

# Student Services Center



Rendering Courtesy of Sam Marshall Architects

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## Design kicks off for the new Student Services Center:

Northwest Florida State College's new Student Services Building, presented by Sam Marshall Architects and Orcutt Consulting, met approval for schematic design from the Board of Trustees on January 20, 2009. Located on the college's main campus in Niceville, this \$24 million, 108,000 square foot facility will serve numerous functions for both students and staff.

The project includes a new 75,000 square foot Student Services Building and the 33,000 square foot renovation of the 'K' Building. The 'K' Building currently serves as the center for student activities, and includes a kitchen and dining hall. The new facility will be connected to the 'K' Building by a landscaped garden courtyard, and will not only feature a new Dining Hall, but also convenient community / college banquet rooms, a well organized enrollment / registration core, testing labs, and the highly anticipated Leadership Institute. This building is comprised of three floors allowing smooth circulation with the Dining Hall on the 1st floor overlooking the courtyard, Student Services on the 2nd floor, and the Leadership Institute on the 3rd floor with exceptional balcony views of the campus.

With sustainability and the environment in mind, the renovated 'K' Building will serve as the bookstore, a café and game room, as well as house the Student Government. The renovation will entail keeping the existing brick envelope and structure while removing the central east / west core and adding a large clerestory window to bring light into the center of the building, thus splitting the building into two.

Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. is providing Structural, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Communications, Audio Visual, and Security design services for this project.

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**CORRECTION:** **Bullock Tice Associates** was the Architect for the St. Paul Catholic Church project featured in January's Photo of the Month

## BICSI Winter Conference 2009

**SCG attends BICSI's Winter Conference 2009:** Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. sent Communications Team members Josh Logan, RCDD, Heather Callaway, RCDD, and Chad Currey to the Building Industry Consulting Service International's (BICSI) Winter Conference in Orlando last month. BICSI is a worldwide resource for technical publications, training, conferences, and registration programs for low-voltage cabling distribution design and installation, as well as the governing entity for over 25,000 information transport system professionals spanning 140 countries. The conference celebrated the 25th Anniversary of BICSI's Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD) Credential.

Our Team, along with 4,800 other attendees, enjoyed four days of informative seminars. One of the key topics of discussion was the possibility of incorporating technology credits into the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED rating system. BICSI and the USGBC have been working closely together to help make this possibility a reality. Brendan Owens, Vice President of USGBC's LEED Technical Development Department, spoke at the conference and encouraged attendees to explore all aspects of IP infrastructure design and installation to apply for potential points in LEED's Innovation in Design category.

Possible increased funding of the United Service Fund's E(ducation)-Rate program was also at topic of discussion. The E-Rate Program provides discounts on eligible telecommunications, Internet access, "Internal Connections," (structured cabling new and retrofit projects) and basic maintenance services for schools and libraries. It was demonstrated that the Obama Administration's proposed Economic Recovery Plan provides for significant increases in funding for the E-Rate program, beyond the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) typical annual award of \$2.25 billion.

## Team LEED

Three more LEED A.P.s on staff: SCG is pleased to announce that **Jeff McCarthy, E.I.** (Structural), **Nick Johnson** (Electrical), and **Stefanie Hughes** (Marketing) have achieved LEED Accreditation.

Their success is part of a company-wide initiative to have all SCG design professionals accredited by the United States Green Building Council.

SCG's current staff total of LEED APs on staff is 17.



## Obama and the USGBC: Greening the Economy



In his first full week as president, President Barack Obama moved swiftly and boldly with the full support of the USGBC to chart a new course for our struggling economy – a path that invests in our buildings, creates millions of new green-collar jobs, and saves Americans billions in energy. Expanding on its 16 years of work to transform our nation's buildings and communities, the USGBC is engaging closely with the Obama Administration to demonstrate that immediate and long-term investments in green building and in the green economy are the down payment needed to restore America's economic leadership.

The USGBC is actively monitoring and informing deliberations about the Economic Recovery Plan urged by President Obama. The Plan passed the House of Representatives, and the Senate is preparing to vote on it very soon.

The Plan includes:

- **Green Schools:** The House and Senate economic recovery plans currently provide multiple billions of dollars for modernization of K-12 and higher education facilities, with preferences or requirements for green improvement projects.
- **Green Federal Buildings:** Both the House and Senate plans currently include several billion dollars for the General Services Administration's Federal Buildings Fund, with green or energy efficiency requirements for funded facility projects.
- **Public Housing:** Both packages currently provide several billion dollars for the Public Housing Capital Fund to support improvements to public housing developments, including authority or priority for energy efficiency incentives and projects.

## Photo of the Month



### SCG Attends FEPPA's Winter Conference 2009: Gene

Schmidt and Heather Callaway attended the Florida Educational Facilities Planners' Association (FEPPA) Winter Conference held in late January at the beautiful Amelia Island Plantation (featured left) north of Jacksonville. The event was well attended and filled with informative sessions, an Architectural Showcase and plenty of down time to visit with friends and associates.

Dr. James Brown, P.E. of SEBA Solutions, Inc. spoke regarding Team Building and Risk Management. His Team Building talk drew heavily on advice given by Balthasar Gracian [1601-1658] in *The Art of Worldly Wisdom* and Ptahhotep (2300-2150 BC) in *The Instruction of Ptahhotep*. In his Risk Management talk, Dr. Brown introduced the concept of Probabilistic Assessment using data and judgment to increase positive outcomes in any situation that involves an element of risk.

The Keynote Address featured Don Reynolds speaking on global economics. Don is described as a "real world economist" and a "futurist". He provided a funny and interesting demonstration of the causes of the current mortgage meltdown and the resultant financial crisis using members of the FEPPA Board. Don laid out all the economic news, good and bad, and brought some clarity to a subject that is of great importance to us all.

Presentations on sustainable construction and the USGBC LEED program drew big crowds as usual. Dr. Ken Sullivan and Denise DiGrucchio spoke on LEED Certification without Risk. Casey Neurock of NeuGreen, LLC gave an informative overview of the LEED program. Carol Walker and Dr. Jim Sullivan of The University of Florida reported on The University's commitment to sustainable construction. Steven Koontz of Tampa Trane along with Tracy Henderson and Teri Borton of Gulf South Trane spoke about the ASHRAE Design Guide titled *Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings*. This guide provides recommendations for achieving 30% energy savings over the minimum code requirements. This energy savings is good for 6 points in EA-1, Optimize Energy Performance.

The weather was mostly awful but the food was good and it is always fun to enjoy some time with our friends at FEPPA. Schmidt Consulting Group is looking forward to the Summer Conference in Boca. We'll have the usual espresso and cappuccino along with some other goodies. We hope to see you all there.

**About Us:** Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. was established in 1987 to provide Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Communications, and Structural design services to a very diverse client base.

Headquartered in Pensacola, Florida, SCG currently employs branch offices in St. Petersburg, Florida and Daphne, Alabama to serve our clients more effectively and efficiently.

Our range of consulting services includes planning, design, the production of construction documents, supervision of public bidding, contract administration, and supervision and inspection during construction.

Our reputation for quality, responsiveness, and timeliness has been demonstrated through successful projects for many private, federal, state, and local entities.

Schmidt Consulting Group, Inc. has provided specialized design solutions for a variety of facility types including: Airports, Auditoriums, Broadcast Studios, Churches, Colleges and Universities, Correctional Facilities, Data Centers, K-12 Schools, Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities, Industrial Complexes, Laboratories, Libraries, Military Facilities, Multi-Family Residential Units, Municipal Facilities, Museums and Performing Art Centers, Office Buildings, Recreational Facilities, Sport Complexes, and Wastewater Treatment Plants.



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