

COLE TAKES HIS TURN IN THE SPOTLIGHT



ARTIE COLE

As one of the longest-serving pioneers of the company, Arthur “Artie” Cole, vice president of technical services for Wheelabrator, has worked for 35 years to invent and improve waste-to-energy systems.

Cole began working for Wheelabrator in 1977 when he joined the maintenance department in Saugus, during the plant’s start-up. Eleven years later, he was promoted to New England regional manager for maintenance. In 1993, he was named director of plant engineering, then vice president of plant engineering in 1998; vice president of maintenance and plant services in 2001; and vice president of technical services in 2007.

“I would do all over again,” said Cole. “I wouldn’t even think twice about it. I love the challenges.”

Today, as vice president of technical services, Cole oversees plant engineering for all of the plants. His duties include: overseeing troubleshooting tactics, equipment modifications and retrofits and managing multi-year R&M strategies to level spending while improving plant performance. In the past three decades with the company, Cole has been granted seven U.S. patents in the areas of refuse combustion and air pollution control systems.

“My job is to go around the plants constantly looking at the issues causing problems and determine where we can make improvements and design new systems,” said Cole. “The technology has evolved and we’re constantly designing new systems, and improving old patents, to keep up with the technology. I’ve always liked to make things work better. I truly do wake up excited to go to work every day.”

“Artie does so much for so many people,” said Wheelabrator President Mark Weidman. “He’s been a great friend, a great mentor and a great advisor to me. He constantly challenges us to think about things differently, and if there’s one thing he’s passionate about, it’s not the boilers, but the employees. He’s the best advocate because he cares so deeply and will always be the voice of everyone who works here.”

Cole, who grew up working on his family’s hog farm in Peabody, Mass., is a graduate of Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute in Danvers, Mass.

“That’s where I developed my mechanical aptitude and passion for fixing things,” Cole said. “There’s a lot of mechanics and engineering involved in agriculture.”

In 2008, Cole was honored by the Waste-To-Energy Research & Technology (WTER) Council at Columbia University with its 2008 Outstanding Contribution Award. He is a member of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors and Shriners of North America.

Nearly a decade ago, Cole developed a recognition program that compliments Waste Management’s service awards program for 5-year milestones. Every employee who reaches the 25-year milestone is presented with the coveted “Garbage Man” statue, previously only awarded to retiring presidents and CEOs of Wheelabrator. Cole has presented 117 awards since the inception of the program, and will give out another 37 next year.

“It started out very small, but that club is growing,” said Cole. “The award signifies our employees’ dedication and sense of innovation. Innovation made this company what it was then and what it is now, and they will continue to be the innovators of tomorrow.”

FOUR EMPLOYEES, 110 YEARS

Jose Almeida Wheelabrator Saugus, 35 years

In 1972, Jose “Joe” Almeida emigrated to the U.S from Portugal, carving himself a new path, a new home and a new life. He worked in various positions in the construction and meat packaging industries before joining Wheelabrator in July of 1977.

“It’s very familiar, like a family,” continued Almeida. “It’s good to work with some of the same people for so long.”

Hired as a laborer, Almeida now serves as a mobile equipment operator. Witnessing changes within the company in the last 35 years, he is impressed with the current state of operations.

“There have been a lot of changes, structurally and operationally, to improve this plant,” he said. “And safety has certainly been improved. You can feel much more comfortable about going to work every day.”



Kevin Travis Wheelabrator North Broward 25 years

The course of mechanic Kevin Travis’ career has spanned two coastlines over two decades, but his dedication to Wheelabrator and Waste Management has remained constant.

Travis, hired by WM in 1987, originally worked for WM Recycle America in California before transferring to Broward County, where he started out at Southern Sanitation, a WM facility in Pompano Beach. In 1993, Travis was hired by Wheelabrator North Broward during the plant’s infancy stage. He started as a fourth-class mechanic and has since worked his way up to become a first-class mechanic.

“I’ve seen this facility evolve and get better all the time,” said Travis. “It feels good to be here for a while. It’s like being the historian.”



James Brakewood Wheelabrator Bridgeport 25 years

James Brakewood remembers the earliest stages of Wheelabrator Bridgeport’s history, as a member of the construction crew.

“At the time they were building the place, I helped out on construction,” he said. “I had done mechanical work before, shipbuilding on the West Coast and was in the Navy before that, so it was something I was interested in. It’s been great being here this long and seeing the improvements to the plant.”

Brakewood was hired in November of 1987 and worked as a second-class mechanic before being promoted to lead mechanic.



Ganeesh Siewrattan Wheelabrator South Broward 25 years

After 25 years at Wheelabrator, Ganeesh Siewrattan, operations manager at the South Broward plant, still continues to challenge himself every day.

Originally from Trinidad, Siewrattan got his start at a refinery in Louisiana before he was hired as a control operator at Wheelabrator’s Bridgeport plant. After three years in Bridgeport, he transferred to South Broward during the plant’s construction in 1990. Siewrattan has worked as shift supervisor and operations superintendent and was promoted to operations manager five years ago. He prides himself on the fact that he never misses a work day.

“I’ve been working in plants since I was 19 years old,” said Siewrattan. “It’s not only my hobby, it’s my home.”



Inside Wheelabrator



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FOCUS ON VETERAN EMPLOYEES



Joe Braga of Saugus, left, is thanked by Regional Manager Jairaj Gosine, far right, and Wheelabrator President Mark Weidman.

Long-time employees honored

As Wheelabrator approaches 40 years in business, the senior leadership team is celebrating the employees who have made the company the success it is today.

Of the approximately 1,000 workers employed by Wheelabrator, 50 have been or will be honored this year for reaching exceptional milestones—20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. Another six were honored for their 36–37 years of service.

“Everyone at Wheelabrator can take pride in the fact that we have been a pioneer in the waste-to-energy industry for more than 35 years, and we continue to grow our business as we expand to new markets, both here and abroad. The only reason we’ve been able to thrive and grow is because of the job you do,” said Wheelabrator President Mark Weidman, while visiting the Saugus plant for a recognition ceremony. “All of you are working to make this plant better tomorrow than we were today and better next year than we were this year. I’m so happy with the work you do and the continuous improvements you’re making.”

Because the Saugus plant was the first of

Wheelabrator’s 17 waste-to-energy facilities to open, a majority of the honorees began their careers together in Saugus. Construction of the plant began in the spring of 1973, and the first boiler fire was lit on Oct. 22, 1975, making the plant a landmark as the first commercially successful waste-to-energy facility in the nation.

“The vision and tenacity needed to overcome a seemingly endless series of obstacles to launch the waste-to-energy industry in North America serves as the foundation of the Wheelabrator culture,” said Weidman. “Your refusal to quit and your extraordinary ability to adapt, share and teach your knowledge from lessons learned have set the stage for the success we’ve had over the years.”

“More than any other group, you understand what it took to build this company,” said Artie Cole, vice president of technical services. “The founders of this company believed in it and they believed in us, and you understand the pride that comes from working for one of the leading companies in the waste-to-energy industry.”



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TWO OF A KIND: BRUCE & WARREN MANNING



Howard “Bruce” Manning, far right, and Warren Manning, third from left, have dedicated 37 years of service to Wheelabrator Technologies.

Brothers are Wheelabrator originals

In 1975, Howard “Bruce” and Warren Manning broke new ground as part of the founding team of Wheelabrator Saugus, rolling out a new form of renewable energy production in Massachusetts, the country and the world. “I see a lot of faces from 30 to 35 years ago,” said Bruce, who was hired as an assistant plant operator in Saugus and was later promoted to regional vice president. “It was a lot of work, but it’s quite a company, and I’m very glad for the experience.” Warren, who now serves as maintenance planner at Wheelabrator Saugus, was hired as an ash truck driver. He took the position at the suggestion of his brother.

“We had the opportunity to work with the people who built this place,” said Warren. “The company got to where it is today in big part because of the people here at this plant, people like Dan Madigan (who served as chief engineer and plant manager). We learned a lot.” Outside of their family ties, the Mannings have created strong bonds with the many other employees who have remained dedicated to Wheelabrator. “When you’re here this long, you work with a lot of great people,” said Warren. “A lot of guys have been here since the beginning, and it looks like the new guys coming in are here to stay, too.”

VETERAN EMPLOYEES: HONORED FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES OF SERVICE

37 years

Howard Manning
Warren Manning

36 years

Manuel Bairos
Jose Braga
Steven Cacciola
Richard Zwicker

35 years

Jose Almeida
Roger Anderson
Arthur Cole
Jose Moura

34 years

Jeffrey Bushek
Gary Rafeal
Raymond Soulard

33 years

Roger Murray

32 years

Paul Allen

31 years

James Alderson
David Cole
Robert Soulard

30 years

Thomas Kelly

29 years

Alfred Confalone
John Huntoon
Frederick Lodini
Kenneth Phillips

28 years

Arthur Campbell
Bruno Campea
Victor Johnson
Donald Kowalewski
Harry Rectanus
Susan Schwartz
Timothy Shay
Michael Shepherd
Andre Smith
Allan Trout

27 years

Ruben Allen
James Blankenship
Peter Brazeau
Kenneth Davis
James Doherty
Barbara Dombrowski
William Fournier
Hope Freeman
Jerry Haight

Patrick Hayes
Clarence Hickey
Wendell Jackson
Melvin Lastinger
Kenneth Leatherwood
John Lee
Howard McKnight
George Mulhorn
Robert Richardson
Jose Seco
Manuel Seco
James Smith
David Tooley
Robert Venuto
David Waldrep
John Williams

26 years

Brett Baker
John Butts
Richard Falk
Charles Ferguson
John Garrett



Wheelabrator North Andover recipients of the coveted Garbage Man Award for 25 years of service: Jose Resendes, Manuel Andrade, Luis Medeiros and John Peltonovich.

25 years

Debra Gerber
Maureen Harrington
Fred Ludwig
Michael Macedo
Antonio Moreira
Sandra Nickerson
Suzanne Nydam
Stephen Pawelski
Timothy Porter
Arthur Posey

Manuel Andrade
Ray Ante
William Barker
Richard Bennett
Christopher Bishop
Jose Braga
James Brakewood
Charles Conklin

William Cooper
Frank Daniels
David Duvall
Thomas Ellis
John Horgan
Luis Medeiros
John Peltonovich
Anthony Philippino
Jose Resendes
Charles Reynolds

William Roberts
Roger Sabourin
Linda Sapienza
Ganeesh Siewrattan
Stanley Silun
Mike Strait
Kevin Travis
Edward White
Greg Winter

24 years

Douglas Andres
Stanley Bartlett
Edward Bertges
Jose Bolarinho
Steven Brown
Michael Burt
Michael Connor
Manuel Dacosta
John Duke
Fred Greenwood
Karen Hanks
Joseph Hardy
Todd Hasty
Roma Hays
Jeremiah Laing
Charles Lefler
Joseph Linko
William McLaughlin
Barbary Meaney

Mark Minarchick
Donald Nipper
Stanley Nunes
Frank Onorato
Douglas Reed
John Robertson
Jaime Rodriguez
Ronald Rose
Luis Rullan
Andrew Salva
Mark Schwartz
David Slack
Lucia Sousa
Walter Sweet
Michael Tomasko
Carl Wagner
Thomas Wells
Willie Williams

23 years

Lawrence Adams
Timothy Armitage
Elaine Arrington
David Beavens
Curtis Blackmore
Edward Burrus
Tony Clark
Mitchell Clifford
Carl Clingenpeel
Michael Daneau
Connie Dewitt
Mark Frasca
Robert Jacques
Matthew Killeen
John LaRiviere
Adam Levine
Christopher Lill
Roy McCormick

Anthony Morzello
David Parker
Daniel Parkinson
Daniel Rivera
Mark Santella
Glenn Vanleer
Robert Waldo
Georgann Weir
Thomas Wilkes
Kenneth Yurkonis
Bruce Zinck

22 years

Gary Aguinaga
Robert Baker
James Batten
Jay Berry
Allen Cunningham
Raymond Delfing
Steven Dietz
Frank Ehler
Scott Emerson
Charles Faller
Jessie Fuller-Vaughan
Patrick Hesson
Gary Hodges
Edward Jones
Gregory Krause
Christopher Leyen
Mark Lyons
Bobby McAdoo

Devon Morgan
Joseph Motley
Peter Murphy
Thomas O’Connor
Daniel Robertson
Darnell Robinson
Ludwig Saenz
Carl Smith
David Smith
Kenneth Sparrow
Bruce Squires
Floyd Stanley
John Warischalk
Mark Weidman
Raymond Wesley

Morrison Bahaw
Dennis Barnes
Boyd Barney
David Belk
Robert Brynes
Dale Bulman
David Bussiere
Thomas Byrd
Jorge Cabral
Andres Cuesta
Rudolph Daley
Dwight Davey
Michael Detwiler
Ronald Gould
David Harrell
Frank Harris
Terrance Harrison
Riki Hashimoto

Maurice Holcomb
Michael Huntington
Sharon Hutsell
Adrian Johnson
Bobby Johnson
Gregg LeClair
Raymond Lewis
Ricardo Lim
Glenn Lockhart
Scott Matthews
Daniel McDonald
James McRae
Robert Miller
Davide Moody
Michael O’Friel
Reinaldo Pena
Robert Rossi
Winfield Schmitt

21 years

Stephen Sibinich
Larry Simpson
Duane Slonaker
William Sohosky
Clifton Stoddart
Thomas Toole
Mary Vangile
Steven Voigt
Scott Waddleton
George Wyatt
Jamie Ybarra

20 years

Mark Berlin
Gregory Berry
Ralph Bovee
Charles Brown
Christopher Carey
Wanda Cristiano
Gerald Dangelico
Daniel Dubinski
Roger Durkin
Gary Kennedy
Lisa Kowalski
Jerry Perkins
Richard Petty
Christopher Stallard
Jose Tirado
Tien Tran
Michelle Turcotte
Donald Weldon