

June 2011

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Professional Builder®



 **SGC HORIZON**
a Scranton Gillette
Communications company

**Professional
Builder**

CELEBRATING

75
YEARS

40 UNDER

A former college running back turned green builder, a licensed psychologist who is helping New Orleans rebuild and modernize after Katrina, and a Lean-process guru who is leading one of the nation's fastest-growing home-building companies — these accomplished professionals are among *Professional Builder's* inaugural 40 Under 40 class. The 40 individuals featured on the following pages represent some of the brightest stars in the home-building industry — and they're under the age of 40. We proudly present the home-building industry's next generation of leadership.

By David Barista, Editor-in-Chief



The Honor Roll

Craig Antonelli, pg. 34

President
Antonelli Construction, Antonelli Development, and Antonelli Storage Facility, Fairport, N.Y.

Brian Baker, pg. 33

Owner, VP, marketing and design
Baker Development Group,
Studio26 Homes, Renu Building
and Energy Solutions,
Orefield, Pa.

Tony Barbee, pg. 39

President, Indianapolis/
Cleveland Division
PulteGroup, Carmel, Ind.

Jason Barbera, pg. 35

Owner, general contractor
Sweetwater Homes and Sweetwater Remodel Group, Culleoka, Tenn.

Steve Bertasso, pg. 39

Assistant professor, senior associate
Middle Tennessee State University,
Murfreesboro, Tenn., and TrueNorth Development, Northville, Mich.

Steve Bontje, pg. 39

Marketing manager
Laebon Developments,
Red Deer County,
Alberta, Canada

Jesse Boucher, pg. 36

President
Kodiak Construction, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Brian Conaway, pg. 33

President
Conaway Homes,
Whitehouse, Texas

George Davis, pg. 35

President
ProBuilt Homes, Mentor, Ohio

Abe Degnan, pg. 32

President
Degnan Design Builders,
DeForest, Wis.

Eric Drivdahl, pg. 34

Senior project manager
Gelotte Hommas Architecture,
Bellevue, Wash.

Michael Fratantoni, pg. 37

President, co-owner
Desert Sky Development,
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Jay Gillilan, pg. 35

President, New Mexico and
Colorado divisions
PulteGroup, Albuquerque, N.M.

Doug Griffith, pg. 34

Purchasing manager
Winchester Homes, Bethesda, Md.

Jeff Grundahl, pg. 36

President
JG Development,
Blue Mounds, Wis.

Rick Hendel, pg. 38

Owner
Hendel Homes and Hendel Construction, Wayzata, Minn.

C.R. Herro, pg. 33

VP, environmental affairs
Meritage Homes, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Matthew Hufft, pg. 37

Founder, president, creative
director Hufft Projects, MAKE Studios, Edwin Blue, Kansas City, Mo.

Douglas Kallfelz, pg. 34

Principal
Donald Powers Architects,
Providence, R.I.

John Kirksey, Jr., pg. 36

Partner
ZK Homes and Zieben Kirksey Development, Houston

Chris Kornman, pg. 33

President
Southern Homes, Slidell, La.

Nicholas Lust, pg. 38

Director, project management,
project engineering
Custom Builder Systems,
Professional Building Systems,
Middleburg, Pa.

Nicole Murray, pg. 38

VP, community development
FieldStone Homes, Irvine, Calif.

Ben Passyn, pg. 32

Owner
American Craftsman Construction,
Easton, Md.

Giles Patterson, pg. 35

Executive VP
Fischer Homes,
Crestview Hills, Ky.

Joshua Peterson, pg. 36

CFO, executive VP
Wathan Castanos Hybrid Homes,
Fresno, Calif.

Brandon Rogalski, pg. 32

Senior project manager
Norcon Inc., Chicago

Nate Schoen, pg. 38

President
Custom Builder Management Solutions, Bridgewater Consulting LLC, Beaufort, S.C.

Saun Sullivan, pg. 38

Partner
DSLDC LLC, Denham Springs, La.

Mark Tangen, pg. 37

Division president
Rausch Coleman Homes,
Grandview, Mo.

Nick Thompson, pg. 39

VP, operations
Thompson Home Inc.,
Owensboro, Ky.

Chad Tschetter, pg. 33

VP, operations
Ryland Homes, Houston

Michael Waldron, pg. 37

Owner, president
Waldron Builders and Titan Mechanical Contracting, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Evan Weiss, pg. 35

Owner, CEO
Weiss Custom Home Corporation and Carolina Classic Remodeling, Charlotte, N.C.

Monica Wheaton, pg. 37

CEO
Builder Partnerships, Littleton, Colo.

Brett Whitehead, pg. 32

President
Brandywine Homes, Irvine, Calif.

Dan Whitehurst, pg. 34

President
Clark Turner Development,
Baltimore, Md.

Shannon Wilson-Chandler, pg. 39

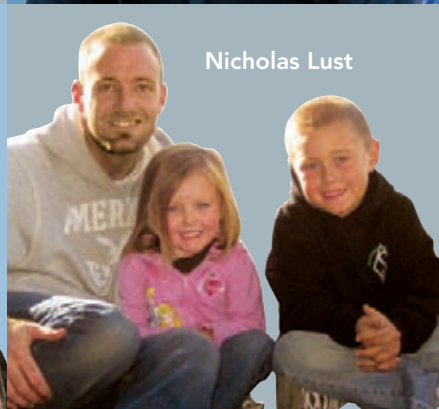
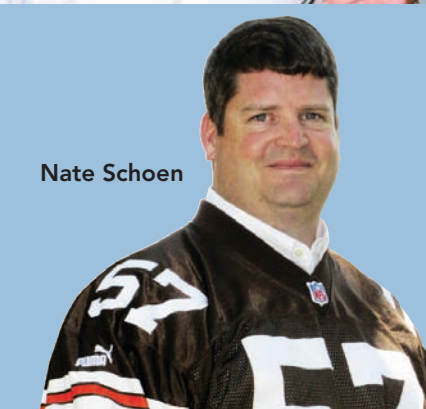
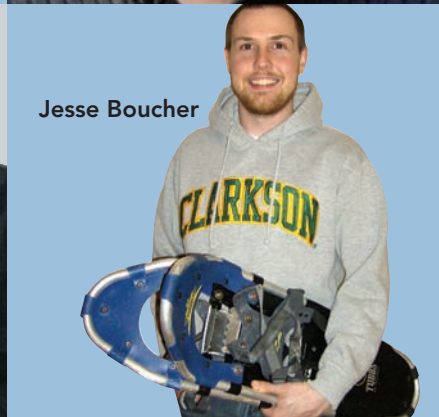
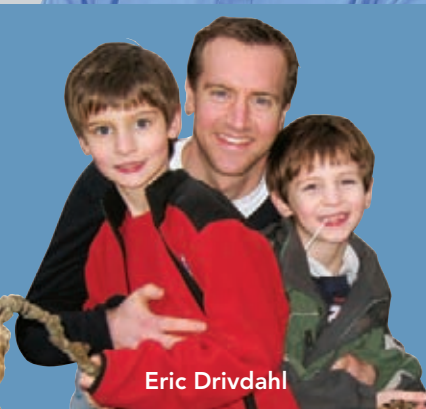
New home sales consultant
Royal Oaks Building Group,
Raleigh, N.C.

Amber Wood, pg. 32

Manager, energy programs
NAHB Research Center, Upper Marlboro, Md.

Lee Zieben, pg. 36

Partner
ZK Homes and Zieben Kirksey Development, Houston



Brett Whitehead

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Eric Drivdahl

Evan Weiss

Jeff Grundahl

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John Kirksey, Jr.

Joshua Peterson

Michael Waldron

Monica Wheaton

Nate Schoen

Nicholas Lust

Steve Bertasso

Steve Bontje

Tony Barbee

Nick Thompson



Brian Baker, 34

OWNER, VP OF MARKETING AND DESIGN, BAKER DEVELOPMENT GROUP, STUDIO26 HOMES, RENU BUILDING AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS, OREFIELD, PA.

EDUCATION

BA, Lehigh University; MArch, University of Maryland

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

LEED AP, Certified Green Professional, Certified Building Analyst, Certified Energy Rater

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Co-founded green, high-performance custom-home design-build firm and green remodeling

and energy auditing company at age 28

Built first LEED For Homes Silver-certified home in Pennsylvania and one of the first NAHB National

Green Building Program-certified homes

Two-time Green Built Home Award winner

(2009, 2010), Lehigh Valley Builders Association

Building Innovation Award, Pennsylvania

Builders Association (2007)

OFF THE CLOCK

Fave dish: lobster macaroni and cheese at

Ocean in Easton, Pa.

Hobbies include traveling (Hawaii tops destination list), golf, and fantasy sports

SECRET LIFE

Rushed for over 1,000 yards as a sophomore at Lehigh University

Starred as an extra in the Chris Rock/Bernie Mac movie, "Head of State"

Father helped design line-pipe steel for the Alaskan Pipeline



Brian Conaway, 37

PRESIDENT, CONAWAY HOMES, WHITEHOUSE, TEXAS

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Graduate Master Builder

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Expanded family-owned custom home-building company's reach into new markets in east Texas and grew revenue 75 percent

Established trade council to strengthen trade partner relationships

Designed and developed fully automated workflow and process management system

Builder of the Year, Tyler Area Builders Association (2004)

EXTRACURRICULAR

Director, past president, Tyler Area Builders Association

Member, past board member, Texas Association of Builders and NAHB

OFF THE CLOCK

Hobbies include flying (licensed rotorcraft and

single- and multi-engine pilot), fireworks (holds a class B pyrotechnic license), snow skiing, and racing

SECRET LIFE

Organized and chaired HBA committee that set world record for fastest home construction from ground up (2,300-square-foot home in 2:52:29), known as the 2 Hour House

Assisted with fireworks show at grand opening of Dallas Cowboys Stadium



Chad Tschetter, 37

VP, OPERATIONS, RYLAND HOMES, HOUSTON

EDUCATION

BS, Economics and Political Science, University of South Dakota; MBA, University of Texas-Arlington

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Oversees purchasing, estimating, permitting, architectural, design center, construction, and customer service functions for Houston Division

Established quality control and benchmarking

system that helped reduce warranty costs and production time and improved customer service and staff development

As purchasing manager, implemented Lean building measures, reducing direct costs by 7.5 percent and saving more than \$4 million

As superintendent, reduced production time by 41 days

OFF THE CLOCK

Getaway spot: Black Hills or Badlands, S.D.

Hobbies include mountain biking, camping, and baseball (plays for and manages an amateur baseball team)

Fave foods: pizza and cheeseburgers

On the nightstand: "Undaunted Courage" and "The Fountainhead"

SECRET LIFE

Is a reality TV junkie



Chris Kornman, 39

PRESIDENT, SOUTHERN HOMES, SLIDELL, LA.

EDUCATION

BA, Psychology, Emory University; PhD, Psychology, Georgia State University

PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Certified Green Professional, licensed real estate broker

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Launched renovation division in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to help repair flood-

damaged homes; unit now specializes in high-performance, green remodeling projects

Built one of the first homes certified under

NAHB Green Building Guidelines Program

Improved all key customer satisfaction metrics, including willingness to refer (from 71 percent to 94 percent)

EXTRACURRICULAR

Member, HBA of Greater New Orleans, NAHB, and National Association of Realtors

OFF THE CLOCK

Makes a mean Sazerac — a local New Orleans bourbon-based drink

Fave foods: shrimp po-boy from R&O's and wife's sugar cookies

Addicted to reality TV, including "Jersey Shore"

SECRET LIFE

He's a licensed psychologist ("When people find out they get worried that I'm psychoanalyzing them while we talk")



C.R. Herro, 40*

VP, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, MERITAGE HOMES, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ.

EDUCATION

BS, Physical and Life Science, Arizona State University; MS, Environmental Policy, Governors State University; PhD, Environmental Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leads firm's Energy Efficiency and Sustainability program, which aims to advance energy-efficiency benchmarks for production home building

Established Meritage Green program to improve

function, operating efficiency, health, and safety

of homes at no added cost to consumers

Helped launch multiple communities that

exceed Energy Star and Building America energy-efficiency goals

EXTRACURRICULAR

RESNET Strategic Positioning Task Force Board member, Energy and Environmental Building Alliance

Technical committee, Leading Builders of America, Best Practices Research Alliance

OFF THE CLOCK

Biggest food craving: Tom Yum Gai

Hobbies include sailing (grandfather taught him on 16-foot catamaran)

On the nightstand: "Jonathan Livingston Seagull"

SECRET LIFE

Once caused a rush-hour traffic jam on I-25 in Denver while saving a stray Chihuahua

* WAS UNDER THE AGE OF 40 AT TIME OF APPLICATION