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## Publisher's Note

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Greetings all,

As mentioned in my December newsletter column, it was memorable and challenging for all of us as CH2M HILL transitioned to Jacobs. This time is memorable as well, as we transition into our new, totally independent, CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) effort. A major change for sure!

Jacobs has kindly given our CHAA permission to still use the CH2M HILL name; however, as you'll note above, a disclaimer will be used in all our official communications from now on.

Don Marske has done an incredible job in getting this transition resolved, laying the groundwork for establishing the CHAA and sorting out all the critical, supporting infrastructure needed, as he conveyed so well in the CHAA welcoming document for this newsletter and column later in this edition. We're very excited with Don's amazing progress, the December CHAA survey results, and your many positive and supportive comments! Wow—to be this far along in the last 6 months far exceeded our expectations!

Please be sure to respond with your membership application ASAP. We hope most of you will join our CHAA along with your colleagues, so we can continue our friendships, good memories, alumni activities and CH2M HILL legacy. This will be the basis for our continuing existence in the coming (let's be optimistic 😊) decades!

Last but not least, we welcome (and depend!) on your updates, stories, comments/kudos, responses to our MIA list and leads on folks to contact. It is more critical than ever to have your help in letting us know about new "retirees," alumni, colleagues (and spouses) passing. We receive very limited information from Jacobs' system now.

Please put the new CHAA email address in your contact list now: [ch2mhilla@gmail.com](mailto:ch2mhilla@gmail.com). This will be the lifeline for all future communications with our retiree and alumni members. Personal emails for newsletter staff and contributors shown throughout the newsletter are always good to note too. In addition, I want to acknowledge and thank our extraordinary newsletter staff: Angie Kruse (editor) and Sarah Harter (delivery expert) who, thankfully, continue to independently help us on a part-time basis (as schedule allows) to deliver this newsletter to you. We couldn't do it without them!

Hope you all have a wonderful rest of the summer, and we see many of you at the CH2M HILL Alumni Reunion in Denver in September per Jim Schwing's enclosed update!

Cheers! *Gordon*  
[\(gkoblitz1@outlook.com\)](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com)

## Retirees/Alumni News

### PROTECTING THE TELLICO RESERVOIR WATERSHED

By Jim Hawkey ([jchawkey42@gmail.com](mailto:jchawkey42@gmail.com))

My wife and I live on the west side of Tellico Lake in Tellico Village, about 35 miles southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee. Tellico Lake was the subject of the “snail darter case,” which was brought against the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) by local environmentalists in an effort to stop the TVA from damming the Little Tennessee River and forcing hundreds of small farmers to abandon their land and flooding the remains of Cherokee villages. Ultimately, approval for the TVA’s action was buried in a federal spending bill that excluded the dam and reservoir from the Endangered Species Act, was passed by Congress and signed by then President Carter. The dam was completed in 1979, the farmers removed and Tellico Lake was created. The lake is 33 miles long, has 370 miles of shoreline and covers about 16,000 acres. It was the last dam/reservoir that TVA constructed.



*Overlooking Tellico Lake.*

Within Tellico Village we live on top of a hill overlooking Tellico Lake (Little Tennessee River) with a view to The Great Smokey Mountains—the most heavily visited national park in the United States. Nearby to our west is the Cumberland Mountain Plateau and the Cumberland Gap. The Appalachian Mountains are to our east. From our deck we look east to an area known as The Dragon Tail. This 11-mile segment of roadway has 318 curves and is among the top 10 motorcycle and sports car drives in the U.S.

Since my retirement from CH2M HILL in August 2014, I have kept busy with the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR). Its purpose is to improve water quality within the 2,627 square miles of the Tellico Reservoir Watershed. WATeR is the lead plaintiff in a federal Consent Decree with a municipal discharger that has a major sanitary sewer overflow problem, along with

an old, poorly designed and operated trickling filter wastewater treatment plant. However, a new treatment plant has recently come online, and my responsibility as part of WATeR is to review operating data and inform the state of permit violations.

I was also the principal author of a non-point source pollution study that focused on one of the major creeks that discharged waste into Tellico Reservoir. The study helped to prioritize areas within the watershed that have major agricultural runoff with phosphorus, nitrogen, and e-coli. We are now working with the local agricultural community to submit a grant application for federal monies to assist in implementing best management practices.

Other WATeR activities include monitoring dischargers, e-coli sampling of bays around the lake, and fish sampling to determine whether mercury and PCBs remain a problem.



*Jim with a Masai tribal leader.*

Change is always present. It is the foremost challenge in this period of my life. We hope always to respond to it positively and live in joy and peace.

Thank you, CH2M HILL, for all that you have done for me!

### FOND REMEMBRANCES OF CH2M HILL

By John Filbert ([jfilbert@peak.org](mailto:jfilbert@peak.org))

#### *Intro by Gordon Koblitz*

*I'm happy to share John Filbert's feedback to our December issue and confirm that it was not our last. I was fortunate to have John as my mentor when I joined the firm in Corvallis in '67. John had a stellar career and was a major contributor to the success of CH2M HILL.*

Thanks for the wonderful newsletter! I will keep it for future reference. I joined the firm in 1963 as a water/wastewater technologist and went to part time in 2000. It was my pleasure to also serve on the CH2M HILL board. I also led the old wastewater treatment discipline group, during which time we became the largest provider in that U.S. marketplace. I led the water and wastewater discipline, managed the Corvallis office, led the design automation effort, served as project manager on some of our larger and more complex projects (CH2M HILL gave me the project manager of the 20th century award when I went part time in 2000), led in the capture of the Singapore work beginning with the Changi wastewater treatment plant, where I moved Singapore away from imported water from Malaysia to reuse of their wastewater as their primary water supply), helped redirect the London tunnel program to reduce cost and improve reliability, participated in our Capstone project management training program, and worked around the earth on other challenging projects.

I had reached the maximum CH2M HILL stock limit several years before I retired. Over the years, I saw the CH2M HILL character and financial strength build. It was a grand company and provided me and many others with fantastic careers! It was because of people like Sid Lasswell, Fred Merryfield, Holly Cornell, and Ralph Roderick and their interest in helping those that followed build one of the grandest engineering consulting firms on earth...they made it all possible. We should toast them all and celebrate our success...then turn to ensure the success of Jacobs as a company and all its people, including those that move from CH2M HILL to Jacobs!

In addition, I was elected to serve on the Tellico Village Public Works Department Advisory Committee and am lending my expertise to its many water and wastewater, roads, and parks projects and services and give professional guidance and mentoring to staff.

My wife and I enjoy traveling around the world when we are not totally committed to our activities here in Tellico Village. I started traveling when I became a part-time employee and I have been able to travel to all seven continents. My adventure trips have taken me to Antarctica, where I interfaced with at least a million penguins; river cruising from Amsterdam to the Black Sea; the South Georgia Islands in the Antarctic Region; the Falkland Islands off southern Argentina; the Arctic Region, the Svalbard Islands close to North Pole; the Norwegian coast; the Galapagos Islands; the Copper Canyon Mexico; the Atacama Desert in Chile; Australia, and New Zealand.

Retirement has been like a bed of roses. We love living in east Tennessee and Tellico Village. Come visit us: we have lots of space for house guests. I still have my boat and can take you for a tour of the lake, including fishing!

The recent sale of CH2M HILL to Jacobs has been difficult for me to process. I have had great support from other CH2M HILL alumni and friends, including current employees.

In that toast, know that the single most important person to CH2M HILL's creation and success was Fred Merryfield...the World War I English fighter pilot shot down twice (no parachutes at the time), who moved to Canada to recuperate and was on his way to Australia after the war when he stepped off the train in Albany...and the train left without him! Thank God for that missed train!

## BIG ISLAND ADVENTURE

By Gordon Koblitz ([gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com))

Back in 1985 a small group of CH2M HILL friends and several guests from around the country decided to vacation on the lovely island of Kauai. It was a delightful time of shared adventures and bonding. In 1990, a similar vacation was held on Maui with many of the same friends plus some new. Switch to earlier this year and a proposal from Bob Chapman to Don Marske and Gordon Koblitz to do the same type vacation to the Big Island of Hawaii sparked the planning process. We figured we three couples would go regardless but would reach out to others who may wish to join us at Waikoloa Resort; albeit, on short notice. The twist, versus the earlier trips, is that all the folks would have to do is make their own air and condo arrangements.



*Checking out the Waikoloa Hilton grounds. Left to right: Sheldon and Jeanne Barker, Meredith Chapman, Carol Evans, Joan Marske, Bob Chapman, Tom Haislip, Mary and Gordon Koblitz. Photo by our good buddy, Don Marske.*

Many folks (not unexpectedly) already had plans for that week, but Dave and Carol Evans, Tom Haislip, and Sheldon and Jeanne Barker joined in. Unfortunately, Babs Suhr had to cancel at the last minute. We all flew in Mother's Day weekend and started off the vacation with a fabulous Mother's Day brunch at the Waikoloa Hilton. We walked off part of the brunch exploring the impressive resort grounds. For the next week we all participated in our different choices of tours and events, including ziplining, waterfall and island tours, including Hilo, snorkeling, golf, coffee and macadamia factories, condo BBQs, dining out, the Hawaii National Energy Lab and associated tours (highly recommended—<http://nelha.hawaii.gov/>), and happy hour celebrations.



*Enjoying the lovely Hawaiian vistas.*

Notice nothing was mentioned about the ongoing, and spectacular, Kilauea volcano. We all were interested in a helicopter tour around the volcano; however, after the volcano activity picked up, the prices more than doubled to \$600+ per person, so our interest ebbed, and we caught the latest highlights on TV. Luckily, the trade winds kept the smoke (VOG...volatile organic gasses) away from the Kona side of the island, but we did get some smoke/haze in the area for a couple days.

It was a wonderful experience again, and we will likely plan another Hawaii trip; albeit, with more notice so folks can get it on their schedule should they wish to join in. Aloha from us all!



**L to R .. Bob & Meredith Chapman, Joan & Don Marske,  
Sheldon Barker, Tom Haslip, Jeanne Barker, Gordon  
Koblitz, Dave Evans, Mary Koblitz, Carol Evans**

## TUESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST MEETINGS

By Ted Downen ([ted.downen@gmail.com](mailto:ted.downen@gmail.com))

"After trying a couple of other places, the location for the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Meeting, we settled on this place," Ken Durant stated, referring to the McKenzie Pub in Sherwood, Oregon (about 16 miles southwest from downtown Portland). Ken then related the history of how the breakfast meetings evolved by the IDC (CH2M HILL Industrial Design & Construction, Inc.—1985) core members of the Portland office.

"When Don Daly retired (2001), he insisted that we stay in contact. At that time, the four of us, Don, Wayne Hanson, Rick Reid, and myself (Ken) were quite busy at IDC as there were numerous, large projects underway. Don knew that if nothing was established, time would pass and the friendships gained over the years of building this important subsidiary could very well fade. So, once the location was determined, (based on being relatively close to where everyone lived), we began a revolving routine for 8:00 AM breakfast. The initial thought was to meet once a month. But, no!!!! Don said that they needed to convene weekly, as long as a minimum of two could meet. He also said that there were two ground rules for the breakfast meeting: (1) no extensive talk about medical issues, conditions, etc., so as to avoid 'old people talk', and (2) no 'work' talk." Ken concluded by saying that, although Rick has passed on, they have been meeting ever since!

Fast forward to 2018. The group of retired Portland IDC's CH2M HILL'ers has grown over the years. The original four members sat at a booth near the entrance. But now, at least two, if not three tables are placed together out in the middle. At times there may be only 5 or 6, but on most Tuesdays there are at least 10 to 12, and sometimes, as many 20 or so. The size and attendance vary due to personal commitments and, of course, travel and family time. The "meeting" is a great opportunity to share stories and keep the many friendships alive.



*The photo shows the group at the first part of June 2018. Since attendance fluctuates, it's hard to capture everyone, but this gives a sampling. Not pictured are folks like Don Daly, Willie Kohn, Steve Allen, Donna Bagnaro, Ted Johnson, and Dick Harbert. And, at times, there are non-retired guests that attend, such as Yuki Marsh and others. Those in the area who can join in, please do!*



Clockwise, starting with Steve Cook in dark shirt on the left side, Mary Reid (Rick's wife), Sue King, Rob Edgerton, Randy Smith, Ken Lundgren, Paul Fujimoto, Ted Downen, Greg Young, Wayne Hanson (slightly hidden), Paul Turner, Bill Headley, Greg Hall, and Ken Durant.

### THE STORY OF TEXAS

By Paul Thornhill ([pthorn6066@aol.com](mailto:pthorn6066@aol.com))

The Bob Bullock Museum, in Austin, Texas, has a unique and ongoing project to tell the "Story of Texas." The museum has been collecting personal stories from people across the state to tell the history of Texas. These stories can be found on the museum's website, and in the museum itself through an interactive display map.

Paul Thornhill, who worked with CH2M HILL in the Austin and Dallas/Fort Worth offices and left the firm in 1997, has been working on writing a book for the past few years about his life, especially his time living in Costa Rica, as well as his thoughts on Texas water issues. While he's not planning on publishing his book (saying it's more for family), he did submit a chapter from his work as part of the museum's project.

To access Paul's personal story of Texas, click [here](#).



Paul and his wife Marilyn.

## REMINISCING IN SPAIN

By Roberto Martin ([rrrobe@gmail.com](mailto:rrrobe@gmail.com))

CH2M HILL came to Spain in 1998 as the consulting and engineering firm for ONO, a new telecommunications operator, for fiber optic deployment. CH2M HILL was responsible for program management, construction management and design management of the network.



*Former CH2M HILL Spain employees gathered to share memories of the firm's work in the country.*

Many people were hired for the ramp-up period, and much more, during the 13 years that CH2M HILL was in Spain, assisting with mobile projects for VODAFONE (within the telecommunications sector) and also with environmental sector work. However, when CH2M HILL finished this work, it closed its Spain offices in 2011; CH2M HILL staff moved on to other companies.

With the 20th anniversary of CH2M HILL's arrival to Spain, a group of former employees decided to arrange a meeting to see old friends, catch up with colleagues, and share memories of great moments. Former employees came from across Spain, including Huelva, Cádiz, Sevilla, Murcia, Salamanca, and Cantabria...even from the UK!

In the conversations during the gathering, there was a common agreement about the great working atmosphere that there was in the CH2M HILL offices, and about the fact that CH2M HILL was a first-class company, including client focus, performance, solutions offered and always bringing to the table a different and professional point of view to find the best solution for the client.

The gathering lasted until the early hours (some folks were up until 3 am!), as people really enjoyed sharing experiences. And everybody is already looking forward to meeting again!

## AN UPDATE FROM SHIRLEY WARD

By Shirley Ward ([s\\_ward35@msn.com](mailto:s_ward35@msn.com))

After reading the last CH2M HILL Alumni newsletter, I noticed that my husband, Norm Ward, was not listed as deceased. He died May 27, 2017, from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He asked me not to create an obituary, no funeral, etc. We had a wonderful 54 years together. I am living in Seattle now where we moved to get a better neurologist than Bend could provide, plus our daughter and family are here. We lived in an assisted living spot until I could no longer take care of

him. He spent his last months in a nursing home. I still have the house in Bend and my granddaughter is living there tending to it. As much as I love Bend, I am in the process of selling the house. I do miss central Oregon, as one may guess.

I still live in the Seattle retirement home as an independent. I have four grandsons here in the Seattle area. They, and my daughter and son-in-law, are a great joy to me. I also now have two great grandsons. My life is slow; I read a lot; and discovered Netflix, so I am well entertained. Since we had lived in this area for many years before, it was like "coming home."

I have only good memories of our work at CH2M HILL and was saddened when Jacobs entered the picture. We were very lucky to have experienced those years at CH2M HILL and the many friends we made there. I would love to hear from any long-lost CH2M HILL friends. My email is [s\\_ward35@msn.com](mailto:s_ward35@msn.com).

Best wishes to all, Shirley

### TALES OF AN INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROLS ENGINEER

By Warren Jacobs ([warp.eng@gmail.com](mailto:warp.eng@gmail.com))

I grew up in Toronto, Ontario. After finishing high school, I studied civil engineering at University of Toronto and graduated in May 1972, at the age of 23. That same year I began my engineering career at Gore & Storrie Consulting Engineers (G&S) in Toronto. This was 6 years before CH2M HILL established its first office in Canada. When I started at G&S, the firm was 120 staff strong. Over the next 5 years the firm grew by 50 percent. Growth was not always easy, as recessions in 1981 and 1991 and others took a toll on staff.

Over the years I experienced variety on all fronts: the nature of projects, clients, competitors, as well as advances in treatment plant machinery and computing devices. A few electronic technologies came along in 1973 that would prove to revolutionize how I would eventually spend the greater part of my career. We had been using a slide rule for performing multiplication. The first handheld electronic calculator was introduced during my graduating year; the microprocessor was also invented in 1972.

When I started working at G&S in 1972, G&S was already 53 years old and had two main rival engineering consultants, Proctor and Redfern, and Maclarens; these three firms were dominating the Ontario water and wastewater treatment plant design market. Clients would generally award us with design contracts without the need to prepare a proposal.

When I first started working, I began on a mechanical drafting board, laying out pumps and piping for a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Six months after starting these drawings I felt a tap on my shoulder. I was volunteered (told) to be (the lone) resident engineer at a greenfield water treatment plant and reservoir for the small "whistle stop" of Fauquier in northern Ontario (nearest town is Kapuskasing). Great experience! I worked with all trades and disciplines at the construction site.

When construction was completed on the Fauquier plant, I went back to my desk in Toronto and began designing process mechanical systems for a low pressure thermal oxidation proprietary Zimpro System. This project required a process control computer system for automation and because we didn't have an instrumentation and control (I&C) department, I took on the computer part for the design and specifications. This was in the mid-1970s and PLCs were relatively new. A vendor proposing Allen Bradley PLCs and a mini-computer won the automation portion of the project. Novel but a good fit for a sewage plant!

I added another hat to my list of duties in the mid-1980s. The firm had decided to own its first in-house computer system and PABX telephone system. Three current engineers were assigned to tend to all support duties for these new in-house systems, including me. As the in-house computer system expanded it required more printers and dumb terminals. Our IT duties only lasted a couple years because the firm realized that three engineers were too expensive to spend any time away from their engineering design projects.



Warren and wife Karen attending a CH2M banquet.

In the late 1980s G&S started an I&C design department. I was a charter member of this new group and I went “cold turkey,” dropping my direct involvement with process mechanical design duties. From here forward I was full time on I&C — reports, designs, specifications, drawing details, estimates, process control narrative writing, etc.

In, 1978 CH2M HILL established an office in Canada and agreed to merge with G&S in 1995. The Canadian offices began operating under the moniker CG&S (CH2M HILL Gore & Storrie). A few years later we changed our name to CH2M HILL Canada in favor of a unified brand. From this point forward, I designed projects in Canada and the U.S. I also spent 2 weeks in Taipei training design team members on piping and instrumentation diagrams. Another fun project was a trip to Seoul Korea to work with colleagues designing a wastewater treatment plant for a design-build proposal.

While looking back on these years, I enjoy reminiscing on special moments, such as the fun times being entertained at the “roasts” during annual service awards. For those folks who are not familiar with a roast, the master of ceremony would throw much praise on the honored and deserving recipient and throw in merciless ridicule to amplify our love and appreciation for the recipient.

Another fun time was on the walk back to the engineers’ shack at the job site after a daily inspection of the Lake Major treatment plant. The contractor’s progress was satisfactory on that winter day; however, there was an hour of freezing rain while we were in the pump station. An ultra-slick surface of thick wet ice had covered the asphalt, shoulders, and rocky hills on both sides of the roadway carved out of the granite cliff. We struggled to get traction under our safety boots. Probably took us 30 minutes to get to the top, normally just a 5-minute walk!

I’ve designed, inspected and/or commissioned significant projects for clients in five Canadian provinces and two U.S. states. Although similar in format, each one had unique and individual characteristics that kept me fully involved and learning something new as I worked with fellow designers and plant personnel. It was always very gratifying to don the hard hat, lace up the construction boots and head out to site on the final commissioning of any project. This variety I’m sure influenced my staying with my “first” job forever.

In 2016, after 44 years at the firm, I announced that I would retire to enjoy relaxation and hopefully good health. My wife Karen and I enjoy road trips on our motorcycles. On our bikes we’ve toured the Rockies, San Antonio, East Coast, and Tennessee. A heart attack and bypass surgery just 2 weeks before my scheduled retirement date reinforced my plan. Now, a year and a half into retirement, with tongue-in-cheek, I warn working friends to stay working, because if they were to retire, they may be disappointed when they discover what I recently learned: when retired, there is still not enough hours in a day to do everything you want to!

It’s been my pleasure to work with such great staff for the past 44 years straight. The culture was as good when I retired in Nov 2016 as when I began in 1972, straight out of civil engineering “skule.” It was easy to remain at one firm for 44 years

when surrounded by such talented and friendly people. I’ll forever cherish memories of interesting technical design projects, the fun job-site startup and commissioning phase, but more importantly to me were the extra-curricular activities that staff participated in. To name a few, we had a bowling league, golf days, tree planting days, ice skating at Nathan Phillips Square, and a hockey team (but I didn’t last long). For a dozen years I led the decorating team for the office annual Children’s Christmas party. I also played Santa Claus on three occasions.

It’s now the summer of 2018; Karen and I are planning the next road trip, and a Mediterranean cruise next spring. Life is good!

*Warren and Karen enjoying a trip to Fiji.*



## AN UPDATE AND SOME ENGINEERING HUMOR

By Kurt Leininger ([kyleininger@earthlink.net](mailto:kyleininger@earthlink.net))

I fully retired on February 2, and I'm keeping relatively busy around home and with the Nebraska family farm that my brothers and I inherited.

I also enjoy making new spreadsheets for various things and doing a bit of "creative" writing now and then, including the attached engineering humor, being my premier effort so far. Enjoy!

### ODE TO ENGINEERING HUMOR

I have a M.S. in Sanitary Engineering (in 1968 before the EPA was created after which such degrees became "Environmental" Engineering). Therefore, I like to quip, especially to new acquaintances:

"I'm a Sanitary engineer and at your disposal."

That got me to thinking what I could say if I had a different degree.....

As a Structural engineer: "I support you in your endeavors."

As an Electrical engineer: "Let me enlighten you."

As a Mechanical engineer: "Let's gear up for a good time."

As a Computer Science / Software engineer: "You can always control the situation by finding an alternate path to delete your predicament."

As a Chemical engineer: "We need to periodically table some of your suggestions."

Albeit, my first degree was a BS in Civil Engineering so I try to remain civil most of the time.

Now that I'm retired and a part-owner of Midwest farmland (with my brothers), I often wish I had become an Agricultural engineer. With my semi-French heritage from Alsace/Lorraine (*Le-nawn-jay*), I can reply to most questions with:

"Wee, Wee, Manure, may the Horse be with you."

Finally, as a microbiological nano-technology engineer (if such exists):  
"Adios amoeba!"

## SERVING THE LCRA

By Gordon Koblitz ([gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com))

Here's a tale of five CH2M HILLERS who started in offices around the country, came to Texas, served a common client—the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA, one of the largest in Texas) and all but one ended up working for LCRA, all the while becoming friends for life due to our interactions over the years.

First, the players: Scott Ahlstrom started in Boise in 1979, moved to Austin in 2001, joined LCRA in 2002, and left in June 2015 to join Primoris Services as president of their Water Division and served to 2018. Gregor Forbes started in Portland for IDC in 1996, moved to Austin in 1997, joined LCRA in 2000, and continues as the owner's chief representative/chief construction manager. Gordon Koblitz started in Corvallis in 1967, moved to open the Dallas/Fort Worth office in 1983, "retired" in 2014, but continues as a CH2M HILL alumni volunteer...forever. John McLeod started in Milwaukee in 1979, moved to Austin in 1985, started with LCRA in 2000, got his PhD along the way and continues as a senior project manager. Paul Thornhill moved to Austin in 1966 to attend the University of Texas, joined CH2M HILL in DFW in 1989, moved back to Austin in 1992, joined LCRA in 1996, and retired from LCRA in 2008 as Deputy general manager and chief engineer.



Left to right: Paul, John, Scott, and Gregor.

*Engineering humor, by Kurt Leininger.*

Thanks goes to Paul and Scott for initiating a trip and inviting Gordon to visit the huge LCRA off-channel, off-line reservoir, which was in the final stages of construction. The CH2M HILL team, led by Ken Hall, won the study/design following tough competition in 2013. John was getting ready to present his Lane City Reservoir Project paper at the Texas Water 2018 conference the day after our visit. Following John's "practice" presentation for us in the conference room (so we could begin to appreciate the magnitude and complexity of the project), we donned our hard hats and vests to tour the site. It was impressive, to say the least!



Left to right: Gordon, Scott, John, Paul, and Gregor.

The major work on the \$250-million (total) project includes the construction of a 40,000 acre-foot, off-channel reservoir covering 1,100 acres with an approximately 40-foot-high earthen embankment boundary. Other associated infrastructure of the project includes a pump station with a maximum capacity of 560 cfs, which will pump water from the Colorado River to the reservoir and further to customers.

Following our tour, we gathered at the 9er's Grill in Wharton for a very enjoyable time swapping stories about our good times in Texas, friends, clients, projects, crazy happenings and other things not necessarily for print! 😊

Click [here](#) for a great video link that includes Gregor and John (on the job) and highlights the details of the project (thanks to Paul who found the link). Check it out!

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## UPDATE FROM JOHN ECHTERNACH

By John Echternach ([jechtern@gmail.com](mailto:jechtern@gmail.com))

Sorry to say, we have to opt out of the CH2M HILL 2018 Denver Western ReUnion this year. It is college football season then with travel out of town 11 weeks in a row. I'm working each week end, and actually the travel is on Friday preceding each college game. It's truly a lot of fun, and the college towns throughout South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia are very quaint, as is all the backroad travel just getting there.

A total of eight teams in our conference have instituted replay this coming season; thus, my job will shift from partly

observer and replay to all replay. Believe it or not, rule book review has commenced, and I have a 21-page test to take this week. I have just completed review of 48 power point slide training program for Instant Replay officials. Jean Ann and I look at it as paid vacation each week end for 2 ½ months. And yes, I do enjoy the challenge of working the games as well.

Given our geographical location, we continue to enjoy the freedom of a pre-game prayer by a minister and the National Anthem. NO one, and I mean no one, protests.

Jean Ann is singing Bravo Broadway and Hunchback of Notre Dame in local community theater multiple times last/month. Spring here, grass green, pollen everywhere, car yellow. Best wishes to my fellow CH2M HILL retirees and colleagues. Enjoy the Denver ReUnion!!



*John Echternach, center, at last year's Citadel-VMI game.*

## RECOLLECTIONS AFTER THE LOSS OF CH2M HILL

*Intro by Gordon Koblitz, story by Ron Bell*

This "Recollections" piece is a special one we wanted to acknowledge (and include) in the newsletter, but any condensing would have lessened Ron's exceptional story. So, please access the wonderful story of his CH2M HILL journey on our Alumni History website and enjoy: [http://ch2mhillalumni.org/Loss\\_of\\_CH2M.asp](http://ch2mhillalumni.org/Loss_of_CH2M.asp).

Ron Bell's email is: [skyhut@gmail.com](mailto:skyhut@gmail.com).

## JOHN MADIA JOINS PURDUE BASEBALL TEAM

*Thanks goes to David Crosby for this notice!*



CH2M HILL retiree John Madia rejoined Purdue baseball as the director of baseball operations. As the director of baseball operations, John is responsible for baseball alumni outreach, player and staff professional/career development and other general marketing and operations duties to advance the program.

Prior to returning to Purdue in his operations role, John was a global business and HR leader for CH2M HILL. Throughout his career, John has served on the Purdue Athletic Advisory Board and held various advisory roles to the College of Agriculture. In addition, he has been active with amateur baseball as a former coach and member of the Indiana Bulls Baseball executive board. Prior to that, John was an associate scout for the Baltimore Orioles organization.

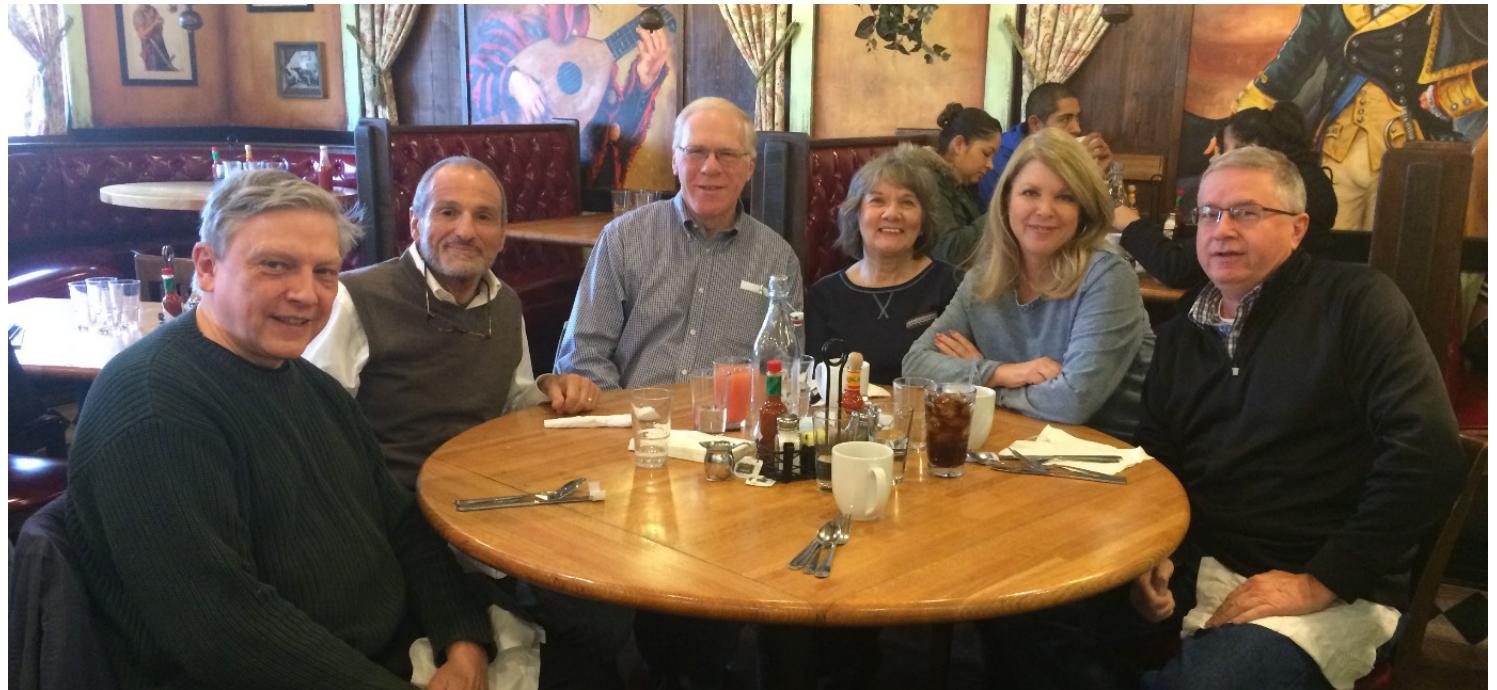
As a student-athlete, John played first base for the Purdue Boilermakers. As a sophomore, he was second on the team hitting with a .291 batting average and led all regulars with a .981 fielding percentage. He was the first Boilermaker player selected as recipient of the Clyde Lyle Award (top player who began his career as a walk-on).

John and his wife, Jean, also a Purdue graduate, have four children and Boilermaker graduates, Megan ('05), Kate ('07), Drew, a former Boilermaker Baseball player ('10) and Dan ('11).

## CORRECTION FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

Here's an update provided by David Schultz regarding his article in our December newsletter. The correct names for the folks in the photo are: L to R: David Schultz, Daniel Dupuis, Max Schmiege, Pat Koch, Cheryl Remond, and Mark Lepkowski.

David also mentioned that they have two new members of their breakfast club: Brad Heimlich, and Kent Heppe. Thanks, David! Hope this encourages others to send in updates and photos of their gatherings around the country!



## New Retirees/Alumni

### LOOKING FORWARD TO RETIREMENT

By Bob Bailey ([bbwspark@outlook.com](mailto:bbwspark@outlook.com))

After a 41-year career in the consulting engineering business – 35 of those with CH2M HILL – I've decided to retire from full-time employment.

I started my career in Florida, specializing in water system planning, design and construction. I served in numerous leadership positions, including business development for state and local clients, regional manager for the Southeast U.S., a 7-year term as the president of the Water Business Group, three terms on the CH2M HILL Board of Directors, and executive sponsor of the Enlace Employee Network group.

I have been privileged to have been able to spend most of my career working with great teams at CH2M HILL. While I served in many roles, it was always our people who made us the best firm on the planet. I have many to thank, some who are certainly part of the CH2M HILL "Hall of Fame."



*Bob and his catch.*



*Hitting the links.*

I do look forward to my retirement and spending a bit more time with a golf club or fishing rod in my hand...but I am sure I will miss the teamwork within CH2M HILL and the thrill of the chase toward market leadership.

And I look forward to catching up with many of my fellow alumni soon!

## What If?

By Chad Salge ([Chad\\_salge@yahoo.com](mailto:Chad_salge@yahoo.com))

I have learned in the positions that I have served over the years that emails are required to be concise, informative and direct to be effective in the world in which we CH2M HILL'ers live. Since today is my last day with CH2M HILL (February 9, 2018), I am considering this my dissertation after the 12+ years that I have served the company as an engineer, project manager, morale enthusiast, meal provider, etc.

### What If?

That is the question that popped into my head as I thought about what I would say to all the people within CH2M HILL who have had such an incredible impact on my life.

**What if I would have just said “Screw it. It’s not worth it.”?** Some may know the story, but when I first interviewed with CH2M HILL (then known to me as Lockwood Greene) in July 2005, I miserably failed a CAD test that they apparently gave all prospective employees. (In my defense, at Texas A&M University, we didn’t focus much on AutoCAD, especially in EE!) I got a call from the hiring manager at the time and he explained why they couldn’t hire me. So, I replied with, “If I learn CAD, will you hire me?” He told me that he would, so my broke, fresh out of college self, asked my parents to spot me some money and I took a CAD course from a local community college. I came back in for the re-CAD test, aced it and the rest is history. I really wonder how much different my life would be if I would have just given up on that and never had the chance to work so closely with all of you.

**What if I wouldn’t have accepted positions of leadership that I felt were out of my comfort zone?** I have been extremely blessed to be surrounded by people at CH2M HILL that have seen something in me over the years that I wasn’t self-aware of or had a particular confidence in. Early in my career, I was nominated to be a part of a Leadership Development Group that Lockwood Greene had established. It was an incredible way to instill confidence in me early on and helped me to realize the value in participating in extracurriculars.



*Chad Salge and his family.*

As I progressed in my career, every time I saw an opportunity to step up in a leadership positions (JuMP, ADCOM, Aerospace Practice Lead), I took a shot at it. That confidence grows with every step and before you know it, you look around and find yourself in a position to make a real impact on our business and more importantly in people's lives. Don't ever think you are not worthy or capable. I promise you will surprise yourself every time!

**What if I didn't choose to serve people every day?** I think one of my favorite hobbies is serving people. It's the reason why I have been involved in ADCOM virtually since I started with CH2M HILL. Don't ever underestimate the impact of service. I promise it will bless you more than it blesses others. I know it has blessed me tremendously over the years.

**What if I worked with people who didn't truly care about my development or well-being?** I have been surrounded by people, since day one, who have been incredibly gracious and generous with their time and money to allow me to develop into the professional that I am today. I remember how important it was for me in the beginning to see the amount of people that had been with CH2M HILL for such a long time. That type of stability and consistency was so reassuring for me as a young pup. For other young pups out there, rest assured that this company is a great place to build a career and develop a strong base for whatever path you choose in the future.

**What if I didn't work on such a cool and diverse "project portfolio" over the years?** The different types of projects I have been blessed to work on over the years has really been one of my favorite things about CH2M HILL. One day it's a microelectronics facility, then a pharmaceutical environment, then food and beverage, then a steel mill, then a natural gas well site, then a roadway project, then an assembly line for the most versatile fighter jet the world has ever seen; the list goes on and on. I have never lost sight of the fact that those types of opportunities aren't provided to everyone, but I "lucked into this honey hole of opportunity" and thank my luck stars for that.

There is ton more that I could say, but I will spare you the longevity....

My life would certainly be much different if I would have said "screw it!" back in 2005. I would have never had the exposure to the different cultures, projects, clients, personalities and such incredible people. Each one of you has contributed to who I am today and I will never forget that as long as I live. People are what make this company what it is. Sure, I have worked on some cool projects and have developed my technical abilities, but I would imagine when I look back 30 years from now, I won't be talking much about what I did but who I did it with. Invest in your relationships with the people! That is what will make the greatest impact!!

It has been such an incredible pleasure to serve each one of you over the years. I will miss you a ton, but I know I built relationships here that will last and this thing ain't even close to bein' over!

In addition to the folks above, the following staffers with the CH2M HILL companies retired or left CH2M HILL/Jacobs in the last 6 months.

David Crosby	Evelyn Tran	Paul Stuart	Tabitha Laser
Scott Stibrich	Clare Dowley	Ted Downen	Deborah Dagang
Scott McKinney	Jennifer Georgek	Paul Rupp	Mikey Zhou
Fred Ellsworth	Paul Scherbak		

IMPORTANT NOTE: Jacobs only provides a link to the CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA) for previous CH2M HILL 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 one: [ch2mhillaa@gmail.com](mailto:ch2mhillaa@gmail.com) or [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com) so we may respond or contact them. Thank you!!!

## Notable “Semi-Retirees” Updates

### FROM DARKNESS TO A BRIGHT CAREER

By Bob Davis ([bob.davis@ch2m.com](mailto:bob.davis@ch2m.com))

In the winter of 1973, I was offered the opportunity to interview with CH2M HILL. I flew into Portland in darkness, rented a car, and started a new adventure. It was during the energy crisis and all the highway and street signs were dark. Somehow, I made it to the hotel. The next morning, I drove to Corvallis shrouded in the Northwest misty white fog only seeing the sides of the road for the entire way. I was interviewed by at least 100 professionals (you all know the drill)! I drove back in darkness as well, not seeing anything but the road ahead of me. Little did I know that on January 9, 1974, I would embark on a totally new journey...not just a job, but a career with CH2M HILL. I learned quickly with the help of those like Bob Pailthorp, Ralph Peterson, John Graham, Mike Harris, John Lee, and Jay Mackie. I remember my first writing lesson—it was for Ralph Peterson. He asked me to visit his office to review what I had written and he literally tore the paper into pieces and threw it into the waste basket. That was OK, because being Ralph, he guided me through how a technical memo should be written and I survived.

A few years later, I went to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be the resident engineer on a Frito-Lay wastewater treatment plant for a year and a half. Wow, talk about learning—I had to build what I had designed, communicate with smart folks with little to no formal education, and it worked—I learned. It seems like I never stopped traveling after that. From Charlotte, I went to downtown New York, back to Corvallis, then back to a town with a population of about 2,500 in the state of New York. Back once again to Corvallis, and then to Denver, and then to Dallas. Dallas would change my life forever. Gordon and Mary Koblitz knew this lady from their church that they believed that I should meet. I said OK and went to the church. This lady said hello and promptly took off like a jet-propelled rocket. I said OK and went on about my life. A few months later, Gordon suggested that I try meeting this lady again. I said OK again and with \$3.00 a dozen roses, we had our first date on Mother’s Day. That lady was Paula and now after 30 years of marriage and two great sons, I can say our marriage is as strong as a concrete vault. Thanks Gordon and Mary for your patient persistence.



*Bob, Paula, and family.*

Traveling forward, my next stop was Beaumont/Port Arthur, then back to Denver. Then I really did it...the next 3 years I spent in Brazil, then a year in the Middle East. Then after a short stay in Denver, I spent two years in Houston. At this point, I thought I would retire. I joined Paula in the Seattle area and worked part time on follow-up Houston work, and played with my four grandkids who are also in the Seattle area. We had lots of plans to spend some more time with our other son in Chicago and do some remodeling on our home. However, the call of interesting work arrived once again. Now I am working full time for a technology company for the next 14 months in eastern Washington, but I get back to Paula and grandkids every weekend, and we are planning several trips to Chicago.

And another exciting thing, I am not in darkness anymore, but I am still learning...thanks CH2M HILL!

## ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTS

By Tom Higgins ([Tom.Higgins@Jacobs.com](mailto:Tom.Higgins@Jacobs.com))

This year I started working part-time. I have been telecommuting for the past 5 years, and decided it was time to stop the stress of keeping a time sheet full. I have been doing pastels, and my first book of pastels just came out. *St. Augustine Lights: Reflections on the Ancient City*, combines pastels with history of the city, written by my wife Judy.

I was born in the Adirondacks of upstate New York; when I was two, my parents took me and my brother to St. Augustine for a winter vacation. I remember seeing the dolphin show at Marineland and learning to swim in one of the motel pools.

Judy was born in Budapest, Hungary, leaving for the U.S. after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. She enjoyed writing and art in high school, and wanted to study art in college, but her father wanted her to study something more practical. She got her BA in psychology and an MA in counseling psychology. She practiced counseling for a short time, but turned to writing and never gave up her desire to study art. Judy first visited St. Augustine with her cousin during a spring break from college. She was awed by the Ponce de Leon hotel, and enjoyed eating fresh oranges and swimming in the ocean.

Judy and I met while working at Santa's Workshop, in the Adirondacks. She taught me her love of art, visiting museums around the world. We eventually took an art class at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, and followed this with short classes by artists in the area. Based on an idea that Tom had, Judy wrote *Opalescent*, a historical environmental novel, set in the Adirondacks. Judy went on to write *Balsamere*, a novel about a Great Camp set in the Adirondacks, *Heirlooms*, a novel, and *Gold Pieces*, a book of short stories based on immigrant experiences. We illustrated these books with pencil sketches.

When we started approaching retirement age, we looked for a place that they could move to. We both remembered fondly their earlier visits to St. Augustine, and 5 years ago bought a home in St. Augustine Beach and became Florida Residents. This book is a collection of pastels we drew and stories that they learned about their new home.

It is available on Amazon [here](#).

## Goodbye, Old Friends

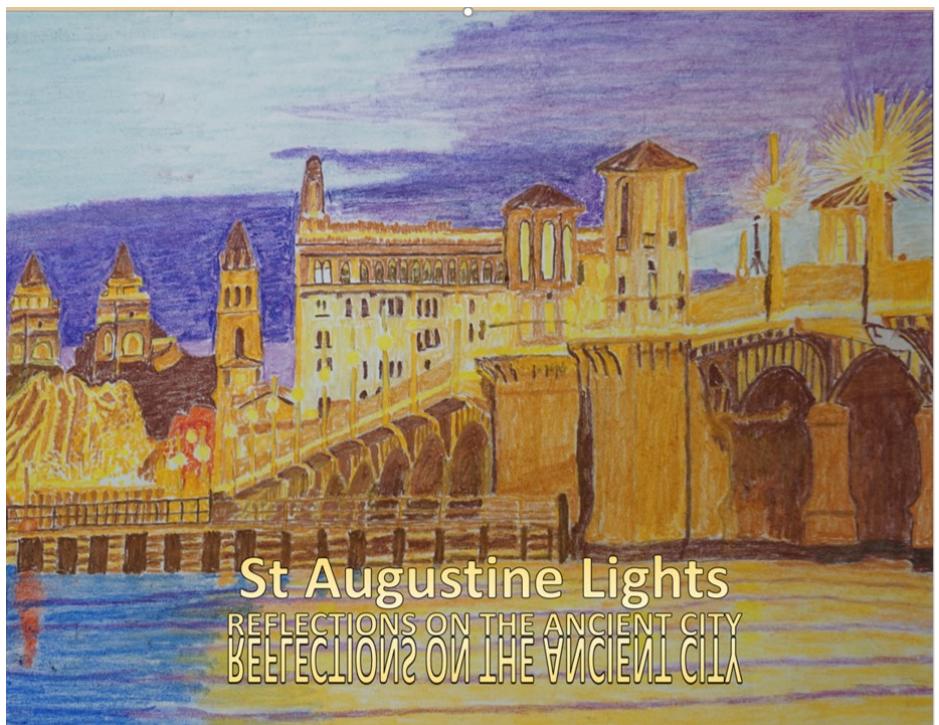
### JOSEPH "BUD" AUGUST AHEARN



Joseph "Bud" August Ahearn, age 81, of Greenwood Village, Colorado, passed away on Wednesday, July 11, 2018. Bud was born September 5, 1936 in Galesburg, Illinois. He graduated from St. Louis University High School in 1954 and honorably served his country in the Air Force for 34 years, which he loved for its selfless service and shared purpose. In the USAF, he rose to the rank of Major General and was the Air Force's top civil engineer, directing development and operations of all U.S. air bases around the world.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device, Federal Republic of Germany Army Cross of Honor in Gold and Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal.

When he retired from the Air Force he joined CH2M HILL. During his 16 years with CH2M HILL, Bud served as vice chairman, president of the Transportation Business Group, federal programs director, principal-in-charge for two major transportation corridor projects in California, and enterprise leader for federal programs in the Middle East and the hurricane-torn Gulf Coast. He served most recently as senior vice president and executive sponsor for the U.S. Forces Korea \$11-billion relocation program.



Bud retired from CH2M HILL in January 2009 and kept active with professional societies and groups (Society of American Military Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Engineers Without Borders), guest lecturing at universities, and consulting/coaching services.

Says Mark Alpert, "Bud was an inspiration to me in so many ways. At CH2M HILL, he mentored and coached me through the creation of a market leading business. He set the example for me and so many others as we learned what it meant to be a servant leader. Bud was also a great friend and devoted mentor. His humility, worldly vision, and dedication to family will be with me forever."

After retiring from the company, Bud lived an exemplary life of giving. He shared his time, energy, knowledge, and leadership so that others might benefit, and he did so patriotically and unsparingly. Bud was a proven leader in the military, a key contributor in the public-sector experience, and a passionate philanthropist his work with non-profit service.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Nona Maria (Fallon) Ahearn; his parents, Mary Ethel (Rinella) and Joseph Aloysius Ahearn; and his brother-in-law, Vincent Zucchero. Bud is survived by his children, Stacia Ahearn Andrews, and grandsons, Robert and August Ahearn Andrews, all of Washington, DC; Gianna and Dave Zeh, and grandsons, Nick and Cole Zeh, all of San Antonio, Texas; Trienel and Jim Hickman, and grandchildren, Lawson and James Hickman, all of Macon, Georgia; and Fallon and Abbey Ahearn, and grandchildren, Nora and Oliver Ahearn, all of Dallas, Texas; his sisters, Marcia and George Gemmingen of Ventura, California, and Mary Janice Zucchero of St. Louis, MO; numerous nieces and nephews; and other loving family and friends.

For a full obituary, click [here](#).

### SHEILA ANN BUROS (WIFE OF KRIS BUROS)



Sheila Ann Buros, 68, of Aurora, Colorado, passed away on October 31, 2017. She was born on January 21, 1949 in Rochester, New York, and graduated from Nazareth Academy, where she was active in music and drama programs. She attended Nazareth College in Rochester graduating in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in Music Performance. After college she took a short-term administrative job with the Rochester Red Wings baseball team.

Based on a friend's tip she applied in 1972 for a job as a music teacher at the Country Day School on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. She was active in the local island theater group playing the violin in the orchestra and acting in some of the performances. At one of the cast parties she met her future husband, Kris Buros, who was also employed on the island. They were married in 1974 and moved to Gainesville, Florida, in 1976. In 1995, Kris was transferred to CH2M HILL's Denver office; Sheila often traveled with Kris on many of his international assignments with the firm.

Once Kris retired from full time work in 2004 they started traveling for fun, making several trips to Europe. Sheila is survived by her husband Kris and two brothers, plus numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

### JACK CALL



Jack Call, 78, of Las Vegas, died November 28, 2017, after a long battle with cancer. Jack was born March 16, 1939, in Willowbrook, California, graduated from Shasta High School in 1956, and graduated from Cal State Berkley in 1962. He worked at CH2M HILL for more than 40 years as a structural engineer on various projects throughout the United States and Egypt.

Says Alan Hill, "I knew Jack from our high school days. Jack was a very bright structural engineer with the ability and interest to be a great mentor. He was the project manager on several projects, including water resource dams and spillways including the Indian Valley Dam and reservoir on Cache Creek in California. He transferred to the Las Vegas office to work on more major municipal projects, then to Atlanta before retiring to Redding. He was an avid motorcycle rider and enjoyed nearly 80 years of life, in spite of his lifelong health issues. He was a good engineer and a friend."

Says Chris Sundberg, "Jack was friend and mentor for much of my career while at CH2M HILL and more recently on several ASCE pipelines technical papers co-authored where his math and geometry skills were unique; he freely shared his work for the betterment of the engineering community as a legacy. Jack was truly a great structural engineer."

Jack was a motorcycle enthusiast, loved watching sports, and was a member of Las Vegas Basset Rescue; together with his partner, Carol, he found homes for several displaced Basset Hounds.

He leaves behind his partner Carol, sons Don and Rob, a brother, aunt, uncle, several grandkids, and one great-grandchild, as well as several nieces and nephews. Jack was laid to rest at Millville Cemetery in Millville, about 15 miles east of Redding.

## MARY LOU HILL (WIFE OF EMPLOYEE BRIAN HILL)



Mary Lou Hill, beloved wife of former employee Brian Hill, passed away on May 25, 2017, at the age of 65. Besides her husband Brian, Mary Lou is survived by her children, Tony (Rebecca), Troy, Tyler (Chris), four grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Mary Lou had a love of flowers and had many beautiful flower gardens over the years. She was also the family historian, loving to delve into family records. She was an avid golfer and cherished the many walks, coffee, and yoga dates with her devoted friends. She loved to travel the world and took many trips over the past few years touring the Bahamas, Italy, France, Hawaii, Australia, the United Kingdom and most recently her second home in Arizona. She will be sadly missed, fondly remembered and cherished by all of who loved her.

*Mary Lou*  
1952 - 2017

## THE SUPPORT OF FAMILIES

*Intro by Gordon Koblitz*

*"Below is a touching message Bob Chapman shared with Tom Haislip regarding the recent loss of his wife Starla. This is shared (with permission) for all our readers to acknowledge our support in sharing all spouses' passing in this section and recognize, in this small way, the tremendous value all our spouses add(ed) to our lives and careers with CH2M HILL."*

Celebrations of life, i.e., remembrances, are way at the top of my list of the best cultural evolutions in my life time, relative to tradition funerals.

Most recently we attended a celebration of life for Bob Pailthorp's wife Dot. We felt very privileged to be included along with Bob and Dot's personal family, as one of several representatives of Bob and Dot's CH2M HILL family. The celebration was indeed a very uplifting event, even though a few emotional tears were shed...of course. I hope and trust that Starla's remembrance will be equally uplifting for you and your families.

CH2M HILL's success as an employee-owned company had much to do with how our "families" had shared goals and values and significant entwined life-changing events and milestones. Those of us who have been active in CH2M HILL alumni reunion endeavors have made a point of trying to foster participation by surviving spouses and feature them as part of the programs. In large part, that is because we know and wish to highlight that spouses were a keystone in both balancing and contributing to the success of both "families."

Fondly and respectfully,  
Bob

[\(bobchap43@gmail.com\)](mailto:(bobchap43@gmail.com))

We recently lost these colleagues as well:

Norm Ward (please refer to Shirley Ward's previous article)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** We no longer receive information from CH2M HILL/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 [ch2mhilla@gmail.com](mailto:ch2mhilla@gmail.com) or [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com) so we may respond or contact them. Thank you!!

## Special Announcements

### 2018 DENVER WESTERN REUNION

By Jim Schwing ([jimschwing@msn.com](mailto:jimschwing@msn.com))

#### There's still time!

Register now! The 2018 CH2M HILL Alumni ReUnion is coming up quickly: September 20–22. You should have received an invitation via our emailing service: Greenvelope. If you haven't seen it, please check your junk email. If you can't find it in your old email or your junk email, please email Jim Schwing at [jimschwing@msn.com](mailto:jimschwing@msn.com) as soon as you can, and I'll add your name and email address to the invitation list. We hoped to have registrations complete by June 30, but you can register up to the time of the reunion. However, the sooner you can register the better, so we can adequately plan and accommodate everyone who wants to attend. Please also RSVP in the negative if you are unable to attend.

Here is the reunion agenda:

#### Wednesday, September 19

Afternoon/Evening—Early arrivals and hotel check in

Informal dinner at local restaurants—recommendations to be provided, so you can dine with other CH2M HILL colleagues arriving early.

#### Thursday, September 20

8:00-12:00—Reunion check in and free time for early arrivals

NOTE: A list of local golf courses and contact information will be provided for those who want to play a quick round of golf. Each person will be responsible for organizing their own golfing party. If there is a large positive response from attendees desiring to play golf, we will attempt to identify a golf coordinator.

12:00-1:00—Lunch: Welcome and program orientation

1:00-2:00—Open mike for senior retirees to share memorable experiences

2:00-4:30—Things to do in Denver

- Colorado History Museum—click [here](#) for information
- Denver Art Museum—click [here](#) for information
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science—click [here](#) for information

5:30-9:30—Evening program including drinks and dinner on 2nd floor; cash bar at 5:30 and dinner served at 7 with program starting at 7:45

7:45-9:30—CH2M HILL integration into Jacobs Engineering: Greg McIntyre, Jacobs Executive VP for Buildings and Infrastructure – Americas; former CH2M HILL Executive

#### Friday, September 21

7:00-9:00—Breakfast in hotel only for hotel guests; included in guest room cost – separate area for all attendees on 4th floor. Room for 56 attendees then use nearby overflow area

9:00-0:30—Giving Back, a panel discussion with three amazing organizations supported by CH2M HILL and Jacobs

- Engineers Without Borders
- Bridges to Prosperity
- Water for People

10:30-10:45—Break

10:45-12:00—History of Water Management in Colorado with focus on Denver Water and CH2M HILL project engagement; invited attendees include Management from Denver Water Board and Client Service Manager from Jacobs Denver office

12:00-1:00—Lunch in hotel; cost included in registration fee

1:30-5:00—Guided tour of Red Rocks Park and Concert Venue and Colorado Music Hall of Fame; bus provided with cost included in tour cost for those taking the tour. The total cost is \$40 per person. The tour is limited to 56 people.

5:00-6:30—Freshen up and ready for dinner

6:30-10:00—Dinner and/or pub crawl at local restaurants—five or six restaurants will be targeted with local retirees joining the group

## Saturday, September 22

7:30-9:00—Breakfast in hotel only for hotel guests; included in guest room cost – separate area for all attendees on 4th floor. Room for 56 attendees then use nearby overflow area

9:00-10:00—CH2M HILL Alumni Association—Chartering session for the new CH2M HILL Alumni Association. Looking forward to your participation, especially for local Denver area residents. We need everyone possible to be there to help us make this a vibrant organization

10:00-10:15—Break

10:15- 11:15—Continued discussion of CH2M HILL Alumni Association activities, i.e., newsletter, alumni history website, organizing local gathering, etc.

11:30-12:30—Retiree financial planning, Mark Brown, Brown and Company – Financial Advisor for many CH2M HILL retirees  
Lunch on your own

## DEPARTURES

We hope to see you all at the reunion. This will be a great opportunity to get reacquainted with old friends and workmates, to learn about the integration of CH2M HILL into the Jacobs organization, and to also learn about and contribute to the new CH2M HILL Alumni Association.

## CH2M HILL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

By Don Marske ([donmarske@gmail.com](mailto:donmarske@gmail.com))

Yes! Thanks to your positive response, we alumni are now incorporated as a non-profit association.

The first Board of Directors meeting was held on July 13. At that meeting your directors—Sheldon Barker, Jerry Boyle, Bob Chapman, David Evans, Susan Gaare, Gordon Koblitz, Rick Luebbers, Don Marske, and Jim Schwing—elected the following as your initial officers: Gordon Koblitz, President; Jim Schwing, Vice President; Susan Gaare, Secretary; and Don Marske, Treasurer.

The purpose of the association 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.

With the transitioning to Jacobs, several things needed to change.

We have established an email account for the Association. You can now communicate with us at [ch2mhilla@gmail.com](mailto:ch2mhilla@gmail.com). If you have any questions regarding any of the activities of the Association, or if you have heard of any news of a fellow alum or of a new retiree, PLEASE drop us a line. We will respond as time permits pending our travel plans or grandchildren duties. ☺

Our priceless Alumni History website has been moved to [www.ch2mhillalumni.org](http://www.ch2mhillalumni.org).

I think you will agree that the website is an unparalleled effort in our industry. A lot of what it is today is due to Steve Kavalec, our volunteer webmaster. With the transition to Jacobs, Steve can no longer serve us. Please join us in thanking Steve for his 10+ years of service to our website.

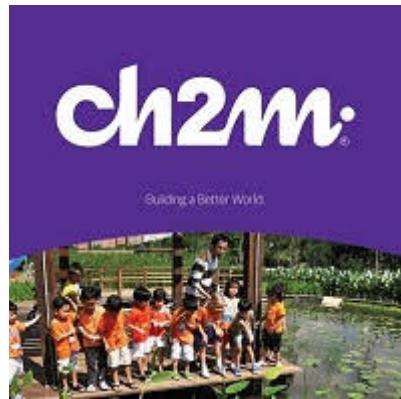
If it's been a while since you visited the website, take a look. Beware: browsing [www.ch2mhillalumni.org](http://www.ch2mhillalumni.org) may be hazardous to your nap. To make sure Steve's work is not lost, we have hired Dan Lagomarsino from Millbrae, California, as our new webmaster.

Finally, the firm has modestly financially supported all the foregoing services in the past. However, now with the transition to Jacobs, even that modest support is being terminated. Going forward we must now look to you, our fellow alums, to support the Association activities. Based on the current number of active alumni emails on our roster, we estimate that a modest schedule of dues will be sufficient to support the foregoing activities.

With this, the Board of Directors has approved annual membership dues of \$20. The Board also encouraged an additional \$20 or more donation, if you can, to help defray the startup costs of the association. Please refer to the membership application message that preceded this newsletter package. If it's "lost," you can always contact Don at [ch2mhilla@gmail.com](mailto:ch2mhilla@gmail.com) or pay by check payable to: CH2M HILL Alumni Association Inc. and mail to:

CH2M HILL Alumni Association Inc.  
c/o Don Marske  
19 Ninos  
Irvine, CA 92620

## ORDER YOUR CH2M HISTORY Book TODAY!



The CH2M history book is hot off the press! We've ordered a limited quantity, so order your copy today. We've updated *Building a Better World*, the story of CH2M HILL 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 pre-order your copy, please send your name, address, and US\$35 to Kay Cline. Checks or money orders should be made out to CH2M. Please write "history book" in the memo section of your check.

Kay Cline, CH2M  
9191 S. Jamaica Street  
Englewood, CO 80111

## Travelogues (New)

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](mailto:scarlet.study415@gmail.com)) or Gordon ([gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com)).



Yehuda's round-trip road trip.

### MY WINTER TRAVEL

By Yehuda Morag ([moragyehuda@gmail.com](mailto:moragyehuda@gmail.com))

In January and February, I took a very crazy, cool, and very COLD trip to the Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Monuments, and Fargo, North Dakota....and I'm ready to do it again, probably for longer time!

You might be asking, why in January and February? I've traveled to the Yellowstone National Park (like millions other travelers) during summer time, which was great, but the park was packed, and not too many animals could be spotted. So, my idea was to go during winter time, when non-guided traffic is not allowed; hence, many animals can be viewed in their own habitat...and even at minus 4 degrees Fahrenheit, it was worth it!

Also, I wanted to visit our northern states during this time of the year, experiencing (for a short time) what the people that reside there go through every year. The bonus was seeing Crazy Horse and the Presidents carved at Mount Rushmore with beautiful white caps and coats.

According to Google, this was a more than 3,900-mile road trip, crossing 14 states; I've now traveled across all 50 states. The roads were sometimes snowy, the temps were below zero at times, but the scenery was incredible!

#### GREECE

*By Yehuda Morag ([moragyehuda@gmail.com](mailto:moragyehuda@gmail.com))*

My Greece trip (April and May of this year) was truly unbelievable; I did focus on Thessaloniki, searching for family roots and finding much info to include my mom and her brothers' original birth certificates, their addresses, and plenty of facts about the long (thousands of years) and rich Jewish history in Saloniki (as the city was called by the Jews).

While in Thessaloniki, one can't escape of course, the multicultural history of this magnificent place (Macedonia), the fantastic food (no, I didn't gain any weight), and the friendly people.

Meteora was the "weekend escape" for me; hopping on local train to approach the great scenery, sun rise...sun set...and much, much hiking...mainly climbing!

I spent four great weeks in Israel as well.

Next on my list is Europe, some summer trips (Iceland, Norway), and winter travel (Danube River from Germany to Hungary).

Life's good!

#### BIKE TREK BASICS

*By Gary Burgess ([gary.l.burgess@gmail.com](mailto:gary.l.burgess@gmail.com))*

As detailed in the December 2017 newsletter, Gary recently finished an 8,240-mile motorcycle adventure, in which I visited over 120 different places and sites covering 24 states. The trip including seeing 10 of our state capitols, 11 National Park Service sites and 5 national parks, including Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Zion, Death Valley, and Yosemite.

Gary took his experiences from this trip and gave a presentation to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in January, taking what he learned from on the basics of motorcycles and applying them to topics such as thermodynamics, heat and mass transfer, and fluid and particle dynamics. To see a copy of his presentation, contact Gary



*Yehuda and the four presidents at Mount Rushmore.*



*Yehuda and Old Faithful at Yellowstone National Park.*



*Food at one of Yehuda's favorite fish restaurants.*



*Memorial Day, Israel.*

## MORE TRAVELS WITH JIM HAWKEY

Here are some more photos from Jim Hawkey's travels around the globe (see his article on page 2).



*Trekking in the Atacama Desert in South America.*



*A resident of the Galapagos Islands.*



*King of the African jungle.*



*A few of the locals in Antarctica.*



*Up close with the icebergs in Antarctica.*

## Missing in Action

The Alumni History committee is again asking all readers for help in connecting with some folks they've been looking for. We were successful with our last MIA search and found John Madia (and an update), thanks to David Crosby. This list below is again long and includes folks who had CH2M HILL emails, but no longer have them. **Again, with the Jacobs transition it's even more critical to help us find any folks you may know who leave CH2M HILL or Jacobs without being added to the alumni mailing list.** Please respond to: [donmarske@gmail.com](mailto:donmarske@gmail.com) if you have any info. Thank you!!

Steve Alters	Erik Ammidown	June Carlson	Dave Clark
Floyd Damron	Tom Doerr	Jerry Farrar	Gordon Garner
David Gray	Patricia Hickerson	Don King	Pat Nero
Jhan Schmitz	Mike Stansbury	Glen Silbernagel	Lee VanderLinden
Nancy Winslow	Richard Worthington	Roger Yorton	

## Tidbits

This new 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!



*From left to right: Court Harris, Jim Goetz, Michael Popiwny, Tina Hastings, John Spencer, and Pat Burke. A retirement dinner was held for Michael Popiwny, who worked for King County (Washington) for 20+ years, first as the county project manager for siting the Brightwater Treatment Plant and then project manager for the Duwaumish facility. John Spencer, now retired and currently mayor of Lake Stevens, was the project manager for CH2M HILL; Jim Goetz was the lead engineer for siting and then assistant project manager on design. Siting was very interesting as we were given 100 potential sites for Brightwater, all within a 14-mile diameter circle and our task was to narrow those down to the top three that went into a full blown environmental impact statement. After lots of study (actually an 8-foot-long bookshelf of reports), a final site, Woodinville, was selected by the county executive. Pat Burke was the project manager for CH2M HILL during construction of Brightwater and he, and CH2M HILL, were selected for design of the Duwaumish facility, which is currently under construction. Jim and Michael first met back in the 1980s on a project at West Point and they are now neighbors on San Juan island.*



Gordon Koblitz, left, and his Pickleball partner Hank took gold in the Oregon Senior Games in Bend, Oregon, in the 75-79 men's doubles. They lost the first match but came back up the hard way through the consolation bracket. Click [here](#) to check out why Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, especially for Boomers. Also, click [here](#) to learn more about the health benefits of Pickleball. Gordon says this is his last "pitch" for Pickleball. ☺

## Feedback / Kudos

We were thrilled to receive almost 400 very positive responses to our proposal/survey to form our CH2M HILL Alumni Association (CHAA). Below are just a few, and we thank everyone for their comments, support and suggestions. Please keep them coming, along with your thoughts on how we can make CHAA vibrant and fulfilling for our members.

*Thanks ever so much for this terrific newsletter, and all of your efforts in the past to bring this information and sharing to CH2M HILL alumni. I can hardly imagine the collective effort required to gather and publish and polish this newsletter, and to get it distributed so broadly. I am looking forward to the continuing success of the new, formal CH2M HILL Alumni Association! —Bob Chapman*

*I love getting these newsletters; I sincerely hope even with the acquisition, this remains published. To see folks that I worked with over 20 years retired or on new projects is appreciated. As well as what they are currently doing. And in some cases, projects I worked on completed, is exciting. Super product! —Julie Zimmerman*

*Please pass on to Gordon and Don my comment that I really enjoyed the December 2017 newsletter, and truly hope they can continue putting it out twice per year. It is a heartwarming lifeline to people with whom I worked during a professionally formative period of life. I wish to continue receiving news of them, and of the magnificent projects that CH2M HILL has done. —Larry Pinson*

*This newsletter was great as usual, but had very special meaning for me. Thank you and the great staff for publishing the Alumni Newsletter on a regular basis. The articles by Jacque Hinman and Blake Jeffcoat really helped me deal with the "loss" of CH2M HILL. I knew that someday this would happen, but was not really prepared for the "death" of my loved company. I have felt, for several weeks, the loss of a close and trusted friend. I can now move on with so many great memories and always celebrate the life of CH2M HILL. —James Hawkey*

*I worked as a technical editor in the Portland office for 29+ years. My employee number was 1256. I enjoy the newsletter, and like many others, I'm sad, but resigned to the fact that the CH2M HILL name and logo will be retired. —Margo H. Peifer*



Don Marske writes: "I learned my Sauvignon Blanc earned a Silver on Saturday. New label for me this time, thanks to granddaughter Gabi (Debbie)!"

*I will always love what CH2M HILL stood for and have my signed Little Yellow Book along with a picture with Jim Howland that I cherish! I value the friendships that I made during my years with this great company. Thank you, Gordon, for continuing with this.* —Ginger Moore

*Although I have yet to retire (37 years and counting), I had hoped it would have been under the CH2M HILL banner. I look forward to this Alumni Association being a part of my extended family of those who have traveled a similar path with CH2M HILL.* —Willie Paiz

*Thanks so much to Gordon, Don and all others who started and have maintained the organization to date. I thoroughly enjoy the newsletter and hope to attend a reunion soon. Maybe Denver?!* —Dave Raby

*Thanks for all the effort at putting the newsletter together. Losing CH2M HILL, while good financially, is hard to swallow! It has been a great place to work!* —Edward Sloan

*The newsletter is an outstanding piece of work that Carol Anne and I both look forward to receiving. Thanks to Don, Gordon, et al., for the memories and updates on our colleagues and spouses from the past.* —Vern Nelson

*Thank you Sarah and Don for keeping the CHAA alive. I enjoy reading the newsletters and look forward to join one of the reunions soon.* —Gladys Mercadal

*I applaud and appreciate the volunteer commitments to this endeavor!* —Bob Rosain

*I think that a CH2M HILL Alumni Association is even more important following the Jacobs purchase of CH2M HILL.*  
—Richard Glanzman

*I would be pleased to participate in helping with the CHAA during the planning / execution of reunions and meetings.*  
—Dave Ellison

*Thanks for organizing this. CH2M HILL hired me three times at various points in my career, and I was CH2M HILL's client on Project Manukau in Auckland, New Zealand. The firm holds a special place in my heart.* —Bob Vilker

*Although retired for over 20 years, I still love hearing about my fellow retirees. Thanks for the efforts.* —Carol Uhause

*Many fond memories of working at CH2M HILL. Most interested in attending future reunions.* —Paul Hazel

*Gordon, Don and others have done a remarkable job. Please give them my thanks and continued support.* —David Odom

*The people managing the alumni affairs and the newsletter have done an excellent job.* —Jay Mackie

*CH2M HILL was a wonderful firm that contributed greatly to Ireland's industrial development as the designer / construction manager for Intel, still Ireland's most valuable facility. I spent 2003–2010 at CH2M HILL after 15 years at Jacobs in Ireland. Jacobs was also a wonderful firm and the takeover will be in the best interests of all concerned.* —Martin McCarthy

*Wonderful idea and approach to maintain contact and remain connected as well. Thanks for your vision!!* —Robert Pontek

*I worked in the Denver office and enjoyed my association with the firm back in the late 1970s and maintain contacts with several friends from that time. Thank you for coordinating this survey and for organizing an Alumni Association.*

—Brent Claiborn

*We hope everyone will participate, the friendships have been so wonderful, we value the relationships formed over a lifetime.* —Sid and Judy Lasswell

*I was an employee of CH2M HILL from 1977 to 1999. It was a great company then. I have enjoyed your newsletters and will gladly join the alumni association.* —Ray Yep

*I would love to see this organization come to fruition to keep alive the legacy of CH2M HILL.* —Richard Emanuel

## Jacobs News

Below are a couple notable projects developed from previous CH2M HILL origins and will be staffed with joint team members. Also included is an update for Jacobs Business Achievements Awards. 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>.

## PURSUIT TEAM'S TEAMWORK, CAMARADERIE LEADS TO KEY WIN IN PORTLAND

The City of Portland (Oregon) Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) selected CH2M HILL, now Jacobs, for its largest capital project in many years—the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Treatment Expansion Program.

This win is expected to result in \$12 to 15 million in revenue in design and construction services. Total constructed value of the project is anticipated at \$90 to 100 million.



The Jacobs team will partner with the BES to deliver program design, permitting and construction support services for this multi-faceted project, which will add two new 150-foot-diameter secondary clarifiers. The program will also include a combination of projects that are either close to, or are operationally connected, including a complete upgrade of its sludge thickening and biosolids dewatering facilities.

The clarifier pictured is called a “squircle” because of its square shape with a round circulating mechanism. Squircles are unusual within the wastewater treatment plant world; the legacy plant design includes eight of these clarifiers, and they will be incorporated into the final secondary process solution.

Key to the win was our approach based on the depth of technical solution development we did for how we would address managing flows between the old and new clarifiers. We were able to do this because of the early and consistent positioning work and planning done by the team including extensive conversations with the client.

## JACOBS RECEIVES CONTRACT EXTENSION AT NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Jacobs was awarded a contract extension to the JSC Engineering, Technology and Science (JETS) Contract at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston.

The contract extension is a two-year option with a potential value of \$437.5 million, bringing the total value of the contract to \$1.46 billion. The option begins this May and extends the period of performance through April 2020.

Under this contract extension Jacobs will continue providing science and engineering services, digital solutions, and operations support and products to major NASA programs, including the International Space Station, Orion and numerous space science and technology development projects. The contract also provides for curation and research on astronomical materials brought to earth from the moon, other planets and interstellar space.

“We welcome this opportunity to build upon our longstanding relationship with NASA Johnson Space Center,” said Jacobs Advanced Engineering, Research and Operations Senior Vice President Dr. Steve Arnette. “This contract extension enables us to continue supporting a vital role in enabling space exploration and discovery.”

## JACOBS WINS 6 BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATE CHANGE INNOVATIONS

Jacobs has been awarded six business achievement awards by the *Environmental Business Journal* (EBJ) and the *Climate Change Business Journal* (CCBJ). The prestigious industry awards span achievement in professional services, technology, industry leadership and consulting and engineering.

The Jacobs team received the EBJ and CCBJ awards at the 16th Annual Environmental Industry Summit on March 21–23, in San Diego, California. Jacobs’ technical experts also participated as featured panelists at the summit.

“We are proud to be recognized as a market leader in environmental solutions, climate adaptation, technology, resilience and sustainable infrastructure,” said Aerospace, Technology, Environmental and Nuclear Senior Vice President and General Manager Global Environmental Solutions Jan Walstrom. “Our award-winning industry leadership contributions are a testament to the business vision and sustainable approach of our combined Jacobs and CH2M HILL team, and the projects we deliver for our clients.”

Download full descriptions of the award-winning projects [here](#).