



Mid-Year Meeting Lunch Time Speakers



Robbie Ferris, President and CEO of SfL+a Architects, is responsible for the firm's strategic focus, growth, diversification and business development. His passion for sustainability and design excellence is shaping SfL+A Architects to be the nation's preeminent design company of high performance facilities, specializing in alternative project delivery methods. A licensed architect, with over 25 years' experience, Robbie designed and managed a variety of public building types including educational facilities, university housing, military projects, municipal and commercial projects. His commitment to reducing the total cost of ownership of facilities for owners resulted in pioneering public/private partnerships throughout North Carolina. Robbie was instrumental in developing legislation that enabled the leasing of school and university facilities in NC. This legislation led to starting the firm's development company, Firstfloor Inc., which has developed many privatized university projects. Most recently, Firstfloor developed Sandy Grove Middle School in Hoke County. Sandy Grove Middle School is the nation's first energy-positive, LEED-Platinum designed, leased public school, delivered through a public-private partnership.



Dr. Manuel Reyes is a Biological Engineering Professor at North Carolina A&T State University with over 30 years of experience in water quality modeling and soil and water conservation engineering. He has a biological and agricultural engineering education and research training in the Philippines, the United Kingdom. In the USA, he has extensive teaching practice, project administration skills and recent extension involvement. He co-authored a watershed modeling publication which is in the top 10 most quoted manuscript in the TRANSACTIONS of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. Since 2005, he has been managing the implementation of three USAID SANREM CRSP projects in Southeast Asia located in the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia which led to the publication of five books. He is also PI of two other USAID grants with project locations in Honduras, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana. In the United States Reyes is leading the natuculture project funded by the USDA and the EPA. Natuculture is any human made system that mimics nature in human disturbed landscapes. The team has brought natuculture in several K-12 campuses in North Carolina. He is developing a niche in 'growing vegetables while mimicking the forest.' Most of his projects in the world and in the USA are related to this biologically engineered technology.



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Robert J. Knoedler, is a Vice President with Hanson Professional Services, a national Engineering and Architectural firm, and serves as Principal-in-Charge for Commissioning and Energy-related Services. With degrees in both mechanical and electrical engineering, he is a licensed professional engineer, certified Cx Authority and certified Energy Management Professional. Bob has worked in the private consulting arena for over 30 years, serving as project manager, lead designer, and commissioning authority in the study and design of building and process systems for a variety of facilities. His public client list includes: NASA, NAVFAC, the Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, the Veterans Administration, and a number of state universities, state agencies and municipal departments. His private client list includes: AT&T, IBM, Duke University, Office Depot, Mobil Chemical, Nortel, Pratt & Whitney, Siemens and Sikorsky. An officer of the Board of Directors for the Southeast Region of the Building Commissioning Association, Bob is also a member of ASHRAE, and the ACG.