

NCAC & INCE Boards of Directors
3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46268

20 July 2021

Subject: Encomium: David A. Conant for The Laymon N. Miller Award for Excellence in Acoustical Consulting.

David Conant began his journey in acoustics early on, perhaps unknowingly at the time, with his education in both physics (B.S. Physics (1968) – Union College, M.A. Geophysics (1972) – Columbia University) and architecture (B.Arch., M.Arch. (1975) – Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and not to mention his strong passion for music since his early years. His diverse educational background set a strong foundation for his professional endeavors by marrying complex scientific concepts of acoustics and vibration with his passion for the artistic nature of architecture and the arts.

For all consultants in acoustics the above-mentioned concepts are very important, but Dave's breadth of knowledge on these subjects extends far beyond base-level. In his early career, Dave taught graduate-level building systems for California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. His persistence to ensure his students truly understand the 'how' and 'why' has extended beyond the formal classroom setting, and into real-life application. Although no longer in a faculty position, he still maintains a strong connection to formal education and is commonly invited to guest lecture at regional chapter meetings for the AIA, USITT, universities across the country, and other organizations.

Dave's first years outside of the classroom were spent at Bolt Beranek and Newman in Canoga Park, California. There he met and worked closely with his business partner, the late Ronald L. McKay. After a decade of valuable contributions to a variety of projects and internal studies at BBN, Dave co-founded, with Ron McKay, their firm McKay Conant Brook Inc. (now McKay Conant Hoover Inc.).

Dave co-pioneered a firm that thrives on continued learning. From the outset, he strove to teach his younger consultants in effective and thoughtful ways. One of the tools that demonstrates Dave's ingenuity in education for his firm and other consultancies was his suite of highly intuitive software tools for acoustical analysis (*Noise Prediction Scenario (NPS)*™ and *ROOMODES*™) that offer thoughtful explanations of analysis methodology with direct references to source material. The development of these tools continually encourages the consultant to consider successful design approaches rather than to mindlessly punch numbers. Today, Dave continues to nurture effective design through modern technology while not losing touch with the original studies on which the technologies are based.

In his projects, Dave works closely and attentively with designers and stakeholders. He does so with a creative attitude, always eager to create innovative and effective solutions, simultaneously educating his clients, and often reducing costs while maximizing a building's acoustical environment.

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Dave was a key component in several award-winning projects recognized by a variety of different organizations including AIA, USITT, Los Angeles Conservancy, California Preservation Foundation, United States General Services, among others for excellent acoustical design. Furthermore, he is in process of designing and completing many more projects aimed to enhance user-experience worldwide.

Perhaps more impressive than his knowledge of theoretical concepts, his appreciation for the arts, and award-winning projects, is his ability to instill an interest in acoustics to others by explaining important acoustical concepts in a manner anyone can comprehend, while never losing site of the end-goal – acoustically effective and successful solutions.

For MCH consultants, both current and former, an important part of MCH has been the firm's encouragement to offer a space for consultants to pursue their own interests and to grow and diffuse knowledge to colleagues. Dave is more than enthusiastic about learning what others are interested in and finding a way to incorporate those interests in their daily professional endeavors.

Not to be overlooked is Dave's long-standing companionship with his loving wife, Nancy, and his excellent fatherhood to his two sons, CJ and Tyler. His strong family connection is apparent, and his family-oriented nature translates well into his professional endeavors.

To conclude, Dave's ambitious work ethic, creativity in finding effective acoustical solutions for his clients, and his interest in the continued education of and appreciation for his consultants' interest is truly worth an honor of this caliber. Because of Dave's efforts throughout his career, thousands of acoustical environments have been enhanced worldwide, and the next generation of aspiring young acousticians (and others in architecture, and theater design) are more knowledgeable and able to "carry the torch" toward better designs for tomorrow's buildings.

Congratulations on this well-deserved achievement, Dave!

Sincerely,


Zachery L'Italien



Consultant

McKay Conant Hoover Inc.

Tom McGraw, LEED AP



Principal Consultant

Acentech Inc.

Russ Berger, FASA



President

Russ Berger Design Group (RBDG)

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