

Meet Our New Chen Employee!

Name: Shaun Bamforth, EI

Office: Fort Lauderdale

Position: Project Engineer



Mr. Bamforth recently joined Chen and Associates as a project engineer. His experience includes managing and designing a wide range of land

development projects in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. Mr. Bamforth has expertise in preparing final engineering plans for construction including paving, grading and drainage; water and sewer; pavement, marking and signage; surface water pollution prevention plans; earthwork; PGD details; WS details; and project specifications.

Chen Employee Birthdays

December 15th

Paula Fonseca



January 18th

Marlon John



January 19th

Amy Parkinson



January 26th

Juliana Jaramillo



February 1st

Angela Barron



February 5th

Safiya Goombs, PE



February 10th

Dr. Ben Chen, PE, DEE



February 17th

Talia Garcia, PE



February 18th

Marcus Austin, GC



February 22nd

Ivan Marquez, EI



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Save paper!

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Providing quality, responsive and professional service to clients, peers and the public for 21 years

First Edition, Volume 6

A Message from the President

Dear Friends:

On November 7th, Chen and Associates celebrated our 21st anniversary of service in South Florida. In the past 21 years, we have grown from a one person firm to 32 employees in three offices. During this holiday season, I am thankful to all of you for the trust and confidence you have placed in us as we strive to continue to be the most responsive firm in South Florida!

Our employees have been actively giving thanks by giving back to the community this season as well – our community service committee sponsored a holiday toy drive for Toys for Tots (page 2); our Social Activities Committee planned our first annual Halloween contest and Thanksgiving Potluck/Food Drive (page 2); Branch Manager Oscar Bello, PE was recently honored as “principal for a day” at Seminole Elementary School in Miami-Dade County (page 2); and Senior Engineer James Barton, PE recently traveled to Africa to assist CARE with teaming opportunities (page 3). Chen and Associates has also been honored to be named among the Best Firms to Work For (below) and named firm of the year by the Miami-Dade County Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (page 3).

At the end of each year, we all must reflect on what the past has brought us and what the future will bring. As 2008 begins, I will be focusing on the items that each of the Chen Quarterlies has addressed – service, sustainability, and social awareness. In order to do so, I am turning over day to day operations of the firm to Peter Moore, PE. This should be no surprise to anyone in the Chen Family as Peter is my longest serving employee, five of which have been spent as vice president. Please join me in congratulating Peter, our president. Congratulations also to Jason McClair, PE who is our new Fort Lauderdale Branch Manager.



“As 2008 begins, I will be focusing on the items that each of the Chen Quarterlies has addressed – service, sustainability, and social awareness.”

Ben Chen, PE, PhD, DEE

Thank you again for a successful 2007. Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!
Sincerely,

Ben Chen

finished 10th in the Small Business category which honored firms with 100 or fewer employees.

Over 145 firms entered this year's contest which is scored in two parts: the first step is grading a corporate survey about a firm's corporate culture, benefits, performance recognition, compensation, professional development, recruiting and retention. The second half of a firm's score is generated from an employee satisfaction survey. Nearly 75% of Chen and Associates' employees participated in the survey, far exceeding the 20% goal CE News established. Thanks to all employees who participated in this year's survey!



The Holiday Issue

Chen Holds First Annual Toys for Tots Drive



Chen and Associates' Community Service Committee organized the firm's First Annual Toy Drive to benefit South Florida families in need. Toys for Tots campaigns are conducted annually in nearly 500 communities covering all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

America has over 14 million economically disadvantaged children; since 1947, Toys for Tots has collected and distributed more than 370 million toys to more than 173 million needy children.



Chen and Associates' Employee is Principal for a Day

On October 24th, 2007, Branch Manager Oscar Bello, PE volunteered to be Principal for a Day at Seminole Elementary School in Miami-Dade County.

Principal for a Day mobilizes hundreds of Miami-Dade County business and community leaders to experience the triumphs and challenges of running a public school. The program's goal is to turn their one-day experience into a long-term and active partnership with schools, enhancing overall student achievement and resulting in a stronger, more educated workforce.



Oscar Bello assists with morning announcements at Seminole Elementary School.

First Annual Halloween Contest Results



Marcus Austin (left) and Peter Dueño were winners of Chen and Associates First Annual Halloween Contest!



L to R: Andres Diaz, Sharon Peltzie, and Suzanne McCord received honorable mentions for their creativity.

Chen Team Celebrates Thanksgiving

Chen and Associates's Social Activities Committee organized the *First Annual Thanksgiving Potluck* in our Miami Beach office. Each employee brought in a dish including traditional favorites such as mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, ham, and of course, turkey! Celebrating our diverse backgrounds, employees also brought empanadas, Chinese noodles, linguine and clam sauce, flan and tres leches to share. The event was a chance for our Fort Lauderdale, Miami Beach and West Palm Beach staff to socialize and give thanks for being part of Team Chen!



Team Chen enjoys Thanksgiving dishes made by employees.

Branch Manager James Barton, PE in Africa

Recently Branch Manager James Barton, PE went on a trip to Africa. The trip included a visit to Victoria Falls as well a climb up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The 6 day hike took James and his fiancée Jennifer to 5,895m. As a Florida resident, James remarked "it was very difficult to be prepared for the climate and change in altitude. Freezing actually is really cold."

Also on the trip, James visited former colleagues and project sites from his eight years working for UNICEF and CARE, a humanitarian organization currently working in 66 countries. This included visiting a pump that James installed in 1994 in Mozambique that is still working today. James also visited with some representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss possibilities of teaming on future projects in Africa. NGOs often need technical input and time for various projects. We will be working on trying to forge a relationship between various NGOs in Africa and the South Florida engineering community.

James is recovering well from his climb - in fact, he has just started to get feeling back in his toes!



James and Jennifer at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.



James visits a pump he installed in 1994.



James and Jennifer entering Zimbabwe.

Chen and Associates' Named ASCE Firm of the Year

Recently, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Miami-Dade County Branch named Chen and Associates as Firm of the Year. ASCE's Broward County branch also awarded Chen and Associates with an employer recognition award for our involvement with the Younger Members Committee.

Chen and Associates is proud to have several members active in leadership roles in the ASCE. Peter Dueño serves as the Younger Member Chair for the Miami-Dade County Branch; Jennifer Fought, EI is the Younger Member Chair for the Broward Branch. Vice President Peter Moore, PE is a past-president of the Broward Branch and Talia Garcia, PE is currently Secretary.



Branch Manager Oscar Bello, PE accepts the award for Miami-Dade County Firm of the Year.



L to R: Jesus Avila, Ivan Marquez, Oscar Bello, Yulet Fernandez and Peter Dueño accept the Miami-Dade ASCE Firm of the Year Award.



Peter Moore, PE accepts a National Award from the ASCE.