



April 2007 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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President's Message

I highly recommend that if you have an opportunity to attend this year's AACE annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee, that you do so.

Prior to the convention, on Saturday and Sunday, and after the convention, on Thursday and Friday, there are seminars that are designed to provide you with professional development and to keep you abreast of the latest skills and knowledge. Also available will be certification review seminars and the exams. And on Thursday, arrangements have been made to visit the Dell Manufacturing Facility.

The convention will be held on Monday through Wednesday, and will provide you with lots of learning opportunities. There are over 9 different major topics being presented all day with multiple presentations on each topic. These major topics include Claims & Dispute Resolution, Planning & Scheduling, Cost Control, Estimating, Risk, Skills and Knowledge (Cost & Scheduling), Owner Perspective Issues Project Management and Vendor Software Presentations.

Visit the AACE website for a listing of these seminars and other events.

Sincerely, Bob Boyd, PSP

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Section Announcements

Volunteer!!

We are seeking volunteers to assist us in further establishing this Section. The level of commitment varies by position but there is always a constant level of support provided by the board and by the committee members. Recertification credits are provided for serving the Section.

Volunteering on your local Section board can exponentially increase your networking base through visibility, and will provide you with leadership skills and experience above and beyond that which you gain at your job.

Positions seeking you are:

- Website Editor
- Membership Chair
- Scholarship and Student Outreach Chair
- Awards and Elections Chair
- Events and Meetings Chair

Please contact any of the persons shown on the first page if interested. Take control of your career path, by taking your membership to the next level, Volunteer.

Certification!!

AACEI now offers 6 certifications. Two recent additions are C3PM and CFCC.

1. Interim Cost Consultant Certification (ICC)
2. Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) / Certified Cost Engineer (CCE)
3. Planning and Scheduling Professional Certification (PSP)
4. Earned Value Professional Certification (EVP)
5. Certified Portfolio, Program & Project Management (C3PM)
6. Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)

For descriptions and requirements regarding each of these certifications go to the AACEI web page (<http://www.aacei.org/certification/certExplained.shtml>).

Contact Chris Swanson (chris.swanson@fluor.com) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications mentioned above.

A training workshop is being offered at Augusta State University in August, Georgia on May25, 2007 for the PSP Certification Examination. Cost is \$295.00 and includes a text book, Cost Engineering Skills & Knowledge – 5th Edition Course. If interested, contact Asoka K. Pillai (Ashok), CCE, EVP, and President of AACEI CSRA Section at: asoka.pillai@srs.gov



AACE's Certified Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)

AACE International's newest certification program is designed to recognize the professional who wants to validate his/her skill in the claims and dispute resolution arena. While a number of professionals work in the claims and dispute field or serve as expert witnesses, until now there was no way to effectively measure their capabilities – except through real-life performance. AACE's newest certification program requires experience validation and an exam that lets industry and users identify those who are competent professionals.

April 2007 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on April 9, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Our guest was Jaime Crate from Evans Technology. Jaime's presentation was a condensed version of a presentation that is currently being given nationwide by Primavera on Transportation Project Management. Here is a recap:

Construction activity in the US represents 63 percent of our economy. And construction in port areas is experiencing a 34 percent growth rate. With this type of growth, it is very important that these projects be managed properly. Management of these projects is being accomplished by creating an OBS (organization breakdown schedule) and WBS (work breakdown schedule) that is agreed upon by all Project participants. This provides a common language and allows communication and management of costs to occur timely and effectively. And by breaking the program schedule into multiple sub-Projects, this allows for better management of the schedule. And with the latest version of Primavera, by being able to openly share project information, this allows all project participants to receive timely information and to communicate current and potential future issues. It is very important that "bad" news be communicated as early as possible. This allows the Project to be proactive, and should allow the project to mitigate costs and schedule impacts as much as possible for the benefit of all.

Another aspect of achieving a successful project is by placing tools in place to measure and document changes as they occur. It is also critical that the contract needs to be crystal clear in order to identify changes and for owners to make timely decisions/approvals. Resolving issues quickly or within the time span of the Project instead of as a claim after Project completion has been recognized to be a more desirable solution.

The Upcountry SC Section thanks Jaime Crate for giving a very enlightening presentation. As the Primavera rep for the Greenville area, he can be contacted at the following address:

Evans Technology
1335 Northmeadow Parkway, Suite 110
Roswell, Ga. 30076

Ph: 770.751.9950 / 800.553.0170
Cell: 404.275.0403
E-mail: jcrate@evanstech.com



May 2007 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2007

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel on Congaree Road

Construction Project Labor Cost Improvement

Guest Speaker: Hans Picard

P+A Innovators, Corp.

Hans Picard is an independent consultant specializing in maintenance and construction process improvement. He has experience in measuring, analyzing and identifying labor productivity improvements. He has worked world-wide in strategic planning, cost management and economic studies in the Heavy Construction Industry.

This topic will be presented at the 2007 AACE Convention as a 2-day workshop. The presentation will address methods to help drive down labor costs by improving labor productivity. The methodology uses low-level metrics to allow supervision to get work done in the most efficient way possible; by removing barriers, delays and constraints. Learn how a proven "best practice" can be used to save time and money by getting the most productive use of the available craft workforce.

This will be our last meeting until next September. We look forward to seeing you. Don't miss it!

Please RSVP no later than Friday, May 11th at 5 PM by e-mail or phone. The cost of the meeting is **20⁰⁰**. Other refreshments are available in the hotel.

Schedule:

6:00PM to 6:55PM Registration, Networking and Hors D'oeuvres
7:00PM to 8:00PM Presentation / Program

Reservations

For information, please contact:

Chris Swanson (864) 517-1571 (e-mail – chris.swanson@fluor.com)



AAACE Upcountry South Carolina Section
 Clemson, Greenville, Spartanburg & Surrounding Areas



2007 Meeting Schedule for AAACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Topic & Location
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	14 May 2007	Construction Productivity by Hans Picard @ Crowne Plaza, Greenville
AAACEI Annual Convention	Mon. to Wed.	16 to 18 July 2007	Nashville, Tn.
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	10 Sep 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	08 Oct 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	12 Nov 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	10 Dec 2007	Speaker TBD @ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Greenville