



kontek

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

2017 *So many exciting things happening at KONTEK as the end of our 28th year approaches!* With continued success (thank you, amazing KONTEK clients) we've recruited talented new people – Marques Manning as the director of our design team, Donna Wagner Aparicio as our director of finance, Mike Werner as our new project manager, and John Bradley as our new(est) field installer. **We celebrated the well-earned retirement of Gigi Krapels and Brenda Pratt - two leaders who put their hearts and souls into building this company.** AND WE SAID FAREWELL TO JEREMY, MICHAEL AND SAM AS THEY MOVED ON NEW AND BIGGER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AV INDUSTRY. **Pete brings his usual enthusiasm and big smile as he takes on his next challenge as our new director of operations.** Tim's entire team could have also retired this year if only they had been paid by the foot for the wire and cable they pulled at the Rubenstein Arts Center. Frank Sheets upgraded his sailboat AGAIN, this time to a 45-footer capable of sailing directly to our next tropical offsite meeting. **Not far behind was Kim, who managed to finish a few sailing club races in his 16-foot dinghy without capsizing (or winning).** **WE WATCHED THEM BOTH WITH BARELY CONCEALED ENVY – HE'S IN YEAR 5 OF HIS 1-YEAR BOAT RESTORATION PROJECT.** Hilary skillfully negotiated another excellent health care plan for the company this year, which fortunately includes vision care....Tammy had to upgrade her eyeglasses prescription three times from staring at her monitor while implementing our new business software package. *Billy is looking forward to being well fed at family gatherings as his elder daughter Anna married a professional chef.* Sammy has decided that for now, he will forego the Tesla Roadster and will instead convert his '56 Volkswagen bug to all-electric. Jeff has added Crestron programming to the already impressive bag of tricks he uses as a client support superhero. *Monica seems pretty much back to normal after joining the ranks of those who have sent their firstborn off to college.* Joel continued in the traditions of home ownership, buying a house in Apex and immediately beginning the mandatory custom AV design and installation work. **Over the crazy summer months, Dan's workroom resembled an industrial production facility as he built racks for our projects in his 24th year as a Kontekian.** *Bryan achieved a new personal best when he drove to a jobsite 4 days in a row without a wrong turn.* Warren and Izzy tied the knot and moved to Durham...does that mean KONTEK can now offer 24-hr support? Cameron earned serious bonus points for passing his OSHA 30 exam AND seemingly leading every single project **not** named Rubenstein Arts Center. **JC is still waiting patiently for a 5'2" 120-pound field installer to be hired so that someone else can crawl around above drywall ceilings.** *Gotta admire DJ for reliving past glory by playing in club league soccer, but he did limp around the office for a couple of days after every match.* With Brenda AND Gigi retired, Jan is now the official holder of all the company secrets...certain of her colleagues are nervous about how she'll use that power. **Even with his packed schedule, Erik managed to coach his son's hockey team and earn volunteer parent of the year award for like the 7th time in a row!** *Julian is still plotting his plan to go back to Iceland to retrieve his favorite hat that he left at the Blue Lagoon last year.* **You never know what Mike Walters is going to create next with his mad skills with opto-couplers, transistors, and a soldering iron.** While Ellen held down the fort at Cassilhaus, Frank put over 12,000 miles on his trusty VW traveling the US for 5 months researching more than 50 artist residency and community arts programs. Yes, he took a camera with him...

We can sum up our 2017 project work in one word – diverse! We worked on multi-million dollar new buildings, complex medical procedure rooms, historic building renovations, corporate training facilities, and about every type of project in between. Luckily for us, we thrive on the variety of our work and the challenges get us out of bed in the morning and provide for lively discussion around the water cooler.

This year Duke added a stunning new building to its ever-changing campus – the Rubenstein Arts Center will officially open in early 2018. The facility (our largest project of 2017) will be home to Duke’s teaching, rehearsal, and performance spaces for campus arts programs, with 28 AV spaces including a cinema screening room with 4k digital and 35mm and 16mm film projection and 7.1 Dolby surround system, and a multipurpose Studio Theater for black-box theatrical productions by students, faculty, and visiting artists. Total AV Budget: \$1.2 million. Watching our team learn, grow, acquire new skills, and lose pounds during endless weeks of cable pulling? Priceless.

Our business school clients all had active years; we renovated classroom systems at UNC’s Kenan-Flagler School, NCSU’s Poole College of Management, and Duke’s Fuqua School, continuing to transition their graduate-level classrooms and faculty/student meeting spaces to current digital standards. More to come in 2018 (they have A LOT of spaces).

Something new for KONTEK (!) - we worked with Stiles and with Grubb Ventures to integrate technology into The Carolinian, a luxury apartment complex in downtown Raleigh. And something old (☺) – we revisited many of our long-time clients such as Rizzo Conference Center, Duke Physical Therapy, Carolina Meadows, Nasher Museum of Art, UNC Dental, UNC Law, DuPont, and DCRI to refresh and renew their systems.

Special thanks to some newer clients who expanded their AV footprint with KONTEK in 2018; Cook Medical (meeting spaces and executive offices), Duke PRMO (RTP training center), Meredith College (Carswell Hall recording and presentation system), Elon University (Fine Arts Band Room), Duke Private Diagnostic Clinic (Duke South and RTP locations).

Our friends in ITS at NCCU are on a roll with a proven classroom system and excellent technical staff to support it. We helped them refresh 14 classrooms this year with more to come in the next. Don’t change what ain’t broke!

As usual, there are too many good projects and great clients to mention here, but that doesn’t mean we won’t try, so...Duke Pediatric Cath, Duke Neurosurgery, Marbles Kids Museum, Duke Schools of Medicine, Engineering, and Nursing, ADF, Duke Admissions, Perkins + Will, Duke FPDC, Red Hat, Duke Law...thank you all for your continued confidence in us.

AV technology is always evolving and changing. But one thing that never changes is our joy in working with smart, creative, demanding clients who push us to do our best. We are so grateful for the opportunity to do the work we love and to see how the results make a difference in the world. Happy holidays to all of you!

We are mixing it up with the holiday photo this year and you have been randomly selected to receive one of two images; one from White Sands National Monument or one at the amazing [MEOW WOLF](#), both shot in New Mexico on Frank’s sabbatical journey.

Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Billy Morris, Sammy Truong, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, DJ James, Erik Benson, Kim Durack, Pete Rehm, Monica Ellis, Joel Johnson, JC Stevens, Bryan Martin, Warren Martin, Tammy Bradley, Mike Walters, Jeff Howard, Frank Sheets, Hilary French, Donna Wagner Aparicio, John Bradley, Marques Manning, Mike Werner

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