

ACE Mentor News

September 2013

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida, Inc.

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ACE CONTINUES ITS MISSION WHILE GROWING AND GARNERING RECOGNITION

The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is a 501(c)(3) organization, which strives to provide a positive influence on high school students and encourage them to pursue careers in **Architecture, Construction, and Engineering** through mentoring. Mentors heighten students' awareness of career opportunities in the industry and provide advice, role-model leadership, and scholarships. By working with real professionals and seeing real work



National Competition Team (The Condors) from OPHS with Program Mentors and Teachers

environments, ACE students receive an invaluable hands-on education — they learn to understand the day-to-day workings of a business by living and experiencing it, not merely reading about it.

The multifaceted ACE program includes college advice, field trips, and hands-on projects. With oversight from mentors, teams of students design a hypothetical project in response to a Request for Proposal and present the project to a "Selection

Committee" of professional judges — an architect, engineer and contractor. The presentations are also attended by parents, teachers, students, mentors, and industry professionals at a year-end event. At these events, we have awarded nearly \$100,000 in scholarships provided by local industry donations to deserving seniors choosing to pursue careers in the industry. We have also provided six scholarships for college students who participate as mentors, three of whom are graduates of the ACE program.

This year brought some firsts for our affiliate. We had five students participate in the first-ever ACE/UF Summer Camp. Also this year was the first time a team from North Florida participated in the National ACE/CIRT (Construction Industry Round Table) Design Competition. Forty-three teams across the USA submitted an architectural project. Our team placed **First Runner-Up** in their category and won \$1,000. We are extremely proud of this impressive showing in our first effort.

Tremendous success has been seen since the establishment of the ACE Northeast Florida Affiliate in 2006. In the 2012-2013 school year, the program included 63 students and 42 mentors at three schools — Englewood and Orange Park High Schools and A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology. Our Mentors are all local professionals volunteering their time. Becoming a mentor is rewarding and easy. After background screening, you attend a few organizational meetings to plan student activities and learn about mentoring



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Career Directions for Students in
Architecture, Construction and Engineering



To track our events, find out about volunteer opportunities and our overall successes, please visit our website at <http://acemmentor.org/599>. You can also find us on Facebook and LinkedIn groups under ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

tools and practices provided by ACE. Then, simply share your enthusiasm for your profession with the students who look forward to meeting with you and truly value your input. Mentoring sessions are held once a week for 16 weeks at each school for two hours after school.

About the ACE Mentor Program

The mission of the ACE Mentor Program is to engage, excite and enlighten high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction through mentoring and to support their continued advancement in the industry. Nationally, ACE has 62 affiliates in 36 states with almost 5,000 mentors reaching over 8,000 students. Since its inception, ACE has awarded over \$12 million in scholarships. This past year, participating firms that provided mentors contributed over \$10 million worth of pro bono time. ACE Mentor Program was awarded the 2010 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), the nation's highest award for mentoring. For further information, visit www.acementor.org.

Local ACE Students Compete Nationally

CIRT, in partnership with the ACE Mentor Program of America, annually sponsors a design competition which is open to all ACE Mentor Affiliates. The competition is maintained, coordinated, and judged by the Construction Industry Round Table's CEO members.

This year was the first year our affiliate participated in this challenging competition. Our local team, Team Condor, from OPHS, chose to compete in the Universal Design/



Home Retro-Fit Challenge. It is a real world problem that held personal ties to team member

Aaron Graczyk's grandparents who were unable to continue to live on their own. Aaron's parents' home would need to be modified to accommodate the senior family members' needs. Aaron's parents and siblings opened their home to the team

and allowed them to begin.

The design team began their research. They visited elderly and handicapped homes and even observed their own families to collect data. The team didn't begin the design process until they learned the progression of aging-in-place. They understood the issues Aaron's grandparents had as they moved into his parents' home, but there were concerns with potential safety hazards that would plague them today, tomorrow and in the future. The team visited a medical supply store and learned all the stages of aging-in-place from the four-prong cane to the electric wheelchair. Although the grandparents' immediate needs were the primary focus, they still needed to consider the other generations living in the home.

The team was in desperate need of a professional in the field of retrofitting



homes. Luckily, they were able to find Cindi Petitio from Lotus Designs, who eventually became a full-time mentor. Thanks to Cindi, they were able to perfect the innovation of their design.

During the team's various trips to Allegro Senior Living and seminars with Cindi, the team learned the challenges of being in a wheelchair and the value of having handrails and color contrast to make sight and mobility easier.

The team still needed to figure out just how much the design would cost. Thanks to the help of Fred Heyne, they were able to price their project through each stage, and cut out a few of the ideas that were too costly. Establishing priorities for the most essential needs came next, addressing narrow passages, steps and floor levels. The team members' walked the house with a cane and walker to simulate the grandparents' perspective. Areas of concern



included the kitchen, bathrooms, hallways and entrances.

The team incorporated some of the latest technology in accordance with the RFP and the needs of the family.

Raised garden beds, double doors, widened halls and ramps were implemented into the home, giving Aaron's grandmother access to her favorite outdoor activities. Restroom handle and grab bars provide independence.

The team's plan addressed the issue of Baby Boomers growing older.

Team Condor did not pick this project because it was the easiest, but because it had the most impact on a real family. Typical American families experience the same issues nationwide: dealing with aging parents, economic impact of their family budget and quality of life. Sadly, Aaron's grandfather passed away in the midst of the competition. Even through that, the family allowed the students continued access to their home to plan. Thank you, Graczyk family, for opening up your home and providing the team with a chance to perform real life architecture and engineering work. Aaron's parents and grandmother attended the year-end event. Lead Mentor, Joseph DeMarco, of Fishman and Tobin, LLC said, "This project could have touched any family, but it touched one of our families."

Participating students are **Aaron Graczyk, Jackie Boykin, Anthony Daliz, Austin Davidson, Cassandra Garcia, Quinton Jewell, Violette Otero, Charlene Xia**. We also would like to thank the mentors that worked with these students, Joe DeMarco, Tom Grogan, Cindi Petitio, Fred Heyne, Ken Loeffgren, Mary Ellen De Marco, and David Knapp, as well their teachers Pat Michael, Ted Jahn and Richard Barrows - their time and effort is greatly appreciated.



IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

Northeast Florida Affiliate has Great Success with Alumni Participation

During the 2012-13 school year, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida had three ACE alumni – all University of North Florida students – returning to mentor ACE students. They also brought along with them three other UNF students to mentor who had never been involved in the program.

As in years past, these alumni students were each awarded scholarships at the year-end event on May 10th because of their continued involvement in the program. In addition, we awarded the new UNF student mentors scholarships. In all, nearly \$5,000 was given to these valuable student mentors.

Mercelin Etienne says, “Through this program, I received an internship and scholarship opportunities. To show my appreciation for ACE, I dedicate my time every year as a mentor because I know I can make a difference in a student’s life. I never forget how far I have come. ACE has opened many doors that allowed me to pursue my future goals.”

“Being an ACE student for two years and then returning for the second time, I have been on the receiving end of what ACE can do. I was able to network with many professionals in the industry and the scholarships I received through ACE helped me continue with my college degree in civil engineering,” says Jonathan Miller.

“Mentoring for the ACE program helped me gain important lessons in life such as patience and team work,” said first-time mentor, Alborz Roshangar.

Another first-time ACE mentor, Margarita Hernandez, puts it this way, “In 2009 I was a freshmen studying civil engineering at the University of North Florida and began my involvement with outreach programs for STEM degrees. I have been a head of events such as Expand Your Horizons, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, Lego Robotics and many more. ACE provided me with a different perspective on how our current businesses gathered together to provide an influential pathway for the younger generation. Through the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Chapter at UNF, I was able to invite more students to partake as mentors. Thanks to the ACE mentoring program for the opportunity to influence others.”



L to R: Corina Cain, Alborz Roshangar, Mercelin Etienne, Margarita Hernandez and Stephen Cowdery

Teacher Recognition

This program would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers. Below, our affiliate recognizes OPHS teacher Pat Michaels, who retired after this school year. Also retiring was Paul Parker, CTE Director at OPHS and former ACE affiliate Board member. Pictured below are some of the teachers involved in the program from all three local schools.



OPHS's Doug Barrows, Pat Michael & Ted Jahn



APR's Monique Bell



EHS's Frank Garelick

UF Summer Camp

Nineteen ACE students from across the Florida ACE affiliates participated in the first-ever summer camp at the University of Florida. Jack Tipton, Director, Regional Programs (Southeast), ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. also participated. The following students represented our affiliate at camp: Austin Davidson, Christopher Hayward, Cole Hewett, Michael Nee and Brian Reed. Students were able to get a taste of college life by spending a week in the dorms, attending classes, working on projects, and of course attending some fun events. One design project on campus was to add a feature to the Plaza of the Americas. This was a great experience for the students in that they completed their initial design, presented and received comments from a jury panel from the design college, and then completed their ideas and built a model. This all happened in seven hours. During the design process the student were mentored by UF design students. The jury consisted of professors and PhD students from the design department. The program was made financially possible with the University of Florida sponsoring half of the cost and affiliates coming up with the remainder allowing all students to attend the week-long camp free of charge!



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM OF NE FLORIDA

ACE Recognition

FACTE Awards Lunch

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida was awarded the CAD Academy innovation award by the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (FACTE).

Charlene Xia was awarded two scholarships — the FACTE Outstanding Secondary Student Award and the Jaeger Corporation student award. Charlene is a 4-year ACE Student and heads this fall to MIT.

Paul Parker was inducted into the FACTE Hall of fame. He has served as the Career and Technical Education Director in Clay County and on our ACE Board for many years.



L to R: Kimberly Hansen, Charlene Xia, Paul Parker, and Catherine Burkee

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida Featured in WJCT/PBS Program American Graduate

Kimberly Hansen, P.E., Immediate Past Chair of ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida and Mercelin Etienne, former ACE student and now ACE mentor, were both interviewed this year on the PBS Program American Graduate. To view the video, visit our website, under "News" or http://youtu.be/R_5IsC3uLSg.



Thank you to our judges:

Barry Darnell, St. Vincent's Healthcare
Micheline Diegan, AIA

Tom Goldsbury, P.E., City of Jacksonville
Brooke Robbins, AIA, LEED AP, KBJ Architects



L to R: Barry Darnell, Tom Goldsbury, and Brooke Robbins

Ford Next Generation Learning Community

At a luncheon held in April 2013, ACE Mentors and Board members accepted an award from the Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services for being a Strategic Business partner in aiding Clay County Schools to earn the designation as a Ford Next Generation Learning Community, one of only 17 in the nation. "Ford Next Generation Learning Community is a framework and a roadmap that communities can use to develop their career academy network. We focus on transforming teaching and learning so students are working on real world projects," said Cheryl Carrier, director of Ford Next Generation Learning.



L to R: Cheryl Carrier, Fred Heyne, Ken Loefgren, Joe DeMarco, Jackie Stephens, Will Schaet, and Paul Parker

Team Mentors

Mentors are the backbone of our program. They are often credited as being that person who made the biggest difference in a student's life. Our mentors work tirelessly and patiently to teach the students about the different facets of Architecture, Construction and Engineering. This opportunity to learn directly from professionals is invaluable. Students and mentors alike find the program rewarding. This is a unique program that gives the student's a much clearer understanding of what their future could hold – they can see their future!



APR Mentors



EHS Mentors



OPHS Mentors

IMPACTS STUDENTS, MENTORS AND FAMILIES!

Year-End Event/Scholarship Awards

The Northeast Florida affiliate of the ACE Mentor Program hosted nine teams of aspiring architects, engineers and construction managers from three local high schools on May 10, 2013 at the UNF University Center.

Prior to the event, ACE mentors from local architecture, construction and engineering industry professional firms met with students for two hours once a week for 16 weeks. During these sessions, students worked in teams to create practical solutions for a "real-world" project. They all received the same Request for Proposal and were given a choice between two design challenges: 1) Modular Education Addition with a budget of \$750,000 or 2) a Pocket Park with a budget of \$500,000. The students were given specific instructions on the spaces that needed to be included in the project, and had to create a site plan, floor plans, elevation, construction schedule, budget, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) scorecard, interiors plan and an engineering discipline board.

During this event, the student teams competed and presented their designs before judges, parents, teachers and an audience of ACE professionals. Following the presentations, keynote speaker Charlie Van Zant, Superintendent of Clay County Schools addressed the crowd, encouraging students and thanking the mentors, he stated "The ACE mentoring program is a perfect example of what 21st century learning looks like. Our students involved are among the top in the nation in their fields; the private industry funding used in the program provides a level of education and experiences that our school district could not otherwise afford to offer. Professional Architects, Engineers, Contractors, etc., taking time to spark our students' interest is priceless – overall, a grand slam for our students. Our job in the school system will be to meaningfully and comprehensively adapt our curriculum in the later grades so there is a real partnership with our local business community." Superintendent Van Zant also attended an ACE session during the year where he asked students what they needed; they responded that they really needed a computer to run REVIT, Superintendent Van Zant committed to having the tools delivered.



Supt. Van Zant



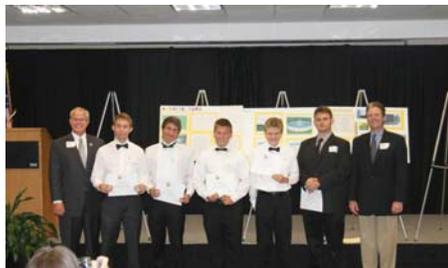
Team APR Verde



Team APR Green on the Go



Team EHS CAD



Team OPHS Clay County Contractors



Team OPHS Fire Force, Inc.



Team OPHS Nova



Team OPHS Paradox



Team OPHS RACE

Fundraising Efforts Help Support ACE

Florida First Coast Chapter ABC Women's Council unleashed a new event this year to raise money for its annual ACE scholarship. "Race for ACE" brought ABC members and ACE supporters "to the dogs" for a fun-filled evening at Orange Park Kennel Club. Nearly 100 ABC members and guests enjoyed a great dinner and dessert, along with a wagering "how to" presentation for dog track novices. The Women's Council also offered a tempting variety of silent auction items, including wine gifts, family event tickets, signed Jaguars gear and more.

Major sponsors included **AIM** and **Enterprise Fleet Management**. "Broadcast Sponsors" **S. David & Company** and **JP Perry Insurance** sponsored the Women's Council's tradition of broadcasting NCAA March Madness games during the spring event. Race sponsors **Advanced Disposal**, **Danis**, **Haskell** and **Vulcan Materials Co.** enjoyed a unique photo op with the winning dog in their respective sponsored races. Bar and buffet sponsors included **Acton Mobile Industries**, **The Blue Book Network**, **FordHarrison**, **Stellar** and **Titan America**.

Event proceeds support ABC, the Women's Council's and the Council's annual ACE scholarship. ABC and the Women's Council have proudly supported ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida since its inception, with annual scholarships and through volunteer leaders who also volunteer as ACE mentors. This year, ABC's Women's Council provided a \$1,000 scholarship to Sarafina Hinton, a promising young woman entering the industry.

The ABC Women's Council also held a Justin Bieber concert tickets raffle to benefit our ACE affiliate.



Wendy Rouse, Donor and Mentor with Paul Richards, Winner of Bieber Raffle

2013 Scholarship Awards

<u>Student</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Intended Major</u>
Corina Cain	\$1,000	Returning Mentor EHS	Architecture
Steven Cowdery	\$750	UNF Student/Mentor OPHS	Building Construction Management
Anthony Daliz	\$1,750	OPHS	Mechanical Engineering
Tyler Dobson	\$1,250	Stanton	Architecture
Mercelin Etienne	\$1,000	Returning Mentor APR	Building Construction
Cassie Garcia	\$1,750	OPHS	Mechanical Engineering
Margarita Hernandez	\$500	UNF Student/Mentor APR	Civil Engineering
Sarafina Hinton	\$1,500	APR	Mechanical Engineering/Auto Tech
Michael Lawrence	\$1,250	EHS	Aerospace Engineering
Dominique Lewis	\$1,250	EHS	Interior Design
Jessica Meredith	\$1,500	OPHS	Architecture
Jonathan Miller	\$1,000	Returning Mentor OPHS	Civil Engineering
Alborz Roshangar	\$500	UNF Student/Mentor APR	Building Construction
Charlene Xia	\$2,000	OPHS	Architecture
Shanna Xia	\$1,000	OPHS	Chemical Engineering
Liping Yang	\$1,500	OPHS	Construction

ACE Mentor 2013 Field Trip

In March, the ACE Mentor students from APR, OPHS and EHS enjoyed a day full of real-world experience touring jobsites, a wood manufacturing plant and professional services firms' offices.

Depending on the schedules of the different schools, they visited a combination of the following sites:

- Rulon Company - St. Augustine
- St. Vincent's New Clay County Hospital - Middleburg
- Bhide & Hall Architects, P.A. - Orange Park
- Auld & White Constructors' Mayo Clinic Primary Care Center Construction Site - Jacksonville
- McVeigh & Mangum Engineering - Jacksonville
- TLC Engineering for Architecture - Jacksonville
- University of North Florida - Jacksonville (Learned about college programs and students were given jet turbine engine demonstration in the Lab)



OPHS visits Rulon Company's manufacturing plant in St. Augustine



APR students visit TLC Engineering for Architecture's office



OPHS visits St. Vincent's New Clay County Hospital Site

Your Sponsorship Dollars Matter!

CALL FOR MENTORS

If this newsletter has piqued your interest and you would consider donating your time, please contact us!

The program always needs more mentors and we would love to plug you in and allow you to share our enthusiasm for our profession.

Please contact **Brooke Robbins** at NortheastFL@acementor.org or (904) 361-5120.

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida just completed its seventh year of the program. The three schools currently participating include A. Philip Randolph Academies of Technology, Orange Park High School and Englewood High School. During the 2012-13 school year, ACE had 42 mentors and 63 students that participated in the program.

Scholarships were given totaling \$19,500 at the conclusion of the program – going to the graduating seniors and several former ACE students who are now in college and mentors themselves. Since 2006, the local ACE chapter has awarded over \$95,000 in scholarships to our students. Many students remain active alumni and return to help support the program. ACE has also assisted many students in obtaining employment through the strong relationships they developed with their own mentors.

Please join us at next year's event on May 16, 2014 at the UNF University Center. You will enjoy witnessing the creative spirit of these talented students our industry should recruit. For a donation of \$1,000 or more, you can present a named scholarship on behalf of your organization. The sponsorship levels are:

\$1000+	Named scholarship, logo in all printed materials and website
\$500-\$999	Logo in printed materials and website
Up to \$499	Name only in printed materials and website

Help us change lives through our ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida.

Sincere Thanks to Sponsoring Companies and Contributors!

Your generosity makes the ACE Mentoring Program possible, and positively impacts the lives of tomorrow's industry professionals and tradespeople.



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SOCIETY OF MARKETING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, NORTH FL • UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA
AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

Mentors: Englewood

Wayne Petrone, Team Leader, Peters and Yaffee, Inc.

Corina Cain, UNF Student

Rafael Caldera, Arkest, LLC

Fred DeWitt, DDCI

Quentin Hill, GAI Consultants

Alan Marshall, Merit Professional Coatings of Jacksonville, LLC

William Schaet, Barton Mallow Company

Cheryl Worman, Rogers Towers

Gary Wingfield, Retired

Mentors: A. Philip Randolph

Jacob Thurlow, Team Leader, Haskell

Corie Baker, Gresham Smith & Partners

Catherine Burkee, Breaking Ground Contracting

Ken Duncan, Haskell

Mercelin Etienne, UNF Student

Tracey Friley, Haskell

Margarita Hernandez, UNF Student

Kevin Kernan, Haskell

Melanie Kleehammer, Haskell

Amber Labagh, Haskell

Janel LeGard, Haskell

Crystal Markley, US Army Corps of Engineers

Abel Picherdo, UNF Student

Alborz Roshangar, UNF Student

Laney Stoddard, Atlantic Engineering Services

Kevin Valent, Haskell

Mentors: Orange Park

Ken Loefgren, Team Leader, Loefgren & Associates, Inc.

Joe DeMarco, Team Leader for National Competition, Fishman & Tobin, LLC

Amanda Baggett, Rogers Towers

Russ Brown, Orange Park Medical Center

Steve Cowdery, UNF Student

Eric Denfield, NAVFAC Southeast, US Navy

Scott Fraser, Design Development Architecture

Thomas Grogan, Haskell

Fred Heyne, Fred Heyne Project Management

Lynn Ladd, NAVFAC Southeast, US Navy

Jonathan Miller, UNF Student

Philip Norman, Gilbane Building Company

Rich Peters, Reynolds Smith & Hills

Cindi Petitio, Seating Solutions / Lotus Designs

Joseph Shepard, Haskell

Ricky Spinks, The Angelo Group

Bill Thompson, Bill Williams Heating & Air Conditioning



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