Savannah
7th Annual Alumni Trip
April 25th & 26th, 2014
Welcome to the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s 2014 Alumni Weekend in Savannah. This is our seventh alumni weekend, with events previously hosted in Las Vegas; New York City; Washington, DC; New Orleans; the Republic of Panama; and San Francisco. Each of these destinations offered a great venue to experience significant engineering achievements, and Savannah is another premier example.

Established in 1733, Savannah is the oldest city in Georgia. It became the British colonial capital of the Province of Georgia and later the first capital of the State of Georgia.

Savannah has largely retained the original town plan prescribed by founder James Oglethorpe, and each year, the city attracts millions of visitors who enjoy the tree-lined avenues and historic architecture. Savannah’s downtown area, including the Savannah Historic District, the Savannah Victorian Historic District, and 22 park-like squares, is one of the largest National Historic Landmark Districts in the United States. USA Weekend Magazine declared Savannah one of the “Top 10 Most Beautiful Places in America,” The New York Times named it one of the “World’s Top Ten Trendy Travel Hot Spots,” and Southern Living placed Savannah just after Charleston, South Carolina on its list of best southern cities.

Serving more than 20,000 companies annually, the Port of Savannah is the fastest growing and fourth busiest port in the nation.

Our seventh annual CEE alumni weekend also features a rare opportunity to tour the Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 sites in Waynesboro, where two new nuclear-powered electric generating units are under construction. With operations expected in 2017 and 2018, these will be the first new nuclear units built in the U.S. in the last three decades. Sharing a unique and exclusive technical tour is what makes our annual weekends together so memorable!

As always, we look forward to the gathering of Georgia Tech alumni, family, and friends for this year’s event. On behalf of the External Advisory Board of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, thank you for participating, please enjoy our time together, and take advantage of all that the Savannah has to offer.

GO JACKETS!

Charles (Chuck) H. Huling, P.E.
Chair, CEE External Advisory Board
Executive in Residence, Strategic Energy Institute
Georgia Institute of Technology
Retired, Vice President, Georgia Power Company
Facts

Owners
- Georgia Power, 45.7 percent;
- Oglethorpe Power, 30 percent;
- MEAG Power, 22.7 percent;
- Dalton Utilities, 1.6 percent;
- Licensee/operator for owners: Southern Nuclear Operating Company

Technology
- Two Westinghouse AP1000 (Advanced Passive) nuclear units
- Approximately 1,117 megawatts each location
- Vogtle Electric Generating Plant (with existing units 1 and 2), Waynesboro, Georgia

Economic Impact
- $14 billion capital investment in Georgia
- 5,000 on-site construction jobs
- 800 permanent jobs

Timeline
- Georgia Power filed an Application for Certification of Vogtle units 3 and 4 with the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) in August 2008
- The Georgia PSC approved the need and cost-effectiveness, granting approval to implement the proposed Vogtle expansion in March 2009
- Early Site Permit and Limited Work Authorization issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in August 2009
- The NRC issued the Construction and Operating Licenses (COLs) for Vogtle units 3 and 4 in February 2012
- Vogtle units 3 and 4 are expected to be placed in service in 2017 and 2018, respectively

How it works

Nuclear energy facilities generate electricity using the same engineering technology as conventional steam plants that burn fossil fuels like coal, oil or natural gas. The difference is the heat source used to make steam.

Fuel rods in the reactor core contain uranium pellets. The uranium atoms undergo a chain reaction where they split, or fission, creating heat. When water is pumped around the hot fuel rods, it absorbs this heat.

In a pressurized reactor, like Plant Vogtle units 1 and 2, this water is kept under high pressure, like a pressure cooker. This superheated water is sent through tubes in a steam generator where cooler water surrounds it and boils to steam. The two water sources remain separated from each other; only the heat is transferred.

The steam turns blades on a turbine generator, causing it to spin a magnet inside a coil of wire. The motion causes electrons to move along the wire in a constant flow called an electric current. Water from the circulating water system condenses the remaining steam and it flows back to the cooling tower where excess heat is given off as a mist above the tower.
Vogtle units 3 and 4 will use Westinghouse Advanced Passive (AP1000) technology. These units operate using the same basic technology as a traditional nuclear plant; however, the new units incorporate advancements and improvements in nuclear technology.

These units build on proven nuclear technology, while also incorporating improvements in that technology. The AP1000 pressurized water reactor works on the simple concept that, in the event of a design-basis accident (such as a coolant pipe break), the plant is designed to achieve and maintain safe shutdown condition without any operator action and without the need for AC power or pumps. Instead of relying on active components such as diesel generators and pumps, the AP1000 relies on the natural forces of gravity, natural circulation and compressed gases to keep the core and containment from overheating.

The AP1000 requires less equipment and infrastructure to operate and maintain the plant. Lower operating and maintenance requirements also save money in the form of smaller maintenance staffs. The selection of proven components ensures a high degree of reliability to reduce maintenance costs. Standardization of components reduces spare parts inventories and streamlines training requirements, resulting in shorter maintenance times. Additionally, built-in and online testing is provided for critical components.
About the Owners

Georgia Power is the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, one of the nation’s largest generators of electricity. The company is an investor-owned, tax-paying utility with rates well below the national average. Georgia Power serves 2.4 million customers in all but four of Georgia’s 159 counties.

Oglethorpe Power Corporation is an Atlanta-based power supply cooperative serving 38 Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) in Georgia. These EMCs provide retail electric service to more than 4.1 million Georgians throughout the state. With assets of more than $8 billion and annual revenues exceeding $1 billion, Oglethorpe Power is one of the nation’s largest electric cooperatives and is among the largest private corporations in Georgia.

The Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG Power) is a public generation and transmission organization providing power to 49 Georgia communities with annual electric sales of $815 million and 10.5 million megawatt-hours of delivered energy in 2012.

Dalton Utilities has operated as a public utility since 1889 and provides potable water, electrical, natural gas and wastewater treatment services to approximately 73,000 customers in the City of Dalton and portions of Whitfield, Murray, Gordon, Catoosa and Floyd counties. In 2003, Dalton Utilities launched OptiLink and now provides broadband, cable television, telephone and Internet services to residential and business customers.

Southern Nuclear, a subsidiary of Georgia Power parent Southern Company, is overseeing construction and will operate the two new 1,117-megawatt AP1000 units for Georgia Power and the co-owners. Southern Nuclear operates a total of six units for Alabama Power and Georgia Power at the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan, Ala.; the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant near Baxley, Ga., and the Alvin W. Vogtle Electric Generating Plant near Waynesboro, Ga.

Plant Vogtle: Units 3 & 4
Alvin Vogtle always seemed older than his age. When he ran away from home at age 10, his mother found him in downtown Birmingham, looking for a job wearing one of his father’s suits, his pant cuffs dragging the sidewalk. That was about the same time Vogtle achieved the highest IQ score in the history of Birmingham’s school system and was promoted from the fourth grade to the seventh.

Vogtle grew up quickly. He was the quarterback of the Ramsay High School football team and entered Auburn University at 15. Two years after graduating from Auburn, he earned a law degree from the University of Alabama. That was 1941. Within less than a year, he was off to World War II as a fighter pilot, having already learned to fly under a civilian training program. Flying matched his spirit – he was free, by himself and in charge.

Refusing to be fenced in

Vogtle was captured as a prisoner of war in January 1943 while on his 35th mission – a trip to carry a message to Bone, Algeria, that could not be transmitted by wire. Out of fuel because of a storm and taking flak behind enemy lines, he crash-landed at 80 mph, his Spitfire hitting a drainage ditch and splitting in half. He got quickly on his feet but was captured within a half-hour by some 40 German soldiers, led by officers on horseback.

After a night in jail and three days of interrogation in Tunis, he began his long train journey under guard to Germany, via Italy. In Rome he made his first getaway. When his guard turned away briefly in a market, he took off running. But wearing his leather flyer’s jacket and U.S. Army Air Corps uniform, he was quickly caught. Later, while spending the night in the Frankfurt train station, Vogtle took from his sleeping guard all the papers seized from his plane and destroyed them. He eventually arrived at an interrogation center where he spent three weeks annoying his captors by providing them with only his name, rank and serial number.

His first POW camp was Offlag XXI-B in Poland, where women spit and threw horse manure on him and other flyers as they were led from the train to the camp, which Vogtle was glad to find was alive with escape planning and tunnel digging. By March, he and a companion had cut a hole in the barbed wire fence and were ready to escape the following night. Their exit was discovered, however, and their attempt foiled.
In April, Vogtle and a large group of American flyers rode three days in boxcars without food and water to the North Compound of Stalag Luft III, a POW camp for British air force officers and the site of “Tom,” “Dick” and “Harry” tunnels immortalized by the 1963 movie “The Great Escape.” Vogtle quickly became a hard-working participant in the escape effort, excelling in stealing tunnel-building materials and bribing guards with Red Cross chocolate and homemade booze. He was the designated head of the “procurement committee.”

But Vogtle was not waiting for completion of the tunnels. On a July morning he went out the front gate, buried at the bottom of a trash wagon – his escape companion having been discovered because he had not rooted himself far enough into the stinking garbage. Traveling at night, guided by stars, and scaling the Carpathian Mountains, he covered 150 miles in 10 days, all the way to Czechoslovakia. However, civilians there turned him in to the Gestapo.

Once back in camp, Vogtle spent 14 days in solitary confinement, but that never seemed to deter him. Imprisonment was simply intolerable to him; he was so intensely private and independent. It made him feel like a caged animal. For Vogtle, trying to escape was his responsibility as an American. It was his duty to occupy as many Germans as possible in trying to keep him fenced in. When a guard had been forced to travel with him back from Czechoslovakia, he knew that was one less German on the battlefront fighting the Allies.

When Vogtle and the other Americans were moved to the South Compound of Stalag Luft III, he again began looking for a way out. It was like a game for him. He spent his days watching the routine activities of the camp, searching for an opportunity, a weak spot in its defense. He eventually devised two plans but had to abort both. The first time his companion was caught going out the barbed wire they had cut, leaving Vogtle to slither back to his barracks. The second time, when he planned to slip out with a parcels detail, his companion – another perennial escapee – was being watched too closely.

Not even the execution of 50 British flyers caught after their escape through the North Compound tunnel “Harry” – many of them his friends – deterred Vogtle. At 5-foot-7, he planned to go out in a mailbag in January 1945 but never got the chance. With the Allies advancing, the entire camp was moved one windy night in six inches of snow, marching 34 miles in 27 hours before being packed into unventilated boxcars.

At a water stop, the POW chain of command issued orders that anyone who wanted to try to escape could. Vogtle and John Lewis went out the window at a stop in Moosburg. They covered 90 miles in four nights of snow, rain and one of the coldest winters on record in northern Europe, building fires to warm themselves. When they finally took refuge in a hayloft, they were discovered by farm children the next day and recaptured. At their new camp – Stalag Luft VII-A – they found not only their former campmates but a total of 80,000 POWs of all nationalities, rank and service branch. It was chaos. And Vogtle loved it. He was free again by the end of February.

Dressed like British orderlies, Vogtle and Herb Spire slipped into a large group of POWs being taken to Munich to work and, once there, broke away from their smaller detail when their guard turned to give directions to a woman. They soon connected with Frenchmen who gave them a multi-stop route by train toward Switzerland. Nervous that he would eventually be asked to show identification, Vogtle left Spire within 100 miles of Switzerland and set out on his own. He had a map; that was all he needed.

He hiked through snow drifts, stole a bike and swam or crossed five creeks. When he came to the Rhine River, in the darkness of an early morning, he again started swimming. He made it halfway across the frigid water before the strong current turned him back. As he ran down the river’s edge, he discovered a rowboat. He untied it and rowed into Switzerland and freedom. Dawn was breaking. It was March 3, 1945. Mission finally accomplished, focus still intact.
Alvin was one of the best disciplined, most self-reliant and efficient executives I ever knew,” Branch said. “He was a straight thinker. ... You never saw his desk cluttered with papers, never found his mind cluttered with a lot of things.”

Vogtle believed in delegating details rather than getting lost in them, that worrying interfered with “the proper thinking process” and that a piece of paper should be touched only once. Rarely did a visitor see paper in his inbox. He would stop any conversation to move a document – after reading it and responding quickly – from his inbox to his outbox. “He was quicker than the rest of us,” said Tom Nunnelly, one of his vice presidents.

Vogtle’s daily New York Times crossword puzzle was done in ink and always finished. His memory was photographic. Before the annual meeting of stockholders, he would retreat to a small room and look over his speech text. Then he would go on stage, deliver the address nearly word for word and afterward answer questions calmly and confidently, using humor spontaneously.

A courteous man, Vogtle was appreciative of any kindness or effort by a subordinate and overwhelmingly modest, regularly referring to Plant Vogtle as “the so-called Vogtle nuclear plant.” He was so incredibly comfortable with himself that he did not mind letting people know that he did not like meetings, did not like committees and did not like people getting too close to him. A reporter once asked Vogtle if his POW experiences had shaped him as a CEO. “I don’t think it had any effect at all,” he replied, although those who worked with him would disagree.

“He was the most private man I ever knew,” Branch said. “He never told anyone where he was going or what he was doing, and neither asked for nor tolerated outside advice. He liked people individually but disliked them in crowds.” Like the prisoner who kept trying to escape, Vogtle was a man of action. His appraisal of a situation was rapid-fire, and he was fearless in making decisions he needed to make.
We are going to do whatever we have to do

In September 1974, Vogtle made the decision company engineers could not force themselves to make. He announced Southern Company would cut its construction budget for the next three years by one-third – $1.7 billion – thereby delaying or canceling the planned construction boom of the 1970s. (Among the casualties were Plant Vogtle units 3 and 4, the units now being built as the first new U.S. nuclear construction in 30 years.) Hammered by both the Arab oil embargo a year earlier and unsettled securities markets, Southern Company was facing the greatest financial crisis in its history. Georgia Power would struggle to meet its payroll that year and Mississippi Power and Alabama Power would totter on bankruptcy by the end of the decade.

Southern Company was staying alive on a half-billion dollars of short-term debt but was also stran- gling on it. Vogtle knew his company needed cash and the way to get it was to sell stock, using the proceeds to retire the debt that was financing construction. Vogtle escaped WWII Europe to lead Southern Company through its most dangerous hour. But the message Vogtle kept hearing was that issuing new shares would be folly for any electric utility in 1974. The financial experts, both internal and external, kept telling him that you don’t sell stock until the conditions are just right, until your earnings are such that people are encouraged enough to invest in your company.

The conditions were horrendous. The industry was in the midst of its most serious crisis since the 1920s, and Southern Company’s shares, which had traded at more than $17 in early 1974, were now selling below $10. Because the new shares would have to sell at about half their book value of $18.36, Vogtle’s advisors warned that a stock sale would greatly dilute the value of the existing 81 million shares. Vogtle not only wanted to issue new shares, he wanted to issue 17.5 million of them – potentially the largest equity sale ever by a utility in number of shares. He understood the risk – the shares might not sell, and even if they did, it would be costly, as the underwriters would take 8 percent of the proceeds. But the man who refused to be fenced in had been in a few tight spots before. He understood risk. He said, “Sell the stock.”

Six days after announcing the construction budget cut, Vogtle took Southern Company to market Sept. 18, looking for buyers for 17.5 million new shares. “When he (Vogtle) went forward with the sale of the diluted stock, he had the resolve to say, ‘We are going to do whatever we have to do,’” said the late Bob Scherer, Georgia Power president at that time. “Because the holding company had to generate the capital, he made the decision to sell. He didn’t have to. He could have let the operating companies flounder about, if he had wanted to run. But he stood up there, cinched up his belt and sold the stock. I think it was the same determination he had as a POW.”

It was a sellout. All 17.5 million shares sold the first day, mostly to small investors coaxed into buying a 14.7 percent dividend yield. At $9.50 per share, Southern Company generated $152.9 million. The Atlanta Constitution called the stock sale “ice-breaking.” It was a watershed move, indirectly mobilizing the entire securities industry. It was as if Vogtle had been crafted for the moment. He had escaped Europe to come home and lead Southern Company during its most dangerous hour with the same persistence, resourcefulness and singleness of purpose he had learned fleeing Germans before he even turned 25. “He never got rattled, he never got intimidated, he never got diverted,” said Branch. “He just stuck to the line until he got a problem solved.”

Looking back, Branch said Vogtle won for Southern Company “the respect of investment analysts, bankers, stockholders and regulators.” “He did it not only with brains,” he said, “but with guts.”
**Reginald DesRoches** has served as Karen and John Huff School Chair since 2012. Prior to joining our School in 1998, DesRoches earned his Ph.D. in structural engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. His primary research interests are seismic risk assessment and design of buildings and critical infrastructure under extreme loads. He has published over 250 articles in the general area of earthquake engineering and seismic risk assessment and has given over 100 presentations in 35 different countries. DesRoches has received numerous awards and honors including the Presidential Early Career Award and the ASCE Huber Prize. He was recently appointed to the executive committee of the National Academy of Sciences Roundtable on Risk, Resilience, and Extreme Events.

**Don Webster** serves as Associate Chair for Finance and Administration and as a Professor in CEE. His research expertise lies in environmental fluid mechanics with an emphasis on the influence of fluid mechanics and turbulence on biological systems. In 2013, he implemented a “flipped classroom” teaching pedagogy and subsequently won the prestigious Eichholz Faculty Teaching Award. He was the first faculty member in the College of Engineering to receive the award.

**Gary May** has served as Dean of the College of Engineering since 2011. He joined the ECE faculty at Georgia Tech in 1991 as a member of the school’s microelectronics group. May’s research focuses on computer-aided manufacturing of integrated circuits. He has authored over 200 articles and technical presentations in the area of IC computer-aided manufacturing and is the founder of both Georgia Tech’s Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering/Science program and the Facilitating Academic Careers in Engineering and Science program.

**Chuck Huling** serves as Chair of the CEE External Advisory Board and as Executive in Residence for Georgia Tech’s Strategic Energy Institute. Prior to joining SEI in 2011, Huling served as Vice President of Georgia Power’s environmental affairs organization. During his 36 years with Georgia Power, Huling held a number of positions in the areas of power plant construction, project management, corporate communication, regulatory affairs, marketing, consumer affairs, external affairs, and environmental affairs.

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**Getting to know our Leadership**
Bryan Landry joined CEE as Director of Development in April 2013. His career includes development leadership at Texas A&M University, Vanderbilt University Law School, New Mexico State University, LSU, and Emory University’s Goizueta Business School. Bryan looks forward to working with CEE faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to continue the School’s legacy of excellence.

Jabaley retired from Shell Oil in 2011 after seven years in a dual role as Project Assurance Manager and Learning Advisor, where she oversaw a portfolio of deepwater offshore and unconventional oil sands and shales projects and developed project management courses for Shell employees. Sally is president of Jabaley Consulting, LLC.

Lee Presley serves as Co-Chair of the CEE Alumni Relations Committee and as Operations Manager, Nuclear, for Chicago Bridge & Iron (CB&I). After graduating from Georgia Tech in 1979, Presley joined CB&I and began his career in Birmingham, Alabama in the company’s engineering training program. He has worked on assignments throughout the United States, as well as on several international projects.

Jabaley served as Chair of the CEE Alumni Relations Committee and as Chair of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Gulf Coast Section Project, Facilities, and Construction Committee.

Jess Hunt began providing communications services for CEE in 2010 while studying industrial design at Georgia Tech. She joined the School full-time last year, after serving as a marketing manager for W.G. Yates & Sons Construction’s Atlanta and International divisions. Jess has previously worked as Marketing Director of Anglicotech, an alumnus-owned consulting firm; and as a photographer and website developer for Zambian wildlife conservation groups and private small businesses. She looks forward to continuing to grow CEE’s reputation as a global leader in innovation.
Meet the 2014 CEE External Advisory Board
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--- Thank you ---
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