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Wow – where to begin!?! It seems like just yesterday that we were holding our General Membership meeting at the Embassy Suites in Herndon on a cold January day. The reality is, though, that the spring semester is rapidly coming to an end. But, as the saying goes, “time flies when you’re having fun.” The excitement around LDDI continues to build with students and professionals.

LDDI’s Curriculum and Course Enhancement committee continues to work on creating a Land Development focus track for students pursuing a B.S. in Civil & Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. The efforts of this group have also created two brand new seminars being taught for the first time this spring – Introduction to Land Development and Sustainable Land Development. The Practitioner Involvement committee is working diligently on fundraising efforts and continuing to increase interaction between industry professionals and students both in and out of the classroom. The efforts of this committee have also resulted in a website - www.iddi.net - which we hope you visit often! We are also initiating a new LD student club!

Spring is a season of new growth, and I am thrilled with the continued growth of the LDDI. I hope you will enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter and that you find enjoyment in “meeting” some of our members and learning about some of our sponsoring firms’ exciting projects. As always, I welcome your feedback on how we can continue to build LDDI!

Randy Dymond, VT LDDI Coordinator

Snapshots from the Spring '08 CEE Career Fair

photos by Ana Constantinescu



Arch Marston (AES Consulting Engineers) and Holly Smith, a student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department



Ashley Licklitter and Kathy Del Guercio (Kimley-Horn and Assoc., Inc.), and Rachele Hill, a senior student in Environmental Sciences



Ed Horstkamp and Brian Welch (ESP), and Scott Cramer, a graduate student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering department



Christy Vest (Balzer & Associates, Inc.)



“When I graduated from high school I thought that I wanted to be an architect. I quickly found out that engineering was a path to which I was better suited. Virginia Tech offered me a great engineering education and I wouldn’t trade my time here for a degree from any other university in the world” - Kevin Young, LDDI assistant coordinator

Career Spotlight: Kevin Young, PE, Virginia Tech

An early career start opens up more doors in the future

by Ana Constantinescu

In his early thirties, Kevin is already an accomplished civil engineer who is building an academic career as a research associate at his alma mater, Virginia Tech.

A '00 alumnus, Kevin started his professional career in 1993 at Anderson & Associates, Inc. (A&A) in Blacksburg, Va. “I started working as a drafter and then as a design technician, two jobs that offered me tremendous learning opportunities,” says Kevin.

Upon graduating with a B.S. in civil engineering, he was promoted to project engineer at A&A, where he worked on various land development and hydraulics & hydrology projects. His early professional experience and college years taught Kevin the value of being proficient in a variety of technical topics, while also having strong communication skills. Most importantly, Kevin says, “the value of good organizational skills can’t be overestimated.”

His rich professional achievements helped Kevin obtain the Professional Engineer

certification and secure the highly competitive Via Graduate Fellowship at Virginia Tech in 2003. Kevin rounded up his education with a M.S. degree in 2006, which convinced him to remain in the academic world. Kevin is now a research associate at the university whose responsibilities are teaching and conducting research. “A foundational element in my current research is an algorithm that I was first introduced to by Dr. G.V. Loganathan,” says Kevin. “Following the tragic events of April 16th, I feel truly privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a great man.”

Kevin is also the LDDI assistant coordinator, a responsibility that he embraces wholeheartedly. “The students’ exposure to industry professionals provides them with a solid understanding of what is expected of them in the real world,” notes Kevin.

There is one other part to Kevin’s rich resume, perhaps the most important one—his 10 month old son, Kaden, who is the most exciting “project” of his life.

Who We Are: Bill Zink, christopher consultants, ltd.



“I had so many people that helped me along the way both in college and when I was first starting out, that I believe it is our obligation to help the young people realize what a great career Land Development is and how much good we are doing.” - Bill Zink, Regional Vice President and Partner at christopher consultants, ltd.

Bill Zink is Regional Vice President and Partner at christopher consultants, ltd. His career in civil and environmental engineering (CEE) spans more than 20 years and includes four years of work with the infamous Jack Kent Cooke as he traveled around the beltway looking for a new home for the Washington Redskins football stadium. Bill was named “Associate of the Year” for the Northern Virginal Building Industry in 2006.

What attracts you to CEE?

There are so many things. I remember looking for my first job in the profession and I just wanted an engineering job that would be challenging. I said I could do anything, I just needed the chance. In Land Development Engineering, there are so many design challenges and the process is so dynamic, that you never get bored! I think CEE and Land Development Engineering impact people’s daily lives in ways they don’t even know! I like talking to the public about projects we are working on and explaining technical issues to people so they can understand them. I like seeing the engineers coming out of college get their feet wet and use what they learn in practice and grow into professionals that are highly respected. I like

seeing my company grow and expand and mentoring the next generation of engineers.

What motivated you to become involved with the LDDI?

Giving back to the students! I had so many people that helped me along the way both in college and when I was first starting out, that I believe it is our obligation to help the young people realize what a great career Land Development is and how much good we are doing. I also think it gives us more seasoned engineers an opportunity to work closely with the future of our industry at a very early stage of development!

What are LDDI’s strengths?

The University staff leading the charge, the talent on the Board, and the students desire to learn. We have a unique opportunity here to improve something that is already great. This opportunity wouldn’t be possible without the support of the people involved.

What are your hobbies?

My family is my biggest hobby. I have six kids and they keep my wife and I pretty busy. I also am active member of the National Ski Patrol and patrol regularly during the winter months at Ski Whitetail, PA. Finally, I enjoy spending time on our farm!

South Carolina upscale residential project is on par with existing golf course, local greenway

edited by Ana Constantinescu

Engineers from ESP Associates, P.A. are designing a high-end residential development called "Springfield" in Fort Mill, SC for Crescent Resources, LLC. The 640 acre project includes single-family homes, golf villas, town homes, amenities such as a new golf clubhouse and cart barn, and walking trails.

The natural setting of the site's surrounding properties, which include an 18-hole public golf course, wooded areas, and green space, is one of the unique features of the Springfield project. "It was important to be able to protect the integrity and feel of the golf course while providing the developer with a quality development that allows unique golf course views," explained Danis Simmons, ESP lead project manager. ESP engineers have also used their geotechnical skills in order to resolve the issue of the soft, natural silt soil specific to the site. Their solution was to undercut sections of the softer soils and replace them with geotextile fabric and crushed stone. "This process limited the required undercutting process and allowed

our client to stay on schedule with the development process," said Danis. Other tasks performed by ESP included materials testing, planning, surveying and construction staking, water resources design, and site civil land development design. Construction observation services included certification of utility installation, erosion control, and special inspections for construction of the clubhouse, cart barn, and other amenities.

Danis mentioned that the main challenge on this project was coordinating the offsite improvements with the associated permits, and their impact on the project schedule. "The timing of the construction with offsite utilities on and across the golf course was an interesting challenge since we had to keep the golf course open and operational."

The Springfield development was selected to host "Homearama," an event sponsored by the Home Builders Association - Charlotte in 2007 that was attended by 35,000 potential customers over the course of three weeks.



The "Springfield" residential development in Fort Mill, SC welcomes its residents with luxury homes and unique surroundings.

Synthetic turf athletic fields are welcomed by residents of Fairfax County, Va.

edited by Ana Constantinescu

Burgess & Niple (B&N) worked with the Fairfax County Park Authority to transform several "traditional" athletic fields located in recreational parks into easy-to-maintain artificial surfaces accessible year-round.

This pilot program was developed in response to increased public and political demand for extended use of the County's athletic fields. The subject fields are designed for multiple sports, including soccer, football, lacrosse, and field hockey.

B&N engineers are providing professional services such as surveying, civil engineering, geotechnical consulting, structural engineering (walls, light pole foundations, etc), and construction-phase management for up to 15 athletic fields at various county parks.

Dennis Thomas, project manager, explained that a unique feature of the project was the fast-tracking of the activities, from design through construction. "A typical project of this type would take

between 12 and 18 months for design, permitting, and construction," said Dennis. "The fields were ready to use in 8 to 10 months." One other challenge successfully overcome by Dennis's team was to integrate the new synthetic fields into the existing parks while minimizing any potential impacts on the other facilities.

The project also featured an interesting element of innovation. The B&N engineers designed the stone base and underdrain system below the synthetic turf as an innovative stormwater runoff BMP measure. "We were able not only to provide rapid drainage of the playing surface, but also provide some water quality benefits," explained Dennis.

Residents of Fairfax County are already enjoying many of the new fields, with more scheduled for completion this spring and summer. Dennis believes the success this project has enjoyed so far will likely result in expanding the initiative in the future.



Residents of Fairfax County, Va. will be enjoying 15 new multi-purpose synthetic athletic fields this summer, rain or shine.

Virginia Tech

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Land Development Info Night - A great prelude to the Spring '08 CEE Career Fair

by Kevin Young

Based on the amazing success of the inaugural event last October, the Via Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech held its second Career Fair on February 26th and 27th.

The event was attended by nearly 90 firms and over 300 Virginia Tech students. Many of LDDI's sponsoring firms attended the fair, and a number of other firms were also actively recruiting students for land development design jobs and internships.

In an effort to further increase student awareness of land development as a career path, volunteers from the LDDI held a "Land Development Info Night" on February 25th. This event, the third of its kind, was a tremendous success! Ginger Greunke, Justin LaMora, and Christian Hampson (Bohler Engineering, P.C.) gave an informative presentation on the profession that elicited a number of questions from the students. Also in attendance were Lauren Geiger and Kathy Del Guercio (Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.), Keith Reichlen (Bowman Consulting), Nina Almaguer (Tri-Tek Engineering, Inc.), and Jeff Gilliland (J2 Engineers).

The attendees fielded questions from

the students ranging from how to size a storm drain to how to become professionally licensed. Almost 30 students attended the session, representing all levels of academic standing, from freshmen to graduate students!

Pizza and drinks were provided by the LDDI, and after the presentation many students stayed around to chat with representatives from the various firms attending the event.

LDDI Advisory Board member Bob Jansen has expressed a strong desire to make the Land Development Info Night a regular event held before every Civil and Environmental Career Fair.



Justin LaMora, and Christian Hampson (Bohler Engineering) talked to students about a career in land development design

Thank You to our sponsors!

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