Editor’s Notes: Welcome, 2012!

Happy New Year (albeit slightly belated) to all! I hope your year is starting off well.

What a fun time we all had seeing old friends (and meeting some new ones) at the San Diego Retreat. Kudos to everyone who volunteered and/or attended to make it so successful. Add to that our fun visits at the Suhrs’ 50th wedding anniversary gathering, the Aasheims’ national RV tour rolling through Oregon, our monthly Alumni History group conference calls, working with Emily Holben and AlumniConnect, and tons of email traffic with CH friends this year made me appreciate the wonderful relationships that have been cultivated over 40+ years. Most everyone seems to be doing well, enjoying life, and doing fun things—considering the challenges we face from time to time.

What we need to do more is share our experiences with one another. Most of the stories you’ll enjoy in this issue come from me asking folks (sometimes more than once 😊) to share. And they graciously do. But I need your help with your family/CH friends’ news, moves, travels, etc. Just drop me a line at gkoblitz@ch2m.com. I also work with anonymous tips. Point is, this newsletter and our great AlumniConnect site http://alumni.ch2mhill.com/ run by Emily Holben eholben@ch2m.com (soon to be updated to Walker as you’ll see) is at its best when we hear from you. Thanks to Suellen Ehrmann and Vicki Starr for great editing and document processing support. Attaboys and attagirls always welcome.

Cheers!

Gordon

P.S. Check out the latest postings on Alumni History http://www.history.ch2m.com/. New bios and updates are posted monthly.

San Diego Retreat Great Success

BY DON MARSKE (DONMARSKE@GMAIL.COM)

Editor’s Note: The following is a summary of the 2011 San Diego Retiree Retreat. This summary, along with links to a bunch more photos, videos, and internet links will be posted to Alumni Connect and to the Alumni History Project website in early March. Be sure to check out each version!

By all accounts, the San Diego Retreat was a great success. About 65 people enjoyed 4 days in sunny San Diego. The Sheraton Hotel and Marina staff did a wonderful job taking care of our needs. The hotel was a great place for the Retreat, providing a relaxing setting, beautiful accommodations, and excellent meals. The nearby attractions offered many options for tours, shopping, and eating. The committee and event staff designed a great agenda that gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities including a tour of special navy facilities, transportation to Balboa Park, golf, a company update, hearing reflections from our early principals, and of course, time to catch up with old friends.

The central feature was the tour of the USS Freedom – the first of her class, a Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). Thanks to Capt. Chris Peterschmidt, son of Bill, we were treated to a special tour of this prototype of new class of navy ship designed to provide access and dominance in coastal waters. The USS Freedom was in dry dock undergoing modifications and painting, but we got a first class tour of the interior by several of Chris’s command staff. [Future link will be provided to Freedom slides.] There is a second prototype LCS, the USS Montgomery. Thanks to Bob
Crittenden, the following article describes the other LCS being developed.

Following the tour of the USS Freedom, Chris provided us a tour of the ship’s training facility – a virtual reality simulator. The simulator provided very realistic training on all aspects of running and piloting the LCS. Once trained on the simulator, the sailors are competent to go directly to the ship – another first for the navy. We were not able to take any photos, but a couple of us got to man, or in the case of Suzanne Kennedy, ma’am the controls. Unfortunately, Capt. Kennedy ran out of fuel and had to beach the USS Freedom before we got it back to port! 😊

While many split their time on Tuesday between Balboa Park, Midway, and the Freedom tours, avid golfers had their own special trip to the Avaira Golf Club, designed by Arnold Palmer and named one of the best resort courses in America by *Golf Digest* and *Golf Magazine*. Those golfing were John and Jean Ann Echternach, Vern and Carol Anne Nelson, Ron and Carlene Ott, Harry Mejdell, Dave Evans, Tom Haislip, Bill Irving, and John Lee. They obviously had a good time based on their comments at the dinner reception. But no one was able to entice high/low scores out of anyone. Not even any pictures to share. Guess what happens on the golf course stays on the golf course.

On **Monday night we had a welcome reception** and dinner at the hotel. It was a little chilly on the patio, but we had a chance to visit with old friends. [Future link will be provided to Reception slides.] Jerry Boyle hosted the evening program that opened with a video message from Lee McIntire, in which he shared highlights of the firm’s strategic plan that emphasize growth and globalization. Mike Kennedy gave us an update on the incredible Panama Canal project for which the firm is program manager. [Future link will be provided to Mikes presentation.] After Mike, Jerry Boyle and San Diego Area Manager Richard Pyle gave us an overview of the history of the southern California operations and a forward look for the San Diego office. It sure looks good for the firm in San Diego for years to come. [Future link will be provided to SCO/SDO presentation.] Following these presentations, the fun really started with Jerry hosting a panel of honored guests as they shared their early reflections on the firm. It started with a video interview with Gene Suhr [Future link will be provided to Gene’s video interview.] and finished with reflections from Sid Lasswell, Les Wierson, and Mike Fisher. [Future link will be provided Reflections video.] The evening ended with a special presentation honoring Gene Suhr. Gene couldn’t make the trip, but Jerry and Mary Boyle prepared a photo book of the presentation that several of us were able to sign for delivery to Gene. [Future link will be provided to Gene’s book.]

On Tuesday night we had another reception and buffet dinner at the hotel. Gordon Koblitz hosted the evening program that opened with a presentation by Bill Dehn. Bill highlighted changes the firm is making to sustain our competitiveness. Elisa Speranza/DNV, O&M Business Group President, and Bob Chapman/SEA presented a special recognition of Ken Miller and the 20th Anniversary of Water for People. The recognition was made extra special by the presence of Ken’s family including Betty Miller, his widow. The evening ended with a presentation by Elisa and OMI’s Brian MacDonald on the firm’s (O&M BG) signature design-build-operate water treatment plant at Twin Oaks. [Future link will be provided to Twin Oakes and Evening Program slides.]

All of us had the opportunity to tour the USS Midway, the Zoo, museums, and shopping. Some of us chose to
strike out on our own and take in other sites. Thanks to Judy Lasswell, Mary Koblitz, Bob Crittenden, Bill Peterschmidt, and Don Marske for sharing their photos. [Future link will be provided to USS Midway and Balboa Park slides.]

Gordon found two outstanding videos he thought would interest anyone who toured the USS Midway. They capture the drama of landing on a pitching carrier deck (click on these links for Part 1 and Part 2).

Retreat Wrap-up
BY KAREN HANCOCK and DON MARSKE

About 45 of us had breakfast together on Thursday morning. Karen Hancock/DEN updated us on the Retiree/Alumni program and shared that nine states seem to be emerging as CH2M HILL retiree hotspots: Colorado, Oregon, California, Washington, Georgia, Florida, Alaska, Texas, and South Carolina. In addition to continuing AlumniConnect as the primary means to help keep retirees connected to the firm and supporting the biennial retreats, over time, we will likely look to grow programs regionally where retirees indicate interest and leadership.

Don Marske hosted a wrap-up that included a review of the pros and cons of this year’s retreat. We also had a good discussion about the time and location for our future retreat. Our thanks go out to new and returning volunteers who agreed to help with the 2013 Retiree/Emeritus Retreat: Mike Harris, Les and Myrna Wierson, Gordon Koblitz, Don Marske, Al and Marlene Wollmann, Bob Chapman, Arlen Borgen, Mike Anglea, Ken Williams, Harry and Dorothy Mejdell, Vern and Carol Nelson, and Mike Kennedy. If anyone else is interested in helping out, please get in touch with Gordon Koblitz at gordon.koblitz@ch2m.com or alumnirelations@ch2m.com. See you in 2 years!

Halcrow Acquisition Brings Deep Engineering and Design Expertise to Global Market

In November CH2M HILL acquired Halcrow, a prestigious UK-based engineering, planning, design, and management services firm, for approximately $272.6 million or about £124 million). Founded in 1868, Halcrow specializes in transport, environmental, and other infrastructure projects. The firm is known for signature projects such as High Speed 1 in the UK (also known as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link), the Chongzun Expressway in China, and Yas Island in the United Arab Emirates. Halcrow reported revenues of £465 million in 2010.

The combination of the two firms helps CH2M HILL advance its leadership in water, environmental, transportation, and other markets. With the addition of Halcrow’s operations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and South America, CH2M HILL more than doubled its international presence to almost 30,000 employees globally, including more than 11,000 outside of the U.S.

Welcome Committee hostesses Karen Hancock (L) and Cas Strouse graciously took care of attendees and made them all feel special.

New Retirees and Emeritus

New Emeritus Members (semi-retired employees – working less than full time)

The following employees recently retired or joined the Emeritus or flex-time ranks. If you would like to share retirement stories, photos, or presentations, please forward information to alumnirelations@ch2m.com, along with anyone’s name inadvertently left off the list.

New Retirees

John Almon
Connie Carmody
Keith Christopher
John Conrad
Dave Durant
John Almon
Connie Carmody
Keith Christopher

Bruce Hammock
Mike Jury
Homer Mickey
Kevan Sharpe
Dan Sterley
Bruce Hammock
Mike Jury
Homer Mickey

Don Marske

Evalyn Bean
Mark Cardoza
Simon Cattan
Ross Collard

David Lee
Tim Leinheiser
Roger Lindquist
Norm Lindstrom
Goodbye, Old Friends
We lost these co-workers in the last 6 months.

Vivian Armstead
Dana Bienkowski
Ken Brown
Keith P. Burnquist
Allen Gunn
Eric Keir
Stephen T Kennedy
Robert Knight
Donald R. Mayer
Daniel McKenzie Joseph
W. Curtis McLeod
Dave Parkinson
Don Peebles
Jim Poirot
Ross Ripple
William Sands
Mark Smith
Louis Suppa
Otto Vydra

Goodbye, Old Friends

JIM POIROT
Jim worked on hydroelectric projects with Burke Hayes and industrial water projects with Jim Howland when he started. In 1964, he became project manager for the relocation of Valdez, Alaska, after an earthquake destroyed the town. His leadership roles included Seattle regional manager and southwest district manager before becoming chairman in 1983, a role he held until 1992. Jim was born in Douglas, Wyoming, where his family was involved in sheep ranching. Six years later, they moved to Roseburg, Oregon. He lettered in high school football and had taken all the math courses the school offered by his junior year.

It was in Roseburg during the eighth grade that he met his wife, Raeda. They married after his junior year of college. “I took a final on Friday, we were married on Saturday, we flew to Alaska on Sunday, I was working on Monday for Morrison Knudsen,” Jim recalled in 2006. “Raeda and I were always together.”

Throughout his career and even after retiring, Jim was active in professional organizations and held leadership roles in ASCE and the Consulting Engineers Council of Washington. He received numerous accolades, and was Engineering New-Record’s Man of the Year in 1988. In 1991, he helped found the World Engineering Partnership for Sustainable Development, and in 1994 he became ASCE president.

Jim published more than 30 articles on quality management, environmental engineering, and engineering education and liability. His published works were included in U.S., Japanese, British, and Australian journals. He was an accomplished lecturer and served on boards and advisory councils for more than 10 universities.

Otto Vydra
Otto Vydra passed away in Denver on December 4. According to 2011 Career Achievement Award Winner Teny Mittal/NJO, “…Otto was the pioneer in developing CH2M HILL’s international business.”

“He was a great professional, a very active sportsman and a wonderful friend that touched many lives around the world with his kindness and respect for all cultures,” said Omur Akay/DEN. “In his many trips to the Middle East, one stands out. Several nights before the start of the first gulf war, he was there to guide us and convey what we were to do and how we were to
do it...We all...appreciated his coming to see us.” Larry Belken/PTY

“Otto was a real gentleman with a wealth of knowledge, a great boss and colleague, and a manager with a savvy business sense. He was everyone’s friend. He was quite an athlete (tennis, skiing, soccer, darts) with a competitive spirit,” wrote Nejib Chaouch/RYD. “He will be greatly missed.”

“Many of the amazing opportunities, experiences and successes we enjoyed stemmed from his great leadership, cultural sensitivity and desire to keep CH2M HILL international delivering successfully. My last communication over the summer was with Otto’s personal endorsement for Teny Mittal on the application and eventual award for the CEO Excellence Award – Otto’s words were supportive, gracious, and complimentary. It was a joy to just have that brief interaction with him again. The last communications I had with Otto’s son Mark was several years ago. Here is the last email address I had for him. vydra@portlandtrust.cz. He was a great man and will be sadly missed, but his legacy will carry on through all of us.” Rick Robertson/PTY

“Not only a skilled diplomat, engineer, compatriot and friend, but a true gentleman,” added John Echternach. “His quiet ways could never be mistaken for indecision; rather they were a source of reaching difficult decisions through listening, thinking and sharing. What a wonderful example he was to all who knew him. Omur, Nejib, and I had the privilege of working with Otto in the difficult times of birthing the International Group in Portland in the late ‘70s and ‘80s. On this sad occasion, look at his legacy, and what wonderful contributions students such as Omur and Nejib continue to make on the firm’s behalf.”

Stories of Recent Retirees

COLLEEN OAKES

After 25 years with CH2M HILL, Colleen Oakes retired to enjoy country living on the Llano River in Kingsland, about 90 miles north of San Antonio and 60 miles west of Austin. About 25 friends celebrated Colleen’s career on September 29, at The Lodge in San Antonio. “Very good food and lots of remember-when small talk,” Colleen said.

Before she was senior financial analyst for the EBG Federal sector, Colleen was accounting manager for the old Texas Region. She started her CH career in 1985 with OMI/HOU in accounts payable. The next year she became the first accounting person in the new Texas region. From ‘89 to ‘04, Colleen was Texas Accounting Manager, and in 1999 she also worked as EBG project delivery account contact. Then in ‘04 she became a financial analyst for EBG, and ultimately, the Federal Group. “My memories are mostly of all the great people that I have had an opportunity to work with and get to know. But also the career opportunities that I have had and the flexible life style that CH offers.”

Since retiring, Colleen and Tommy have visited family in Colorado and Oklahoma. “My dad is 91 and Tommy’s mom is 89. Both are living independently and doing good.”

Best wishes to Colleen Oakes, surrounded by husband Tommy and daughters Karen and Teresa.

Colleen says, “but we have found that short, frequent trips are better for all, so we try to get to Oklahoma more often. We are planning a trip to Ireland in June, looking forward to that.” And we look forward to hearing about that and seeing your pictures, Colleen.
KENNETH LUNDGREN
Senior Architect Ken Lundgren, AIA, LEED AP®, retired as a flex in April 2011. During his 24-year-long career with the firm, Ken served as manager of the IDC San Jose office and architectural technical discipline lead (which included managing our knowledge base and best practices), as well as serving as project architect and project manager.

A 1968 graduate of the University of Oregon, Ken became a partner in the Portland firm of Evenson, Lundgren, and Larson, Architects and provided design services for a variety of clients including NW Natural, Multnomah County, City of Portland, and other cities in Oregon. For several of the projects the firm engaged the CH2M HILL Boise Office for engineering services, Ken’s first introduction to the professionalism and integrity of our company.

Ken joined the Industrial Design Corporation of CH2M HILL in 1987 and is proud of the many facilities he has been a part of, including projects for Hewlett Packard, National Semiconductor, IBM, the Oregon State University CH2M HILL Alumni Center, Macronix International, and the 2012 London Olympics. The following are just two examples of the many projects Ken lent his talent to.

**CH2M HILL Alumni Center**
From April 1992 to August 1997, Ken was project manager and architect of a 45,000 square-foot facility on the Oregon State University Campus. The building is used for meetings, conferences, Alumni Association offices, and is a tribute to the founding partners of CH2M HILL.

**HP Building 4 Upgrade**
Ken was project manager and architect for an upgrade to the Hewlett Packard Building 4 in Corvallis between 2002 and 2004. The project included the exterior renovation and seismic upgrade of a two-story, 160,000 square-foot administrative office building originally constructed in 1974.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with CH2M HILL and thank the many fellow professionals that have provided project or personal support during my 24 years. I am proud to have been a part of a company with the integrity, honesty, professionalism, skill, knowledge, and commitment that resides within CH2M HILL.”

Although intending to “transition” into full retirement, Ken and his wife, Trina, spent time during the summer visiting California wineries, followed by 3 weeks in Europe. With three children and six grandchildren and the resulting soccer, football, wrestling, basketball, and baseball games, the couple will have no shortage of activities. If not at a game or traveling, you may find them at their beach house in Rockaway, Oregon.
A formal celebration to recognize Ken and Trina was held on May 19. In attendance were retirees Bill Headley, Benno Philippson, Wayne Hanson, Ken Durant, Don Daly, Rick Reid, and Arlen Borgen. Ted Johnson was MC for the good-natured roast. Tim Meier, Shuki Einstein, Tom Turvaville, Debbie Mendez, and Arlen Borgen presented gifts. Ernie Staley, Shuki Einstein, and Mark Spangler provided a lively rendition of Bob Dylan’s Forever Young with some new lyrics. They also sang the Ken Lundgren Retirement Blues to the tune of Johnny Cash’s Folsom Prison Blues, with some unique and humorous lyrics.

Memories and stories were shared by Bill Headley, John Hiser, Arlen Borgen, Dick Sheehy, Greg Young, Ed Vranizan, Harry Dinihanian, Tim Meier, Wayne Hanson, Nathan Corser, Benno Philippson, Tom Turvaville, Shuki Einstein, and Andy Lundgren, as well as Ken and Trina.

The architects of CH2M HILL owe Ken Lundgren a debt of appreciation for his past contributions, and his continued friendship and support.

**George Crawford Retires**

After almost 35 years of outstanding service to CH2M HILL and Gore & Storrie, George Crawford announced his retirement. George’s colleagues and friends could not say enough wonderful things about his character and outstanding work.

“After graduating, George showed exceptional talent in process design for wastewater treatment projects. He was instrumental in developing the patented Hyan Process, a high-rate anaerobic process, which Paul da Silva and he held the patent for. His depth of knowledge of treatment processes made him a natural in presentations and proposals. He was the client service manager for McCains Food, a multinational potato processor, and created projects for Gore & Storrie all over the world because of his efforts,” George Powell shared.

Glen Daigger comments, “I was privileged to meet George a few years before the merger between Gore & Storrie and CH2M HILL. I certainly “saw in George an outstanding technical mind, but more than that, I saw a practical problem solver and a good leader. George is truly the engineer’s engineer, with an excellent grasp of the associated fundamental principles and knowledge, as well as the practical experience to apply it in novel and innovative ways.”

Paul da Silva, whose shoulder-to-shoulder time with George goes back to his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto in 1972 and continued up until Paul left the Canadian Region in 1999, comments, “George was a visionary and client service manager par excellence. He and I used the high-strength waste anaerobic treatment technology that he developed in conjunction with Canada Centre for Inland Waters to design and install the first hybrid anaerobic bioreactor in the Lakeview Water Pollution Control Plant in the mid 1980s,” which earned the Schreyer Award for the best Canadian engineering project of 1986. George secured the backbone client of industrial wastewater treatment in Canada, McCain Foods. He travelled the world to troubleshoot any wastewater treatment issues McCain encountered.

Norm Huggins “met George for the first time at a Gore & Storrie staff golf tournament while he was still in high school. I should have guessed he would be a great engineer based upon the integrity of his golf game and his ability to concentrate on the right shot. As he progressed through his career his knack for thinking outside the box became a core strength of Gore & Storrie’s, and ultimately, CH2M HILL’s wastewater process team. His innovative mind was not
limited to wastewater treatment as he continued to look for means to apply water treatment processes to wastewater treatment and vice versa without turning his audience off through the stigma that normally accompanies merging water with wastewater in the development of potential solutions."

An outdoorsman and long distance runner who has completed several marathons, George has taken possession of a cottage on Vernon Lake, Muskoka, not far from his favorite childhood summer camp. From this base he will enjoy easy access to Algonquin Park and all of the outdoors facilities that it offers.

PHIL TSCHESCHKE
CONTRIBUTED BY KAY DRY/DEN

Phil Tscheschke started with the firm in October ‘78 and worked his entire career out of Denver on everything from crop drainage to pipe design to landfill covers. Perhaps his greatest gift to CH2M HILL was that he always took the time to mentor staff and grow them into thoughtful engineers. Phil had some “isms” that I collected along the way.

1. The devil is in the details.
2. It is always a lot cheaper (10 times or more) to spend the time to resolve all the details during design than during construction when changes usually have to be handled with change orders.
3. If you don’t have time to deal with the details during design, you won’t have time (10 times as much required) to deal with the details during construction.
4. The best place for your PE stamp is in your drawer!

Phil celebrates with his wife and children.

One of Phil’s PEP goals was to prepare design drawings with such accuracy that the contractor would not have any RFIs or change orders—a noble goal for any engineer. When reviewing design drawings with Phil, if he didn’t think something was quite right he would say, “Are you sure about that?” which meant, “You need to fix it!”

Having recently attended training where the book *Good to Great* was discussed, the takeaway message was that when taking a company from good to great there are two characteristics that employees exhibit: intense personal will and extreme personal humility. Phil professes both of these qualities, and for those of us who were lucky enough to work with him over the last 33 years, we have been privileged to work with one of the great ones!

Friends and family celebrated Phil’s retirement in DEN on January 5. Many words of praise were collected; a few are excerpted here. “the epitome of honesty and integrity – everything a young engineer should see when first starting out in the “real world,” Linda Colella. “Always…upbeat and a pleasure to work with,” Bill Bellamy.

LAURIE KETSDEVER

Laurie Ketsdever/SLC worked for CH2M HILL for 13 years until she retired in June 2011 for health reasons. She was a wonderful employee whose professionalism, work ethic and leadership gained the respect and recognition of many colleagues and clients.

“I was so fortunate to work with Laurie. She made PCM what it is today regarding government projects...Electronic signatures for RFIs was a big plus. Can’t say enough about Laurie. [She] is such a wonderful person and will be truly missed!” Nancy Winslow/CVO

“Laurie’s passion was infectious and I could see that enthusiasm being passed from her to the people she worked with, myself included. No matter how busy she was, Laurie had a way of making me feel like I was not imposing and she took real time to listen, absorb and provide me with the best training and support possible. Laurie was a great leader; however what I will miss most is her approachable, kind and generous character. Laurie, you have left a void here at CH2M HILL and you will be missed!” Laurie Kosciuszko/VBC

“Laurie was a teacher and mentor for me; sometimes when I didn’t have a clue about what to do next! She had an uncanny ability to see a big-picture task and break it into the tiniest details and manageable parts. She had a quiet confident persona that clients quickly
recognized and respected. Anyone who knew Laurie will miss our go-to person.” Elaine Ferguson/COS

“Laurie has been a mentor, a teacher and most of all a friend. Laurie has a way of bringing out the best in you. Laurie has phenomenal leadership skills and she will be missed.” Sondra Collins/ATL

**Foster McKoy**

In early 2011, Foster McKoy retired from a long career in wastewater treatment operations. Foster started his career working for Allied Chemical in 1963 at what is now Honeywell’s Riegelwood facility. He held various positions while advancing, including utility operator, top relief operator, brine operator, bleach plant operator, assistant cell operator, cell operator, and shift foreman. Although the facility changed owners, Foster remained shift foreman during acquisitions, then became general foreman in 1999. When Honeywell shut the facility in late 2000, they had the good sense to retain Foster as a wastewater operator—and as a valuable asset during demolition. When OMI took over site management in early 2003, Foster continued as wastewater operator until he retired last February.

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**Tom McQueen**

On August 31, senior mechanical designer Tom Queen retired after 36 years of outstanding work on too many CH2M HILL projects to count. In 1985, Tom moved from the “Inc.” organization’s Industrial Design group to form a new CH2M HILL subsidiary called IDC. He was one of less than 35 stalwart pioneers who were asked to pursue a new vision: make CH2M HILL more competitive in private sector manufacturing markets.

The mid-'80s was a time of dynamic growth in the nascent semiconductor industry. The fledgling IDC group targeted this industry as an approach to more readily win work and recognition as a contender in the competitive world of industrial manufacturing. The Industrial Group had already established a resume in food processing, metals, chemicals, and telecommunications. The strategy was to leverage that experience to meet the demands of advanced technology manufacturing. In semiconductor manufacturing, for example, tight specifications must be met for contamination control, temperature, humidity, and vibration. Tom’s areas of expertise included both wet and dry mechanical – the pipes that carry various fluids through a factory as well as the HVAC systems that manage a building’s airflow. Tom had the opportunity to be on the ground floor of developing new design approaches for both wet and dry mechanical systems in advanced manufacturing facilities.

Tom moved from the Reston, Virginia office to work on what became a milestone CH2M HILL project, the Wacker Siltronic polysilicon plant in Portland, Oregon. From his new base in Portland, Tom went on to play a pivotal role in many projects regarded as landmarks in CH2M HILL’s advanced technology resume. These include semiconductor facilities for Digital Equipment in Massachusetts and Scotland, National Semiconductor in Israel and California, and STMicroelectronics in Singapore and Italy.

Tom is what you might call a complete mechanical designer in a box, recalled former IDC mechanical lead Rod McLeod. “Tom did everything and he didn’t need any supervision to do it. He’d just show up one day with everything done, and done right. He was also a great mentor who helped countless staff during his career.”
**Regan Giese**

Regan came to CH2M HILL 11 years ago. He was instrumental in building up our El Paso office and getting us into the pipeline business. Regan maintained strong client relationships with Valero, Kinder Morgan, Holly, and others. Regan's relationship with Holly was key to CH2M HILL landing the UNEV Pipeline project - a watershed event in doing full EPCM on a major pipeline in the lower 48.

To celebrate Regan’s retirement, the Houston office team gave him golf balls and a gift card to use on accessories for his boat.

Three years ago, Regan and his wife, Karen, moved to Galveston Bay on the Texas coast. They have a 36-foot cruiser in the water and a 36-foot RV. They plan to enjoy life and travel throughout the U.S. and internationally.

**Chuck Mackey**

Charles “Chuck” Mackey retired 40 years to the day after joining Paragon Structural Design, which became a subsidiary of CH2M HILL in 1994. His projects covered all business sectors, but his expertise was in the design of parking structures. One such example, the Metropolitan Wayne County Airport Midfield Terminal Parking Garage in Detroit was touted as the world’s largest precast parking structure in 2002. Another of his designs, New Orleans’ Erato Street Cruise Terminal and Parking Structure (which straddles a Mississippi levee wall with half its foundation in the river), survived hurricane Katrina while it was under construction. Chuck and his wife, Chris, plan to celebrate retirement by traveling.

Shannon (Roe) Harrell, one of Paragon’s young structural engineers, shared lessons learned from Chuck:

1. Don’t settle for anything but the best.
2. If the architect can dream it, we can design it.
3. If the answer is not obvious, all you need is some rice paper, several sharp colored pencils, and some classical music quietly playing in the background.
Alzheimer’s game, but we could not get enough USA visitors to sign up. Bummer. My wife was a real trooper and sat through six games, some in the rain, even though she doesn’t know anything about the sport. There will be a to-be-determined payback I am sure. Ballet lessons? Who knows.

We spent the entire month with Daphne and John Wardle. John works for BECA, a partner of CH2M HILL’s, in Auckland and we had a chance to visit a water treatment plant in New Plymouth and a wastewater facility near Lake Taupo. Virginia and Daphne did not take advantage of this golden opportunity to see the facilities. How sad.

**ALONG THE [CAL] LECKINGTON ROAD**

My wife, Irma, and I started our post-work life in 2010. After 25 years of constant travel for CH2M HILL, our only choice was to, naturally, travel….this time by motor home. Our travels have taken us through Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas, in the north. We explored the Black Hills, seeing places like Deadwood (the Vegas of the old West) and Mt. Rushmore. Irma’s father grew up on a homestead near Sundance, Wyoming, within sight of the Devil’s Tower. You might recall it from the movie, “Close Encounters of the Third Kind”. An almost-vertical column of rock, too small to land a spaceship on, and too steep to climb (although some do).

Climbers on Devil’s Tower

Our travels south have taken us through national parks like Arches and Canyon Lands in Utah, and a week at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta (a must-see-to-believe experience). Our motor home was parked where the shaped balloons were supposed to drop weighted streamers at a ground target, but the wind shifted and many came down all around us. We had giant balloon houses, cows, and witches falling all around us. They even pressed us bystanders into service to help collect and fold their balloons. A very exciting time.

Late in the summer, we headed south from Corvallis and stopped to take a jet boat trip down the Rogue River from Grants Pass to Hell’s Gate (a narrow canyon on the river). The jet boats carry 50+ people and hit speeds over 50 mph. It’s a wild (and wet) time. They *spin* the boats at nearly full speed, which is so much fun it should be banned by OSHA! The rest of fall, traveling along the west slope of the Sierra was tame by comparison, even though we were shaken by a 5.2 earthquake.

Can you spot Cal and Irma?

I was so blessed to see the country working for the firm, but now we are seeing all of those places you cannot see from the air and meeting some of the nicest, friendliest people you can imagine. Our Good
Sam RV club is very volunteer oriented and I keep looking for ways to offer my basic water/wastewater skills to help others.

We are all over the US (at least it feels like it), seeing the stuff I used to fly over. You can see more of our travels at our Good Sam travel website: (http://www.mytripjournal.com/Leckington).

KEN BIELMAN

Early this year Julie and I concentrated on finishing our travel log CD series, covering our 3+ years overseas assignment in Egypt and Jordan. We put our last CD to bed at the end of June and spent the summer enjoying goofing off. I spent most of my flex hours writing musical arrangements for the dance band I play with on Friday nights. Then a totally unexpected event changed any plans we may have otherwise been contemplating. On November 9, Julie had a heart attack, and 2 days later she had open-heart surgery: 5 bypasses. She was in the hospital, then in a heart rehab center for 5 weeks. Son Scott came in from Denver and stayed until December 28. An excellent cook, Scott fixed us a fabulous prime rib Christmas dinner. See? We’re faring pretty well.

In a single statement: we’re both fine. The doctors say full recovery could take 6 to 12 months. But because Julie is a do-it-now-type person, she’s discouraged that the recovery process is slow.

Julie enrolled in an exercise class designed for recovering heart surgery patients, and I—the concerned spouse—was invited to participate. We go 3 times a week for an hour. Turns out I needed the regimentation as much as she needed the therapy, so we’re both benefitting from it.

Editor’s note: Ken and Julie would love to hear from folks by email to bielman@pioneer.net or give them a best-wishes/get-well-soon call in Corvallis.

STEVE DEAUTREMONT

Steve and Mary Lee DeAutremont, Carol Ann and Vern Nelson, Anne and Willie Loud, and Dottie and Dave Raby—CH2M HILL friends since the early ’70s, recently vacationed in Puako on the Big Island of Hawaii. They stayed “in a house with living room/kitchen/utility room/lanai and four out-buildings around the main building, each with its own bedroom and bathrooms.

Activities included walks and drive along the beach, biking, jumping in a car and going to unknown spots, going to Costco, opening bottles of beer and wine, fixing meals, watching whales blow and jump, taking pics, falling asleep in a chair, watching sleeping turtles, responding to e-mails, coaching long distance, hiking into the Waipio canyon and nearly dying trying to walk out, watching surfers and boogie boarders, playing golf, watching the sun go down at the end of the day, listening to tunes, observing and talking to our gecko friends, sleeping in, monitoring the stock market, posting to Facebook, playing games on the computer.

Editor’s note: Steve will have an update on his retirement activities for the July newsletter.

SUHRS AND HASSEBROEKS CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

CONTRIBUTED BY GENE SUHR AND JOHN HASSEBROEK AND HIS SISTER, DEB

On the very same day in September 1961, Babs and Gene Suhr tied the knot in Topeka and June Ann and Lyle Hassebroek were married in Wisconsin. Little did either couple know that they would soon begin lifelong friendships and rewarding careers with CH2M HILL.

Gene and Babs celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries on a warm, sunny day in late August with friends, associates, and relatives at the Suhrs’ home in Vancouver, Washington, complete with a large marquee tent and outdoor seating for 80. The firm was well represented by, among others, Bob and Meredith Chapman, John and Ginny Filbert, Lyle and June Ann Hassebroek, Jim and Sharon Hawkey,
Gordon and Mary Koblitz, Sid and Judy Lasswell, Bill and Vivian Watters, and Les and Myrna Wierson.

Concurrently glowing newlyweds Gene and Babs (L) and June Ann and Lyle Hassebroek (R)

Not surprisingly, part of the party morphed into a mini-CH2M retreat when many of the old .70s discipline folks gathered to recall, embellish, and relate old war stories that may have stretched the truth a bit. In any event, a great time was had by all and many a plan was laid for future get-togethers.

Ever the dancers, June Ann and Lyle kicked up their heels at their anniversary party.

A week later and some 3 hours north in lovely Snoqualmie Valley, Washington in a historic community center near their home, June Ann and Lyle celebrated 50 years with excellent stories, a lot of laughter and a bit of energetic dancing. As many may recall, it is tough to keep that couple off the dance floor! Nearly 100 guests listened to stories of how Lyle and June Ann flirted with each other at the high school drinking fountain in Hudson, Wisconsin, and their journey west to Corvallis and CH2M, and a wonderful life filled with love, nature, music and joy.

Family and friends representing June Ann’s years of involvement in garden club, and Lyle’s lifetime career at CH2M surrounded the couple with warmth and memories. Included among CH2Mers were: Mike and Sharon Anglea, Suresh and Aro DeMel, Hiran and Nirmali DeMel, Mike and Bev Doleac, Tom and Jean Gibbs, Steve and Sally Lackey, Sid and Judy Lasswell, John and Liz Lee, Barb and Earl Overstreet, Holly Ryden, and Les and Myrna Wierson.

**AASHEIMS’ NATIONAL RV TOUR ROARS THROUGH SISTERS**

**BY GORDON KOBLITZ**

On August 29, Steve and Carol Aasheim rolled into Sisters, Oregon with buddies Frank and Bev—each couple in their 40-foot RV + trailer—for a 3-day stay.

Steve explained to Mary why she should invest in a big trike.

To welcome them, Mary and I hosted a dinner that also included retired CH’ers Mike and Sharon Anglea and Tom and Starla Haislip. Activities included scenic “big bike” rides for Mike/Mary, Steve/Carol, Frank/Bev one day and another for Steve/Gordon and Frank/Mary; another fun dinner, this time at Slicks BBQ in town; a couple of really happy hour(s) at Mike and Sharon’s and the RV park (including RV tours...boy, are they riding in style!); lots of laughs and story swapping before the RV caravan moved on.

Check out the Aasheims’ road trip here:  

**Other Interesting News**

**ALUMNICONNECT’S HOLBEN MARRIED 9/10/11**

Six years after their first date, Geoff Walker and Emily Holben/DEN married at the historical Oxford Hotel in downtown Denver, “only blocks from where we had our first date. The festivities leading up to our wedding were so much fun and so special. The only thing I wish is that I could’ve somehow slowed time,” said Emily.

“Geoff and I met through mutual friends. One of the things I’ve always loved about him was his great sense of humor. I knew right away that Geoff was not like all the other guys,” said Emily.

“Married life has been lots of fun. Whether we’re spending time hiking, biking, gardening, working on do-it-yourself house projects (sigh), cooking (with the fancy wedding gifts, cooking’s become one of our favorite things to do together), or going out, we’ve been having a blast and laughing all the way. Geoff’s sincerity and humor are still just two of the reasons I’m the luckiest girl on this wide earth!”

**MIKE FISHER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LACROSSE**

In 2010, retiree McLane (Mike) Fisher was inducted into the Colorado Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame. Mike and his wife, Sue, live outside Sisters, Oregon, where Gordon and Mary Koblitz have a second home. Gordon recently learned about Mike’s passion and found this article in The Nugget Newspaper of Sisters.

It was a moment Mike Fisher will never forget. The 72-year-old Black Butte Ranch resident was in Manchester, England, for the World Championships of lacrosse in July. He was on the grass playing his beloved sport for the last time in a long career, during which he pioneered “masters” play in the United States.
As Steve Sternersen of U.S. Lacrosse reports, “In the middle of the game, as he waited for a face-off from his attack position, all players suddenly dropped their sticks and gloves, turned to face him, and applauded furiously to thank him for his leadership and inspiration.”

“I had no expectation whatsoever,” Fisher told The Nugget, “so it was a complete and total surprise. Obviously a very pleasant one.”

[Mike] grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, arguably the capital of lacrosse, a sport with Native American origins which resembles hockey, except that it’s played on grass and the ball is advanced with passes from a stick with a laced “pocket” on the end for throwing and catching the ball.

“Basically I grew up with a lacrosse stick in my hand,” Fisher said.

But the game had to lie fallow as Fisher entered the tiny Hampden-Sydney College, then too small to have a lacrosse squad. He migrated west to the University of Oregon in 1961, to a land where lacrosse was virtually unknown outside a pocket of enthusiasts in Seattle.

Earning an MBA at the U of O, Fisher went into the banking industry, then went to Corvallis where he joined CH2M HILL, which was to become one of the premier environmental engineering firms in the world. “It was just a little local engineering firm at the time,” Fisher recalled. “I had a 30-year career there.” That career put him in charge of business operations for the prestigious firm, and when CH2M HILL relocated to Denver, Colorado, he went with it.

There, in his late 40s, Fisher reconnected with lacrosse. “I just read about it or something in the newspapers and I thought I ought to get involved,” he said. When Fisher “gets involved,” he really gets involved. He saw a need to develop different categories of “masters” play and he launched grand masters play for people 45 years and older in 1994. Super masters for older players followed. He worked to get grand masters play qualified as part of world championships play. “Essentially what they did was give a venue for a lot of older players to play against people of their own age,” he said. “That caught on really quickly.”

Fisher is a crease attacker when he’s on the field, but he acknowledges that his biggest contribution to the game is his organizational work. “I’m more of an initiator and an organizer than I am what we call an impact player,” he said. He has managed a national team that competed in tournaments around the U.S., mostly on the East Coast, where the sport has a much higher profile than it does in the West.

Fisher says that improvements in equipment, especially protective gear, have allowed people to continue playing for years, honing their skills in a game that rewards stick handling ability and tactical thinking as well as speed and stamina.

Masters, grand masters and super masters play invokes modified contact rules that take account of the fact that the players aren’t resilient teens or 20-somethings anymore. “The guys, after a weekend tournament, want to go back to work on Monday healthy,” Fisher said.

What motivates middle aged and older men to fly across the country to chase a ball with a stick? “The game itself is something that those of us who have stuck with it a long time just love so much,” he said. “At the end of the day it’s the camaraderie as well as the game itself that feels good and keeps you tied in.”

Fisher and his wife Sue moved to Black Butte Ranch four years ago, after maintaining a second residence there since the mid 1980s. He’s contributed “indirectly” to the emerging Outlaws lacrosse program, and he’s gratified to see lacrosse catching on in the region - largely due to the efforts of Sisters teacher and coach Bill Rexford. But the 72-year-old lacrosse warrior insists that Rexford and other lacrosse pioneers are going to have to get the job done without any direct assistance from this crease attacker. “I’ve made a promise to my family that I’m really retired,” Fisher said. He won’t be laying around, though. “I love to fish and I love to hunt upland game, so I keep active that way.”
**IT’S A BIRD! IT’S A PLANE! IT’S FREEZING COLD!**

*BY EMILY CROSS/ANV*

On December 17, Mark Lasswell, Alaska president and general manager, and David Hopkinson, VP Alaska construction, jumped through a hole cut through frozen Goose Lake in Anchorage in Superman outfits. With clients such as BP and ConocoPhillips, their Team Frigidaires raised $77,568.50 for Special Olympics. Check out this [YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34567890) that features a close up of Mark around the 3:38 mark.

![Mark Lasswell took the 2011 Polar Plunge with David Hopkinson.](image)

**TRAVELING TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

*BY VICKI STARR/CVO*

*Vicki Starr is the official document publishing specialist for the Retiree/Alumni Newsletter and a CH2M HILL employee since 1992.*

When you work for a global company, if you’re lucky, you might get to travel to some pretty cool places. Recently I was fortunate enough to travel to Doha, Qatar on a project. I first went in November, then again in January. It was my first time to a Middle Eastern country so I was excited to go.

Qatar is a peninsula that juts out into the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia. Doha is a beautiful city with spectacular ocean views in the midst of rapid growth. Skyscrapers are being built everywhere you look. There are giant malls that look just like any mall in the U.S. once you step inside. But it’s the people and the local culture that intrigued me.

You can find whatever you need at the Souq Waqif. The Souq Waqif is their street market, its alleys alive with shop owners and their wares. Shops with piles of fresh spices, their intense aromas filling the air, tailor shops, fabric shops, scarves, luggage, household goods, pets, whatever you need, it’s there somewhere. And food, restaurants with comfortable outdoor seating, people lounging, eating, relaxing, and smoking sheesha.

From the souq you can see the minaret of Fanar Qatar Islamic Cultural Center. One of their missions is to help non-Arabs have a better understanding of Islam and culture of Qatar. I was able to attend a class put on by wonderful Qatari women on traditional Qatari dress.

The Museum of Islamic Art houses one of the world’s most complete collections of Islamic artifacts. The building itself is magnificent, designed by I.M. Pei. It was a wonderful place to visit with so much to see, I went twice. I also got to visit the Sheikh Faisal AL Thani Museum with CH2M HILL friends in Doha working on a different project and their expat friends.
Qatar is all about education and nowhere is that more evident than Katara Cultural Village. It is filled with education and arts of all kinds. This is where their opera house is, art exhibitions (we saw a wonderful exhibition by Louise Bourgeois), fine arts, photography, visual arts, music academy, drama, and an amazing amphitheatre. It’s also where the Doha Tribeca Film Festival is held.

Vicki took a camel ride on the beach one Friday (weekends in Qatar are Friday and Saturday).

In January, Doha experienced a cold snap when it got down into the 60s (50s at night) for over a week. Brrr! Local stores were selling out of space heaters.

Working in Doha was a great experience. I’d be happy to go back.

CH2M HILL SIGNS MAJOR OIL SANDS DEAL WITH STATOIL IN ALBERTA
BY LISA STONE/C GY

CH2M HILL signed a significant master services agreement (MSA) with Statoil Canada Ltd. in support of its oil sands development in Alberta. Valued at nearly $1 billion (total installed cost), CH2M HILL’s MSA is for engineering, procurement, construction, and construction management services. The MSA includes projects in the current program, with additional future opportunities such as Project Corner, Statoil’s planned new steam-assisted gravity drainage field, valued roughly at an additional $1.2 billion in constructed value.

Northern Alberta, where Statoil’s Leismer Demonstration Project is being built, contains the world’s largest known reserves of oil-bearing sands. Statoil is developing this valuable resource in close consultation with local communities and environmental groups.

“We wanted a partner that shared our core values around being courageous, open, hands-on, and caring,” said Cindy McEwan, Procurement Manager, Projects with Statoil Canada, Ltd. “CH2M HILL’s reputation on ethics, the environment, and caring for people was a significant factor in our decision.”

The projects outlined in the initial program include reduced liquid discharge, sulphur recovery, sludge pond, solvent co-injection, well pads 5 and 6, and the acceleration project phases I and II.

MORE GOOD NEWS
BY CEO LEE MCINTIRE

As you may know by now, the team of CH2M HILL and Halcrow was selected as programme managers for the multibillion-pound sterling High Speed 2 Rail line from London north to the northern English cities. Roy Hill is our PM. Remarkable awards of one of the largest, most demanding jobs in our history and proves to me that the merger was strategic as we had hoped. I am very pleased.

Can you handle more good news? CH2M HILL was selected as programme manager for the Qatar 2022 World Cup! Jacque Rast signed the contract. Omur Akay is our PM and our executive sponsor is Mike Szomjassy. These colleagues have been selected for one of the largest infrastructure undertakings currently known to this writer. One must assume that our recognized London Olympics experience and our expanded MidEast capabilities contributed to this huge win.

Proud of this and who we are.

INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL STANDINGS ARE IMPRESSIVE

In December, Engineering News-Record ranked CH2M HILL as No. 5 among Top Global Design Firms, No. 20 among Top International Design Firms, and No. 204 for Top Global Contractors in its ENR Global Sourcebook. Other rankings are as follows:

Top: Pipelines
Second: Government Offices
Third: Wastewater Treatment; Sewerage and Solid Waste
Fifth: Haz Waste; Manufacturing; and Canada
WBG EARNS GOLD-LEVEL TARGET ZERO MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In 2011, the WBG achieved an incredible 5 million work hours without a lost work incident, earning the Gold Level Target Zero Milestone Achievement Award in Health and Safety. Lee McIntire sent a letter of congratulations to the WBG staff.

Retreat Photos: Enjoy!

The Alumni History Web site “Retreat” tab will be updated by early March 2012 with the newsletter article, all the photos, video(s), and presentation material. The following photos are included to show many of the attendees at the events. Photo credits again go to Judy Lasswell, Mary Koblitz, Bob Crittenden, Bill Peterschmidt, and Don Marske!

The Reception

Carolyn & Bill Irving, Bob Crittenden, Carol Kangas

Mary & Jerry Boyle

Sharon Storbo, Starla & Tom Haislip

Dave & Carol Evans, Mary Boyle, Mary Koblitz
Melanie Harris and Diane Amoth

Ken Miller's family: Betty, Doug (behind), Sue, Teresa and Steve

Sharon & Mike Anglea and Joan Marske at Balboa Park

Freedom ship in dry-dock

Gordon, Mike Anglea, Bob & Meredith Chapman w/guide on USS Freedom

Sid & Judy Lasswell - Midway