

Don't Miss NEF Programs at NAWIC Convention!

Once again, the NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) will have a visible presence at this year's NAWIC convention in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 5-8, 2007. NEF will be offering several programs to choose from as well as the opportunity to take exams for the Construction Industry Technician (CIT), Certified Construction Associate (CCA) and Construction Document Specialist (CDS) courses. Note: To take the exams, you must submit your examination registration form with payment to the NEF Office by **August 1**.

Here are the NEF events taking place at convention this year:

• **Wednesday, Sept. 5, 8-11 a.m.**

The Certified Construction Associate (CCA) Business Analysis Review Course – Presented by Christine A. Piper, Ph.D of Clemson University, this course will give a thorough overview of the CCA course material to reinforce your individual study of the curriculum. You must pre-register for this class by **August 1** by calling the NEF Office at (866) 277-2883. The workshop will cover the course material, which includes the objectives, sections on economics, cost accounting for construction contractors and insurance and bonding. Piper is currently on the faculty of Clemson University's Construction Science & Management

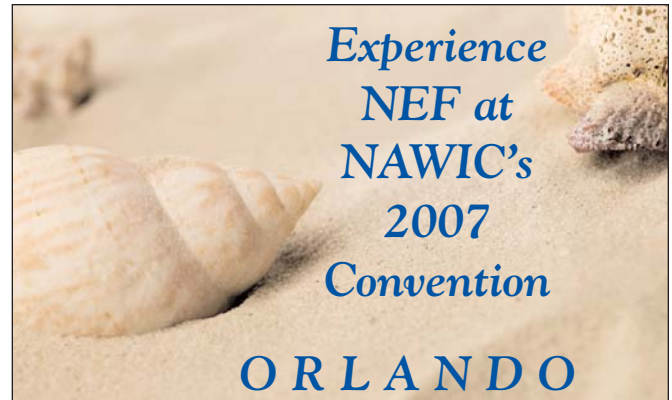
department and teaches in the areas of estimating, scheduling, project management, cost control and marketing to undergraduates and graduates.

• **Friday, Sept. 7, 9-10 a.m.**

Introduction to NEF's K-12 Programs – Come learn about the popular K-12 programs that NEF offers to students and how you can get involved. The chairpersons of the Block-Kids, Building Design and CAD/Drafting programs will give you an overview of each of these programs and how they introduce young people to the wonderful world of construction. Learn about how you and your chapter can get involved in these programs and promote them to students in your area. Also covered in this workshop will be the launch of the new (and abbreviated) Building Design program.

• **Friday, Sept. 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

What's New with NEF Certifications? - Don't miss the unveiling of the new Construction Document Specialist (CDS) course in this workshop! Be one of the first ones to tackle the course and earn your CDS pin. Have you always wanted to take an NEF certification course, but



it's been forever since you've studied and been in school? Then this workshop is for you. Roger Liska, Ph.D., FAIC, FCIQB, CPC, of Clemson University, will answer your questions about NEF's certification programs and will coach you on how to study.

New NEF Contact Information
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Member Discovers All NEF Has to Offer

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: YASMINE BRANDEN, CCA

Yasmine Branden, CCA, is definitely not content to stay idle. Her natural, go-getter attitude and great interest in education add up to be a winning combination for the NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF). A



member of the Portland, Ore., Chapter of NAWIC, Branden is currently serving as chair of the national Professional Education Committee.

This is a well-suited role for her. Branden recently earned her Certified Construction Associate (CCA) degree in record time. In May, she was promoted from assistant construction manager to construction manager for the Neil Kelly Company in Portland. The first woman to hold this senior post, Branden is in charge of design/build remodeling construction for Neil Kelly, overseeing about 80 ongoing projects, a staff of 10 project managers, 45 carpenters, as well as day-to-day relationships with about 200 construction trade partners. A 15-year veteran of the construction industry, Branden believes that her continuing education involvement is what keeps her on top of her career in construction.

Branden says that her NAWIC educa-

tion through NEF has been priceless.

“I really believe the certification programs [that NEF offers] are a great tool for all of us. The programs are a great way to bridge the gaps in our construction knowledge and experiences,” she said. “The CIT, CDS and CCA programs are an ‘easy’ way to build a bank of knowledge. By ‘easy’ I mean in the sense that the key concepts and learning are all in one place.”

As the national Professional Education Chair, she enjoys learning what other chapters are doing in regards to education programs. She, like many members of NAWIC, joined the organization to increase her knowledge of the industry and to be a more valuable asset to her employer and co-workers.

“Monthly membership meeting speakers do a good job at increasing awareness of trends and issues,” said Branden who is the director-elect of Region 9. “The certifications help build and solidify the foundation or basics of what we need to know to be effective construction professionals.”

One of the ways that the CCA program was useful to Branden in her job as construction manager was that it increased her knowledge and understanding of cost accounting.

“I am not an accountant, and I can now read financial reports better and can ask more intelligent questions of the experts,” she says. In addition, the Construction

Environ portion of the CCA exam helped her gain a better understanding of the relationships between owner, general contractor, skilled trades and buyer (in the case of a residential new build). In addition, Branden said that the Management Techniques portion of the CCA course helped her with conflict resolution.

“Working on one side of the project, you can forget the other stakeholders’ perspectives. I found that understanding others’ perspectives, I became a better manager of my piece of the project,” Branden said.

Branden said that another benefit to NEF’s programs is that they supplement the knowledge gained through other avenues.

“NAWIC offers a wide variety of educational opportunities,” she said. “The NEF programs supplement the professional education we get from NAWIC, whether through networking, monthly meeting speakers, Construction Career Days, WIC Week celebrations, regional and national meetings.”



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Updated Classes, New Location Add Up to a Busy Year

The following are excerpts from the Forum Report of Linda Litle, NEF president.

◆ NEF signed the Clemson University proposal for the development of two new education certification tests and to update the existing Certified Document Specialist (CDS) program. Trustee Carole Rogers, CIT, completed the scanning of the current text per the agreement and delivered it to Clemson. The finished product will be delivered in Orlando at the 2007 NAWIC convention.

◆ The Executive Committee voted to approve the proposed National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)/NEF Partnering Agreement. This agreement was effective immediately, but will be formally signed at our Board of Trustees meeting at the NAWIC convention. We are very excited about this opportunity to work with the NCCER.

◆ The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) has approved to award three continuing education units (CEUs) once a student has completed the CIT course and passed its exam. CSI has also approved the CCA modules for continuing education credits: Business Analysis - 3.0; Construction Environs - 2.0; Construction Principles - 2.0; Effective Communication - 2.0; Labor Relations - 2.0; and Management Techniques - 2.0.

Immediate Past President Susan Carson, CIT, is responsible for our success in this arena.

◆ Gloria Shaw-Bruce, CIT, marketing chair, designed an ad for *The Voice*, CURT's semi-annual magazine. She also



created our new tag line, "NEF certification courses teach the business side of construction." She is in the process of conducting meetings with industry professionals in the fields of insur-

ance, legal, bonding and accounting to explore how the Foundation can best market our certification courses in these areas.

◆ Chair Pat Callicotte, CIT, along with Deb Gregoire, CIT, are working diligently on updating and creating the Foundation's policies and procedures for Board approval.

◆ The Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Darline H. Johnson, executive director, March 12, 2007. The NEF Office was moved to Clemson University March 27. Karen Robinson, administrative assistant, will be handling daily administrative affairs. Please see the Q&A article on Karen's duties for NEF on page 4 of the newsletter.

— *Linda A. Young, CIT*
NEF President

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: MIKE STILLEY



Mike L. Stilley is the manager of training and development for S&B Engineers and Constructors in Houston. Stilley has served as an NEF trustee for five

years. As a training manager, he has some distinct opinions and views about the role of education in construction today. Stilley believes that the world can no longer afford to tap into half of its resources, creativity and talents. Companies must look to women to fill in the gaps and vacancies that exist in the construction industry due to a worker shortage, he says.

He continued saying, "Education is paramount in our industry." He believes that education is becoming increasingly more important as the industry grows more complex. It used to be that trade workers could be shown the ropes at the beginning of the day and they'd get the work done.

"Now, everything is so complex with safety issues, and workers need to be able to interpret documents and process information to be safe," says Stilley.

Stilley believes women are a great and untapped resource in construction. "Women are adept at meeting challenges," he says. "For instance, it's been shown that women have better eye-hand coordination, which aids enormously in occupations like welding and electrical work."

A frequent presenter at NAWIC meetings, forums and conferences, Stilley would like to see more NAWIC chapters reach out and be more inclusive of tradeswomen. Many NAWIC members, he says, work in the office and are dressed professionally whereas tradespeople may show up in less formal work clothes. Instantly, they may feel out of place and there's not a comfort level there to get to know the other women.

One of the accomplishments that Stilley is most

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Q&A: Karen Robinson NEF Administrator

M eet Karen Robinson, who is the friendly voice on the phone when you call the NAWIC Education Foundation Office. Robinson is busy handling a variety of duties for the Foundation, including coordinating the certification testing, among many other things.

Q: Tell me about what you do?

A: I am the administrative assistant to Dr. Roger Liska, a long-time NEF supporter and trustee. He is on the staff of the Center for the Improvement of Construction Management and Processes (CICMP), which is housed within the Construction Science & Management department at Clemson University.

I coordinate the testing conducted by Clemson University for NEF. Anything that has to do with a test for NEF is my responsibility.

In addition, I interact with people who want more information regarding programs and tests, test candidates, NEF and NAWIC personnel, test monitors and others. I also manage the maintenance of a database that tracks the students who are testing, scores, monitors and more. My job also includes the processing of registration forms, the scoring of tests, the preparation of weakness reports and correspondence with candidates in sending them their test results. I also oversee the administration of the monitors who have been selected to monitor the tests.

Q: Why are test monitors such an important part of the certification process?

A: The test process is important as the tests are certification tests. In addition, Clemson University awards continuing education units (CEUs) for the successful completion of a test. Therefore, the tests must be treated as such and conducted similarly in all test locations. As a result, procedures have been developed – Monitor Administration and Duties – that are given to each monitor. At some point in the future, we will probably have a program in place that will allow interested individuals to become certified test monitors.

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proud, is his participation in developing a prescription process for NEF's certification tests. Prior to the prescription process, students would take the exam and either pass or fail. Many students were taking the exams three or four times. Stillely led efforts to analyze their test scores to hone in on weak and strong areas. "It makes sense to study the weak areas and focus on those," Stillely says.

Stillely believes that the NAWIC Education Foundation is one of the "best-kept secrets out there." He has heard comments from many individuals on how worthwhile and advantageous NEF's programs can be and the great educational instruction that students can receive from them. "In order to grow," Stillely said, "NEF must not only market its programs to just NAWIC members but to the industry as a whole."

NEF Officers 2007-2008

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 NEF Officers! The officers will take over their positions in September. Thanks to Linda A. Young, CIT, for her great leadership and service during the 2006-2007 year.

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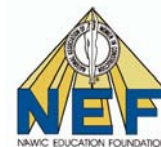
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