



# February 2008 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,  
AACE International

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TBD
- Awards and Elections Chair  
TBD

## President's Message

I would like to share with you an article I recently read from the Spring 2007 issue of **The Bent of Tau Beta Pi**. The subject of this article is "Breaking the Ice & Warming the Connection: Mingling to Succeed".

"Why would you step out of your comfort zone to talk to someone you don't know or just barely know? You would do so because the benefits of mingling, or networking, are many. Potential mingling outcomes include all of these benefits: a) Eventual job offer; b) Job promotion and/or more positive performance evaluation; c) Securing a more desirable project; d) Transferring to a more desirable location; e) Friendship and/or professional ally; f) Mentorship and g) Information sharing.

....not every mingling attempt will lead to a pot of gold. Although you may not know beforehand which attempts hold promise, you can maximize the benefits by practicing and mastering the art of mingling and eliminating any failure factors within your control. Factors you control typically relate to your preparation and your presence. Factors beyond your control relate to how you are received by the other party."

Networking takes time, and when done correctly, will lead to benefits such as: a) You know who you want on your team, b) You know who to seek for advice, c) You know which company will provide you with what you want, d) You will find out which companies are doing work similar to yours, e) and finally you may be recognized as an expert or leader in your field of expertise.

If you want to read the entire article, I can scan it and forward it to you upon request.

Sincerely, Bob Boyd, PSP

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## Section Announcements

### **Certification!!**

AAACEI now offers 6 certifications. A 7<sup>th</sup> certification (CEP – Certified Estimating Professional) is currently undergoing Beta Testing

1. Certified Cost Technician (CCT) formerly 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 AAACEI web page (<http://www.aaacei.org/certification/certExplained.shtml>).

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

### **Certification Workshops:**

None scheduled locally.

### **AAACEI Election of Officers and Directors**

Beginning February 1, 2008, official election ballots for 2008/2009 AAACEI Officers and Region Directors will be available on-line at [www.aaacei.org](http://www.aaacei.org). Electronic voting will end as of midnight on March 15, 2008. It is important that every member of AAACEI vote.

### **Continuing Education!!**

Visit the AAACE Online Bookstore (<http://www.aaacei.org/technical/ppg.shtml>) where you can order Professional Practice Guides, Recommended Practices and other AAACEI merchandise.



## **Nominations for AAACEI's South Carolina Section Officers and Directors for 2008/2009 are now Open:**

It is now that time of year where we must seek candidates for next year's Officers and Directors. Positions available are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director (2 year term)
- Director (2 year term)

The terms for these positions are from June 1 to May 31.

We need to receive all nominations by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Voting will occur during the month of April. Your new officers and directors will be presented at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

If you have an interest in holding any one of these positions or questions about duties and responsibilities, please let Chris Swanson or myself know.

### **AAACEI Dues:**

AAACEI dues are now due. When paying your member dues, please remember to join the South Carolina UpCountry Section.

Also remember that if you recruit 3 new members, your membership is free next year.



## **January 2008 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap**

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on January 14, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Our guest was Donald McDonald who is a Director for Fluor's Corporate Claims Management Group and also currently serves on AACEI's Education Board.

Donald's presentation focused on how Cost & Schedule Professionals play a significant role in Dispute Resolution. First, we are typically the first to identify deviations from our planned baselines. We then become responsible for documenting and tracking these deviations, usually through the Change Management – Deviation Process. And finally, when the Project enters into the Dispute Resolution period, Project Controls plays a key role in providing data to 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Consultants/Experts.

There are many ways to track and capture the costs associated with these deviations. For discrete or easily identifiable and traceable costs, we can assign special WBS codes. For non-discrete costs, it becomes more difficult. Examples of non-discrete costs are productivity changes from plan caused by an event or the effect change(s) may have on "unchanged" work. These non-discrete costs are typically developed by consultants/experts after a Project is finished and when agreement on the impact of this Change can not be agreed to between the Owner and Contractor. In order for these non-discrete costs to be calculated with veracity, it is up to Project Controls to have captured all data associated with the change(s) and to have maintained both cost and schedule contemporaneous records. By maintaining detailed records which clearly shows the cost and schedule aspects of the Project over time, this will make the generation of Expert Reports easier and will assist in creating entitlement for your Project's case.

And by playing a significant role during the execution of the Project, you will also likely become a key fact witness. So by capturing and maintaining key documentation, this will make your witness statements and depositions more credible. All documentation that you generate must be kept segregated and preserved. And when an attorney is brought in to assist the Project, it is very important that you understand the rules required to maintain the "Privileged and Confidential" nature of certain documents or communications. This topic can be saved for another day.

The Upcountry SC Section would like to thank Donald McDonald for giving a very enlightening presentation.



## February 2008 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2008

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel on Congaree Road

# Project Challenges in a Remote 3<sup>rd</sup> World Country (Algeria)

**Guest Speaker: Michael Twitchell**

**Fluor Corporation**

Mr. Mike Twitchell has a BS in Chemical Engineering and is a registered PE. He is also a certified PMI Project Management Professional. He has over 36 years of project management, engineering management and process engineering experience in the Oil, Gas, Chemicals and Power Industries. He has worked out of 4 Fluor offices in North America and has traveled to many countries on assignment during his 27 year tenure with Fluor.

One of his international assignments was in Algeria. Because of the unique experiences he had, Mike would like to share with us both his personal and working experiences. If you have never worked overseas, this will be an excellent opportunity to hear what it is like and to ask questions, especially if you are contemplating an international assignment.

We look forward to seeing you! Our meeting will be in the Main Boardroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM by e-mail or phone. The cost of the meeting is **20<sup>00</sup>**. Other refreshments are available in the hotel.

### **Schedule:**

6:00PM to 6:30PM Registration, Networking and Hors D'oeuvres

6:30PM to 7:15PM Presentation / Program

### **Reservations**

For information, please contact:

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



**2007/8 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section**

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	11 Feb 2008	Mike Twitchell, Fluor, Project Challenges in a Remote 3 <sup>rd</sup> World Country (Algeria)
UCSC Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	20 Mar 2008	Dr. Kenneth Humphreys, Ethics
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	14 Apr 2008	Deposition Training Film
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	12 May 2008	Bob Boyd, Fluor, Certification Paper Presentation – Productivity, An Elusive Measurement
AACEI Annual Convention	Sun. to Wed.	29 June to 02 July 2008	Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**2007/8 Meeting Schedule for AACE Catawba (Charlotte) Section**

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	13 Nov 2007	Joe Rubin - Project - Red Bridge Golf & CC
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	11 Dec 2007	Ken Humphreys - Risk & Contingency
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	08 Jan 2008	John Heitkamp - Cost Data on Line, Inc. – Richardson
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	12 Feb 2008	Ken Humphreys – Ethics
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	11 Mar 2008	Mark Hoecker – Duke - Cliffside Power Project
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	08 Apr 2008	Doug Creech – Paper Presentation
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	09 May 2008	Social Dinner @ Sullivans

Please contact Shirley Harris at [Shirley.Harris@ch2m.com](mailto:Shirley.Harris@ch2m.com) if you are interested in attending a Catawba Section Meeting. These meetings are typically held at: 11301 Carmel Commons Blvd. Suite 304 in Charlotte



**2007/8 Meeting Schedule for AACE Atlanta Section**

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	20 Nov 2007	William Kraus – Future Directions of AACE
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	18 Dec 2007	Christmas Party @ US Cost
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	15 Jan 2008	Kurt Nolte – Web Based Estimating
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	19 Feb 2008	TBA
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	18 Mar 2008	Mike Ray & Patrick Ray – Topic TBA
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	15 Apr 2008	Tom Doig, CCC – Risk Management
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	20 May 2008	TBA

Please contact Mark Cundiff at [markcundiff@hotmail.com](mailto:markcundiff@hotmail.com) if you are interested in attending an Atlanta Section Meeting. These meetings are typically held at: Cross Creek Café, 1221 Cross Creek Parkway in Atlanta