



The Volunteer

December 2011

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AACE International East Tennessee Section Newsletter

Message from the "Prez"

Mark Plemmons, ETS President

Everyone knows that the holidays are a time for giving. Each of us have likely had less focus on work while we shop for and wrap presents and look forward to seeing distant family members. It's a terrific time of year.

I struggled to think of a topic to discuss for the newsletter this month, but as I was thinking about how distracted I was about the holidays and how hard it was to swing my mind back to the business of cost engineering, I had an epiphany. A tiny one, true, but still I think interesting enough to share. Being actively involved in AACE as I am is another form of giving. OK, I hear you groaning but let me explain. Yes I'm giving back to "the profession" as I've said before in previous articles. The epiphany part of this is that I find that I'm

getting out of the organization more than I put into it. In other words, during this season of giving I find that I am once again giving to myself by writing this newsletter.

I've been on the Section's board for a long time. My activity level has wavered now and then but I've mostly been active. Up until recently there were others with more seniority on the board (and still, Bob's still got me beat), but I find myself as one of the old-timers now. Being active in AACE has not only brought me closer to a lot of people, both in and out of the Section, but I find that focusing on the things that make the section great have also improved my skills as well. I plan and oversee section activities like other board members, but I also help provide certification training, give a technical presentation now and

then, and even write a paper for the annual conference. I'm helping myself by learning and improving technical skills, public speaking skills, and helping other people get to better know me. As long as I don't come off as a jerk to people (and sorry if I have), all of these things are positive benefits that I gain by putting some time and effort into the section. The extra work helps my career, my self-image, and my working relationships with others. For me it's time well spent.

I encourage each of you to consider getting a bit more involved in AACE, either at the section level or at the headquarters level. There are many ways to contribute to the organization. What you'll discover is that you too will likely get more out of it than you put in. Happy holidays!

Director Dispatch

Melissa Buckner, Director of Education

Academic scholarships are available to full-time students pursuing degrees in engineering, construction management, building construction, computer sciences, business, quantity surveying, information

technology, and other related degrees to cost engineering. If you know a student who is currently pursuing a degree in these areas more information is available on the [website](#). Or they can fill out an

application on the [website](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melissa Buckner at mhb@y12.doe.gov. To see more information on scholarships please see page 5.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aace-ets.org

January Section Meeting

Andrea Bach, ETS Vice-President

January Section Meeting
January 23rd
11:30am
Gondolier i
Oak Ridge

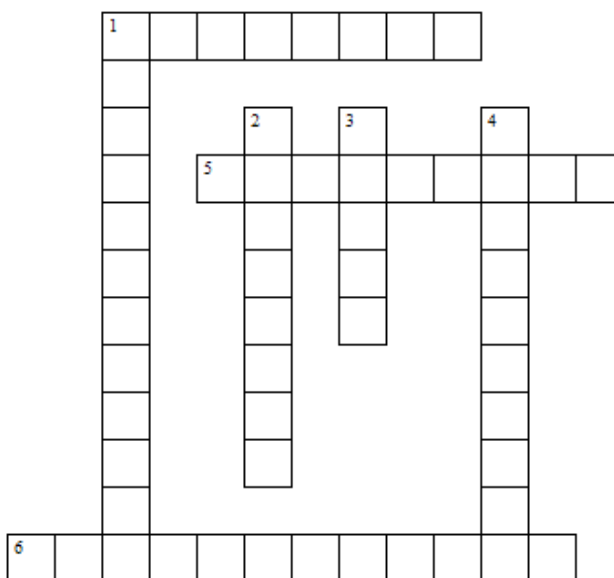
Please plan to join us on January 23rd for the January section meeting. The meeting will be held at [Gondolier](#) in Oak Ridge starting at 11:30am.

Out speaker will be Steve McCracken, General Manager of Kingston Ash Recovery Project, Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Mr. McCracken, a native of

Oak Ridge, is responsible for all aspects of TVA's role in the ash recovery project at the Kingston Fossil Plant in Harriman, Tennessee. He oversees the integration of all TVA activities on the site, which includes working with the plant manager on plant operations and the scrubber project and being closely involved in the conversion to dry ash

storage and closing of existing ash impoundments. Mr. McCracken is a nationally recognized leader on clean-up and remediation projects, with successful decontamination and remediation projects completed in previous positions with the Department of Energy in Tennessee, Ohio and Missouri.

Puzzle of the Month



ACROSS

- 1 The time required to accomplish an activity
- 5 An activity that immediately succeeds another activity
- 6 A measurement and analysis process that compares practices, processes, and relevant measures to those of a selected basis of comparison with the goal of improving performance

DOWN

- 1 Decline in value of a capitalized asset
- 2 A cost that has already been incurred and which should not be considered in making a new investment decision
- 3 The sum of all that is to be or has been invested in and delivered by the performance of an activity or project
- 4 The provision in actual or estimated costs for increase in cost of equipment, material, labor, etc, due to continuing price changes over time

See the AACE-ETS website for answer key.



December Section Social

Andrea Bach, ETS Vice-President

Great fun was had by all who attended our Holiday Social on December 1st at the home of the section vice president, Andrea Bach. Approximately 30 people attended and the Christmas spirit was flowing. Lots of social interaction followed by a very good meal catered by

Savelli's Restaurant. Beverages and desserts were available for all who wanted to partake. Several members and their guests participated in a "white elephant" gift exchange where lots of fun gifts were exchanged. Wine, candles and lottery cards were among the

gifts swapping hands. Canned goods were also collected during the social and will be donated to Second Harvest.

Ask the Experts

This is one of the sections we're adding to try to make our newsletter a little more interactive. If you have a question, email it to ask@ace-ets.org. We will try to get you the best answer as soon as possible. Questions may be about anything from AACE membership to best practices to program problems and beyond.



Each month we will feature an example certification exam question.

Exam Question

When a planner-scheduler is collecting information about the project during the initial planning cycle, which information is of GREATEST value?

- Contract specifications
- The contractor's pre-bid site visit meeting minutes and notes
- The contract's change clause
- A detailed scope of work statement

Look for the answer on page 6.



Upcoming Events

Monday, January 23, 2012 Section Meeting

Speaker: Steve McCracken

Topic: TVA: Kingston Ash Recovery Project

Watch for more information on the February and March meetings in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Certification Exams

At [UT Outreach Center](#) in Oak Ridge

March 10, 2012



The November Section Meeting will be held November 15, 2011 at 11:30am at Gondolier in Oak Ridge

November Section Meeting

The East Tennessee Section November meeting was held at the Gondolier restaurant in Oak Ridge, TN, and the guest speaker was James Benham, of JB Knowledge Technologies. James is founder and president of JB Knowledge Technologies and started the company during his final year in the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master of Science in Management Information Systems. Jeff's company is headquartered in Bryan/College Station, TX. Jeff's topic was "Using

Technology for Better Pre-construction" and focused on what cutting edge technology is in use in the construction industry and gave a number of examples of how useful it is to link different devices and soft wares to provide a "Modern Technology Toolkit". A survey of tools used by companies for take offs and estimating was interesting in how many different soft wares were used and how different tools were used for different types of jobs depending on size and scope. A "Modern Technology Toolkit" can expect to include any number of soft wares and a sample listing could include soft wares for "Core Estimating (Timberline, MC2 ICE, Win Est, Proest)", "Takeoff Software (OST, Planswift)", "Estimating Logistics (SmartBidNet)", "Macro BIM (D-Profiler)", "Scheduling (Microsoft Project, Primavera)", "Earthwork (Earthworks, Insight), Doc Mgmt and Work Flow (Paperless, CIS)", and many more.

Del Dreke, Publicity Chair

shared was how mobile technology & social networking tools are now used by a number of companies to help in sales (Networking between contractors on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter), twitter can be used to publish job notices, addenda notices and links to electronic plan rooms, Facebook can be used by private teams to collaborate on communication, images and small documents, and there are also many others (see James' website).

One thing James said that stuck in my mind was that the recession actually helped the sales for "automated tools for take offs and estimating" explode in size. Companies could no longer afford to spend very much time on estimating and bidding as the win rates were now lower and the successful companies invested in time saving soft wares in order to stay competitive in the market place. James topped everything off with the "Augmented Reality" which is the convergence of, GPS, Compass, Cameras, Connectivity, Data (3D Models, business listing information, etc.), and 3D projectors. James' presentation was one of the best for the year and a very current in how modern technologies are used in the construction industry



Another aspect of modern technology that James

November Section Meeting – Follow-up

Suzanne Patton, Newsletter Chair

The week after James came to talk to the section about Augmented Reality an article on CNN.com caught my eye. The article was in the "What's Next?" section of the

website. It seems researchers at the University of Washington and Finland's Aalto University have developed a prototype contact lens that will project images

onto the retina. It all sounds pretty weird to me. However, after listening to James maybe kind of cool too. Check out the article [here](#).

AACE is your professional partner bringing you information and support you can trust.

International News

Do you take the Engineering Record News?

ENR Offers Lower Rates to AACE Members

ENR (Engineering News Record) has lowered its price for AACE Members! The new AACE member rate is \$41.95. (Regular

subscription rates to ENR are \$82 annually.) New or renewing subscribers can take advantage of this rate by using the following link:

<https://www.mcgraw-hill-sales.com/aacemgh.htm>

ENR provides more construction economics than ever before!

www.aacei.org

Cost indexes by city --
Materials price indexes --
Raw material costs

Construction cost index --
Building cost index --
Materials cost index

PLUS: Password access to ENR.com - Newsletter - News Alerts

Certification News

Melissa Buckner, Director of Education

The East Tennessee Section awards academic scholarship to full-time students pursuing degrees in engineering, construction management, building construction, computer sciences, business, quantity surveying, information technology, and other related degrees to cost engineering.

If you know a student who is currently pursuing a degree in one of these areas, please ask them to visit the website below to view the on-line scholarship application on **December 15th**.

<http://www.aacei.org/awards/scholarships/online.shtml>

Once the scholarship application is submitted, the student will be entered in the both the local and international competition. Important dates are listed to the right.

December 15 – On-line scholarship becomes available.

January 1 to February 15 – Submit on-line scholarship

February 15 –By this date, fully completed applications, including any required supporting documentation such as transcripts must be received by AACE International.

The mailing address is:
ATTN: Staff Director-Education, AACE International
1265 Suncrest Towne Centre Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505-1876 USA

February 17 – Applications received electronically and by mail will be forwarded from AACE Headquarters to the appropriate local AACE Section (chapter) for the first round of judging.

February 18 to 29 - The local sections determine winner of sections competition.

March 1 – After the local sections' judging committees have reviewed all applications received, they submit the names of up to four semi-finalists to AACE International Headquarters office by this date for the international competition.

March 1 to 15 – AACE Headquarters distributes semi-finalists applications to Education Board for second round of judging.

March 16 – June 30 - The Education Board Meeting – Education Board identifies finalists, and makes determination of international awards.

July 1 – All candidates are notified of the results of both local and international competitions.

August 1 – The scholarship checks are mailed to schools where winners attend.

January is National Radon Action Month

Jeff Baldwin, Treasurer

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aace-ets.org

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated January as National Radon Action month. The Department of Environment and Conservation of the state of Tennessee requested that we include information about radon in our newsletter to increase awareness.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, responsible for more than 21,000 deaths annually in

the United States. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released from rocks, soils, and water that can accumulate to dangerous levels inside homes, schools, and other buildings.

Potential sources of radon include:

- Soil: 69.3%
- Well water: 18.5%
- Outdoor air: 9.2%
- Building materials: 2.5%
- Public water supplies: 0.5%

Soil underlying your home usually represents the greatest source of radon for most residences.

For more information visit: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/ea/radon> or call 1-800-232-1139.

Around the Section

AACE is happy to congratulate Monty Middlebrook on being our latest PSP certified member. Good job Monty!

AACE also wants to wish Jim Day well in his retirement. Jim was a long time member of AACE and a friend to all.

On a related note, congratulations to David Benton on taking the Manager of Project Controls position Jim retired from. Good luck and congrats to David.

As we are ever striving to keep our members informed about what is happening in the organization, we hope this newsletter will help us do that. If you have

any announcements regarding seminars, members receiving a special recognition or award, members moving or changing jobs, job opportunities or anything else deemed appropriate to share with the East Tennessee AACE members, provide this information no later than the 3rd Monday of each month to Suzanne Patton. Suzanne can be emailed using the ETS Board link on the ETS website. Just click on contact under the phone number.

Contact Information

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Education	Melissa Buckner	574-8300
Communication	Taylor Burson	576-0983
Activities	Bob McCoy, CCC	574-9715

Committee Chairs

Publicity	Del Dreke, EVP	241-9522
Newsletter	Suzanne Patton	576-2437

Exam Answer

Answer: d. A detailed scope of work statement