

Denver ReUnion 2018

By Jim Schwing (jimschwing@msn.com)



Rick Luebbers

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!”*



Bob Pailthorp

Following this moving event, the microphone was open for others to present their memories of CH2M HILL:



John Filbert



Bud VanDerAa came well prepared with his list.



Bob Card recalling Jim Howland.



Arlen Borgen remembering Fred Merryfield.



Dave Bennion sharing some highlights



Mike Anglea sharing his thoughts.



Don Marske sharing some memories.



Dennis Sandretto sharing his reflections.



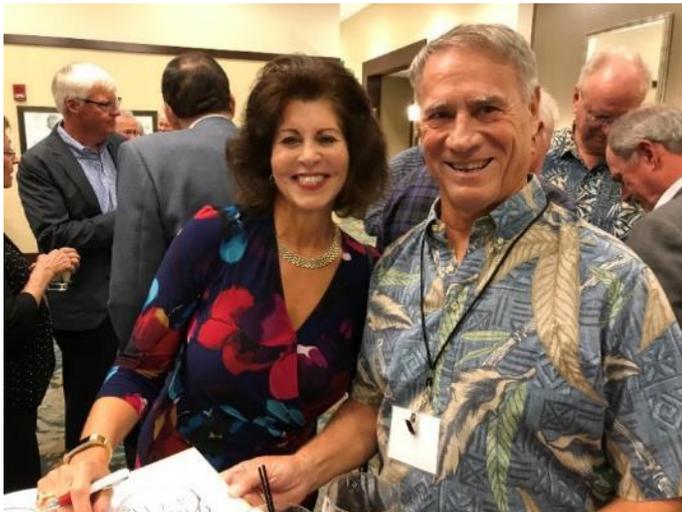
Bob Pailthorp and Bob Davis.

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.



Mary and Gordon Koblitz at the museum.



Rick Fornelli is a happy guy after Jacque autographs his CH2M History book!



Happy Hour discussions before dinner. L to R: Mark Alpert, Sam Iapalucci, Greg McIntire and Gary Beech.



L to R: Pat and Pam Klampe and Mary Koblitz and Mike Anglea on their way to the Colorado History Museum.



Good chat with Bob Chapman, Gary Nuss, and Rick Luebbers.



L to R: Dave and Dotty Raby, Don Marske, Mary Koblitz, Al and Diane Amoth, and Gordon Koblitz.



L to R: Don Marske, Karen and Dale Cannon, and John Gaston.



Front seated L to R: Linda Fornelli, Valorie Sheldon. Back L to R: Terry Sheldon, Rick Fornelli, Holly Claiborn, Brent Claiborn, Mike Warren.



Jacque Hinman.



Greg McIntyre.

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.



Brandon Johnson.

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://bridgestoprosperty.org/>.

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

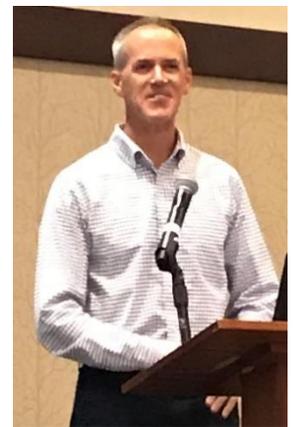
Following the break was a presentation by Bob Peters, of the Denver Water Department (DWD), about the history and future of water management in Colorado, with a focus on Denver Water. CH2M has served the DWD for more than 40 years. It was an excellent presentation, followed by Larry Schimmoller, Jacobs 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



Phil Hall and Bob Card.

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.



Bob Peters.



Bob Chapman.



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:

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