

# PLAINS TALK



PEER REVIEWED COMPANY



## Sioux Falls WPE: Wintrode Student Success Center

### Did You Know?

- West Plains Engineering currently has **Career Opportunities** available in 3 of their 4 offices. Please contact each office (contact information on back of this newsletter) for information about these positions.

- **Green building design** conversations occur with many of our customers! See our article on the back of this newsletter for how West Plains Engineering is expanding our expertise in this area. Call us with questions on LEED Certification!

Plains Talk is a quarterly publication of West Plains Engineering, Inc. in which we highlight a few of our most interesting projects. Your comments are welcome at any of our locations listed on the back cover of this newsletter.

- Many people change their careers many times over their lifetime; some buildings change “careers” over their lifetime as well. The Wintrode Student



*The Wintrode Student Success Center has a fresh, new look at its front entrance.*

Success Center is one of those buildings. In 1960 a new building was constructed on the SDSU campus to provide a religious home for Methodist students on campus. It was called the Methodist Student Center. The Center included a chapel, an apartment for the resident minister, a reception area, several offices, and a place for the students to hang out. Later the Methodist Student Center was changed to the United Ministries Building so it could serve the religious needs of all students on campus. In 2007 the University made the decision to complete a major renovation to the campus Ministries Building and convert it to the Wintrode Student Success Center.

The Wintrode Student Success Center is a facility to provide tutoring services for all students on campus as well as limited classroom and office space. The original chapel was renovated into a large

tutoring center overlooked from a balcony loft where the minister’s apartment was renovated into office space. The West wall of the building, behind the original alter, was opened up with a large west-facing window to provide natural light into the tutoring center. The reception and office areas were also renovated adding additional office space, air conditioning, and upgraded finishes throughout the building.

West Plains Engineering, Inc. is proud to have provided Mechanical and Electrical design services for the Wintrode Student Success Center. Many challenges and opportunities along the way were **continued, p.2**

# Sioux Falls WPE: Wintrode Student Success Center, continued

encountered to allow our engineers to show their creativity.

In order to provide heating and air conditioning in the renovated chapel, without detracting from the chapel's wood vaulted ceiling, fabric duct work was chosen to provide air distribution. The fabric duct work was purchased in a color to accent the original brick walls and wood ceiling. Two air handling units were installed, one on either side of the original alter area to provide air conditioning and heating to the tutorial center and the loft office area.

An original air handling unit located in the basement of the facility was replaced along with most of the duct work from the air handling unit. This air handling unit currently provides heating and air conditioning to some new offices on the main floor of the facility and to a tutoring classroom near the offices. The HVAC system for the North office wing was also replaced and a rooftop heating and cooling unit was installed with duct work extending through the corridor ceiling to each office.

The hydronic heating system throughout the facility was renovated with new pumps and baseboard radiation. All the air handling units have hot water heating coils installed to provide heat for the facility.

The lighting in the tutorial center uses linear indirect fixtures suspended from the existing wood ceiling. Melanie Raap of our Sioux Falls office paid special attention to the light in the tutorial center, because wood ceilings are not always the best for indirect lighting that the



*Lighting in the tutorial center was a main concern for Melanie Raap of our Sioux Falls Office.*

linear fixture provides. With careful evaluation she was able to provide a very well lit space with the indirect lighting accenting the wood ceiling and providing a very warm feel to the tutorial center.

The electrical designs also included a new electric service for the facility, power and data wiring throughout the facility, and a new addressable fire alarm system. The fire alarm system includes a photoelectric beam detector. The detector uses a crystal controlled infrared beam aimed across the room to a mirrored reflector which guides the beam back to the receiver in the original device to provide smoke detection coverage in the center, without having to place several smoke detectors on the wood ceiling.

We would like to congratulate SDSU on the renovation of the Wintrode Student Success Center. They have taken another building and renovated it into a beautiful facility for their campus. Along with West Plains Engineering the design teams included: Architects-Miller Sellers and Heroux and Structural Engineering- KMS Engineering.

The design team included: Darrin Tille, Mechanical Engineer and Melanie Raap, Electrical Engineer.

About the Author:  
**Mark Grebner PE** is the Office Manager, Principal, and Mechanical Engineer in the Sioux Falls Office and has been with WPE for over 14 years.



# Cedar Rapids WPE: Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy

• Hiawatha, Iowa, will be the first town to receive a hospice house in the Cedar Rapids-Iowa City area. Hospice volunteers and the community pulled together and led a campaign to raise awareness of this much-needed facility. The increase of patients in need of hospice services has doubled in the past year, making the addition of a hospice house the solution to a growing problem. The Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy will provide patients a comfortable, serene surrounding, while allowing them to receive the medical attention they require. The hospice house has a large venue of professionals, as well as volunteers on staff, to assist patients residing at the house. This list includes physicians, nurses, dietitians, and physical therapists just to name a few.



The project was funded by Donna Oldorf's gift of \$1.1 million in memory of her husband Dennis, a Hospice of Mercy patient. An ongoing campaign fundraiser led by the Mercy foundation entitled "Sharing the Journey," along with an awarded grant from Hall-Perrine foundation for \$1.7 million helped to raise the supplemental funds necessary to start construction of the facility. In addition, Mercy Medical Center donated a site for the project valued at \$700,000. The Hospice House is located at 315 18th Avenue in Hiawatha.

Features of this project include:

- A 22,000 square foot facility on a large 3.2 acre lot
- A mix of patient rooms and support areas in a residential setting, and a more commercial office space area
- A large outdoor courtyard
- Twelve patient rooms with direct access to private outdoor patios
- A family-friendly atmosphere that includes rooms for children, pets, and music, as well as family lounges and a chapel/meditation room.
- Office space for staff to serve community outreach, education, and bereavement counseling services.
- A diesel powered back-up generator to provide emergency power to a portion of the facility.

OPN Architects of Cedar Rapids served as the project architect and Ryan Companies of Cedar Rapids was the general contractor. West Plains Engineering provided electrical design services while working for the electrical contractor, Paulson Electric Company, on this design-build style project. The construction of the facility was completed spring of 2007.

About the Author:

**Jeff Reinhart** is the Office Manager and Electrical Engineer in the Cedar Rapids Office. Jeff has been with West Plains Engineering for five years.



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### NEW EMPLOYEE — SIOUX FALLS



• **Sheyenne Peterson** joined the Sioux Falls office in September as a temporary assistant and as of December went full time. Sheyenne has two children, both boys, named Michael and Aiden. Outside of the office all her time is spent with family enjoying racing, camping, or traveling.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

• **Natalie Giese**, Mechanical Engineer in our Casper, WY office and her husband, Nelson, welcomed daughter, Parker Rose, on September 21, 2007. Parker weighed 7 lbs, 2 ozs and has gotten the seal of approval from big sister Ella.

### ANNIVERSARIES!!!



• **Chris Kost** from Casper (left) and **Jeff Reinhart**, P.E. from Cedar Rapids (right) were recognized for their five year anniversaries.



• **Duane Evert** (right with Dave Berg), **Vicki Stephens** from Rapid City and **Neal Schmid** (left with Dave Berg) from Sioux Falls were recognized for 10 year anniversaries.



• **Doug Feterl**, P.E. from Rapid City and **Harlan Osterloo** from Sioux Falls were recognized for 15 year anniversaries.

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## West Plains Engineering 2007 Design Conference Held

• The eighth annual West Plains Engineering, Inc. design conference was held in October at Sylvan Lake Lodge located in Custer State Park in The Black Hills of South Dakota. Thirty seven participants from four office locations met in this beautiful setting to discuss design concepts in both Mechanical and Electrical engineering. This conference offers an excellent opportunity to associate with peers both professionally and socially.



Technical presentations regarding new design and new products were offered by manufacturer's representatives, as well as inter-department technical presentations.

About the Author:

**Dave Berg** is an Owner, Officer, and a Founder of West Plains Engineering.



## LEED Accreditation Expands At West Plains Engineering

About one year ago, I provided a Sustainable Designs Update through this Newsletter (Volume IX, Issue 1, Winter 2007). It mentioned WPE had several projects using the USGBC's LEED rating system in the works. Two of those projects have been constructed and one is in the process of obtaining LEED certification.

The Green Building Industry is expanding quickly. The topic is everywhere as America is becoming more aware of its importance and the benefits. Green building design conversations occur in many of the projects we get involved with, owners are interested in certifications, others want to follow the concepts, and still others really don't know what it all means.

We continue to add to our list of sustainable projects, some that follow some of the more strict guidelines to obtain LEED points, some intending on certification, some wanting energy modeling, some wanting waterless urinals or strict adherence to ASHRAE Standards (even if they are not code required).

Late last year, several West Plains Engineering employ-

ees attended seminars and obtained training. Recently, three more professionals trained, studied, tested for and obtained their LEED Accredited Professional status (i.e., LEED AP). Michael Heinrich, P.E., Mechanical Engineer; Marty Christensen, P.E., Mechanical Engineer, and Daren Beckloff, P.E., Electrical Engineer can now attach LEED AP to their credentials. These three will be joining two others already accredited. They are Doug Feterl PE, and Scott Isenock PE, Mechanical Engineer. Others have attended training and will test to become accredited.

West Plains Engineering currently has four mechanical engineers and one electrical engineer that are LEED AP's.

In a future issue of Plains Talk, look forward to a more detailed article on one of our projects highlighting the Green Design that has been constructed.

About the Author:

**Doug Feterl PE, LEED AP** is Office Manager and Principal of the Rapid City Office and has been with WPE for 15 years.

