

Press Release: Immediate Release

Clay Kelly Wins “Young Engineer of the Year” Award

(Frankfort, Kentucky – January 29, 2004): Daniel Clay Kelly, P.E., a civil engineer working in marketing and business development for Strand Associates, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, is the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers (KSPE) 2004 Young Engineer of the Year.

The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to KSPE, the engineering profession, and to civic and humanitarian causes, particularly during the past year. He is an active member of KSPE and other professional, technical, and civic organizations. He is a leader of the nationally acclaimed leadership development program for engineers called Leadership P.E., of which he is a Class of 2000 graduate. Just this past year, he became a partial owner of Strand Associates.

“I am humbled,” Kelly said, “when I think of other engineers, both within and outside of my own firm, who deserve accolades for their engineering achievements and contributions to their profession. I love what I do, so to be recognized for that is icing on the cake.”

Kelly says the award “is such an honor because . . . it recognizes service to others, or servant-leadership. I love to help others accomplish their goals, . . . so this award . . . is both humbling and encouraging.”

A native of Green County, Kentucky, Kelly attended the University of Louisville Speed Scientific School. He graduated with a mechanical engineering degree in 1993. Soon after graduating, he signed on to be a missionary in Northern Iraq to help the Kurds drill for water. However, he was rerouted to Ethiopia due to outbreaks of violence in Iraq.

From 1993-1996, he used his farming background and his engineering skills to develop water resources and road projects for remote Ethiopian villages, to assist with tree nurseries and veterinarian clinics, and displayed his strong commitment to his Christian faith by teaching Bible-study classes, preaching, and leading children programs.

In 1996, he returned to the United States and became employed as a civil engineer at Strand Associates in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1998, Kelly passed the civil engineering exam to become a licensed professional engineer. Later that year, he met his wife, Lynn Hixenbaugh (of Louisville), and he also returned to Ethiopia for a short stint of missionary work.

After marrying in 1999, the missionary couple traveled together to Ethiopia in 2000. They worked as part of a team to complete a water project that serves an entire remote farming village.

Kelly says that he is thankful for Strand's support of his career and his missionary work. "Serving others through missionary and engineering work will always be a part of me . . . and I'm open to traveling [to Ethiopia] or to other countries [again]."

A talented, but not-professionally-trained photographer, Kelly took over 3,000 photos while in Ethiopia. Some of the photos are award winners.

In the near future, his application will be entered for consideration of the National Young Engineer of the Year Award. It is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). The national award will be presented in July 2004.

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