

# NAWIC Atlanta Visionary Awards Recognize Progress for Women in Construction and Design

The Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) celebrated its 6th Annual Atlanta Construction Visionary Awards Banquet June 6th, 2006 at The Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center. This event recognized individuals for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions to promote, expand and encourage the role of women in the construction and design industry. The theme was "Hammering Home Progress." This theme represented

the reality that women continue to make their mark in the construction and design industry. Dr. Carol Couch, Director, Environmental Protection Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources served as the Keynote Speaker and John de Ruiter of Turner Construction was the Honorary Chairperson. The event had a number of attendees and included many awards which recognized the years programs and supporters.

This year's recipient of the "Visionary Award" was presented to Roberta "Bobbie" Unger of The Architecture Group. This award recognizes an individual that has made strides and helped pave the way for other women in the construction and design industry. "Bobbie has contributed so much to the industry that directly relates to the criteria of this award", stated Angie McElroy, Co-Chair for the Construction Visionary Awards Banquet. "She has many 'firsts' under her belt and has helped to promote other women in the industry through the AIA Atlanta networking Women group that she started in 2003.

AIA Atlanta netWorking Women provides women, not only in design, but in other industry related fields a forum to learn more about what they can do to help support one another in this non-traditional female industry." Additionally, Bobbie Unger was the first female President of AIA Atlanta. Under her leadership, she implemented many new programs that are now executed across the country which have created a legacy for herself and AIA Atlanta and AIA Georgia. "We were very pleased to present this award to Bobbie Unger. She has definitely led a very successful career in the construction and design industry and has mentored many women, without even being aware of how

much she has impacted their careers as well as their lives," said Stacey Hovis, NAWIC Atlanta President. "Her name is recognized throughout the industry and we were honored to give this award to her."

H&W Printing was recognized as the Strategic Partner. This award went to a non-member firm that continuously demonstrated support to the chapter. H&W, for the past two years, has performed printing free of charge to include Board of Directors' business cards, the invitations and programs for the banquet and much more. The next award was presented to Ms. Katie Cory, who won the Block Kids Building Program Competition.

The competition provided elementary school students with 100 interlocking blocks, tinfoil, a rock, string and a limited amount of time to construct anything that came to their imagination. Katie built a hospital that would be open to anyone to help them get better. Katie was presented with a \$100 US Savings Bond for winning on the local level.

Mr. Travis Voyles of Chapel Hill High School was a winner in the CAD/Design/Drafting Competition. Each NAWIC chapter is furnished with a Design Problem that is prepared by a licensed Architect yet is generic enough to meet the needs of all areas of the United States and our international affiliates. This year's design project was a park and band shell. The park had to be multifunctional where concerts, festivals and art shows could be held. Travis won on the local level, the regional level and took home 3rd place on the National level for a grand prize cash award of \$850. The NAWIC Atlanta Scholarship Foundation (NASF) presented three scholarships that were sponsored in part by Centex Construction and John Weiland Homes. Centex Construction, Division V awarded Joellen Eggett a senior at Texas A & M University, a \$2,000 scholarship to further her studies in Construction Science/ Environmental Design. John Weiland Homes & Neighborhoods provided a \$2,000 award to Katie Hunley, a senior in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Construction Management, who will graduate in December from Georgia Tech. Linda McCoy received a scholarship from NASF so

that she can complete a certificate program in project management through Southern Polytechnic State University. Her goal is to become a Project Manager. NAWIC received many scholarship applications from as far away as Washington state.

The NAWIC Education Foundation, in conjunction with Clemson University, has developed the Construction Industry Technician (CIT) program to further educate today's construction professionals. Accredited by the American Council of Construction Education, the CIT incorporates the latest changes in the industry by presenting an overview of construction processes. NAWIC Atlanta offered a study group session, over a 7 week period, which culminated with an exam.

The NAWIC Champion award is presented to an individual or company who has supported, campaigned and/or advocated for the Atlanta Chapter of NAWIC during the current year. This award was presented to Bovis Lend Lease, Inc. and was the second time in three years that the

firm has received the Champion Award. Bovis has supported the organization by funding events, sponsoring members and events, encouraging employees to join the organization and giving their personal time to special events. The Rookie of the Year Award was presented to Beniquez Johnson of New South Construction. To qualify as a "rookie", the individual must have been a member for less than 18 months. In the time that Beniquez has been an active member of the Atlanta Chapter, she has chaired the website committee, the Building Design Committee and the CAD/Drafting Committee. She is a current board member and will serve as the 2006-2007 Vice President. The Member of the Year Award went to Angie McElroy, APAC, Inc. She has been involved with NAWIC for approximately ten years, but has been a member of the Atlanta chapter for just over two years. Angie, in her short time with the chapter has chaired numerous committees, implemented new programs and is a current board director. Angie is hoping to serve a second term on the 2006-2007 Board of Directors.



NAWIC Atlanta President Stacey Hovis (left), CIT with the Construction Visionary recipient Bobbie Unger, FAIA, The Architecture Group and Kathleen Sheppard, Gardner Spencer Smith Tench & Hensley. Photo credit A Point of View Photography.