

Job Spotlight: ROSS HALL (1202)

Ross Hall is George Washington University's primary biomedical research and teaching facility. Originally constructed in 1973, Pierce Associates did the original mechanical and plumbing work on the project (PAI job number 7003). The building consists of seven levels above grade and two levels below grade. The below grade levels are parking, building support facilities and a vivarium. The first two levels above grade are for medical instruction; the third floor contains air-handling units, mechanical equipment and facilities offices. The upper four levels contain lab and offices for medical research.

George Washington University was awarded a grant from the National Institute of Health through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This grant funded the renovation of the fifth and sixth floors to create research facilities for the Neglected Diseases of Poverty Research Center. In order to create this facility, modifications are also being made to adjacent floors, including infrastructure upgrades on the third floor mechanical spaces, sub-basement, central utility plant and roof. Since Ross Hall is a teaching and research facility, much of the building remained open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week during the renovation.

Clark Construction is the general contractor on the site. Notice to proceed with this project was given in June 2012 and completion is set for December 2013. Mike Stauffer headed up the coordination effort on

the project. Jeff Horsman, Jerry Taylor, Ray Meyer, Scott Sisk and Tony Davis are the lead trade foremen on the project. Karl Miller and Anne Finerfrock managed the project team.

Despite challenging conditions, the skill and efforts of the coordinators and especially the field tradesmen have resulted in a quality installation which has been praised by Clark Construction, GWU and GWU's consultants.

The installation was very challenging for all trades. The ceiling space in the laboratory areas was marginally sufficient for the HVAC systems, which are a combination of chilled beams, terminal supply and exhaust units, and hot water reheat coils. The medical/lab gases, acid waste, and traditional plumbing systems, coupled with the many electrical and fire protection systems, resulted in a very congested ceiling space. Prior to demolition, much of the equipment in the main mechanical room on the third floor was accessible only by crawling under duct and pipe. The equipment in this mechanical room is now very accessible even though there are many more pieces of equipment in the space now than prior to renovation. Despite all these conditions, the skill and efforts of the coordinators and especially the field tradesmen have resulted in a quality installation which has been praised by Clark Construction, GWU

and GWU's consultants.

The project is essentially roughed-in and TAB and preliminary commissioning work have begun. Finish work is in progress in the laboratory areas and several of the HVAC and plumbing systems are in operation. It is our hope that our relationship with the owner will allow additional opportunities on the GWU campus.

Be like the bird that, passing on her flight awhile on boughs too slight, feels them give way beneath her, and yet sings, knowing that she hath wings.

-Victor Hugo

EMPLOYEE highlights



Clarence Hicks is a plumber who is currently working with Brian Sonon at Montgomery College Bioscience. Clarence has been with Pierce for seven of his nine years in the plumbing industry. During his early years with the firm, he began and completed his apprenticeship for the Local 5. He has worked on many of Pierce's biggest projects, including Gay-

lord, Constitution Center, Ross Hall, NIH, DOI, and FDA.

Raised in Maryland, Clarence now lives in Laurel with his girlfriend and their recently born son, Mason. Mason is only a month old so Clarence is now busy being a first-time father in his free time. Besides spending time with Mason, Clarence enjoys following sports, particularly the Miami Heat and Denver Broncos, and watching comedy shows. However, his favorite pastime is dining out and trying new types of cuisine.



James Mason is a steamfitter currently working with Richard Cherba out at Montgomery College Bioscience. James has been working in the steamfitters' industry for over twenty years and has been a member of Local 602 since 2007. He originally worked for Pierce from 2009 to 2011 and re-joined the team last year. During his time with Pierce, he has worked on a variety of jobs includ-

ing NCE, Constitution Center, MedImmune, and FDA.

Originally from Middletown, MD, James currently resides in Harper's Ferry, WV with his wife, two sons, and one daughter. On the weekends, James can be

found outdoors in the woods of West Virginia, either hunting or fishing. In particular, he enjoys hunting for venison when deer season is open.



Jacob Goldstein, a current member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 100, joined Pierce Associates four years ago as a welder working in the sheet metal shop. Since then, he has worked his way up to the position of sub-foreman. With twenty-three years of experience in the trade, Jacob is an important leader in our sheet metal shop working alongside Darrell Wade.

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Jacob moved to Mechanicsville outside of Richmond at the age of thirteen. There he attended Lee Davis High School, trade school at Richmond Tech, and began his apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker in 1990. The first nineteen years of his career were spent working in the Richmond area before moving to Gainesville and joining Pierce Associates.

He currently resides with his wife and two teenage children at his home in Gainesville. When he's not at the shop, Jacob enjoys fishing, hunting, and watching his favorite sports teams. He is a fan of the Baltimore Orioles and despite his hometown ties, he became a Pittsburgh Steelers fan after the Baltimore Colts left town.



William R. “Bill” Turner

William R. “Bill” Turner passed away on February 25, 2013. Bill was a long-time employee who possessed significant expertise and personal integrity. Pierce Associates will miss his dedication and willingness to help out wherever he could, especially by those of us who had the opportunity to work closely with him. Bill was a graduate of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 100 Apprenticeship program. He was a skilled journeyman who worked in both the shop and field over the years.

As it is with many of our tradespeople, Pierce Associates and Bill shared a mutual relationship with Fred Chopin. Fred is a retired Sheet Metal Worker, former Pierce Associates employee, and Bill’s father-in law. Bill resided in Spotsylvania County, where he enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, and working around his home when he was not in the shop or field. He was very proud of his son T.J. Struder, who joined the Sheet Metal trade and is currently a 4th year apprentice working in the Neese Shop. Bill is survived by his wife Linda, son T.J., daughter Amber, and grandchildren Tessa Jade and Dominic William, as well as his father, two brothers, and two sisters.

Henry A. “Hank” Via Retires



L-R: Jimmy Thore, Lenny Richards, Hank Via, and Donald Howard.

It is with mixed emotions that Pierce announces the retirement of our long-time coworker, Henry A. “Hank” Via, on June 28, 2013 at the age of sixty-three. Originally employed by Pierce Associates in 1986 as one of the six drivers that PAI had at that time, Hank has worked here for the better part of twenty-eight years. He is a member of Teamsters Local 639 and has been a commercial driver for over forty years. Hank spent some of his driving time as an “over the road” long-haul driver, covering much of the continental United States which allowed him to see many parts of the country.

Hank’s can-do attitude has been an asset to the company and an inspiration to those who have worked alongside him over the years. Although Hank’s primary duties have been driving, he has filled in where needed, working in the field handling materials, operating forklifts, and performing maintenance functions. Hank has participated in most of the projects PAI performed during his tenure, including the Ronald Reagan Building, HHMI at Janelia Farm, the Department of Transportation Headquarters, the Gaylord Hotel & Convention Center, the White Oak Campus at FDA and the National Geospatial Agency, to name a few.

Hank’s interests away from work include hunting, fishing and auto repair. Hank is originally from Charlottesville, VA and currently resides in Fredericksburg, VA where he plans to stay for now. We wish good health and prosperity to him as he leaves us to begin his retirement.

Harry H. Gebert

Harry H. Gebert was born on January 8, 1928 and passed away on Thursday, May 2, 2013. He worked as a primary “cutter” in the Sheet Metal shop, laying out round fittings and patterns. As a lead worker, Harry oversaw the shop when the foreman and sub foreman were away. He was a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 102, and later, Local 100 after a merger. The long-time PAI employee lived in Lanham, Maryland.

Job Update

DOI (0905)

Owner: General Services Administration

GC: Grunley Construction

Engineer: GHT Limited

Pierce is currently finishing renovation of the South Penthouse at the DOI project. A large heat pump, exhaust fan, and cabinet heaters were installed during the upgrade. The South Penthouse serves an employee lounge on the seventh floor. This area is covered with murals that were painted back when the building was first built. We are also finishing the Security Command Center in the basement. This required the installation of an AHU and two CRAC units. John Cumberland, Ronnie Stokes, Clyde McGowan led the field. Ron Henson coordinated the SCC.

FDA CUP (1004)

Owner: General Services Administration

GC: ESA

Engineer: Hankins & Anderson, LLC

Work is progressing well at the FDA CUP Expansion with all major equipment on site and installation activities nearing completion. The new CUP is now tied into campus and producing hot water, chilled water, and 125 psi steam. The commissioning of the hot water equipment is wrapping up in June, while installation and start-up of all major chilled water equipment were completed this spring with commissioning set to begin in early July. The first of three gas-powered turbines was fired on June 26 with the other two expected to fire in July. Once all three turbines and their associated heat recovery steam generators have been started, the team's efforts will turn to starting up two diesel blackstart generators and one steam-powered turbine.

The remaining pipe fitter work is being led by Willie Moore, whose crew has recently completed a high pressure flush and is preparing for HRSG degreasing. The QC efforts are led by Todd Wahler and Marcello Romero while the commissioning efforts are led by Roy Brown. The equipment start up for all trades is being coordinated by Tom Croce. Site supervision and trade coordination continues to be run through Drew Broglie, who serves in the superintendent role for Engineered Systems Alliance. All major TAB work on the project was performed by Lonnie Del Medico, Charlie Tate, and Rodney Meyer.

National Archives (1111)

Owner: National Archives & Records Administration

GC: Grunley Construction

Architect: Hartman-Cox Architects

Since the last newsletter, the Gift Shop and Visitor Area have been completed at the National Archives. As the building remained open to the public during the renovation project, PAI had to overcome many challenges. The Visitor Area contains exposed and painted flat oval ductwork. An AHU was brought online and a number of VAV boxes were installed or relocated. PAI will also install a prep kitchen later this summer. John Cumberland, Ronnie Stokes, and Tim Jimmo led the field.

Montgomery College Bioscience (1206)

Owner: Montgomery Community College-Germantown Campus

GC: Clark Construction

Architect: The Lukmire Partnership

Engineer: RG Vanderweil Engineers, LLP

Construction at Montgomery College Bioscience is in full swing, with all three trades fully ramped up. The structural steel is nearly complete and Brian Sonon (PL), Richard Cherba (SF), and John Nolan (SM) are keeping their crews busy installing overhead and rough-in

throughout the entire building. In addition, a two room Lab Mock-Up is slated to be finished in August.

Outside of the building, the steamfitters are installing the underground Permapipe that ties into the existing lines from Montgomery College. These lines feed through an underground vault, run south alongside the building, then turn to the west before entering the mechanical room.

Equipment is arriving on site on a regular basis. Several ice storage tanks are stored in the lower level mechanical room, while the air handlers and cooling towers are due to be set on the roof in mid-July. The ammonia chillers will arrive in September, with conditioned air set to begin on October 1. Substantial completion for the project is set for April 2014.

Washington Navy Yard (1203)

Owner: Washington Navy Yard

GC: Washington Gas Energy Sys.

Engineer: Global Facilities Solutions, LLC

Work at the Washington Navy Yard continues to progress well. The Energy Savings Contract with Washington Gas and NAVFAC created a number of equipment replacement opportunities. Under the direction of Ronnie Stokes and Juan Montague, the chiller replacement in Building 157 was successfully completed in time for cooling season. PAI has replaced most of the motors scheduled to be removed throughout the base. Installation of over twenty VFDs in numerous buildings across the base is in full swing. In addition to the equipment changes, over 200 steam traps have been replaced in the base-wide steam system. Lastly, balancing work should be commencing soon with Charlie Tate leading the effort. While building access to certain high security areas has created some delay, the dedicated crews have been working closely with the Washington Gas team to get the job done.

Montgomery College Science East (1114)

Owner: Montgomery College

GC: Whiting-Turner

Architect: Stantec

Mechanical Engineer: Burt Hill/
Stantec

Rough-in installation is almost completely finished in the Science East Building. All of the mechanical and plumbing equipment is set, and the building will be moving into the Finishes phase of construction. George Roberts is cleaning up some sheet metal rough-in punchlist items, while Harry Jordan is leading the fitters through the last of the piping install, testing, and flushing. The plumbers are anxiously waiting for the finishes to progress to a point where they can return to the site and begin setting the bathroom fixtures.

In the next two months we will be starting up all the equipment and beginning the TAB and commissioning processes. Substantial completion is the end of November.

American History Museum (1208)

Owner: Smithsonian Institute

GC: Grunley Construction Co

Engineer/Architect: Ewing Cole

This project is a renovation of the west wing of the American History Museum, providing numerous new areas for presentations, music, and interactive displays. For those that have been to this area of the museum prior to this renovation, Grunley has fully protected and encased the Horatio Greenough statue of George Washington on level 2 where it has been located since 1964.

Mike Stauffer, Ron Henson, Paul Bordovosky and Mike Spears have the coordination and BIM process substantially complete with an expectation to have this process wrapped up by the middle of

July. Submittals are slowly getting approved by the A/E team so equipment can get released for production and deliveries. John Cumberland, Ronnie Stokes and Tim Jimmo have their crews installing hangers, duct, chilled and hot water, and storm and sanitary lines on the third floor. The third floor mock-up rough-in is progressing with the installation of the transfer strut system above the finished ceilings. Demolition of Calder Fountain has taken place with new water service to follow to support the new pool systems. Project completion is July 2014.

OHB (1209)

Owner: U.S. Government

GC: J. Crowder Corporation

Engineer: Jacobs

Architect: Jacobs

The OHB project is well underway. We are presently working on the infrastructure upgrades in the basement, shafts and penthouse, as well as the induction unit replacement and fan coil unit installation on the first floor in the occupied areas. This project is intense from a scheduling aspect, requiring a substantial amount of work to be 100% complete in a short period of time to allow the government personnel to move back into their space. Most of the work is performed six or seven days a week

with two shifts. The project completion date for the first four sub-phases currently under contract is October 2014.

Dale Weiland and Tony Cash are the fitter foremen and Justin Shepard and Joe Mattia are the sheet metal foremen. Matt Hopkins and Karl Miller are the project managers.

National Museum of African American History and Culture (1207)

Owner: Smithsonian Institute

GC: Clark/Smoot/Russell, A Joint Venture

Engineer: WSP Flack & Kurtz

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) project is located on Constitution Ave. in D.C. Although the project got off to a slow start due to significant groundwater issues, these issues have been resolved and the project is well underway in the Middle Zone. Jeff Horsmon and crew have been working diligently to keep up with the concrete pours. The bulk of the work is in the South zone which will be starting the beginning of August. We look forward to another successful project for Pierce Associates.

Training & Events @ Pierce

Keith Knarr & Tristan Churm attended ASHRAE Show in Dallas, TX, 1/27-29, attending "Combined Heat and Power" and "Energy Mgmt. in New and Existing Bldgs." while there.

Clyde McGowan and Stacy Holt attended 3-Day Service Course through Aireco Supply regarding the installation, startup and servicing of CITY MULTI systems.

John Dunleavy attended iPad Training thru MCA.

Steve Pierce, Dale Sheppard, Keith Knarr, Maggie Deatrck, and Matt Corrigan attended MCAMW Industry Fund Trust Seminar "Crossing the Generational Divide".



Gone....But Not Forgotten William H. Pierce

October 12, 1929 – December 28, 2012

Early this year, the Pierce team was deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own, William H. Pierce. Affectionately known to some as “Papa” Bill, his unfailing presence in the office, sense of

humor and heart of gold will be sorely missed. He was a man of integrity, dedication and great talent—simply put, a true “class act”. During his memorial service, his son, Kevin Pierce, delivered the following eulogy appropriately capturing the essence of his beloved father and our esteemed colleague:

(Eulogy delivered by M. Kevin Pierce on Friday, January 4, 2013)

Thank you Pastor Rowley. My mother and sister and I, along with our family, want to sincerely thank each of you for attending this memorial service and yesterday’s visitation in honor of my dad – Bill Pierce.

It is a privilege for me to stand here in God’s presence and remember my dad in front of his family and many of his closest friends. Nevertheless, I am so profoundly moved that I have imagined myself standing before you in silence; unable to speak. If I get to that point, please forgive me – after all, silence is often eloquent.

Dad was born in October of 1929 in the no longer sleepy town of San Marcos, Texas, in a house that still stands today. His family was of modest means at a time when many families were. At times, I think, they were very poor. Dad and his older brother and sister grew up in mostly rented houses with their cherished mother and a very compassionate, but by most accounts, less than ideal father figure. It is clear to me now that Dad’s childhood experiences (many good, a few not), set against the backdrop of the Great Depression shaped his life.

There is an old saying in the South that “When you see a turtle on top of a fence post, you can be sure of one thing – he didn’t get there by himself.” Dad’s consistent influence in my life has helped to shape the person I am today. Dad is a hero to me and I have always worshiped him.

But what is it that makes one person the hero to another?

Some of Dad’s most basic attributes are traits in which, I believe, God is well pleased. A few stood out to those who knew him deeply.

- Bill Pierce was a person of unquestionable character. He was trustworthy in all things – period.
- My dad was as humble as any person I’ve ever known. Bill was never flashy. He didn’t feel comfortable when attention was turned to himself. He lived significantly below his means as life went on, in part because of his modest upbringing, but also because what he cared most about was ensuring lasting security for his wife and children.
- Here is another thing to think about. It has been said that “A true man of honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.” That was Bill Pierce. All of you knew him. Think about that....Dad may have been tough on mistakes, but my sister and I are living proof that he was graciously easy on people after they made them.
- Dad always seemed to put others’ needs and feelings ahead of his own. Bill Pierce was compassionate – usually the first in line when someone else needed a hand. He gave of himself freely, and never approached a task or responsibility with anything less than his very best attention and effort.
- I never knew my dad to do a wrong thing to make a friend....or, to keep one for that matter.
- Something I admire most about Dad took me many years to fully appreciate. Dad didn’t needlessly or unnecessarily remind people of things they had done or said against him. Dad always forgave a wrong, and when he did, he also forgot. The past was truly the past with him. What a spectacular example!

I’d like to speak briefly about how deeply Dad loved his mother, brother, and sister – all of whom he is now reunited with. Dad adored his mother. From the time he struck out on his own until the death of his mother in 1991, Dad and his siblings tended to her needs. One thing I remember are the long handwritten letters he wrote to my Grandmother every few weeks – no matter what else was going on in his life.

In Dad’s eyes though, NO ONE could measure up to his older brother Lew. More than an older brother, Lew became a father figure at a time when his family needed one desperately. Lew paid for Dad’s col-

lege tuition at Georgia Tech. Lew also sent him spending money and made sure that he had food to eat – all at a time when Lew was getting started himself and just beginning to manage the responsibility of raising his own family. Dad never forgot or failed to acknowledge this gesture to others. Later, when Dad had been working elsewhere, Lew encouraged him to join his own new firm – Pierce Associates, Inc.

Dad worked at Pierce Associates for forty-seven years, and eventually became a substantial Owner. The company Lew built that thrives today became one of Dad's great-

est joys in life. He loved the work, he loved the people, and he loved the experiences so much, that he could never quite bring himself to walk away in his later years. Many of you know that Dad continued to come to his office right up until his passing – he could never imagine doing otherwise. I want to publicly express my affection and heartfelt gratitude to Jim, Steve, and Bob Pierce for allowing Dad this happiness; and, for extending me the privilege of working with dad for fifteen years myself.

My remarks are intentionally brief. I wish they were more polished. I'll close by simply saying:

Dad, I'll miss you tremendously as I live the remainder of my life. In time, I know that the sadness of today will be replaced by the cherished memories that recall the happiness of my forty-eight years with you. Days will surely come when I want to pick up the phone and ask you something, or send you an email, but cannot. I am thankful however, that in recent years I made sure you understood how much you meant to me. I believe that nothing was left unsaid between us. I have no regrets.

Farewell Dad – I'll be seeing you again!!

BEE safe

Working in the Heat

Throughout the spring and summer months, we experience extreme heat and high humidity on job sites and in the fabrication shops. Workers are performing hot work and strenuous activity in a variety of environments, including confined spaces and in direct sunlight. These work situations expose the workers to the potential for a heat related illness.

What is heat related illness? Actually, heat related illness is a number of different conditions with escalating severity. The three most common conditions are heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. The symptoms and treatment for each are provided below.

Heat stroke is the most serious heat related illness. It occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature, which rises rapidly. The symptoms of heat stroke are hot, dry skin or profuse sweating, hallucinations, chills, throbbing headache, high temperature, confusion or dizziness, and slurred speech. Heat stroke is a medical emergency and could result in permanent brain damage or death if not immediately treated. Call 911, and then move the worker to a cool, shaded area. The worker's

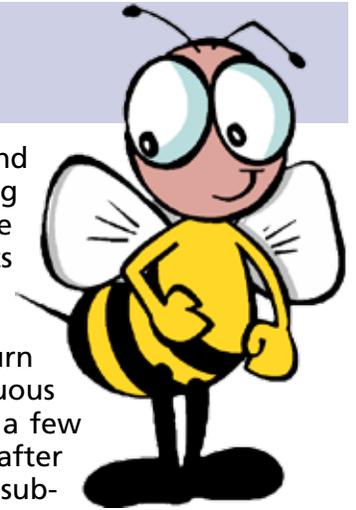
body must be immediately cooled by soaking cloths in water, spraying, sponging, or showering them with water, or by fanning their body.

Heat exhaustion is the body's response to excessive loss of water and salt that occurs with heavy sweating. Workers who are elderly, have high blood pressure, or are working in a hot environment are more at risk of heat exhaustion. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, extreme weakness or fatigue, dizziness or confusion, nausea, moist clammy skin, pale complexion, cramps, elevated body temperature, and fast, shallow breathing. First aid for heat exhaustion is to rest in a cool, shaded, or air conditioned area. Drink plenty of water to cool down, and take a cool shower or place cool wet towels on the body. If not properly treated, heat exhaustion can turn into heat stroke.

Heat cramps usually affect workers who sweat a lot during heavy exertion. All the sweating depletes the salt levels and dehydrates the worker. The symptoms of heat cramps are muscle pain or spasms, usually in the abdomen, legs, or arms. First aid for heat cramps includes stopping all activity and sitting in a cool

place and drinking clear juice or a sports beverage. Do not return to strenuous work for a few hours after cramps subside. If the activity level is resumed, the worker could progress to heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

The best method to deal with heat related illness is by prevention. There are some important steps that can be taken to prepare the workforce and prevent the effects of heat. Workers should be acclimatized to withstand the heat. This is accomplished by gradual increased exposure time and strenuous work effort. Whenever possible, supervisors should schedule heavy exertion work for the earlier cooler times of the day. Ensure that water and ice are available for workers to continually stay hydrated. Monitor workers and coworkers for early signs of heat illness and encourage water intake. Make sure cool areas are available for cooling off and for breaks.



Pierce Associates: Employee Notes

On Tuesday, January 22, Keith Knarr's son, Griffin, took the ice at Verizon Center during the second intermission to participate in the Capitals Youth Hockey Shootout. Griffin was the Virginia goalie finalist for the Squirt 1 group (9 and 10 year olds) and he and a shoot-

was with PAI for many years working on various jobs in Baltimore, including serving in the capacity of Sheet Metal General Foreman on the Veterans Administration Hospital and Bon Secours Hospital in the early to mid-1990's.

Congratulations to Michael Kilpatrick, Bradley Matulevich and Mynor Escobar for completing their apprenticeships and obtaining Journeyman status as of April 1, 2013.

In January 2013, Tom Croce's daughter Tessa completed her PADI open water dive test in Key Largo, Florida. In July of this year, Tessa will be competing for Miss VA Teen in Reston, Virginia. Tom's younger daughter Tara will be volunteering at three Girl Scout camps as a program aide over the summer. She was recently interviewed by the Today show on NBC for a fire-fighting camp in Arlington County she will be attending. Eight teenage girls were accepted and will spend 3 days and 2 nights with the firefighters.

Estimator Russell Stanley's daughter Lauren plays on a 12U travel softball team out of Madison, VA called the Blue Ridge Heat. They play in tournaments from Virginia



Griffin Knarr (goalie) participated in a shootout during the second intermission of a Capitals game.

er from Ashburn, VA competed against a goalie and shooter from Maryland. The VA team put up a good showing but ultimately fell to the MD squad in a tiebreaker. Griffin plays for the NOVA Ice Dogs Squirt B travel team. The video of the shootout can be viewed online at www.washingtoncaps.com/youthhockeyshootout.

Congratulations to retired PAI Employee John Bell on receiving his 40 Year Service Pin from the Sheet Metal Workers International Association. John was with PAI for many years working on various jobs, both in the sheet metal shop and in the coordination department.

Congratulations to retired PAI Employee Charles Schreiner on receiving his 60 Year Service Pin from the Sheet Metal Workers International Association. Charlie

Craig Thompson married Lauren Whitmore on June 28, 2013 at Rose Hill Manor in Leesburg. The happy couple headed to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic the week after for their honeymoon.

Aaron & Trish Kerstetter are proud to announce that their son, Caleb, tried out for and made the Squirt B Travel ice hockey team thru the Prince William Hockey Club. The team is practicing and conditioning throughout the summer in preparation for their official start this fall. This will be Caleb's first season playing travel hockey—he is very excited and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead!!

Congratulations to Douglas Melvin on completing his apprenticeship and obtaining Journeyman status as of January 1, 2013.

Congratulations to Michael Kilpatrick who had a 2nd place finish in the Local 100 Apprentice Contest in January, 2013.



Lauren "Cannon" Stanley

Beach, Richmond, Charlottesville and Roanoke. They've won two tournaments this year and have an overall record of 26-3 and are currently on a 14 game winning streak. She plays 3rd base and is a pitcher; her nickname is "Cannon".

Quality (kwolletee); 1. The general standard or grade of something. Control (kentro); 1. To exercise power or authority over something such as a business or nation. Like the definition states, a program needs to be set forth that exercises and/or governs the general standard or grade of our product. Pierce's Quality Control Division has made great strides and advancements over the last couple of years in achieving just this. Through the cooperation of the main office personnel, trades, and Quality Control, universal procedures, documents and inspection techniques have been developed and have resulted in a significant decrease in the number of punchlist issues and overall rework. This has not only minimized costs, but has actually increased productivity. Our current plan has also received numerous compliments from the General Contractors and Owners alike. To truly be successful, however, Quality Control does not start nor end with a

few individuals, but rather starts and ends on a company-wide basis. From review of development proposals, preparation of contracts, submittals, and preparation of drawings, as well as inspection of equipment from installation to commissioning, we all need to do our part and ensure that we put our best foot forward and strive for success and quality in every aspect of our work. When we shop for personal electronics or even a service repair technician, we all search for top quality, sometimes regardless of price. This applies to our mechanical business as well. Improving our overall quality will improve our overall image and re-establish Pierce as the "Premier" Mechanical Contractor.

Here is a brief summary of Quality Control involvement on just a few of our current projects. Scott Kick, QC Lead at 1205/NIH 9800, has been tracking and coordinating Pierce's punchlists and deficiency efforts. Based upon Scott's efforts, the close-out process has been progressing very smoothly on a proj-

ect that is unquestionably very complex. Koran Thomas, QC Lead at 1202/GW Ross Hall, has been tracking and coordinating Pierce's Punchlist and deficiency issues. Based upon Koran's coordination efforts and cooperation from the trades, all outstanding issues have been kept to a minimum or are non-existent. Cello Romero, QC Expediter, has been jointly leading Pierce's Quality Control efforts with Todd Wahler at 1004/FDA. We recently concluded all high pressure pipe testing within the CUP. Many of the tests exceeded pressures of 975 psi. While testing at these pressures has been a first for many of us, all tests were successful with no incidents. Through the establishment of detailed testing procedures, as well as the cooperation and professionalism of many individuals, including Quality Control led by Cello and Todd, the trades led by Richard Cherba, and front office (specifically Matt Hopke, Lou Spencer, Steve Kilts, and Arnold Weiss), this has been a great success story for Pierce.

New Project Managers

Pierce has hired three new members for our project management team this spring. Eric Kruel and Craig Thompson have joined the firm as Assistant Project Managers and Eric Russell has been hired as a Senior Project Manager.

Eric Kruel graduated from Penn State in 2005 and has been working in the mechanical contracting industry ever since. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, he now lives in Burke, VA. Since he joined the firm on February 25, he has been working with Karl Miller and Matt Hopkins on PAI #1202 Ross Hall, PAI #1207 UG Package, and PAI #1209 OHB.

Craig Thompson is a 2010 Virginia Tech graduate who completed an internship with Pierce in the summer of 2009. Born and raised in Northern Virginia, he was working for Trane in the Roanoke area prior to his start at Pierce on April 22. Craig is currently working with Anne Finerfrock on PAI #1113 BEP Paper Storage and PAI #1203 Washington Navy Yard.

Eric Russell began his career working for Pierce, but left to earn his Building Construction degree from Virginia Tech in 2004. During his hiatus from Pierce, he worked in estimating and operations roles in the local mechanical contracting industry. Born and raised in Northern Virginia, Eric now lives in

Warrenton with his wife and their four sons. Eric began as Sr. Project Manager for PAI #1208 NMAH on May 13.

We are also pleased to have Pete Schramm with the Pierce team as a summer intern. Pete will be spending most of his time with Matt Hopke and the rest of the Pierce team at PAI #1004 FDA CUP, but he will also spend time with our QC, Cx and estimating teams over the course of the summer.

At 6' 8", 250 lb, Pete is not only a mechanical engineering student at Catholic University in Washington D.C., but also a member of the men's basketball and track teams. He was born and raised on his family's farm in Butler, PA.

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Technical Tips

Pierce has recently developed a very detailed set of testing procedures for High Pressure Pipe Testing. While originally intended for implementation on our FDA CUP II Project (PAI #1004), it is now envisioned that said procedures will be utilized universally on future projects due to our success. These procedures, which implement standards set forth by ASME and NFPA, as well as incorporating lessons learned on previous Pierce projects, were compiled through the involvement of Pierce's QC Department and coordination with key Pierce personnel.

Extensive research was conducted on the piping material, valves, components and associated systems to ensure that not only were all potential safety risks taken into consideration, but that all applicable specification requirements were adhered to. From the onset, every aspect of testing was conducted in a very controlled and meticulous fashion. Preparatory meetings, pre-walk site assessments (including Owner's representatives, site safety personnel and all affected subcontractors) and low-pressure pre-tests were conducted prior to each individual high pressure test, which ultimately led to the success of four High Pressure Pipe Tests.

A brief summary of said tests and associated pressures are as follows: High Pressure Compressed Natural Gas (600 psi pneumatic), High Pressure Steam (975 psi hydrostatic), High Pressure Blowdown (975 psi hydrostatic), and High Pressure Boiler Feedwater (1125 psi hydrostatic). This has been a very successful process for PAI and we look forward to approaching future pipe testing on other projects in the same professional manner.

