



# kontek

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

## **2016 KONTEK's 27<sup>th</sup> year is almost history, and what a year it was!**

Many great projects came and went, and so did special members of the KONTEK family. We were sorry to see Jonathan leave us for a programming-from-home opportunity after a great 11-year ride, and lead installer Brian is wrapping up his last month after 8+ years at Kontek to head west, where the mountains are rocky and the snow is deep. **WE WELCOMED NEW FIELD INSTALLER FRANK SHEETS (IF YOU NEED SOMETHING CONNECTED TO, OR HUNG FROM ANYTHING, ANYWHERE, HE'S YOUR MAN), AND SERVICE TECHNICIAN JEFF HOWARD (HE CAN FIX WHATEVER YOU BROKE, AS LONG AS IT HAS A POWER CORD).** Mike Walters finally drank enough KONTEK Kool-Aid and became a permanent part-time service tech. Hilary French, HR consultant extraordinaire, came on board to help with our health insurance plans and made Gigi's life worth living again. ***We didn't see much of Wes during the first quarter...he was consumed by his dream project of watching a septic system being installed at his downsized house in the county.*** Sam went walkabout in Europe for the entire summer....even HE's not sure why he came back. Warren took a much-deserved break from herding cats in the service and popped the question to Izzy! DJ is considering a second job to pay for auto insurance and counseling after his first son got his driver's license this summer. Monica is seeing the same therapist for the same reasons, courtesy of her first daughter. Tim now HAS a second job as youth pastor at his church after graduating from seminary in the spring. Brenda and Tammy locked in their next careers on the women's senior tennis circuit by winning the state finals. ***Billy is earnestly seeking that elusive client who has a track record of issuing AV system purchase orders while on the golf course.*** During our warehouse upgrades, Dan's rack-building area was almost doubled in size, so we now expect approximately twice the work out of him. ***Julian should be nominated for a Grammy for his successes with tweaking so many audio systems this year.*** JC broke the speed of sound running to save Jesse from a scary fall from his backyard sliding board. **Remember last year when Jan danced at her first son's wedding? She shagged and boogied again this year when second son Derek tied the knot.** Bryan added to his collection of Boxers (dogs, not briefs) as he provided a foster home for more wagging tails. Cameron and Sherry logged more frequent flier miles this summer, visiting Switzerland and their favorite place in Europe, Lake Como in Italy. **Pete and Holli apparently got lost on their camping vacation in Colorado...it took them three weeks to come back.** Jeremy got tired of walking everywhere from his downtown condo, so he moved 100 yards across the street to another unit in West Village, where he can now....walk everywhere. JOEL SPENT A WEEK IN LAS VEGAS AT SYN-AUD-CON, LEARNING MORE ABOUT AUDIO SYSTEMS THAN IS LEGAL TO KNOW IN MOST STATES. **Not only does Erik handle our new business development, he has begun offering fairly inexpensive employee tire-changing services in the back alley at Holland Street.** Sammy has recently revealed that if this whole programming thing doesn't work out, he has a fallback position managing his five-year-old-future-baseball-phenom son Baez. **And Kim is already shamelessly lobbying Brenda to offer summer junior internships to sons Cal and Gibbs in 2017....yes, they're 6 and 5.** ***Michael continued to hone his many skills by attending advanced Crestron training by day and advanced Krav Maga training by night.*** Frank and Ellen continued their involvement with the local public arts scene, most notably by bringing back French photographer Georges Rouse for another uber-cool installation in a downtown Durham warehouse space.

We find it *easy* to believe this whirlwind year is coming to a close, as we absolutely proved time does fly when you are having fun. Fun for us is working on interesting, challenging projects with both old and new clients, and by that measure 2016 ranks high as one of our most fun and successful years ever!

This year Duke realized its exciting vision for integrated student life by completing the multi-year renovation of student affairs spaces. KONTEK translation – massive and innovative project for us in the West Union Building. This project was “transformation” defined, as Duke replaced the aging stone and plaster core of West Union with a modern glass structure full of dining, gathering, and presentation spaces. The AV systems we integrated into 22 rooms had some unique attributes: touch-panel room reservation system, test kitchen, student pub/karaoke bar, building-wide paging and background music system. At the adjacent Penn Pavilion, we transformed the student dining facility into a beautiful multi-purpose special events space.

Duke Law also implemented the final phase of a multi-year conversion from analog to digital systems by upgrading the last three large classrooms with HD presentation and HD ties to the control room for capture, streaming, overflow and camera control. We decommissioned the analog side of the control room, leaving room for the staff’s new foosball table (not really).

Eastern AHEC (Area Health Education Center) built an elegant new conference and training facility in Greenville, NC and we proudly partnered with them to design systems to support their important educational mission. Right down the street at Vidant Health we injected new life into the Hickory Room, one of their premier executive meeting spaces. It’s well documented by now...we love Greenville!

The iconic Duke Chapel underwent a year of restoration, and we used the downtime to add HD recording and streaming capabilities to their TV broadcast system. More Duke projects of note include those at DCRI, Pathology, Nursing, PA Program, EP Labs, Nasher Museum of Art, Sanford School, Athletics, CRTP, Fuqua School of Business, and the list goes on...

We were just as busy in Chapel Hill this year, with major AV projects at the Kenan-Flagler Business School, School of Law, School of Dentistry, and Rizzo Executive Education Center. NCCU continued to convert classrooms to current ITS teaching standards, and NCSU’s Poole College of Management launched a new digital classroom which will roll out to multiple classrooms soon.

Nothing warms our hearts so much as welcoming former clients back into our family. In 2016 we re-engaged with Duke School of Medicine to update several important spaces (South Amphitheater, Gross Anatomy Lecture Hall, Simulation Labs, and Bryan Lecture Hall), and with DHTS to renovate the Duke North Lecture Halls as well as many small meeting rooms.

We extend extra special holiday love to all our new clients, including ECU Brody School of Medicine, NetApp, Wake County, B-Line Medical and Meredith College. As usual, there are too many good projects and great clients to mention here...

We thank each and every one of you for another year of fun and fulfilling work, and we wish you and your families a joyous holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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[The holiday photo is prescient advice found on an Airbnb refrigerator in VA when Frank was attending the Look3 photo conference. Also enclosed is a group photo featuring the new KONTEK art van, commissioned from Durham artist Heather Gordon.](#)

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**Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Gigi Krapels, Brenda Pratt, Billy Morris, Sammy Truong, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, 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, Mike Walters, Jeff Howard, Frank Sheets**

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