



# ROYAL

*Speaks*

Royal Speaks is a monthly publication for the employees, partners, family and friends of Royal Engineers and Consultants

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The key to good decision making is not knowledge. It is understanding. We are swimming in the former. We are desperately lacking in the latter."*

*~Malcolm Gladwell*

Welcome to the Royal Family:  
**William Carroll**  
**Robert Exsterstein**  
**Ali Conley**  
**Brigette Bernal**  
**Dean Bernal, Jr.**  
**Percy Robinson**  
**Jonathan Green**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Perception *is not* reality.

The very dangerous anecdotal expression of "Perception is Reality" has been planted as a deeply rooted seed of misguidance and misinformation. Apparently, perception has become commensurate with ability, performance, and achievement. Words and adornments have replaced results and true value. Attempting to impress with words can be a dangerous proposition—making you vulnerable to overextension and your reputation assailable if you do not deliver. Impress by saying less and doing more; by under-promising and over-delivering. Furthermore, everything that glitters is usually glitter. There's a fine line between presenting yourself as destined to wear the Crown and looking like the Court Jester. The differentiating factor is results. Results are based in reality.

Reality *is* reality.

## Mind, Body & Soul

I heard a story about two workers who were approached by a reporter. The reporter asked the first worker, "What are you doing?" His response was to complain that he was virtually a slave, an underpaid bricklayer who spent his days wasting his time, placing bricks on top of one another. The reporter asked the second worker the same

question. His response, however, was quite different. "I'm the luckiest person in the world," he said. "I get to be a part of the important and beautiful pieces of architecture. I help turn simple pieces of brick into exquisite masterpieces." They were both right.

The truth is, we see in life what we want to see. If you search for ugliness you'll find plenty of it. If you want to find fault with other people, your career, or the world in general, you'll certainly be able to do so. But the opposite is also true. If you look for the extraordinary in the ordinary, you can train yourself to see it. This bricklayer sees cathedrals within pieces of brick. The question is, can you? Can you see the extraordinary synchronicity that exists in our world; the perfection of the universe in action; the extraordinary beauty of nature; the incredible miracle of human life? To me, it's all a matter of intention. There is so much to be grateful for, so much to be in awe about. Life is precious and extraordinary. Put your attention on this fact and little, ordinary things will take on a whole new meaning.

—Richard Carlson

## ST. BERNARD PARISH ROADWAY RESTORATION PROJECT

In May of 2007 Royal was contracted to perform civil engineering design and construction management of approximately 50 miles of roadway to be replaced according to State and Federal standards with an original estimated cost of \$20,750,000. Over the course of the past three plus years Royal has been instrumental in securing an additional \$40,000,000 in funding from the federal government for this project. Project highlights include:

- Restoration of concrete and asphalt roadways, and associated infrastructure that suffered damage during Hurricane Katrina.
- Production of comprehensive cost estimates, and CPM schedules
- Construction and contract administration to develop and maintain all data documentation to support the project
- Resident Inspection and Quality Control

## MONEY TALKS: HELPFUL AND PRACTICAL SAVINGS TIPS

The state of the economy has prompted many Americans to be more active in saving. The following are a few tips to increase your savings:

**Keep track of your spending.** At least once a month, use credit card, checking, and other records to review what you've purchased. Then, ask yourself if it makes sense to reallocate some of this spending to an emergency savings account.

**Use debit and credit cards prudently.** To minimize interest charges, try to limit credit card purchases to those you can pay off in full at the end of the month. If you use a debit card, don't rely on an overdraft feature to spend money you don't have. With either approach, you'll have more money available for emergency savings.

**Never purchase expensive items on impulse.** Think over each expensive purchase for at least 24 hours. Acting on this principle will mean you have far fewer regrets about impulse purchases, and far more money for emergencies or investments.

• Resident inspection and Quality Control Services to insure contractors are compliant to building the project according to plans and specifications

The St. Bernard Parish Roadway Restoration Project and St. Bernard Parish Government has certainly been one of Royal's most successful projects and to date and one of our most loyal and trusted clients.

more money for emergency savings.  
**Bring lunch to work.** If buying lunch at work costs \$5, but making lunch at home costs only \$2.50, then in a year, you could afford to create a \$500 emergency fund and still have money left over.

**Shop around for gas.** Comparing prices at different stations and using the lowest-octane (recommended by the car owner's manual) can save you hundreds of dollars a year.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

During this month, Royal is taking pride in acknowledging our entire St. Bernard Division for their continued outstanding job performance. Under the direction of David Schroeder, the Royal team is responsible for the design and construction management of the St. Bernard Roadway Restoration Project. The project entails the restoration of roadways and associated infrastructure with a construction value over \$60,000,000 throughout St. Bernard Parish, from damages incurred during Hurricane Katrina.



Some of the team's responsibilities include design, project management, inspection services, construction management, and contract administration. Additionally, the team oversees schedules, conducts the bid process, coordinates progress meetings, as well as monitoring contractor's compliance. The St. Bernard Division consists of: David Schroeder (Director of Field Operations), Philip Mestayer (Project Manager), Edgar Mathews (Lead Project Inspector), Carl McClurg (Project Inspector), Vincent Barker (Project Inspector), Louis Bostian (Project Inspector).

The success of the team has certainly not gone unnoticed. The hard work and dedication of the St. Bernard Division has established Royal as one of the preferred vendors in St. Bernard Parish.

Royal is proud to announce the grand opening of two new office locations in New Orleans, LA and Mobile, AL. Both offices officially opened during the week of January 17th. Royal's 2nd New Orleans office, which is located at 4298 Elysian Fields Ave., will be referred to as the New Orleans-Lakeside Office. This office will house Royal staff members such as Engineers, Architects, project managers, and Royal's recruiting division, Jackson Noble. The Lakeside office will also house the administration portion of the Street Light Management Program for the City of New Orleans.



The Mobile, Alabama office staff will focus on business development for municipal and state capital improvement projects, as well as federal environmental services projects and coastal engineering and management project. The opening of the two locations will bring Royal's total operations to 6 offices.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- » **February 5th: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
The French Market introduces the WWOZ Community Music Stage
- » **February 5th**  
New Orleans Hornets vs. Los Angeles Lakers, New Orleans Arena  
[www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com)
- » **February 10th**  
Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra Annual Concert, St. Louis Cathedral  
[www.hnoc.org](http://www.hnoc.org)
- » **February 11th – 13th**  
The Color Purple, Mahalia Jackson Theater [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)
- » **February 12th**  
Mike Epps Live, Baton Rouge River Center Arena [www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com)
- » **February 13th**  
Harlem Globetrotters, New Orleans Arena [www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com)
- » **February 19th**  
Krewe du Vieux Parade, Traditional French Quarter route
- » **February 25th**  
MC Hammer in Concert, Harrahs Casino [www.harrahs.com](http://www.harrahs.com)
- » **February 26th**  
Rickey Smiley Live, Mahalia Jackson Theater [www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Vincent Barker - Feb 7th**
- Edgar Mathews - Feb 7th**
- Gene Cart - Feb 10th**
- Clifton Kyle - Feb 11th**
- Gina Bernal - Feb 20th**
- Dwayne Bernal, Jr. - Feb 22nd**
- Ali Conley - Feb 24th**



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Visit us on the web at [www.RoyalEngineering.net](http://www.RoyalEngineering.net)