

SUMMER  
2000

# Volkert Views

Engineering News Record reports VOLKERT as one of the Top 500 Design Firms in the United States

## Volkert History

The year 2000 marks Volkert's 75<sup>th</sup> year of customer service, award-winning project design, corporate growth, and community support. Since its inception in 1925, our firm has advanced with the profession's design and technological changes to add and retain areas of specialization as we move forward with our clients.

In this anniversary year, almost 500 employees work in 12 regional and design offices supplemented by right of way and construction engineering inspection field offices located throughout Volkert's geographic service area.

During the early days in New Orleans, Louisiana, the firm (known as Doullut and Ewin) specialized in waterfront construction and heavy foundation projects. Then during World War II, the firm devoted its entire capabilities to the design and construction of military projects.

In 1946, the company moved to Mobile, Alabama, to become part of the Waterman Steamship Corporation family. It was acquired by a Waterman subsidiary, Southern Industries, and reorganized as J.P. Ewin, Inc. The firm was renamed Ewin Engineering Corporation in 1950.

Also in 1946, David G. Volkert, P.E., came to Mobile to serve as vice president with Waterman and president of Southern Industries. He acquired controlling interest in Ewin in 1954. The firm's name became David Volkert & Associates in 1963. By this time, Volkert was well on the way to becoming the firm it is today.



### The Volkert Mission

- To serve the public in a professional and ethical manner
- To serve our clients with innovation and honest value
- To serve our employees through stable corporate growth and personal development
- To serve our peers by promoting the highest standards of practice in our professions
- To serve the community through public service

### The Volkert Timeline

1925	Founded in New Orleans as Doullut and Ewin, Inc.
1946	Moved to Mobile. Reorganized as J.P. Ewin, Inc.
1950	Renamed Ewin Engineering Corporation
1954	Acquired by David G. Volkert, P.E.
1955	Miami, Florida office
1957	Washington, DC Metropolitan Area office
1959	New Orleans, Louisiana office
1963	Renamed David Volkert & Associates, Inc.
1975	Employee Stock Ownership Plan established
1978	Birmingham, Alabama office
1986	Tampa, Florida office
1989	Fort Walton Beach, Florida office
1991	Gulf Shores, Alabama office
1996	Chattanooga, Tennessee office
1996	Dalton, Georgia office

T. Keith King, P.E., was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of David Volkert & Associates, Inc., in 1983.

Over the years, Volkert has compiled an impressive record in the design of award-winning bridges, highways, port improvements, material handling facilities, airports, utilities, stadiums, subways, site development, environmental services, and buildings for educational, commercial, health services, industrial and military use.

Volkert's staff of professionals includes experienced engineers, architects, planners, environmental specialists, and surveyors supported by a full-service team of construction and program managers, bridge inspectors, construction engineering inspectors, right-of-way specialists, financial analysts, computer specialists, CADD operators, specification writers, and cost estimators.

### IN THIS ISSUE...

Facility Assessment for Schools .....	2
Students and Engineering .....	3
Promotions .....	4
Faulkner is "Man of Century" .....	4
Cochrane Bridge Honor .....	5
Field Notes .....	5
Focus on Training/ Continuing Education .....	6

# Facility Assessment for Schools

## ***Volkert's experience with Facility Assessment and Program Management aids public schools in Alabama***

Chad Vaughn, vice president, is working with school superintendents throughout the state of Alabama to prepare their year 2000 assessments of existing facilities.

Vaughn, who is responsible for Volkert's program management division, assisted the Alabama Department of Education (DOE) in developing criteria for the assessments. This includes designing the reporting format and targeting the areas to be evaluated.

According to Vaughn, the assessment of existing facilities includes evaluation of Code Compliance (Life Safety, ADA, fire codes and local county, state and national building codes) and the need for aesthetic renovations.

All of Volkert's project managers in the program management division are trained and certified to do facility assessments by Alabama DOE and Auburn University.

For the Mobile County Public Schools, Volkert completed program management for Phase I of the system's building program, which constructed additions and new schools totaling \$64.5 million. The first year of Phase II, which is a \$40.7 million building program, is under construction. Last fall, the Mobile County School Board approved a \$43.6 million program for the second year of Phase II. Volkert and the Board are now working on plans for approximately \$55 to \$60 million additional dollars for Phase II, year three.

Volkert is responsible for the Dothan City School System's current building program. Phase I is for \$12 - \$16 million and is now underway. Phase II will be a \$40 million program.

Volkert has prepared capital outlay plans totaling over \$550 million dollars for public school systems. After physical plan assessments are performed and deficiencies identified, Volkert determines costs and plans for expenditures.

Required improvements can range from simple aesthetics to complex renovations required to bring facilities into compliance with current codes. Changes in state regulations and/or enrollments over design capacity may determine that additions or new facilities are needed.



*Mobile County school commissioners, central office personnel, Volkert staff, contractor's representatives, and Forest Hill students attended groundbreaking ceremonies for Forest Hill Elementary School, Volkert's partner-in-education. This is only one of the schools being designed and built as part of the system's \$148.8 million building program, for which Volkert is providing program management services.*



When Volkert is assisting a school system in planning for new construction needs, we analyze demographic data to determine the need for new facilities. Then, the team identifies growth patterns to establish recommended site locations. The design of new facilities is based on current recommended student-to-teacher ratios and student/square-footage minimums to meet these requirements.

*For more information about Volkert's capabilities in program management, construction management, facility assessment, and capital planning for educational facilities, call Chad Vaughn in Mobile at 334-432-6735.*



*Above and Below: Bluff Park Elementary School students tour Birmingham's Putnam Filter Water Treatment Plant on the class trip they won in the ASCE annual coloring book contest.*

# Gray Encourages Interest in Engineering

For the past six years, Jennifer Gray, P.E., has talked about civil engineering to fourth graders in Birmingham area elementary schools and encouraged them to participate in an annual coloring book contest sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

This year she visited five classes at Bluff Park Elementary School. One of those classes submitted the winning "class" coloring book. The students won a field trip for the entire class to the Putnam Filter Water Treatment Plant in Birmingham.

The school also had one individual winner, who received a \$200 savings bond for the best original drawing. Students enter drawings of civil engineering projects and engineers at work for prizes of \$100 and \$200 savings bonds.

Last year, Ms. Gray spoke to 14 classes in the Vestavia Hills Elementary Schools. She reports that her classes always produce several savings bond winners for their drawings and coloring books. Two years ago, she had another class field trip winner.

Ms. Gray also speaks to middle school students about what it's like to be a civil engineer and describes the projects they design. To interest the students in engineering as a career, Ms. Gray discusses educational requirements and professional prospects. Last year, she spoke to 125 students in five classes at Vestavia Middle School.



# Denson is Mobile's Secretary of the Year

Paula Denson, CPS, is ending her term as Secretary of the Year representing the Mobile Chapter of International Association of Administrative Professionals.

Ms. Denson is administrative assistant to Senior Vice President Thomas A. Zoghby, CPA, Volkert's chief financial officer.



Mrs. Denson and Zoghby review the annual revision of Volkert's corporate affirmative action plan.

## Promotions Promotions Announced

### Senior Vice President

**J.R. Sute, P.E., and James R. Spencer, P.E.,** were named senior vice presidents. Sute, a 31-year employee, is principal-in-charge of construction services and other specialty services. He has responsibility for the Gulf Shores and New Orleans offices. Spencer joined Volkert in 1993. He is responsible for management, operations and marketing in the Mid-Atlantic Region, which includes Virginia, Maryland, and District of Columbia.

### Vice President

**Chad Vaughn,** the head of Volkert's program management group, was named a vice president in the architectural division. Under Vaughn's leadership, Volkert has developed a strong department providing program/construction management, facility assessments, and capital outlay planning for educational facilities.

### Assistant Vice President

**Cesar E. Vargas, P.E.,** civil engineer, was promoted to assistant vice president in the Alexandria, Va. office. He has over 22 years of engineering expertise in design and construction inspection on highways, at-grade intersections, interchanges, water resource projects, site development and bike trail projects.

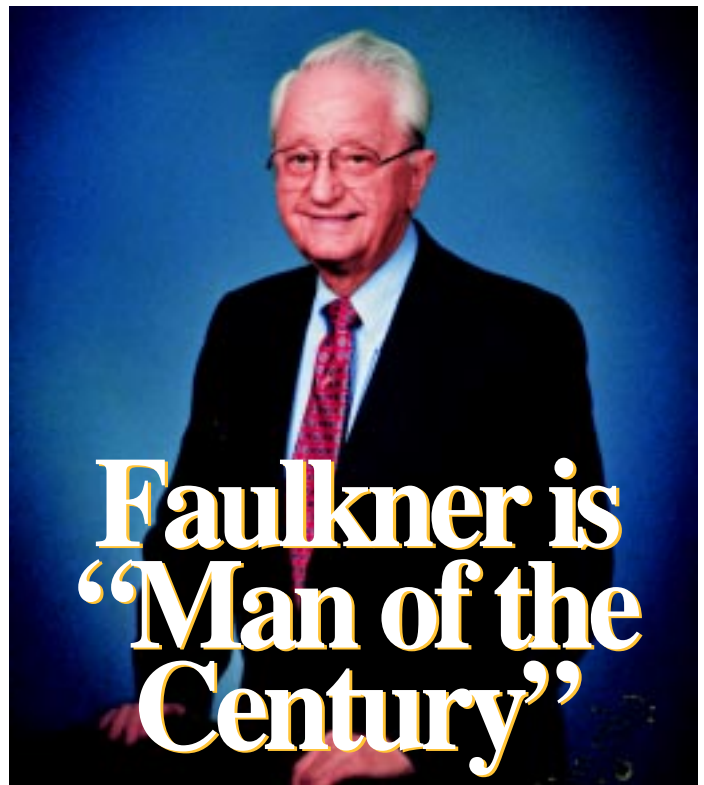
**Gregory Albritton, P.E.,** assistant vice president in the

Georgia, office.

**Bruce Thomason, P.E.,** assistant vice president with Volkert Construction Services, Inc., is responsible for construction engineering inspection projects and field offices.

### Department Head

**Frederick D White, P.E.,** was promoted to structural department head for the Mid-Atlantic Region. White has 18 years of experience in the design, rehabilitation and inspection of highway and railroad bridges.



### Faulkner's Contributions to His Community Earn Highest Honor of the Century

"Person of the Century" is the latest accolade given to James H. (Jimmy) Faulkner, Sr., vice chairman of Volkert's board. The award from the North Baldwin (Alabama) Chamber of Commerce honors Faulkner for his "immeasurable impact on the community and county."

"Much of the economic activity and educational opportunity that we enjoy today in Bay Minette and Baldwin County would be much different without the footprints and handprints of our honoree," said George Noonan in presenting the award.

Recently, Faulkner received a commendation from both houses of the Alabama legislature recognizing his achievements, which led to this award and other honors.

As Mayor of Bay Minette from 1941 to 1943, Faulkner was the youngest mayor in the United States and later represented the three-county area in the Alabama State Senate. He continues to serve the community as a member of organizations and commissions promoting development in the region.

Two institutions of higher learning bear his name. Faulkner State Community College has campuses in Fairhope, Gulf Shores and Bay Minette. Faulkner University, a private Christian college in Montgomery with a campus in Mobile, was named for Faulkner in recognition of his years of service on its board of directors and the funds he has raised to support the institution and its building programs.

In addition to his experience as a newspaper owner and publisher, radio station owner, and director and executive in insurance companies and financial institutions, Faulkner has served on the board of "practically every charitable, civic and educational endeavor in the State of Alabama," said Noonan.

Jimmy Faulkner was recruited by David Volkert to join the company in 1958. He was recognized in 1994 with the Chairman's Award for his contribution to the firm's growth.



**Cochrane Bridge Honor** - The Year 2000 induction of the Cochrane/Africatown USA Bridge over the Mobile River into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame brings recognition to the Alabama Department of Transportation and to Volkert, general consultant for the project. Opened to traffic in 1991, the Cochrane Bridge was the first cable-stayed bridge in Alabama. The bridge has won four additional state awards and three national awards.



## Field Notes

**Lloyd L. Pitts, P.E.**, project manager in Mobile, is serving as the Alabama Section President of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for 1999/2000. Pitts was recently named a Fellow in ASCE. This is considered one of the highest professional recognitions civil engineers can receive from their peers.

**Jack Hodge, P.E.**, vice president in the Atlantic Region, is beginning a term on the Contractors Division Board of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA). Hodge was asked to serve by the Virginia RTBA.

**T. Keith King, P.E.**, president and CEO, was named a Life Member by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This ranking is awarded to recognize long-standing membership in ASCE.

**Kathryn Wilhelm, P.E.**, project manager in the Mobile utilities section, is serving as 2000-2001 vice president-South for the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers (ASPE). She recently completed a term representing the Mobile Chapter as a state director of ASPE and was the 1999-2000 director of the MATHCOUNTS program for the state and local chapters of ASPE. Ms. Wilhelm is also chairman of the Professionalism and Ethics Committee for the Mobile Gulf Coast Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. She presented on "Utility Managed On-Site Treatment and Disposal" at the Alabama Water Environment Association 2000 Conference.

**Fritz Brogdon, EIT**, is serving as vice-president of the local Chattanooga chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**June Henderson**, civil engineering technician, is Chattanooga's Engineering Technician of the Year for 2000. This honor from the Chattanooga Engineers Club recognizes technicians who have made notable contributions to their profession and communities.

**Jacqueline Franklin**, marketing manager in Birmingham, is beginning a term as secretary for the local chapter of the Society for Marketing Professional Services.

**Stephen E. Meyer, P.E.**, assistant vice president, and **William Carlson**, senior project engineer, Chattanooga office, presented a paper on "Full Motion Video Transmission vs. T1 Telephone Line and Compressed Half-Speed Digital Image" at the 6<sup>th</sup> ITS Intelligent Transportation Systems World Congress in Toronto, Canada.

**Terry E. Osborne, PG**, published a paper on "Structure and Rank of coal groups in the southern half of the Cahaba synclinorium" in Geology of the Cahaba Coalfield, the guidebook for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Field Trip of the Alabama Geological Society.

**Kyle Parker, P.E.**, vice president, Volkert Environmental Group, participated as a mentor in the J. L. Bedsole Entrepreneurial Program, which is sponsored by the J.L. Bedsole Scholars Program.

**Chantaye Kidd**, civil technician-Mobile, served as a judge for the Alabama Association of Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) District Skills USA Championships. Participation in these competitive events helps high school students develop occupational and employability skills leading to meaningful employment and careers.

**William R. Kozy, P.E.**, structural department head and long-time Volkert employee, retired at the end of 1999. While he's busy with his large family and often at the golf course, he also works with the Mid-Atlantic office on a consulting basis.

**DC Department of Public Works** selected Volkert for the rehabilitation design of a third section of the Anacostia Freeway, which the firm designed originally in 1957... **Virginia DOT** selected Volkert for the design of bridge replacement and interchange modifications for Route 50/Route 27 in Arlington County and widening of a section of I-81 in Roanoke.

# Focus on Training/ Continuing Education

Personnel from Volkert's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office are chalking up the hours at seminars and training courses to improve their capabilities in design, computer programs, and project management. **Jacob George, P.E.**, a lead project engineer for VDOT bridge projects, attended the FHWA Bridge Engineering Training Course in Richmond, Virginia. The five-day course instructed project managers on regulations for concrete bridges. Volkert recently designed six concrete structures for VDOT.

To enhance project management skills and gain an understanding of management techniques and strategies, **Jacob George, P.E., and Cesar Vargas, P.E.**, attended *Project Managers Boot Camp* sponsored by PSMJ in Washington, DC.

Increasing the capabilities of the Alexandria office in GIS (Geographic Information Systems), **Earl Wilkins, Moses Clayborne, Chris White, and Matt Kaiser** attended a three-day training at Bentley Systems Inc., in Exton, PA. GIS is a fully integrated CAD/GIS solution with sophisticated raster and vector functionality created for engineers and application developers.

Advancing knowledge in IG98, **Chris White and Matt Kaiser** of the Alexandria Office attended a half-day seminar on IGRDS at VDOT District Headquarters in Fredericksburg. IGRDS is the design software VDOT uses in highway design. The seminar introduced information on the upgrade of IG97 to IG98, which is more user friendly and gives the engineer more capabilities than IG97.

## Offices

3809 Moffett Road Mobile, AL 36618 .....	(334) 342-1070
107 Saint Francis Street, Suite 9008 Mobile, AL 36602 .....	(334) 432-6735
2019 Highland Avenue Birmingham, AL 35205 .....	(205) 933-5556
3440 Gulf Shores Parkway Gulf Shores, AL 36542 .....	(334) 968-7551
4240 Canal Street, 1st Floor New Orleans, LA 70119 .....	(504) 486-6312
350 Eglin Parkway, NE Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547 .....	(850) 864-1199
4960 SW 72nd Avenue, Suite 201 Miami, FL 33155 .....	(305) 667-2224
3409 West Lemon Street, Suite 1 Tampa, FL 33609 .....	(813) 875-1365
2515 Cleveland Highway, Suite 5 Dalton, GA 30721 .....	(706) 278-9288
4926 Adams Road Chattanooga, TN 37343 .....	(423) 842-3335
5400 Shawnee Road, Suite 301 Alexandria, VA 22312 .....	(703) 642-8100
1010 Vermont Avenue, Suite 802 Washington, D.C. 20005 .....	(202) 347-1422



## Visit Volkert on the Web!

[www.volkert.com](http://www.volkert.com)



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper because the time for environmental action is now.

# VOLKERT

P.O. Box 7434 • Mobile, Alabama 36670

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MOBILE, AL  
PERMIT NO.262