



October 2012

News Update

The Newsletter of the UpCountry South Carolina Section,
AACE International

President's Message

Members,

In last month's message I spoke about some of the benefits of being involved with AACE. One of the greatest values of AACE International that I have experienced is the network of new friends and colleagues developed at the Section and board levels with little cost or time investment outside of what I was already investing with the association. You never know when your network will come in handy, whether to get the answer to a question or to find a needed resource.

Networking is a universal occurrence in which groups of people with common interests and passions find each other and stay interconnected. A strong professional network extends ones sphere of influence and opportunities. The ultimate benefit of networking happens when individuals interact and collaborate on mutual interests, sharing experiences, mentoring and educating one another. Certainly we use networking professionally, but also in our personal lives to obtain references for a good auto mechanic, attorney, plumber, electrician, carpenter, landscaper, etc. There is a certain sense of reassurance when one obtains an endorsement through a personal network versus through a paid advertisement. Would you agree?

The purest form of networking is face-to-face, whether it involves a lunch meeting during the work week or attending a large conference with thousands of attendees, and meeting new contacts or reconnecting with old friends and colleagues. Direct contacts have obvious advantages, but there are incidental advantages when our direct contacts interact with their own direct contacts, even someone you may not know. If a set of skills is identified as a need and your contact thinks of you because he knows you and knows your capabilities, it is likely your name will enter into the conversation. Less direct forms of networking include telephone calls, emails, letters,

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instant messaging and internet forums and networking web sites, like LinkedIn. These websites typically cost nothing and allow people to interact globally, something I find very useful in today's mobile society. Perhaps where you work there is a company specific intranet that promotes and enhances inter-company interaction and networking as well.

The two primary reasons most of us have for attending Section meetings is for enhancing professional development with interesting presentations, and for the opportunity to network. Our sections are the grass-roots of our association and our section meetings are where we get to meet our colleagues in cost engineering, as well as come away with some tidbit of knowledge that we didn't have prior to each meeting. Without Section meetings we would miss the opportunity to meet face-to face with new colleagues and reconnect with old friends, the most direct form of networking that our association provides.

Some of our network relationships require more effort than others. Maintaining our networks requires us to keep in touch, in some manner, and on some frequency. Networking is a very useful tool and asset available to anyone willing to spend the necessary time building and maintaining it.

There are several ways that AACE International can help facilitate and foster your network of cost engineering professionals:

- Attend and participate in Section meetings.
- Become a member of your Section's board.
- Attend the AACE International Annual Meeting.
- Join or assist either one of the technical, education or certification boards.

Whatever you do, developing and maintaining your network is a step in the right direction toward helping your personal skills and knowledge, and your career. You may even build a few good friends in the process.

Sincerely, Eric Marcantoni

Note: Portions of the above were obtained from - Ref: **Cost Engineering** Vol. 50/No. 10
OCTOBER 2008, *Stephen P. Warhoe, PE CCE CFCC, the Value of Networking*)



Section Announcements

Certification!!

AAACEI offers 6 certifications and is in the process of Beta testing a 7th.

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 Forensic Claims Consultant (CFCC)
6. Certified Estimating Professional (CEP)
- 7. Decision & Risk Management Professional (DRMP) Certification (NEW)**

For descriptions and requirements regarding each of the above certifications, go to the AAACEI web page (<http://www.aacei.org/educ/cert>). And for educational literature to help you with these exams, visit the AAACE Online Bookstore (<http://www.aacei.org/technical/ppg.shtml>) where you can order Professional Practice Guides, Recommended Practices and other AAACEI merchandise.

In recognition for those Section members that have AAACEI certifications, we will now have an Honors Roll. The following Section members hold certifications and can be considered Subject Matter Experts, available to help you if you have any questions.

HONORS ROLL

<i>CCE / CCC</i>	<i>PSP</i>	<i>CEP</i>	<i>EVP</i>
Chris Swanson	Donald McDonald	Robert Boyd	Doug Findley
Donald McDonald	Robert Boyd	Jeff Bannister	Eric Marcantoni
Robert Boyd	Doug Findley	Stan Ellzey	Manan Vakil
Doug Findley			
Becky Spencer			
Glen Joseph Colaco			
CFCC			
Doug Findley			

Please contact Stan Ellzey (stanellzey@charter.net) if you have any questions or need assistance regarding any of the certifications or workshops mentioned above.

And with the recently released CBT program, testing can occur whenever it is convenient for you. Just visit the AAACEI website and follow the links to register and schedule your date for the exam. The test location for Greenville, SC is at:

Greenville Technical College Distance Edu TC
506 South Pleasantburg Drive, Building 112, Room 350
Dental Technology Building
Greenville, South Carolina
United States 29607



AAACE International's Meetings and Conferences!!

Start planning to attend AAACEI's 57th annual meeting in Washington, DC. Early registration ends June 7th. The theme of this conference is "TCM Blossoms in DC". It will be held from July 1st thru July 3rd. See information at AAACEI's website.

UpCountry South Carolina Section's Website!!

Please visit our web site that is being maintained by Becky Spencer. It contains some job postings for those of you that are unemployed. Feel free to provide feedback to Becky or Eric Marcantoni on comments/ideas that you believe would enhance the website.

<http://upcountry-aaacei.org/welcome.html>

October 2012 UpCountry SC Section Meeting Recap

The AAACE Upcountry South Carolina Section held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at the Jacobs Engineering office in Greenville.

There were sixteen attendees representing eight different companies. Eric Marcantoni introduced our speakers from GE Power & Water's Thermal Engineering Division, Bert Stuck & Gayle Goetze.

Mr. Stuck is General Manager of Components & Development Test for GE Power & Water's Thermal Engineering Division. He has over 30 years with GE and currently leads GE Power & Water's largest laboratory and field test team in the U.S., Europe and Asia. His team focuses developing test facilities and technology aimed at acquiring critical design information to support the development of new products such as combined cycle power plants and wind turbines.

Ms. Goetze is Manager of Facilities & Instrumentation Technology for GE Power and Water's Component & Development Test. She has over 20 years with GE, and currently manages a team of engineers responsible for test facility development, modification and upgrade in the U. S., Europe and Asia, as well as technology development for all Power and Water test programs.



Presentation

“The Science of Testing: Designing Facilities”

Mr. Bert Stuck opened the presentation with a brief discussion on the team of 145 professional testers who support GE Power & Water products. GE has labs located in US, France, India and China. Bert stated there are 50 testing facilities around the world and over 100 labs.

GE primary supports testing of

1. Power plant components and systems
2. Wind Turbines
3. High Voltage Power Conversion Equipment (current project located in Salem, Virginia)
4. Aero thermal & Mechanical Capabilities

Bert gave our group a lot of interesting facts about their testing facility located in Greenville. According to Bert, GE’s largest investment is in testing. He expects this investment to exceed over \$200 million. The Greenville facility has over 100,000 sqft of testing area, and a three story office building with 600 engineers. However, the Greenville and Salem Virginia facilities are over 50 years which can bring forth challenges during an expansion.

Ms. Goetze spoke more in depth of the testing process and their Full Speed Full Load Facility. According to Gayle, turndown is very important to them because they may have to test a very large component one day and test a very small component the following day. She mentioned sometimes they build skids to accommodate the transition.

Gayle gave the group some impressive facts on their Gas Turbine Facility including:

1. Took 153 concrete trucks to pour the floor
2. Consumes 9,000 cooling water every minute
3. Has a 58 megawatt motor
4. The facility operates at night from 6pm – 6am because it consumes too much power and other parts of the plant can’t operate.
5. Took approximately 18-24 months to build
6. Allows testing on site before it arrives to the customer

Gayle also discussed some recent challenges her team faced.

1. Defining full range of test scope
2. Scope Creep
3. Cost/Schedule/Estimating – these are one of a kind facilities

Lessons Learned throughout her experience and career at GE:

1. Design memo’s needed in advance
2. Test plan required before testing starts
3. Don’t rely on design drawings for floor layout
4. Used equipment is never free

This concluded their presentation and Eric Marcantoni presented a plaque certificate to both speakers thanking them for their time and exciting presentation.



Eric Marcantoni & Bert Stuck



Eric Marcantoni & Gayle Goetze





2012/13 Meeting Schedule for AAACE UpCountry SC Section

<i>Description</i>	<i>Day of Week</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Presenter & Topic</i>
UCSC Dinner Meeting	3 rd Thursday	21 June 2012	Drive Baseball Game Greenville Drive vs. Charleston River Dogs
UCSC Social Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	17 July 2012	Cancelled
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 Aug 2012	David Neale – Fluor Project Set-up
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	11 Sep 2012	R Boyd/E Marcantoni – Fluor AAACE Conference Presentations
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Oct 2012	Bert Stuck – GE The Science of Testing: Designing Facilities
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	13 Nov 2012	Greg Garvey & Bob Novak – Fluor Set-up & Health Check Process
UCSC Social Meeting	TBD	?? Dec 2012	Social Gathering
UCSC Dinner Meeting	3 rd Tuesday	15 Jan 2013	Marlene Hyde
UCSC Social Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 Feb 2013	Jay Toadvine
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	12 Mar 2013	Jeff Bannister – Working in India
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	09 Apr 2013	TBD
UCSC Dinner Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	14 May 2013	TBD
UCSC Social Meeting	2 nd Thursday	11 Jun 2013	TBD
UCSC Dinner Meeting	TBD	TBD	Tour of GE’s Facility
UCSC Dinner Meeting	TBD	TBD	Future Presentation on How to Prepare for the CCE exam
USC Dinner Meeting	TBD	TBD	Laurens Electric – O&M and Outage Planning