The 23rd National Conference on Building Commissioning took place in St. Louis, Missouri (“Gateway to the West”) May 18-20 this year, hosted by the Central Chapter of the Building Commissioning Association (BCA). The three-day event titled, “Gateway to the Future of Commissioning,” included a special half-day workshop on building enclosure commissioning (BECx); a fundraiser golf tournament to support the BCA Scholarship Foundation; the ever-enterprising BCA Annual Meeting and Dinner; two full days packed with presentations by leaders in the building community; and a cluster of intensive afternoon participation sessions to inspire and find solutions to three unfolding industry changes that confront the commissioning profession.

The BCA Scholarship Foundation golf tournament was sponsored by the Southeast and Central BCA Chapters just across the Mississippi from downtown St. Louis at the Gateway National Golf Links in Madison, Illinois. A cool morning outing made for lots of competitive fun, and helped the BCA raise $4,000 for the Foundation.

Thanks, Players!

At the close of the annual address, President Bill McMullen presented the President’s Award for service to the commissioning industry to Jonathan Vaughan of Page/Commissioning. Jonathan is an active member of the Texas Chapter and a tireless contributor to the BCA.

“We honor Jonathan this year for his service to the Association, for developing new Chapters in the Southwest and dedication to the Professional Development Committee, not to mention his years as an inspirational member of the International Board of Directors. Jonathan’s commitment to the commissioning profession, to our members, and most significantly to the BCA mission makes him a true leader,” said Bill McMullen, BCA President.

CLICK TO VIEW THE NCBC PRESS RELEASE
NCBC offered a half-day class led by two of the most respected experts in the field of building enclosure commissioning (BECx). Jay Enck and Fiona Aldous teamed up to teach this workshop focused on helping owners and Cx providers understand the differences between BECx and MEP commissioning processes; how to determine the BECx scope of work; how owners might assess risk; and project team roles and responsibilities.

Owners, he says, need to be made fully aware of the benefits of including commissioning during design phase, not just “testing at the end of the project.” The profession of commissioning should also move beyond construction completion and increase participation in – potentially even “ownership” of – building operations in the future.

B.C. President Bill McMullen welcomed the audience with thoughts on the current state of commissioning, building science, building industry construction markets and areas of growth. In preparation for solutions breakout sessions on Day 2, he outlined three of the impending drivers for commissioning in the days ahead: virtual commissioning, avoiding commoditization, and building high performance commissioning teams that meet the technical and regulatory challenges of the future. Before introducing the keynote speaker, he outlined the goals for expanding and formalizing BCA University.

NCBC’s keynote speaker, David Allen, Executive Vice President of McKinstry, provided a forward-looking perspective on the building industry, the practice of commissioning, and his view of what the future holds for the commissioning profession. Today, more than ever, building commissioning is faced with innumerable pressures to do more with less, remove waste from construction and operations, regulate and standardize delivery processes, and train and certify those that practice commissioning. The last 50 years have changed the building industry. Ten years from now there will be many more critical environments and many more challenges to the industry to build, operate and maintain efficient facilities using data-driven technology and deeper knowledge of integrated building systems.

Mr. Allen referred to the “chaotic” conditions affecting the future of commissioning due to forces of change upon the building industry. So much is going on – market recovery, energy, water and other codes; new standards; certification; benchmarking; remote management; data analysis; building science education; technology development, and more – that commissioning needs to look toward engaging in more than the period up to delivery. The industry needs to continue to move commissioning up in the timeline of project delivery.
At the end of the opening Liz Fischer, BCA Executive Director, presented Gerald “Jerry” Kettler with the Benner Award.

Jerry has worked diligently across many industry associations to ensure consistency in process and technical aspects of commissioning including the BCA’s Best Practices, Professional Development Committees and the Building Commissioning Certification Board. He has served on ASHRAE Guideline 0, The Commissioning Process committee, as chair of Guideline 1.4, Systems Manual and is current Chairman of the ASHRAE Standard 202 standing committee on commissioning documentation. Jerry is on the Board of Direction for the Commercial Workforce Credentialing Council at the National Institute of Building Science where he was a major influence in ensuring that Cx was treated as professional service. Possibly Jerry’s hardest job recently has been involvement with the International Code Council’s efforts to develop Standard 1000 and the IAS Accreditation. He is a LEED Fellow and has served on USGBC committees to help advance commissioning. Locally, Jerry is a Director of the Building Commissioning Association’s Texas Chapter, and active in his ASHRAE Chapter, USGBC Chapter, and is the founding chair of the Dallas 2030 District.

CLICK TO VIEW THE PRESS RELEASE

In memory of Nancy Benner, the Benner Award recognizes outstanding achievement in making building commissioning “business as usual.” This was Nancy’s mission, her personal dream, and her challenge to each of us working in the commercial building industry.

The Benner Award represents excellence in efforts to make commissioning business as usual by individuals and programs/organizations that have engaged in educational, demonstration, policy, or actual commissioning activities that successfully promote building commissioning. Benner Award recipients are selected by a committee of national experts on building commissioning.
Conference Topics

Presentations ranged from 30-minute technical “power sessions” to a full afternoon of collaborative involvement discussing top industry challenges. Speakers introduced new and emerging topics such as net-zero commissioning, data visualization, analytics, resilience, involvement of the project Authority Having Jurisdiction, the importance of commissioning water systems and the transition to operation services.

Session case studies and technical applications covered numerous facility types (hospitals, data centers, biocontainment labs, offices, university campuses and government buildings) and building systems (enclosure, structural performance measurement, chillers, fire protection, thermal energy storage, air filtration system performance and systems integration). Automated technology presentations included energy flow measurement, EIS, EMIS, EBCx data tools, interval metering, and measurement & verification.

On the business side, several presentations covered project communication, the owner EBCx perspective, project roles & responsibilities and “gateway Cx” training. Other sessions included contracts and liability, procurement, international commissioning, architects’ position on commissioning and capital asset management.

Word on the Street

Conversations in the Corridors Side Talk...

• In “Leveraging Filter Technology” Dave Sellers taught me several things I didn’t know about filters. This session was a surprise for me!
• The Water session helped solidify the growing importance of conserving, and therefore commissioning, water. The session provided more thought that will have a significant impact on my firm’s commissioning practice. It’s interesting that the two presenters were Jerry Kettler, one of commissioning’s first and greatest leaders, and Dan Forino, one of our profession’s great young leaders. The fact that one of our oldest and one of our youngest were motivated to speak on the topic symbolizes the broad spectrum of its importance.
• “Smart Cx: Leveraging Analytics Tools” laid the groundwork on the general benefit of using analytical tools to improve the commissioning process… we need to do more research into this methodology; I believe this to be the future of new and existing building commissioning.
• In the interactive “Data Analytics in the Cx Process” session, you felt like you walked out of that class with something tangible that others may not get.
• I’ve been seeing a lot of “black box” technology being sold to owners for chiller plant optimization. I’ve recently felt like an engineer could capture 75% of the savings on a central plant with a fine tuned control sequence, and do it for 25% of the price. Her (Janelle Griffin) presentation showed that chiller plant optimization is just math, not magic.
• Building the Cx Team was a great interactive session, and helped me see the different viewpoints on what happens when a great Cx team is given certain resource restrictions.
• In “Whose Role Is it Anyway” it was important to see the different responsibility views from each of the panelists.
• It was great to have higher level commissioning topics that field folks usually don’t get involved in, like “Purchasing and Selling Commissioning Services,” and “Contracts: Liability and Indemnity Insurance.”
• For me, a big theme coming into the NCBC was about how the commissioning industry should (or should not) embrace technology.

• The proliferation of ongoing commissioning tools will require commissioning providers to take on an even greater role. In new construction, the need to define the MBCx tool during the design process will run through the Cx provider, not the design engineer.

• With the onset of energy efficiency codes and regulatory pressure to save energy, the commissioning industry needs to figure out how to use commoditization as a business opportunity.

**NCBC Commissioning Charrettes**

Three high-participation “charrettes” took place on the afternoon of Day Two. Each charrette was offered twice to enable attendees to participate in more than one. The groups discussed ways to help design the future of the commissioning profession. By taking part in facilitated discussions, the voices of those most affected by change in the building community provided guidance to BCA for advocacy on behalf of the commissioning profession over the coming year. The charrettes allowed participants to prioritize concerns and put together suggestions for action across the building industry and in regulatory jurisdictions.

**Building the High Performance Commissioning Team**

**FACILITATOR:** Ryan Lean, PE, LEED-AP, CCP, EBCP, CEA

**Jaros, Baum & Bolles**

**EXPLORATION:** This charrette focused on the commissioning team and project participants. The group examined potential scenarios for team development, roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders in the process, and how these could impact attracting, training and mentoring the next generation of commissioning providers. Organization charts were developed to illustrate the levels of experience and knowledge required to complete commissioning teams for each of four building types: hotel, hospital, data center and office.
DISCUSSION SUMMARY

RECRUITING, TRAINING AND MENTORING. Consider more formalized mentoring and intern programs. The BCA should get Cx in front of engineering students at the university/high school levels, and serve as a liaison between Cx provider firms and college talent. Identify schools with applicable curriculum, and work directly with universities/colleges/tech schools to improve Cx curriculum.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING. While the focus for entry level engineers may be technical and Cx process, the focus for senior technicians may be on the softer communication/teamwork skills. Cx training programs need to be multi-faceted and well-rounded in Cx design and construction process (emphasize to project managers); technical topics (emphasize to junior engineers); and soft skills (emphasize to technicians). Some training in a classroom setting is desired, especially for entry level engineers, but field experience is vital. Training is required from many different sources, i.e., guidance from senior Cx engineers; BCA training programs; training in the Cx process; field experience under subject matter experts of different trades (controls, electric, envelope, fire alarm, etc.); and technical training in mentorship programs.

CERTIFICATIONS are an important milestone to achieve as part of professional development.

ON THE JOB. New entrants should be placed in situations where they can learn on the job, but still be protected by project management staff for quality control. Younger engineers will pick up technology faster than older counterparts, and can take the lead in implementing the technology based solution.

OWNERS’ PERCEPTIONS. An owner noted that having more Cx personnel on site (even if they are younger) is better than having less coverage by a smaller pool of experienced consultants. There is a perception that more staff capacity will help keep their project on schedule. It’s important to take the opportunity to train the owners and the GC’s on every team to set good expectations at the beginning of the project. Owners want to see experience on the resume, perception of experience leading the team, especially where complicated systems are involved.

DISCUSSION NOTES ON BUILDING SPECIFIC Cx TEAMS

HOSPITAL. Budgets for hospital commissioning tend to be higher than other building types. Commissioning of hospitals need a lead with overall healthcare experience who can direct specialty providers and other members of the field team. Without adequate budget for specialty providers, an experienced engineer who has the critical system background would be needed to direct entry level providers on testing requirements and work with the general contractor on a complicated schedule. Use an entry level engineer to directly support a senior technician and pair the experience needed for complex systems with an engineer good at data acquisition and organization.

DATA CENTER. Experience is absolutely critical for mission critical facilities. Highly trained technical experts are needed to execute testing in the field, with fewer entry level engineers for these complex and critical systems. The project manager’s focus is on team coordination and schedule.

HOTEL. Hotels are designed and built with repetitive systems. Understanding of the commissioning process is more important than technical knowledge. Senior technicians do well with process, and can benefit from team members with strong communication skills.

OFFICE. Office buildings often represent simpler, more repetitive systems to test. Field experience is required in the lead position, but this is a great place to maximize boots on the ground, supporting testing for different trades.
Virtual Commissioning or Boots on the Ground?

FACILITATOR: Jesse Sycuro, PE, CEM, LEED-AP
McKinstry

EXPLORATION: With the development of software to acquire and analyze big data on buildings, what is the role of commissioning? How does the CxA use data to help the owner and facility manager? Many controls manufacturers are selling controls packaged as an ongoing commissioning process – sometimes with, sometimes without CxA involvement.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Technological advances push and pull at the edge of nearly every industry today; the commissioning profession is no stranger to the impacts of the computer age. As a profession born in the era of pneumatic building controls, we have seen analog and then digital building systems redefine how we heat, cool, and control our buildings. While the process, strategies, and nature of commissioning remain steadfast, the methods and complexity of the systems we test have evolved significantly over the years.

Today we continue to see building technologies shaped by computing capabilities, with the internet of things, big data, software analytics, and smart building technology becoming more and more prolific in building applications.

While the discussion started with the question of whether technology will replace commissioning, attendees instead identified that there is far more opportunity that technology provides to our industry than threats from it. The value that technology provides our industry was a highlight of the facilitated conversations – with participants quick to point out the benefits that these technology advances provide including:

- Time savings in systems testing, allowing commissioning providers to focus time and effort to other verification efforts
- Increased quality, breadth and depth of testing practices thus removing the need for sampling and other volume based testing practices
- Improved verification and monitoring of ongoing building performance across multiple seasons and operating conditions
- Driving IT and facilities team collaboration in the integration of information and building systems applications

Technology does raise challenges for our industry – disparate and legacy systems integration challenges, information overload, and training requirements to leverage the capabilities and value of technology. A hot topic of discussion was the confusion that monitoring based commissioning (MBCx) and similar solutions place on the market – owners are bombarded with the (inaccurate) value proposition that these solutions are similar if not identical to that of commissioning providers. The subtle but critical

Superior building performance starts with superior commissioning

Whether your facility is new or existing, McKinstry’s commissioning services provide a guarantee of exceptional building performance from the beginning through the long haul.

For nearly two decades, we have provided commissioning services as a vital component of our integrated delivery. This expertise enables us to support our client’s design, construction, operation and maintenance of high-performing facilities that keep tenants comfortable and bottom lines strong.
factor is that software does not save energy – it is what you do with the information and how potential issues are diagnosed, root causes identified, and action taken to drive change in buildings.

In light of our discussions on the topic, attendees aptly renamed the session from “Virtual Commissioning versus Boots on the Ground” to the more appropriate title “Leveraging Virtual Commissioning Tools by Minds on the Ground”.

As we come together to address and tackle the many challenges facing commissioning professionals, those at NCBC this year see technology as an opportunity to embrace and leverage its capabilities as part of a new chapter of our role in the building industry. As we move forward the feedback and recommendations of NCBC participants will be immensely helpful in guiding the Building Commissioning Association and our profession in how to make the most of this opportunity.

At the end of this session participants agreed, “We get paid to think. That’s our core value.”

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

As more and more owners solicit commissioning services, whether for code mandated reasons, to achieve LEED ratings for their buildings, or because they have heard from other owners the value of commissioning, procurement methods used in today’s marketplace have pushed our industry towards commoditization.

The facilitator started out the session with a professional prescription, saying, “if you don’t want to be a commodity, don’t act like one,” which resonated with attendees. As discussions proceeded, the group explored three challenge topics: codes, certifications and qualifications-based selection.

Session attendees were aware that commissioning is a part of green building and energy-related codes, but some were surprised at the state-by-state variance in applying these codes. People generally agreed that, because commissioning is required by law, it is becoming less understood (and possibly more confusing) as a service with measurable benefits to owners and increasingly considered as a commodity, or undifferentiated product. This perception is resulting in providers often being selected according to lowest bid instead of qualifications, experience and performance value.

Most attendees agreed that commissioning providers, as subject matter experts, need to get involved early in the code development process. We need to work with state and local code officials to help them establish good commissioning requirements in codes. At the same time we don’t want code officials to be determining what or who is qualified to do commissioning. That starts with education.

Regarding commissioning certifications, most agreed that technical certificates supporting professional certification would help identify particular skill sets.

Qualifications-based selection (QBS) starts with a commitment by the commissioning provider to educate building owners about QBS, in addition to showing how cost-effective commissioning can be. It’s important to “think outside the box” when providing qualifications; what are the owner’s priorities, what questions they want you to answer.

Commissioning is a professional service, but only when procured from and provided by professionals.

As the BCA moves forward beyond this 2015 gateway to the future of commissioning, we will take the ideas, thoughts and energy from these sessions to help shape and guide the future of the industry.

**Avoiding the Commodity Trap**

**FACILITATOR:** Craig Hawkins, CxA McKinstry

**EXPLORATION:** How do we advocate, evaluate and stay involved in developing a regulatory environment that makes sure commissioning remains a professional service – including a qualifications-based selection process that is not dictated by low bid practices? How do we ensure that commissioning certification is not an embellishment, but is a professional development tool that enhances the CxA’s commitment to excellence? How do we stay ahead of local, state and national agencies to make sure they have the information they need to write building codes, standards and procurement procedures that result in efficient buildings that perform well?
Exhibitor Event
The Exhibit Hall featured technology manufacturers, commissioning providers, systems analysts, utilities, program designers and managers, and facility services firms displayed their companies’ expertise. The event was a full-day affair allowing exhibitors to spend time presenting their products and services, followed by an exhibitor-sponsored evening of networking and discussion in the Exhibit Hall. NCBC provided an exclusive new opportunity this year by sponsoring Exhibitor webinars prior to and after the conference to extend the Exhibit Hall into “virtual” exhibit space.

Congratulations!
BCA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS
The Urban Green Council, a USGBC chapter, recently announced finalists and winners for the coveted EBie Awards. The winners were honored at the award show in Times Square on June 22, 2015. BCA Members featured:

ERIC GREGORY, Manager of the Sustainable Performance Program for Emory University Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, was a finalist in two categories: “Power to the People: Exceptional Energy Savings” and “Smooth Operator: Operations and Maintenance Excellence.”

ERIC WON THE SMOOTH OPERATOR award for the Goizueta School of Business project: The School had been LEED EB GOLD back in 2004, but performance was flagging. Eric and his team replaced BAS control panels and created an alarm system to detect abnormalities in energy rates. The project paid for itself in only 10 months—with savings exceeding expectations.

SAVERIO GROSSO, Eneractive Solutions, New York, NY was also a finalist for the Smooth Operator: Operations and Maintenance Excellence award.


DAN FORINO, PE, LEED AP BD+C, Horizon Engineering Associates and newly-elected BCA Board Member, is a mega-multi-tasker. Two days after speaking at NCBC, Dan received his Master of Business Administration degree.

H. JAY ENCK, CxAP, HBDP, BEAP, LEED, Cx Green Building Services and BCA Secretary, received the ASHRAE Distinguished Service Award at the Summer meeting in Atlanta on June 26.
Commissioning Certification News

NEW CERTIFIED COMMISSIONING PROFESSIONALS
- Daniel Forino, Horizon Engineering Associates, LLP, New York, NY
- Melissa M. Gelley, Genesys Engineering, P.C., Kingston, NY
- Craig A. Hawkins, McKinstry, Seattle, WA
- Charles Hutchinson, tk1sc, Irvine, CA
- Stuart J. Mitchell, Keithly Barber Associates, Seattle, WA
- Mark Opresnik, Opresnik Engineering Consultants Inc., Toronto Canada
- Timothy R. Rucinski, Horizon Engineering Associates, LLP, Baltimore, MD

CCP RENEWALS
- Thomas E. Anderson, Anderson Consulting LLC, Jeffersonville, VT
- Jeremy A. Braithwaite, Affiliated Engineers, Seattle, WA
- Rick Dale, Abbott, Abbott Park, IL
- Douglas R. Chamberlin, EnerNOC, San Francisco, CA
- Richard W. Dennis, DBL Associates, Eatontown, NJ
- Eric Fitzgerald, Wake County Public Schools, Raleigh, NC
- Gerald J. Kettler, Facility Performance Associates, LLC, Dallas, TX
- John P. Kokko, C3PX Engineering Limited, Waterlo, ON, Canada
- Colin Moar, Heery International, Lake Oswego, OR
- Orry Nottingham, Orry Nottingham PE CAP, Inc., Rocklin, CA
- Chad J. Tassin, Limbach Company, Columbus OH
- Scott Talbot, Systemworks, West Des Moines, IA
- Louis W. Vogel, Taitem Engineering, Ithaca, NY
- Wayne T. Williams, Architect of the Capitol, Washington DC
- John Wood, NORESCO, Boulder, CO

NEW ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONING PROFESSIONALS
- Colm Otten, Seattle, WA

ACP RENEWALS
- Byron Holmstead, Engineering Economics, Inc., Seattle, WA
- Michael Luffred, Dewberry, Lorton, VA

NEW CERTIFIED COMMISSIONING FIRMS
- Bath Commissioning Firm, www.bathgroup.com, El Paso, TX
- C.E.S. Engineering Ltd, www.cesgroup.ca, Burnaby BC, Canada
- Jaros, Baum & Bolles, www.jbb.com, New York, NY
- KBA (Keithly Barber Associates, Inc.), www.keithlybarber.com, Burien, WA
- Page, www.pagethink.com, Houston, TX
- SystemWorks, LLC, www.systemworksllc.com, West Des Moines, IA

Grumman/Butkus Associates

Energy Efficiency Consultants and Sustainable Design Engineers

Chicago Region
820 Davis Street - Suite 300 - Evanston, IL 60201-4446
847.228.3555
Commissioning Contacts:
Chad Tuning - ctuning@grummanbutkus.com
John Villani - jvillani@grummanbutkus.com

Madison Region
700 Raymond Drive - Suite 307 - Madison, WI 53711-3479
608.275.1980
Commissioning Contacts:
Lee Siccar - lsiccar@grummanbutkus.com

Milwaukee Region
1011 North Mayfair Road - Suite 300 - Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3431
414.476.8980
Commissioning Contacts:
Jeffrey Conner - jconner@grummanbutkus.com
Bob Bays - bbays@grummanbutkus.com

New York Region
CECA Commissioning Services, Inc.
306 Washington Street - Suite 305 - Hoboken, NJ 07030
201.822.1173
Commissioning Contacts:
Luis Contreras - lcontreras@grummanbutkus.com
Jessica Cruz - jcruez@grummanbutkus.com
www.grummanbutkus.com
Jesse Sycuro is no exception—he gets involved. As a commissioning professional, Chair of the NCBC Planning Committee, former BCA International Board Member, and Board Member of a regional charitable organization, he still finds time for year-round hiking, biking, skiing and other activities with his family.

You could say that Jesse’s path toward commissioning, though unintentional, was obvious. As a kid he was always interested in how things work, how people and systems come together and, as he puts it, “finding out what’s behind the door.”

He’s from a US Navy career family, following in his father’s and grandfather’s footsteps, and was a member of ROTC in high school and college. After earning a bachelor’s degree at the University of Colorado (Boulder) in geography and a master’s in engineering management at Old Dominion University in Virginia, he joined the Navy’s nuclear power training program. In 2005, after five years in South Carolina and aboard the Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier stationed in Washington, he began to consider new career options that would keep him closer to home in the Northwest where his wife was pursuing a Ph.D. Jesse was picky; he wanted to start off in the right company. He got to know the commissioning process and people at McKinstry and found it was good fit – complex systems and process-oriented, and a great segue from ships (buildings on the sea) to commercial facilities (ships that don’t go to sea).

Joining McKinstry in 2005, Jesse found that a lot of people had been doing commissioning; because of the company’s culture, the average employee tenure was 12-15 years or more. There were a lot of people to learn from at McKinstry. He searched out continuing education opportunities and discovered NCBC; attending for the first time in 2007, he “loved the collaboration, the educational opportunity and diverse perspectives.” While there, he met Jeff Conner, a current BCA International Board member, who talked more about BCA as a professional association and encouraged Jess to join. “You get what you put into it,” Jeff said.

So Jesse got involved… on the Professional Development Committee, then on the Standards Committee, Best Practices Committee, Membership Committee, and was elected to the International Board of Directors.

“I began to understand commissioning on a different level with the BCA, and I loved the people and contribution,” says Jesse. “Then-President Ed Faircloth told me to get involved in planning NCBC. It was the right place, right time, and a good fit for making a personal contribution to help with the transition from PECI to BCA management of the conference.”

Jesse believes that NCBC is a special connection point for everyone in industry to provide thoughts on how to chart our course as an organization and as a profession. He loves the conference’s focus on exchange of ideas, sessions that “blow your mind when you hear them, like tunnel commissioning and best practices applied to systems you’d never have thought about. There’s always something new – new technologies and tools, approaches, innovation and forward-thinking.”

To Jesse, NCBC represents peer to peer connection. “The annual ‘reunion’ separates you from the next punch list day in and day out. It’s a good time to take a breath and commiserate, to understand that lots of people are trying to do great things in the industry through common goals, a collaborative environment; it’s really refreshing.”
The biggest challenge about NCBC is the pressure to keep it fresh, meaningful and valuable to those who come every year. Jesse and the NCBC committee want to provide something new and engaging so people can use what they learn. “People learn in different ways, everyone is looking for something different. We want to keep it valuable to the whole building community including people who come from outside the commissioning profession.”

How do they do that? First, he says, we shape the conference based on feedback and evaluations from attendees; we look for BCA Board direction, staying in line with the BCA vision, needs and advocacy connection points. Each year the hosting regional chapter gets involved to make sure local peoples’ needs are being met. The NCBC Committee is an opportunity for people to help shape the event.

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING NEW COMMISSIONING PROVIDERS

Commissioning is a unique profession requiring technical knowledge, experience, and a systems-and-people performance focus to understand how buildings impact people at the end of the day. As far as attracting the right people for the industry, they can’t necessarily come straight out of school…it’s a learned profession over time. We need to think more as an industry about where new providers may come from, and then figure out how to excite them.

“New entrants should be eager to learn from others,” says Jesse. “If you’re new to commissioning there’s little you’ll see that someone else hasn’t already addressed; we’re blessed to have a lot of people in the industry who have great advice and wisdom. Most commissioning providers will go out of their way to help others and have a strong peer network.”

THE JESSE WE DON’T GET TO SEE …

Jesse Sycuro is married with a daughter (5) and a son (1). They are passionate about outdoor activities; Jesse also goes fishing for salmon and halibut with his dad every year off the Washington coast or in Alaska. He’s on the Board of VetBikes.org, a nonprofit that rebuilds and takes donations of bicycles for wounded veterans, as part of their rehabilitation.

Jesse’s advice to everyone: “Get involved! Participate! The same message as I got from Jeff Conner seven years ago: the more you give, the more you get, personally and professionally. The BCA, like every other volunteer organization, runs on the shoulders of those who participate.”

---

Visit bcxa.org/certification or Scan the QR Code to Learn More

Show your Professional Pride. Become a CCP Today!

BCCB has re-calibrated the CCP to meet changes in standards, regulation and practices approved by the building industry.

25% Discount for the first 50 NEW CCP candidates to submit an application and payment. Available through August 31, 2015.
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Dinner

Exhibitor Reception

Golf Tournament
Thank You!

NCBC 2015 Sponsors

The 2015 National Conference on Building Commissioning was generously funded by sponsors, without whom this quality event could not have taken place. We are grateful for their support and recognition of the importance of commissioning as a practice that ensures design, construction and operating performance of commercial buildings.

Readers may view individual NCBC presentations directly online on the agenda pages at www.bcxa.org/training/ncbc/agenda-2015/#day1 and www.bcxa.org/training/ncbc/agenda-2015/#day2.

Save The Date

NCBC 2016 is scheduled for California, May 16-18 at the Renaissance Indian Wells Resort near Palm Springs. Annual events will include the BCA Scholarship Foundation golf tournament, BCA special workshops, and the always-stimulating BCA annual dinner. Session topics are already under consideration – stay tuned!
ABOUT BCA

The Building Commissioning Association is dedicated to professional development and industry advocacy for best practices in learning, doing, teaching and maintaining the highest standards for the building commissioning process to achieve persistent, efficient building performance. Learn more at www.bcxa.org.

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kent Barber, Director At-Large Keithly Barber Associates
- Jeff Conner, Regional Representative, Central Grumman Butkus Associates
- Tony DiLeonardo, Regional Representative, Mid-Atlantic Wick Fisher Wick
- H. Jay Enck, Director At-Large Commissioning and Green Building Solutions Inc.
- Daniel Forino, Director At-Large Horizon Engineering Associates, LLP
- Craig Hawkins, Director At-Large McKinstry
- Ed Simpson, Regional Representative, Northwest TestComm, LLC
- William McCartney, Director At-Large Isotherm Engineering Ltd.
- William McMullen, Director At-Large Dewberry Energy Solutions
- Bruce Pitts, Director At-Large Wood Harbinger, Inc.
- John Penney, Regional Representative, Northeast John F. Penney Consulting Services, p.c.
- Tom Poeling, Regional Representative, Southwest U.S. Engineering Company
- Tony Rocco, Regional Representative, Canada ALR Engineering Services Inc.
- John Villani, Director At-Large Grumman Butkus Associates
- John Whitfield, Regional Representative, Southeast Primary Integration

BCA STAFF

- Liz Fischer, Executive Director
- Sheri Adams, Member Relations Manager
- Rosemary DiCandilo, Program Manager
- Diana Bjornskov, Editor
- Jake Fischer, Conference Photographer*

* Special thanks to Jake for stepping in the last two years and acting as the BCA Photographer and Membership/Event Coordinator. We wish him well as he is off to pursue a career in the medical field.