Corrigan:
Don, congratulations and a sincere thank you to you and the others who have birthed and are leading the CH2M HILL Alumni Association in order to preserve the heritage and accomplishments of our remarkable company and its alumni.

Art Storbo:
Thanks Don, Gordon and the others for creating CHAA. We couldn’t live without it!

Dave Shertler:
Thank you, Don for your support of the Alumni Association. CH2M HILL has provided me and my family many wonderful opportunities and benefits over the years. It has been and continues to be a privilege to be associated with the people of CH2M HILL.

Tim Shea:
Don, thanks for everyone’s efforts to set up an alumni association for CH2M HILL.

Doug Griffes:
Hello Don, it was indeed great to reconnect with the group at the ReUnion. Given the career histories, I guess it’s not too surprising to find that the ReUnion and the AA for a group like this would be ultra-well organized and a lot of fun. I look forward to future connections, and as indicated in Saturday’s session, would be happy to help. I am particularly interested in getting some local activities going here in the Denver area. The newsletter and the website are both very impressive. Judging by the amount of stuff in the newsletter, Gordon must not have anything else to do.
Jacobs News

Some of the following selected stories tie in connections from work with previous CH2M HILL clients. We encourage our readers to check the Jacobs company website for the latest project wins and related news and stock news: http://www.jacobs.com.

**JACOBS AND LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM LAUNCH “SHAPE YOUR CITY” EXHIBIT**

Jacobs and the London Transport Museum have teamed up with other partners to help bring the U.K.’s Year of Engineering 2018 to life with a new interactive Future Engineers gallery, which opened to the public on October 19, 2018. The new gallery inspires an interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects and highlights the creativity, social value, and sheer range of jobs available in engineering and related careers.

Jacobs worked with the museum to create the “Shape Your City” exhibit, which lets visitors play an interactive table-top game as they race against the clock to create a healthy and well-connected sustainable city. This urban planning jigsaw invites visitors to interact with different parts of the city such as housing, stations, green spaces and landmarks and to make them work together to create a successful city.

“The ‘Shape Your City’ exhibit encourages visitors to experiment with key elements needed to make a city like London greener, happier and better connected,” said Jacobs Buildings and Infrastructure Europe Senior Vice President and General Manager Donald Morrison. “These are exactly the city and transport conundrums our engineers, designers and digital solutions experts are tackling every day.

“We hope the new gallery will foster learning and curiosity among our future talent and create a truly innovative and engaging experience for the next generation of creators.”

Sam Mullins, Director of London Transport Museum, added, “From designing your city to having your palm scanned by the latest ticketing technology, our new Future Engineers gallery is great fun and challenges our visitors’ perceptions of engineering.

“The future London will be shaped by engineers; our new gallery asks how much of a dreamer, planner or fixer you are, creating a fresh view of the skills and mindsets needed to make a career as an engineer.”

Other partners for the new Future Engineers gallery include Bombardier Transportation, DCMS Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund, Luke Rees-Pulley Charitable Trust, Cubic Transportation Systems, Mastercard, and Microsoft.

London Transport Museum developed the Year of Engineering 2018 Future Engineers gallery as part of a U.K. government-led campaign to raise the profile of engineering among 7- to 16-year-olds and encourage young people to consider a career in engineering. To find out more, visit yearofengineering.gov.uk.

**JACOBS-DESIGNED WATER REUSE PROJECT WINS WEF PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The Water Environment Federation recently awarded a 2018 Project Excellence Award to the Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse Project, the 4G Wetlands, designed by Jacobs.

Since 2010, Jacobs, alongside Pasco County Utilities and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, has provided a full-range of design, permitting and services during construction for the 4G Wetlands, a multifunctional project addressing decades-long concerns regarding groundwater drawdowns in areas affected by public water supply wellfields.

“This innovative, reclaimed water project facilitates a more holistic watershed management approach,” said Pasco County Project Manager Jeffrey Harris. “The ability to improve an area that has seen severe ecological degradation, coupled with recharging the Upper Floridan aquifer that will provide for a more sustainable water supply for the 2.5 million people of the Tampa Bay region, serves as an example of how to better manage all freshwater resources.”
The 4G Wetlands consist of a 176-acre groundwater recharge wetland system, the largest human-made system of its kind in the world, constructed on uplands pastures. The system is sized to receive five million gallons of reclaimed water per day to passively recharge the surficial and Upper Floridan aquifers, while protecting water quality.

“The wetlands are an important component of the District’s mission to provide recharge in an area of hydrologic stress,” said Michael Hancock, a project manager for Southwest Florida Water Management District. “In addition, they will provide valuable habitat, and an excellent example of responsible water management.”

In addition to the benefits to the aquifer and the regional water resources, the project will restore the ecological functions of the historically degraded onsite lakes and wetlands and create 176 acres of new wildlife habitat within the 15 constructed wetland cells.

The 4G Wetlands project additionally received five other accolades, including a 2018 National Environmental Achievement Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies National Environmental Achievement Award and the David W. York Water Reuse2017 Project of the Year Award from the Florida Water Environment Association.

“The now six-time award-winning and multifunctional 4G Wetlands are a great example of how organizations can utilize public-private partnerships to maximize the benefits of water reuse and use this valuable resource for its highest purpose – ecology and water supply,” said Rafael Vazquez-Burney, Jacobs principal technologist and 4G Wetlands project manager. “It’s both an honor and a privilege to be recognized by the Water Environment Federation, and to partner with the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Pasco County on their first project of this caliber.”

The 4G Wetlands project accepted its award at the 91st Annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, Sept. 29 – Oct. 3, 2018. Four Jacobs operations and maintenance teams in Florida – in Key West, Pembroke Pines, West Melbourne and The Villages, also received WEF’s 2018 Water Heroes Award at the event for their response work during the 2017 hurricane season.

Jacobs was honored by the Water Environment Federation with the prestigious 2018 Water Heroes Award, which recognizes individuals and organizations that have performed above and beyond the call of duty during an emergency to continue protecting the public and the environment. Four Florida-based Jacobs operations management project teams, including The Villages, Key West, West Melbourne, and Pembroke Pines, were recognized for their ongoing efforts during the most expensive and destructive U.S. hurricane season on record.

Staff members and leaders at the four project sites operate and maintain water and wastewater utility systems that serve more than 345,000 residents. The Jacobs-operated facilities were in the path of destruction during the 2017 hurricane season. More than 230 Jacobs staff collaborated and shared skills and resources state-wide to prepare and respond to the events. The staff lived and worked at the project sites voluntarily throughout the storms to keep the water and wastewater facilities up and running. The project teams made extensive pre-storm preparations to prevent issues like facility overflows and speed the return of facilities to regular service soon after the storms passed.

“It is an honor for our projects to be nationally recognized for their dedication to their communities,” said Jacobs’ Vice President of Operations Management and Facilities Services Steve Meininger. “With nearly 40 years of water and wastewater operations and maintenance experience, Jacobs has the knowledge, skillset and training to not only prepare for emergencies of this magnitude, but also mitigate the damage done. Our clients value this experience and the resources we bring, especially during hard times.”
The annual Water Heroes Award was presented to Jacobs at the Water Environment Federation’s 91st Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference in New Orleans. The Water Environment Federation is a not-for-profit association that provides technical education and training for water quality professions who clean water and return it safely to the environment.

Jacobs also sponsored the Operations Challenge at WEFTEC 2018, reaffirming its position as a leader in the operations and maintenance of wastewater facilities worldwide. Jacobs is a long-time sponsor of the annual challenge, which is a platform for top wastewater collection and treatment personnel to display their skills. The Operations Challenge events are designed to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, their collection systems, and laboratories.

Jacobs Selected for 10-Year Contract to Operate Wastewater Utilities for City of Waterbury

Jacobs will operate, maintain, and optimize wastewater systems under a 10-year contract with the City of Waterbury in Connecticut. Jacobs assumed responsibility for the city’s water pollution control plant, collection system, and related utilities in November.

The city estimates the contract value at $62 million and projects a savings of up to $12.7 million over its previous operating model. Waterbury considered several options after sewer overflows in late 2017 impacted the Naugatuck River and watershed. City officials opted to seek the support of an industry-leading operator and technical services provider to execute a strategy that combines operations and asset management with technical services, planning and extensive support from regional resources.

“Given Jacobs’ extensive operations and asset management experience, we plan to leverage our knowledge in these areas to help Waterbury manage its utilities effectively as equipment ages, regulations tighten, and other challenges arise,” said Jacobs Vice President of Operations Management and Facilities Services Steve Meininger. “Waterbury chose Jacobs because our proposed operating team assessed the city’s wastewater facilities and developed a whole-program approach to utility operations.”

Waterbury retains ownership and decision-making authority for its 27-million-gallon-per-day facility, sewer collection system and pumping equipment. Jacobs’ project approach is structured to monitor treatment processes and equipment closely, apply proactive maintenance practices, and train and support operations staff. The operating plan includes upgrades, treatment process adjustments and long-term facility planning. Waterbury also will benefit from Jacobs’ substantial experience in emergency response planning and incident mitigation.

“The Naugatuck River is an environmental asset and a key element of our city’s identity and economy. We intend to do everything in our power to protect it,” said Waterbury Mayor Neil O’Leary. “With this partnership, we are confident that the city is being put in the best possible position to prevent future incidents and keep our community water sources vibrant for years to come.”

Jacobs Awarded Contract Extension at NASA’s Langley Research Center

Jacobs was awarded an extension to the center maintenance, operations and engineering contract at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia.

The contract extension is a one-year option and NASA estimates a potential value of $46 million, bringing the total current value of the contract to $214 million. The option begins this October and extends the period of performance through September 2019.

“As NASA’s largest services provider, we welcome this opportunity to build upon our longstanding relationship with NASA Langley Research Center,” said Jacobs Aerospace, Technology, Environmental and Nuclear Senior Vice President Steve Arnette. “This contract extension enables us to continue to play a vital role in supporting NASA’s initiatives in aeronautics, space technology, exploration and Earth science.”

Under this contract extension, Jacobs will continue providing facility-related intelligent asset management and operations and engineering support services, including design engineering, project management, construction management, configuration management and asset management services for research facilities, wind tunnels, laboratories, test structures and specialty instrumentation.
JACOBS AWARDED CONTRACT EXTENSION AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Jacobs was awarded an extension to the Test and Operations Support Contract (TOSC) at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The contract extension is a 1-year option with a contract value of $137.5 million. NASA estimates the total value of the contract at $818 million, which began in October 2018 and runs through September 2019.

“As NASA’s largest services provider, we continue our solid relationship with Kennedy Space Center in delivering full life-cycle aerospace capabilities,” said Jacobs Aerospace, Technology, Environmental and Nuclear Senior Vice President Steve Arnette. “This extension allows us to continue enabling America’s space program during this exciting time of advanced innovation and exploration and to provide advanced R&D, scientific and technical solutions for a more connected and sustainable world.”

Under this contract extension, Jacobs will continue providing comprehensive tailored solutions with the overall management and implementation of key ground system, payload processing, and launch system capabilities. Project work encompasses launch vehicle, spacecraft and payload integration and processing; operations and development of associated processes and ground systems to support integration, processing and launch activities; servicing and testing of flight hardware; and launch and control of development and operational flights at Kennedy Space Center.

JACOBS RECEIVES CONTRACT EXTENSION BY DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AT HANFORD SITE

Jacobs has been awarded a 12-month contract extension by the Department of Energy (DOE) for continued safe and efficient environmental remediation efforts along the Columbia River and selected portions of the Hanford site. The DOE announced its intention to extend Jacobs’ existing 10-year contract from its original October 1, 2018, end-date through September 20, 2019.

“Our team brings considerable innovative solutions with unmatched capability for this important project,” said Jacobs Aerospace, Technology, Environmental and Nuclear Senior Vice President of North American Nuclear Karen Wiemelt. “We stay committed to the Department of Energy in delivering results that are safe and efficient.”

With an expanded scope, workers will continue to progress on demolition projects, retrieval of radioactive material, soil and groundwater remediation, and waste treatment and disposal. Additional scope has been added to the extension, such as completing 618-10 Burial Ground revegetation, performing slab removal on the Central Plateau, and maintaining the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF) complex safely and compliantly while also treating and disposing of sodium waste.

DOE said in the announcement of the extension, “Jacobs as the incumbent contractor is the only contractor who has the unique qualifications to continue the necessary activities at the DOE Hanford site without a break in service until award is made of the ongoing competitive procurement.”
JACOBS SHARES INSIGHTS WITH INVESTORS ON RISING DEMAND FOR WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

At a time of unprecedented urbanization and climate-induced threats, the World Economic Forum ranks water among the top 10 risks facing the planet, from severe droughts to catastrophic flooding. During an investor webcast hosted in September by Bank of America, Jacobs executives shared insights and examples about the company’s leadership addressing water ecosystem and infrastructure challenges.

Jacobs is advancing the industry’s most in-demand solutions and technological innovations for holistic water management and resiliency.

“Urban water demands are projected to rise 80 percent by the year 2050, a pace that will see more than a fourth of the world’s largest cities outstrip their freshwater capacity in our lifetime,” said Jacobs Global Director of Water and Senior Vice President Peter Nicol. “To combat these challenges, Jacobs is advancing the industry’s most in-demand solutions and technological innovations for holistic water management and resiliency.”

Nicol joined Jacobs Buildings, Infrastructure and Advanced Facilities President Bob Pragada and Executive Vice President Greg McIntyre to discuss addressable markets and growth prospects for the company’s global water business serving agriculture, industrial and municipal clients’ needs for technologically advanced facilities, operations management and solutions to combat climate and security threats. Among examples highlighted:

- Florida’s 4G Wetlands, a multi-award-winning, 175-acre groundwater recharge wetland system to revitalize and restore the ecology of the Upper Floridan Aquifer, which supports more than $7.5 billion in agriculture and provides drinking water to 10 million people.

- The Thames Estuary Asset Management 2100 Program, protecting 1.3 million people and £275 billion worth of property from tidal flooding – including a half-million homes, eight power stations, more than 80 railway and Tube stations, and Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament along the River Thames.

- The Tuas Water Reclamation Plant in Singapore, to be the world’s largest membrane-bioreactor facility to treat used water for renewal and reuse, while recovering biogas to generate electricity to power it, maximizing the water-energy-waste nexus.

- The cost-effective Agua Nueva Water Reclamation Facility in Arizona, designed, built, and currently operated by Jacobs using innovative treatment processes to manage scarce water supply in the desert environment.

- The Thames Tideway Tunnel Program to create a cleaner, healthier Thames, while enabling treatment that will continue to serve London for the next 100 years. The company has been leading the program including the 25-kilometer Thames Tideway Tunnel, and the award-winning Lee Tunnel, which was completed in 2016.

Known for introducing industry innovations such as the world’s first aquifer storage and recovery project and the first use of membrane-reactor technology for wastewater treatment, the company in 2015 was honored with the Stockholm Industry Water Award for its leadership advancing clean water methods and technologies and increasing public acceptance of potable reuse. This is the topic of a white paper Jacobs published in October, titled “The Water of Our Future Is the Water of Our Past.”