



# kontek

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

**2018** *As if all the cool AV projects weren't enough to keep us busy, we focused on building a bigger, stronger team this year.* Karen Meier, Angela Meyer and Stefan Letarte are the latest new Kontekians, with Connell Smallwood and Dylan Stafford set to join us in the coming weeks. We're interviewing for two more open positions - the HR department has been busy indeed!

WE SAID FAREWELL AND THANK-YOU TO SAMMY AND DJ. **Pete traveled to Ireland, England and Wales. He swears it's sheer coincidence that those countries are known for their beer.** Tim - our part-time pastor - is headed to Guatemala over the holidays on a mission trip with his daughter Sarah. Frank Sheets had some sleepless nights during Hurricane Florence, but fortunately S/V "Lucie" escaped unscathed. **Kim recruited Wes to crew on his racing dinghy, but the strategy proved ineffective - they still finished dead last.** Our office gained an Emotional Support Dog when "Chloe" turned up on Hilary's doorstep after Hurricane Florence. Tammy was promoted to full-time Design Engineer and nearly disappeared behind the two big computer monitors that come with the job. *Billy almost bought new golf clubs - but instead opted for a new car to carry the old clubs.* Jeff traded in his tool bag for an adjustable-height desk and became a full-time software programmer. **Stefan finished 11 training classes in record time, under pressure to step into Jeff's shoes on the Support Team.** Until two consecutive hurricanes approached Durham, Monica didn't realize her job description included cleaning leaves out of the roof drains. Joel and his life partner Martha spent every available minute on home renovation projects - and now have graduated from the chiropractor's office to the orthopedic surgeon's. **Dan's beloved Philadelphia Eagles finally gave him a Super Bowl victory. Will he get an eagle tattoo to match his blue devil?** *Bryan's backpack and laptop were stolen from a Kontek van - while parked at the Durham Police Headquarters.* Warren and Izzy got married for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row - but they invited their friends this time. Warren will be moving to the Design Team soon! Donna brought mysterious green smoothies for breakfast, and spent her lunch breaks in yoga class. She did not get the memo that sausage biscuits are the Kontek Breakfast of Champions. **After eight months of AV immersion, Karen can now say "Edge-lit backlit LED UHD SPVA" with total confidence.** Our UPS delivery driver now separates incoming packages into two piles: AV equipment for Kontek and Amazon shipments for JC. **Inquiring minds want to know: what's he ordering?** *Angela brought our newest Kontekian into the world, baby Alexander James Meyer - born with a tweaker in his hand!* Jan rejoiced at the birth of her first granddaughter, baby Miller Grey Stutts, and is already teaching her to use a barcode scanner. **Erik and his daughter Rosie completed the Buzzard's Bay Swim in icy Massachusetts waters, thus setting the parenting bar impossibly high (again).** *If there were a certification for Master Audio Tweaker, Julian would have earned it. He travels with more calibration equipment than the Rolling Stones.* Mike Walters, ace musical electronics hacker, kept traveling to New York but won't tell us who he's working for. Mike Werner and Cameron are on a first name basis with most of Durham's police officers after putting in so many long hours at the Police Headquarters project. Will they get a lifetime exemption from speeding tickets? Frank Konhaus finally took delivery of his long-awaited Tesla Model 3 (in fashionable Arrest-Me Red) and loves to show off the "Summon" feature (look it up!) on rainy days. Marques spent weekends building the design team's "Innovation Station." Do NOT call it the "man cave" when he's within earshot. John took up axe throwing, despite concerns from co-workers about practicing this sport in places where beer is served.

Whew, can another year really be over? This was our 29<sup>th</sup>, and as usual it was full of fun projects and the occasional surprise. Here are just a few highlights that made 2018 so memorable.



Without a doubt our biggest and most challenging project was the new Durham Police Headquarters, which entailed a full year of engineering, preparation and installation. Modern policing involves a lot of technology, and the DPD HQ is full of specialized AV rooms - including a state of the art Emergency 911 call center that features 39 video displays including two 3x4 video walls. It's designed to provide emergency managers with the information they need – workflow monitoring, weather radar, and streaming video from traffic and security cameras. Durham residents will be safer as a result. We're proud to have helped make this a reality – and to have made new friends in blue uniforms.

Downtown Durham, which KONTEK has called home since 1997, has gotten a lot of publicity lately for all the good things happening here. There's no doubt Duke University has played a big role by encouraging many of its departments set up shop downtown. The beautiful 27-story One City Center tower (finally) opened just two blocks south of us, with Duke Development moving into office space there. To the north, the Durham Innovation District continued to grow and expand, with the Duke Clinical Research Institute relocating much of its operations there. We love having projects within walking distance of our office!



Many of UNC-Chapel Hill's graduate & professional programs have been loyal clients going back as early as 1996, which means we are often called on to upgrade systems that we installed in earlier years. In 2018 we designed and installed substantial AV upgrades at the Kenan Flagler Business School (including this elegant teaching lectern), the Rizzo Conference Center, the School of Dentistry, and the UNC General Administration building.

If this letter had another page (maybe next year!) we'd also show you more of our work at the Duke School of Medicine, NetApp, NC State's Hunt Library and Poole College of Management, BB&T's Leadership Institute, the Forest History Society, NC Central University's Law School, School of Nursing and undergraduate classrooms, Pitt Community College's Simulation Hospital, Duke's Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke Hospital's adult, EP, and pediatric Cardiac Cath Labs, and WakeMed's North Hospital.

We're so grateful for another year of amazing opportunities to work with great clients on projects that feed our creativity. There is nothing so rewarding as making new friends and achieving big things together. Even when we're under deadline and the details seem endless, we try to remember that we're in this business because it's fun. Happy holidays to all of you!

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This year's holiday photo: Frank nabbed a portrait of a friendly llama at an Airbnb in Grindelwald, Switzerland while on a family reunion trip (Frank's, not the llama's).

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**Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Billy Morris, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, 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, Angela Meyer, Karen Meier, Stefan Letarte**

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