

Spring 2007



NEWSLETTER

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ENGINEERS
& ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS

FACERS ON THE MOVE!

Letter from the President, Todd Buckles

Dear FACERS Members,

Many things have happened in our group during the last year. From the highs of endowing two additional scholarships for aspiring Engineering students to the low of losing our Treasurer, long time FACERS member and dear friend, Bill Lecher. In keeping with our mission, however, we tried to use the low point to attain yet another high. During our last FACERS Board of Directors meeting, by unanimous vote of those present, and in conjunction with others, a Scholarship was funded to the University of Florida College of Engineering, in the Name of William D. Lecher. I hope you will all take a moment to remember Bill, and reflect on how we all affect the future of young Engineers the way Bill did.



Looking to the next Annual Meeting, held in Orlando in June I look forward to seeing all of you there. Brian has been working very hard to make it a fun and memorable event. Get your nominations for Directors Elect turned in as soon as possible, and get ready for a great time. I am ready to "Pass the Torch" into the capable hands of Mr. Barnes, and fulfill my duties for the upcoming year as Past President.

Again, thank you all for your participation. Thanks to you, we truly are the best thing going in the Public Works Arena.

Todd Buckles, President

Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The endowed scholarship check in the amount of \$25,000 was awarded to the USF Civil Engineering Department. From left to right are the Chairman of the Civil Engineering Dept., Sunigal Saigal PH.D., P.E., Hillsborough County Public Works Director, Bob Gordon, P.E., Executive Director for the Advancement of the College of Engineering, Alicia Slater-Haase, and the Dean of the Engineering College, Louis A Martin-Vega, PH.D., P.E.

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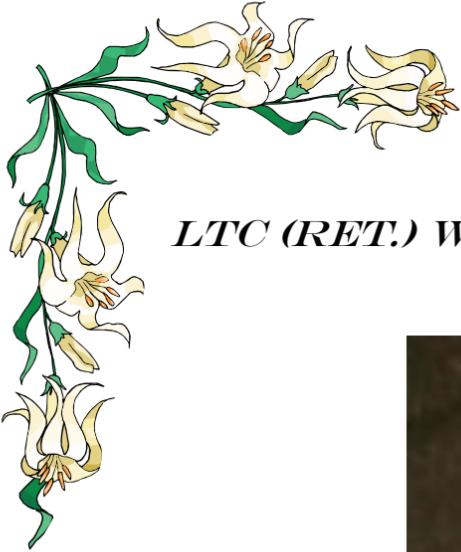
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Upcoming Events

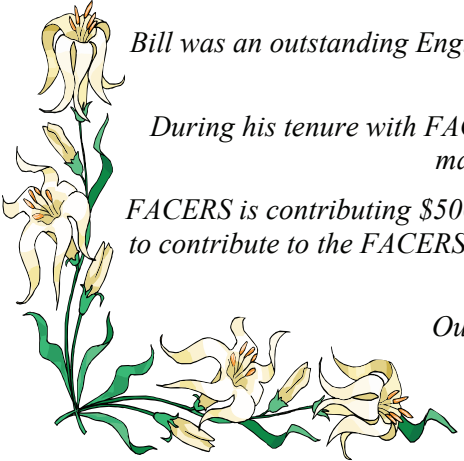
FAC Annual Conference

June 12—15, 2007

Renaissance Orlando Resort



*IN MEMORY OF
LTC (RET.) WILLIAM D. (BILL) LECHER, PE, MPA*



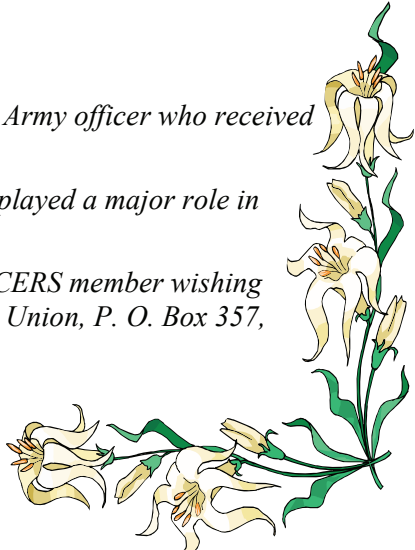
Bill was an outstanding Engineer, a great friend, a mentor, and a decorated Army officer who received numerous medals and commendations.

During his tenure with FACERS, he served on the Board of Directors and played a major role in making our organization the success it is today.

FACERS is contributing \$500 toward a Scholarship in Bill's name. Any FACERS member wishing to contribute to the FACERS Scholarship Fund may do so through 1st Credit Union, P. O. Box 357, Gainesville, FL 32635-7940.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

FACERS has lost one of its finest members.



Member Spotlight

Brian Barnes, Vice President

Brian Barnes moved to Cape Coral, Florida, in 1965 from Maryland. He lived in Cape Coral until going to the University of Florida. Since graduation he has worked for Manatee, Lee, St. Lucie and Charlotte Counties as well as Vice President of Bean Whittaker, Lutz and Barnes Engineers and Surveyors, TKW Consulting Engineers, and Castleworth Construction. For the past 8 years' he has been responsible for the Charlotte County Public Works Department's Capital Improvement Program. Brian has also had the privilege of serving FACERS as a Board Member for 2 years, Treasurer for 7 years, and Vice President for the past year. Excited about the direction FACERS is heading, He continuously encourages everyone to get active in FACERS and enjoy the many benefits that he has received from the exchange of information and relationships he has made through FACERS. When you cannot find Brian working hard for the County or one of his many associations, you will most likely find him boating on Charlotte Harbor or cheering as an enthusiastic fan of the current Basketball and Football National Champions *Florida Gators!*

Member News

Congratulations to **Mark Massaro!** !!! Upon Bill Baxter's retirement, Mark was appointed Interim Public Works Director of Orange County. On January 15, 2007, Mark was officially made Director of Public Works of Orange County. . . a well deserved appointment!

2006 FAC Legislative Conference Social Event Photos





Letter of Thanks



Mr. Ramon d. Gavarrte '91
Highlands County Engineer
505 S Commerce Ave
Sebring, FL 33870

Dear Rammone,

With Executive Dean Vish Prasad away for 10 days, I am writing to you , as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies at the College of Engineering and Computing, to thank you and to gratefully acknowledge the \$25,000 gift that we received which fulfills FACER's commitment to establish and endowed scholarship in Civil Engineering.

It was wonderful seeing you a few weeks ago and it was very gratifying for me, as one of your former professors to learn of your professional accomplishments and take great pride in your leadership role on behalf of your alma mater.

We are grateful to you for your understanding of the needs and challenges facing FIU. Your efforts on behalf of the University are a very tangible expression of that deep commitment and understanding.

Again, please accept our profound thanks and appreciation as we work together to advance the civil engineering profession.

Best wishes for a joyous and festive holiday season.

Sincerely,

L. David Shen
Associate Dean
FIU College of Engineering and Computing



FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Miami's public research university

December 1, 2006

Mr. Ramon D. Gavarrette '91
Higlands County Engineer
505 S Commerce Avenue
Sebring, FL 33870-3869

Dear Ramon:

I wish to thank the Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents (FACERS) for its \$25,000 commitment to establish the FACERS/Chastain Skillman Inc. Student Fund within the College of Engineering and Computing at Florida International University.

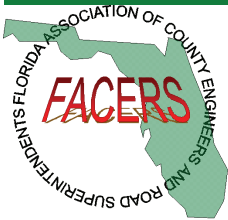
As philanthropic efforts are vital to the growth and success of the University and the students we serve, we are grateful for this contribution, which will afford FIU engineering students the opportunity and resources necessary to achieve their education and professional goals.

Moreover, we take great pride in the impact our alumni make in their personal and professional endeavors. As an alumnus, your leadership in making this gift possible is highly valued and appreciated.

On behalf of the FIU Foundation Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, Executive Dean Vish Prasad of the College of Engineering and Computing, and the students who will benefit from your generosity, thank you for this pledge of support.

Sincerely,

Modesto A. Maidique
President



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents (FACERS) invites you to become a member of one of the most dynamic organizations for public works professionals and those associated with public works operations. FACERS is an affiliate organization of both the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the National Association of County Engineers (NACE). We have two types of memberships, **Active Members**, which is open to County Engineers, Road Superintendents, Public Works Directors, and other public works staff; and **Sustaining Members**, which is open to other county staff, consultants, vendors, University staff, or others interested in the field.

Our affiliation with FAC affords us an opportunity to meet twice a year along with FAC during their Legislative (Nov) and Annual (June) Conferences. At each of these conferences, we are able to interact with the decision and policy makers, both elected officials and staff, in Florida government. Each conference's agenda is packed with interesting topics for both the technical and operations side of our membership. As a source for Continuing Education by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, we can also provide the necessary continuing education hours needed to renew a Florida P.E. License.

Do you need a truck weight ordinance, have a problem with FDEP classifying ditch cleanings as hazardous waste, been asked to install some traffic calming device, etc.? Ask the other counties how they resolved the same problem and find out what worked and what didn't, before spending your tax dollars. Anything you are facing, one of our member counties most likely have faced before. Why reinvent the wheel when the answer is out there for the cost of a question? We schedule open discussion time at the conferences as well as open e-mail to the members between conferences. We also maintain a web site www.FACERS.org that lists job openings, membership applications, awards, etc.

FACERS is also dedicated to providing engineering scholarships to universities, with engineering programs throughout the State of Florida.

We hope you will consider joining FACERS ! We know you will benefit from the association with your counterparts across the State of Florida.

2006—2007 FACERS OFFICERS

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Todd Buckles, President

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(Volusia County)

Brian J. Barnes, Vice President

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(Charlotte County)

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(Collier County)

Treasurer (Interim)

Brian J. Barnes

Danielle Slaterpryce

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(Indian River)

Hector M. Bertran

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(Orange County)

Carolyn Steves

Carolyn.Steves@RSandH.com

(RS&H) Sustaining Member

PAST PRESIDENT

Robert R. Gordon

Godonr@hillsboroughcounty.org

(Hillsborough County)

STATE NACE DIRECTOR

Ramon D. Gavarrete

rgavarre@bcc.co.highlands.fl.us

(Highlands County)

NACE PRESIDENT-ELECT

George T. Webb

gwebb@pbcgov.com

(Palm Beach County)

FACERS Board of Directors Meeting

2/16/07

Present

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Todd Buckles - President | Brian Barnes – Vice President |
| Carolyn Steves - Director | John Goodknight – Director |
| Jim Davis – Director | Hector Bertran – Director |
| Ramon – NACE Representative | Mark Massaro – Past President |
| Janet Degner – T2 Director | Bob Gordon – Immediate Past President |

With a quorum present, Todd Buckles called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Due to the inability of the Secretary to make it to the meeting, Brian Barnes was appointed acting Secretary to take the minutes of the meeting.

Secretary's Report

Gene Calvert called in at 9:50 am to report he had been involved in a minor traffic accident in Sarasota County and would not be able to make it to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Todd Buckles appointed Brian Barnes as the Treasurer until the general elections in June 2007. Due to the untimely death of our Treasurer, Bill Lecher, we only have the recent bank records mailed to Brian Barnes' address on the accounts. According to the most recent bank records, FACERS has \$17,715.45 in checking and \$6,363.30 in our investment account. There were 38 deposits in January for a total of \$5,410.00.

Todd Buckles asked Janet Degner to visit the Alachua County Public Works Department and pick up the FACERS Treasurer's paperwork and checkbook.

Motion was made to accept the verbal Treasurer's Report by Ramon Gaverette, seconded by Jim Davis.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

No Report

Scholarships: Danielle Slaterpryce / Bob Gordon

Bob Gordon reported URS has decided not to contribute half a scholarship for USF. It was decided to invite representatives from UF, FIU, USF and UCF, as well as the firms who partnered with FACERS to fund the scholarships, to the June Meeting for formal presentation of the scholarship checks for inclusion on our web-site.

Green Book: Fred Schneider

No report. Jim Davis reported he will be attending the next Green Book meeting. It was reported that George Webb has been named to the committee from District 4.

FDOT Specification: John Goodknight

John Goodknight reported the Asphalt Training Course is back on track. It was on hold until FDOT had confirmed the LAP spec on the web. FDOT has firmed up and the course can move forward. FDOT wants to know if FACERS wants to use the Marshall Mix spec or the Superpave without QC 2000 provisions.

Todd Buckles expressed his desire to have a course to teach practical techniques rather than specs.

John Goodknight advised that the course will have the first 2 days dedicated to teaching practical paving operations for field people, and the third day would be the design side for the engineers more so than the field people.

It was decided that John Goodknight and Todd Buckles will meet with FDOT and finalize the course details.

Nominations: Bob Gordon

A discussion was held concerning the need for "new blood" in the organization and the possibility of changing the terms of office to 2 years to create more stability.

Bob Gordon will be submitting a slate of officers for 2007. According to the FACERS Constitution, the Nominations Committee consists of the past 3 presidents.

Bylaws: Bob Gordon

Bob submitted a draft copy of the FACERS Constitution with the proposed changes. A general discussion was held on the various topics. It was generally accepted that the term “active member” should be changed to “general member” to avoid confusion with “sustaining members” who have been very active in the organization for a number of years.

A discussion was held and the term of office will be proposed to be increased to 2 years.

Due to the lack of a documented history of FACERS, it was decided to create a Policies and Procedures Manual. This will include Minutes of the various meetings, Treasurer’s reports, actions by the Board of Directors, slate of officers, etc. The ultimate goal is to create a living history of FACERS.

NACE: George Webb/ Ramon Gaverrete

Ramon Gaverrete requested that as many members as possible attend the April NACE meeting in Minnesota. George Webb will be installed as the NACE President during that meeting. It appears there will be 3 to 5 FACERS Members at the NACE meeting.

Annual Conference: Brian Barnes

Preliminary agenda ideas include:

Panel discussion of various pavement restoration / repair techniques.

Possible field trip was discussed.

Sarasota County Spec writing procedures

UCF, FIU, UF & USF will get the big check presentation along with the consulting firms helping fund the scholarship.

A Constitution revision vote at the General meeting before the election of officers.

Indian River County Stormwater System NDPES Permit Industrial Waste Permits.

Controlling Building permits on substandard roads.

Ditch Cleaning Consent Order Hillsborough County.

Water Management District rules to pave dirt roads

RS&H will do the social event

Nominate Life Members – Bill Lecher & John Goodknight

T2 Center: Degner

T2 Center is looking for a new web master.

T2 Center is looking for nominations for FACERS awards. They currently have only one nomination on file.

Newsletter: Carolyn Steves

Carolyn Steves presented a draft of the Spring Newsletter. It will include a tribute to Bill Lecher and will highlight Brian Barnes as the “member spotlight” subject.

Old Business:

LAP Conference – The general consensus is the entire program is in a state of flux and is not working well.

New Business:

FACERS agreed to contribute \$500.00 toward a scholarship in Bill Lecher's name. Any FACERS member wishing to contribute to the fund will be given the information in the Spring Newsletter.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM