

Thrasher Engineering Opens Its Doors In Charleston

One of the state's leading engineering companies, Thrasher Engineering, decided to expand its presence in the Charleston market, and built an office to serve this area. They selected a prestigious address, Northgate Business Park, as home. Thrasher chose Pray Construction Company, teamed with Associated Architects, to design and construct their new facility based on their excellent reputation and ability to deliver the design-build methodology.

Thrasher Engineering's General Manager, Dayton Carpenter, worked with the team to design and build their 10,800 square foot facility. The building was complete and ready for occupancy in August of 1999, just four months after the work started.

Following the completion of the Thrasher offices on the upper floor, Pray Construction



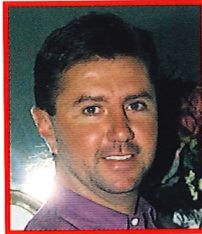
Company and Associated Architects were brought in to build out 2500 square feet in the lower level for their tenant, American Express Financial Services. The balance to the first floor space will be built out for additional office space for Thrasher Engineering.

Thrasher is pleased with its new building, which is home to its Charleston offices and several tenants.

Associate In The Spotlight: Kerry Hinzman

Success in the construction business is a direct result of dedication, teamwork, and trust in the people and partners with whom you work. This issue of *Pray Today* would like to recognize Kerry Hinzman, owner of Synkote Specialties.

Prior to 1990, Hinzman was a painter and drywall specialist servicing the Charleston area. In 1990 he started Synkote Specialties, which specializes in exterior finish systems. The Summit Conference Center and CAMC's Sports Medicine are a few of the projects that he has worked on with Pray. He credits Pray with helping him gain valuable experience and helping his company grow. Hinzman resides in St. Albans with his wife, Donna, and their children, Rachel and Jonathon.



Kesner, Kesner & Bramble Embraces Design-Build

Pray Construction Company is a leading design-builder of interior renovations, especially when they are in historic buildings. Pray's design-build methodology is an excellent approach, as Kesner, Kesner and Bramble found when they selected Pray Construction Company and their design-build approach to renovate their four-story office building in downtown Charleston.

"When collaboration is key, such as in the renovation of 112 Capitol Street, design-build is a great solution," explains Dave Pray. "The best news is that the owner gets the advantage of the collaborative efforts of architects, designers, contractors and developers. And they only have to look to one source, Pray Construction, to get their project completed," he continues.

Design-build is a cutting edge trend in project development which Pray Construction Company uses extensively. As its name suggests, it involves the designing and building of a project in a simultaneous

fashion. To lead this design team, Pray hired John Harris of the architectural firm Bastian and Harris, and Jeffrey Miller, an interior/architectural designer and a Managing Director with McCabe Henley Durbin. Pray's in-house interior designer, Susan Farley, rounded out the professional design team.

"There is tremendous synergy with a design-build process, ultimately saving the customer time and effort, and sometimes money," remarked Jeff Miller. Architect

John Harris commented, "This was an extremely positive experience for me and for the customer." He continued, "We were constantly challenging one another to be more creative and to generate a special environment for the

law firm. We were always aware that the customer was placing a lot of trust in the team, and that it was our responsibility to be worthy of that trust." Design-build is a proven approach which allows the owner to benefit with cost savings, speed in execution, and the synergy of a team of designers and builders who collaborate to give the client the most creative solutions available.

When Brent and Tanya Kesner and Dan Grear engaged Pray Construction Company

they were counting on a fast track completion date with creative and attractive design solutions. Brent Kesner had faith that Pray Construction Company would deliver what they promised, and that trust paid off.

"Everyone participated in the

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Brent Kesner, President, KKB, LLC.

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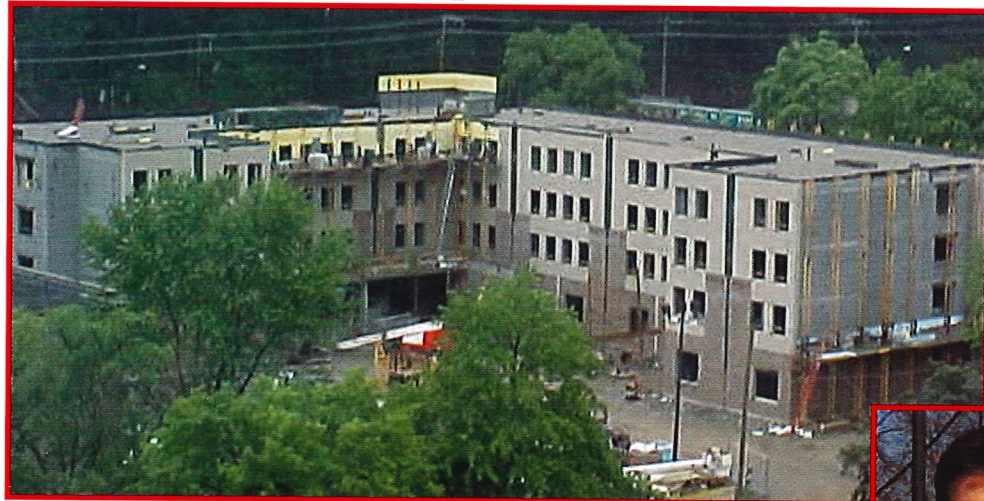
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Brotherton Hall Set To Open In September



In late January of this year, the University of Charleston engaged Pray Construction Company as their design-build firm to develop a modern student residence hall. Pray Construction Company brought together a great design-build team to meet the challenging needs of The University of Charleston.

The most significant challenge was time. The owner's demanding schedule immediately eliminated some of the competition for the project. Pray's solution will enable the University to use the new residence hall in the Fall of 2000, less than 8 months from the time Pray was brought in to start the design-build process.

Another project challenge was the firm budget limitation. The University needed to obtain the best design for the dollar. Pray's team looked hard at every aspect of this

\$6,000,000 project to find a successful solution to maintain quality and space requirements within the budget constraints.

The finished product will be a 54,600 square foot residence hall named for West Virginia Supreme Court Justice, William T. Brotherton, Jr. Brotherton Hall will be a four-story two-tone brick building with glazed tile accents. The first floor will have public areas, including multi-purpose and conference rooms, bicycle storage, as well as secured student residences. The upper three floors will have 15 residential suites and two student lounges per floor. Each suite will consist of two rooms with a shared bath,

Kesner, continued from page 1

development process, and as a result, I did not have to spend a lot of time worrying about the project," claimed Brent Kesner. He continued, "I'm very busy day to day. This law firm is expanding and I did not need the potential hassles involved with design and construction interfering with my day-to-day life. The Pray team did an excellent job of organizing and communicating, and brought us tasteful selections within our budget. It was all really quite a bit of fun!"



accommodating four students. Each room will have phone, data and CATV access. The residential hall will serve over 220 students.

A major project like this requires the cooperation and coordination of many partners at many levels and it has been the key to success in this development. Kudos are in order for our architect, Celli-Flynn and their engineers, H.F. Lenz Company for their design. To a company, all of our sub-contractors and suppliers have provided not only timely work but excellent quality as well. The University's inspectors have

done a great job of aiding the team in their quest for superior quality. The neighbors have been understanding about our occasional long working hours. Our management team, led by Keith Smith, Mark Grigsby, Glenn Payne, and Lois Gillenwater, are performing at particularly high level. Our craft workers are doing great work.

The Pray team is well underway and a timely, successful completion is all but guaranteed! We invite you to keep an eye on this impressive project and mark your calendars for September 22, the day Brotherton Hall will be completed.

(above) A view of Brotherton Hall taken from Clay Tower. (inset) Jerry Forster, Vice President, Administration & Finance, The University of Charleston



A lot of windows and natural light enhance the Kesner, Kesner & Bramble conference room.

Creating A Tradition of Building Excellence

During the last two years, our company's leadership has spent significant time and energy crafting a one-year, and now a multi-year strategic plan. Unlike many short-lived business plans our planning process has unified our organization and provided tremendous focus. Initially, we revisited our mission statement and decided to overhaul it. Our new mission statement - *Creating A Tradition Of Building Excellence* - speaks clearly not only to our employees but also our customers, our suppliers, our design partners; in fact our entire team. It helped to focus on the customer at all different levels.

We also created our core values, located to the right, and we are currently engaged in company-wide discussion groups about our core values. We are focusing on our customer, our strategic direction, and our people. We believe all areas of our company are improving thanks to the focus this planning process has provided. And most importantly, so do our customers.

We all look forward to expanding the circle of understanding with our multi-year strategic plan.

Pray Construction Company's Core Values



Customers

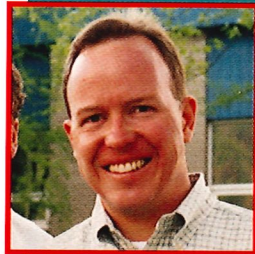
At Pray Construction Company, we enjoy the opportunity to be of service to our clients. We understand that by striving to provide an organized and value-added experience to our customers, we will have a bright future together. In the process, we will continue to build long-term relationships with individuals and companies.

Employees

We challenge all of our employees to be the very best they can be. We help them achieve excellence and build their skills so we may better serve our customers and, in turn, we will lead more satisfied lives.

Financial

In exchange for providing a great service and product to our customers, we look forward to achieving financial success on a corporate and individual basis.

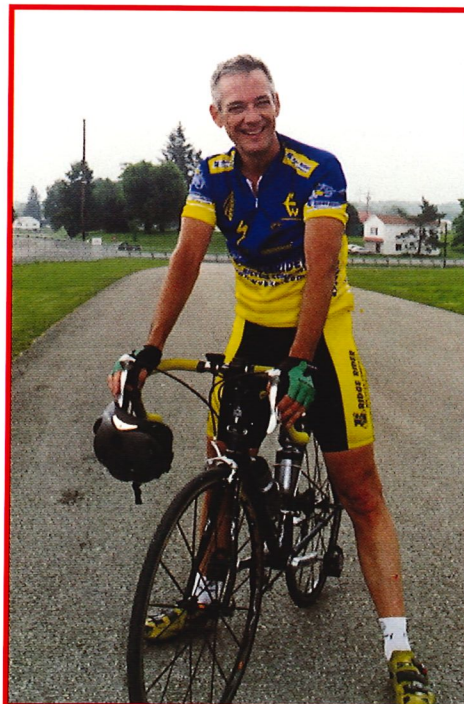
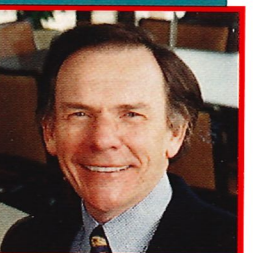
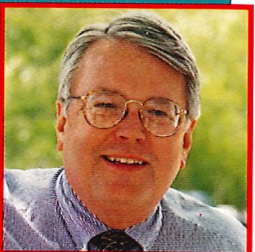


Innovation

We are practicing our profession in an ever-changing environment. It is important to remain responsive to this changing environment, and we will do so through innovation and the use of technology.

Ethics

We will strive to be fair in all our dealings. When we give our word, we will be careful to be sure we are well understood, our intent is understood, and we do what we say we are going to do. We will treat people the way we wish to be treated ourselves.



Where There's A Wheel There's A Way

Dave Pray spends many of his weekends traveling in West Virginia and to neighboring states to participate in nationally sanctioned bicycle races. He is pictured here after a road race in Charlottesville, Virginia where he emerged as the winner over a field of 50 other competitive cyclists.

Competitive cycling is challenging physically and mentally, and focuses on individual and team strategy. Dave has recently embraced bike racing as an excellent way to get fit, gain individual and team skills, and enjoy the out-of-doors. A newly licensed rider, Dave is rapidly demonstrating great potential in the sport.

Look for more articles about cycling in future issues of *Pray Today*.

(left) Dave Pray, sporting his Ridge Rider bicycle team uniform. Ridge Rider is the local bike shop of choice in downtown Charleston.