



December 2008

News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

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President's Message

Members,

The Holidays are over and a New Year is here. As we move into 2009, change will happen as a new President of the United States takes office and we look forward to a new beginning with hope.

Like the seasons of the year, nothing is given and change is constantly happening. Nature delivers times of bounty and, those who are most adaptable are the most successful. As the New Year unfolds we can see that many changes will happen both good and bad. In an attempt to prepare for these changes, I offer the following advice.

I encourage everyone to determine core strengths and weaknesses. Select a weakness and a strength to improve in the new year. Assess what your core skills are and how they can be utilized in other areas or improved upon for work or your personal life. Examine how you can market yourself to new opportunities where you work. Taking actions like this will help make you poised for change and more adaptable in the workplace. We will all have change in our lives or the lives around us and being prepared for change will help ease the challenges we face as our world recovers and moves forward in all areas.

Change should be viewed as an opportunity for personal and professional growth. Although we often struggle with change and fight it, when the dust settles we can see how we have grown, learned more about ourselves and others and have become stronger because of it. Sharing with others can help with the stress of change and bring about new options. I hope to see more of you at our meetings and please feel free to bring a guest as we all travel through this change together.

Sincerely, Walter Manning



Section Announcements

Certification!!

AACEI offers 7 certifications.

1. Certified Cost Technician (CCT)
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)
7. Certified Estimating Professional (CEP)

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 or 864-517-1571) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications mentioned above.

The next certification exams are currently scheduled for:
June 20, 2009 – Location to be determined (Deadline to register is April 06, 2009)

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.

Note that the PSP Certification Study Guide, 1st Edition, and the EVP Certification Study Guide, 1st Edition, have recently been released and are now available.

2009 Engineers Week!!

During the week of February 15 – 21, 2009, middle school students from across the US will use engineering principals to design and build cities of the future with a focus on self-sufficient water systems. The school deadline for entering in this Future City competition is October 20, 2008. For more information about this contest, visit www.futurecity.org.



AACE International's 53rd Annual Meeting!!

Make plans to attend the next AACEI annual meeting in Seattle, Washington. It will be held from June 28th thru July 1st. The theme for this meeting is:

TCM: Improving Decision Making in a Green World

AACEI Membership!!

Although December 31st is the last day to pay your AACEI dues for 2009, it is never too late to pay. Please consider joining since this is one way to help promote our profession. And by being a member, you will receive a subscription to the Cost Engineering Magazine which always contains information that you can benefit from. You also get access to AACEI's bookstore and website where other information can be found.

Section News!!

The Section is currently working with Clemson University to identify potential candidates for our Section's Scholarship Fund, along with AACEI's competitive scholarship program. A request to provide a 50% match to our \$1,000 scholarship award was submitted this month to AACEI Headquarters. Note that AACEI requires that the applicants should be seeking a degree in Engineering, Construction Management or Business Management, with a potential career path towards Project Controls and Estimating.

I would like to thank Becky Spencer for volunteering to help build a website for our Section. Anyone interested in assisting her would be greatly appreciated. You can contact her through Walter Manning or Chris Swanson.



December 2008 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting Recap

The Upcountry SC Section meeting was held on December 09, 2008 at the offices of Day & Zimmerman. Our guest speaker was Robert Toet from Fluor. He has over 30 years of International Project Execution experience plus has been recognized as a “Distinguished Toastmaster”.

Robert was part of the team that developed and deployed Fluor’s Knowledge On Line System and has maintained his involvement with this tool over the past 6 years. The number one issue today with most companies is the collection and disbursement of knowledge throughout an organization. As the working population gets older and starts retiring, companies must retain the years of experience gained by these retirees. Successful businesses must be able to sell their knowledge and their “know how” in order to succeed in an ever-changing marketplace.

Through an open forum and discussion amongst the attendees, it was agreed that a stronger emphasis needs to be placed on preserving historical data, whether it be within your department or throughout a corporation’s structure. Historical data provides an absolutely essential and critical role in developing and executing current and future projects. Without accurate data and the management thereof, we are losing ground and losing sight of the essential lessons learned from prior projects. And of course, there needs to be some management of the data being collected so that the veracity of the data being communicated throughout the corporate structure is accurate and useful.

The Upcountry SC Section would like to thank Robert Toet for an informative and appropriate presentation.





January 2009 UpCountry SC Section Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Location: Day & Zimmerman's Office Building

What is PCEA **Guest Speaker: Brian Miller** **Trehel Corp.**

Brian Miller is President of Professional Construction Estimators Association. He will give us an overview of the organization and its members.

YOU ALSO DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF AACEI TO ATTEND.

Please RSVP with Chris Swanson no later than Friday, January 9th at 5 PM by e-mail or phone. The cost of the meeting is **\$20.00**.

Schedule:

6:00PM to 6:30PM Registration, Networking and Light Meal
6:30PM to 7:00PM Presentation

Reservations

For information, please contact:

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



2008/9 Meeting Schedule for AACE UpCountry SC Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Oct 2008	Ken Willis, Fluor, Int'l Assignments – What to Expect
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 Nov 2008	Doug Findley, Clemson Professor, Topic TBD
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Dec 2008	Robert Toet, Fluor, Knowledge Management
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Jan 2009	Brian Miller, Trehel Corp, PCEA Organization
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 Feb 2009	Ron Winters, Ron Winters Consulting, Schedule Practice
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 Mar 2009	Al Gasper, Fluor, Risk Management
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Apr 2009	Donald McDonald will host a Mock Arbitration
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 May 2009	TBD

2008/9 Meeting Schedule for AACE Catawba (Charlotte) Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Oct 2008	Dr. Kenneth Humphreys, Consultant, Risk & Contingency using Range Est'g
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 Nov 2008	Mark Jones, CDP Inc., Planning & Scheduling using Primavera Software
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Dec 2008	Paul Shuster, Power Advocate, Construction Index Tools
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Jan 2009	TBD
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 Feb 2009	Doug Creech, Carolina Healthcare System, Professional Paper
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	10 Mar 2009	Mark Hoecker, Duke Energy, Cliffside Power Project
Catawba Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Apr 2009	TBD
Social Dinner	2 nd Tuesday	08 May 2009	None

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



2008/9 Meeting Schedule for AACE Atlanta Section

Description	Day of Week	Date(s)	Presenter & Topic
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	16 Sep 2008	Michael Opitz, 3D Imaging Services, The Emerging Technology of 3D Imaging
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	21 Oct 2008	Kamyar Molavi, Esq., Weissmann, Zucker Euster PC Law Firm, Changes to the Georgia Lien Statute
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	18 Nov 2008	TBD
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	16 Dec 2008	Holiday Social Dinner
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	29 Jan 2009	TBD
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	17 Feb 2009	TBD
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	17 Mar 2009	TBD
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	21 Apr 2009	TBD
Atlanta Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	15 May 2009	TBD

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