



Watts Receives 2011 MWBE 'Building The Future' Award

On April 28th, Watts received a 2011 MWBE Building the Future Award in the architecture category in recognition of outstanding MWBE contributions. **Ed Watts, Jr.** accepted the award at the event in New York City.

The event's keynote speaker was Paul T. Williams, President of the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY). Mr. Williams said that, he believes "there are great days ahead" for New York's construction industry, despite the current challenging times for financing and building new projects. He also mentioned that DASNY exceeded its 2010 MWBE goal of 20%, with a 23.57% MWBE participation.



Ed Watts, Jr. accepts the architecture award

independent panel of seven industry executives served as judges.



Fourteen awards were given out in various categories including; architecture, engineering, subcontractors, supplier and construction management. An

Anchin, Block & Anchin, LLP, the event host, is one of the region's largest accounting and advisory companies. They launched the annual event in 2010 to recognize the contributions of outstanding MWBEs to the construction industry.

Architecture + Education Gets Hand From Watts

Watts is proud to continue to be a part of *Architecture + Education's* collaboration with 'Young Audiences' and bring architecture programs into the classrooms of three Buffalo Public Schools.

about passive solar building technologies and daylighting strategies.

Rebecca Bortolin, Jason Sokolowski, Erika Abbondanzieri, Paul Dudkowski and **Darrell Rowser** all participated in the project led by Linsey Graff, the architect coordinating the in-class sessions. The project ended with students designing their own solar houses.

They cast and poured Hydrocal forms that became thermal masses for their houses. The students and architects had a great time and noted that Hydrocal casting is no small feat and similar to concrete!

Their work was on exhibit at the Starlight Gallery from April 26-May 20.



Paul Dudkowski, left, helps two students

Members of Watts' Architecture Department went into the eighth grade Technology classes at School 81 and while working with students learned

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Historic Porter Avenue



The Porter Avenue streetscape is about to get a renewed look that will help restore the parkway feel to this Olmsted Corridor. Watts has been the design engineer for this Federally-Funded project that involves the reconstruction of the pavement and streetscape elements from Niagara Street to Symphony Circle. This corridor is part of the Buffalo Olmsted Parkway System and contains D'Youville College, Holy Angels Church, the Karpeles Manuscript Museum, and Kleinhans Music Hall.

Since the corridor is listed on the National Historic Register, all design work was coordinated through

the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Office. Several public meetings were held to understand the community's concerns and preferences. After receiving design approval from NYSDOT, the project went to bid in January 2011 and is scheduled to start in May 2011 with completion expected in September 2011 – just in time for the National Preservation Conference in Buffalo which will have events in the Porter Avenue neighborhood.

The contractor selected for the project is Yarussi Construction with a low bid of \$1.7 Million. **John Honan** is the Project Manager for Watts and **Fred Brown** will be Watts' inspector during construction. In addition to the pavement, the project features decorative street lighting, exposed aggregate sidewalks, stamped concrete gutters, the re-use of slate and sandstone sidewalks at bus stops, continuous bicycle lanes, and new trees.

The project received a commendation letter from the Buffalo Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Board for its adherence to the City's Complete Street Policy.

QUALITY CORNER

The importance of reputation in the A/E industry cannot be overstated. In today's extremely competitive business environment, the firm's reputation is everything and it must be protected.

Client-relationship building takes consistent effort in order for it to be positive and successful. Client relationships are developed one encounter at a time. This means that every encounter can either improve a client relationship or cause it to deteriorate.

One important thing to keep in mind as you work to improve every client encounter is that clients want responsiveness.

Responsiveness is demonstrated by good and frequent communication, genuinely listening

to your clients, taking the initiative to anticipate their needs, responding promptly to those needs, and being accountable and enthusiastic about delivering on their behalf.



Also, it is essential that you correct client issues quickly. Take a long-term approach when considering your response to a dissatisfied client. If you have decided that your unhappy client is worth your continued investment and care, and you have carefully sought to understand the client's source of unhappiness, you must then demonstrate a sincere commitment to improve. Improvement will require action and a specific plan to resolve the client's issue. This will be hard work, but consider the effort and cost necessary to replace good clients in this challenging economy and competitive business environment.

Interior Design Students Impressed By Office Design



On March 23rd, two classes of interior design students from Villa Maria College toured the office. Their instructor, impressed with our office after visiting for an AIA meeting, wanted the students to see a warehouse office conversion. **Erika Abbondanzieri** and **Rob Sanders**, both of the Architecture Department, led the students through the office. The students were particularly interested in:

- The office organization/structure;
- How hierarchy is expressed or blurred in the design;
- How the design and layout influenced the way the office works;
- Material choices: colors, durability, sustainability, cost; and
- Working within the constraints/structure of the existing building.

For their final project, the students will design an office for an interior design firm located in the Curtiss Building.

School No. 81 Tour

School No. 81 is under construction and the principal, Robert Clemens, paid a visit to the job site to see how the project is progressing. Watts is providing architecture, mechanical, plumbing, fire protection and environmental services on the \$18.8 million renovation and new addition project.

Along with his Pre-Kindergarten teacher, Mr. Clemens walked through the existing building and could barely recognize it. His office is being located in the new addition so there were only traces of where walls used to be. When they saw the new, large kindergarten rooms both were excited for the new accommodations. The library and art rooms are being moved up from the basement and will have plenty of natural daylight. The cafeteria is moving from the third floor to the basement where it will be substantially larger and easier to access.



Currently, the students are housed in a swing school on East Utica Street and eagerly look forward to returning to their newly reconstructed school in the fall of 2012.

New Employees



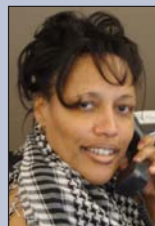
Paul Dudkowski joins the Architecture Department as an Intern Architect. He is a recent graduate from the University at Buffalo where he received a Masters of Architecture degree.



Darrell Rowser joined the Architecture Department as an Intern Architect. He is a recent graduate from Hampton University where he received a Masters in Architecture degree.



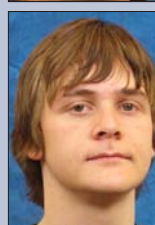
Robert Sanders joined the Architecture Department as the new Department Manager. Rob has over 25 years of experience and holds a Masters degree in Architecture from the University at Buffalo.



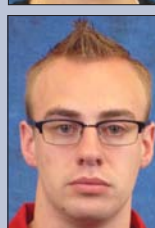
Lizzie Sneed joins the firm as a new Receptionist. She has an Associates of Science from Dallas Community College in Dallas, Texas.



Adam Morse joins the firm as a Project Monitor/Air Sampling Tech. He has a Masters degree in Education from D'Youville and Bachelors in Geology from Fredonia.



Matthew Beeler joins the firm as a Project Monitor/Air Sampling Tech. He is certified in Green Building Technology and studied Environmental Restoration.



David Hallmark joins the firm as a Project Monitor/Air Sampling Tech. He is currently studying Architectural Technology at Alfred State College.



William Koch joins the firm as an Asbestos Inspector. He is currently studying Environmental Science at SUNY ESF. William will work out of our Syracuse Office.

Watts at the 2011 Corporate Challenge®



The sun is shining and the weather is warming up so get your running shoes on!

It's almost that time of year for the JP Morgan/Chase Corporate Challenge. Save the **June 9th** date and register for the Watts team! The 3.5 mile race will once again take place at Delaware Park and meander through the beautiful streets of North Buffalo/Parkside.

THINGS TO KNOW

Register @: www.jporganchasecc.com
Date of the race: Thursday, June 9th
Time of the race: 6:45 pm
Entry Fee: \$30.00 per person
Entry close date: Friday, May 27th
Questions?: Contact Connie Wurstner

Employee News

Organizational Changes - Watts is pleased to announce that **Greg Andrews, Alan Matricardi, Tina Mellott, Becky Mingoia** and **Darlene Svilokos** were named Senior Associate.

Tina, Accounting Group Manager, has been at Watts for 19 years; Greg, Sr. Environmental Consultant, has been with the firm for 13 years; Becky, Marketing Group Manager/Office Manager, and Alan, Sr. Civil Engineer, have all been with the firm for 12 years; and Darlene, Sr. Structural Engineer has been at Watts for almost 5 years.

Marriage - Tina Mellott (Muschaweck) was married on March 12, 2011 to her husband Chris. Congratulations goes out to them!



Baby Born - Congratulations to Geoff and **Stephanie Koch** on the birth of their first child. Abigail Rose Koch was born Thursday, April 28th at 10:49PM. She weighed in at 6 pounds and 19.5 inches long.



Employee Anniversaries



Watts is proud to wish a Happy Anniversary to the following employees:

January Years with Watts

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Ken Peters (photo) | 18 |
| Tim Major | 12 |
| Shawn Marshall | 9 |
| Joe Hallmark | 8 |
| Ed Watts, Jr. | 7 |
| Jessica Crane | 1 |
| Duane Lacy | 1 |

February Years with Watts

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Don Wolf | 17 |
| Jim Cahill (photo) | 14 |
| Ron Dockery | 14 |
| Matt Holquist | 10 |
| Connie Wurstner | 3 |
| Mike Haseley | 2 |
| Rob Wagner | 2 |

March Years with Watts

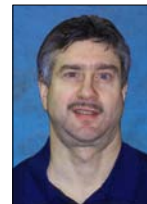
| | |
|------------------|----|
| Fred Brown | 14 |
| Glenn Drue | 13 |
| Nora Kramer | 12 |
| Bob Turley | 9 |
| Rick Blanch | 4 |
| Tim Faltisko | 4 |
| Jim Waddell | 3 |
| Jessie Gasiiecki | 1 |
| Ryan Delamere | 1 |

April Years with Watts

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Paul Pfleuger | 18 |
| Mary Gunning (photo) | 11 |
| Jason Dodge | 5 |

May Years with Watts

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Andy Klimek | 12 |
| Mike Pratt | 8 |
| Brad Sendlak | 8 |
| Karen Dallas | 5 |
| Mike Gerber | 4 |
| Eric Krajewski | 2 |
| Pat Deluca | 1 |



Peters
18 years



Cahill
14 years



Gunning
11 years

REMINDER:

Your contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome. Please submit them to Becky Mingoia or Jim Waddell in the Marketing Department.

WATTS

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