Letter from the President

We have all heard the term “Spring Cleaning.” It is the time of the year when we take things down to their basic parts and clean all the nooks and crannies. It is a time to throw away the old, invest in the new, and get ready for the busy time of the year. Jensen Construction works year round, and many of you work off and on throughout the winter, but our main season is just around the corner.

In our industry, it seems like “Winter Cleaning” is the more appropriate term. The winter months are the time of year when we dig deep into what worked and what didn’t work during our past construction season. It is also a time when we determine what we will be investing in during the next year. We are optimistic that growth will continue. With that mindset, we have added more ready-mix concrete trucks to the fleet, expanded Argee Transport with new trucks and trailers, added tractors to JMT, replaced some of Grimes Asphalt’s older equipment, and purchased new Liftra cranes for Jensen Crane. And, as in all cleaning sprees, we have cleaned and repaired our plants and equipment. We have also added several upgrades that will enhance our efficiency. For example, we have added spray bars to wash down the ready-mix trucks, assisting in the washout process.

I am excited about all the new equipment, and I look forward to seeing how it all works. I applaud all the managers for thinking about the safety of our team members and their ability to make all of us more efficient.

As I look down the road, I feel very positive for another robust year. Our house is new, clean, repaired, and ready to go. Thank you for your part in “Winter Cleaning.”

Finally, in keeping with our emphasis on safety, remember to stretch before work and follow all the safety procedures.

I look to forward to a great season.
Even during the slow season, The Rasmussen Group shops are anything but slow. In the Heavy Fabrication Shop, Mark Jones, Jacob Williams, Nick Audsley, and Supervisor Dean Fowble, have been busy working on several different projects. This winter, they assisted Jensen Construction with coffer dams for their 66th Avenue bridge site, as well as pylon splicing for their I-29 Council Bluffs job site. But, that isn't all - The Heavy Fabrication Shop has also been building new conveyors for Central Iowa Ready Mix's Plant 7 in Des Moines, and installing mixing pads at Plant 3 in Grimes, IA.

Meanwhile, the Maintenance Shop was equally as busy this winter performing the Federal Annuals on all the heavy trucks and trailers for JMT, Central Iowa Ready Mix, Argee, Jensen Crane Service, and Jensen Construction. Currently, they are doing a complete rebuild and paint job on one of Jensen Construction's 7260 cranes, winter maintenance on Grimes Asphalt's equipment, and let's not forget anything that might pull up to the door that might need to be repaired and quickly returned to the road! Maintenance Shop employees include: Wade Beck (Manager), Ryan Fitzsimmons (Supervisor), Brian Mulvihill (Parts), Jeff Woodruff, Semso Efendic, Justin McGraw, Dave Whiteaker, Jean Perez, Denny Farr, Jake Zepeda, Chad Stravers (Night Supervisor), Brian Hall, Joe Shileny (DMACC Intern), and Marcus McCartney (DMACC Intern).

Scott Moore, in the Truck Fabrication Shop, is preparing all new trucks for JMT and Argee. This includes prepping fenders and headache racks, ramping the back of truck frames, and completing any aluminum welding that might need to be performed. Scott also assisted with making hand rails and new stainless steel countertops for the office remodel at Central Iowa Ready Mix's Plant 12 in Ames, IA.

With winter coming to a close, The Rasmussen Group Shops are finishing up projects and preparing for the busy season. With The Rasmussen Group division companies growing, the shop is expecting a very productive year.
JENSEN CRANE GOES TO CALIFORNIA

We are very excited to share that, since the purchase of our self-hoisting crane, Jensen Crane has successfully completed eight Siemen’s gearbox exchanges in Iowa and is now on their way to Ocotilla, California to exchange two additional gearboxes on Siemen’s 2.3 SWT turbines.

What is a self-hoisting crane: A game changer in the wind turbine main component exchanges! A self-hoisting crane:

- Reduces mobilization costs significantly
- Requires no assembly cranes, No Crane Pads, No Travel permits
- Has a wind speed rating greater than any conventional crane on the market today!
- Has mobilization costs much lower than conventional cranes (Install in 1 day, change components in 1 day, uninstall in 1 day)
- Is delivered in a 40-foot container
- WLL 24ton

The Jensen Crane team operating the self-hoisting cranes had to go through a very extensive certification process to become certified operators of these specialized cranes. The first part of this training is a three-week course where they learned how to install, troubleshoot, and safely operate the cranes. After completing the course, they had to demonstrate their knowledge in the field with an instructor over the course of several months before passing and obtaining their operators’ certifications.

Our team of certified Liftra operators not only passed their field certification, but had the highest pass percentage rate of any participants who have attended this course! Congratulations to Jason Shockey, Anthony Bush, Joseph Poorker, Travis Schneider, Tyler Deichmann, Anthony Hadan, and Jake Egusquiza on their accomplishment.

We have just taken delivery of our second self-hoisting crane and are looking forward to an extremely busy 2016! In addition, we are excited to welcome Michelle Berdusis to the Jensen Crane Team as our Regional Sales Manager for the Self-Hoisting Crane Division.

“Our team of certified Liftra operators not only passed their field certification, but had the highest pass percentage rate of any participants who have attended this course!”
BIG CREEK COFFERDAM: POLK CITY, IOWA

The last three months at Big Creek have consisted of setting and driving the 110-feet-long W36 king pile and PZ35 sheet pile for one of the most complicated cofferdams in Jensen’s history. Over the winter, de-icing bubblers were installed, which successfully kept the water open for continuous work. Two hammer crews have been working simultaneously, and driving conditions have been extremely challenging. The public is curious as to what we are building, and they frequently stop and ask. Supervisors are Mark Buller and Laine Buller.

NW 66TH AVE. BRIDGE: DES MOINES, IOWA

The NW 66th Ave project has progressed through the winter with three of the seven cofferdams, at Piers 1, 4, and 7. Two of the Piers have been completed. Proximity to power lines and the highway has created a formidable challenge. Supervisors are Ryan Adkisson, Barett Tucker, and Darin Glenney.
Work on the construction of the I-30 Bridge continues to move forward despite receiving record rainfall and flooding on the Red River during the fall of 2015. We bid the project during record spring floods in early 2015 and had hoped that Mother Nature would give us a reprieve from heavy rains in the fall of 2015 and the spring of 2016. We were not that lucky in the fall. Maybe our luck will change this upcoming spring. Despite all the water, Randy Ennis along with his supervisors, Eric Stoural, Max Angeles, Tyrone Sims, Brian Rieck, Rusty Davis, and Landon Bullock have completed the substructure on the west side of the river. Steel is currently being erected on this unit. Drill shafts have been completed on the east bank and work has begun on the two river piers. In addition to the river bridge, we have completed the majority of the substructure on the bridge across the local road located on the east end of the project.
BUSY SEASON FOR ASPHALT PAVING CONTRACTOR

As we begin another construction season, I think of the many moving parts of a successful asphalt contractor: Parts which require coordination and people dedicated to high standards. Last season we achieved success by receiving two awards from the Asphalt Paving Association of Iowa for the work that was completed in Woodward as well as for tennis courts at South East Polk High School. I want to thank the Grimes Asphalt employees, as well as The Rasmussen Group, for jobs well done.

It looks to be a busy construction season. We are already seeing higher levels of estimates and work under contract than last year at this time. We hope this trend continues throughout the construction season to make 2016 a safe and outstanding year. We recently were awarded a large project for the city of Des Moines and received a contract from North Polk to build six new tennis courts.

At the end of 2015 we experienced the retirement of several longstanding and highly valued employees: Dave Gardiner- 36 years; Jim Walker- 32 years; Jim Liebsack- 31 years; Galen Kelly- 30 years; Arthur Beek-34 years; and Hector Ortega- 28 years. I want to thank them for their contributions throughout the years. They will be greatly missed.

As we move forward, we continue to invest in our employees’ futures by providing numerous hours of training related to job-specific tasks and crucial safety training that provides employees with opportunities to build on and improve their talents. Safety, as always, is a crucial focus, and we will work to improve on it across the board. Another investment is our equipment. We continue to update our fleet with the most state-of-the-art equipment on the market. Last year we introduced a Trimble Robotic Grade Control System, later adding a GPS rover to increase efficiency and accuracy. With the new pavers and other equipment, we are seeing better production and less down time, making our fleet something we can all be proud of.

-Mike Yonker
As I sit down to write this, it is the middle of March and 60-plus degrees outside. Due to this favorable weather, and a robust economy, we are off to one of the best starts to a construction season for as long as I can remember.

Partly due to the economy, and largely due to the great job all of our team members do, Central Iowa Trucking continues to experience growth. We are adding a fourth Stone Slinger and three Super Belly Dumps to the fleet this year. The need for additional Belly Dumps was a result of securing a haul from Martin Marietta. They need to transfer concrete stone from Ames to the rail yard in Newton. This material will be railed to Western Iowa for DOT work. They needed a firm they could count on, and we were fortunate enough to have been selected. To service this, we are building a drive-over dump bridge, designed by Rev Tech’s very own Michael Fuller, and built by The Rasmussen Group fab shop. This will enable us to use Belly Dumps, which is the most effective way to haul material. Thank you to all those involved in making this happen.

Hiring, training, and retaining drivers continues to be our biggest challenge. I would like to thank Kyle McClain, The Rasmussen Group’s Recruiter, and Kenny Bauman, for their constant pursuit of the right individual who will be an asset and contribute to our success. I would like to give a shout out to all of our driver trainers who are so committed to preparing our new employees to be able to do the job well and safely. Their impact has shown up in last year’s safety results. When it was all said and done, the combined results were 106% of our targets. This was quite an improvement from 2014; it is our goal to do even better this year. I know with everybody’s best efforts, we can achieve that goal.

This year looks to be another good year. All phases, residential, commercial, and heavy highway look strong. I look forward to working with all of the Rasmussen Group companies, along with all of our customers to make 2016 our best year yet.

-Jeff Wangsness
Winter repairs and remodeling are complete, and we are ready for a record-breaking 2016. This year we concentrated on updating the Ames and Delaware plants. The driver's rooms, office areas, batch rooms, and bathrooms were all remodeled at both plants over the winter.

At Iowa State Ready Mix in Ames, we completely gutted all cabinets and desks. We stripped and installed new epoxy flooring and new paint throughout. In the driver's room, we replaced the kitchen area cabinets, fridge, and microwave. We also installed center islands and bench seating, and the front entry got a built-in cabinet with a stainless steel countertop.

At the Delaware Plant in Des Moines, we took everything out of all three floors, stripped the old floor, and installed new epoxy flooring on all floors, and painted throughout. We took the bathrooms out of the middle floor and moved them to the bottom floor for better access. The middle floor (driver's room) got a kitchen area with a new fridge and microwave, new built-in center islands, lockers, and bench seating. On the top floor, we added a new bathroom and installed built-in work spaces in the office and batch room.

We believe all these updates will give our employees enjoyable, usable areas throughout the work day and improve morale. We also hope employees will take pride in keeping areas clean.
“The good life,” that’s what every driver sees on the border sign as they enter the great state of Nebraska, and the good life it has been for the team of CSI Omaha! From where we started in 2013, delivering quality concrete and customer service second to none, to where we are now, we can boast an expanded fleet of 2013 or newer mixer trucks with eight additions just since our inception. And all are driven by the best drivers in the area!

General Manager, Chris Rogers, has kept his focus on customer service, growth, and employee retention, which is yielding year after year sales increases, increased profitability, and a team cohesion which is second to none. “We’ve been working hard on keeping drivers and building our CSI family,” says Chris. And this increased driver retention allows CSI Omaha to enter the 2016 season with a seasoned staff, familiar with CSI safety procedures, and a willingness to provide exemplary customer service: Qualities that are necessary as we move forward and continue to grab more and more of the market share as price leaders in Omaha.

Our sales team has been busy hunting down new jobs with 10,000 yards at two local Gretna schools, DOT work on the Iowa side of the river, and several additional commercial jobs they are actively pursuing, predicting 2016 to be a banner year for the team at CSI Omaha.

Finishing up our 2015 season with over 165,000 yards, we are starting to leave a permanent mark all across this city. CSI trucks and drivers are responsible for new schools, shopping centers, police departments, and churches all around the Omaha market, and new projects are on the horizon. None of this would be possible without the excellent team of employees we have here. Dispatch, plant supervisors, drivers, and trainers are all willing to go the extra mile, put in the extra hours, and shake the extra hand. They are the faces of CSI Omaha, and their commitment to quality and dedication are what’s putting us on top.
LARGE BOILER ON THE MOVE!

In August 2015, Circle V hauled a boiler for Victory Energy on our dual lane trailer from Collinsville, Oklahoma to Tulsa Port of Catoosa to be shipped via barge to a hospital in New York City, NY. The total size of the load was 225,000 pounds, 19’ 6” wide and 22’ 6” tall. Total length of the load was 227 feet. Gross weight was 530,000 pounds.

The total size of the load was

225,000 pounds,
19’ 6” wide, and 22’ 6” tall
ARGEE HIGHLIGHTS

In 2015, Argee was awarded a contract to haul 300 loads for the Cleveland Innerbelt Bridge project. Delta legs, delta knuckles, and delta ties are being transported 800 miles from Eau Claire, WI to Eastbound I-90 over the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, OH. The project is two-thirds of the way completed with only the plate girders left to haul.

*Delta legs are being transported over 800 miles!*
2015 was a very exciting year for Hallett Materials in Texas. Even though oil prices fell, we had enough of a backlog of work to finish the year with record numbers. Some of our noteworthy road construction projects from 2015 are:

- Several segments of US 290
- The Grand Parkway SH-9
- Loop -610 / US 290/ I-10 Connector
- SH-242 / I-45 Connector
- SH 249
- The I-45 expansion

We were honored to be a part of these very large jobs whose bid values ranged from $70 million to $800 million dollars! Also, we enjoyed various other commercial and residential jobs from our many loyal ready mix and underground customers.

In 2015, Hallett sold a portion of its stabilized sand business to Great Southern Stabilized. Everything made sense on paper, but selling a portion of your business to a competitor leaves you with a few uncertainties. We held our breath and hoped for the best, and in the end, this transition could not have gone more flawlessly. Great Southern has since opened up two local ready mix plants, making them a valued concrete sand customer, and the volume of fine sand they purchase from us for the stabilized sand operation we sold them accounts for nearly 1/3 of our total fine sand sales.

More exciting news from 2015 is that Hallett Materials purchased two new properties, a 66-acre tract and a 356-acre tract, that adjoin our Porter Plant property, extending our lifespan at this prime location for years to come.

To celebrate our good fortune, we had an end-of-year party for our employees and their families. The night was filled with great food, drinks, conversation, and stories from the past. A good time was had by all! No one really knows what 2016 holds in store for us, but with the fantastic team of employees we have, I’m certain that we’ll be ready to face whatever challenges may lie ahead.

-Scott Spinella

“Hallett Materials purchased two new properties, a 66-acre tract and a 356-acre tract...”
Safety

PLAN SAFETY INTO YOUR DAY

Safety and self-preservation go hand in hand. Our natural instincts drive us to keep ourselves safe in order to stay healthy and alive. However, safety doesn’t occur naturally. In order to keep ourselves safe, we must plan safety into each task we want to accomplish throughout the day.

Accidents don’t just happen; they are caused. If we work on eliminating the causes, we can go a long way toward eliminating the accidents.

To be successful in accident prevention, you must take the necessary steps to plan safety into your day. At the start of each day, plan your activities with safety in mind.

Safety planning for a project should take place on three levels, using our SLAM process:

1. A hazard evaluation for the entire project
2. Daily safety planning
3. Pre-task planning

Safety planning at the pre-task level is YOUR job. Consider the task you are about to begin—

a) Identify the specific hazards associated with the work you will be doing
b) Determine the control measures YOU can put in place in order to reduce or remove the hazards
c) Act on those control measures

Often, the tasks that everyone is “used to” doing or “doesn’t have to think about” are the ones with the most commonly overlooked hazards. Get in the habit of conducting a pre-task safety check before beginning every task. Options to consider when determining what method(s) to use to control hazards include using personal protective equipment; replacing tools, materials, or processes with less hazardous ones; and/or separating the hazard or potential hazard from yourself and others in the work area.

Prior to every task, ask yourself:

Have you considered everything that could injure you or your co-workers?
Do you have the right tools for the job?
Have you inspected them for damage or wear?
Do you have the right PPE?
Do you know what to do in case of an emergency?

Planning safety into any project from the start can save lives, time, and money. Keep yourself and those around you safe—Plan Safety into Your Day!
ATTRIBUTES SUCCESS TO WORK WELL PROGRAM

The Rasmussen Group would like to recognize Renee Weaver, office manager of the Jensen Construction shop in Pine Bluff, Arkansas since 2012, on successfully taking steps to improve her health with the Work Well program. Weaver attributes her success to the Work Well program and the Ready! Set! Move! Challenge, as well as making various lifestyle changes at work and at home.

Renee is taking full advantage of the new Work Well program to improve her health. She said that The Ready! Set! Move! Challenge allowed her to identify various activities that she could participate in to get active, and found that having the challenge tools available allowed her to push herself to do other activities she had never tried before. Being able to see how other co-workers were doing kept her motivated to keep moving. In addition to stepping up her exercise routines, Weaver has been eating much healthier. She prepares her meals for five days at a time so that she always has what she needs when it is time to eat. As a result, she does not eat out much anymore, but when she does, she plans accordingly and tries to make sensible choices. She said that she even sometimes carries a Subway salad with her instead of eating what others are eating. Weaver downloaded the “My Fitness Pal” app to track her meals and be conscious of what she was eating throughout each day.

By combining a healthy diet and active lifestyle, Weaver has lost 16 pounds since the first of the year. She was inspired to make these changes to become healthier in all aspects of life. She especially wanted to lower her health risks due to her family history of chronic illness and disease. Weaver’s end goal in her fitness journey is to reach her target weight and BMI (body mass index) for her age, as well as being able to join her local gym and take classes to continue improving her health.

The changes Weaver has made did not come easily for her, but her family, friends, and co-workers have all motivated her and been a strong support system. “The hardest thing for me to change was to quit eating sugar and drinking Diet Coke,” said Weaver. She has even passed on her new healthy habits to her daughter, who is also exercising more and eating better.

In addition to her support system, Weaver claims the Fit Bit she purchased through the Work Well program also keeps her in check. When she first started using the device, she was just trying to get the recommended 5,000 steps each day. She now challenges herself to get more steps each day, and tries to beat the previous day’s step count.

Although the Ready! Set! Move! Challenge is over, Weaver is planning to continue her healthy lifestyle changes. She encourages others to do the same by tracking their activity and holding each other accountable. And if you eat out, plan ahead and make sensible choices,” Weaver said.

Have you joined the Work Well program and started making healthy lifestyle choices? We would love to hear your success story! Share your success with The Rasmussen Group’s Wellness Coordinator, Jessica Sheets. Jessica can be reached at jsheets@rasmussengroup.com or 515-266-5173 ext. 310.

TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS GRADUATES!

On February 24th this year, The Rasmussen Group’s first tobacco cessation class graduated from the American Lung Association’s eight-week Freedom From Smoking program. This class was led by Rasmussen Group Wellness Coordinator, Jessica Sheets. Over the course of the workshop, Jessica worked with participants on creating a plan and developing manageable goals to help them quit smoking and stay quit. Jessica and everyone here at The Rasmussen Group would like to congratulate the participants on all their hard work and success!
Social Media

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE RASMUSSEN GROUP

Technology in the workplace has been moving at the speed of light over the past several years, and the Rasmussen Group has been working hard to keep up with the latest trends and advancements. A major focus of the company in regards to technology has been accessibility and communication with our employees and their families. We’ve managed to do this in several ways.

Last summer we started airing closed circuit television feeds at our facilities belonging to Concrete Supply, Central Iowa Ready Mix, and Iowa State Ready Mix. These feeds air on a loop at the plants, and provide safety information, start times, daily yardage, and wellness program information. The television technology allows our busy drivers and plant employees to stay connected.

In conjunction with the launch of the Work Well program in the fall, we’ve added functionality to the website (www.rasmussengroup.com), allowing employees and their families to login to their wellness portal account to view their progress and rewards. The Work Well section also includes all recent and past newsletters for the Work Well program so you can catch up on anything you may have missed.

Another focus moving forward for the company is the use of social media. We will be adding Facebook pages for all Rasmussen Group companies throughout the course of 2016. Facebook serves as a great way to keep tabs on what’s new with each of the Rasmussen Group companies.

I encourage all employees to keep an eye on Facebook and the website as we continue to improve our outreach and communication. Also, if any employees have questions about current technology being used, please feel free to contact me at tillingsworth@rasmussengroup.com.

-Tanner Illingworth
Matthew Oliver Garcia
Son of Tomas Garcia with Hallett Materials in Texas
11/25/15 @ 6:18 p.m.
8 lb, 20 inches

Paislee Elizabeth Sanford
Granddaughter of Senem Hanford with The Rasmussen Group
11/25/15 - 2 lb 3 oz, 15 in
Now weighs 5 lb 11 oz

Maple Rose Emanuelson
Daughter of Bob Emanuelson with Central Iowa Ready Mix
02/02/16 @ 2:59 p.m.
9 lb 14 oz, 20 in

Korbyn Belle
Daughter of Barret Tucker with Jensen Construction
10/10/15 - 7 lb 20 in
Big brother Hank pictured in image

Asher Graeme Thole
Grandson of Dan Timmons with Jensen Construction
09/29/15 @ 7:07 p.m.
8 lb 3 oz, 21 in

Anthony Gregorio Cameron Hoyt Jr.
His grandfather Cameron Hoyt with The Rasmussen Group
01/04/16 - 7 lb 3 oz, 19.5 in