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## Chen Employee Birthdays

 September 1 Scarlett Del Valle	 September 7 Derrick Smith, CFM, LEED AP	 September 12 Greg Mendez, P.E.	 September 21 Daniel Davila, P.E.	 September 1 - 16 years Peter Moore, P.E., LEED AP	 September 3 - 1 year Sathvika Ramaji	 September 15 - 1 year Sarah Matin, P.E.
 September 27 Robert Abbate	 October 2 Claudia Visconti	 October 7 Joseph Hall	 October 16 Amanda Smith, E.I.	 October 1 - 3 years Todd Noehomson	 October 3 - 4 years Patrick Kaimraj, P.E.	 October 6 - 1 year Greg Mendez, P.E.
 October 23 Stefan Bortak, CID	 October 29 Melvia Rogers	 November 15 Stephanie Bou-Channan	 November 28 Max Smith, G.C.	 October 20 - 1 year Richard Price	 November 1 - 5 years Jose Acosta, P.E.	 November 7 - 23 years Dr. Ben Chen, P.E., BCEE

## Chenniversaries

## The Chen Commandments

- One of the greatest results of the 2015 CMA Planning Meeting was unveiling of our Firm Values, affectionately dubbed, the Chen Commandments:
- Personal integrity is a non-negotiable absolute.
  - We hold ourselves accountable for doing what we say we are going to do; we honor our promises.
  - We are grateful for what we have and humbly serve our coworkers and clients.
  - We demand the truth in all interactions; half truths are lies in our eyes.
  - We set high ethical boundaries to avoid even the slightest perception of impropriety.
  - We earn respect by always doing what is right in our sight.
  - We generously give back our personal time, treasure and talent to our communities and our professions.

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## 2015 Zweig Group Best Firms To Work For Awards

CMA placed number 42 in the Civil Engineering category of the 2015 Zweig Group Best Firms To Work For Awards! In 2014, CMA placed 31st in the Multidiscipline category and 99th overall in the Top 100 of all firms. Best Firms To Work For recognizes the top firms leading the way in creating a workplace that inspires, motivates and rewards employees.



## A Message from the President

Clients, Colleagues and Friends of CMA: I had a health scare recently. Well, I wouldn't exactly say it was a health scare – it was a potential health scare. I went to the optometrist to get a new pair of glasses, thinking I had gotten a couple pair only a few years earlier. When I went in, I realized that it had been more than five years since my last eye examination (times flies in engineering). The doctor noticed an "anomaly" and asked me if anyone had ever mentioned to me before. Having worn glasses since 13 and having had many exams since that first pair, I was a little upset to report that I had not heard of this anomaly before. The doctor mentioned it was potentially a condition called melanocytoma which could be cancerous – though he quipped it was a very low chance of that. Like any educated person hearing this news, I ran home to check WebMd and several other eye related sites that then put me in a bit of a mild panic. The doctor asked me to "come back in six months and we'll see if it changed." Knowing he said there was a 1 in 10,000 chance it was cancerous, I did my best to settle my panic and I went about my business. I told very few friends and just made sure I was going to make that appointment in six months.



Six months roll by and a big meeting was scheduled on the date of my exam. I called to see if I could have it moved only a day or so, but to my surprise, I wasn't listed in the doctor's calendar. I made an appointment then and a few days later I arrived at the office. My original doctor had moved on so the new doctor asked if I wanted a full exam; when I told him the previous doctor's concern, he had photos taken of the anomaly and firmly referred me to a specialist to determine pathology. Two and a half long weeks later, I was sitting in the specialist's office after having gone through my third full eye exam in six months waiting for a doctor. When out stepped this doctor that looked like Doogie Howser, M.D. He looked 25 and I was starting to lose faith in the system! When I walked into the actual examination room, there was an older gentleman sitting at the computer who smiled at me as I walked in. He made small talk with me about my profession and told a few not so flattering stories about engineers offering to rearrange his workspace to make it more efficient. When he asked my trouble, I pulled out my smartphone and proudly showed the image I had been stressing over for weeks. He smiled and said it was a congenital defect and that there was no problem. He did another quick exam to verify the assistant's finding and to give Doogie a chance to see that I apparently have a "rotated disc" in that same eye – whatever that means. Why did I share this story? I guess because I think there are a few lessons to learn here. The first one is to value life experience in others, particularly professions. My condition wasn't unique, but for less experienced people that have only heard of things with potentially dire consequences in books, it could seem very serious. I really credit our new Board of Directors with helping me really prioritize the things that make CMA truly special. Their combined over 150 years of experience give our management team a wealth of resources to draw upon (see our new BOD member, Bill Thorp on Page 2). The second lesson learned is that it doesn't do anyone a bit of good for you to panic internally about things. Everyone should have a network of family, friends, mentors and colleagues that they can lean on in difficult times. I know I'm thinking about who I spend my time as if it's finite and not wasting time on those that really and truly aren't worth it. For better or worse, I'm the gatekeeper of my time. The last lesson that I really get from all this is thinking about what's truly important to you every day. The worst case scenario would have been a terminal cancer that spread quickly through me. I would have had to prioritize how I spent my last days. Instead, I have the benefit of that lesson without the unpleasant side effect of death. This issue is full of celebrations along those lines, with our Best Places to Work Award (Page 1), our family picnic with, can you imagine it, nearly 100 in attendance (Page 2), our company wide planning meeting and new company photo (Page 3) and celebrating the accomplishments of my friend and business partner, Jose Acosta P.E. (Miami Office), being recognized as a 40 Under 40 by the South Florida Business Journal. Last but not least are both Sarah Matin, P.E. (Orlando Office) and Jose becoming officers of the ASCE Florida Section, a cause near and dear to my heart (Page 3).

Peter Moore, P.E., LEED AP, F. ASCE  
President

## New Board Member

CMA is pleased to welcome William Thorp to our board of directors. William Thorp has over 20 years of transportation experience. He is the former Assistant Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and also provided 20 years of service as Deputy Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer for Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE). As one of the first members of the newly reconstituted FTE in 1989, Mr. Thorp served as deputy executive director and CFO and was directly responsible for building the financial program which allowed reconstruction of the entire 230 mile system and construction of another 230 center lane miles of new additions to the system while improving the bond rating from A to AA. The resultant 460 mile system is now one of the best known, highest rated and best respected Turnpikes in the nation. Mr. Thorp was responsible for all administrative and financial aspects of FDOT and FTE, including financial planning, work program development, finance and accounting, information technology, procurement, human resources, support services, performance management and public private partnership initiatives. He also developed, recommended and implemented policy and legislation.



## CMA Annual Family Picnic

CMA held their Annual Family Picnic on August 15th at Spanish River Park in Boca Raton. Festivities included a barbecue lunch, a water balloon toss, pictionary, volleyball, corn hole toss and a t-shirt design contest! Prizes were awarded to the winning participants. Congratulations to Karen Rachles who won the t-shirt design contest! Each employee and guest received a t-shirt. Nearly 100 people enjoyed the day including employees, friends and families.



## ASCE Florida Section Conference

Several CMA staff members attended the ASCE Florida Section Conference in Orlando July 16 - 18. CMA's vice president Jose Acosta, P.E. was named president of the Florida Section! Sarah Matin, P.E. was the conference chair and also named Treasurer; Peter Moore, P.E., LEED AP, F. ASCE, as the title sponsor and Governor of Region 5, performed the officer installation. Over 250 people attended the luncheon where Brian Blanchard, Deputy Secretary for FDOT, was the keynote speaker.



## CMA Annual Planning Meeting

CMA held their annual Planning Meeting on August 14, 2015 at the Corporate office in Fort Lauderdale. President Peter Moore, P.E., LEED AP, F. ASCE and the firm's board of directors presented on the "State of the Chenpire." The meeting also included team building; team introductions; an overview of the firm's mission and vision; and review of 2015's accomplishments.



## 40 Under 40 Awards

Vice President Jose Acosta, P.E. was selected as one of the South Florida Business Journal's **40 FORTY SFBJ | 2015** Under 40. This program honors the best and brightest young professionals in South Florida who have made waves both in the business world and the community. This year's 40 Under 40 honorees were honored at an awards luncheon on Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Hyatt Pier 66. For a complete list of the honorees, visit: <http://www.bizjournals.com/southflorida/news/2015/06/26/get-to-know-this-years-40-under-40-honorees.html?ana=twr> Congratulations Jose!

