

# CH2MHILL® ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

July 2021

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## Publisher's Note

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Greetings everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying your summer, especially as life is getting back closer to what we all enjoyed pre-COVID. There are still challenges ahead, but with vaccines readily available now there is hope and less fear. I have to admit, it's wonderful to see folks' smiles again too!

We have some special articles and new features in this issue to check out. First is the "CH2M HILL Families of the CHAA Family" organized and chaired by Mike Morrison. It will soon evolve into a website link with input from our readers to help identify CH2M family members over the years. We're also noting the Water For People (WFP) 30th anniversary celebration, with a highlight of Ken Miller (one of the founders). In addition, this newsletter is recognizing Eleanor Allen, WFP CEO and CH2M alum, and her ultra-cycling quest for the WFP "Race Across the West."

Another new feature is our "Alumni History Corner" where Dave Evans explains "how to become a CH2M time traveler" and shares the two-special links for this issue. This will be included in every new issue. Another important item in the Special Announcements section is Bob Chapman's update for the Atlanta CHAA Reunion. Hope you can join us there! Check out the CHAA ad to become an Assistant Treasurer for Don Marske and reap the rewards of joining the CHAA team. Lastly, check out the new feature "Shout Out" article for all alumni to let us know about their local gatherings across the country including all CH2M entities, acquisitions and others. The intent is to let our members know about ways to connect locally across the US and beyond!

Please continue to share your updates, stories and hobbies. Remember that no story is too big or small for our newsletter (that's why we have the "Tidbits" section). Same for feedback, suggestions, kudos and concerns (if any). Our goal is to celebrate everyone's career and life as a member of the CH2M HILL family to the extent we can. Thanks also to those of you who let us know of the loss of any dear friends, colleagues, and spouses. It's a sad but important part of our newsletter. We couldn't do this without your help!

Again, a special thanks to our entire CHAA team for their efforts, especially our superb newsletter production duo: Angie and Sarah (note their special Tidbit articles); Don, our CHAA treasurer, mailing list guru and helper for getting all our new members on board; and Dan, our webmaster extraordinaire who keeps us open for business and visible to all!

Best wishes to all our readers for continued health, safe summer and joyful close to 2021!

*Gordon*

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## Retirees/Alumni News

### CYCLING FOR WATER

By Eleanor Allen ([eallen04@hotmail.com](mailto:eallen04@hotmail.com))



I'm currently serving as the CEO of Water For People, a global nonprofit working in Africa, Latin America, and Asia to help develop sustainable water and sanitation services for millions of people. Prior to joining Water For People, I worked at CH2M for the majority of my career (1997–2013). As a member of the Water Business Group, I worked on water and wastewater treatment plants and programs in the US and Latin America. I moved a lot for the company, mostly for major programs, working with a lot of great people. I started in Oakland, transferred to Puerto Rico, then to Bellevue, Washington, then back to Puerto Rico, then to Denver, then to Rio (Brazil), then back to Denver. Currently, my husband David and I live in Denver.

I joined Water For People in 2015; I had been a volunteer for the organization on and off through my years at CH2M, so this was an exciting move for me. This past June I participated in a major ultra-cycling race to raise money for Water For People – the [Race Across The West](#). It was 930 miles (from Oceanside, California, to Durango, Colorado). My husband and I were a team and finished the race in about 3.5 days. This was my second ultra-cycling fundraising event for Water For People. In 2019 I was part of 4-person team that did the [Race Across America](#). You can see the video recap [here](#).

Details of the Race Across The West can be found on the [Cycling For Water webpage](#). It is not too late to donate! The Water For People [Race Across The West fundraising page](#) will be open for individual donations through the end of July.

As most legacy CH2M staff know, [Water for People](#) was one of the preferred non-profit partners for CH2M and CH2M Alumni have a long history of engagement with the organization, starting with Ken Miller, Elisa Speranza, Nancy Card, Doug Griffes, Joan Miller and many more. Water for People turns 30 years old this year and Greg McIntyre

joined their Board in January. Over the past 30 years, Water for People has provided access to clean and sustainable drinking water for more than 3 million people, and the organization's next strategic plan is called Destination 2030, which will link into the United Nations' sustainable development goals.



### A CAREER IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

By Tom Simpson ([wetland0@gmail.com](mailto:wetland0@gmail.com))



Following post-grad degrees in biology at MTSU, LSU, and FSU, I taught at Wake Forest and Agnes Scott Colleges for a while. Then I started with Dames & Moore in Atlanta for about 12 years, working primarily on power plant siting and permitting, mining and pipeline routing and permitting, and other areas of NEPA documentation and permitting. An opportunity came along with CH2M so I started with the Atlanta office about 1987. Most of my 30+ years with the firm were all the usual natural resources work being done in the early days. When the reorganization occurred I took on more global roles in environmental marketing, sales, and implementation. Projects included mining, pipelines, nuclear plants, and broad environmental services such as wetlands, water resources, restoration, etc. Also, I had a few months in England preparing environmental documents for the Olympics.

I retired in 2013. Today I spend most of my time in photography, primarily nature but also I dabble in street photography. My wife Cindy and I have three daughters and 7 grandchildren.

*Tom and wife Cindy.*

## ASTRONOMY – A NEW APPROACH TO AN OLD HOBBY

By Art Storbo ([astorbo@nwlinc.com](mailto:astorbo@nwlinc.com))



My interest in astronomy began with my first job after high school when I worked at Boeing as a draftsman on the Minuteman missile, 1961-1963. I had read all the books in my hometown library about the U.S. space program and astronomy, but I didn't own a telescope as I was saving money for college. My mentors at Boeing pointed me to civil engineering, and the next 45 years of school and work left me little time for astronomy. Sharon and I watched the Apollo moon landings beginning in 1969; and like others at the time, we bought a small 4" refractor telescope. We learned of the Hubble Space Telescope's myopic vision and fix in the 1990s. We followed the Space Shuttle program and saw the next-to-last Shuttle launch at Cape Canaveral in 2011. We got by with binoculars and our 4" scope as our kids grew up, observing our Moon, Jupiter and its moons, and Saturn and its rings.

Tame stuff, though, and the often-cloudy weather in western Washington was a problem. Owning more sophisticated equipment could not cure that. Reading *Sky and Telescope* magazine helped with news and advice for amateur astronomers. It and more books provided me with a basic astronomy education.

To read more about Art's astronomy story, click [here](#).

## RETIREMENT IN AN AIRSTREAM

By Bo Heller ([bo.heller24@gmail.com](mailto:bo.heller24@gmail.com))



*Bo, Molly, and their dogs Reilly and McKenzie, on one of the hiking trails around Lexington.*

After finishing graduate school in 1974 (Virginia Tech), I began working as an engineer/programmer for the Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority (now Service Authority – UOSA) in Centreville, Virginia in 1976. It was here that I worked closely with a number of CH2M folks, including Don Evans, George Gunn, Dana Rippon, and Bob Chapman, to name a few. In 1989 after over 13 years with UOSA, my wife was offered a job in Arlington, Texas. I used my contacts with CH2M to get a job with OMI in the Dallas office (Gordon Koblitz was the office manager at the time), as a senior operations specialist.

Since I had both a Professional Engineer license and a wastewater operator license, I worked on a number of CH2M projects, mainly providing startup and operator training services, and reviewing plans for operability. After working in the Dallas office for about 5 years, we moved to the Chicago area in the mid-1990s, where I worked out of CH2M's office near O'Hare airport (before the downtown office opened). I worked mostly on OMI projects during this time, providing support services and acting as a temporary regional manager for our project in Edmonton, Alberta, for the Alberta Capital Region Wastewater Commission.

I worked in various roles over the next couple of decades, including working on the Masdar City project in Abu Dhabi for our Municipal Services group. Toward the end of my career, I provided estimating services for our contract operations group for large contract operations projects. I retired from CH2M in July 2018, and I am currently a contingent worker providing estimating services and risk assessments for our existing projects. After retirement, my wife Molly and I relocated to Virginia, living in the small college town of

Lexington. We enjoy hiking the many trails around Lexington (including the Appalachian Trail), playing golf, golf club repair and assembly, and visiting the many historic sites around the state.

Molly and I plan on spending most of the summer in Door County, Wisconsin, where we have some property on the shores of Green Bay. We enjoy spending time there in the summer and having our children and grandchildren visit.

We also enjoy driving around the country in a recently purchased camper van (Airstream Interstate) visiting family, friends and lots of National Parks (once COVID is under control). We plan on going to Montana, California, and New Mexico. And, I am actually going on a golf trip (bucket list) to Bandon Dunes in Oregon in early October, and after that, hopefully attending the CH2M Reunion in Atlanta!



*Ready to travel in an Airstream camper van.*

### FROM MANAGING WATER PROJECTS TO TEACHING

By Bruce Johnson ([bajnevada@gmail.com](mailto:bajnevada@gmail.com))



I graduated from Brigham Young University with a BES in chemical engineering and joined the commissioned officers corps of the US Public Health Service. I worked in coal miner safety and helped establish the Appalachian Center for Occupational Safety and Health in Morgantown, West Virginia. Upon completion of service, I returned to college and obtained my master's and PhD degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Utah State University. When the Teton Dam collapsed in 1976, I joined an engineering firm that was engaged in repairing and upgrading water and wastewater systems in Eastern Idaho.

I then joined CH2M in 1979 in the Boise office, managing a number of water and wastewater projects throughout Idaho, including the development of several industrial pretreatment programs. I also managed a salinity control study of two tributaries of the Colorado River for the US Bureau of Reclamation and the Jordan River Flood Control Project for Salt Lake County in Utah.

In 1985 I moved to Key West, Florida, to head up an office to provide services in the Florida Keys. Major projects for the City of Key West included the first wastewater treatment plant for the city, improvements to the wastewater collection system, and a variety of recreational facility projects. Additional projects for the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority included improvements to the water treatment facility in Florida City, transmission main and pumping station improvements, and investigation of additional water storage options.

In 1987 I moved to the newly opened Boston office to head up a Safe Drinking Water Act compliance study for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Other projects included participation in value engineering studies for the Boston Harbor Cleanup project and a water treatment plant in Connecticut. I also served as water and wastewater discipline director for the Northeast District.

In 1996 I moved to the Las Vegas office, managing a variety of water and wastewater treatment projects for the City of Henderson, City of Las Vegas, Clark County Water Reclamation District, Las Vegas Valley Water District, and Southern Nevada Water Authority. My professional activities included serving as president of the Nevada Water Environment Association and on the Board of the Western Coalition of Arid States. He also served on the Clark County Air Quality Hearing Board for 12 years.

After nearly 36 years, I retired in 2014. I then became involved in the local school district's Payback Program, which focuses on encouraging at-risk students to stay in school. I also judged robotics competitions and coached a robotics team.



*Bruce and his wife Marcia.*

This eventually led to a full-time position teaching science at a private school. Currently, my wife, Marcia, and I are serving a 2-year mission for our church in Kona, Hawaii. We have four children and nine grandchildren. We love spending time with family and friends, helping out where we can, and doing some travel.

### BUDDING CEREMONY AT VINEYARD AND WINERY

By David Evans [shootmyage72@gmail.com](mailto:shootmyage72@gmail.com)

A budding ceremony was held on April 7, 2021, at our resident vineyard on the Varena property. At the ceremony, our resident grower and former actual grower described to our resident wine club the beginnings of our new Primitivo grape growing season following last year's crop failure, and what was to have been the 2020 vintage. Local smoke damage from the nearby 2020 fires and resultant evacuation caused the entire crop to be lost.

Our wine club moved to the daylight basement of the building where Carol and I live. Here we viewed the new winery built for us by our Varena maintenance team and tasted our 2018 and 2019 vintages.

In the fall we will pick our 2021 grapes and begin production of our 2021 vintage, called Varena Vino and made from 100% Primitivo grapes, estate grown and bottled by Varena Vintners in the Fountaingrove District American Viticultural Area. The first two vintages seasons each produced about 35 cases (12 bottles each) of wine with the bottle labels coming from a design competition between our resident artists.



*Wooden wine case ends on display.*



*Checking the vines.*

### THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF FLOWERS

Introduction By Jerry Boyle ([jerry.mary.boyle@me.com](mailto:jerry.mary.boyle@me.com))



Jim McKibben has turned his passion and creativity into a unique art form. Jim has been enduring a long battle with MS. The narrowing limitations of that journey have still allowed him to develop an art form that is both unique and exceedingly beautiful. His images cannot be seen without creating a deep appreciation for the beauty that surrounds us but often remains unnoticed. For Jim, his creativity provides a needed release from his narrowing world...for us, it is a welcome glimpse into the beauty of the natural world. These are not ordinary photographs but art at its most creative level. It makes us happy. Jim's email is [jimwmckibben@gmail.com](mailto:jimwmckibben@gmail.com).

To read more and to see Jim's portfolio, click [here](#).

## KEN STUART, WATERCOLOR ARTIST

As shared by brother Mac Stuart ([mjstuart11@comcast.net](mailto:mjstuart11@comcast.net))



Ken retired from CH2M in 1993 after 42 years. It was to be the beginning of a new challenge for him: watercolor painting. In previous years, he spun a potter's wheel to make bowls and vases and fabricated wooden objects in his well-equipped woodworking shop. Ken saw beauty in everything, and set up a small studio in his woodworking shop.

Ken passed away on March 20, 2007, at the age of 76. To see some of his work, and to read more about his hobby, click [here](#). *Editor's note: If you would like a reproduction of any of his paintings, please contact Don Marske at [donmarske@gmail.com](mailto:donmarske@gmail.com).*

## MOUNTAINEERING

By Don Russell ([russelldr@comcast.net](mailto:russelldr@comcast.net))



Between 1965 and 1995, I was a serious mountaineer. In 1970, I was asked if I would be willing to guide a group of CH2Mer's up Mt. Rainier. I had climbed it 8 times on 4 different routes. I agreed but only if the group would commit to climbing three other peaks in the same year as preparation.

In 1971 the group climbed Mt. Washington, Mt. Baker (got snowed off), Mt. Hood and Mt. Rainier. Here are some photos of the climbs can be found.

To see more climbing photos, click [here](#).



1971, Mt. Washington. Don has identified a few of the folks in the photo. If you can help identify the others, please let us know! Same for any of the other photos of this and the other climbs.

## PAINTING DURING A PANDEMIC

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

Hello, and hope you're enjoying the first weeks of spring. Some of you haven't heard from me in a long time, and I'm glad for this excuse to keep in touch. My new painting hobby is summarized [here](#).

Malvern Arts was formed a couple years ago in our town by a regional theatre and arts center that needed a new home after the large remodeled building they were leasing was sold by the owner. Isabel has been going to monthly fabric gatherings with local quilters and textile enthusiasts, and I learned to paint with "water-mixable oils" a few months ago from the pastor of the Malvern Baptist Church who has been painting the past 10 years. We also have monthly "full moon walks" that a neighbor loves to host (and creatively write about each month's different moon). We had a square dance in December 2019, probably our last major event before we entered the face-mask phase of our 21st century existence.

I've painted almost 30 scenes so far, with another 20 or so on my list which keeps growing. I only paint scenes that I've visited, so it's a nice way to relive and appreciate my favorite places (more than just browsing old photo albums). I work at it maybe 2 or 3 hours every other day, and like most retirement hobbies, I have no deadlines. I also find it both challenging and relaxing, which is a good combination as I enter the "geezer phase" of life (I'll be 77 soon).

I've also got two reunions in a few months - my 60th high school reunion (Columbus, Nebraska) in September, and the upcoming Atlanta reunion in October with CH2M colleagues I worked with in Oregon, Milwaukee, Alexandria (Egypt), and several other locales during my 18 years with CH2M before moving to Pennsylvania. Isabel and I have also booked our third Viking river cruise, in the Bordeaux region in southwest France, for the last week of October. So this'll be a year of memories and travels!

## SURVEYING GREAT PROJECTS

By Tony Brooks ([tony.brooks@aqgeonw.com](mailto:tony.brooks@aqgeonw.com))

I started in Portland, Oregon, as a temporary on-call survey tech in September 1987, got hired full time in December 1988, got my PLS in June 1996, and worked till about June 1997, when I did about 2.5 years at a small engineering and surveying firm that was half ex-CH2M. Then in January 2000, I started back with CH2M as a project surveyor eventually became survey manager. I worked till September 2012, when I took an agreed-upon layoff due to workload after the 2008 downturn.

I decided to start my own land surveying business catering to farmers and rural properties in the Willamette Valley, Ag Geospatial NW, LLC, which I am still running. I like to say I was with CH2M 22.5 years out of 25, with a short 2.5-year side adventure in the middle.



*Tony at work with his new company.*



*One of Kurt's initial paintings, "Pump House."*

I had a great career and many great experiences, all in the Portland office. I met and worked with great people from all departments/groups and multiple offices. We were internal support of which I say in the 22.5 years with CH2M, I can count on less than 10 fingers the number of external surveying-only projects we did; probably four of them were in my last 6 years. We were the big company that would be sued so contracting cost more than most survey project budgets.

We had a small group working on great projects, doing great things that many surveyors never got to experience while working for a company with a great name that most people would dream to work for. Projects like surveying the ocean floor from shoreline out to reefs while hanging onto a long rope floating in a wetsuit, followed later by locating a weight on rope hanging from a helicopter trying to find ocean floor; to a standing in a basket on crane over rail dropping into a 30-foot-deep outlet channel at The Dalles Dam; to Barney Reservoir raising; to riding an airboat jumping a dike in the wetlands of the Coeur-d'Alene river basin; to eating lunch in poison oak in the Buck Horn hills West of Redding; to Sellwood Bridge replacement; to 6-mile Roy Roger Road construction surveying, and many more interesting and challenging projects.



*Tony and wife Kim at the Yamhill Vineyard.*

And, I did get to meet three of the original founders and that was an honor. I also got to have late night drinks with Ralph Peterson after an internal technology conference while hearing stories of his early experiences doing some surveying. It was a great career!

I'm still living the rural life in Molalla, Oregon, and married to Kim for 29 years with two great kids.

## HAPPY TRAILS

By Ken Shump ([ken.shump@gmail.com](mailto:ken.shump@gmail.com))



*Ken and Deb at Pointe Helbronner, Mont Blanc Massif, Italian side.*

When I was studying geology in undergraduate school at Miami University in Ohio, I earned folding money by tutoring students in chemistry and physics. As a peek into my ethics, one of my physics students was a young woman named Deb, who surprised me by agreeing to go out with me and then, 3½ years later, she exhibited the astoundingly poor judgment to marry me. That was 40 years ago this past June. She's the best thing that's ever happened to me.

Jeff Randall in Portland decided to take a risk on me in 1983 after I finished graduate studies in hydrology and hydrogeology at the University of Nevada. I came to his attention by inviting myself to an interview in the Redding office, which I detoured through on my way back home from an interview with another engineering firm in San Francisco. I was hired into the Bellevue office, and soon (for a while) became the sole hydrogeologist there, when Denis Erickson in Seattle left to work at the Washington Dept. of Ecology.

My career at CH2M primarily involved working with industrial clients, with some federal and local government projects sprinkled in for variety. These were mostly contaminated site projects, with the occasional facility permitting and water resource work. My particular expertise was working with the groundwater aspects of EPA's hazardous and solid waste management rules, along with extensive work in basalt hydrogeology, in the Pacific Northwest as well as in Hawaii and Guam. I also began working on sites containing dense non-aqueous phase liquids in 1984, making me one of the firm's earliest practitioners in that specialty. Some of my most interesting early project work came through Jack Payne when he was in Portland. Deb and I came to jokingly refer to these opportunities as "Jack attacks" due to Jack's propensity for bringing in new work, coming into the office very early to plan out a rough framework for the project, and then surprising me with it when I got in around 8 in the morning.

While my work was largely technical, my real reward came from interacting with and learning from the smart and talented people with whom I had the privilege to work at CH2M, as well as those outside the firm in business, academia, consulting, and law. Most of all, though, I appreciated the experience of mentoring and supporting young engineers and scientists as they grew in their careers.

Building on similar work at several sites in the States, I had the opportunity to support a project effort at two primary aluminum reduction plants in southern Switzerland in 2008 and another at a petrochemical plant in southern France in 2013, which led to my move from Portland to Lyon, France, in early 2014. A few years later the firm and I parted ways. I started my own U.S.-based LLC to continue working with a longstanding U.S. manufacturing client and Deb and I decided to remain in France to facilitate further travels. Next on our travel agenda is to reschedule the COVID-cancelled 2020 trips we had planned for Portugal and Scotland.

We currently live in Paray le Monial, a small town in southern Burgundy. We find the summer weather here a bit warm for our tastes, so we've just committed to buy a house in Montpinchon, Normandy, for its somewhat cooler weather. We'll be moving north in August.

I'd enjoy hearing from former colleagues. Also, if you're planning a trip to France and would be interested in visiting Normandy, I'd be happy to connect!

## Alumni Quick Notes

### BILL WINTER

I want to pass along my greetings to all with whom I had the privilege of working over the years. I have many, many fond memories from those days. Unfortunately my health challenges prevent joining any CHAA gatherings. My preferred method of contact is by email. I will do my best to stay in touch.

Bill Winter ([bill\\_winter@comcast.net](mailto:bill_winter@comcast.net)).

### RICK ROBERTSON

Rick (who is still working on the Panama Canal project site) thought this information about the Panama Canal winning a \$265-million refund in expansion ruling would be of interest to those of the CH2M staff who were involved with the project over the years. Click [here](#) for the PDF.

Kelly Sobczak's retirement article in the January issue didn't include her new email: [socialbobcat@gmail.com](mailto:socialbobcat@gmail.com).

## Pre-Retiree News



### GARY MOSS CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY WITH CH2M

Gary Moss recently celebrated 35 years of service with CH2M/Jacobs. His work has focused on using the latest in software programs to revolutionize engineering design, drawings, databases, and modeling, especially 3D modeling. He spoke about his career with the firm; click [here](#) to read more.



### CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Alex Firth celebrates 35 years of service with Jacobs! Alex is a senior structural engineer based in our Corvallis office. In this [interview](#) he reflects on some of the highlights of his career. We would like to thank Alex and all of the Northwest Team members for their continued service and all their contributions to the success of our business!

## BLESSINGS FOR MY UNCLE STEVE AND AUNT MARYLEE DEAUTREMONT

By Rick Robertson ([rick.robertson@jacobs.com](mailto:rick.robertson@jacobs.com))

My Uncle Steve and Aunt MaryLee (“ML” as we called her) DeAutremont were a great influence and support, especially early in my thoughts of being a civil engineer. Steve was a hardworking and fun-loving character and he was a great person as a husband, father, uncle, athlete, coach, and contributor to CH2M. I share parts of my past with Steve and ML and my career below, knowing that if it were not for them, who knows where my career would have ended up...



*Aunt MaryLee and Uncle Steve “No-Neck” DeAutremont with my parents Katy and Nick Robertson – McMinnville, Oregon, 1974.*

Growing up, we called Steve “Uncle No-Neck” due to his amazing strength, top physical condition and being a #1 ranked USA hammer thrower in the early and mid-1970s. Nearing the completion of high school, Steve and ML lived in Corvallis, so the draw toward Oregon State University (OSU) and civil engineering seemed to be connected. Steve working for CH2M was something we knew, but without knowing the future connection.

When I was a freshman at OSU in 1980, Steve and ML encouraged me to have dinner with “a terrific engineer and family friend.” They told me he had great vision and could offer insights on being an engineer... that was a dinner with Ralph Peterson (and Betty). What a treat! I will never forget that dinner as it solidified this career path. After graduating with my master’s in civil engineering from OSU, I had two job offers in 1987: CH2M, Los Angeles office, or a small geotechnical firm in Riverton, Wyoming. Knowing how much Steve (and ML) enjoyed CH2M, it was a no brainer.

The opportunities and adventures hardly ever stopped on my engineering journey from the CH2M family. Since starting I have worked for CH2M in Irvine, California; Corvallis; Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt; Tel Aviv, Israel; Sri Lanka; Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; and now Panamá, where I am currently the program manager for our technical support team on the post-construction issues from the Panamá Canal Expansion program. Very interesting and challenging work.



*2019 – Rick, Renee, Raegan (OSU student) and Rylee (recent Gonzaga University grad) – Bocas del Toro, Panamá.*

My wife Renee and our two daughters have been so incredibly blessed. Cultural experiences, life adventures and doing good engineering work globally. It all goes back to my Uncle Steve’s connection and my Aunt MaryLee’s passion about a really wonderful engineering company named CH2M.

To read more of Rick’s story, click [here](#).

## Jacobs Voluntary Retirement Program Retirees

The following are farewell messages from our legacy staff (messages came from Jacobs website and other postings). More articles will follow as we track more VRP retirees down and get their emails and stories. **Several of the following articles had photos to share but no email addresses. If you know them and have an email address, please share with [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com).**

### EXPECTATIONS EXCEEDED!

*By Dale Gabel*



Imagine sitting at a hotel bar next to the pool admiring the reflection of the Great Pyramids of Giza in the pool after returning from exploring the much older Step Pyramids south of Cairo – that was my first project with CH2M.

Since this Y2K adventure in 1999, I have been involved in countless projects, including many award-winning projects such as the City of Omaha, Johnson County Wastewater, San Mateo Clean Water Program, Denver Metro Northern Treatment Plant, Honouliuli, etc. Participating in these projects gave me the opportunity to work with so many talented and nerdy technologists (the BEST in the industry) and delivery folks, and the hard-driving and fun-loving sales staff (business development is a not-so-secret passion of mine). Certainly, my professional career and personal growth with CH2M/Jacobs has exceeded all

expectations!

To my CH2M/Jacobs Ohana, thank you for the memories, friendships, education and growth opportunities! I will miss you all!

### IT HAS BEEN A GREAT 41 YEARS!

*By Allan Highstreet*



It has been quite a journey over the past 41 years! As an economist working for an engineering company it was motivating to show the engineering managers that a non-engineer could provide value to their projects. At first that was providing cost-benefit analysis and helping clients find financing. Later it evolved into project management and line management and showing our project managers how to maximize their margin, through creative pricing and good negotiating.

Even though our clients reach out for our technical expertise, I have found this business to be a people business. We certainly have the technical chops, but we are successful because we have good people that like to work collegially, and also have good relationships with our clients. This teamwork has made us the leaders in our field.

This work environment has made coming to work easy as well as rewarding. I will certainly miss my colleagues as well as the competition of competing for and winning work! Thanks for making the 41 years go by quickly!

## WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...

By Jim Thompson ([jim@JDThompsonLLC.com](mailto:jim@JDThompsonLLC.com))



When I joined CH2M 19 years ago, retirement seemed a million miles away. The kids were in high school and elementary school. After spending 26 years in the construction design-bid-build, dog-eat-dog world, I was ready for a change.

As I entered this water/wastewater design-build world, my goal was to teach this engineering company a thing or two about real construction. I think I did. However, I learned a lot about the design side along the way and developed a real respect for the process. I want to say thank you to all of the engineers and pursuit managers who had patience to answer all of my stupid questions over the years. It has been a terrific ride. We developed innovative processes and put together a design-build team that is the envy of the industry. This group defines the term “integrated project delivery.” Engineers, contractors, operation specialists, startup teams, sales managers, permit specialists, procurement, estimators and clients all working together toward a common goal is a beautiful thing.

I started thinking about retirement about 3 years ago. I think it started when my mailbox became bombarded with reminders about Medicare and my approaching eligibility. Those of you over 65 know what I’m talking about. Greg Fischer and I put together a succession plan, hired exactly the right replacement for my position and charted the future. When all of this was in place and working the way we envisioned, my stepping away was more difficult than I thought.

Thank you to the Jacobs executive leadership team for the extra little “push.” The time is right. I will say farewell for now, but not goodbye. Please stay in touch.

## TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN!

By Ed Winkler ([Edwink1109@gmail.com](mailto:Edwink1109@gmail.com))



I am grateful to CH2M/Jacobs for the opportunity to close out the last phase of my career with 12 enjoyable and fulfilling years in consulting! In 2008, after a

golf outing with Greg Eldridge, I started to consider making a change from the public sector (28-year career). After discussions (and beers) with Ted Way, Tom Price and Martin Nicholson, I decided to make the leap to CH2M. One of the best decisions I’ve made, and I have never looked back. I absolutely love the work I do, the people I work with, and the clients I have had the pleasure of serving.

My consulting career highlight was our WaterFix (Bay-Delta tunnels) win in 2017 – validating that Jacobs was indeed the number 1 design firm in the nation.

On this project I worked with the highest caliber team I’ve ever been associated with, and it was an honor to work with and learn from these many talented professionals.

As the client account manager for California Department of Water Resources, a long-term key client in California, I worked alongside some of the best technologists, engineers, planners, environmental scientists and sales managers in the business. We unseated a long-established incumbent to capture one of the largest flood management plans in the US – the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan 2017 Update. Our team worked hard to deliver a plan that garnered five prestigious awards and achieved our ultimate goal – bringing much praise and recognition to this very important client; and importantly, we had FUN doing it!

So what are my retirement plans? My wife Trish and I celebrated the birth of our first grandchild in February, so that should open an exciting new chapter in our lives. The VRP came up rather suddenly, so I can’t say that I’ve mapped out any real plans other than to take a couple of months off to “chill.” I have not had more than a 2-week break since I graduated from college, so this will be eye opening. I suspect I will make some travel plans with good friends and of course, I will spend plenty of time out on the golf links – the place where this great CH2M/Jacobs journey began!

I sincerely wish all of you the best. Jacobs is a great company, and I feel truly blessed to have had this opportunity and to have met so many great people. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime – mentors and friends are for life; and note that I offer free advice for beer and/or golf!

## 60 NOT OUT

By Colin Skipper



Real pleasure and a privilege to work with CH2M and then Jacobs. I spent my 7 years with the company based in Swindon, Houston, and Dubai; along the way I have made many new friends, learnt a lot, and worked on some amazing projects. Fantastic company full of great people, wish you all the very best for the future.

On retirement I am looking forward to:

- Spending time outside my apartment in Dubai and re-connecting with my wife, family, friends, and the wider world!
- Having more time to indulge my passions for skiing, mountain biking, travel and the big outdoors
- Getting my ski mountain leadership qualification and pursuing an alternative career as a ski guide

Keep safe and stay in touch.

## IT'S NEVER TIME, THEN IT IS

By Jay Witherspoon



I've had a wonderful, mostly fun, and yes, an exciting and colorful 38 years of experiences encompassing areas of utility management, program/project management, technology innovation stewardship and leadership, living and working abroad in 3 countries (Australia, New Zealand, and United Arab Emirates), and working on many significant major global programs. Having managed and led diverse teams in water, water reuse, conveyance, tunnels, biosolids, air quality, sustainability, and sustainable infrastructure developments across the globe, there are only a few delivery challenges that I have not addressed through my collaborative & technology innovation approaches to solving global, complex economic, social and environmental issues.

I will miss global travel (and United Airlines will miss me!) and interactions with our fantastic global Jacobs teams. So many wonderful memories/experiences and great times together solving the world's most complex issues while providing best for value services. I'm touched by the many wonderful folks I've met, interacted with, and who have helped me in my career growth – I would list each of you, but the list would be quite long, so all I can do is express my gratefulness for your patience, assistances, and letting me to have free range to come up with innovate solutions, strategies and approaches.

My career has been a series of circles – like, starting in San Francisco, going around the World (Australia, United Arab Emirates, Australia, then New Zealand) and then ending back in San Francisco for the San Mateo Clean Water Program (then back to the Middle East and now Seattle). Those circles, friendships, and global travel will continue when it's safe to do so in the future...I loved each challenge and always found a way to celebrate our successful solutions and wins.

I'm so grateful for the many friendships formed throughout the world ( I was even made an honorary "Australian," which is pretty hard to do for an American!), the fun and exciting times we spent together standing up technology services, pursuing and delivering work, but mostly for the many celebrations and meals together. These celebrations covered major delivery milestones, program/project completions, and all successful wins, deliverables, and excellence awards.

I could spend pages and pages on all the fun and great times I've had over my career...as you know, I'm always looking for something to celebrate, promote great work done by others, and occasions to share chocolates at work or a great bottle of wine over dinner. So, look me up if you are in the Seattle area or have a unique, complex delivery need or question... my wife, Terry, and I will love to have you stop by, only after COVID-19 has run its course including an available vaccine and it's safe to travel!



## CH2M HILL Alumni Association President's Corner

By Rick Luebbers ([rluebber@hotmail.com](mailto:rluebber@hotmail.com))



Greetings Fellow CH2M HILL Alumni,

I hope this finds you all healthy and happy after a long year of self-isolation, social distancing, vaccinations, and other COVID precautions. It is finally time to get back to living life, perhaps with a greater appreciation for all that we have in this amazing country.

My initial step in getting back to normal was to attend the College Baseball World Series in Omaha as I have done at least a dozen times before. The 2020 event was cancelled but this year it was held at full capacity with appropriate safety precautions. It was great to be in the stadium with 20,000 enthusiastic fans to watch young athletes compete at the highest level. The top eight college baseball teams worked their way through a double bracket, double elimination tournament, with Vanderbilt

University (the 2019 champion) and Mississippi State emerging as the final two teams. After losing the first playoff game, Mississippi State roared back to take the next two games and win the school's first ever national championship in any sport. The determination and grit displayed by the Bulldogs was truly inspiring. I plan to attend the CWS again next year.

The CH2M HILL Alumni Association has also been active in spite of the COVID imposed limitations. Early this year, we took a technological leap (without the help of an 8-year-old) and began replacing conference calls with Zoom meetings. It is great to see smiling faces during the discussions.

The Board of Directors adopted a new Strategic Plan at the January meeting, which is posted in full on the CHAA website along with an overview. As initial steps for its implementation, the Board adopted several resolutions, including an apolitical statement and a non-discrimination statement, both available on the website.

The Board also established four standing committees and several short-term task forces.

### **The Board Committees are:**

- Governance – to ensure that the organization is operating effectively and efficiently.
- Membership – to continuously improve service to CHAA members.
- Activities – to focus on activities by and for CHAA members.
- History – to continue the long-standing work to preserve the history of CH2M and its people.

### **The Task Forces include:**

- Value Proposition – to examine reasons why CH2M alumni join CHAA or why they do not.
- Membership Database – to explore methods and systems to more easily maintain the large and ever changing CHAA membership database.
- Local Groups – to identify and engage with the many small local gatherings that are independently held to maintain friendships developed at CH2M.

While the Committees and Task Forces are primarily composed of CHAA Board members at this time, we are actively seeking CHAA members to join a team and add new perspectives. Please contact us at [CH2M\\_HILLaa@gmail.com](mailto:CH2M_HILLaa@gmail.com) to let us know that you are interested in working alongside the Board members to improve CHAA's organization and services. Information on the activities and progress of the Committees and Task Forces will be shared in future newsletters.



Special mention is required of Bob Chapman and his team for their dedication to the CH2M HILL Alumni Reunion, now planned for October of this year. It was originally scheduled for September 2020, with much work underway before the COVID lockdowns began. Bob and his team have worked hard to reschedule everything and to maintain momentum for this event. Fortunately, the majority of CHAA members who originally signed up for the 2020 reunion are still planning to attend this fall. We encourage others to take this opportunity to come out to meet old friends and make new ones while enjoying a memorable event. See the article about the 2021 Reunion elsewhere in this newsletter for more information.

On a personal note, it has been comforting in a time of turmoil to be associated with a group of people who have common interests and who care about each other. While uncertainty will always be with us, it is good to know that friendships will endure. I am reminded of this every morning as I read the sign above my coffee pot. It says, "Begin each day with a grateful heart."

Be safe, stay well,

Rick Luebbers  
CHAA President

## CH2M HILL Alumni Association News

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



Greetings all...

Like getting past the pandemic, it was a good first half for the Alumni Association, thanks in large part to you!

As of July 1, we are 422 active members! This does not include 60 subscriptions that expired in the first half that have not yet renewed. 😞 It does include 187 subscriptions that will expire in the second half. Yikes! If we are to meet our goal of 410 active members for 2021, we need you to renew when your email reminder arrives. If it happens to slip your mind, we will get you a gentle reminder. Thank you all who joined and renewed.

Our Master Roster of alumni stands steady at 2,215, slightly more than the 2,140 in January. Per the direction of our Strategic Plan, we have established a Membership Committee, whose goal is to attract, retain and serve the membership. To this end, we plan to continue to reach out to folks who forgot to renew, to our legacy folks with Jacobs, and to those who have gone MIA. For all of this we appreciate your help. Please give us a holler if you hear of a colleague who is looking to join.

Financially, the Association remains in good shape. Year-to-date (YTD) income is \$8,100 against YTD expenses of \$4,200 leaving a net balance of \$3,900. Looking ahead, we are forecasting a year end net balance of \$4,600. Thanks to you, this good performance allows us to fund a reserve account as a hedge against leaner times.

The biggest challenge in meeting our financials goals is member renewal. As noted earlier, we have 422 active members today, but there is much to do if we are to reach our goal of 410 by year end. Our current dues reminder system is working well for most members. However, for some, there is a gremlin in the works that is not recognizing some payments. We have been able to fix these issues and are working on correcting the problem. In the meantime, going forward, if you suspect you have already paid and get the expiration email, let me know and I will fix it.

Our refreshed website <https://CH2MHILLalumni.org/> continues to get rave reviews. If you have not jumped on yet, and I say this again, we think you will agree it is one-of-a-kind in our industry. In the coming months we expect to add several new features, including a posting of local reunion get togethers. We encourage you to browse now and then as we strive to keep it fresh.

If you have any questions about the Alumni Association membership, renewals, or its programs, please feel free to contact me at [CH2MHILLaa@gmail.com](mailto:CH2MHILLaa@gmail.com).

Again, thank you to all who have joined, renewed, and donated in 2021.

Don Marske  
CHAA Director, Treasurer

## Meet Your CH2M HILL Alumni Association Members!

We are especially pleased to introduce our continuing and new members of the CHAA as of July 5, 2021! We also like to include all the spouses of our deceased alumni who, by the way, receive their complimentary membership free of charge. If you know others who qualify, please let us know.

We hope you all will look over the list: over 400+ now! It's obviously longer than the previous lists, so we attached it as a [PDF](#) to save a couple pages of the newsletter. Open and enjoy checking the list of your friends and colleagues. If you DON'T see some of your good friends or colleagues, reach out to them and encourage them to join.

If any of our readers haven't yet joined (or need to renew) and would like to support our CHAA family goals and activities, please contact Don Marske at [CH2M\\_HILLaa@gmail.com](mailto:CH2M_HILLaa@gmail.com) or go to our CHAA website: <https://CH2MHILLalumni.org/> and click on **MEMBERSHIP**.

## Hats Off to Our CHAA Donors!

In our July issue we offer our special thanks to our new 2021 members and current members who kindly went above and beyond their annual membership fee by contributing an extra amount to help us with our mission into the coming year! We wish to acknowledge all our donors, and we appreciate every gift given. Listed below are our 2021 donors to date through July 5, 2021, at the different levels we established.

This is voluntary, of course, and can be done anonymously, if desired. **Please note that all members who have donated are acknowledged annually in the January newsletter. Donations will be accrued and donors will be acknowledged in bold type and asterisk when a new level is attained at the Booster level and above.** Members who attain the "Sustainers" level and above will receive a lifetime membership and recognition in every issue as a small token of our appreciation. They will also receive an asterisk designation when making additional donations in the current year.

A major portion of the donations are used to continue upgrading our CHAA website (accessibility, content, security and enjoyment) and maintenance, our outreach efforts for legacy colleagues, and help to promote local member groups across the country. Updates regarding these efforts will be included each newsletter. Again, thank you all for your generosity!!

### 2021 CHAA Supporters: \$1–\$99

Jerry Anderson	Susie Gaare	Larry Pinson	LeRoy Taylor
Sheldon Barker	Ed Lance	Mary Reid	Gina Wammock
Dale Cannon	Willie Paiz	John Sams	
Robert Forbes	Sally Peek	Ron Staehlin	

### CHAA Boosters \$100+

Jory Abrams	Pat Klampe	Sally Ruggles	
Julie Bielman	Don Marske	<b>Bud VanDerAa*</b>	
<b>Dona Eskelin*</b>	<b>Gordon Nicholson*</b>	<b>Dan Walters*</b>	

### CHAA Sustainers (Lifetime Members) \$500+

Anonymous	Bob Chapman*	Tom Higgins*	<b>Jim Schwing*</b>
Bob Card	Randy Denton*	Greg McIntyre	

### CHAA Patrons (Lifetime Members/Recognition) \$1,000+

Gordon Koblitz*	Rick Luebbers		
Judy Lasswell	Bob Pailthorp		

### CHAA Benefactors (Lifetime Members/Recognition) – \$5,000+

Jacque Hinman

### CHAA Champions (Lifetime Membership/Recognition) – \$10,000+

Well, we need to be optimistic and aim high for the long haul! 😊

## Goodbye, Old Friends

### VICTOR KACZYNSKI



Victor Kaczynski passed away on January 22, 2021, in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was born December 7, 1938, in Niagara Falls, New York, to Walter and Adolpha Kaczynski. He joined the Air Force after high school and was sent to Syracuse University to study in the Russian Language program. He served in Shiroi, Japan and as an analyst at the National Security Agency.

Upon his return to the States he enrolled at State University of New York at Buffalo and graduated with a degree in biology. Here he met his wife Marianne and married upon his graduation, in 1964. He then went on to earn a master's degree in entomology and a PhD in limnology at Cornell University.

Vic was an assistant professor of oceanography at the University of Washington. He went on to become environmental director with Texas Instruments at the Indian Head Nuclear Power Plant in Peekskill, New York. From there, he moved back west and became president of Beak Consultants in Portland, Oregon, and then became environmental director at CH2M. During his tenure with the firm, Vic helped expand the capabilities of CH2M's freshwater and marine scientists, to include wetlands and terrestrial ecosystems, while also expanding the group's geographic reach beyond Southern California.

Vic later started his own consulting firm called V. W. Kaczynski PhD, Fisheries and Water Consultant. For many years he served on the Independent Multidisciplinary Science team (IMST) of Oregon.

He was past president of the Oregon chapter of the American Fisheries Society and traveled with his wife Marianne to Finland, Russia and China as a delegate from this organization. Vic had a lifelong passion for hunting, fishing, and camping. He spent many enjoyable hours in Alaska and the forests surrounding the Upper Hood River Valley in Oregon. His three children followed after their father in their love for the great outdoors.

He was preceded in death by his eldest son, Peter who died in May 2020. He is survived by his sister Nancy Dockry of Beverly Hills, California; his wife Marianne of Parkdale, Oregon and Fort Mohave, Arizona; his daughter Elizabeth (Jim) Tolbert of The Woodlands, Texas; son Greg of Goldendale, Washington; and two beloved grandchildren, Victoria Tolbert of Houston, Texas and A.J. Tolbert of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### TONY VEGA



Tony Vega passed away May 3, 2021. He started his CH2M career more than 26 years ago in the Portland office, transferred to the Dallas office, and later set up shop in the Austin office in August 1998 for the remainder of his career. Tony had years of experience in instrumentation and control systems and radio telemetry on a variety of projects, including water and wastewater treatment plants. His experience included application design, installation, and system checkout of digital control systems, as well as system checkout and startup. Tony was highly regarded by colleagues and clients, a dedicated and outstanding technician throughout his career.

Tony took an extended 2-year leave of absence in February, 2014, and along with Joan became missionaries in the Dominican Republic (DR). They helped their host culture people with many services that helped them live more productive lives including ways to grow in their faith; leading folks through giving them opportunities to learn new trades that help provide income; parenting skills that promote more love, respect and unity; and practical ways of helping the community such as medical clinics, clothing and shoe giveaways, as well as providing food and provisions to those truly in need.

They loved their community and time in the DR, but recently had been asked to come back to the states to continue their mission work. They officially arrived back in March after closing things down in the DR. During their return from the mission field they unfortunately caught COVID. Joan was treated and recovered, but Tony struggled after being hospitalized and sadly succumbed on May 3.

Tony Vega's farewell celebration was held Thursday, June 3 at Hill Country Bible Church in Austin. Their GoFundMe link is available for those who may have an interest or didn't know of it: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-joan-vega>. Tony and Joan also had two CHAA newsletter articles that are available on the website under the Publications Tab: July 2016, page 8, and January 2017, page 16. Joan's email is: [nursejoanie@gmail.com](mailto:nursejoanie@gmail.com).

### STEVE DEAUTREMONT



The January 2021 CH2M Alumni newsletter included an obituary for Steve DeAutremont, who passed away on January 2, 2021. We have additional information to provide regarding his noteworthy involvement with the Oregon State University Track and Field program. To read more, click [here](#).

Rick Robertson, Steve's nephew (see more in his article under Pre-Retiree News in this newsletter), also adds, "I am not sure if you heard about the passing of my uncle, Steve. He departed us on January 2. It was a true blessing due to his advanced dementia and failing health. It was very hard for my cousins, but overall they thankful he is in a better place and now at rest with his wife, Marylee."

### BILL STICKNEY

Bill Stickney passed away earlier this year. Bill had quite an influence on a number of CH2M staff and alumni, as noted by the following tributes. (We were unable to find a formal obituary for Bill; any obituary information you can pass along will be appreciated for a future newsletter.)

John Lee writes, "I hired Bill into the Seattle industrial group in the 1980s (I think) as a project manager. He moved to Milwaukee after several years in Seattle. My recollection is that he had a number of roles there, including project manager, project controls, project review, and mentor. He was a very personable individual, with a good sense of humor, and never hesitated to express his thoughts and ideas."

Bob Rosain writes, "I talked to Bill about 2 years ago on the phone, suggested getting together for lunch or coffee, but he did admit to being less mobile and some other health issues. However, I'm sure he was well cared for by Jan and a loving family. Bill was my boss at RCC in Seattle, and instrumental in me joining them in early 1978. I couldn't have asked for a better boss, friend and mentor. He was smart (a mechanical engineer by degree), professional, highly ethical, always upbeat, excellent project and people manager and just a solid team player. After my departure to CH2M in late 1979, we stayed in touch though, professionally and personally, and when RCC had somewhat of a downturn and reorganization somewhere in the mid-1980s, we convinced Bill to join us at CH2M. I recall he plugged in pretty quickly to managing projects, but somewhere in the late 1980s took the opportunity to move to Milwaukee, returning later to the Seattle office and his grown kids and grandkids living on Mercer Island. Bill was always a rock solid project manager; taught me a lot over the years and I know was instrumental in setting up and teaching project management and delivery systems for CH2M."

Mike Jury adds, "I was saddened to hear that Bill had passed away. Everything that everyone else said on the email chain is true. He was a quality guy. He moved to Milwaukee in the late 1980s to become the Great Lakes Office 30s division manager. He was heavily involved in industrial water and wastewater project delivery and business development in his time in Milwaukee."

### MARY ADAMS

Mary Adams died peacefully at home in Corvallis surrounded by family on June 12, 2021, the day before her 94th birthday. She was the wife of Bob Adams, who joined CH2M in 1949 as a structural/civil engineer as employee No. 10 and was made a partner in 1961. During subsequent years, he served as Corvallis office manager, director of civil engineering (structural, geotechnical, and transportation groups); vice president; and senior consultant. After 39 years of service to the company, he retired in 1988 as vice president and director of civil engineering. Bob passed away July 30, 2016.

Mary was born in St. Helens in 1927 to Hilma and “Heinie” Heumann. Her parents owned a bakery and coffee shop, and Mary grew up working hard stacking cookies, making donuts, and waiting on customers. At age 14 she got a special driver’s license to deliver bread around town. She enjoyed 4-H (cooking and sewing) and practiced the piano every day. She played in a ten-piano ensemble, on the radio, accompanied the Girl’s Glee Club and played for her St. Helens High School bacculaureate after being crowned prom queen.

Mary received a bachelor’s degree from Oregon State University in 1949, majoring in home economics. She was vice president of Pi Beta Phi, a member of Euterpe (a music honorary), chair of the Student Board of Reference, and won Theta Sigma Phi “Woman of Achievement” and “Most Outstanding Senior Girl at OSC” awards.

After graduating, Mary married the love of her life, Robert “Bob” Adams, with whom she shared 67 wonderful years of fairy-tale marriage. Their affection for one another was obvious to all who interacted with them.

Mary taught 2 years of home economics before devoting time and energy to becoming a fabulous homemaker, raising two daughters, and teaching private piano lessons. She also became active within the Corvallis community, serving 12 years as the service chairperson for the Benton County American Cancer Society. She volunteered on the Benton County Mental Health Board, the Board of Directors for the Corvallis Music Association, the Scandinavian Heritage Foundation, as Trustee for the Good Samaritan Hospital, President of PEO Chapter AR, and a loyal member of the Corvallis Assistance League. In her spare time she enjoyed her “Birthday Girls” bridge group, dinner club, serving as a Camp Fire leader, and as a First Presbyterian Church Elder and choir member.

Mary and Bob were also members of the OSU Beaver Club, Corvallis-OSU Music Association and Symphony Society, OSU President’s Club Foundation, Council of Regents, and OSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Mary became president of the OSU Home Economics Alumni Association (now American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences). She served 9 years on the College of Home Economics Development Council and was a member of the OSU Woman’s Giving Circle.

Mary and Bob loved their family and adored watching their granddaughters grow up, never missing their concerts and sporting events. There were also many concerts in Mary and Bob’s living room where they enjoyed playing duets together on their two grand pianos. During the holidays, Mary enthusiastically played Christmas carols at the piano with her family gathered around her. Mary and Bob kept a nightly game of German Rummy going into their later years, with a playful and loving competitive spirit. They traveled the world together, always bringing back gifts, stories, and photos to share.

Mary is survived by her sister, Joyce (Don); daughters Kathryn (Mark), and Susan (Phil); granddaughters Danielle (Daniel) and Julie (Matthias); great grandsons Silas and Hans, great granddaughters Evelyn and Luisa, and many other relatives and friends.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Our only resource regarding the passing of any retiree, alumni colleagues or their spouses comes from our members or newsletter readers.** Please forward their name, obituary or the family’s contact information to [CH2M HILLaa@gmail.com](mailto:CH2M HILLaa@gmail.com) or [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com) so we may respond or contact them. Thank you!! Thanks to the many of you who shared information regarding the loss of our current cherished alumni shown above.

## Special Announcements

### CHAA OCTOBER 14TH-16TH 2021 ATLANTA REUNION UPDATE (OCTOBER 14-16)

Finally, after nearly 3 years of planning and adjusting, sorely interrupted and challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020/2021 Reunion is about ready to be launched!



Through proactive efforts, the overall arrangements with our primary venue at Embassy Suites, and nearly all other program and excursion activity providers, have been sustained, without cost increase. We have also worked toward updating the agenda and the content to make it more relevant to today's world. One example is that we are very optimistic about securing a speaker from the Center for Disease Control to provide an enriched understanding of their Atlanta-based organization, and their views of the future regarding the pandemic.

Our current thrust is working on the details of the Thursday night banquet program...for which we currently have about 100 registered participants. This program will focus on the primary theme of this reunion...CH2M's growth west to east. This will include the "Tahoe East" saga, leading to the creation of our Washington, DC office, and the growth of the Northeast. The program will also focus on our entry into, and successes within the Southeast, including our BC&E merger. These presentations include a combination of interesting insights on how it all happened, with a lot of memories and some untold stories about the characters involved. Cliff Thompson will be our local host and emcee for the evening. Other presenters include Bob Chapman, Dana Rippon, Dick Bedard, Dave Ellison, and Steve Gelman. Opportunities for questions and input by attendees will be included.

There are still a few rooms available at Embassy Suites at our negotiated discount rate. To register for the reunion, contact Jim Schwing ([jimschwing@msn.com](mailto:jimschwing@msn.com)), and he will send an invitation via Greenvelope. The invitation includes information on the full program, a listing of who is registered, and a link for making hotel reservations. Feel free to contact other Reunion committee members as well, who include Mike Mynhier, Dennis Sandretto, Terry Sheldon, and Bob Chapman.

## WATER FOR PEOPLE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

By Julie Kauffman ([jkauffman@waterforpeople.org](mailto:jkauffman@waterforpeople.org))

The idea behind Water For People began in the early 1980s, with three people who wanted to use their expertise to build a better world.

Ken Miller, Wayne Weiss, and John B. “Jack” Mannion spent their careers working in water and wastewater, and they each believed it was possible for everyone in the world to have access to safe water and sanitation services. This was no pipe dream – this was real conviction supported by decades of experience. In 1991, these three men came together with others in their industries to create Water For People, an international nonprofit based in Denver, Colorado.

Using their networks, knowledge, and experience, they began to build a program that would bring lasting solutions to the world’s water crisis.

After incorporation in 1991, Water For People began to implement projects in numerous countries across the world. While these projects provided access to water, their long-term sustainability was not guaranteed. Therefore, in the mid-2000s, Water For People began to reconsider their approach and targeted selected focus countries.

Then, in 2010, the real change happened. Water For People and the government officials of Rulindo, Rwanda, partnered together on the Rulindo Challenge. A challenge to reach every person in Rulindo with clean water and improved sanitation. The Rulindo Challenge became the basis of Water For People’s Everyone Forever model.

Water For People believes that every person should have access to reliable, safe water and improved sanitation. They partner with local governments, businesses, and individuals, providing support needed to bring clean water and sanitation systems to their own communities. Then Water For People ensures the communities have the resources they need to maintain those systems now and in the future. The local government provides the structure. The local shop owner provides the materials. The local entrepreneur makes repairs. And the local family gets clean water for a lifetime.

Since beginning the Everyone Forever model, Water For People has directly impacted nearly 4 million people with access to water. But they are just getting started!

In conjunction with their 30th anniversary, Water For People is developing Destination 2030. This is a 10-year vision to help achieve United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 6 – reliable clean water and sanitation for all people by 2030. Water For People is looking at increasing their impact to reach millions more people with water and sanitation both directly and through influence and partnerships. It’s not enough for Water For People to be implementing Everyone Forever; they are sharing the model and method with other non-governmental organizations, governments, and funding partners. The goal is by 2030 Everyone in the world will have access to water and sanitation that lasts for generations.

Ways to get involved:

Donate: [www.waterforpeople.org/donate](http://www.waterforpeople.org/donate)

Share your reason why water matters to you: [www.waterforpeople.org/30reasons](http://www.waterforpeople.org/30reasons)

Sign up for Water For People emails: <https://give.waterforpeople.org/page/13633/subscribe>

Follow us on social media: @waterforpeople on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn

### CH2M HILL History with Water For People

Ken Miller, one of Water For People’s founders, was also a long-time CH2M HILL employee. He served as Water For People’s first president and continued to support the organization throughout his career and life. Even after retiring from CH2M, he would visit the Water For People office in Denver to call and thank donors. His legacy continues to resonate in numerous ways at both Water For People and CH2M HILL (now Jacobs). (Click [here](#) for Ken’s biography.)





At Water For People, the Kenneth J. Miller Founders’ Award is presented annually to outstanding volunteers from Committees and companies with workplace giving programs. The Award was named after Ken to reflect his dedication to volunteering and helping others.

“I knew Ken as a kind man and could see he was inspiring others. My last day at CH2M, Ken told me all about Water For People, and in a Ken Miller sort of way, he inspired me as well.” David LaFrance, CEO of American Water Works Association, said at the Miller Award Ceremony this year.

Jacobs also continues to support Ken’s legacy with their on-going support of Water For People.

The company is the presenting sponsor of the

Kenneth J. Miller Founders’ Award Ceremony. Over the years, numerous employees have given their time and talents to volunteer with Water For People, locally through Committees, and directly through volunteer assignments with Water For People.

Finally, the company continues to host an annual employee giving campaign. The first campaign in 2003 raised about \$10,000. The 2020 campaign – despite the challenges of a pandemic – raised more than \$315,000! One of Water For People’s longest employee giving campaigns, and the most successful, employees have donated more than US\$3 million all-time.

Water For People is appreciative of all the former and current CH2M employees who have supported Water For People and helped make progress toward Everyone Forever a reality!

To see more photos of the positive work of Water For People, click [here](#). And be sure to check out Eleanor Allen’s Cycling for Water article under the Alumni News section of this newsletter.

### THE FAMILIES OF THE CHAA FAMILY

By Mike Morrison ([valuemike@aol.com](mailto:valuemike@aol.com))



From a recent visit when Mike and his wife visited Jeff and his family in the Boston area. Jeff is on the left in an OSU Beaver cap and Mike is on the right in the LA Dodger cap, which he got attending a World Series games in Dodger Stadium.

#### *Publisher’s Note:*

*I was delighted to hear from Mike Morrison about this feature for our newsletter, “The Families of the CHAA Family.” There are likely scores of potential family connections, many beyond the bunch we identified during our first call. But Mike will need your help, please! His example with him and his son is great. Typically, we’d like the names, relationship, some career highlights, dates and photo(s). If needed, we can help find some of the details via the Alumni History website and current bios. It’s also a great opportunity to initiate your own bio or family member’s too. Please share your thoughts regarding possible family connections with Mike. New family additions will be shared each newsletter and the entire collection featured on the CHAA website. Thanks, and hope to hear from you soon!*

*Gordon*

This idea sprang from some reflection that I had about the true good fortune to have almost 28 years with CH2M and the joy of continuing to observe the benefits of being a member of one of the many families within the CH2M family. My own company, Value Management Consulting, Inc. is now in its 26th year. Even though I only work part-time now, my ability to be an independent consultant came from the years of training and experience gained while I was employed at CH2M.

With CH2M, I was employee #316, and was with the firm from 1967 to 1995. My son is Jeff Morrison, employee #10107, who is now working for Jacobs.

I started as a quality control technician on the Boeing 747 plant construction project, then served as a technician in the Seattle office, and as a cost estimator trainee in Seattle and later in Corvallis was a discipline group director when we had matrix management. I was the discipline group director for cost estimating from 1976 until 1989 and added the responsibilities of discipline group director for scheduling and project controls from 1982 until 1989. I started my own consulting business in 1995 and I continues to work part-time.

Jeff started as a summer intern in the Seattle office, as an undergraduate beginning in 1988 working for Bill Winter. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1991 with a degree in civil engineering and then received a master's in environmental engineering from Stanford in 1992. He worked in several locations in California, including Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose; then in Washington, DC. Jeff is now a project manager and hazardous waste and remediation specialist for Jacobs assigned to the Boston office.

### ALUMNI HISTORY CORNER

By Dave Evans ([shootmyage72@gmail.com](mailto:shootmyage72@gmail.com))

Do you want to become a CH2M time traveler? If interested or simply curious, go to the [www.CH2MHILLalumni.org](http://www.CH2MHILLalumni.org) homepage and click on the **ALUMNI HISTORY** tab. With the dropdown menu you can find your way to many destinations. Noodle around and enjoy the journey. You may even find your place in our history.

Already a seasoned browser? Go to the [www.CH2MHILLalumni.org](http://www.CH2MHILLalumni.org) homepage and click on **Recent Updates/ Latest News** and/or **Latest Biographies** for new destinations.

**For this newsletter issue – ICYMI (in case you missed it), we suggest two special links:**

Go to the [www.CH2MHILLalumni.org](http://www.CH2MHILLalumni.org) homepage and click on **Recent Updates / Latest News**. Select “CH2M HILL Family and Friends Remember Ralph Peterson 1944 to 2009.” If you are a CH2M HILL Alumni Association member, there is a terrific video at the end of the article.

Have you wondered how the transition from CH2M to Jacobs came about? Go to the [www.CH2MHILLalumni.org](http://www.CH2MHILLalumni.org) homepage and click on the **ALUMNI HISTORY** tab. Drop down to “History by Year” and then to “The Epilogue.”

NOTE: Got a CH2M HILL memory box in the garage and its time has passed? Contact Gordon Koblitz at [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com) and he will help you free up some space and maybe find a gem or two for our history site.

### ENJOY CHATTING WITH FELLOW CH2M HILL ALUMNI?



The CH2M HILL Alumni Association is seeking an Assistant Treasurer. Don Marske has done a great job as the CHAA Treasurer and is now looking for help with maintaining the Master Alumni Roster, the CHAA Membership roll, and the CHAA financial accounts. Applicants must be an Association member, a good communicator, proficient in Excel, and willing to work with Don on a volunteer basis. 😊 This is an excellent way to learn more about the CHAA organization, engage with CHAA members and prepare for future Board and Officer positions. If interested, please contact Rick Luebbers at [rluebber@hotmail.com](mailto:rluebber@hotmail.com) for more information.



## A SHOUT OUT TO ALL ALUMNI!

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

We are all a part of the CH2M HILL family, correct? And, as family we want to support and collaborate with our talented work colleagues within the organization(s) that we were/are associated with, correct? And, this family extends well beyond the core CH2M HILL organization to include our dynamic entities of IDC, OMI, CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company (CHPRC-Hanford), oversea offices, etc., including the numerous acquisitions over the years! Where is this headed?

The CH2M HILL Alumni Association Board of Directors is interested in engaging with the many small groups of CH2M HILL alumni who meet to continue longstanding friendships. We are calling on all CHAA members to let us know about any local group or gathering you know of or are associated with.

Yes! This information will be recognized in future newsletters and posted on the CHAA website so that other alums within your area are aware that such a group exists and can participate. These spontaneous groups help renew friendships, reflect on “old stories” and achievements, plus share information about hobbies, travel adventures, and so much more. It’s a great opportunity to rekindle CH2M family ties and gain wonderful insight in so many areas, plus providing support for CHAA. Just send a short email to [CH2M HILLaa@gmail.com](mailto:CH2M HILLaa@gmail.com) and let us know your group name, meeting location, contact person and the time and frequency of the gatherings. Nothing fancy, just some quick, concise input that we can organize and post. And, please send along a photo, if you can, plus any other input that you would like to share. A huge thank you for your contribution to our family.

*(Important note: We can fully understand that your group may not be meeting currently due to the COVID pandemic. But let us know that it exists and again when the group begins to meet again. Thanks again!)*

## Travelogues

We've heard from many folks about their travels in the past, and thought we'd add this section to make it easy for you to highlight your special trips and photos. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic changed most everyone's travel for 2020. Most folks we heard from have postponed their trips into 2021 and beyond. Please keep this spot in mind and send your future highlights to Angie Kruse ([scarlet.study415@gmail.com](mailto:scarlet.study415@gmail.com)) or to Gordon ([gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com)).

### SEEING SOUTH AFRICA

By Jerry Boyle ([jerry.mary.boyle@me.com](mailto:jerry.mary.boyle@me.com))



*Mary's twin sister, Carol, seated in front next to Jerry, traveled with the couple. Mary is the one with her hands up in the safari vehicle.*

*Mary and Jerry Boyle on their Africa trip.*

In early May of 2021, fully vaccinated, we embarked on our fifth trip to Africa. Africa is one of those places in the world where once it captures you, it doesn't let you go.

We departed LAX on Qatar Airways to Cape Town via Doha, Qatar. Qatar was recently rated the number one airline in the world, so we were quite comfortable in business class for such a long journey. The COVID protocols were extensive, so we felt quite safe. LAX to Doha was a 16-hour flight, followed by an 8-hour layover in Doha, then on to Cape Town, another 8-hour flight. Whew!

We spent 3 days exploring Cape Town and its environs, then headed to the wine country an hour or so north of Cape Town to a very special luxury winery/resort, Lanzerac. There we spent 3 days touring and tasting the wonderful wines and foods of the Stellenbosch and Franschhoek valleys.

Our next stop was Ngala private game preserve near Kruger National Park. This wonderful location featured world-class accommodations, marvelous food, and captivating game experiences. The trackers and guides were amazing in their ability to put us up close and personal with the animals. The photography opportunities were endless.

After 3 days at Ngala, we experienced another private game preserve, Kirkman's Camp in the Sabi Sands area northwest of Kruger Park. Our 3 days at Kirkman's were extraordinary. Luxury accommodations, fine food, and endless animal encounters featured South Africa at its best.

One cannot experience Africa without coming away with a sense of awe and appreciation for the natural environment. Artistic inspiration flowed from every encounter. Click [here](#) to see more Kirkman's Camp safari photos, and [here](#) to see more Ngala safari photos.

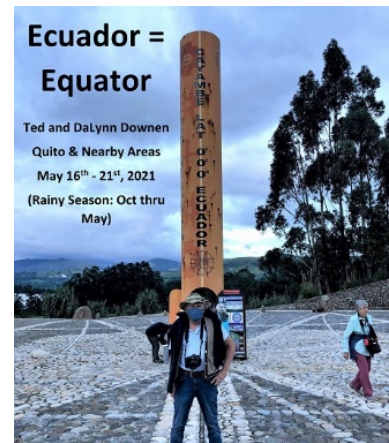
### TED'S TALES AND TRAVELS

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

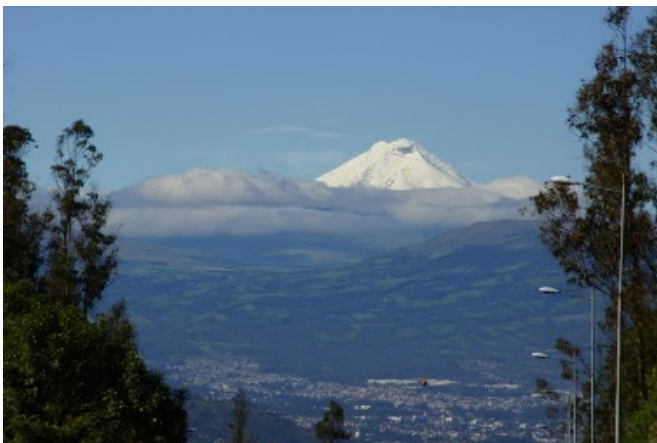
In May of 2021, my wife and I, along with her sister and friend, embarked upon a remarkable excursion in more ways than one. Way back In the fall of 2020, we signed up for a tour to visit the mainland of Ecuador, including areas around Quito, then fly out to the Galapagos Islands where we would board a small vessel to visit some of the islands. We were going to add a couple of days both before and after to do some exploring on our own.

At that time, we thought that by May 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic would be under control and well behind us. Sure...right! As we got closer to May, we thought that the tour would be canceled and we would seek another opportunity in the future. Well, as it turned out, the tour did take place.

Here are some photos from our trip. To read more, and to see a few more photos, click [here](#).



*Standing in both hemispheres at the same time.*



*A view of the volcanos and countryside on our way to Otavalo.*



*Panoramic view of Quito from the Panecilla overlook.*

## MISSING IN ACTION

The CHAA again seeks your help in connecting with some folks without current email addresses or contact information. Many times it just may be a change in their email address. We were successful with our last MIA search and found several folks who are now reconnected with us again. Thank you to the folks who helped us find them!! We hope this round will do the same.

With the recent Jacobs Voluntary Retirement Program (VRP), many legacy employees have retired, but we don't have their personal email or contact information. Hopefully you can help with these recent retirees. For the current July issue they are:

Dale Gabel  
Alan Highstreet  
Colin Skipper  
Jay Witherspoon

**One last chance for the 2021 January issue retirees:**

Gwen Buchholtz  
Harry Dinikianian  
Mary Gross  
Scott Haskins  
Fred Long  
Rhen Morris  
Terry Wheeler

It's equally critical to help us find any CH2M HILL folks you know who leave Jacobs without being added to the Alumni mailing list. Our ongoing Alumni outreach program will help too, but it's always going to be a work in progress.

Other "old-timers" with missing email addresses include:

Gary Almstrom  
Steve Armbrust  
Patricia Bourdage  
Jerry Eggleston

Lyn Larson  
Rudd Little  
Steve Marske  
John Mogge

GlenPalen  
Margo Peifer  
Kathleen Reyes  
Robert Schmidt

Maxine Stangler

An added thought: If you have a LinkedIn account, perhaps you could help us find some our missing colleagues by reaching out via LinkedIn and obtain their email address so we can follow-up. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated! Please respond to [donmarske@gmail.com](mailto:donmarske@gmail.com) if you have any information. Thank you!!

## Tidbits

### CHAA SCAM ALERT

By Gordon Koblitz

This was a surprise to me! The email below was received by several CHAA members, who immediately contacted me knowing something fishy was going on. It appears the individual who sent this was hoping some CHAA recipients would hit reply and engage with an email discussion or pitch.

Most of you already know how to recognize a scam, but I've highlighted in yellow some of the typical tip-offs. Most importantly, check the email address! Obviously mine was not correct. Check grammar and spelling. And be careful not to click on links (this email had none). This appears to be a one-shot deal, but remember, no CHAA officer or director will ever ask a member for any kind of financial assistance. Crazy times...stay safe!

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From: **Gordon Koblitz <office@supernetltd.com.tr>**

Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2021 9:48 AM

To: **Sent to several CHAA members**

Subject: CH2M HILL Alumni Association

Are you available to assist? I am out of the state, and I've got **credence** in you to take care of this. I would have called your phone, but presently I do not have access to my mobile phone.

CH2M HILL Alumni Association **need** some gift cards for donations to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for personal protective equipment from Corona virus (COVID-19). I have decided to make it a personal duty. I will be responsible for the reimbursement.

Regards,  
Gordon Koblitz  
President

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### Ted Downen writes:

The Suez Canal: that waterway and the container ship have been in the news recently. Here's a photo of my father-in-law at the Suez Canal with his three daughters (my wife, DaLynn, is on the far right), and their boxer dog, on the edge of the canal, back in 1955. I think the ships have gotten a bit bigger since then! The family lived in Egypt from 1955 to 1956, but were evacuated during the Suez Crisis in 1956. Ed was an oil geologist and they lived 1 year in Cairo (Maadi) and then in Alexandria. It's such a coincidence that we also lived in Egypt as well...30 years later. Plus, we found both houses where the family lived when DaLynn was a little girl!



*Google Maps location of the tunnel under the Suez Canal.*

Quick aside: We have driven under the canal twice (through a tunnel) on a couple of our excursions into the Sinai while we lived there. We're so fortunate and thankful for our experiences. The lower arrow on the map shows where the tunnel is located and the upper arrow is where the huge bridge is.



*Suez Canal, 1955.*

**Al Aikens writes:**

Last Thursday evening I got a call from my buddy, Kyle, that on Friday morning (April 23, 2021) there was a predawn launch of the crewed Falcon 9/Dragon spaceship and was I interested in joining him. Heck yeah! So he and his wife Amber picked me up a little after 4:00 Friday morning, and off we went to Cocoa Beach for the 5:49 launch. The rocket lit up on schedule and you can see the results [here](#). There are only a handful of places that one can see rocket launches, and this is one of them. The predawn launches are spectacular. Enjoy!



**Lucas Skoufa writes:**

[loukas1999@gmail.com](mailto:loukas1999@gmail.com)



I joined CH2M in May 2013 and really enjoyed my time there! After that I had roles involving the overhaul of a 750MW steam turbine, re-joined the Royal Australian Navy, and in 2019 started working for Rio Tinto as a specialist turbine engineer; I'm still a Reserve Officer with the Navy! And I'm also a member of the US Naval Institute; it is an honor to be a member!

Here's a photo of me with the onsite gas turbine that was under a major outage.



## THE BILL SHRADER CARTOONS

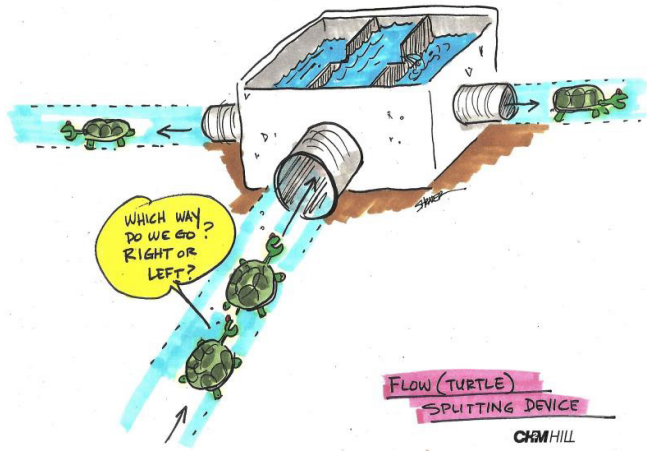
Publisher's note: Thanks goes to Dennis Sandretto for this story, and Don Marske for an updated PDF reflecting Bill's original work for Dennis, including his sketches and final artwork.

**Dennis writes:** Hey Don! I enjoyed the last issue of newsletter. I particularly enjoyed Bill Schrader's cartoons. He might not have saved copies of what he did for me, I have the originals. When I was responding to a call for papers for the WPCF conference in 1991 in Toronto, Canada, I decided to submit one on the Fort Deposit wetlands project that I managed. The uniqueness of the project lent itself to a humorous twist, one regarding nature versus engineering.

It happened in part due to the town manager taking out a beaver dam in the creek, while we were in the process of building wetland ponds. It also led from aspects in nature that worked against our construction. So I created drafts of cartoons to accompany my paper, and had Bill, known for his cartooning ability, create the cartoons. Click [here](#) for the PDF. The paper was well received. To enjoy the entire package of Bill's remarkable work, click this [link](#).

### Gordon Koblitz writes:

On our annual trek from Texas to Oregon for our summer/fall stay, we had the good fortune to visit Sheldon and Jeanne Barker in their new home on the Boise River. What a beautiful home and setting! We enjoyed a wonderful outdoor dinner, conversations about how we all coped with 2020 and how 2021 life is looking great. Sheldon did an amazing job "high-teching" their home. After a fun morning walking our dogs along the river walk, we bid adieu, packed up our RV and made the last leg of our trek to Sisters, Oregon, by late afternoon.



*Sheldon, Gordon, and Jeanne.*



*Sheldon, Jeanne, and Mary.*

**Ted Downen writes:**

In March of this year, I had the pleasure of rendezvousing with Les Wierson where he shared some additional information about the Alexandria, Egypt, wastewater project. He left me with some photos, documents, and other items to peruse through and make copies of. Unfortunately, when he picked up the documents at the first of April, we didn't have all that much time for an in-depth discussion. So, the thought was for my wife and I to travel out to Cannon Beach on the Oregon Coast and have an extensive visit with him and his wife, Myrna. I had intended to meet with them prior to this Newsletter edition, but it just hasn't worked out. However, the game plan is to do so within the next month or two and get that historical perspective recorded in more depth. So, stay tuned! And click [here](#) to read more.



CH2M HILL Staff

*One of the photos Les Wierson shared with Ted about the Alexandria, Egypt project.*

**CONNECTIONS**

CH2M alum Adam Hutchinson, who is now a recharge planning manager for Orange County Water District (OCWD) in Fountain Valley, California, recently needed some info about CH2M and wound up on our CH2M Alumni Association website. The information he needed (a 1975 Corporate Culture PDF) had a broken link. That started an email train with Gordon. Don Marske got in the loop (who got webmaster Dan involved) and they got the link fixed.

Turns out Adam was recruited to work at CH2M from the University of Arizona in 1993 by Peter Mock. He worked in the Santa Ana office, mainly under the leadership of Terry Foreman, until 2000 when he went to work with the OCWD. Adam said CH2M was a wonderful firm and still relatively small in 1993. Adam emailed Don and shared that Dave Mark and Greg Woodside (two more CH2M alums) work for OCWD too. What initially prompted Adam to seek the CHAA website was Jim Howland's 1975 paper on our CH2M culture to share with some of the OCWD staff. Following this exchange, Don has added them to the CHAA alumni roster and invited them to an upcoming SCO Geezers luncheon. This is a great example of the small world connections and how the positive CH2M legacy lives on. Adds Adam, "I am blessed to still be working with two CH2M alums, Dave Mark and Greg Woodside at Orange County Water District. Some great memories!"

## MEET YOUR CHAA NEWSLETTER TEAM MEMBERS

*Publisher's note: I so appreciate our dedicated and talented duo, Sarah and Angie, who make our newsletter production so efficient and successful. They're always kind, patient and a joy to work with on our newsletter and other CHAA needs that come up occasionally. Enjoy meeting them now!*

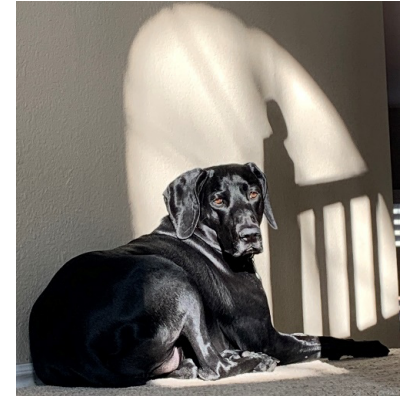
Our wonderful newsletter layout designer, Sarah Harter joined CH2M in 2008 as a desktop publisher in the business development area of the firm. Since then, she has been on the teams of hundreds of pursuits in every line of business. Sarah was handed the formatting torch for this newsletter several years back and has enjoyed being part of CH2M at its finest. Not one for flashy visuals, Sarah strives to make documents readable with clean, consistent formatting: if she's doing her job right, you won't notice her work. 😊

Her interests vary greatly when not in front of her computer: she takes classical guitar lessons, makes pottery, and tap dances. She enjoys spending time with friends and family. In fact, her travels most often take her to visit out-of-state family whom she does not get to see often enough.

Sarah lives in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, with her husband (Steve, a professional photographer), her daughter (Avery, a wrestler and recent high school grad), and her son (Everett, a YouTube-loving almost-7<sup>th</sup> grader).



*Sarah and her family beneath General Sherman at Sequoia National Park.*



*Ruby, their sweet, sun-seeking German Shorthair Pointer.*

Our newsletter editor, Angie Kruse, has been with CH2M since 1998, joining the firm as a proposal coordinator before moving into a technical editor/writer role. She works in the Western Region Sales Operation Center, helping to craft and polish winning proposals for water and transportation clients. She graciously took on the responsibility as editor of the CH2M HILL newsletter in January 2017 and greatly enjoys working with CH2M alumni to share their wonderful stories!

A South Dakota native, Angie worked in the Denver office for a few years before moving back to Rapid City, where she's worked from home for the past 15 years. She enjoys road trips and hopes to get some trips on the calendar now that the pandemic is easing.

In her free time, she also enjoys reading, walking, yoga, and playing the piano. She's also taken cello lessons for the past few years, and has developed a passion for the instrument, especially in learning to play the very challenging, and also very soul-satisfying Bach Cello Suites!



*Angie, center, with family members at Badlands National Park.*

## Feedback/Kudos

We love hearing from you! Thanks to all who have sent in their comments. If you have comments, ideas, suggestions, please send them to [gkoblitz1@outlook.com](mailto:gkoblitz1@outlook.com). Here are a few recent comments:

**Bob Card writes:**

Gordon and Don. I wanted to thank you and the alumni team again for the great newsletters and keeping the spirit alive. It is a delightful trip down memory lane to read about all the terrific folks at CH2M. It is also sad to read of those passed but at the same time heartening with the amazing things they accomplished and the positive impact on so many. Again, thanks and best wishes to all.

**Roger Haines writes:**

Thanks to YOU for your continued great work on the CHAA, which benefits all of us!

**Jackie Zipkin writes:**

Thanks, Gordon. This newsletter is an amazing piece of work. So much incredible info! Thanks for compiling all this on behalf of all of us. It's fun to read and clearly a labor of love. I just updated my membership.

**Yehuda Morag writes:**

Hi Don, appreciate everything you guys doing.

**Wayne Holt writes:**

Gordon, Don, the CH2M Alumni Association, a true gem, the gift that keeps on giving...thanks again for your efforts with the Alumni group.

**Robert Trebble writes:**

Good morning Gordon. You and your group are doing a great job providing us with the latest information about CH2M /Jacobs Engineering life-saving projects. Keep up the GREAT WORK!

**Howard Thomas writes:**

Very nice, very professional newsletter, Gordon! It is a lot of work to put these together. But it keeps the legacy going! 😊

**George Howroyd writes:**

Gordon, Rick and Don - I really appreciate the newsletter! You guys have obviously spent a lot of time and effort putting this together and it is very much appreciated. The number of alumni that has been captured as part of the overall effort that the two of you have undertaken and the list of contacts is a great resource for all of us.

**Lawrence F. Pinson writes:**

Hi Gordon, thanks for sending the recent edition of the CH2M Alumni Association Newsletter. It is excellent in every respect, and very satisfying to catch up on bits of news about former colleagues. Looking forward to you next communique.

**Julie Ewings writes:**

Don, Gordon, really appreciate the wonderful newsletters!

**Murry Fleming writes:**

Don, Gordon, Thanks for your efforts, and sorry you had to remind me more than once – retirement is so busy!

**Nofal Kasrawi writes:**

Don, thanks for all the work you and Gordon are doing!

**Bill Fleming writes:**

Don, Gordon, hope this finds you healthy and safe in all this chaos. Thanks for all you do to keep this group together; we all have such great memories and experiences from our time at CH2M.

**Dale Cannon writes:**

Don, Gordon, thanks for your efforts with CHAA. I know it takes a lot of time and I appreciate it.

**Omur Akay writes:**

You guys are doing a wonderful job by keeping CH2M old timers together. Great effort and Thank You!

## Jacobs Pension Service Center News

Jacobs' Consolidated Pension Plan Service Center number (by Willis Towers Watson) is 888-482-6632 [www.eepoint.com/jacobs](http://www.eepoint.com/jacobs) for assistance.

Jacobs' main number in Denver is 720-286-2000 for general information or directions for other needs.

For any other inquiries, please contact Jacobs HR and Global People services at the following e-mail: [jacobshrus.can@jacobs.com](mailto:jacobshrus.can@jacobs.com).

## Jacobs News

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

<https://www.jacobs.com> for general information

<https://www.jacobs.com/about/annual-report/2020> for the 2020 Annual Report

<https://www.jacobs.com/newsroom/news/jacobs-ranked-1-enrs-top-500-design-firms-list-fourth-consecutive-year-0> to see the #1 ENR Top 500 Design Firms

### JACOBS AND NASA BEGIN PROCESSING OF SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM CORE STAGE, RECEIVED FINAL PIECE OF ARTEMIS I FLIGHT HARDWARE



Jacobs and NASA have begun processing the Space Launch System (SLS) core stage after receiving it at Kennedy Space Center (KSC) on April 28, marking delivery of the final piece of Artemis I flight hardware to the team in Florida, a critical step in preparation for launch. The SLS rocket will send an un-crewed Orion spacecraft on a test flight around the moon and back to Earth later this year, paving the way for future Artemis missions with astronauts.

As the Artemis prime contractor at KSC for NASA's Exploration Ground Systems, Jacobs is responsible for receiving all SLS and Orion flight hardware, assembling and integrating all components, then conducting final tests and checkout, before rolling it to the pad for launch. The Jacobs team is currently preparing Orion for launch, and has finished processing and stacking the Solid Rocket Booster (SRB) segments.

"With the delivery of the core stage, the Artemis I launch is within sight, and the excitement level is high," said Jacobs Critical Mission Solutions Senior Vice President Steve Arnette. "From the technicians doing the hands-on work, to the engineers ensuring the operations are conducted safely and successfully, to the team in the Launch Control Center firing rooms who are monitoring and coordinating all launch prep activities, the entire Jacobs team is committed to the success of this important milestone in NASA's goal to return humans to the lunar surface – and beyond."

The 212-foot long core stage will be mated to the twin solid rocket boosters (SRBs) on the mobile launcher. Together, the SRBs and the core stage will form the most powerful rocket NASA has ever built, providing 8.8 million pounds of maximum thrust, 15 percent more thrust than the Saturn V rocket.

Following the core stage/SRB mate, the team will complete stacking of the remaining Artemis I flight hardware, including the Orion spacecraft, on the mobile launcher inside the VAB, then test and checkout all systems ahead of rollout to Launch Pad 39B.

As NASA's largest services contractor, Jacobs is a provider and integrator of full life cycle aerospace capability including design and construction; base, mission and launch operations; sustaining capital maintenance; and secure and intelligent asset management, development, modification, and testing processes for fixed assets supporting national government, military, defense and NASA, as well as commercial space companies.

### ST. PAUL SELECTS JACOBS AS DESIGN-BUILD FIRM IN WATER TREATMENT RELIABILITY MILESTONE

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) has reached a major milestone in maintaining and enhancing its water system for future generations. SPRWS has selected Jacobs to design and build improvements at the city's McCarrons Water Treatment Plant.

Its oldest portions dating back to the mid-1910s, the plant continues to perform well, producing 40 million gallons of high-quality drinking water per day for 450,000 people in Saint Paul and the surrounding communities.

Like many Midwest water utilities, SPRWS is addressing aging infrastructure to maintain reliable service to customers, enhance water quality, improve operation and maintenance, and provide sustainable and efficient facilities. The planned upgrades are considered vital in maintaining a dependable, viable water utility for future generations.

"This project represents the largest capital undertaking in the history of SPRWS," said SPRWS General Manager Steve Schneider. "As we look to enhance the livability of our city, we take pride in providing communities with

high-quality, safe, affordable drinking water. Upgrading our water infrastructure reaffirms our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of public health.”

Delivered by Jacobs via a phased, progressive design-build approach, the proposed improvements include new facilities for lime softening, recarbonation and ozone. Replacing the existing lime softening and recarbonation facilities will increase reliability while improving water quality, solids handling, and process efficiency. The addition of ozone will further protect public health while also improving the drinking water aesthetics through enhanced removal of unwanted color, taste and odor.

The Jacobs design-build team includes PCL Construction and Magney Construction, each having combined design and construction experience at the McCarrons facility and throughout the United States.

“For more than a century, the McCarrons Water Treatment Plant has served the St. Paul area well, producing safe, high-quality drinking water. With more stringent regulations and the challenge of meeting the needs of a growing community, the Jacobs design-build partnership will make the improvements in infrastructure and technology that are necessary to continue SPRWS’ legacy of protecting public health today and well into the future,” said Jacobs People & Places Solutions Executive Vice President Ken Gilmartin.

Working alongside Brown and Caldwell and Jacobs is major subconsultant Stantec, who is providing technical support and management throughout the project. The multidisciplinary team comprises local minority-owned, women-owned, and small business enterprise firms supporting the city’s commitment to equity and inclusion, including, Sambatek, Buildings Consulting Group, and Pro-Ops, Inc.

Design, construction, startup, and commissioning of the improved McCarrons Water Treatment Plant is scheduled for completion by summer 2025.

### JACOBS TO DELIVER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR DELHI NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Jacobs has been selected by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), a subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, as program management consultant for the upcoming Delhi Noida International Airport (DNIA) project in India.

The first phase of the greenfield development includes the construction of a new terminal complex, runway, taxiways and aircraft parking, air traffic control tower, cargo facilities and ancillary buildings spanning over 3,300 acres on the outskirts of Greater Noida in Jewar. When complete, the airport will be the second in the Delhi

National Capital Region and will accommodate up to 12 million passengers per year.

YIAPL expects the first phase of the project to be operational in 2024. An expected second phase of development will include construction of additional terminal and airfield infrastructure, including a second runway to increase capacity to 30 million passengers per year.

“Delhi is already one of the largest metropolitan cities in the world and it’s growing quickly,” said Jacobs President and Chief Operating Officer Bob Pragada. “The new airport will deliver much needed aviation capacity for the city, helping to boost tourism, create jobs and support economic development in the region. The airport is also expected to improve connectivity to major regional cities in Uttar Pradesh, which is home to some of India’s most popular tourist attractions including the Taj Mahal, by providing a new international gateway to the regional cities of Lucknow and Agra. We’re excited to be bringing our global aviation and program management expertise, local knowledge, and experience delivering other aviation projects in India to this major greenfield development.”

The new airport will help alleviate passenger and traffic congestion at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, which is expected to exceed more than 100 million passengers before 2030.

“We are pleased to onboard Jacobs as the Program Management Consultant for the construction of the Delhi Noida International Airport,” said YIAPL Chief Executive Officer Christoph Schnellmann. We are confident that with their expertise, Jacobs will partner with us in realizing our vision of an efficient, sustainable and fully-digital airport at the heart of the country. India’s newest greenfield airport will deliver quick, efficient processes and excellent value for passengers, airlines and partners. DNIA will be the first net zero emissions airport in its class, setting a new standard for sustainable aviation.”

Jacobs’ program management services will include strategic planning, risk management, digital solutions, design and interface management, procurement and contract management, construction management, testing and commissioning.

### JACOBS MANGO ONE SATELLITE ON ORBIT, LAYING PATHWAY FOR NEXT GENERATION, AFFORDABLE SPACE SOLUTIONS

Jacobs began a new era of advanced, affordable space radar payloads with its Mango One satellite achieving a successful on-orbit performance. On January 24, 2021, Jacobs’ Mango One satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, aboard the SpaceX Falcon 9

Transporter One rideshare mission to a sun synchronous orbit.

Mango One has successfully completed payload checkout and begun performing radio frequency (RF) survey missions using the modular and scalable Jacobs next generation active electronically scanned arrays (AESA) and advanced RF payload control electronics. Additional demonstrations of radar and communications capabilities will continue.

Successful on-orbit performance is another major step in Jacobs' strategic vision as an aerospace and defense prime space payload hardware and software provider of affordable, commercial space based AESAs. Leveraging capabilities from the acquisition of KeyW, Jacobs brings over 25 years of airborne and terrestrial RF synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and moving target indication (MTI) payload hardware and processing.

"The Mango One on-orbit operations and demonstration of highly capable and affordable space solutions is another example of Jacobs delivering innovative technologies that enable our customer's mission," said Jacobs Critical Mission Solutions Senior Vice President Steve Arnette. "These solutions are a key component of the successful integration of Jacobs and KeyW, bringing even more unique and differentiated mission-focused capabilities in the rapidly evolving space sector."

By leveraging the multi-billion-dollar commercial investment in 5G technology and tailoring it to meet the critical mission needs of both government and commercial customers, Jacobs is reducing the cost of space radar by 50% compared to that of legacy space radar systems. To meet market demand, the use of state-of-the-art advanced commercial manufacturing processes allows Jacobs to rapidly scale capacity and insert leading-edge technology.

### DENVER WATER REACHES KEY MILESTONE ON NORTH SYSTEM RENEWAL PROJECT

Denver Water, the provider of drinking water for 1.5 million people in central Colorado, recently achieved a key milestone on its \$600 million North System Renewal Project. A critical component of the utility's ongoing efforts to revamp its infrastructure and improve system reliability and sustainability, the project entails the design and construction of the new 75 mgd Northwater Treatment Plant, the installation

of a new 8.5-mile-long pipeline, and the redevelopment of its nearly 85-year-old Moffat Treatment Plant.

Begun in 2018, construction on the Northwater Treatment Plant is now 40% complete with the pipeline construction slated to wrap up later this year.

Denver Water maintains two separate gravity-fed systems for collecting and conveying raw water, nearly all of which originates as mountain snowmelt. The South System provides 80% of the utility's water supplies and 90% of its storage. The much smaller North System collects runoff from the western slope of the Continental Divide and conveys it through the Moffat Tunnel to the eastern slope, where it eventually passes through the Gross Reservoir and on to the Ralston Reservoir, which is north of Golden, Colorado. From there, the water is sent through conduits to the Moffat Treatment Plant, in Lakewood, Colorado.

Despite its smaller contribution, the North System affords Denver Water a fair amount of flexibility, particularly in the event that a hazardous event disrupts operations within the South System, says Robert Mahoney, P.E., the chief engineering officer for the utility. "If we have a problem like a fire in the South System and we get a lot of debris in the reservoirs, we can pull water from the North System," Mahoney says. "It's good to work them in conjunction with each other."

As for the consulting engineering firms that participated on the project, AECOM designed the site and civil improvements and the architectural and building systems. **Jacobs was responsible for the design of the treatment processes and structures.** Carollo Engineers Inc. designed the electrical, instrumentation, and control systems. And Brown and Caldwell and Bates Engineering Inc. designed the post-tensioned tanks, while Burns & McDonnell was responsible for the design of the improvements to the Moffat Treatment Plant. Denver Water and AECOM designed the outlet works for the Ralston Dam.

To read more, click [here](#).

