Technology in construction is rapidly changing, with a variety of new tools and applications surfacing on jobsites and in offices everywhere. As a result, the technology needs of our project teams have changed, client expectations have changed, and the demand for real-time information is more crucial than ever.

Although the department has changed names over the years, beginning with Building Information Modeling (BIM) and several years later moving to BIM/Virtual Design and Construction, they are now known as the Virtual Design and Construction + Coordination (VDC+C) department, in response to adaptations in industry trends and new services. Although they have been widely recognized for coordination services, their work isn’t limited to coordination alone.

Under the direction of Vice President of Operational Support and Planning, Mike Thompson, and Raul Gomez, Director of VDC+C, Robins & Morton now has nine VDC+C team members armed with expertise in coordination, drones, laser scanning, virtual reality, augmented reality, project imaging and more. This prowess enhances our projects through every phase, beginning with planning and design, through construction, to closeout and even into facility maintenance. With an array of services to fit each project’s unique needs, VDC+C is equipped to help Robins & Morton teams add value through technology and explore new, innovative solutions.

Through the rest of the year, we will continue to take a deeper dive into the tools and services VDC+C offers, as well as how to best utilize their services in each stage of your project. If you are interested in learning more about any of the following services on your current or upcoming project, please reach out to Raul Gomez for general inquiries or Regional Virtual Design and Construction Manager, David Pratt, for Florida-related work.

MEET THE VDC+C TEAM

Raul Gomez
Director of VDC+C
Birmingham office

David Pratt
Regional VDC+C Manager
Orlando office

Ryan Roberts
Regional VDC+C Manager
Charlotte office

Scott Strength
Assistant VDC Coordinator
Birmingham office

Jessica Pleasant
Administrative Assistant
Birmingham office

Hannah Harrison
Senior VDC/BIM Coordinator
Huntsville office

Mike Rizzio
Senior VDC/BIM Coordinator
Charlotte office

Sergio Rangel
VDC Coordinator
Orlando office

For contact and more information, check out the employee directory on HUB.
WITH the amount of activity that has taken place over the past few months, we believe we have a good opportunity to come close to our sales goal of $1.27 billion. This would allow us to exceed the $1.2 billion, or a $1.27 billion in growth from 2019. This means we are expecting to have a strong year in 2019. It looks like we will come in a little short of our goal. All and all 2018 will be one of the best years in our history.

Recently, I attended graduation for the very successful first craft mentor training class, which started in early 2017. The graduation ceremony of these individuals in a program designed to develop people to move from craft-oriented jobs to field management positions is one of the most exciting career development activities we have ever initiated. The graduates were proud of the results of their hard work and they deserve our congratulations for this significant accomplishment. While Rocky had the vision for the program, Josh Campbell was responsible for developing, implementing and leading it. As you will read in this issue of the Newcomer, we renamed the program—The Rocky McLemore Field Leadership Program—a fitting tribute to Rocky for all his contributions.

The Robins & Morton IT team along with our consultant, Tilson Technology, have made great progress in the last couple of months. While our IT team still has a tremendous amount of work to do, we can point to some significant efforts and improvements to date.

1. There is an overall plan in place to raise the level of performance and connectivity across our entire corporate footprint. Several improvements have been made in Birmingham, Orlando and Miami to improve connectivity and overall network stability, but there is still much work to be accomplished. Time line: First we will go through the network design portion and then the goal management portion. This program offers a career development plan that provides opportunities to our craft workers that want to advance into field manager positions. Some of the areas covered in the program include safety, building systems, quality control, communication, leadership training, scheduling, and productivity with cost management. The program utilizes a mentoring relationship to facilitate the training, thereby providing one on one guidance to make the experience personal as well as professional. Many of the mentors, teachers and organizers of the program also develop their own skills related to instruction and communication. The program is already highly successful and will yield significant win/win results as we grow as a company.

2. Our server environment is seeing more secure than ever with better physical back-ups in different locations. Additionally, we are currently backing up all data to the cloud. We are eliminating and consolidating many physical pieces of hardware in our data center to reduce potential points of failure. We now have tools in place to allow performance monitoring of the servers in real time so the IT team can identify issues before they become major problems.

3. A plan is being developed to update our efforts regarding disaster recovery. The plan will not only be used to do what we do but, the new plan will also detail the responsible parties for each action. This detailed plan will allow us to train and prepare our IT team for disaster recovery.

4. The IT team is supporting accounting in the early stage of a technology integration project which will automate our expense reporting. This effort is sure to provide efficiencies that will benefit everyone in the company. There will be more information as this project develops.

5. In an effort to create a more service oriented approach by IT, there are several things of which to be proud. Your IT support team is really focused on creating a better help experience. They are also trying hard to plan for and communicate the plan for IT support and help over holidays and weekends. Finally, there is a large effort to provide support and help to our job site offices and divisions. Your IT team is really touched by this effort so far as they have very positive responses. It has even sparked a discussion about collaboration with our London office and the SXP team when providing jobsite setup services.

I encourage you to reach out to your IT team for help and advice regarding technology. Also please provide honest feedback regarding your experiences as we continue this journey of improvement.
Three years ago, Robins & Morton started a journey that would revolutionize the way we do business both in our operational support and in the field. This shift, Building Forward, would lead to a core leadership team, a committee, the development of champions, and an unprecedented, grassroots campaign for efficiency and improved culture, spreading across the company and to our project partners. While we could recount the progress we’ve made so far, this year, we’re doing something different – we’re looking forward to one of Building Forward’s most significant milestones yet.

In March 2019, we’ll be hosting the first ever Building Forward Connect. This two-day event will bring all Robins & Morton employees together in Orlando, Florida, for a conference-style event sharing best practices, success stories and lessons learned. Our employees are invited to register for booths – with your current department, current project or past projects – to share your journey in an expo format. Another way employees are invited to participate is by submitting a speaking abstract for various TED-talk-style breakout sessions. Although this event is focused on the enrichment of Robins & Morton employees, we will have booths and speakers from industry peers, technology partners, trade contractors and more. Please consider the contacts you may have outside of the company that exemplify Building Forward ideals and pass along the following booth and speaker forms to them, located on the Building Forward HUB page. Once your team, or your contacts complete the forms, send them to BFConnect@robinsmorton.com by the September 10 deadline.

Aside from sessions with subject matter experts, and the opportunity to share what you’ve learned with others, there will be downtime to enjoy what Orlando has to offer.

CRAFT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM GRADUATES INAUGURAL CLASS

Robins & Morton held a graduation ceremony on July 27 in celebration of the individuals that completed Robins & Morton’s Craft Mentorship Program, now formally recognized as the Rocky McMichen Field Leadership Program. The ceremony and luncheon took place at one of Robins & Morton’s McMichen Field Leadership Program. The ceremony and luncheon took place at one of Robins & Morton’s completed projects, the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Mountain Brook, Alabama, and ended with each member of the program’s inaugural class receiving a promotion to either a Foreman or Assistant Superintendent position.

The Rocky McMichen Field Leadership Program is a 15-month course that begins with an application process, and once trainees are accepted, they participate in a detailed training program to transition them into a management position within the company.

“Robins & Morton is committed to offering our craft workers the best training programs to further their career and personal development. Like the rest of our industry, we are challenged with attracting and retaining qualified skilled trade and craft workers,” Recruiting Manager Josh Campbell said. “Robins & Morton recognizes the value of each and every person within our company. We also recognize the fact that many of our employees, at all levels, have the desire, potential, and capacity to grow. In order to foster the growth of our craft employees and our company, we offer this program.”

Throughout the duration of the program, participants complete a variety of tasks to be eligible for graduation, such as five, three-day classroom training sessions, the completion of at least 40 on-the-job training tasks, 15 structured mentor-trainee experiences, six mentorship checkpoints and a final exam. Throughout the completion of these tasks, trainees gain managerial skills and learn more about construction project management outside of their specific trade.

Although the hope of the program is to offer craft workers a career growth track, long-term opportunities, and to fill the company’s most in-demand roles, the creation of the program is part of an ongoing effort to combat the increasing lack of skilled labor in the construction industry.

“The Craft Mentorship Program is a great opportunity for dedicated craft workers to grow within the company,” Trainer Erik Walls said. “This program gives qualified employees without college degrees the opportunity to earn a management position.”

With a preliminary event for everyone in town on the evening of Thursday, March 7, the conference will officially begin on March 8 with a practitioner breakfast and last until midday Saturday, March 9.

This is the first of many updates between now and the event, but we encourage you to block your calendars and begin planning for a fantastic few days of learning and spending time with your co-workers. Now through the event, we’ll be using #BFConnect2019 on all of our social media and Yammer posts to categorize all messages. To locate past emails, please visit the Building Forward HUB page’s News and Announcements. There will also be abbreviated informational posts on Yammer – just search #BFConnect2019. For any and all questions regarding the Building Forward Connect, please send them to BFConnect@robinsmorton.com.
Several Robins & Morton job sites and offices participated in Associated Builders and Contractors of the Carolinas’ Students’ Hands-On Experience Day (S.O.H.O.D) on April 25 at Caryl High School in Cary, North Carolina. The S.O.H.O.D competition allows high school students to draft students to compete in a shed design and build competition. Upon completion, the sheds are auctioned off and the proceeds are used to support ABC Carolinas’ Schools to Careers initiative as well as support a scholarship for students to attend trade, vocational, or construction-related programs.

On May 5, Robins & Morton team members attended and sponsored Gaston Hospice’s Night of a Thousand Stars Gala. The event was held at the Carolina Hospitality Center in Gastonia, North Carolina, to raise funds that pay for the care patients receive at the Robin Johnson Hospice House. However, the event served an even greater purpose, as it was dedicated to the life of Ron Overby, who founded the event as a way to give back to Gaston Hospice for the care his wife Susan received during her illness.

The Robins & Morton Charlotte team both attended and sponsored the Southeastern Health Foundation’s Saving for Good Health, an annual golf tournament that provides local students the opportunity to gain knowledge and learn skills through funding for medical, nursing, and allied health scholarships for regional residents. The event raised over $16,000 for the Southeastern Health Foundation and 22 teams competed in the 26th annual tournament on May 5 at Firecrest Country Club in Lumberton, North Carolina.

On May 18, members of Robins & Morton’s John Sealy Hospital renovation team served a barbecue dinner to several families at the Ronald McDonald House of Galveston.

On April 25, at Caryl High School in Cary, North Carolina, the Hope Center team renovated and donated group bathrooms to Tidelands Health Foundation in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In April, the Charlotte team attended the Tidelands Health Foundation Gala.

Members of Robins & Morton’s Woodford College Richardson Athletic Building Renovation team renovated space for the Hope Center for Children in Spartanburg, South Carolina, on June 2. The team’s special project included a total upgrade of the Hope Center’s group bathrooms.

On June 9, Robins & Morton’s Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Multi-Tenant Center project team partnered with local Boy Scout, Jack Cooper, to build doghouses for the Cherokee Dog Sanctuary. The team helped the Boy Scout with both labor and materials, which allowed the completion of more than 25 dog houses in a single day.

On May 2, the Robins & Morton Charlotte team both attended and sponsored Gaston Hospice’s Night of a Thousand Stars Gala. The event was held at the Carolina Hospitality Center in Gastonia, North Carolina, to raise funds that pay for the care patients receive at the Robin Johnson Hospice House. However, the event served an even greater purpose, as it was dedicated to the life of Ron Overby, who founded the event as a way to give back to Gaston Hospice for the care his wife Susan received during her illness.

On April 10 in Charlotte, North Carolina, more than 2,000 children learned how their hard work and teamwork contributed to their communities and the likelihood that they will become key leaders in the years to come. Please join us in congratulating the Robs & Hunter team on receiving this highly-competitive award.

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ATRIUM HEALTH’S CHS NORTHEAST MODERNIZATION TOPS OUT
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA
Robins & Morton and Atrium Health’s Carolinas HealthCare System Northeast Modernization project as part of their Structures of Everyday class.

ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL BREAKS GROUND
TAMPA, FLORIDA
Robins & Morton celebrated the groundbreaking of the new St. Joseph’s Hospital expansion project alongside BayCare, St. Joseph’s Hospital, HOK Architects, and Carasbro Construction on April 18 in Tampa, Florida. The expansion will include a new six-story tower, a new two-story lobby, two patient care floors with 30 private patient rooms on each floor and a connecting bridge to St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital. In addition, this project will include one floor for mechanical support and will connect to several floors in the existing facility. The project is slated for completion in late 2019.

ARCADIA TRAILS INTTEGRIS CENTER FOR RECOVERY CELEBRATES TOPPING OUT
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
On June 12, the last steel beam went into place at the Arcadia Trail INTEGRIS Center for Addiction Recovery in Edmond, Oklahoma. Robins & Morton celebrated alongside INTEGRIS Health on this milestone. The 60,000-square-foot, world-class treatment facility located on the INTEGRIS Health Edmond campus is expected to be completed in April 2019.

SOUTHSIDE EMERGENCY CENTER OPENS
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VIRGINIA
On July 6, Robins & Morton celebrated the official opening of Southside Emergency Care Center Location with a ribbon cutting ceremony in Colonial Heights, Virginia. The 12,000-square-foot facility features 10 exam rooms, diagnostic imaging and lab services, and its completion has created more than 30 new jobs for the community.

ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL EXPANSION
TAMPA, FLORIDA
Robins & Morton celebrated the groundbreaking of the new St. Joseph’s Hospital expansion project alongside BayCare, St. Joseph’s Hospital, HOK Architects, and Carasbro Construction on April 18 in Tampa, Florida. The expansion will include a new six-story tower, a new two-story lobby, two patient care floors with 30 private patient rooms on each floor and a connecting bridge to St. Joseph’s Women’s Hospital. In addition, this project will include one floor for mechanical support and will connect to several floors in the existing facility. The project is slated for completion in late 2019.

UNC CHARLOTTE TOURS CHS NORTHEAST
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA
On April 3 and April 16, Robins & Morton and Wright McGraw Beyer Architects gave twenty-five students from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s School of Architecture a tour of Atrium Health’s Carolinas HealthCare System Northeast Modernization project as part of their Structures of Everyday class.

CHOCTAW POTEAU WELLNESS CENTER HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
In May, Robins & Morton celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Choctaw Nation’s new Wellness Center in Poteau, Oklahoma. This 12,000-square-foot building now features top of the line fitness equipment, various fitness classes, personal training, assessments and counseling.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS RESCUE SCENARIOS AT CHS NORTHEAST
CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA
In July, the Concord Fire Department came to Atrium Health’s Carolinas HealthCare System Northeast Modernization project to conduct rescue scenarios. One was the rescue of the tower crane operator and the other was a rescue from the bed tower using a stokes basket. For both the bed tower and tower crane scenarios, it was a long way to the top, but the CFD successfully and fearlessly executed both.

HARRAH’S CHEROKEE VALLEY RIVER MULTI-TAINMENT CENTER OPENS
MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA
Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Casino, construction/design teams, and guests celebrated the grand opening of the new bowling and entertainment center addition on July 18 in Murphy, North Carolina. The 41,000-square-foot Ultrastar Multi-tainment Center at Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Casino brings a bowling center with 16 lanes and a 2,200-square-foot arcade to the Murphy area for family-friendly activities. On the opposite side, the addition also houses the casino’s first full-service restaurant, with a nearly 260-seat capacity. Two bars were included in the new construction, one to service the bowling center, the other near the restaurant to service both waiting restaurant guests and gaming participants. There are also 24 new Tesla charging stations added to the parking lot for guest use.

Robins & Morton served as the general contractor and Brunswick® Bowling Products of Muskegon, Michigan, served as the construction manager. The facility opened to the public on July 24 and will be managed by Ultrastar Multi-tainment Centers of Phoenix, Arizona.

SAINT THOMAS MEDICAL PARTNERS, BELLEVUE CELEBRATES RIBBON CUTTING
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
On June 25, Robins & Morton celebrated the ribbon cutting of our Saint Thomas Health Bellevue project in Nashville, Tennessee. Robins & Morton performed the tenant buildout of the 16,000-square-foot, three-story physicians office building.

HALIFAX HEALTH DELTONA TOPS OUT
DELTONA, FLORIDA
Halifax Health, Adams, Robins & Morton, HKS Architects and honored guests joined together to celebrate the structural topping out of the Halifax Health Medical Center of Deltona hospital located in Deltona, Florida, on August 10.

The new 190,000-square-foot community hospital is an addition to the current free-standing emergency department. The hospital will initially include 42 inpatient beds, with the infrastructure to easily fit out another 48 beds as the community’s needs may require. The hospital will also include a surgery center, operating suites, and a comprehensive imaging center including MRI, CT, X-ray, mammogram and ultrasound. The hospital’s design will reflect a Lean approach to provide improved operational efficiencies. The community hospital addition is scheduled to be completed in December 2019.

“As expected, Robins & Morton is on schedule and within budget as we top out the Halifax Health Medical Center of Deltona project. Their expertise and knowledge of the healthcare building industry has shown through their excellent project leadership.” Jacob Nagib, Director of Engineering, Design and Construction at Halifax Health, said.

“With the CFD successfully and fearlessly executed both operational scenarios, it’s clear our safety culture is world-class.” 

“We are thrilled with the result and want to thank every member of the construction team.” 

“Harrah’s and our clients had a great day at the bowling center and the response was fantastic.”
In May, Robins & Morton attended the Associated Builders and Contractors’ annual Safe Day Awards at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. Beginning at 8 a.m., the event featured an exhibition and speakers, concluding with the Safest in the Industry Awards luncheon.

During the awards luncheon, Robins & Morton received the Safety Training Evaluation Process (STEP) Diamond Award, the highest honor in the STEP Awards program. Shortly thereafter, Robins & Morton also received an Innovation in Safety Award for enterprise-wide safety meetings.