

# ARW's Naser Tabbed as UEC's 'Engineer of the Year'

**Keynote speaker Martin Frey – a former senior director at Cisco – captivated audience with tales of adventure and avoiding comfort zones.**

The Utah Engineers Council (UEC) – a group comprised of several Utah-based engineering associations – held its 2017 Awards Banquet February 25 at Rio Tinto Stadium's Interform Club Real room.

Justin Don Naser, a Principal at Ogden-based ARW Engineers, was presented with the '2017 Engineer of the Year' award, UEC's highest individual honor. Naser is currently serving as Chair of the Utah Uniform Building Codes Commission and regularly meets with state legislators to encourage adoption of appropriate building codes for the state. Naser earned a Master of Science from Utah State University and has taught steel building design courses to USU students. He has helped design several key higher education buildings including the USU Engineering Building, the Wayne Estes Center at USU, and WSU's Tracy Hall Science Center. Other notable projects on his resume include the LDS Church History Library and the LDS Brigham City Temple.

"It's a huge honor to receive this from peers you work with," said Naser, who has spent his entire 19-year career at ARW. "As I read through the resumes (of other nominees) I felt like I was inferior. There are a lot of talented engineers in Utah."

He said one of his favorite project was a residence between Snowbird and Alta that was designed to withstand an avalanche.

Other individual awards handed out included: Educator of the Year – Paul J. Barr; Fresh Face in Engineering – Jake Merrell; MESA Teacher of the Year – Tami Pandoff.



Keynote speaker Martin Frey spent 13 years at Cisco. He is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the first person to summit the tallest peaks on each continent and sail the seven seas – circumnavigating the globe. (all photos by Grant Golightly; courtesy UEC)

In addition, UEC presented \$1,500 scholarships to 13 students studying engineering at a Utah-based university.

UEC's annual banquet coincides with Engineers Week, celebrated in the U.S. during the week of the anniversary of George Washington's birthday. In addition to being the first President of the U.S., Washington is also recognized as one of our nation's first engineers.

The event's keynote speaker was Martin Frey, a BYU Mechanical Engineering graduate who spent more than a dozen



Justin Naser is presented with UEC's 'Engineer of the Year' award from Awards Committee Chair Rober Kesler.

years as a senior director for Cisco in Silicon Valley. Beyond his technological expertise, Frey recently entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the first person to climb the highest summits on all seven continents, and to sail the seven seas, circumnavigating the world. His message consists of challenging individuals and organizations to 'step outside' of their comfort zones.

Frey told stories of crossing the shifting ice blocks of the Khumbu Ice Fall below Everest, and sailing turbulent seas

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Dr. Paul J. Barr, a USU Professor, was named 'Educator of the Year'.

across the North Pacific ocean aboard the 70-foot racing yacht 'Visit Seattle'. He talked about his career arc working initially in the defense industry, and then pivoting to work for Cisco when it was a small start up company in the mid-80's. He admitted that catching the next wave was due in part to a little luck.

UEC noted that more than 200 people attended the awards banquet and expressed gratitude to the many sponsors and companies who contributed to its cause.

#### UEC 2017 Award Winners

*Engineer of the Year – Justin Don Naser, ARW Engineers*

Other Nominees: Richard Reeder, VBFA; Lee Cammack, J-U-B Engineers; Rob Fabian, BAE Systems; Ryan Cole, Gerhart Cole, Inc.; Scott Beckwith, Beckwith Technology Group



Jake Merrell of Nano Composite Products is UEC's 'Fresh Face of the Engineering'.

Composites; Marc Bodson, U of U Dept. of Electrical Engineering; Gary Horton, Summit Co. Engineer; Mark Holt, U.S. Air Force Engineer (HAFB).

*Educator of the Year – Dr. Paul J. Barr, Utah State University*

Other nominees: Trent Hunt, BYU Adjunct Professor; Douglas Hunsaker, USU Assistant Professor; Forrest Brown, Park University; Tadd Truscott, USU Assistant Professor; Andy George, BYU Assistant Professor; Fernando Fonseca, BYU Associate Professor.

*Fresh Face of Engineering – Jake Merrell, Nano Composite Products*

Other nominees: Ashley MacMillan, Geocomp Corporation; David Griffin II, Arch/Nexus Company; David Bassett, Avenue Consultants; Paul Dyreng, Reaveley



Tami Pandoff of E.G. King Elementary (Davis Co. School District) earned the 'MESA Teacher of the Year'.

Engineers + Assoc.; Scott Stebbins, BAE Systems.  
*MESA Teacher of the Year – Tami Pandoff, E.G. King Elementary School, Davis School District.*

#### UEC 2017 Scholarship Winners

Sharon Dansie – Weber State University; Landon Foust – Weber State University; Raphael Chanut – University of Utah; Shalauna Thompson – University of Utah; Mitch Shepherd – University of Utah; Joshua Pratt – University of Utah; Jeffrey Smith – Brigham Young University; Craig Maughan – Brigham Young University; Joshua McClellan – Brigham Young University; Christian Morrill – Utah State University; J. Jackson Matsen – Utah State University; Seth Thompson – Utah State University; Daniel Ulrich – SUU ■