



January 2013

Editor's Notes

Greetings and Happy New Year! Once again, I'm excited to share plans for our biennial retreat coming up in Denver. Mike Kennedy and Mike Harris are taking the chair/MC and program leads, respectively, along with Cas Strouse, Gina Aiello, and Emily Holben, who will be supporting us in Denver. The rest of the planning team has been sharing ideas on our monthly calls for making this one enjoyable time! Details are given in the article below and registration details (on-line and by email) will be coming to all by April.

As we were getting ready to go to press, we learned the sad news that Gene Suhr had passed away. Gene was a major contributor to the success of CH2M. He was a brilliant engineer and mentor to many, great friend, and wonderful husband and father, as well as guiding force in the Alumni History Web site. We will all miss him. A detailed announcement will follow soon via AlumniConnect.

As always, thanks go to Suellen Ehrmann and Vicki Starr for editing/document processing expertise for getting this newsletter out. And thanks again to everyone who shared updates and travel articles. But we need more contributors! Suellen and Vicki will make it easy for you. Let me know at skoblitz1@outlook.com, including leads on other stories – I'll keep my sources anonymous if you prefer ☺.

Cheers!

Gordon

ON YOUR MARK. GET SET. RETREAT—AGAIN!

The 2013 Retirees/Emeritus Retreat will take place from Monday, September 30 through Thursday, October 3 at Embassy Suites Denver, a LEED-certified hotel. The hotel is within walking distance of the 16th Street Mall, Larimer Square, Denver Center for Performing Arts, and other attractions. Enjoy amenities such as 32-inch flat-panel HDTVs, microwave, coffee maker, and mini-refrigerator. Accessible rooms are available.

Start your day with a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast. High-speed WiFi is available in your room (for a fee) or get complimentary internet access in the 24-hour BusinessLink™ Business Center.

Here's what we've got planned for CH2M HILL retirees and emeritus (55+ working part time or flex) employees and their spouses or partners.

Monday, September 30

Noon-4:00: Registration and Welcome

5:00-6:30: Reception for attendees and the corporate leadership team

6:30-8:00: Dinner. Mike Kennedy, MC

6:45-7:15: Enterprise Update from CEO Lee McIntire. How are we doing financially? How is the company changing? What would retirees find different?

7:15-8:00: Sid Lasswell (TBD) with others will host a tributes and recognition session

Tuesday, October 1

7:30-Noon: Dan Arvizu will lead a tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Demonstration Project, a 5-story zero-energy use DOE facility

Noon-1:00: Lunch will be served back at the hotel before the afternoon seminars

1:00-1:45: John Echternach, Don Marske, and Erik Ammidown will give a presentation and host a Q&A session on medical and other benefits

1:45-2:30: Mark Brown will discuss financial planning. Mark has served CH2M HILL retirees for almost 30 years. He will address typical questions, including:

- How should I think about my cost of living in retirement?
- What is the right investment strategy for me?
- Do I need long-term care insurance?
- Should I give my kids money now?
- How should I figure taxes into the future?

2:30-3:30: Les Wierson will moderate a roundtable discussion on fun retirement activities and destinations

4:00-5:30: Transportation (beverages served) to the Corporate Campus for optional tours, meet and greet, and evening program

5:30-6:30: Reception for attendees and CH staff

6:30-8:30: Dinner. Mike Kennedy will again MC with several CH managers, sharing news of their key major projects including London 2012 and RIO 2016™ Olympics with International President Jacque Rast's presentation on the firm's international organization

8:30: Transportation back to the hotel and free time.

Wednesday October 2, 2013

8:00-3:00: Bus tour to USAF Academy and Garden of the Gods. Box lunches at Garden of the Gods

8:00-3:00: Alternative: Golf (Vern Nelson, coordinator)

8:00-3:00: Alternative: On your own (suggestions to be provided for city and surrounding activities). Other options include swimming in the hotel's indoor saline pool or take advantage of its fitness facility. Spa services are also available.

3:00-5:00: Concurrent sessions on firm's activities (financial performance, top 20 projects, major opportunities, new technologies, project technical presentations)

3:00-5:00: Alternative program for spouses

5:00-10:00: Free time, and dinner on your own or with suggestions and reservations from our Meetings and Events Team

Thursday October 2, 2013

7:00-9:00: Breakfast, featuring a presentation by Don Marske and Dave Evans on the Alumni History website and a roundtable review of this retreat moderated by Mike Kennedy

The Embassy Suites gave us a special rate, which will be available **only** through the firm. A separate notice will be sent to all retirees/emeritii in April to register online. Instructions and forms to register online or by mail will be provided, or if you have questions, contact Gina.Aiello@ch2m.com or call Gina at 720/286-1594. See you in September.

FINALLY ENJOYING FULL-TIME RETIREMENT

CONTRIBUTED BY BOB CHAPMAN

CH fosters an Alumni program that gives employees an opportunity to continue working on a part-time basis when it is mutually beneficial and stars align. I enjoyed that opportunity for some 6 years, and I believe our company benefited in that I contributed to winning and managing a couple of good-sized projects. I certainly benefited because I enjoyed the work, the interface with fellow employees/friends, and the extra income...while finally having time for other things in life. These other things include spending more time with friends and family, improving my woodworking skills, gardening, and traveling...for-fun!



Last November I fully retired, 46 years after my good fortune to become an employee of our marvelous company. We actually celebrated my retirement from full-time employment at the 2006 American Water Works Association annual conference.

So far, Meredith and I have traveled to Africa, China, and Europe, typically as part of small group tours or cruising with friends. The photo at left was

taken while touring central France last May. We just returned from a week in New York City, catching a number of Broadway shows. We are now looking forward to travel to New Zealand and Australia in February and March. Grins!

JAN BRANDKVIST/TOR RETIRES

Jan Brandkvist began his career in 1969 in the firm's Toronto office as a project engineer working on the Clarkson WWTP. He worked on a wide variety of projects in Canada, the U.S. and New Zealand as a process engineer, project manager, and design manager. At every destination, he left his mark as a leader, a champion of quality, a mentor, and a friend. Jan received the 2002 Award of Merit for the Edmonton Gold Bar WWTP Grit Removal System Project from the Consulting Engineers of Alberta. He has been passionate about engineering, so much so that he was known to visit conferences and infrastructure works while on vacation. Jan is married and has two daughters. Both are doctors.



Jan is shown surrounded by coworkers who gathered to thank him for his dedication, loyalty, and service to the firm.

RICHARD (RICK) MARTIN/BAR RETIRES

After 47 years of dedicated service to CH2M HILL, **Rick Martin/BAR** is embarking on his next adventure - retirement. Rick began his career in early 1966 as a contractor providing workload assistance to Gore and Storrie. His energy, talent, and ability to mesh with any team led to a full-time staff position within 4 months. His first project was the Wallaceburg STP, where he worked as a process mechanical designer, then continued with water, wastewater, and solid waste projects across Canada and in the U.S. Rick moved to Barrie in 1981 when that office opened and he supported City of Barrie process mechanical drafting and CADD design—from influent to outfall— for 31 years. He was always willing to don many hats and diversify his skill set, has lent his services to surveying and construction management, and mentored many.



Work friends thanked Rick (center) for his energy, prankery, and dedication

Rick is known for his calm nature and as a strong team member with excellent attention to detail. Many clients have recognized the high quality and accuracy of his process design

in that he has always “demonstrated the ability to minimize change orders.”

A high-energy, fun-loving guy, Ricki/La Vida Loca/Richardo often pulled pranks on TOR and BAR staff. Sinclair Garner recalled sharing CM duties with him on the 1993 Barrie WPCC Digester Upgrade and recalled pranks like confetti-filled coffee cups that would dump on your head after opening a door.

Rick has been married to his wife, Doreen for 38 years and has two daughters, Allyson and Christy. Rick has chosen to retire at their Collingwood waterfront home.

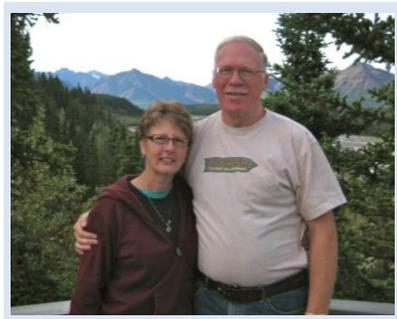
OMI'S GARY SHREVE RETIRED

Gary Shreve's 26-year-long career included launching our successful partnership with the City of Fayetteville, AR, a 10-year stint in Thailand, and working on a WWTP project in southern California. It also landed him in an Iraqi prison.

After providing O&M for Fayetteville's WWTP, Gary accepted a supervisory assignment to manage a WWTP system restoration in Kuwait. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1992, he and a co-worker were taken prisoner—along with other U.S. citizens—and spent 7 months in a Baghdad prison. Gary and the others were freed only after a visit by Muhammad Ali with Saddam Hussein. Both men returned to Kuwait and continued to serve the project until completion.

Gary's next assignments were as an operations specialist in Thailand and as a senior operations specialist in the southwestern U.S., working on projects in numerous locales, including Honolulu. He most recently worked on the Orange County (CA) Sanitation District long-term WW facility upgrade program management project.

MAX SCHMIEGE RETIRES



Max Schmiege retired on January 18 after 31 years with the firm. Max started his CH2M HILL career in Anchorage, where he worked on the Eklutna Lake tunnel and Point Woronzof WWTP, in bush villages planning

and designing water and WW systems, and as lead designer for much of the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor sanitary sewer and water distribution systems. He had 9 years of prior experience with the Public Health Service/Indian Health Service and two smaller firms.

In 1990 Max transferred to Milwaukee (MKE), where he managed WisDOT and Air National Guard projects, including the 164th AW Base Relocation and Conversion Program in Memphis, the largest single project in ANG history. Among many TDYs, Max had an 8-month assignment in Lima, Peru directing design of 200 km of the Pan American Highway.

Max and Deb are going to stay in the Milwaukee area and also hit the road in search of new adventures. Max plans to remain active in Engineers Without Borders, WI Society of Professional Engineers, and church activities, too. “CH2M HILL has been a wonderful place to work,” Max says. He prizes the people he had the good fortune to work with and opportunities the firm gave him. He warns those of you he knows that you may have a knock on your door when he is out and about traveling, so beware.

RICH WALKER RETIRES



Rich on Johnny

Rich Walker started with us in 1980, after a classmate in his OSU construction management (CM) graduate program, Jerry Tracy, invited him to tour a local engineering firm. At the beginning of his career, Rich was assigned to three western offices in a single year and his HR file was thicker than a phone book. He crawled through

penstocks, pipes, and turbines from California to Colorado and from Mexico to north of the Arctic Circle. He was one of our prime partnering facilitators on construction projects, and wrote the construction specification on partnering.



Daisy and Rich

About 20 years ago, Rich and his wife started messing around with horses. Now he plans to spend his time with family and just horsing around. He would have liked to continue working but non-visible symptoms of MS made it hard, and working with horses is better therapy.

He plans to continue helping with the newest Employee Network support group, which he co-founded. Called A.C.E. (assist, connect, and educate), this program provides support for physical, cognitive, care giving, and other adaptive challenges.

TOM ORLOWSKI RETIRES



*Tom and his wife
by their pool.*

An Illini alum living in Milwaukee, **Tom Orłowski** got too cold one February day. So the former cheesehead joined Gee & Jenson in warm West Palm Beach (WPB), FL, and became a director responsible for providing the firm's architectural services. Gee & Jenson became part of CH2M HILL

in 2002, and Tom became chief architect for the WPB Transportation Group.

After practicing architecture for over 44 years, Tom has decided to begin his transition to retirement. He'll continue to work for CH2M HILL as a flex employee so he can still be a part of the various proposals, programs, concept designs, costs, and project quality management initiatives. Tom noted that you don't just immediately put down your pen and delete thinking about buildings and structures after continuous active involvement in the design and building industry for most of your life!

Tom says that his last 10 years have been especially rewarding—covering a variety of mainly public and DOD projects in many states and Caribbean islands. Working with great colleagues and clients provided increased professional and personal internal and external relationships in what has been both a challenging and rewarding career. As time moves on, Tom hopes to continue many of these relationships and help his CH2M HILL colleagues when needed – just an e-mail or phone call will do it!

DOUG JANNEY RETIRES

After more than 30 years providing project management and architectural expertise to CH2M HILL and Lockwood Greene, Doug Janney decided to begin the next exciting phase of his life...as a retired gentleman. Doug was honored by the Knoxville office, where he spent his entire CH2M HILL/ Lockwood Greene career, with an informal tribute. He will have more time to spend with his wife, Betty, his children, and seven grandchildren, and to enjoy genealogy, painting, and photography. He plans to continue volunteering in the community and serving his church.



Doug (jeans & navy shirt) and his office buds

Doug graduated from the University of Tennessee (UT) and began an extraordinary architectural career that encompassed

consulting services, design, business development and project management for government and commercial clients. He designed facilities around the country and also helped shape the Knoxville skyline and add his touch to the footprint of his community and alma mater. Doug's signature projects include the UT Soccer Stadium, the Oak Ridge Visitors and Convention Bureau, and facilities for Knoxville's McGhee Tyson Airport. When you drive around town, you can see Doug's creative imprint on many buildings including the Main Post Office, the Chamber of Commerce, and elementary schools.

Doug is a gentleman and outstanding professional and will be missed. But we have only to drive down the street to remind us of his talent and passion for architecture.

WAYNE HOLT RETIRES

CONTRIBUTED BY PETER MADSEN AND RICHARD ROGERS

Wayne Holt has been a part of CH2M HILL since 1976. He made a difference at CH2M HILL and we've been lucky to have him.

Most recently, Wayne made huge contributions building camps for Army soldiers and Marines in southern Afghanistan. He arrived in 2009 and spent more than 2 years providing CM in one of the most challenging environments in the world. Nothing is easy in Afghanistan, especially getting logistical support and managing foreign subcontractors. Wayne helped the CH2M HILL-DynCorp International team build more than 40 camps and 8 dining facilities before the soldiers and Marines arrived. He knew his job inside and out, communicated exceptionally well, established hard-and-fast safety guidelines, and displayed professionalism and CH culture in a way that brought positive recognition from our client. The end state of Wayne's work formed the basis of the scope of work for future LOGCAP LSS sets.



Wayne Holt

We're proud of our accomplishments in Afghanistan—and they're largely because of CMs like Wayne.

ED PRESTEMON RETIRES



Ed Prestemon

After 38 years with the firm, **Ed Prestemon** has retired.

In 1973, Ed started working in WDC as a process engineer working on the Upper Occoquan Service Authority project. It was just the beginning of his adventure-filled career with CH2M HILL.

His work took him across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and South America. At every destination, Ed left his mark as a leader, a champion of quality, a mentor, and a friend.

PATTY KECK/DEN SAYS FAREWELL

"When I started with the firm, we were a company of 6,000, with aspirations of growing up to be a global firm some day – and look at us now! My 17 years with the firm have been an amazing time of company growth and diversification as well as personal and professional development. I was hired as a marketing specialist and was given opportunities to take on increasingly responsible roles such as marketing manager for the WBG and group manager of public relations. In 2002, I landed my absolute dream job with the firm—Manager of Community Relations.

“To have the opportunity to help establish and grow key community partnerships with organizations such as Engineers Week, Red Cross, Water For People, and Engineers Without Borders has been a joy, as has being a part of contributing to and telling the firm’s sustainability story. And to be given the chance to help re-charter and launch a new-and-improved CH2M HILL Foundation has been a career highlight.

“Given my passion for community involvement, I have decided to make a change that will allow me to continue to grow and contribute in a meaningful way in this area.”

NEW RETIREES AND EMERITUS

New Emeritus Members (semi-retired employees – working less than full time)

The following employees recently retired or joined the *emeritus* or flex-time ranks. If you would like to share retirement stories, photos, or presentations, please forward information to alumnirelations@ch2m.com, along with anyone’s name inadvertently left off the list.

Joe Taylor (6/12)	David Vomacka (8/12)
John Hansen (7/12)	Tom Orłowski (11/12)

New Retirees

James Walker (6/12)	Rhonda Vest (10/12)
Kenneth Falls (6/12)	Alta Turner (10/12)
Roger Peterson (6/12)	John Ramage (10/12)
Pat McCammon (6/12)	Mitch Mitchell (10/12)
John Forrest (6/12)	Peter Nese (10/12)
Linda Dolejs (6/12)	William Harrington (10/12)
Wayne Holt (6/12)	Jane Conner (10/12)
Donald Bray (6/12)	Richard Bishop (10/12)
Robert Hook (6/12)	Jeffery Randall (10/12)
E Sethness (6/12)	Charles Crandall (10/12)
Marki Cline (6/12)	James Bednar (10/12)
James Humphries (6/12)	Robert Aye (10/12)
Edward Hemrick (6/12)	Robert Tough (10/12)
Gary Shreve (6/12)	Robert Chapman (10/12)
James Lawrence (6/12)	Glynn Branch (10/12)
Nelida Rodriguez (7/12)	Ciro Mendoza (10/12)
James Carr (7/12)	T Mowatt (11/12)
Salvatore Pappalardo (7/12)	Karen Jolley (11/12)
Arthur Lemaster (7/12)	Trecia Cannaday (11/12)
Charles Gorman (7/12)	Judith Shuman (11/12)
David Turner (7/12)	William Dehn (11/12)
Donald Kinney (7/12)	Thomas Blandford (11/12)
Charles Way (7/12)	Jill Carter (11/12)
Allen Mayhew (7/12)	Elester Bailey Jr (11/12)
Richard Yelton (7/12)	Daniel Grimm (11/12)
Steven Clevenger (7/12)	Joseph Murphy (11/12)
Douglas Janney (7/12)	Marybeth Torgerson (11/12)
Dennis Erwin (8/12)	Sheila Hone (11/12)
Milton Odom (8/12)	Ashok Saxena (11/12)
Timothy Lessley (8/12)	Roger Haines (11/12)
Kevan Sharp (8/12)	Leon Ash (11/12)
Joseph Ahearn (8/12)	Luis Peniche (11/12)
Margo Archibald (8/12)	Nicholas Kaberry (12/12)
Rita Cerrato (8/12)	Thomas Horton (12/12)

Larry Duncan (8/12)	Phillip Schoenecke (12/12)
John Lazenby (8/12)	Ted McIntyre (12/12)
Dirk Bal (8/12)	David Blandford (12/12)
Leslie Shannon (8/12)	Stephen Thomas (12/12)
Richard Swift (8/12)	William Sherman (12/12)
Maureen Sampson (8/12)	Colin Glover (12/12)
Antonio Morales (8/12)	Gary Gray (12/12)
John Anderson (8/12)	James Mcdevitt (12/12)
Alice Abney (8/12)	Robert Paterson (12/12)
Jonathan Hinks (8/12)	Harold Nash (12/12)
Dennis Padron (8/12)	Maudeen Vest (12/12)
Nancy Tuor (9/12)	Ebenezer Osidipe (12/12)
Alvin Brooks (9/12)	Carol Barbary (12/12)
Karen Konecky (9/12)	John Baum (12/12)
Paul Day (9/12)	Jane Walter (12/12)
Allen Emter (9/12)	Jeris Pierson (12/12)
Gary Hunt (9/12)	Edward Phillips (12/12)
Peter Shadinger (9/12)	David Vetter (12/12)
Tom Lavelle (9/12)	Mark Craddy (12/12)
Sandra Spencer (9/12)	Nicholas Parker (12/12)
Doug Yearsley (9/12)	Marion Myers (12/12)
Nicholas Fiscina (9/12)	Hal Reitmeier (12/12)
Lynette Hedges (9/12)	Michael Mischuk (12/12)
Sharon Itnyre (9/12)	Lucia Correa (12/12)
Richard Wells (9/12)	Leroy Bonkoski (12/12)
Allen King (9/12)	Gerald Hickey (12/12)
James Ollerenshaw (10/12)	

Goodbye, Old Friends

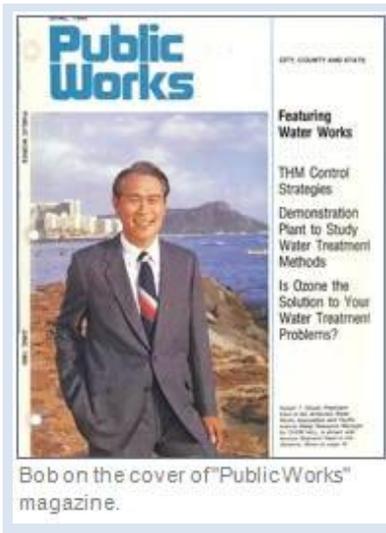
We lost these co-workers in the last 6 months.

James F. Estes, Jr. (7/12)	Larry M. Foley (11/12)
Dolat R. Desai (8/12)	Ellis Ronshaugen (11/12)
Martha McCoy (10/12)	Fred May (12/12)
M. Joan Dotson (10/12)	Bob Chuck (12/12)
Robert “Bob” Jacobs (10/12)	Richard Rawlings (1/13)
Bruce Alan Peterson (10/12)	Roger Bissell (1/13)
Jim Scott (10/12)	Howard Wilson (1/13)
(<i>husband of Bunny Scott</i>)	Gene Suhr (1/13)

If you hear about the death of any of your colleagues and you think other members of the community would be interested in hearing about the loss, please forward either the obituary or the family’s contact information to alumnirelations@ch2m.com.

PASSINGS

Bob Chuck, a much-loved CH2M HILL family member, passed away peacefully on December 27. He was 89. Bob was a key figure in opening the Honolulu (HNL) office in the late ‘70s and helped build our water practice in Hawaii while building his national reputation. Bob enjoyed singing and playing the guitar, organizing and leading traditional Hawaiian sing-alongs, and playing the ukulele. He was a vivacious man, and just about everyone in the city knew and loved him. Even after he retired, he kept a cubicle in HNL. Most of all, he was a doting grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Florence; son Fred and daughter Lisa; and four grandchildren.



“Bob will always be remembered as the heart of the office,” according to Ross Kaneko, HNL, “and the singular person most responsible for infusing the office with the aloha spirit.”

Bob often represented the firm as its designated golfer. “Bob invited me to play golf on a Saturday morning,” Harold Chun/HNL recalled. They met at 5:15 a.m. at the Olomana Golf Course, where Bob

was first off the tee each Saturday in return for work he had done many years earlier.

“Okay, you’re first off the tee,” Bob told Harold, “go ahead and hit,” though it was pitch black. “Just hit it in that direction,” Bob said, “then we’ll go and look for the balls.’ By the time we reached the first green,” said Harold, “there was just enough light where we could putt. The morning was great; it was dark, the air was cool and crisp, there was dew on the fairways, the birds were singing, the roosters in the area were crowing, and the sun was just coming out. What a beautiful morning!” They finished at 8:30 a.m. “Bob was 85 at the time and he shot an 85 for the day.” Bob trounced Harold. “He made me feel that I was his equal in golf,” said Harold. “That’s how Bob was.”

AlumniConnect featured a long obituary with great photos, and the Alumni History website features a [story](#) about HNL, which Bob was instrumental in growing. Memories, photos, and condolences are being gathered [here](#). And the Hawaii Section of the AWWA is accepting donations in Bob’s name toward two scholarships.

Roger Bissell passed away January 13, after a long illness. He was 74. Roger graduated from the University of Idaho in 1963 in mechanical engineering, and worked in CVO while going to graduate school at Oregon State University. In 1967, Roger transferred to Boise and worked there until his retirement in 2005. During his career, he served as VP of mechanical engineering, on the firm’s board of directors (1980–1982), and as a team leader for many innovative hydroelectric, nuclear, and geothermal power projects. Most recently, he was instrumental in designing a state-of-the-art water treatment system for the Republic of Singapore. Roger served on the Idaho Society of Professional Engineers, the Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors and the University of Idaho Engineering Advisory Board. In 2007, he was awarded the Idaho Excellence in Engineering Award for Outstanding Contributions to Engineering. Read more [here](#), and add condolences from a [link to a memory book](#).

Fred May was with friends and clients when he passed away on a Texas golf course on December 26. He was 63 years old. Fred was a project and construction manager specializing in design-build (DB) delivery of water and WW treatment facilities and made many meaningful contributions to CH2M HILL and the projects he



Fred May

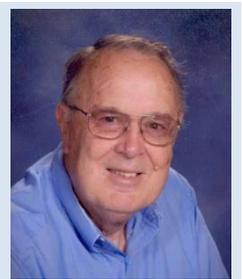
managed during 10 years with the firm. He made friends with almost everyone he came in contact with and always made sure that the people he worked with were well taken care of.

Fred loved building projects for the firm. He managed the DB renovation and expansion of the Robindale WWTP for Brownsville (TX) Public Utilities Board; the City of North Las Vegas (NV) Water Reclamation Facility; the Ave Maria (FL) WTP and Water Reclamation Facility DB; Traverse City (MI) Regional WWTP DB improvements; and the progressive DB expansion of Bonita Springs West Water Reclamation Facility (FL).

Fred grew up in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and went to high school (where he played saxophone in the marching band) and college (which he paid for by playing music) in Sarasota, Florida. He started work as a journeyman plumber and held master plumber licenses in Idaho and Florida. A licensed pilot, an accomplished musician and singer, and a lifelong learner, Fred frequently took advantage of courses and seminars to add to his knowledge base.

Fred is survived by his best friend and wife, Pally; sons Freddie and Chris; daughter Stacy; parents Fred and Patricia; sister Kathy; brother David; grandchildren Alexis and Eric; and many extended family members.

Howard Wilson, a 46-year RDD WBG veteran, passed away in his sleep on January 15. Howard joined Clair A. Hill & Assoc. in 1966 and became one of our most experienced conveyance technologists, having managed dozens of major potable water, wastewater, and irrigation conveyance projects. He was most proud of serving Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (ID) for nearly four decades, designing a 3,000-cfs Sacramento River diversion and pump station and subsequently retrofitting it with state-of-the-art fish screens that are a model for fish protection throughout California; managing the Point of the Mountain Aqueduct to deliver potable water to Salt Lake City and Sandy, Utah; and the Yakima-Tieton ID Rehabilitation Program (200+ miles of pipeline, dam, reservoir, and hydroelectric facility). A team spread across four Northwest offices delivered the project on time and within budget. Howard always engaged younger staff, and shared his technical expertise, project experiences, and life stories with great enthusiasm. He was



Howard Wilson

very respectful, a man of integrity, and he expected the same from others.

In 2007, Howard received the ASCE's Stephen D. Bechtel Pipeline Engineering Award, that recognized his dedication and commitment to the pipeline industry as a teacher, mentor, project manager and supervisor and for his knowledge and technical expertise in the design and construction of large- diameter pipeline transmission and distribution systems. Howard was a long-time fixture performing senior reviews in RDD, and will be greatly missed.

Retirees' News

Having Fun in Retirement

BY ART STORBO

Amateur astronomy is not a particularly expensive hobby after one acquires the necessary equipment, except for the travel required to be in the right spot at the right time. In 2012, Sharon and I made up for lost time on our astronomy hobby. In past years we had seen a number of solar and lunar eclipses, meteor showers, and a transit of Mercury, but 2012 topped all of these.

In May we saw a solar eclipse from Susanville, California with Dale and Karen Cannon. This was an especially fine eclipse, as our Moon was further from Earth and Earth was closer to the Sun.

We arrived in Susanville a day early, developed a contingency plan for moving eastward if clouds came over Susanville, and were rewarded with a fine cloudless day. We enjoyed sharing telescope views with some of the hundred people there (at the local college campus) from all along the West Coast, Canada to San Diego. The eclipse progressed from partial to full annular (full annular lasted only 4 minutes) to partial over about an hour, and in some of that hour we witnessed the gradually darkening sky, stillness of birds, and tricky images of the crescent-shaped sun projected on sidewalks and ground by dappled light through leafy trees. Those with solar glasses could watch the eclipse naked-eye (i.e. no magnification).



Sharon Storbo with friends in Susanville for the solar eclipse

In June we observed the transit of Venus from atop 13,800-foot-high Mauna Kea in Hawaii – a rare event that won't happen again until 2117. It was almost 40° but with a biting wind, and the temperature

dropped rapidly to freezing toward sunset. Mauna Kea is home to some of the world's premier telescopes, including the two 10-meter-diameter Keck scopes.



Sharon braved the cold atop Mauna Kea

We next had a stroke of good luck in meeting Neil Armstrong at Flagstaff, Arizona in late July. As supporting members of Lowell Observatory, we were invited to attend a banquet celebrating

completion of Lowell's new 4-meter Discovery Channel telescope, at which Armstrong was keynote speaker. For an additional donation, we were privileged to attend a smaller reception for Armstrong. That was the highlight of our year. Armstrong gave a fine talk, entitled *The Future Belongs to the Intellectually-Curious and Self-Motivated*, beginning with the history of astronomy and leading up to his part in exploring the Moon. He spent the last 15 minutes of his presentation talking us through the final 4 minutes of his flight in the Eagle before landing, dodging

craters and boulders. He compared recent high-resolution NASA photos of the lunar surface with those taken from the Eagle. In his usual modest manner, he took no credit for his first steps on the Moon, instead crediting the 400,000 people who worked on the Apollo program. He said he considered his finest achievement to be successfully landing the Eagle on the Moon. As it turned out, this was Neil's last public appearance; he died a few weeks later.



Art and Sharon with Neil Armstrong

Smiths Enjoying Florida

BY JACK SMITH (JSMITH4@MSN.COM)



It's comforting to read CH2M HILL publications and see the management team carrying on the traditions of strong leadership and excellent client services worldwide. I remember with

pride many clients, projects, and staff I had the pleasure of working with in the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

Sondra and I find it hard to believe we've been retired since 1998. We're fortunate to have good health, and to live in an area of beauty and recreation that many tourists only get to

enjoy part-time. The cattle ranch is long gone, and mostly the horses (except for a couple of favorites we're pensioning out). We have the time now to return to the water sports we always loved... but



these days, instead of noisy motor power we like the tranquility of kayaking the scenic rivers and springs of north central Florida. A special treat is paddling the clear springs down at Crystal River to see the manatees that come in from the Gulf during the cold winter months. The gentle giants are everywhere, with their babies, and are so tame you can sometimes pat their heads when they come up to breathe close to the boat.

State bicycle paths abound, too, and pedaling the beautiful trails with friends has become a Saturday tradition. We're long-distance scenery riders, no hotshot stuff— plus it's good exercise. UF Gator football games may dominate an occasional fall Saturday, and that's OK; except for the SEC championship game, they had a super year. To all our friends, we wish you a wonderful retirement also. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of loved ones we've lost over the years, whom we all miss. CH is not a company...it's an immense family and was one great way to spend a career.

ACEC-Utah Honors Jim Schwing

At a banquet in late November, the American Council of Engineering Companies-Utah honored [Jim Schwing/SLC](#) (center below) as its engineer of the year. This honor recognizes Jim's technical excellence and work on water infrastructure projects in Utah as well as his ability to balance responsibilities of service to his fellow employees, the community, and the engineering profession.



During his 43-year-long career, Jim has been involved in all aspects of engineering project implementation. Fred Merryfield himself hired Jim, and after CVO, Jim moved to

Colorado to help open the new corporate office in 1971. He also spent some years at the Minneapolis-St Paul office and was a member of our first expatriate team in Alexandria, Egypt in 1981. He moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1991 to manage remediation of polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated landfills.

Jim moved to Salt Lake City in 2002 as Utah area manager. His in-state projects range from design, construction, and management of Salt Lake City Water Reclamation Facility digester improvements and Biosolids Management Plan to management of a Northern Utah Biosolids Initiative that brought together WW utilities to evaluate beneficial uses and management of biosolids. He recently managed a research effort investigating the efficacy of deriving biofuels from biosolids.

Fellow engineers point to Jim as their mentor and a key influence in their careers. Among his numerous activities outside the firm, he has served on the ACEC-Utah Board of Directors for 5 years and was its president for 2011-2012. Jim sits on the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District Conservation Garden Park's advisory committee, and served on Salt Lake City's Community Development and Capital Improvement Programs Advisory Boards for 6 years. He is an active member of the Water Environment Association of Utah, where he has served as the conference committee chair for the past 6 years. Jim also leads SLC's Engineers Week activities and the Water For People campaign.

Echternachs Move to St. Pete

CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN ECHTERNACH



Echternachs' cottage

House hunting is over. We bought a 1926 Arts and Crafts bungalow in Historic Old Northeast St. Pete, complete with brick paved street. It's 1,600 sq. ft., much smaller than prior homes. Our realtor stated it was the most authentic bungalow he had ever seen. Complete new kitchen needed, but all else lovingly restored to the day it was built. Kitchen rebuild, modernizing garage, but

soon will be ready for visitors. The yard looks like a botanical garden.

For our first home, Jean Ann and I bought a cottage, vintage 1874, in Wellesley, Massachusetts. We've come full circle. I'm having a *martini hour is open* flag made for the front porch. I'm selling one of the cars. We can walk to everything, restaurants, coffee shops, groceries, and church. Jean Ann is already singing in the Cathedral church choir and will

likely audition for the St. Pete Community Chorus as well. Can you say "As good as it gets?"....

For those in other parts of the country, we are on the front porch on Jan 24th in shorts and a golf shirt...

Marskes Go to Italy and Caribbean, Run into Former Cher

CONTRIBUTED BY DON MARSKÉ

We recently took our first-ever European trip and first-ever cruise in September. Shortly after landing in Venice, our tour group boarded a water taxi for the hotel. Lo and behold, we met **Leann Vigna** and her husband Gary. In the spirit of what-are-the-odds, Leann was PDX Office Services Supervisor and Word Processing Manager in the late '70s. Needless to say, it was a fun week recalling old times and friends from CVO and PDX.



Don & Joan Marske with Leann & Gary Vigna in Italy

The Italy trip was an incredible enlightening of the Roman culture and history. It's one thing to read about it, it's another to actually see and feel it. It was amazing to see how advanced the Romans were with respect to art, city planning, architecture, and construction of major structures. But it was also sobering to know it was done on the backs of enumerable slaves. The Coliseum was particularly spectacular with many

innovations that are still used in arenas, AND it was built in less than 10 years!



The Marskes with friends on St. Maarten, overlooking the cruise ship dock

In January, our friends from Wisconsin pleaded with us to join them for a last-minute escape from cold weather. It

was timely because Irvine, California, was also a brisk 32 degrees. The east Caribbean cruise took off out of Port Canaveral, Florida, aboard Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas. We had daytime stops in St. Thomas and St. Maarten.

I think I was more enamored with the engineering marvel of the ship than the trip itself. As it turns out, I was one of only 10 guests (out of 4,000) who took them up on a \$150, 3-hour, all-access tour of the ship. Holy smokes, the ship is three times

the size (tonnage) of the Titanic and at 1,120 feet, 340 feet longer. The galley serves 1,200 four-star meals every 25 minutes! The engine control room can bring the 25-mph ship to a full stop in 3 ½ ship lengths! The chief engineer said they could do it quicker, but then they would have to pluck some guests out of the ocean. Engineers! ☺ And the captain, with the assistance of a couple of joysticks, can park the ship (without tugs) between two other ships with less than 20 feet to spare from stem to stern. The chief was also proud to say that his Freedom was the Prius of the sea at 27 feet per gallon!

It was a fun and relaxing trip. Unfortunately, our friends returned to Milwaukee and subzero weather, but we went home to balmy southern California's mid '70s.

Koblitzes Conquer Texas Motor Speedway

CONTRIBUTED BY GORDON KOBLITZ

Last December (2011), I was looking for a gift for Mary that was a little out of the ordinary. When a Groupon email showed up for a real, full-size Indy race car experience at Texas Motor Speedway, I knew I found a winner...for me, too. The dates were limited, so we ended up going this past December due to earlier vacation conflicts. We drove northeast of Fort Worth to the huge track, checked in, donned our gear (along with scores of Mario wannabees) and headed for a mandatory session with our crew chief. He taught us everything we needed to know before hitting the track, including showing an instructional video, safety training, and a Q&A session. It was a good time to weed out the faint-of-heart, but most everyone was ready for action. (Those who opted out could go on a ride-along with an experienced driver.)

Each of us had a racing instructor (spotter with binoculars) as we drove, coaching us over the two-way, in-car radio guiding us from the pit row to the finish line. Each driver was timed for three laps (about 5 minutes total). They limited the number of individuals on the track at any one time, but we



Mary & Gordon burned up the track

were allowed to pass a slower car if cleared by the instructor. So we got our helmets, taped in our ear buds, squeezed into the cockpit followed by the steering wheel mounted and locked in place (BTW, no side or rear view mirrors either—left

one feeling a bit vulnerable), got instructions to get into fourth gear (stick shift) and over 3,000 rpm by the time we got to the second bend and before the first big banking curve (24 degrees), and hit it hard!

It was exhilarating! After completing our sessions, we turned in our uniforms and received our official timing (max speed) certificates. Mary made it into the coveted 150-mph Club, but

I wimped out at a mere 135 mph. She offered to drive home, but in the interest of safety and avoiding a ticket, I drove ☺.

Here's a list of speedways that have similar sessions:

- [Atlanta Motor Speedway](#)
- [Auto Club Speedway](#)
- [Charlotte Motor Speedway](#)
- [Chicagoland Speedway](#)
- [Homestead-Miami Speedway](#)
- [Kentucky Speedway](#)
- [Texas Motor Speedway](#)
- [Richmond International Raceway](#)
- [Phoenix International Raceway](#)
- [New Hampshire Motor Speedway](#)

Ehrmann Digs Big Fish

CONTRIBUTED BY SUELLEN EHREMAN

Last summer Barry, Wheezer, and I took a 10-week, 11,600-mile road trip from Texas to the Pacific NW, across the northern U.S. on the High Line (U.S. 2), and over to New England. I learned that fish are bigger up north.



This fish has its own park in Erskine, Minnesota



Floodwood, Minnesota, claims to be the Catfish Capital of the World

Aasheim Update

CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE AASHEIM

It was nearly 10 years ago that I began a transition to retirement, at first going flex and then retiring. A family situation (aging father) was the catalyst for leaving the firm at age 58, and it has worked out well for Carol and I. I owe a lot to my CH2M HILL family for the success we collectively enjoyed that made it financially possible to do the things we do now. We still live in Gainesville, Florida, and enjoy Gator sports and attend everything from football and basketball to baseball, softball, lacrosse, sometimes even gymnastics. Our children live within a few hours' drive. Kari is an attorney in Tampa and Bryan is a banker in South Georgia. No grand kids but six grand dogs. Golf remains a passion though it gets a little harder each year to perform at the level I'd like. What the heck, it gets me out of the house.



Carol and I are on our fourth motor home—it lives on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Two years ago we went through Glacier National Park to Seattle, Napa, Reno, and Albuquerque for the balloon fiesta. In 2012, we spent 2 months in the mountains of Colorado. This summer will



Carol & Steve on their Can-Am trike!

be focused on northern Michigan and the mountains of North Carolina. We're not towing a car this year; instead we'll take our Can-Am trike.

We closed out 2012 by traveling with Kari and her friend on a Rhine River cruise from Basel to Amsterdam. The towns all had Christmas markets and were decorated

for the season. It was fabulous. One of the highlights was a snowy trip to the Black Forest. Beautiful.

All the best from the Aasheims to our CH2M HILL friends.

Koblitzes Take Kids on Cortez Cruise

CONTRIBUTED BY GORDON KOBLITZ



Gordon, Cole, Teagan, & Mary

Mary and I are treating each of our grandchildren, when they reach their 12th birthday, to a special trip so they can have a new, different travel

experience, and we have some one-on-one bonding time. This trip, Teagan and Cole joined us (Teagan is Trina's daughter and Cole is Tricia's son). We'd taken several cruises with Lindblad/National Geographic and loved them. This trip, earlier this month, was to the Sea of Cortez (between Baja California and the Mexican mainland). We departed from La Paz on the 150-foot-long Sea Bird (68 passengers including about a dozen kids), which was equipped with zodiacs, kayaks, and other stuff needed for adventures. First night was dinner, safety, and ship orientation, meeting the naturalists and crew, and explaining the plans for the week. Then the real fun began.



Cole, Teagan, & the Sea Bird

The week consisted of a blue whale sighting, daily donning of wet suits (we needed them!) for snorkeling, kayaking, zodiac tours, island landings of varying lengths for hikes and sightseeing, lots of bird-watching/sea life/flora/fauna time, excellent dining, and a New Year's Eve celebration—Mexican style—with a piñata for the kiddos, the oldest passenger ringing out 2012 on the ship's bell at midnight (EST), and the

youngest passenger ringing in 2013, including champagne and sparkling cider for all.

he captain had an open (mostly) bridge policy, so everyone who wanted could see first-hand what was involved with running and navigating our ship. A couple of exciting events took place with bottlenose dolphins positioning themselves beneath the T bow where they caught the pressure wave for a free ride. Once when we were exploring in our zodiac a group of dolphins dashed toward us, attempted to ride the bow, then leaped alongside, so close a few of us were lightly splashed.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBZRe7H8td8&feature=m-share_video_user



A staff videographer compiled a 40-minute DVD of activity highlights (available for a nominal fee, of course ☺). The last evening, guests shared their best five photos taken during the week which Linda, cruise photographer, compiled on a DVD, free for all. It

was a wonderful trip and left us with great memories and a bonding that, after a week with each of us sharing a cabin with our grandchild, we certainly got to know them (and them us) a whole lot better!

Firm News

End-of-Year Message from WBG Prez Bob Bailey

As we close out 2012, our water business performance remains solid; we are delivering high-quality work on projects big and small, with a safety record that is truly amazing; and we're steadily building backlog for the year to come. All of these are great accomplishments in the face of persistent economic challenges. We're the number one water company in the world, and our people and projects around the globe continue to help make our brand shine.

I'd like to congratulate a couple of WBG staff on some outstanding achievements. **Jim Schwing/SLC**, whose long career of serving clients as well as his long-term investments in our profession and community are briefly described above, sets an example of what we can all aspire to. **Blake Jeffcoat/MGM** has been recognized as Auburn University's Outstanding Civil Engineering Alumnus. **Phil Benson/DCA** will be presented with the Black Engineer of the Year Visionary Award for his ability to see the world in a new light and have the energy and persistence to push forward until others see it. **Kate Simmonds/HML** was named Young Water Professional of the Year at the Australian Water Association Victorian Water Awards.

A number of our projects have also earned industry recognition, including:

- The American Water Award for Environmental Project of the Year for work on the Lake City Nature Preserve and East Jesters Creek Phase 4 Stream Restoration in Georgia
- The British Construction Industry Environmental Award for work on the White Cart Water Flood Prevention Scheme in Scotland
- The National Green Apple Environment Award for work protecting Thames Water's assets during the Crossrail construction in London
- The U.S. Department of Interior Partners in Conservation Award for the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

End-of-Year Message from O&M BG President Elisa Speranza

I'm writing this on a plane back to Denver from New York City. The trip east was mostly to attend a special celebration for our associates at the North Hudson Sewerage Authority project in New Jersey. We operate two WWTPs and a collection system serving Hoboken, Weehawken, West New York, and Union City. The client surprised project director Gary Fournier and our team with a bronze plaque with all their names on it, commending them for heroic service during Hurricane Sandy, when the system became inundated with flood waters.

I could go on about what a great year we've had – we improved our safety record once again, won lots of awards, renewed 97 percent of our contracts up for renewal, welcomed a new group of colleagues working in the life-sciences market, re-engaged project managers through the "Year of the PM" training and other initiatives, and the list goes on.

Instead, I just want to say thanks. I'm coming up on 5 years of service as president of the O&M BG. It seems like just yesterday when I started to get to know our clients and employees, and now I've got dozens of project visits behind me. Whenever I think I'm having a tough day, I gather strength by thinking of the great people I've met along the way, including team members who work hard at jobs that are mostly as invisible as they are essential, delivering the Everyday Excellence that our clients tell me they appreciate so much.

Wisdom of Chairman Jim found in Little Yellow Book

(ADAPTED FROM [AN ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL](#) BY SANANDA SAHOO)

The words Little Yellow Book might evoke images of a stream of political ideologue, but the content from Chairman Jim's work is slightly different. Unlike Chairman Mao's Little Red Book and Muammar Qaddafi's The Green Book, which outline political guidelines to run a country, Jim's Little Yellow Book is all about best practices on running a company on ethical grounds.

One such message from the author Jim Howland is simple and to the point: "Admit your own mistakes openly and in good humor. Everybody will feel better."

“It is a light-hearted way to get across instructions on business conduct and how we work with clients and third parties,” says **Tom Pennella** (pictured), a senior VP and managing director for the Middle East and North Africa based in Abu Dhabi.

The company also has Web and phone reporting systems through which employees can register concerns.



Tom Pennella

For CH2M HILL, which is associated with projects such as the Emirates civil nuclear power programme, the Sharjah desalination plants and Qatar’s 2022 FIFA World Cup and reported a net

income of US\$113 million (Dh415m) last year, Jim’s Little Yellow Book remains a cornerstone of the company’s guidelines. Available in Arabic, English, French, German, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, the booklet is a collection of pithy messages on people, organization, ethics and communication accompanied by cartoons drawn by Bill Shrader and Bob Wehmert. The messages and the pictures, however, are a direct translation rather than an interpretation adapted to the cultural norms of the regions.

Firm News

CH2M HILL among Fortune 100 Best Companies To Work For

For the sixth time, CH2M HILL is on the FORTUNE 100 Best Companies To Work For. Surveyed employees gave CH2M HILL its highest marks in the five Great Place to Work® Model© Dimensions in the categories of Pride and Camaraderie.

Read our [FORTUNE snapshot](#) and show your support by clicking Facebook and Twitter buttons on that web page (be patient; takes a minute to load). Clicks equal points toward FORTUNE’s social media contests. You can also read our [press release](#) for more background.

CH2M HILL/Odebrecht Team Appointed RIO 2016 Infrastructure Integrator

As the XXXI Summer Olympiad officially begins in Brazil, the CH2M HILL/Odebrecht team has been appointed infrastructure integrator by the Organizing Committee for the RIO 2016™ Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Organizing Committee is responsible for planning and delivering the Games together with various Brazilian city, state, and federal governments and their Olympic Development Authority.

In our role as infrastructure integrator, CH2M HILL/Odebrecht will monitor and report progress on more than 300 venue, engineering, and infrastructure projects for the Games. This will require establishing reporting systems, leveraging our best practices and world-class sporting event expertise, and building relationships with the delivery providers to accurately assess status and identify risks if a project falls behind schedule.



RIO 2016 President, Carlos Arthur Nuzman (fifth from right), with CH2M HILL, Odebrecht, & RIO 2016 team members at the contract signing in Brazil

CH2M HILL’s successful delivery of the London 2012 Olympics and our partnership with Odebrecht were key factors in the team’s selection. Odebrecht, founded in Brazil in 1944, is a global leader in engineering, construction, chemicals, and petrochemicals businesses. Over the past several years Odebrecht and CH2M HILL have partnered to deliver transportation and urban infrastructure projects in Brazil and worldwide.

Marcelo Furquim Paiva of Odebrecht will lead the CH2M HILL/Odebrecht Consortium, and **Ken Durbin** (current London 2012 Program Manager) will serve as infrastructure integration director and lead CH2M HILL program manager for RIO 2016. International Division President **Jacque Rast** is executive sponsor. Urban Programs Managing Director **Jo Danko** and Brazil Country Manager **Pablo Ibanez** are members of the RIO 2016 Consortium Board of Directors.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Four training centers and three pavilions for multi-sport competition and an aquatics stadium
- An aquatics stadium and several temporary stadia, including a beach volleyball venue on Copacabana Beach (each with 10,000 to 15,000 seats)
- Major renovation of the Sambadrome (Rio’s Carnival parade area)
- Four athlete villages (24,000 rooms)
- Major transportation improvements

As with London 2012, our client and the International Olympic Committee require close control and coordination of public statements about the RIO 2016 program. During mobilization, we expect to receive client approvals and clear guidelines on references to RIO 2016 in our written materials. Until then, we are to remain silent about this program externally.

Firm Wins Master Plan for 270-mi² Region of Brazil

In late 2012, CH2M HILL signed a contract with the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, to develop an economic master plan for a 270-square-mile region surrounding the metropolitan area of the state's rapidly expanding capital city, Belo Horizonte (shown in the following photo).



The project team will deliver a broad range of services that relate to the region's social and economic development. Brazil is looking for recommendations on how to modernize infrastructure in the region, rooted in the concepts of sustainable occupation and mobility.

Central to the project's objective is to generate ideas guided by *smart-growth* concepts, including the following:

- Mixed land uses with a blend of homes, retail, business, industries and recreational opportunities
- A variety of transportation options
- Diverse housing opportunities
- Preservation of open spaces and environmentally sensitive areas
- Making the territory attractive to high technology and added value investments

The firm had been pursuing the project for 3 years. One of our competitors was Halcrow. "We believe that this melding of our two firms, coincidental with the competition, helped us win the job," said PM **Alfred Voegels**.

Staff from the Portland, Pittsburgh, and Sao Paulo offices will collaborate with Halcrow staff from Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and London to deliver the project.

Mexico Office Celebrates 20th Anniversary

In December, CH2M HILL's Mexico office celebrated its 20-year anniversary. CEO **Lee McIntire** joined International Division President **Jacque Rast** and **Manuel Aguirre**, Latin America Managing Director, to celebrate.

The celebration included an employee breakfast and a late cocktail hour with key clients. The client cocktail hour was held at the W Hotel. Nearly 150 guests attended, including the U.S. Ambassador in Mexico, Anthony Wayne, who gave a speech about the importance of CH2M HILL's presence in the country, highlighting the firm's strong commitment to society.



L to R: Manuel Aguirre, Latin America managing director; Carlo Orsenigo, Mexico's country manager; Lee McIntire, CEO; & Anthony Wayne, U.S. Ambassador in Mexico

Following his visit to Mexico, Lee blogged about his recent visit and the anniversary celebration.

CH2M HILL's offices are in the center-south of Mexico City—the capital and home to about 20 million people—in a 30-floor building, five of which are occupied by the firm. The Mexico office has a workforce of nearly 400 employees, with an average age of 40 years and with average experience of 15–20 years. CH2M HILL Mexico is considered one of the leading engineering firms in the country.



Lee addressing employees at the celebration breakfast

Business groups include Industrial & Advanced Technology, Energy & Chemicals (E&C), Water, Power, and Environmental. Significant to the office's growth opportunity is the availability of new talent. Mexico graduates about 90,000 engineering students per year—nearly three times more per capita than in the U.S.

In Mexico, CH2M HILL competes with both foreign and domestic contractors in a cyclical market that includes lower-cost domestic competitors. Each project bid presents a different set of competitors due to the variables of financing, technology, and client preferences. The firm's competitive advantage is its diversified portfolio, which helps mitigate the ups and downs of sectors in which we operate.

Alaska Energy & Chemicals Secures \$600M BP Contract

By Steve Ludwig

CH2M HILL has landed a \$600-million, 5-year sole-sourced contract with BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA). The contract, which includes two 2-year options, is to provide fluid hauling and wells support services for BPXA's North Slope Operations.

BPXA sole-sourced the work to the firm because of our recognized world-class performance, North Slope-leading safety standards, and proposed cost-saving measures. From 2007 to 2011, E&C decreased the Recordable Incident Rate by 67 percent: from 1.99 to 0.64. Because CH2M HILL's workforce comprises most of BPXA's contractor workforce, our safety statistics impact BP's safety statistics and form the backbone of their excellent safety performance.



CH2M HILL trucks on the North Slope

CH2M HILL saved the client \$5 million over 5 years by moving people from a BP-owned hotel to CH2M HILL-owned housing.

Firm Major Player in Massive Energy Project

When the JKC Joint Venture awarded us the \$929-million contract for engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning of the Ichthys combined-cycle power plant, we knew the project was massive. But until [CNN Money](#) named it the third largest energy project in the world (based on contract value), we didn't know how massive on a global scale. The combined-cycle power plant will allow a colossal liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing plant to operate in [island mode](#), generating its own power source independent from the grid, and will generate enough power to produce more than 8 million tons of LNG each year.

CH2M HILL, in a joint venture with UGL and a consortium with General Electric, is designing the natural gas-fired power plant to meet the highest reliability, availability and emissions standards. LNG produces fewer emissions than any other fossil fuel and can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by replacing more emissions-intensive fuels like coal.

Located 220 kilometers off the northwest coast of Western Australia, the Ichthys Field represents the largest discovery of

hydrocarbon liquids in Australia in 40 years. When the project is completed, it should rocket Australia into the world's first or second largest exporter of LNG.

The natural gas and liquids from the Ichthys Field will be brought to the surface, then separated and processed at two floating processing facilities. The processed gas will be piped through the largest offshore pipeline in the southern hemisphere, and one of the longest subsea pipelines ever built, to the onshore LNG processing plant in Darwin.

The LNG processing plant, which acts as a giant refrigerator, cools the gas to minus 161°C, liquefying it. The liquefied gas takes up about 1/600th the volume and is much more economical to ship in refrigerated containers.

The primary customers for Australia's LNG are Japan, China, and South Korea for use in combined-cycle power plants.

CH2M HILL Driving Global Environmental Consulting Market

CH2M HILL and 19 other companies are spearheading the global environmental consulting industry with combined EC revenues of \$10.6 billion in 2011, a 10.4 percent increase from the previous year, according to a report by Environment Analyst. The value of the total global EC market reached \$26.5 billion in 2011, up 4.1 percent from \$25.4 billion in 2010, according to [Global Environmental Consulting Strategies and Competitor Analysis 2012](#). The study forecast the global EC market will reach \$31.4 billion by 2016.

Water and waste management services accounted for 30 percent of the global EC market in 2011. Contaminated land services followed with 29 percent of the global EC market. Environmental management, compliance and due diligence together represented 14 percent, tying with the combined discipline of environmental impact assessment and sustainable development. Climate change and energy made up another 7.5 percent of the market.

Trenchless Technology Places Firm at Top of List

Professional publication Trenchless Technology named CH2M HILL the [Number 1 Engineering Firm in trenchless technology](#), thanks—in part—to the Halcrow acquisition.

Best Staff Photos of 2012

Last year, the Virtual Office (VO) launched Picture Perfect, a daily feature of an employee photograph, which staff can vote on using a five-point approval scale. Twelve photos (below) with the highest votes were recently featured as the Best of 2012, and all employees have been invited to vote for a favorite. Disclaimer: Photos in the gallery are not approved for any business development or external use, or any use without the permission of the owner.



Fall in Loudoun County, Va.



Crater Lake National Park



Soft Landing



HOO HOO



Click me...quick!



Hummingbird & cactus blossom



Paddling



New Zealand - Lake Wakatipu



Church of the Spilt Blood, St. Petersburg, Russia



Volcano Fuego Eruption



Nevado de Toluca



Final flight of Discovery Space Shuttle