

H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S 2 0 0 6

To All of Our Wonderful Clients, Suppliers, Reps, and Friends

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive. – Howard Thurman

2006 CH-CH-CH-CH-CHANGES. HOLY MUSICAL CHAIRS, BATMAN! In year 18, Brenda, Erik, Dan, Jan, Scott S, Julian, Mark, Mike, Ben, Tim, DJ, Cameron, Erik, and Kim triumphantly took our install, service, and purchasing teams down the street to KONTEK North (where the sun shines every day)--our fabulous new "Yes, BRENDA, we finally have a real loading dock" warehouse. Julian designed a warehouse security system worthy of Homeland Security, but a lot cheaper (and more reliable). SCOTT F AND LINDA MOVED THE CAD DEPARTMENT DOWNSTAIRS AT HOLLAND STREET. *Eric and Sammy opted to stay upstairs at Crestron programming central, aka The Bat Cave. Jan defied the laws of physics by managing to actually work in two places at the same time.* Joel spent so much time at Raleigh job sites that it was a month before he realized we had moved his desk. THE MUSIC STOPPED WITH FEARLESS FOUNDER FRANK LEFT STANDING AND HE DECIDED TO RETIRE THE K-1 JERSEY AND INDULGE HIS MUSE. *Our team grew to 24 with the happy addition of Linda, Erik, Kim, and Charles. Wes and "Bionic Lasik Surgery" Billy turned 50 and started up our Assisted Living design team. Gigi's job was divided into 8 humanly accomplishable parts and Charles jumped into slot #1. Rolling Stone did a major exposé on KONTEK rockers The RGBGs. Bandmates DJ, Brenda, Scott S, Scott F, Jan, Wes, Sammy & Jennie (and 1-man horn section Bill McCraw) brought down the house with their unique blend of Geek Chic, Motown soul and retro psychedelia. KONTEK proved definitively that what we do IS brain surgery by completing 11 cutting edge neurosurgery operating rooms in Phoenix, Arizona. Mark & Eric are now on a first name basis with most of the Southwest Airlines cabin crews. Kontek showed its community colors by supporting the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Man Bites Dog Theater, See Saw Studio, SEEDS, the Georges Rouse Durham Public Art Project, Durham Central Park, the Durham Farmers' Market, the Nasher Museum of Art, and by donating a choir sound system for Rjverside High School. We plotted our future course at a company offsite at serene Lake Logan NC. Jonathan did a centerfold, for CRAFT magazine featuring his daguerreotypes. Cameron, our diehard Tarheel fan, learned tolerance from weeks spent at the NC State Alumni Center job site. Mike & DJ are lobbying to establish Kontek East at Beaufort, where the surfing is much better than in Durham.*

Things were a little slow in the KONTEK office for about an hour and a half one day, and it occurred to us that it would be a good idea to start a rock band. Had we known that 2006 would be the year that we'd acquire a warehouse facility, do a major hospital project in Phoenix, Arizona, and find out that our founder and spiritual guru Frank Konhaus was going walkabout, we probably would have joined a meditation circle instead.

Our own "The RGBGs" made their debut for an invitation-only audience (OK, we let in anybody with a pulse) at KONTEK North, and then proceeded to kick out the jams at the Triangle Corporate Battle of the Bands, where we helped raise over \$100,000 for SeeSaw Studio. Playing to a packed house at American Tobacco, the band won the crowd's loyalty from the first notes, and missed winning the top prize only due to an inexplicable scoring error. Check out our pictures at www.kontek.com/rgbgs.

Our warehouse expansion was the result of years of dreaming and 45 minutes of careful strategic planning. Newly armed with a real loading dock, a vintage fork lift from eBay, and miles of storage shelving rescued by Erik from the old L&M cigarette factory, Brenda and the installation crew think they've died and gone to heaven. You have to have unloaded a tractor-trailer full of equipment racks by hand in the pouring rain in front of our Holland Street office to fully understand the depth of their joy.

Good thing we had that warehouse, because Team KONTEK headed to Phoenix in July (what were we thinking?) with 11 racks of AV equipment destined for the neurosurgery operating rooms at Barrow Neurological Institute. This was our second major O.R. project with our friends at Image Stream Medical, and another landmark success. The crack KONTEK field installation team finished the job six weeks after their boots hit the ground--and still found time to squeeze in a Diamondbacks game or two.

The summer months also brought us the opportunity to update our original work at UNC's Kenan Flagler Business School and its Rizzo Executive Education Center. Although it seems like yesterday when we planned the original Kenan Flagler project out of Frank's basement, it's been nine years, and we welcomed the chance to bring 19 McColl Building classrooms and the Koury Auditorium up to date with the newest AV stuff--and to expand the Rizzo Center with more classrooms and breakout rooms.

Our biggest ever project at N.C. State University was also a chance to get reacquainted with our friends at CJMW (architects of the Kenan Flagler projects as well). NCSU's gorgeous new Alumni Center, at Centennial Campus, is full of exciting AV spaces, and with football season looming our crew spent many long days in Raleigh. We still haven't gotten all the Char-Grill wrappers out of the vans.

The American Tobacco project continued to keep KONTEK busy. The fall months were consumed by the opening of Motricity's corporate headquarters, loaded with KONTEK technology, including our first high definition videoconferencing room, and the expansion of ad agency McKinney's equally spectacular facilities. Both are architectural and technical showplaces, the brainchildren (is that a word?) of Alliance Architecture, and make downtown Durham even hipper than it already is, if such a thing is possible.

And Duke was, well, Duke, with countless great projects ranging from small (the ultra-green Ocean Sciences Teaching Center at Beaufort, with daylighting, photovoltaic power, and solar water heating) to enormous (the 280,000 sq. ft. French Science Center, with 40+ teaching spaces) to just plain cool (the Center for Integrative Medicine, with its babbling brooks, rock gardens, and yoga studios).

Nothing that happened in 2006, though, had as much impact as our founder Frank Konhaus' decision to hang up his AV spurs and free up space in his enormous brain for his next project, whatever it might be. We know that organizing the Georges Rouse Warehouse Interventions in downtown Durham (www.rousseprojectdurham.com) was just a warm-up. So much of what's coolest about KONTEK's unique culture has sprung more or less fully formed from Frank's fertile imagination. We wish him the best, and promise to take good care of his baby.

We welcome Erik Benson, his wife Laura and children Rosie & Nate; Charles Hatfield, his wife Erica and his daughter Kate; Linda Guzynski and her children Lylah & Gabriel; and Kim Durack.

Despite the strife and troubles around the world there is much to be thankful for, and all of us at KONTEK feel blessed. For many years you have offered us your trust and support and for that we are grateful beyond words. We love the work that we do and couldn't do it without you. Thank you all. We wish you and your families a happy holiday season and a 2007 filled with peace, prosperity, and one or two things that are crazy and wonderful.

Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Eric Peters, Gigi Krapels, Mark Ray, Scott Frey, Brenda Pratt, Billy Morris, Ben Wallace, Sammy Truong, Scott Sublett, Tim Rabalais, Mike Juday, Joel Johnson, Jan Stutts, Jonathan Danforth, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, DJ James, Linda Guzynski, Erik Benson, Kim Durack, and Charles Hatfield

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