



**GREATER METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AREA AFFILIATE**  
*Career directions for students in architecture, construction and engineering*

[www.ace-mentor-dc.org](http://www.ace-mentor-dc.org)

Volume 1, Issue 5, March 2007

## Letter from the President

Happy New Year! The ACE Mentor Program of the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area has started 2007 with a bang. We have 12 active mentor teams this school year and several more schools who would like to participate. I am very pleased to report that our mentor recruitment drive has also been successful and we have close to 60 mentors who are volunteering their time to work with our students. Our Executive Director, Mary Fenelon, continues to work tirelessly with all the details, challenges and opportunities that develop with a growing program like ours.

This newsletter highlights our mentor teams and their activities that of course culminates in our Project Presentation Night and Scholarship Breakfast at the end of the school year. We hope you all will be inspired by these accomplishments to the point of more participation in our program. Encouraging our high school students to consider careers in architecture, construction and engineering by conducting mentor and scholarship programs is of course what ACE is all about. This year our biggest challenge is funding - we need MORE SPONSORS and DONERS. As ACE grows not only do we need to raise funds for more scholarships (because we have more seniors in the program), but for expenses and operating costs. No longer can we just survive on volunteers, energy and passion - we need MONEY. We are a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, so contributions are tax deductible.

We are in desperate need to raise funds and our Board is making this a top priority for the rest of the year. We need to at least match last year's scholarships and cover all our administrative costs for things like insurance, background checks, sponsoring snacks for students at their mentor sessions, even subsidizing students for travel on public transportation to come to the sessions. It all adds up, and with more students than ever before we need your support.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000. It sounds like a lot but if our efforts result in 30 students entering the construction industry, it is really a great investment. If 1,000 supporters gave \$100, or 100 supporters gave \$1,000, or even 20 sponsors gave \$5,000, we would be in great shape. All amounts are gratefully received. You all are the life blood of ACE and at the moment we need a big transfusion.

We look forward to your continuing support and please enjoy the newsletter. The accomplishments of our students are inspiring and they make great interns during the summer as they have the interest and desire to be in our business. Please contact me at (703) 742-5701 ([reseigh@pbworld.com](mailto:reseigh@pbworld.com)) and/or Mary Fenelon at (703) 742-5716 ([mary.fenelon@acementormetrodc.com](mailto:mary.fenelon@acementormetrodc.com)).

Best wishes for a successful 2007!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Reseigh".

**Chris Reseigh, P.E.**  
*President, Washington ACE Affiliate*

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# TEAMMATES

## Booker T. Washington

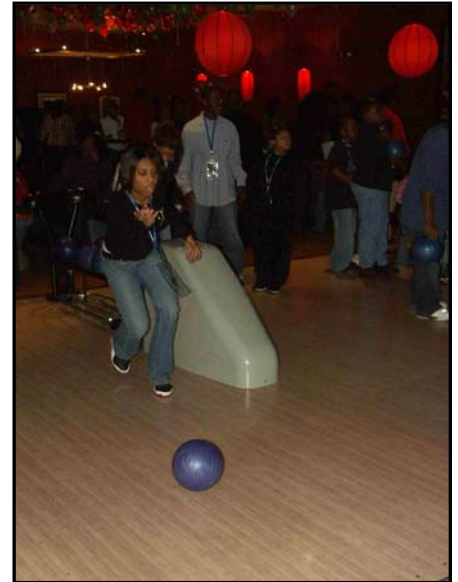
The General Services Administration's (GSA) national Capital Region ACE mentoring group has been conducting hands-on activities at every meeting. Since the Capstone Project is largely an architecture and planning exercise, we wanted to get the engineers involved in some interesting activities at the sessions prior to the start of the Capstone Project.

Electrical Engineer Gaffie Marlow bought four radio kits out of pocket for an electrical engineering assembly exercise. Two sessions were spent both in teaching about electrical engineering and trades. These sessions were combined with the students as teams putting together the capacitors, resistors, etc., with soldering irons.

Meanwhile, Mark Velsey worked with Mistey Ruffin, wife of Michael Ruffin of the Washington Wizards, to set-up a time donated by the Ruffins and Etan Thomas, also of the Wizards, to go bowling and have lunch. On December 10, 2006, about 80 students from a number of DC-area high schools attended the gathering, held at the Lucky Strike Bowling Lanes, next to the Verizon Center. The energy and activities were high and the scores were low, and everybody had a great time! Several news organizations covered the event, including the Washington Post.

Also, the Ruffins, Thomases and others of the Wizards offered students the opportunity to attend a home game and lunch on Sunday, February 11. 100 tickets were distributed to ACE students from DC schools. On yet another day, the students will make a field trip to inspect the entirety of the Verizon Center to see how the architecture is integrated with the structure, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical and telecommunication systems. The Verizon Center is good for this because all of these elements can be seen in operation.

We have begun the Capstone Project with a brainstorming session led by architects Tyrone Anderson, Mark Banks and Mark Velsey, electrical engineers Winston Wright and Gaffie Marlow, structural engineer Dawit Zena, and with business/contracting specialists Chrischanda Smith and Terrie Latimer. We will all help the students to proceed in an organized way, and we can tell the purposefulness of the entire group is on an upswing.



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## Booker T. Washington Team Update, cont'd.

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On Tuesday morning, January 30, 2007, Mark Velsey, Tyrone Anderson, Dawit Zena and Chrischanda Smith met with teacher Elaine McCain, the point person for ACE at Booker T. Washington and Mr. Jackson, the principal, to speak to each class individually about ACE program opportunities. We visited seven classes to sell the program, particularly to the younger students, because there are some smart kids out there who would benefit greatly from progressive years of learning and doing!

## Anacostia

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A six-member mentor team from Clark/Hunt/Smoot, A Joint Venture, meets with students from Anacostia High School at the new DC Major League Baseball Park jobsite every other Wednesday, from 3:45 p.m. until 6 p.m. The students take the metro to the Navy Yard and then walk to our onsite trailers. Snacks are provided. While student participation has been low, interest has been high. Our team has learned safety, toured the project, reviewed drawings, successfully built gumdrop and spaghetti structures, made better paperclips and discussed being in the work environment overall. We are working to have a successful candidate for the scholarship and/or COW program. Everyone is having a great time!



*Pictured left to right: Jackie Keiser, Nichol Bell, Phil Houston, Ed Suchodolski, Avion Perkins and Marcus Thomas*



*Artist's rendering of "The Floridian", compliments of [www.thefloridiandc.com](http://www.thefloridiandc.com)*



*3-D model of "The Beauregard", compliments of [www.thebeauregard.com](http://www.thebeauregard.com)*

## Bell Multicultural High School

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The ACE program from Bell Multicultural High School visited two Tompkins Builders project sites on December 19, 2006.

Students took a short metro ride to "The Floridian," a unique 118-unit condominium building composed of two towers with separate entrances and cores. The building includes two facades that are intended to compliment each other while remaining distinct. Open interiors offer 10-foot ceilings, distinctive kitchens and bathrooms, exposed oval duct work and contemporary lighting, of which students were able to see renderings. Amenities include pools, tennis courts, health club and a community room. The project had concrete post-tensioned slab poured to ground level at the time of the visit.

Students visited with the Tompkins staff on-site and learned about the roles of the Project Engineer, Project Manager, Safety Supervisor and Superintendent. ACE participants were inquisitive, sharp and amazed by how many drawings went into just one building! After learning about the way which the project team worked together and collaborated with the Owner and Design Team, students toured the site. They were able to see steel reinforcement, formwork, slab penetrations and conduit, and the process for pouring and finishing concrete during the tour. Safety was also discussed, with special attention focused on fall protection and personal protective equipment, among other items.

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## Bell Multicultural High School Team Update, cont'd.

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Following "The Floridian" visit, students walked two blocks to visit "The Beauregard," a six-story, 45-unit, high-end condominium building with a brick and glass façade. Features include garden apartments, upper-floor apartments with balconies and private roof terraces and a 43-vehicle parking garage. This project was in the final stages of construction, so students were able to see various aspects of the nearly-completed project. Students were amazed by the systems visible where the ceiling had not yet been closed in. The tour included a walkthrough of a typical unit, including an explanation of how the HVAC system operated. Questions ranged from technical to managerial, with issues such as scheduling, trade coordination and client satisfaction arising. The tour commenced with the description of the building envelope, addressing both design and construction issues.



At the end of the day, Tompkins personnel commented on how the Bell students had demonstrated a strong inclination toward challenging fields such as architecture, engineering and construction. Regarding an extremely inquisitive student, one Tompkins Project Manager was quoted as saying, "It wouldn't surprise me to see him leading the company one day."



Bell Multicultural is brand new as of last year and the first new high school building in decades in DC. Our project last year focused on improving the site arrangement for the sports facilities and over the summer the students actually presented their work to the principal, after the final ACE presentation. Mr. Michael Diffley, the pre-engineering program teacher is supporting us with materials and letting us use his modern classroom with new computers and a big center conference/work table. We have a very nice regular group of students, including a few seniors who are "ACE veterans." We are getting started with brainstorming the options for our project now, after a fantastic session on development by former lead mentor Bill Sawicki.



## Montgomery County Schools

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The ACE program is off and running in Montgomery County. Several mentors have been added to Tom Paci's team. Novella Brady (Skanska USA) and Scott Knudson (Wiencek Architects), who is in his second year, are helping fund the program at Wheaton High School. Attendance has increased at both schools this year with a lot of enthusiasm over this year's Capstone Project and an exercise in city planning. We are planning a city complete with infrastructure environmental impact and economic analysis. Once the parameters of the city are determined we will design some of the building plans for the site. Everyone is looking forward to the presentation at the end of the school year.



### Ken Vogel Joins ACE Board

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Kenneth Vogel is Construction Manager at Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority. As a new board member, Ken has been very effective in contacting colleagues to gain support for the ACE Scholarship Breakfast.

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## 7th Annual ACE Mentor Scholarship Breakfast – NEW, NEW, NEW!

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The Seventh Annual ACE Mentor Scholarship breakfast has some fun **NEW** updates! We've changed the month to May so mark your calendars for breakfast at 8:00 AM, Tuesday May 1, at our **NEW** venue, the National Association of Home Builders, 1201 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC.

In keeping with our **NEW** theme we've invited the **NEW** Mayor, the Honorable Adrian Fenty to be our Keynote Speaker. Mayor Fenty has made education a major priority of his **NEW** administration and we look forward to hearing first hand his thoughts and solutions.



ACE needs support and commitment from our professional community. Every one of your firms

is experiencing serious issues with finding qualified staff. We have to “feed the pipeline.” This is a grassroots effort that requires our collective focus. The ACE Mentor Program is that grass roots basis. We need your **NEW** (and *renewed*) pledges of funds and mentors.

The breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and show your support of the **NEW** young people who have finished the ACE program and are pursuing **NEW** careers in architecture, construction and engineering. They could be your future staff. They need your help in getting them there. Putting your company name on a scholarship is an investment in your future.

Watch your mailbox for your invitation with sponsorship details, or contact Mary Fenelon at (703) 742-5716 or (202) 257-5223, or via email - mary.fenelon@acementormetrodc.com.

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## Investing in ACE – Long-Term & Short-Term Dividends

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The ACE Mentor Program is designed around the school year, from 12 to 15 sessions, every other week, for two hours after school. In our area, we have found it works best to hold the team meetings in the schools. Ideally, a team has four to six mentors, spanning the spectrum of professions and trades in the industry.

In the first semester, students learn about the career options and do simple exercises, developing teamwork. There are also field trips to offices and job sites. During the second semester, each team develops a Capstone Project and each team member has an opportunity to play a role in building the project. The projects are presented to all the other teams at a Presentation Night, which this year will be May 24. ACE also provides scholarships of \$2,000 and up so graduating seniors can pursue their advanced education in the industry. The scholarships are awarded to deserving seniors at the annual Scholarship Breakfast, which this year will be held on May 1.

Although mentors are volunteers and many of the supplies and snacks that are used at each team meeting are donated, there is still a substantial cost

of doing business. For instance, all mentors are given background security checks, there is insurance coverage, and then there is all the paperwork, recording keeping and training necessary to provide a top-notch, meaningful program. These young people are your future employees, maybe your future company leaders. It is basic succession planning, and “being brutally honest”, a survival strategy. The biggest challenge in the industry today is funding, training and developing individuals to be our architects, engineers, construction managers and trades people for tomorrow. ACE is taking a leadership role in this challenge, but it needs the combined efforts of everyone in the industry to keep it viable and help it grow.

So please consider investing. It is tax deductible. We provide you with free advertising and a connection to potential interns and recruits for your organization. Make your checks out to “ACE Mentor Program of the Greater Metropolitan Washington Area”, or you can pay by VISA, MasterCard or American Express by calling (703) 742-5716. Supporting our youth supports the future and they will thank you!



## Spotlight on Mentors

THANK YOU to all the Mentor Team Leaders - and their employers - who have taken on the challenges and responsibilities of managing the teams:

- **John Samson**, Syska and Hennessey, at T C Marshall High School in Alexandria
- **Matthew Haas** and **Jackie Keiser**, Clark Construction, at Anacostia High School in DC
- **Gunnar Lucko**, Catholic University, at Bell Multicultural High School in DC
- **Mark Velsey** and **Winston Wright**, General Services Administration, at Booker T. Washington High School in DC
- **Clarence Pearson**, University of the District of Columbia, at Woodrow Wilson High School in DC
- **David Schlecht**, DBI Architects, at Marshall High School in Fairfax County
- **Ryan Seymore**, Gauthier Alvarado & Associates, at Woodson High School in Fairfax County
- **Tom Paci**, Turner Construction Sports, at Wheaton and Watkins Mill High Schools in Montgomery County
- **S. L. Hopkins**, WDG Architects, at Crossland High School in Prince George's County
- **Thomas Perry**, PB, at Suitland High School in Prince George's County

### *Board of Directors ACE of the Greater Metro Washington Area*

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**Randall Ott**, Catholic University of America

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**Thomas Paci**, Turner Construction Sports

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**Kenneth Vogel**, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority

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**Enor Williams**, Delon Hampton & Associates

**Edmund Worthy**, (Retired) National Building Museum

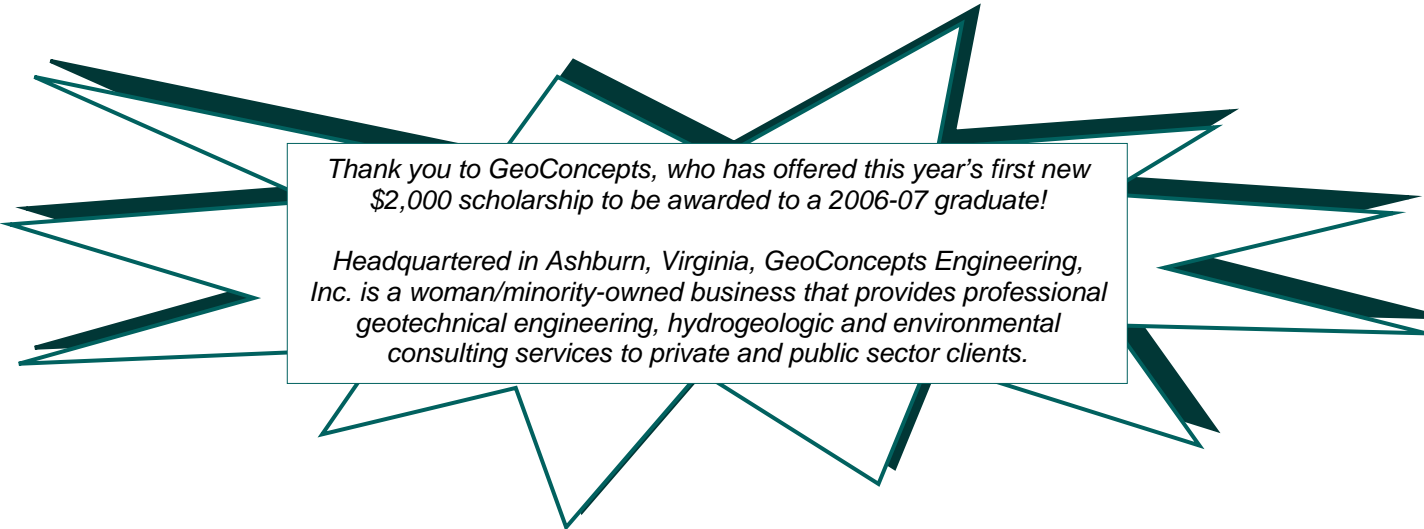
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**THANK YOU to all the generous sponsors who support the  
ACE Mentor Washington Affiliate and our students:**

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## Scholarship News



*Thank you to GeoConcepts, who has offered this year's first new  
\$2,000 scholarship to be awarded to a 2006-07 graduate!*

*Headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia, GeoConcepts Engineering,  
Inc. is a woman/minority-owned business that provides professional  
geotechnical engineering, hydrogeologic and environmental  
consulting services to private and public sector clients.*



The ACE Mentor Program of the  
Greater Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.  
**Chris Reseigh, P.E., President or**  
**Mary Fenelon, Executive Director**  
c/o PB  
465 Spring Park Place  
Herndon, VA 20170

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## Be Sure To Mark Your Calendars for These Events:

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**Tuesday, May 1, 2007** –  
7th Annual ACE Scholarship  
Breakfast, 8:00 AM, at the  
National Association of Home  
Builders, 1201 15<sup>th</sup> Street,  
NW, Washington, DC.

**Wednesday, April 11, 2007** – Next ACE Board  
of Directors Meeting, National Association of  
Home Builders, 1201 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW,  
Washington, DC.

**Thursday, May 24, 2007** – Project Presentation  
Night 2007, 6 - 8:00 PM, at the AIA National  
Component, 1735 New York Avenue, NW,  
Washington, DC.

## For more information, please contact:

The ACE Mentor Program of the Greater  
Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc.  
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**Mary Fenelon, Executive Director**

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## Editor's Note:

*The ACE Mentoring Newsletter is published for  
the members and sponsors of the ACE  
Mentoring Program to keep you informed on the  
growth of our young engineers and architects.*