



kontek

Happy Holidays to all our wonderful clients, suppliers, & friends!

2015 – another great year is in the books for KONTEK! We hit the ground running in January and are STILL running in December. We're feeling grateful for excellent coffee (and beer) in downtown Durham, and for supportive families ("Another out of town project this weekend? You've got to be kidding me.") Most of all we're grateful to be busy with fun, challenging projects and the best clients a company could ask for.

Kontekians racked up tons of frequent flier miles this year. **CAMERON AND SHERRY SPENT TEN DAYS DISCOVERING THE CHARMS OF ITALY.** Billy got away from it all on his favorite island off the coast of Maine (no, he will not tell you where it is). Joel wore a custom-fitted mud suit 1000 feet underground while caving in rural Virginia (no, you don't want to know where it is). Brian cashed in his entire bank of vacation time and swept Gina off to Hawaii to get married! Pete and Holli showed their (young) age by hiking in Yosemite and the Grand Canyon....dang, they weren't even breathing hard. Dan, supposedly our "in-house" rack integrator, spent so much time helping out at field installation sites that cobwebs covered his workbench. During our springtime company golf outing, Wes proved once and for all why he has not made a hobby of striking a small white ball with a long stick. Jonathan grew Kontek's social media presence so vigorously that Facebook and Twitter each deposited 100 shares of stock into his retirement portfolio. Proud mother Jan danced (I mean REALLY danced) at her son Danny's wedding....one down, two to go. We're not exactly sure where Gigi is....last seen in early October at the beginning of our transition to the QuickBooks accounting system. Former Intern Sam became a full-time member of the account team and promptly went out and brought in two new projects to show what he's made of. **JC reached the pinnacle of his AV installation career when he was assigned the task of setting up eleven video game consoles in a way-cool gaming center project at Duke.** Our need to support out-of-town clients has grown so much that Julian and Warren, our own Marty McFly and Doc Brown, designed an improved flux capacitor for KONTEK's service vehicles. **Monica was nominated for Parent Spectator of the Year award for her perfect attendance at every public school sporting event rooting for her girls. Michael continued to add to his resumé by honing his skills making hand-crafted knives (ask him to show you pictures).** We welcomed new employee Tammy Bradley to our engineering AND support departments...did we mention that she's Brenda's sister? We're pretty sure you'd notice a slight resemblance. Erik's laptop groaned audibly when he completely filled up his Outlook calendar with meetings and events in his role of developing new business for KONTEK. Tim completed his first year of seminary school and performed a mock wedding to excellent reviews. **Bryan and Jessie moved from the "country" (Oxford, NC) to the "suburbs" (Butner, NC) and are proud new homeowners.** **BRENDA AND TAMMY WERE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH IN BACK-TO-BACK WEEKS AT THE NC SENIORS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS.** The bad news: Jeremy burned out his Fitbit walking to work from his downtown apartment every day; the good news: he's only put 162 miles on his new truck. When DJ wasn't tinkering and enjoying the view from the underside of his BMW sedan, he was in its cockpit driving his soccer-playing sons to tournaments all over the southeast. Kim continues his search for the perfect new client who insists that all AV meetings be held on a golf course between 10am and 3pm. Sammy logged so many hours programming the Duke Law AV control room that he's now qualified to sit for the NC Bar Exam. Frank and Ellen curated a wonderful art show featuring works from their private collection by women photographers, as a Third Friday Durham event held at KONTEK World Headquarters.

To the delight of our founder and art aficionado Frank, we book-ended 2015 with large-scale art-themed projects. January saw us finish the 21C Hotel (with 24 hour free art museum) and December is witnessing the close-out of a large renovation project at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh. We've often felt we put the "art" into AV systems, but this year we really put our money where our amplifiers are!

We've heard of common law marriage, and our crews worked on Duke's campus so much this year they may already be common-law Duke staff. The Rubenstein and Bostock Libraries wrapped up multi-year renovations which created numerous state-of-the-art presentation and collaboration spaces. At the Fuqua School of Business we worked with our long-time clients to design and install a new standard teaching system in 7 classrooms, complete with digital signal management, wide-format projection flanked by 90" flat panels, audio and video conferencing and a new user interface. Faculty feedback has been positive and we'll continue to tweak these spaces until they are absolutely perfect. Here's to upgrading the other 20 some-odd teaching spaces in the coming years.

DCRI wins the volume award this year, installing new systems in what felt like 1,000 rooms this year. They tell Billy there is more to come in 2016 but we can't figure out what spaces they even have left (projectors in the restrooms?).

Especially noteworthy were projects for the Duke Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative with seven meeting and teaching spaces designed to encourage interdisciplinary collaborative work, and the Edens Quad Gaming Suite where students can now play eleven different video game platforms on five different displays including a 110" video wall.

We also worked at the Duke Center for Living, the DUMC Chancellor's Suite, Pathology Department, Page and Baldwin Auditoriums, School of Nursing, East Campus Union, and the Sanford School. Coming next year - the West Union Building, Duke Chapel, and the Student Health and Wellness Center. Whew...that's a lot!

Elsewhere in the Triangle, UNC's Rizzo Conference Center unveiled the Phase III Addition which increases teaching, meeting and residential capacity for executive education clients. Two unique three-image classroom spaces offer instructors a teaching-in-the-round option for a more intimate connection with their audience. The project also includes multiple breakout and study rooms, beautiful interior and exterior gathering areas, and a control room connecting many spaces together. Medical procedure room integration remains a specialty as WakeMed Heart Center renovated Cath Lab 4. And NC Central University selected KONTEK as its preferred AV integrator - we're excited about many more years of partnership with NCCU.

Our reach outside the Triangle area continues to grow (special kudos to business development manager Erik Benson, who was tireless in his efforts to spread the word about Kontek far and wide). We gained awesome new clients this year at Elon University, Cook Medical in Winston Salem, and Technimark in Asheboro.

As we reflect on the ups, downs and sideways of our year, we recognize the one constant that keeps us turning screwdrivers and tweaking audio levels - the relationships we have forged with our amazing, diverse, quirky, kind and generous clients. We are ever-thankful to spend our days with you and we wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and joy.

This year's holiday card photo is from Frank and Ellen's visit to the Infinity Portal at the Steampunk Museum in Omaru, New Zealand

Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Gigi Krapels, Brenda Pratt, Billy Morris, Sammy Truong, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, Jonathan Danforth, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, DJ James, Erik Benson, Kim Durack, Pete Rehm, Brian Peters, Monica Ellis, Joel Johnson, JC Stevens, Michael Martin, Jeremy Shaffer, Bryan Martin, Warren Martin, Sam Schenkman, Tammy Bradley

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