



March 2008 News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

President
Bob Boyd, PSP
(robert.boyd@fluor.com)

Past President

Vice President
Chris Swanson, CCC
(chris.swanson@fluor.com)

Secretary
TBD

Treasurer
Sanjay Mahajan

Certification Chair
Chris Swanson, CCC

Website Editor
TBD

Membership Chair
TBD

Directors
Donald McDonald, CCE, PSP
Ken Willis
Steve Riggins
Steve Schnee
Becky Spencer

Newsletter Editor
Bob Boyd, PSP

Scholarship & Student Outreach
Chair
Bob Boyd, PSP

Awards and Elections Chair
TBD

Inside This Issue

President's Message - 1

Section Announcements - 2

February Dinner Meeting Recap - 4

March Dinner Meeting - 5

2007/8 Meeting Schedules - 6

President's Message

It is interesting to note that the keynote address at this year's annual AACEI convention will focus on the aging of our society and how it is changing our world. Is this something we, as Project Controls/Estimating professionals, should be concerned with?

Change is a constant within our organizations and industry. Change is always occurring and never stops. In order to be more competitive, to get things done faster and cheaper, we continue to improve upon our "fast-track" project management practices. In order to manage complicated projects, we have moved away from manual methods to computerized methods. In order to adapt to this constant change, we have had to learn new programs or new methods of controlling/managing projects. And as we have aged, have we prepared our organizations or profession for the next generation of Project Controls/Estimating professionals?

So the answer to my first question is yes! By being members of AACEI, by attending monthly meetings and/or by being certified, we are able to adapt to changing conditions and stay at the forefront of our profession. AACEI is also a resource. AACEI's monthly magazine and AACEI's members provides a wealth of knowledge to all of us. We need to tap this resource if we and our profession are to have consistency, standardization and a means of transferring knowledge to the next generation of Project Controls/Estimating professionals.

Sincerely, Bob Boyd, PSP



Section Announcements

Certification!!

AACEI now offers 6 certifications. A 7th certification (CEP – Certified Estimating Professional) is currently undergoing Beta Testing. Five people from this Section and the Catawba Section will be taking this Beta exam in Charlotte on March 8th.

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 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.

Certification Workshops:

None scheduled locally.

AACEI Election of Officers and Directors

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

Continuing Education!!

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



Nominations for AACEI'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 30th. Voting will occur during the month of April. Your new officers and directors will be presented at the May 12th meeting.

Current nominations are:

- President – Walt Manning
- Vice President – Chris Swanson
- Secretary – Brian Rock
- Treasurer – Sanjay Mahajan
- Directors (2 required) – Steve Schnee

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

AACEI Annual Meeting:

AACE International's 52nd Annual Meeting & ICEC's 6th World Congress on Cost Engineering, Project Management and Quantity Surveying plus TCM – Cost Engineering for the Global Community will be held in Ontario, Canada from Sunday, June 29, 2008 through Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to network with your peers, earn CEUs/PDHs and attend seminars on the latest papers regarding cost, schedule and management.

The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. David Foot, a Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto. Dr. Foot is co-author of "Boom, Bust and Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift & Boom". This book reflects his research on the relationships between economics and demographics and on the resulting implications for both private and public policies. As an outspoken and controversial demographics expert, Professor Foot can bring to life demographic statistics and make the aging of society relevant to any group. He contends that demographics explain two-thirds of everything. Change can't be avoided, but it can be anticipated and managed. With an understanding of demographics, a business, an individual or a government has a strong foundation upon which to build an understanding of the past and a vision for the future.



February 2008 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on February 11, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Our guest was Mike Twitchell, a PMI professional with over 36 years of project management experience. He is currently the Project Director on Fluor's KU Brown FGD Project.

In the early 1980's, Mike volunteered to go to Algeria as a start-up engineer. His tales of what he saw and experienced is very unique due to the remoteness of the site and the politics/culture of the area. I believe the lesson learned from taking a single status assignment in a remote location is that a person must be open-minded and should experience this early in your career. A person can also usually adapt more readily to differing conditions when they are younger. You should also familiarize yourself with as much information about the area and culture before and during your assignment in a foreign country.

Some of the things Mike experienced or saw are:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Be on the look-out for poisonous snakes and scorpions.
- Sand storms and sand, sand, sand, sand..... Sand is everywhere and gets into everything.
- Being close to the Libyan border, had to be watchful for the Libyan Border Guard. There was no fence or barrier and the Libyan border guard sometimes strayed into Algeria and onto the Project site. Had to be ready to make a run for it.
- Learning how to work during Ramadan
- Learning how to work with Italian workers and Russian inspectors. Language barrier.
- Different methods of pressure testing pipe. If you don't have air or water, use natural gas. Just don't have someone smoking next to the pressured line.
- No camp catering services provided during Mike's stay. These services had demobilized just prior to Mike's arrival. He was told to bring in supplementary food. What did that mean. He soon found out after arriving on site. Meals provided usually were not made with fresh or clean food. Had to be careful of what foods to eat. Saw lots of spoiled fish, green chicken and bread with roaches.
- Dependent upon operation of water well. Sometimes the water tank was not filled and therefore no water available for showers or clean-up.
- Camp stresses consisted of loneliness (away from home and family); no TV's, radios or outside communications; no recreational facilities, intermittent electricity (sometimes no AC) and tensions between multi-national personnel.
- And finally, when Mike was leaving the country, never to return, he almost didn't make it out due to their local procedures/work process for exiting their country.

The Upcountry SC Section would like to thank Mike Twitchell for giving a very entertaining presentation.



March 2008 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Location: Marriott Hotel at 115 The Parkway

Project Risk Management – Advantages & Pitfalls **Guest Speaker: Dr. Kenneth K. Humphreys, PE CCE**

Dr. Kenneth K. Humphreys holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering, a MS degree in Materials Science Engineering and a Ph.D. in Engineering. He served as Executive Director of AACE International from 1971 until 1992. He is a noted authority worldwide with over 350 technical papers, books, articles and patents on the subject of cost engineering. He has held numerous leadership positions in the West Virginia, North Carolina and National Societies of Professional Engineers, AACE International, the International Cost Engineering Council and other professional organizations. He has been recognized world wide numerous times for his contributions and expertise in Cost Engineering. His professional career also includes over 25 years of industrial and academic experience in the steel and coal industries as a research engineer and as an Assistant Dean of the College of Mineral and Energy Resources at West Virginia University.

The presentation will focus on Risk Assessment. Proper project decision-making requires that risk management and risk analysis techniques be applied in order to guide management in making better decisions. Cost estimates attempt to define projects as single point values whereas virtually all project variables are variable and may deviate from the values assumed in preparing the original estimate. The objective of this presentation is to demonstrate why risk analysis is necessary, and how to determine the probability of having a cost overrun. Some pieces of risk analysis software will be described and range estimating will be demonstrated as an effective tool for reducing risk and for determining how much contingency to add to reduce residual risk to an acceptable level.

Please RSVP no later than Friday, March 14th at 5 PM by e-mail or phone. The cost of the meeting is **20⁰⁰**.

Schedule:

6:00PM to 6:45PM Registration, Networking and Dinner
7:00PM to 8:00PM Presentation / Program

Reservations

For information, please contact:

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



2007/8 Meeting Schedule for AAACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
UCSC Dinner Meeting	3 rd Thursday	20 Mar 2008	Dr. Kenneth Humphreys, Risk Management
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	14 Apr 2008	Deposition Training Film
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	12 May 2008	Bob Boyd, Fluor, Certification Paper Presentation – Productivity, An Elusive Measurement
AAACEI Annual Convention	Sun. to Wed.	29 June to 02 July 2008	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	08 Sep 2008	Michael Ray, Legis Consultancy, Inc., Hurricane Katrina Rebuild Work
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Monday	13 Oct 2008	Ken Willis, Fluor, Topic TBD

2007/8 Meeting Schedule for AAACE Catawba (Charlotte) Section

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

Please contact Shirley Harris at 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 rd Tuesday	20 Nov 2007	William Kraus – Future Directions of AACE
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	18 Dec 2007	Christmas Party @ US Cost
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	15 Jan 2008	Kurt Nolte – Web Based Estimating
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	19 Feb 2008	TBA
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	18 Mar 2008	Mike Ray & Patrick Ray – Topic TBA
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	15 Apr 2008	Tom Doig, CCC – Risk Management
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	20 May 2008	TBA

Please contact Mark Cundiff at 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