



Staff photo by Kevin Harnack

ON THE LEVEL | ANNE ANDERSON

# Finding fulfillment beyond numbers

## Mead & Hunt engineer taps new capabilities

**Jessica Stephen**

Special to The Daily Reporter

Some days, Anne Anderson can't believe her luck.

"When I'm out in the field watching a project be constructed," she said, "I often think to myself, 'This is awesome! This is my job!'"

Her appreciation for her work, both as an engineer and as a stormwater design specialist, has evolved during her 11 years at Middleton-based Mead & Hunt Inc.

"My enjoyment started with the math and the equations," Anderson said. "I've always been inquisitive, and I love to learn. I have an appetite for facts, more of the concrete subjects. And math was something I excelled at. I enjoyed the equations and predictable results."

One thing that's changed, she said, is how she views her role.

"As a young engineer ... I looked at things in a little more competitive light, perhaps," Anderson said. "I viewed myself as more of a calculator. But that has really changed into, and I never would have imagined it, more of a people-focused career."

Today, Anderson said she finds fulfillment in her interactions with colleagues, clients and projects.

"I view my role as more of a leader," she said. "I've learned to appreciate

personality differences and find ways to utilize everyone's talents. I enjoy hearing from clients, really listening to them and solving their problems. Sometimes, that's me looking for the solution and, sometimes, that's me communicating that to someone else.

"I really enjoy looking at who's the best fit for this project. And that may or may not be me."

And, if she is the right person for the project, it may not be as an engineer.

"Sometimes, I function as a project manager," she said. "Some days, I'm a stormwater engineer. And, other days, I'm a civil engineer. Working in the consulting business, you're never doing the same thing every day."

Whatever her role, Anderson said, she appreciates the opportunity to be part of something so tangible.

"There's something about seeing your project come to life," she said.

"You really can't go anywhere without seeing civil engineering infrastructure in buildings or the roads that take you to those buildings. I just have a strong connection to that. It means something to me. And my specialization in stormwater water management makes me feel like I'm making a difference."

**The Daily Reporter:** When you have a bad day, what keeps you coming back to work?

**Anne Anderson:** I'd have to say the clients and the people I work with.

**TDR:** What is the most useful thing you've learned since starting your job?

**Anderson:** Learning to work with people just by being a good listener and learning how to make everyone know that their ideas are valued.

**TDR:** What do you miss most about your childhood?

**Anderson:** Summer vacation and starting new each school year.

**TDR:** How would your mother describe you in one word?

**Anderson:** Dedicated.

**TDR:** What is the one luxury item you cannot live without?

**Anderson:** To me, it depends on how you define luxury. I could consider my iPad a luxury item. I don't have a lot of luxury things. I'm more of a basic type personality. I'm just not one to indulge in things. That's just not me.

**TDR:** What was your first concert?

**Anderson:** I'm gonna answer this question differently than most people. It was probably a choir concert that I did in elementary school as a child, one I performed in.

**TDR:** What song is in heavy rotation for you right now?

**Anderson:** It's probably a tie between what's on the radio right now and some children's music that I play to keep my daughter happy while we're running around.

**TDR:** What do you consider your biggest achievement?

**Anderson:** This is definitely on the personal side of my life. It would be adopting our daughter this last year, and the reason why is it took a very long time and it was a trying process. I don't try to add the time up but, it probably took close to five years. I never knew waiting could be so hard, but it was worth it.