

CIVIL ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • LAND DEVELOPMENT • ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
GEOTECHNICAL • GIS • CONSTRUCTION TESTING & INSPECTION  
GRANT WRITING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION

# VISION

JULY/ AUGUST 2018

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# Letter from the President

The future is bright! The civil engineering and surveying professions are justly concerned about the future workforce of our industry. It's true that the number of young people entering our professions are on the decline. However, those who are choosing to take on civil engineering and surveying as a career are some of the best and brightest.

Hurt & Proffitt was fortunate to have three interns this summer come through our Lynchburg and Blacksburg offices. Delaney and Karl worked in our engineering department in Lynchburg and Sean worked in our Blacksburg engineering group. All three are exceptional young, up-and-coming professionals and made significant contributions to our engineering projects. All three of these students are currently attending Virginia Tech and are at various stages in their college endeavors. We look forward to having them return in the future.

Our internship program has been spearheaded by Christina Dudley, our Human Resource Director, and Taylor Bolte, another

Virginia Tech Civil Engineering student who's been working for us for a couple of years. These two have been working really hard to make our internship experience the very best it can be. Based on the following quote from Sean I would say they are on the right track: "I'm going to tell all my friends to come work here next year."

If you know of a civil or geotechnical engineering or surveying student interested in an internship next year have them contact Christina for more information at [cdudley@handp.com](mailto:cdudley@handp.com).



## Mark Your Calendar

A "Save the Date" card for an "Open House" event. The card is white with a green floral border at the top and bottom. It features the H&P logo in a circle at the top left. The text reads: "HURT & PROFFITT CELEBRATING 45 YEARS", "SAVE THE DATE", "OPEN HOUSE", "OCT 4 2018", "4-6 PM". At the bottom, it says "JOIN US AT 2524 LANGHORNE ROAD | LYNCHBURG, VA".

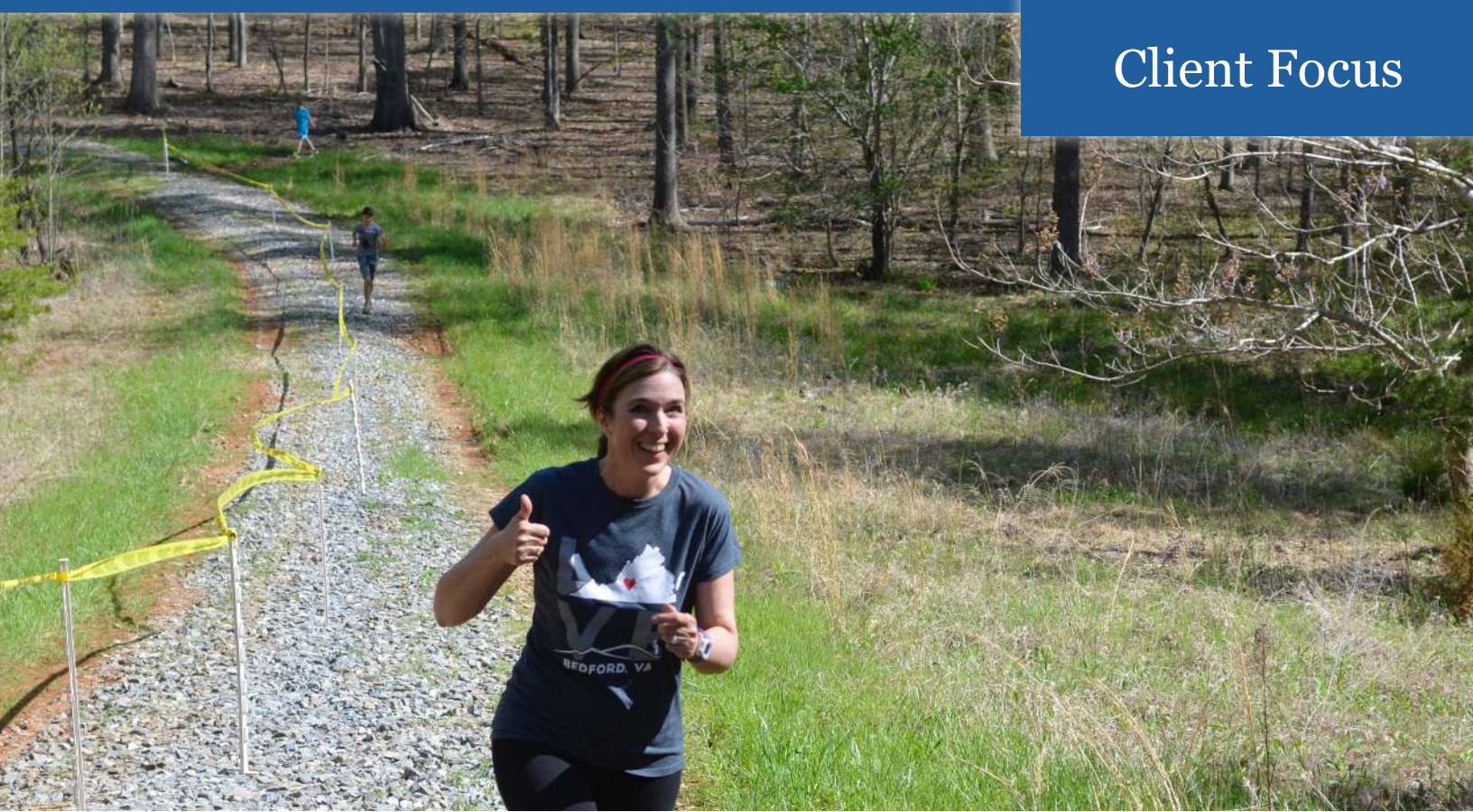
**HURT & PROFFITT**  
**CELEBRATING 45 YEARS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**OPEN HOUSE** | **OCT 4 2018**  
**4-6 PM**

**JOIN US AT 2524 LANGHORNE ROAD | LYNCHBURG, VA**





# Traci Blido: Heads Up for High Tech Growth in Bedford County

*By Su Clauson-Wicker*

Traci Blido is directing economic development for Bedford County at an exciting time. Last year Liberty University bought a 28-acre lot in the county's premier business park in New London and formed the Center for Energy Research and Education (CERE). In June, LU completed the circular driveway described in the development's master plan, which will make way for the university's plan to grow its engineering program, adding new degree programs that include a doctorate focused on energy.

"Having Liberty here will add much to our research and development partnership opportunities in our high tech

business park," says Blido. "The New London Business and Technology Center is already in a state-approved Technology Zone and we believe that Liberty's focus in energy research will only help us in attracting new private sector growth. Liberty will also be an excellent source of highly qualified employees and potential start-up entrepreneurs."

The New London Center is a 500-acre wooded development combining state-of-the-art technology with environmentally friendly sites and 6.5 miles of public walking/biking trails. The park is already home to four corporations, and Bedford County Economic Development Authority (EDA) is currently clear-

ing and grading lots for future incoming companies.

"Hurt & Proffitt has been involved with the park since the beginning," Blido says. "Bif Johnson worked on the park layout and design. H&P also helped with landing a Virginia Economic Development Partnership grant, taking some sites to build-ready status."

H&P also worked with Bedford County to examine the best environmental options for a small wetland area, a vernal pool, on one of the lots. "Thanks to the sound advice, the EDA made a decision to incorporate the natural feature into the overall aesthetic of that lot," Blido said. (continued p. 4)



Two hundred acres of the New London Park are designated a “technology zone,” which allows high-tech companies to get substantial incentives. According to Blido, qualifying companies can receive a 70-percent machinery and tools or personal property tax rebate in their first year at the park, with the rebate decreasing incrementally in subsequent years.

Blido says the park is especially attractive to companies involved in software development, cybersecurity, energy, and

advanced manufacturing.

Blido joined Bedford County in August 2011 after five years as a program manager at Virginia’s Region 2000 Partnership and Economic Development Council. Prior to that, she was director of internal communications for Ericsson Inc. She holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism/PR from Liberty University and is a 20-year member of Rotary, where she has served as a district committee chairman and past president of the Bedford Rotary Club.

Since 2015, she has traveled with Rotary to India and Rwanda on humanitarian missions. In India, she immunized children against polio; In Rwanda, she participated in a grant-assisted conflict reconciliation effort in a village still healing from the 1994 genocide.

In her spare time, Blido enjoys cooking fresh Bedford County food, entertaining, running, and working with her husband to prepare their Forest home to host their daughter’s September wedding.





# Fifth & Sixth Graders Attend Annual Engineering and Science Camp

H&P is proud to be a sponsor for the 9th annual Engineering and Science Camp hosted by Virginia Youthful Engineers at Liberty University. Virginia Youthful Engineers is a non-profit group designed to provide an exciting twist to math and science and introduce kids to engineering careers and opportunities.

Fifty 5th and 6th grade students attended the week long camp July 30-August 3, 2018. Each day offered math and science review as well as project construction and field trips. Camp subjects included project management; structural, civil, nuclear, mechanical and aeronautic engineering; environmental and more.





## Stacie Castro: A Love for Numbers...And Travel

Stacie Castro is a lady who loves numbers. That's why she chose to study accounting at Virginia Tech, and pursued a career in the field. She's worked in accounting for international real estate companies in Bethesda, Maryland and Los Angeles, California, where she learned how to navigate a work environment that was competitive, fast-paced, hard-work, and a lot of fun.

This background, along with the experience she gained being Anderson

& Associates' Accounting Manager, prepared her for her recent promotion to Controller at Hurt & Proffitt. In her new role, Stacie manages day to day finances and accounting functions, and provides company financial information that assists H&P in making educated economic decisions.

Accounting isn't the only thing that Stacie grew to love as a Virginia Tech student. As a member of the VT club soccer team, she traveled up and down the East

Coast, and was officially bitten by the travel bug. She also met her future husband, Jed Castro as a freshman. Luckily, Jed enjoys traveling as much as Stacie. The couple has visited all fifty states and has traveled outside of the country not once, but over a dozen times to Greece, Italy, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, China, Thailand, Amsterdam, Germany and India. Most recently, they visited Australia, Iceland and Vietnam.

In Australia they cuddled with koalas,



*Stacie & Jedd in Australia in front of the Sydney Opera House.*



marked off a bucket list item of learning to scuba at the Great Barrier Reef, learned about architecture, took in a show at the Sydney Opera House and visited the Twelve Apostles along the Great Ocean Road. In Iceland, she and her family tried to trace their family tree, learned some of the local culture, enjoyed authentic Icelandic cuisine, and

hiked to amazing waterfalls.

If you ask Stacie what she likes most about her role at Hurt & Proffitt, she'll tell you that she enjoys the challenge and the people she works with, but most of all, the flexibility that allows time for her true passion, travel.

Stacie thrives on experiencing different cultures and seeing what life is like

outside of her own world. With this in mind, she has big plans for her travels in the future.

One day, she hopes to visit Cairo, Israel and make it to Antarctica; and she's not stopping there.



Top left: Cusco, Peru; Top Right: Taj Mahal; Bottom Left: Iceland; Bottom Right: Thailand





Left: The Great Wall of China; Right: Acropolis, Athens, Greece

## H&P New Hires

Hurt & Proffitt is excited to welcome many new employees to our firm in order to meet the demands of our rapidly expanding list of projects.

### Lynchburg Additions:

- Chase King, Materials Testing Technician
- Carter Villa, Survey Crew
- Braxton Reeves, Geotechnical
- Will Reynolds, Geotechnical

### Blacksburg Additions:

- Kameron Hall, Instrument Technician
- Aiden Taylor, Survey Crew
- Adam Matusевич, Civil Designer
- Butch Wirt, PE, Project Engineer

The firm is also pleased to have three Virginia Tech students as interns this summer. Karl and Delaney joined the Lynchburg office, and Sean joined the Blacksburg office.



Adam Matusевич  
Civil Designer



Butch Wirt, PE  
Project Engineer



## HURT & PROFFITT

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