

PLAINS TALK



Sioux Falls WPE: St. George Church, Hartford, SD



Views of the new sanctuary of St. George Catholic Church

Did You Know?

• *West Plains Engineering recently celebrated 25 Years of Engineering Service. With four offices in the upper Midwest and over 50 employees, West Plains Engineering continues to provide the best in mechanical, electrical, and utility engineering services to our clients.*

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.

• After many years of services in a 100 year old church and badly needing more space for a growing church community, the parish of Hartford built St. George Catholic Church. The new church was built connecting the 9 year old parish center to the new church. In this building, sound control was paramount. The main sanctuary is heated and cooled with two large air handling units with hot water coils and DX cooling. The ductwork in the sanctuary is concealed in a large soffit running along the length of the sanctuary. This soffit while containing the ductwork, also contains lights, hydronic piping, and sprinkler piping. On the front of the soffit, the registers appear to be one long continuous register by filling in between the actual registers with blank registers with nothing connected. The auxiliary spaces, including the parish offices, cry room, and gathering space, are heated

and cooled with fan coil units with hot water coils and DX cooling. The hydronic hot water for the building is created using high efficiency condensing boilers. With the recommendation from the acoustic consultant, keeping sound transmission from the mechanical equipment was a goal. Sound attenuators were used in the supply ductwork for the large air handling units, all ductwork was sized with very low velocity to limit airflow noises, and all equipment in the mechanical rooms were heavily isolated. Using these guidelines, when the equipment is running, no noticeable noise can be heard. The building is controlled by a full BAS system that can be used for night setback and unoccupied modes and programmable weekly schedules. The lighting in the sanctuary is a combination of fluorescent and halogen par lamps. The main pendant cylinders

West Plains Engineering, Inc. Holds 10th Annual Design Conference

• The 10th Annual West Plains Engineering Design Conference was held again at Cedar Shore Resort in Oacoma, South Dakota on September 29-30, 2009. Thirty-six employees from all four WPE Office locations attended the conference. This Conference allows employees from South Dakota, Wyoming and Iowa to collaborate and share design strategies and innovations in the field of consulting engineering.

Dr. Sid Goss, a professor of sociology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, opened this year's conference with an entertaining presentation on his research and observations of demography and generational relationships.

Scott Isennock (Mechanical Engineer, Casper Office) led everyone in a team building exercise/ competition that consisted of a race against the clock to constructing the tallest structure using marshmallows and spaghetti.

This year, West Plains Engineering initiated its own version of "junk yard wars." Creators Michael Heinrich (Mechanical Engineer, Rapid City) and Bonnie Berg (Payroll & Accounting) presented each office/department

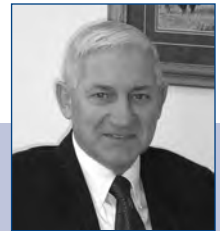
with a box of everyday materials from which they would construct or attempt to construct a device that would move water from one location to another. The strict rules required that all materials found in the box must be used to assemble this precision device. The judges graded the final product not only on the successful completion of the task but also on the design presentation by the team. Extra (LEED) points were given for "green design." Team Casper was the winner of this inaugural event.

At this conference, we recognized our long term employees. Sara Horner (Electrical Engineer, Sioux Falls office) and Chuck Hauck (Mechanical Engineer, Sioux Falls Office) have been with West Plains engineering for 10 years. Marty

Christensen (Mechanical Engineer, Sioux Falls Office), Dave Riemenschneider (Mechanical Engineer, Rapid City Office) and Jeff Eidsness (Electrical Engineer, Casper Office) have been with the firm for 15 years.



West Plains Engineering staff at the 10th Annual Design Conference held at Cedar Shore Resort.



About the Author:
Dave Berg is an Owner, Office Manager and a Founder of West Plains Engineering.

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NEW EMPLOYEE—Sioux Falls

West Plains Engineering welcomes Aaron Kompelien who joined the Sioux Falls office in November as a mechanical designer. He is a graduate from South Dakota State University. After graduating, Aaron worked for PE Group in Parker,

SD as a mechanical engineer and passed the LEED AP exam in June 2009. Aaron is married to Corinne and they have one daughter Reese. He enjoys snowmobiling and spending time with family and his pets.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Aaron & Connie Kompelien celebrated the birth of their daughter Reese Corinne Kompelien on January 2, 2010 at 12:04 PM. At birth Reese weighed 2 pounds 2 ounces and was 14.5 inches long. She will remain in Sanford Neonatal Intensive Care until mid-March.

CONGRATULATIONS—Casper

Brian Ames became a LEED Accredited Professional in May 2009. He also passed the Fundamentals of Engineering exam in October 2009 becoming an Engineering Intern.



WHEN DUTY CALLS...

Many of us have friends, family, and coworkers who are fighting for our country and separated from loved ones. Chuck Hauck, Mechanical Engineer in WPE-Sioux Falls was called to Active Duty in January 2010. Chuck will be serving state-side in preparation of his unit being deployed to Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Chuck and his family during this difficult time and look forward to having him home soon! This is Chuck's second tour overseas; you may remember that he was deployed to Iraq in December 2003. We truly appreciate everything Chuck and other soldiers do for us and the freedoms which we take for granted.



Celebrating 25 Years! West Plains Engineering Open House Celebrations!

• West Plains Engineering, Inc. has been celebrating its 25th Anniversary this past year. In recognition, each office hosted an open house to thank our clients and the people we work with for their continued support.

Two of the offices took this opportunity to have Chamber of Commerce “Ribbon Cuttings.” The Sioux Falls office completed a new 2400 square foot addition to accommodate additional personnel. The Cedar Rapids office out grew there old location and moved to a new larger office downtown.



Rapid City Office Staff



Casper Office Staff



Cedar Rapids Office Staff



Sioux Falls Office Staff

Cedar Rapids WPE: Hawkeye Fans Win Big

• The Cedar Rapids office participated in a “Downtown Window Decorating Contest” sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Many downtown businesses showed their support by participating in the contest by decorating their windows. This contest was a great way to increase downtown traffic, beautify property, brighten up downtown, and celebrate the holiday season. The Cedar Rapids Holiday Parade is in route of the WPE office. The theme for the Holiday Parade was “Dashing through Downtown.” The Cedar Rapids



Hawkeye fans winning window display!

Office chose to reflect the theme and also highlight the Iowa Hawkeye’s great football season. Blake Pauls, another draftsman in our office, used his artistic ability to design and draw our Hawkeye display. This display was voted by the public as “the best downtown

window display” and was much appreciated by many Hawkeye fans.

About the Author:
Justin Cooper is a draftsman in our Cedar Rapids Office and has been with WPE for nine years.



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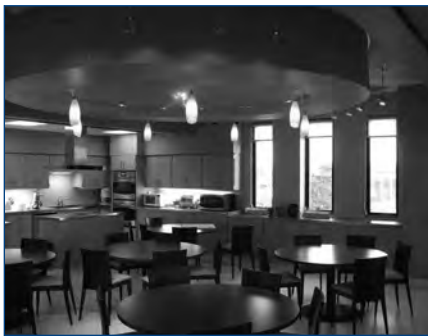
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Sioux Falls WPE: South Dakota State University NFA 429 Renovation

• South Dakota State University (SDSU) Department of Nutrition Food Science Lab was in need of an “Extreme Makeover.” Appliances were outdated, limited, and failed to operate properly. The department vision consisted of a space that was capable of providing a unique teaching area along with elegant meals prepared by students for peers.

The challenge was to provide a friendly teaching environment as well as maintain elegance in this space. There were five student stations having all the components of a home kitchen to include individual cook tops, sinks, ovens, dishwashers, kitchen hoods and lighting controls. Two work stations had gas appliances, while the rest had electric. Each station had an island style hood to capture the cooking fumes as well as heat to maintain a comfortable working area. The kitchen hoods were a low profile island style, giving the students a clear view of the instructor. The instructor’s station had a push button pop-up capture hood rather than an island hood to ensure the students view would not be obstructed.



*Newly renovated kitchen at SDSU
Nutrition Food Science Lab*

The center of the room served as a Dining area with decorative pendant light fixtures accenting the ceiling. Each kitchen was furnished under cabinet lighting and indirect recessed light fixtures. Remote controlled drapes were used to hide the individual workstations and provide an elegant eating area. Due to a large amount of exhaust associated with each kitchen hood, a dedicated make-up air unit was provided on the roof to maintain an acceptable indoor air quality. The remodel gave the kitchen a modern look with the ease of teaching.

The Department of Nutrition Food Science was exceptionally pleased with the updated room and has had classes increase in capacity to experience this unique, elegant teaching environment.

About the Author:

Jeremy Goodroad is a mechanical designer in the Sioux Falls Office and has been with WPE for four years.



Sioux Falls WPE: St. George Church, Hartford, SD (continued from p. 1)

house six fluorescent lamps, and one 500W halogen lamp, and have three separate switch legs, two of which are dimmable. There are fluorescent tube lights along the top of the HVAC cove to light up the perimeter of the ceiling, and the down lights in the cove highlight the stations of the cross below. The altar and other feature items, including statues are accented by more par lamps from above. The dimming system for the sanctuary allows for different scenes to be programmed and accessed from two locations, the front and back of the sanctuary. For the exterior lighting, the existing parking lot lights were re-used to light up the north and east parking, while new fixtures

were provided for the main south lot. The Bose sound system was coordinated closely with the acoustical consultant, and includes speakers in the sanctuary, cry room, gathering space, and the existing parish hall as well. The church decided to go with the traditional choir loft for the balcony.

About the Author:

Isaac Anderson is a mechanical designer in the Sioux Falls Office and has been with WPE for two years.

