



kontek

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

2019 *Our 30th anniversary! We've come a long way since Frank started the company out of his Honda Accord hatchback in 1989.* We celebrated with a company offsite retreat in sunny Nassau, Bahamas in February. Now back to work...

SO MANY NEW FACES AT KONTEK THIS YEAR! WE WELCOMED CONNELL, DYLAN AND SETH TO THE DESIGN TEAM, EMILY AND RYAN TO THE INSTALLATION TEAM, GARRETT, BRIAN AND JASON TO THE ACCOUNT TEAM, AND ZIL AS OUR NEW FINANCE MANAGER. We said farewell and thank-you to Erik, JC, Bryan, Donna, Karen, and Angela. *We celebrated the retirements of Billy Morris and Frank Sheets, who are heading off into the sunset in a golf cart and a sailboat, respectively. Pete and Holli, our intrepid wilderness travelers, visited Yellowstone and Grand Teton. Fortunately their spray-on Grizzly Repellant was effective.* Wes fulfilled a dream by sailing S/V "Sophie" 650 miles round trip to Charleston SC – a monthlong trip at 6 mph! ***Kim, Hope and their boys visited five states on a weeklong camping adventure (with puppy Baxter, who earned an A+ in Car Travel).*** Hilary experienced the joy every parent hopes for: her younger daughter graduated from college and landed a paying job. **Tammy was promoted to support team manager, and moved back to the warehouse where she can keep a closer eye on her son Ryan.** Stefan and Michelle got engaged! Their June 2020 wedding will be aboard a cruise ship. Monica spent lots of nights and weekends traveling to basketball games and tournaments with her daughter Alani (when did she get so TALL?). Santa came early to Joel's house, bringing him a new curved computer display that supports the latest "Gazillion-K" resolution. Dan taught his daughter Amelia to drive, and survived to tell the tale. *Jason clarified what a REAL audiophile listening room should be. Why waste money on five loudspeakers when you can get two really big ones?* Warren and Izzy became homeowners! Is there a dog and a picket fence in their future? **Zil took up archery and Marques competed in precision shooting. Will our next offsite retreat pit them against champion axe-thrower John in a high-stakes version of Rock-Paper-Scissors? Mike Werner and Danielle are expecting a little Project Manager in March 2020 – predicted to be on time and on budget.** Connell took sustainability to a new level, commuting to the office (and to KONTEK job sites!) on his new Onewheel motorized skateboard. Not to be outdone, Dylan hacked his electric bike to unlock "Ludicrous" mode – and ended up in the emergency room. *Emily climbed the tallest ladder of her life learning to pull cable during Installer Boot Camp (the trick is not to look down).* Tim is so excited that it's Emily on top of that ladder, not him. He's thrilled to see the arrival of our crop of new installers! *Jan cooked Thanksgiving dinner for 39 but next year it will be 41, with two more grandchildren on the way.* **Ryan brought his deep sea diving skills to the KONTEK installation team – thereby qualifying us to pursue those lucrative underwater AV projects.** *The whole team is insanely jealous of Julian's new lab coat, awarded for achieving his Biamp AVLC certification.* **Mike Walters, our Chief Electronics Wizard, restored a vintage Emu synthesizer once owned by the Grateful Dead.** Cameron and Sherri traveled to Utah to visit Arches and Canyonland national parks. Frank was ringmaster for the Cassilhaus Artists in Residence 10th Reunion, hosting 20 visual and performing artists from around the world for a long weekend of Bull City (and beyond) entertainment. We gained a new sports rivalry between "deluded Lakers fan" Brian (according to Garrett) and "deluded Dolphins fan" Garrett (according to Brian). Jeff isn't taking sides – he knows baseball is the only REAL sport. **Seth proved it's possible to make pens from almost anything – including rifle rounds.**

Our 30th anniversary year was a memorable one! We celebrated the well-earned retirements of Billy Morris, the trusted face of KONTEK to so many clients for over 18 years; and of Frank Sheets, a master-of-all-trades craftsman whose “AV” skills included welding, rigging, and pipefitting. But we also grew our team and got a jolt of fresh energy from our newest KONTEKians, whose great ideas are already making an impact.



Our most architecturally spectacular project this year had to be the new Karsh Alumni Center, which (finally) provides a worthy home for Duke’s many alumni programs and events. Perched on busy Duke University Road near Chapel Drive, the contemporary glass and stone building nods to the original neo-Gothic style of the main campus. The AV technology is equally impressive, if we do say so ourselves. Even the UNC supporters on our staff are impressed.

Regular readers know about our business school “trifecta” – UNC/Kenan Flagler, Duke/Fuqua, and NC State/Poole College, all with deep KONTEK roots dating back decades. This year we continued the never-ending cycle of AV upgrades and enhancements on all three campuses. We’re working our way through UNC’s original MBA classrooms, installing all new AV systems and ADA-compliant teaching lecterns, helping Duke upgrade its weekend MBA classrooms and implement Zoom-based distance learning throughout, and upgrading NCSU’s board room, conference rooms, and auditorium.

Our partnership with UNC’s School of Medicine team grew steadily closer this year as we helped update the technology in some of their most important learning spaces including the Old Clinic Auditorium, Bioinformatics Auditorium, Genetics Medicine conference room, and eight teaching classrooms. Outside the Triangle our medical and medical education work continues to grow as well, taking us to Vidant Health in Greenville and Atrium Health in Charlotte this year.

Kudos to our friends at NC Central University Information Technology Services, who hosted the 2019 Classroom Summit for 50 technology managers from campuses across the state of North Carolina. We’re very proud of our work on the NCCU campus – including a dozen major classroom upgrades this year.

As year-end approaches we’re staffing up and getting organized for an exciting year ahead. Two of our 2020 projects (Duke’s new Pratt School of Engineering building and UNC-Wilmington’s Allied Health building) will rank among our largest and most technologically advanced ever. Our newest field installers Patrick Womack and Jesse Bonner are in training, and new account team leader Rebecca Cook just came on board. The KONTEK team is ready for 2020!

Wishing the happiest of holidays to each of you, our extended KONTEK family, from all of us. We’re grateful for the relationships that make this so much more than just a business, and for the opportunities to work on amazing projects with clients whose vision pushes our creative buttons. 30 years went by in a flash – here’s to 30 more!

This year’s holiday photo was taken by Frank at the Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital in Koothattukulam India

Frank Konhaus, Wes Newman, Dan Sanville, Tim Rabalais, Jan Stutts, Cameron Powell, Julian Milano, Kim Durack, Pete Rehm, Monica Ellis, Joel Johnson, Warren Martin, Tammy Bradley, Mike Walters, Jeff Howard, Hilary French, John Bradley, Marques Manning, Mike Werner, Stefan Letarte, Connell Smallwood, Dylan Stafford, Emily Haddad, Ryan Bradley, Garrett Brown, Brian Delk, Jason Barbour, Seth Masterson, Zil Senczy, Jesse Bonner, Patrick Womack, Rebecca Cook

