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By Damon Cline (/authors/damon-cline)

Staff Writer

Cranston Engineering celebrates 50th anniversary

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DAMON CLINE/STAFF Partners and employees of Cranston Engineering Group join firm President Tom Robertson for the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon over its new logo.

It was a party engineered down to the signature drink: the “Slide Rule Splash.”

Augusta's Cranston Engineering Group on Thursday celebrated its 50th anniversary in style with a block party between its two offices at the corner of Ellis and Fifth streets, reminiscing about past achievements and unveiling a new logo for its future.

"Although we as a company respect our past and have this long history, we're not an old, stodgy firm," company President Tom Robertson said before unveiling the new logo. "Were really about designing the future and the future of things you have visions for."

The civil engineering firm's "Take It To The Streets Block Party" was attended by more than 100 guests, including relatives of its two founders, Ed Baldwin and Craig Cranston, whose merger of separate firms in 1967 created Baldwin & Cranston Associates Inc.

Cranston retired from the firm in the 1980s but the name was kept as an homage to his legacy by Robertson, who first worked for Cranston as a teenager.

"I started as a summer employee with Craig, chopping bushes on the survey party at his first office in the basement of the DeLaigle House on Monument Street," recalled Robertson, whose time with the firm is eclipsed only by its chief surveyor, John Attaway.

The company, which found early success doing land planning and engineering work in vacation home developments such as Big Canoe, Ga., and Sapphire Valley, N.C., became one of the region's most prominent civil engineering firms, helping design major public projects such as the Augusta Common and Diamond Lakes Regional Park as well as private-sector developments such as 1,000-acre Bartram Trail neighborhood in Evans.

One of the firm's newest projects is the Georgia Technology Authority's \$50 million Cyber Innovation and Training Center on the grounds of Augusta University's Riverfront Campus.

The company has expanded outside of Augusta to coastal South Carolina, where it has offices in Charleston and Bluffton.

"Our professional service footprint now extends literally from the mountains to the sea," Robertson said.

Reach Damon Cline at (706) 823-3352 or damon.cline@augustachronicle.com.

Key projects and milestones

1967: Created as Baldwin & Cranston Associates Inc.

1969: Begins work on Cousins Properties' Big Canoe, Ga., community

1975: Performs first flood plain study for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- 1983: Starts design of Riverwalk Augusta
- 1985: Renamed Cranston, Robertson & Whitehurst PC
- 1995: Plans South Carolina National Heritage Corridor
- 1999: Designs Augusta Common
- 2006: Renamed Cranston Engineering Group PC
- 2010: Engineered Richmond County Judicial Center
- 2012: Opens office in Hilton Head Island, S.C.
- 2015: Opens Charleston, S.C., office
- 2017: Unveils new logo, celebrates 50th anniversary

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