During my three years as President, the BCA has undergone many changes – challenging, rewarding and positive. As we welcome our new President, Bill McMullen, the BCA is strongly positioned to build off our recent accomplishments. Here are a few examples of work accomplished by the BCA board, staff and volunteers that usher in his tenure:

Self-sustaining operation and dedicated staff. We now enjoy the support of experienced, professional full time staff to support the mission and active goals of the BCA, its chapters and committees. Our transition in 2012 from external management to a self-sustaining association opened the door for more vigorous participation throughout the industry and has provided more resources to help our chapters and committees fulfill the BCA's mission.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION. The National Conference on Building Commissioning (NCBC), the BCA's successful annual conference started more than two decades ago by PECI, is now owned, managed and led by BCA. Also, in addition to training webinars, we have developed curriculum and are conducting on-site new and existing building commissioning classes at venues around the US and Canada.

INDUSTRY ADVOCACY. Our Executive Director, Liz Fischer, and the BCA’s Executive Committee have become highly visible representing BCA in the industry, and by extension the BCA is more recognized, influencing policy makers and planning consortia. Bill McMullen has been an active industry liaison and will continue to represent BCA well as President.

INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION. The BCA now has two new provisional chapters in South America which is the Association’s first extension outside of North America.

CX QUALIFICATION STEWARDSHIP. The BCA’s 2012 position paper, Commissioning Qualification and Certification, was developed collaboratively among BCA members and board leadership to define, document and communicate a position on qualification consistent with BCA philosophy, standard of professional care, and certification. The paper included a Call for Action, shared with the National Institute of Building Sciences, the Department of Energy and other industry organizations. This document made our position on certification and national/international accreditation clear to industry stakeholders. We are seeing the vision outlined in our position paper becoming reality as the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council is being formed and the BCA works with other industry stakeholders to achieve alignment with standards, guidelines and certifications.

CCP RECOGNITION. The Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP), the commissioning industry’s premier certification, has achieved prominence. When commissioning certification is a mandatory qualification requirement in an RFQ/RFP, the CCP is nearly always identified as an acceptable certification (a letter to Procurement Professionals for Commissioning Services, known familiarly as the “equivalency letter,” provides a tool for resolution if the CCP is not specifically identified as an acceptable certification). The Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB) has not only made great progress achieving broad recognition for the CCP, but has also expanded certification offerings to include a firm certification and an associate level individual certification.

I am pleased and proud to transfer this legacy to the capable hands of President Bill McMullen who will strengthen and improve the BCA, and generate significant new opportunities for the association and our membership over the coming year.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller PE, CCP
Dear Members,

To be called upon to lead the BCA, which is the top organization in the industry, is truly an honor beyond anything I can express. As the Association’s former Vice President, I have worked closely with Mark Miller which makes this transition relatively uncomplicated, however it will be a big challenge to match his dedication and effectiveness as President. Thanks Mark. I’d like to start my term in this role by thanking International Board of Directors, chapters, committees and staff for the continuous hard work they do to keep the BCA on the forefront as a professional member-focused organization.

This year I hope to foster increasing communication within and beyond our Association that showcases the BCA’s industry knowledge and experience, and deepens our connections with other organizations and peers in the building community. I welcome dialog and ideas for BCA growth and improvement, and expect to spend some time this year visiting chapters and attending local meetings and events.

In the meantime, here’s a brief overview of what we’re planning for 2014.

The annual BCA Leadership Conference took place at the end of January. Its purpose is to lay out annual strategies, goals and action plans and, this year, to review a new five-year Strategic Plan. (see summary article, page 6).

**TRAINING AND EDUCATION.** Several years ago, during Mark Miller’s first year as President, the *New Construction Best Practices* document was completed. This year the Best Practices Committee is putting together a reference guide to online resources as an accompaniment to the original. We have on-site training in store for venues in the US and Canada, and the Spring and Fall webinar series will be announced soon.

**INDUSTRY ADVOCACY 2014.** As you will see in Liz Fischer’s article, page 4, we are engaged in developing criteria for commissioning professional certification and national Cx guidelines on the US Department of Energy’s Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council, facilitated by the National Institute of Building Sciences. In correlation with that effort, we are also assisting the Building Commissioning Certification Board to acquire ISO 17024 accreditation so that we will meet forthcoming national and international requirements for issuing certification to eligible commissioning providers.

**BCA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION.** We are establishing a 501c3 scholarship foundation for students pursuing education that leads to a career in commissioning.

**INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE.** We have created a forum for taking a leadership position in international growth, specifically for excellence in commissioning, with additional international chapters and further BCA expansion (see article, page 9).

**NCBC 2014.** The conference is coming back to the Northeast and will take place in the heart of downtown Hartford, CT – along the river in the Connecticut Convention and Science Center complex. It promises to be an educational and rewarding experience for all participants.

**CALL FOR ACTION.** Volunteering on BCA committees and working with teammates on important industry issues are among my most rewarding experiences. I encourage you to engage, get to know your colleagues, and contribute to our growth in your own creative way. You are all leaders in the built environment, and together as an Association we can make a big impact on the quality of buildings worldwide!

Sincerely,

Bill McMullen
BCA President
What’s an “ACCREDITED” Certification?
Why does the BCA care? What are we doing about it? How can you help?

As you will read in the article on page 8, “Congratulations – The Perfect 10,” the Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB) and the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP) are celebrating their 10th Anniversary this year. This effort began 12 years ago and was designed to meet requirements for receiving accreditation by a third party authorized to administer the ISO 17024 standard.

Now, I’m sure it would come as no surprise that you can get just about any certification you want today – or for that matter, any diploma – with varying degrees of difficulty. What does it take to create and sustain a valid and trustworthy professional certification? For the BCA, here’s how it happened, and where we are today:

In 2002, the BCA formed a Certification Committee under the leadership of BCA member Bryan Welsh and committee members comprising Jeff Rees, Gretchen Coleman, George Kevins, and Dr. Chad Dorgan. Funding for the development of the certification program was provided by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA). During the first 18 months of its tenure, the Committee actively discussed what the components of the certification program should be, explored the professional issues associated with certification, researched other industry certification programs, and sought input from the BCA membership. In 2002, BCA management entered into a contract with Knapp and Associates International, a Princeton, NJ-based consulting firm and industry leader with a proven record of assisting professional organizations to develop certification programs.

The process was based on the International Standards Organization (ISO) Standard 17024. Requirements for achieving accreditation through this standard included (1) establishing a framework for the administration of the program and (2) conducting a comprehensive survey of commissioning professionals to define the knowledge areas and specific skills required to conduct a successful building commissioning project. From this process, a comprehensive body of knowledge was developed using a weighting technique, to determine how the certification examination should be structured.

In May of 2003, 15 test-writing volunteers from the BCA membership met in Rancho Mirage, CA, for two days prior to the National Conference on Building Commissioning to begin crafting the certification examination. Several hundred test questions were formulated, reviewed by experts in psychometrics, edited, and again reviewed by the Certification Committee.

The Committee spent intensive time developing criteria for candidates to qualify for eligibility to take the examination, and for subsequent certification. With counsel from Knapp, a draft application form was created along with a special candidate bulletin that explains the process in greater detail. On June 15, 2004 the Building Commissioning Certification Board was officially incorporated in the state of Washington as a nonprofit. These activities were all elements of ISO 17024 requirements. By May of 2004 the BCCB rolled out its first CCP exam. Since then several test question revisions and eligibility updates have occurred; certifications are always a work in progress – as the job tasks change, so must the certification requirements.

Leaping forward eight years: In 2012, ISO 17024 was updated, changing the accreditation requirements. To become accredited to this new standard is an expensive proposition. However, the BCA and BCCB believe it is important to obtain. Why? Because by following an international standard verified by a credible third party we are saying to those who earn certification as well as those who employ them, “we have gone the extra mile to prove our experience, knowledge, skills and abilities.” Similarly, when you review an ASHRAE standard like 202-2013 and see the ANSI logo on the cover you know it has achieved the globally recognized mark of excellence in standard development.

Today there are many commissioning certifications in the market. Commissioning is now included in codes around the country. There are, very reasonably, a lot of questions about how to identify a “right” credential. Two organizations are trying to answer these questions.

The International Accreditation Service (IAS), a subsidiary of the International Code Council, has created AC476 - Accreditation Criteria for Organizations Providing Training and/or Certification of Commissioning Personnel. Within this accreditation, IAS has developed a set of JTAs (Job Task Analysis) and KSAs (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) along with eligibility requirements of applicants. AC 476 also invokes a portion of ISO 17024, which
has caused confusion for certifying organizations. Currently the BCA has chosen not to support AC476 in its current form but continues to work with IAS on ways to help the code officials.

The US Department of Energy (DOE) felt there were no objective criteria to answer the question of what constitutes a “right” credential in regards to commissioning. The DOE asked the National Institute of Building Science (Institute) to help them develop voluntary national guidelines, known as the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines. The Institute established the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council (Council) to lead development of those guidelines for five key job titles: Building Energy Auditor, Building Commissioning Professional, Energy Manager, Building Operations Professional, and Facility Manager.

The Institute asked BCA to take an active role on this Council in two ways: at the Advisory Board level, and the subject matter expert (SME) level. This month the SMEs are working on developing JTA and KSA documents that ultimately will become a professional standard. Once those documents are complete the SMEs will create a “scheme” – the eligibility requirements to qualify for the certification. The Advisory Board will then create guidelines for those who want to belong to the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines Program. Upon approval to join the program, individual certification holders will be eligible to perform work on and/or in federal building projects. Job training will be conducted as part of the US Department of Labor Federal Personnel Training Act.

The BCA has always known that accreditation to ISO 17024 was important to BCCB and its certification holders. Requirements for accreditation now appear both imminent and unavoidable due to government initiatives and code mandates.

The BCA International Board of Directors has voted to help BCCB obtain accreditation to ISO 17024 as a strategic goal for this year. As a result, our fundraising goals have been increased significantly to support the BCCB in achieving the first ISO 17024 accreditation to certify commissioning professionals.

What does this mean for you now? We need to raise funds – immediately – to start and finish the accreditation process in 2014. The process is expensive and intense, but the outcome will elevate the CCP certification to be the best commissioning certification not only in the USA but internationally. We need your help this year. Please sponsor this effort on behalf of your profession by contributing to this accreditation initiative.

Check out how to Contribute and help raise funds.
A lot of things are worthwhile even if they’re not easy. Getting to the BCA Leadership Conference in St. Augustine, Florida, especially in the midst of winter storms both north and south, was not easy … attendees were trapped in airports, diverted, cancelled and, in a few cases, just plain couldn’t make it. But be assured, it was worthwhile.

The purpose of the BCA Leadership Conference is to lay out strategies, goals and action plans for the year. Prior to the meeting, the Board and BCA Committees worked for six months to prepare an aggressive 5-year Strategic Plan with measurable goals and success indicators for 2014. Over the course of the conference, the Plan was shared with all attendees, with copies distributed to Chapter leaders for informing and guiding local membership.

President Mark Miller opened Day 1 of 3 with a meeting of the Board and other invited members. Discussions centered upon elements of the new BCA strategic plan and several strategic initiatives. The official annual meeting of the International Board began in the afternoon with the election ballot. Congratulations are in order for newly elected BCA officers:

- Bill McMullen, President
- Craig Hawkins, Vice President
- H. Jay Enck, Secretary
- Bill McCartney, Treasurer

2013 in Review

After a break in the intense day, attendees gathered for dinner and a review of BCA’s 2013 activities in industry leadership and advocacy, education and training, and best practices. Highlights include:

**INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

- BCA, AIA, ASHRAE, USGBC, BOMA, NEBB, AGC, TABB, CAMEE, ICC, & other peer organizations met in Washington, DC to discuss the role of Cx in building performance
- BCA is now on the US DOE Commercial Workforce Credentialing Committee to define and deliver criteria for workforce credentialing and national guidelines
- 21st annual NCBC in Denver, Colorado
- International expansion with two new Chapters in South America

**EDUCATION & TRAINING**

- Spring and Fall training and webinar programs
- Expansion of the on-site EBCx training programs: Washington, Virginia & Texas
- New Jersey Institute of Technology Cx “Rookie Boot Camp”

**BEST PRACTICES**

- A new BCA/APPA Commissioning Handbook is approved and moving forward

2014 -2018 Strategic Plan

Day two of the conference brought the International Board together with Committee Chairs and the Chapter Leadership to discuss the BCA Strategic Plan. This plan is a result of strategic thinking by the International Board of Directors, BCA Committees and Staff, to elevate strategic management in a way that continues to move the BCA forward to meet its mission and vision. The Plan also creates a framework for the association’s voluntary and staff resource allocation and guidelines for collaboration, coordination and communication both internally and among allied organizations.

Six Areas of Focus are the backbone of the BCA. Committee and Chapter leaders at the meeting committed to build upon them in 2014. These are the drivers behind our strategic activities each year:

1. **BEST PRACTICES.** We help define and identify building commissioning best practices, review industry standards and prepare and continuously update commissioning documentation for handbooks, promotion, field use, stakeholder knowledge & industry acceptance.

2. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** We create, implement and support education, training, and workforce development for all commissioning stakeholders.

3. **PROMOTION AND COLLABORATION.** We create, implement and participate in programs and events that engage the BCA in ways that positively affect the role of commissioning in the built environment with selected liaisons and marketing opportunities.

4. **LEADERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION.** We advance commissioning in the built environment by engaging with other industry stakeholders in facilitating and leading high-level discussions regarding the important topics related to commissioning.
5. **CERTIFICATION.** We promote high standards of certifications as administered by the BCCB and provide support to them as they meet the needs of the stakeholders of the built environment.

6. **ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.** We grow and nurture active local, national and international membership by listening and providing them with requested programs and education.

Our ongoing activities include efforts to promote best practices, education and industry participation. In 2014 the BCA will undertake four additional initiatives in support of its strategic agenda. The BCA Board has voted to:

1. Provide expertise to the National Institute of Building Sciences and the US Department of Energy at the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council (CWCC), creating Job Task Analysis (JTA), Knowledge Skills and Abilities (KSA) and a program to be known as the Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines. BCA Executive Director Liz Fischer serves on the Board of Advisors for this group and BCA members John Villani, Mike Chelednik, Mike English, Song Deng, and Savario Grosso will be subject matter experts (SME) who develop the JTA/KSA.

2. Support BCCB to obtain ISO 17024 accreditation (see article by Liz Fischer, page 4).

3. Create the BCA Scholarship Foundation, organized exclusively for educational scholarship award purposes in and outside the US. BCA will solicit funds from public and private sources to create a scholarship fund for eligible and qualified applicants who pursue education related to building commissioning, in order to elevate and sustain performance of commercial buildings.

4. Establish a task force to define the program approach and create the policy framework and roadmap for pursuing further international expansion.

Several themes emerged from the meeting:

- The urgency and cost of supporting the BCCB’s pursuit of ISO 17024 accreditation in 2014 to meet the upcoming individual certification planning underway.
- Support for BCA’s overall industry advocacy and collaboration with other organizations to meet the challenges posed by the market, new technologies, and changes in codes, mandates and guidelines for commissioning.
- A more consistent and organized approach to international chapter development, resulting in formation of a task force to investigate and plan BCA’s outreach in other regions of the world.

The conference closed after a working session with Chapter leaders and members who reported on their ideas and commitments for 2014. The Florida weather had cleared enough by Saturday afternoon for some to head toward the golf course before going home to implement their plans locally.

It will all be worthwhile, and it won’t always be easy. The BCA International Board, Chapters and volunteer Committees have a busy agenda for 2014. If you want to know more, and you are a BCA member who would like to participate in reaching 2014 goals, please contact:

Sheri Adams  Member Relations Manager  
971.245.6069 | 877.666.2292 | sadams@bcxa.org

2013 Leadership Conference at the World Golf Hall of Fame John Wood, BCCB; Mark Miller, BCA; Mike Eardley, BCCB and NE Chapter Board.
The Building Commissioning Certification Board (BCCB) and the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP) are celebrating a decade of certifying and recognizing commissioning professionals who go above and beyond to demonstrate they have the proven experience and skills that owners need. BCCB is responsible for managing the certification program that awards the CCP and the Associate Commissioning Professional (ACP) to eligible providers who complete the rigorous experience and examination criteria, and Certified Commissioning Firms (CCFs) that show their commitment to quality through projects, references and inclusion of a CCP on their staff.

As the first authentic, comprehensive certification for commissioning professionals in the United States, the CCP was originally released in 2004. Congratulations to those who remain active with current CCP credentials:

• Thomas Anderson, CCP
• Dennis Anderson, CCP
• Richard Bracy, CCP
• Richard Burks, III, CCP
• Rick Casault, PE, CDT, CCP
• Gretchen Coleman, PE, CCP
• Rebecca Ellis, PE, LEED AP, CxA, CCP
• Michael English, PE, CCP
• Gerald Ensminger, CCP
• Richard Farkas, CCP
• Lindsay Huff, LEED, CCP
• Linden Johnston, PE, LEED AP, CCP
• Barry Jones, PE, CCP
• Gerald Kettler, PE, CxA, CIAQM, CCP
• Gregory Langdon, CCP
• Ernest Lawas, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CCP
• Carl Lundstrom, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CCP
• Michael Mantai, PE, CEMCCP
• Todd McGuire, CCP
• Ronald Mesaros, PE, CCP
• Mark F. Miller, PE, CCP
• Duane Pinnix, CCP
• Larry Ross, CCP
• Jesse Smith, CCP
• Piotr Sosniak, PE, CCP
• Treasa Sweek, PE, LEED, CCP
• Bryan Welsh, PE, CCP
• Evan Wyner, CCP

Look for Checklist feature articles throughout this year by – and about – “first adopter” candidates and newer certified professionals. Here’s a note recently received from Ernest (Ernie) Lawas, Principal of Sustainable Engineering Solutions. He is a 10-Year Anniversary CCP, and currently the Vice President of the BCCB. He describes the value that the CCP has brought to his career as a commissioning provider:

“I chose to obtain my CCP many years ago because I believed that it was the premier certification for commissioning professionals. I still believe that. Receiving my CCP has not only given me the professional recognition in a unique and growing industry but it has also provided certain business advantages. I believed so strongly in the CCP that it led me to join the BCCB because I wanted to contribute to the continued efforts of cultivating the CCP as the premier certification in the industry recognized by not only those who seek certification but also by the clients and owners that are served by the industry.”

Ernie has used the CCP to enhance his position in the commissioning profession. His years of experience as a provider are exemplary in the field and speak to the quality of performance expected by owners and project teams for new and existing building commissioning.
The BCA is proud to announce that two new Chapters in South America achieved provisional BCA membership status in late 2013: Brazil, plus a multi-country Chapter comprising Peru and the “Southern Cone” – Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. Thanks to BCA member Jeff Conner, the International Board was represented at kickoff meetings in Brazil and Argentina last October.

Our newest Chapter members are internationally focused. Some are LEED-APs; BCA Brazil President Paulo Coviello is director of the Brazil branch of Command Commissioning, a Texas-based international commissioning firm; BCA Vice President, Tomaz Cleto, will be President of ASHRAE Brazil for 2014-15; A Paraguayan LEED-AP is the country’s USGBC representative. These energetic professionals are motivated to take building performance to a higher level using state-of-the-art commissioning best practices. They are eager to join with other BCA members in dialog and problem solving; in some cases their regions are relatively new to the green building movement, and they voiced a real need for helping owners and project teams achieve high performance buildings.

The South American BCA Chapters want their scope of work to become more uniform, and they want to bring a new level of professionalism to commissioning activities. Although the skylines attest to innovative commercial architecture, the scale of new construction going on in Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and other large metropolitan areas of South America, is a good indicator that more, deeper and better commissioning will improve building operations.

The BCA has established a forum for pursuing and accepting international expansion beyond North America. Our other international region - Canada supports two Chapters. Requests for international BCA Chapter membership continue to come in from Europe and the Middle East.

The time has come to strengthen our roadmap for international BCA membership. In 2014 we will continue to explore the issues associated with international expansion and refine the Association’s program approach.
In 2013, the BCA’s Mid-Atlantic Region hosted several large training events with much success. We kicked off the year as usual in the DC-MD area with our annual Meet-N-Greet in Baltimore, MD. In June we had a Building Enclosure Cx event in York, PA with building envelope demonstrations and CEUs. For more details see full article. We piloted an Electrical Cx event in Pittsburgh, which also had demonstrations and electrical commissioning training. This event also allowed us to connect with our Pittsburgh area membership. The event was well-received and we already have plans to continue the Electrical Cx event in Pittsburgh again this year! We also had a great event in Philadelphia at the one-of-a-kind Energy Efficient Buildings Hub (EEB HUB) with presentations on Best Practices and information on the research and collaboration work conducted by the universities and companies at the EEB Hub.

The NCCBCA has established a Speakers Bureau, and has conducted presentations for local ASHRAE, AIA, and facility owner groups. If you would like more information on these presentations, please contact National Capital Chapter president, Tracey Nawrocki Jumper, at tjumper@keystonecommissioning.com.


2014 NCCBCA: Mid-Atlantic Region Calendar

- March 27, 2014 • Washington, DC • Meet-N-Greet
  Info on upcoming ANSI/ISO accreditation of BCA's CCP
- April 25, 2014 • York, PA • Building Enclosure Commissioning at Architectural Testing, Full Day with demonstrations and CEUs
- May 19-21, 2014 • Hartford, CT • National Conference on Building Commissioning (NCBC) NCCBCA to sponsor
- September 2014 • Pittsburgh, PA • Electrical Commissioning at Eaton's Power Systems Experience Center
- November 2014 • Philadelphia, PA • Venue TBD

NCCBCA and the Mid-Atlantic Region plan to co-present “Tech Talks” via Go2Meeting, in collaboration with the Central Chapter BCA...

Be sure to check out how to stay in touch in 2014.
The BCA congratulates the following individuals on achieving the Certified Commissioning Professional (CCP), Associate Commissioning Professional (ACP) and Certified Commissioning Firm (CCF) designation.

- **Erin E. Black**, CCP, PE, LEED AP BD+C, William Tao & Associates, St. Louis, MO
- **Cyrus M. Humphreys III**, CCP, PE, RCDD, CxA, Alta Consulting Services, Inc., San Jose, CA
- **Michael Taylor**, CCP, PE, CPMP, LEED AP BD+C, JP Harvey Engineering Solutions, Hampton, VA
- **Brett Crawford**, CCP, P. Eng., CMVP, LEED AP, CES Engineering Ltd, Burnaby, BC Canada
- **Kent Barber**, CCP, PE, LEED AP, Keithly Barber Associates, Inc., Burien, WA
- **Robert Danielson**, Morrissey Engineering, Omaha, NE

- **Daniel L. Harper**, ACP, PE, HFDP, CPD, Nika A/E, Rockville, MD
- **Karin Cole**, ACP, CEM, EIT, LEED AP BD+C, LEED AP O+M, Eaton Corporation, Raleigh, NC
- **Kenneth Keener**, ACP, Primary Integration, Charlotte, NC
- **Rhodes Thompson**, ACP, ASI Concrete Field Testing Technician, Paladin Inc., Lexington, KY
- **Jeffrey Willis**, ACP, PE, LEED AP, Page, LLP, Houston, TX
- **John Milligan**, ACP, LEED AP, Guidon Design, Inc., Chicago, IL
- **J. Craig Johnas**, ACP, CxA, LEED AP BD+C, Rushing Co., Bellevue, WA
- **Jeremiah Bullis**, ACP, PE, LEED AP, BEMP, Edmondson Engineers, Durham, NC
- **Ben Johnson**, ACP, LEED AP BD+C, Edmondson Engineers, Durham, NC

- **M/E Engineering, P.C.**, www.meengineering.com, Buffalo, NY
- **sys-tek**, www.sys-tek.com, Blue Springs, MO
- **Alta Consulting Services, Inc.**, www.altaconsulting.com, San Jose, CA
- **RMF Engineering Inc.**, www.rmf.com, Baltimore, MD
- **William Tao & Associates, Inc.**, www.wmtao.com, St. Louis, MO

These individuals join the ranks of the most qualified commissioning providers in the industry. Way to Go! The CCP exam is online and available at more than 200 testing sites. To apply, review the Candidate Bulletin and download the application at [www.bcxa.org/certification](http://www.bcxa.org/certification).

Not sure if you are qualified? Send us your questions at rdicandilo@bcxa.org or call the BCA Hotline at 877.666.2292.

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CONGRATULATIONS to the newest CCPs, ACPs and CCFs!
The BCA is grateful and proud to announce our newest Corporate Members!

- MEi Midwest Engineering, Wichita, KS
- Ensign Engineering, PC, Bronx, NY
- Alpin Limited, Abu Dhabi
- Arrow Engineering Inc., Edmonton, AB
- Commissioning Group International, Inc. Aiea, HI
- MAT 4Site Engineers Ltd, Toronto, ON
- Lutz Engineering, Inc., Wilmington, DE
- SEQUIL Systems, Inc., Delray Beach, FL

In addition to the many benefits BCA members receive, Corporate Members also receive two Individual Memberships and listing on the Corporate Member Directory, accessible to building owners and their representatives in their search for commissioning services.

A few announcements to share...

- **Jonathan Vaughan**, CCP, CEM, LEED AP was recently promoted from Vice President, Director of Commissioning Services to Principal of the A/E/C firm Page Southerland Page, Inc., now known as Page, in Houston, Texas.

- **Tim Staley** is now owner at Staley Energy Consulting in Little Rock, Arkansas, providing consulting on energy service projects, sustainability, commissioning, retrocommissioning, energy asset monetization, utility negotiations, and other energy related services.

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**NCBC 2014**
**Hartford, CT | May 19-21, 2014**

**NCBC IS COMING BACK TO THE NORTHEAST!**

Our conference location in Hartford, Connecticut is unique, linking upscale accommodations overlooking the Connecticut River with a great example of commissioning three interconnected high performance buildings. The complex – publicly owned Connecticut Convention Center and Connecticut Science Center, Marriott Hartford Downtown Hotel, and a central utility plant that serves all three buildings – underwent two years of major Existing Building Commissioning, completed in 2014 through the Northeast Utilities/Connecticut Light and Power RCx Program, our host sponsor.

Right next door to the Marriott Hartford, at the Connecticut Convention Center, the BCA will host two days of NCBC conference presentations and events. You’re invited to come early enough to attend the BCA Annual Meeting and Dinner on May 19th, and take some time to discover the Science of Commissioning at the Connecticut Science Center.

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**HOST FOR THE 2014 National Conference on Building Commissioning**

**DIAMOND SPONSORS**

**Northeast Utilities**

**energize Connecticut**

Empowering you to make smart energy choices
Volunteering on BCA committees is a great way to stay connected to important BCA events, best practices, and opportunities in the commissioning profession. Take this chance to grow, teach and learn by choosing volunteer options that interest you. If you have the time to commit to a project, your knowledge and creativity are welcome!

Immediate needs:

- **International Special Task Committee**: BCA’s membership is expanding internationally. Two new chapters have opened in South America. Our international scope is growing thanks in large part to the efforts of BCA member Jeff Conner and John Runkle and a brand-new “task force” to explore issues associated with international expansion and further develop the association’s overall program approach. Contact Sheri Adams at sadams@bcxa.org.

- **Best Practices Committee** (Chair Karl Stum): The BCA Best Practices and Standards committee is developing a New Construction Best Practices Reference Guide. The Reference Guide effort will identify and vet high quality links to existing online resource documents and guides. These resources may include content from the BCA website, NCBC conference proceedings, GSA, CA, DOE and other online public domain locations. This effort requires members to take specific assignments and spend time doing research and evaluation and providing written deliverables to the committee. Eligible volunteers should be experts in the commissioning process and at judging the quality of sample tests, checklists, guides, templates, etc. to assess whether documents are worthy of a BCA link. We also need someone with web design and functionality expertise (only to advise, not to do programming). Contact Sheri Adams at sadams@bcxa.org.

- **Member Services Committee** (Chair Jake Schu): The International Board of Directors has directed this committee to create programs for membership development and retention, evaluate member benefits, membership categories and pricing. We anticipate that members will be asked to commit 2-3 hours a month in meetings and research. We are looking for at least one member from each BCA Chapter who can commit 2-3 hours a month in meetings and research. Contact Sheri Adams at sadams@bcxa.org.

- **Professional Development Committee** (Chair Kenny Reed): Help expand the BCA’s educational offerings! Develop and review educational content for training commissioning providers. If you want to be part of this team, the Professional Development Committee wants you to participate consistently in the following areas:
  - help develop webinar topics and review presentations
  - expand BCA educational offerings as subject matter expert
  - further develop BCA’s training programs

Contact Sheri Adams at sadams@bcxa.org.

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**GO TEAM BCA: Volunteer Opportunities**

NCBC is a cost-effective way to build relationships and boost sales. You will generate qualified leads and expand your contact base. We limit the size of the show so attendees don’t feel rushed and you have more time to have those important get-to-know-you conversations that lead to sales!

**ONE-DAY SHOW**

May 20, 2014

**REGISTER TODAY!**

To ensure the best booth space available.

**NCBC 2014**

bcxa.org/training/ncbc

By Sheri Adams, Membership Relations Manager
My Journey into a Commissioning Career

By Wesley Shuen, EIT, MMM Group Ltd. (shuenw@mmm.ca)

Editor’s Note: This letter from a newcomer to the commissioning profession is also a tribute to the BCA’s Chris Leaming, Mike Eardley and others who are helping Wesley pursue his commissioning career goals.

When I graduated from the University of British Columbia’s (UBC) Electrical Engineering program, I had completed 20 months of co-op experience in the buildings industry either doing design work or energy management. I was very fortunate to meet many great professionals in the industry, building up my networks, and learning what it took to become a professional engineer.

Since sustainability was close to my heart, I leaned toward a career in energy management, specifically demand-side management (DSM). From my energy management work in the companies I interned with, I took great pride in my ability to help clients reduce their energy consumption and costs. It was a “feel-good” type of engineering, like you were playing a small part in taking care of the world we live in.

Shortly after I graduated, I entered into the Master of Clean Energy Engineering program at UBC, with training in areas such as energy conservation, social change concepts, alternative energy technologies, and energy policy. There was a co-op option for students looking to start their career in a “clean energy” field. For me, it was an opportunity to try something different (but still related to DSM). Commissioning was that opportunity.

I was introduced to commissioning by an engineer at BC Hydro Power Smart (the utility’s energy conservation brand), who told me that building commissioning was a great career opportunity as it was becoming more prominent in the industry. Simply put, building commissioning is a quality assurance process that improves the energy efficiency in a building, reduces O&M problems, and economically, the cost savings are often greater than the cost of correcting deficiencies/operational errors in a noncommissioned building. Furthermore, I always had an interest in both mechanical and electrical engineering. This was a great opportunity to not only learn both, but also controls and envelope systems; allowing me to have a holistic understanding of how a building really performs.

Having no contacts in the commissioning industry, what better way to show a potential employer by being proactive in contacting them and expressing my interest! I simply googled commissioning firms in the US (as I believed there would be bigger opportunities in the US), and started “cold-emailing” potential employers. Not surprisingly, I received few replies except for a “hit” with Mike Eardley of Cannon Design – the BCA’s Northeast Chapter Vice President who had a strong interest in getting students involved in building commissioning.

I am very thankful to Mike for helping me out in my commissioning endeavor. First, he gave me a BCA scholarship application (which I applied for and won $500). Secondly, he helped me with my networking to reach out to other commissioning employers he knew and I eventually received a verbal internship offer from a large firm in Chicago. Unfortunately, the story didn't have the ending that I had hoped for, as the firm’s HR coordinator let me know that it was too difficult to obtain a working visa for me and it would be better to try again once I graduated from my Master’s program.

Moving on, I expressed my interest to Canadian firms and eventually received a hit with Enermodal (now MMM Sustainability), the largest Canadian sustainability consulting firm. John Kokko, department head of Commissioning, forwarded my interest to Chris Leaming, the commissioning manager in Vancouver, BC (also Vice President of the BCA Western Canada Chapter). I was interviewed and hired as a full-time permanent commissioning agent.

Since my hiring in April 2013, I’ve been involved extensively with new and existing building commissioning, working on several LEED projects, and training in mechanical, electrical, and control building systems (and hopefully envelope eventually). It seems pretty ambitious with what I want to achieve, but I embrace the challenge of being part of the commissioning industry that is growing and seeking to improve the performance of our buildings.
BRUCE PITTS IS UNSTOPPABLE. He's a leader in the BCA as former Association Treasurer and other elective roles, a commissioning on-site trainer, and best practices developer. He's deeply involved with his career as a commissioning provider, his community, family life, providing occasional program and policy guidance to utilities, schools and the city of Seattle, and – when he has time – an avid golfer and soccer fan. So, it's not just the six shots of home-pressed espresso every morning … he's just a high-energy, enthusiastic guy with a passion for commissioning and community.

Bruce didn't choose commissioning as a career path – it chose him. He left school to help the family after his dad’s debilitating stroke, taking a job with his uncle’s electrical contracting company. It wasn’t long before he was designing systems as a draftsman. He soon married and started a new life.

A native Californian, Bruce and his wife Dana moved from California to Washington State in the early 1970s. Bruce was introduced socially to the man who became his first boss at Wood Harbinger (WH), where he continues to work today.

Early on, he did testing, balancing (when A/E firms did this as a construction administration service), system startup – and even design work – for projects designed by WH. Then, in 1979 Bruce was assigned his first big project leading a team on the million SF-plus design and retrofit for the Navy’s Trident Training Facility in Bangor, Washington. Initial facility construction was completed in 1977, but just two years later there was a need for documenting and troubleshooting the existing building’s major functional problems: for example, one entire wing of the building was piped backwards and the supply heating system never had worked. Eight large air handling units had been installed backwards – next to 14 of the classrooms – and Bruce hired the founding HVAC acoustical engineer who measured the noise level equivalency in the NC 80 range (too high to teach). Needless to say, the classrooms had never been used.

Through this experience Bruce came face to face with the fact that buildings don’t always work as designed. As his career continued to expand during the 1980s he started designing mechanical systems and doing construction administration (CA) of WH projects. As buildings became more complex and the use of direct digital controls started overshadowing pneumatics, it also became harder to make buildings function properly.

As Bruce made his way through designing projects like the east wing addition to University of Washington Hospital in Seattle, he also managed fast-track delivery where design packages and construction leap-frogged each other through the process – a unique way of learning how systems work while designing them! As a result of his TAB and CA experience Bruce developed a methodology that he describes as “an infant stage of today’s commissioning process.” He helped write the job description for that role, and the university hired Rick Casault – author of the first commissioning process manual – to fill it. Rick’s colleague at the university, John Hines, became the first Director of the BCA.

Over the years Bruce and his (now internal) Construction Administration Group took on projects like the remodel and expansion of SeaTac airport and his first “true commissioning” project at Ballard High School. He came to the conclusion that as systems became more complicated buildings were not being delivered fully functional, EVER. There had to be a better way, and he was committed to finding it.

That’s when Bruce discovered the BCA. He was asked to join the founding members, but declined – the other founding members were his competitors – and watched its development with interest. He started attending NCBC in 1999 and, deciding the organization was viable and important to the industry, he joined in January 2000 as Member #53.

Bruce has held a variety of positions within the BCA. He was elected to the Northwest Chapter Board eight years ago, and later became a liaison to the International Board. Then he was elected and spent two full terms (plus an extra year) as the first Northwest Regional Representative to the Board.

So, according to Bruce, before lunch on the day he was elected BCA Treasurer he thought it would be an easy job. During lunch he and other Executive Committee
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Bruce Pitts, Renaissance Man (cont.)

members were told that PECI, heretofore the BCA’s managing entity, planned to reorganize. BCA’s Executive Committee immediately went to work creating Liz Fischer’s job description as the new BCA Executive Director, along with bylaws and other requirements to become a fully self-managed association. New policies, procedures, an official Finance Committee and new reporting structures resulted from the change… not an easy job, but masterfully handled!

At the same time Bruce became increasingly engaged in BCA training, worked on the Best Practices Committee to develop the EBCx Best Practice and the NBCx Best Practice. He and Craig Hawkins teamed to modify the Existing Building Commissioning training program, initially developed for New York City, for delivery across North America. Bruce and Craig took the 3-day EBCx seminar “on the road” to Virginia, Seattle, and Dallas in 2013 with more venues to follow this year.

Today, Bruce wants to do more teaching. He says, “I train the people at Wood Harbinger, which is still a mechanical/electrical engineering company. I use my Cx experience to train people to do better design, bringing design staff out into the field to get hands on experience making equipment work right.” He has proposed working with the Seattle 2030 District Plan whose goal is to reduce existing building energy use to 50% of a baseline set at 2012. To help achieve that goal, Bruce is proposing a BCA EBCx class for owners, large portfolio property managers and others.

Bruce says he “works both sides of the fence.” He still manages design projects and hires commissioning providers. He feels that it helps to know as much about commissioning as the guy he’s hiring – and it helps them to deliver. He says, “Problem solving is at the heart of every commissioning provider… teaching and learning to build teams, getting people to work together to deliver a quality project to the owner… that’s what I live for, and that’s what our work is all about. It’s important to take the confrontational nature out of construction and build teamwork. Get involved early working with the owner, design team and contractor to build team relationship within the entire project, team-makers to find solutions. And stick with the facts, find out what issues are, what will correct them, and move on.”

Looking at today’s market, Bruce believes that owners still are challenging, and need to be taught the value of commissioning. There is more buy-in from general contractors these days, and they are becoming advocates ensuring that they and the owners get the most for their money.
Here are some words of wisdom from Bruce Pitts:

- The best aspect of being a BCA member is that we’re competitors who get together to improve the industry.
- The value is in the involvement. You can get a wide breadth of experience talking with people who do what you’re doing. We may be going after the same projects but we share knowledge.
- We need to start developing better dialogs with military services; there is a huge pool coming out of the service now who have good technical training that can adapt easily. We should help to get them tied in with a good company that values Cx – they are probably the biggest pool of newcomers we can convert easily and cost effectively.
- The EBCx training program needs to find the “dormant areas,” break into organizations that have building operators and train them to become Cx people.

What does Bruce do for fun? He spent his kids’ childhood coaching soccer for 20 years and is a huge soccer fan. He says, “From that I learned how to be a better manager. Coaching teenagers will teach you a lot! If you learn to do that you can be a very good manager – they teach you the realities of communication. I learned most of my management skills from coaching teenagers and having successful teams. And I’m an avid golfer – anytime I can sneak out and have a couple of hours on the golf course, I do.”

So, Bruce – when might that time to sneak out for golf happen in your busy life?

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The mission of the BCA is to maximize the value of building commissioning to the built environment and its stakeholders. The BCA helps create, promote and provide leadership and education on current and evolving best practices in building commissioning for building owners, operators, designers, constructors and commissioning providers.

In other words, we ARE our mission.

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