CONSTRUCTION
INNOVATOR

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT | COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN | FALL 2015

LEARN BY DOING
Around The World

Cal Poly
SAN LUIS OBISPO
Welcome to another edition of the Construction Innovator! As I write this letter, we are preparing to welcome another record number of freshmen into the department — more than 110 new students were admitted fall quarter. So, the theme right now is growth as we start climbing back to larger graduating classes of future construction leaders. In the next few pages, you will meet the new faculty and staff hired to handle this growth. We will also introduce you to some of the recent graduates — the winners of last year’s Senior Awards.

We also review with you some of last year’s international initiatives. From building photovoltaic-powered water-pumping systems for remote villages in Ecuador to exchanging places with students in Austria, our students are getting a taste for international cultures and service-learning projects. The department welcomed Barry Jones back from his yearlong service as a Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia, which included time in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Our goal for a while now has been to introduce Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department to the rest of the country. It looks like we’re having some success internationally as well!

Of course we also update you on our students’ accomplishments at regional and national competitions. It has been another record year on that front. Be sure to read about a new celebration of scholarship awards and competition successes, to which you are all invited. Your support allows for all these student opportunities, and we wanted to provide an occasion to celebrate with you and thank you for your contributions in person.

Finally, this issue of the Innovator highlights new initiatives of the California Center for Construction Education (CCCE). The CCCE managed a special pilot internship program this summer that saw 12 students acquiring hands-on experience as apprentice members of the Carpenters’ Union in San Francisco. The program aims to produce better managers familiar with how the trades coordinate to perform their tasks and to develop an appreciation for union construction in our industry. We also included a status update on the new Construction Management Advisory Council and invite all of you to become members of this critical outreach effort.

As always, we hope you will stop by the department any time you are in the area. We appreciate all you do for Cal Poly, and we really want to stay in touch. Please consider adding a note for the next Alumni Update section of the Innovator to let your classmates know where you are today. Hope to see you soon and that you enjoy reading this edition of the Innovator.
The Construction Management (CM) Department’s newly formed advisory council has made steady progress since it was announced in the winter 2015 edition of Construction Innovator (www.construction.calpoly.edu/content/magazine-winter).

The Construction Management Advisory Council (CMAC) works to promote increased alumni involvement, provide additional avenues of interaction with the department, and strengthen connections with industry practitioners.

With the help of new CMAC Executive Secretary Brigette Olmos-Arreola and elected President Mark Montoya (B.S., CM, 1984) the council held its first meeting, enrollment has begun and includes alumni and industry representatives, member benefits have been established, and mixers and job fairs have been scheduled.

“We were very happy with the attendance at our first board meeting” said Olmos-Arreola. “This support from alumni and industry members helps to influence everything from curriculum assessment to new internship opportunities for our students.”

CMAC membership is offered on three levels: Individual Members, Corporate and Association Members, and Legacy Members. Each membership level has its own benefits ranging from early information session registration to attendance at annual dinners. The board also agreed that, upon graduation, CM alumni will be offered one year of free membership.

“The formation of the CMAC is a very exciting and important step forward for the previous CM Advisory Committee,” Montoya said. “The CMAC will serve as an ever-expanding ‘hub’ connecting CM students, faculty, alumni and industry leaders throughout California, the U.S. and around the world.”

For information about CMAC, including membership levels and benefits, visit www.construction.calpoly.edu/content/cmac/index.
In 2015, Cal Poly’s Construction Management (CM) Department launched the Northern California Carpenters Summer Apprentice Pilot Program, an innovative program made possible with the dedicated support and guidance of the Carpenters 46 Northern California Counties, the Construction Employers Association (CEA), and 10 industry partners.

The seeds of the program were planted during discussions at several Construction Management Industry Advisory Committee meetings. “The board was trying to determine how we could help students gain some practical experience in the industry before they graduated,” said Patrick Callahan (B.S., CM, 1975), “I relayed my valuable experience of having been a summer apprentice while a freshman at Cal Poly in 1971.”

Contractors have a reputation for knowing how to get things done, and that was certainly the case in getting the apprentice program up and running.

In March, CM Department Head Al Hauck met with Callahan, senior vice president at Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co.; Michael Walton, an officer with the Construction Employers Association; Bill Feyling, executive director of Carpenters 46; and Bruce Daesking, chief estimator at McGuire and Hester, to decide on the basic parameters of the program. The meeting was so successful that the pilot was slated to launch that summer, provided they could attract enough students.

In preparation, the CM Department collected resumes of interested students and

Program participant Adam Bloomer welcomed an opportunity to learn a trade.
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT STUDENTS GAIN EXPERIENCE IN CARPENTERS SUMMER APPRENTICE PILOT PROGRAM

worked with industry partners to match up students with Bay Area companies. “The companies had to agree to one key stipulation,” Hauck said. “They pledged to hire these students in addition to — not instead of — the number of union workers they would normally bring on the project.”

Ten companies readily agreed, knowing they and the students would reap long-term benefits from such a program. “We at Hathaway Dinwiddie were motivated to participate to develop better-rounded CM students and to help them appreciate what craftsmen really do,” Callahan said. “This process will allow the students to see opportunities in the company and guide decisions as they plan their future careers.”

Benefits extend to the carpenters union as well. “This is an important first step in bringing the college and field track together to build a special kind of project leadership that can meet the increasing demands of our industry,” Feyling said.

Participating students committed to an intensive weeklong training program before starting at their jobsite and 12 weeks of work without time off during summer break. “They became full dues-paying union members subject to all related policies and procedures,” Hauck said. “They were expected to perform apprentice-level work just like their other union counterparts in the field.”

Adam Bloomer and Arya Ghourchian were among the group of 12 students who rose to the challenge. Both students were interested in participating because of the uniqueness of the opportunity. “I wanted to do something different from the typical internship,” Bloomer said. “Plus, my brother is a union plumber, my dad is a contractor, and they told me not to pass this up.”

Ghourchian knew he wanted a hands-on internship, but he was also interested in learning more about the role of a superintendent. “With this program, I got both,” he said. “I learned a trade and gained a better understanding of how things work in the field.”

The pilot program also provided students the opportunity to learn about the wider network of carpenters unions during a two-day field trip to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters International Training Center in Las Vegas, where they learned about ongoing member education, including an emphasis on skills, attitude and productivity.

While many of the benefits are broad in nature, the students learned concrete new skills. “I saw the huge amount of coordination it takes for all the unions to work together on a jobsite with a tight schedule,” Ghourchian said. “Problems, such as a lack of materials and human error do come up, but if you are patient and ready to do good, safe work, the job will get done.”

The CM Department values the true hands-on learning environment that the Carpenters Summer Apprentice Pilot Program provided.

“It’s important that students who end up managing projects understand how they are actually built,” Hauck said. “Buildings don’t get physically built on the computer screen. It takes union workers in the field getting their hands dirty in sometimes challenging environmental conditions to make it happen.”

The success of the pilot program is paving the way for expansion in the coming years. Plans are underway to increase the number of students participating and expand to other areas in California. There is even potential for other universities to use this as a model to start their own programs.

Bloomer’s enthusiasm about the program was unbridled.

“I want to thank everyone who put this program together. I definitely hope to participate again next summer,” he said. “I would encourage all students to take advantage of this opportunity if they like to work hard and want to learn a trade.”
Brigette Olmos-Arreola has been breathing new life into the California Center for Construction Education (CCCE), helping to organize a new internship program in the Bay Area and a new professional certification program in construction management that began on campus this fall.

Olmos-Arreola joined the Construction Management (CM) Department staff in March to take over the administrative duties of the CCCE and the Construction Management Advisory Council. (See pages 3 and 30.)

The one-year certificate program is designed for current students who are not enrolled in construction management but who have an interest in the industry. It is also suitable for professionals in the field who want to stay current and learn new technology and up-to-date practices, and for people in the industry who have not earned a degree in construction management.

Program courses include instruction in planning, estimating, scheduling, contracts and law, project management, productivity and safety. The courses are taught two nights a week on campus, allowing current non-major students, such as civil engineering and architectural engineering students, to earn a certificate in construction management.

“Many students are interested in construction management but don’t have time to take it as a minor,” Olmos-Arreola said. “This certificate program curriculum is designed so as to not interfere with students’ current course loads. Courses do not overlap with quarter breaks, midterms, dead week or finals.

“The industry has the demand for more Cal Poly construction management graduates than the department can meet,” she continued. “We currently have more than 100 percent job placement of graduates. We hope this certificate will give students in other majors an edge and allow them to be more competitive in the job market.”

For certificate program information, including a schedule of classes, visit extended.calpoly.edu/academic/cm.html.

Brigette Olmos-Arreola is coordinating a construction management certification program.
Dean De Smet (B.S., CM, 2011) spent 10 months after graduation as a project engineer with Overaa, working on the Stanford Linear Accelerator project before reporting for active duty in Oklahoma. He graduated from Army field artillery officer school with honors and “made it through ranger school in the dead of winter in 62 days,” he wrote.

After completing airborne school, he reported to Vicenza, Italy, for his first assignment. De Smet served two years as an officer in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was deployed to Poland, Lithuania and Latvia to strengthen relationships with NATO allies in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. “I was able to return home for Christmas and marry my beautiful wife, Juleigh,” who he met in the dorms his freshman year at Cal Poly. The two didn’t start dating until after college.

Juleigh Epshteyn (B.S., City & Regional Planning, 2010) had been working in site acquisition for cell towers while Dean was working as a project engineer. The couple recently moved from Italy to Steilacoom, Wash., where Dean is serving as a fire support officer in the 2nd Ranger Battalion. He returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in time to see the birth of his first daughter, Elyse Marie, on July 2.

“I plan to retire from active duty, go back to school for an advanced degree, then return to managing construction in the Bay Area,” he wrote.

Brian Kelly (B.S., CM, 2007) wrote: “My daughter, Avery, is now 17 months old, and I can’t believe how much she’s grown. She loves to run around and give ‘high-fives.’”

In May, the Kelly family bought a house in Novato, Calif. “We will miss San Francisco, but we are excited to enjoy the warmer weather in our backyard,” Kelly wrote.
**RISING HIGH AT STOER**

Sean Anderson (B.S., CM, 2002) is president of Stoer Construction, a Bay Area company he co-founded with partner Michael Ward in 2014. He and Ward have worked together more than 15 years, completing many large, high-profile projects at one of the world’s largest commercial general contractor agencies.

The partners provide in-house and subcontractor estimates and budgets. At Stoer they assist clients with every aspect of their project, from inception to design-build through planning and construction.

“We have worked with some high-profile Silicon Valley clients and understand the time constraints, security demands and quality expectations,” Anderson said.

Some of the more prominent projects they have completed in Northern California include Bryant Park Plaza in Mountain View, Edgewood Plaza Retail Center in Palo Alto, Union Lofts in San Francisco, Campbell Marriott Courtyard in Campbell, and the Math & Life Sciences Building replacement at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.

In Las Vegas, they completed projects at the Aladdin Hotel and The Luxor.

**HANOVER’S ALUMNI TRIO**

College friends Sam Bassett (B.S., CM, 2009), Daniel Leach (B.S., CM, 2009), and Brett Mullinax (B.S., CM, 2008) were recently reunited at The Hanover Co., a luxury multi-family developer headquartered in Houston.

The Cal Poly alumni are project managers for three separate mixed-use developments totaling more than 800 apartment units and 35,000 square feet of retail space within two city blocks in the heart of downtown Los Angeles.

Bassett, who interned with Hanover during college and started back at the company in 2012, wrote: “It’s great to be able to collaborate with such like-minded colleagues on a variety of challenges that we battle on a daily basis.”

Mullinax added, “The people at any given organization can make or break the company culture, and working this closely with such great friends really generates a fun and creative working environment.”

Hanover’s West Coast region is led by Vice President Tim Bolton (B.S., CM, 1986), whose recruiting efforts are strong on the Central Coast. Bassett, Leach and Mullinax have played a key role in building a team influenced by Cal Poly alumni, including recent graduates Joe Lococo (B.S., CM, 2008), Travis O’Neal (B.S., CM, 2010), Logan Williams (B.S., CM, 2013), Kyle Stelter (B.S., CM, 2014), and Matt Terrell (B.S., CM, 2015), all working on Hanover’s three Los Angeles projects.

“With future developments approaching in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, Oakland and San Francisco, we hope to continue building the team atmosphere at Hanover by adding strong leaders with similar goals and as strong a passion for building as the rest of us,” Leach wrote.
Fifth-year construction management (CM) student Tyler Disarufino traded In-N-Out burgers for Austrian Weiner schnitzel during an exchange program in fall quarter of 2014.

Disarufino, Melody Rahbar and Marina Rosso were the first Cal Poly CM students to take part in a program at FH Joanneum University in Graz, Austria’s second largest city. Cal Poly welcomed three Austrian students to campus in fall 2015 under terms of the exchange program. (See story on page 11).

Although the Cal Poly students took a crash course in the German language, Disarufino admits the language barrier made everything more difficult, "from simple tasks like grocery shopping to more complex tasks like asking for directions. It was definitely a Learn by Doing experience,” he said.

He took classes in Industrial Construction, Integrated Project Delivery, and Private-Public Partnerships.

“We were the only non-Austrian students in the construction management program,” Disarufino said. “Classes were primarily taught in German with some English translation for us because we did not speak German at all. But all the classes had group work, which allowed us to
participate with our classmates, who all spoke English.

Most of their learning was done in the classroom. “No one does Learn by Doing quite like Cal Poly does. But the entire experience was Learn by Doing for us because we had to adjust to a different country and culture,” Disarufino said.

Disarufino, Rahbar and Rosso were fortunate to be able to travel throughout Europe while they were there. “I traveled almost every weekend, sometimes by train to nearby places like Croatia and Hungary,” Disarufino said. “A few times I flew greater distances, to London and Spain.”

He embarked on his Austrian journey with an open mind. “I knew it would be challenging and rewarding, and I had to be willing to get out of my comfort zone.”

The first few weeks proved him right. “Not only was I moving to a new city and going to a new school, I was going to a country where I didn’t speak the language. I didn’t have a phone or personal transportation. I didn’t know anyone who knew the area. But once I settled in, it was an amazing experience.”
One year after Cal Poly construction management students Tyler Disarufino, Melody Rahbar and Marina Rosso took part in an exchange program at the FH Joanneum University in Graz, Austria (see pages 9-10), three students from that institution came to Cal Poly to work on their master’s theses — and to enjoy the California culture, cuisine and climate.

Katharina Wagner, Florian Kuess and Marc Kügerl arrived in San Luis Obispo in early September with plans to stay until January. Their visit is sponsored by the Austrian Marshall Plan Scholarship Program, which fosters academic exchange between Austria and U.S. universities, especially those with a technical and applied sciences focus.

Wagner will spend the final semester of her construction management and engineering master’s program at Cal Poly, finishing her thesis, “Performance-Based Seismic Design of Industrial Buildings.”

The main part of her thesis is about setting the right performance objectives for the post-operability of structures after an earthquake, taking into consideration safety and economic factors.

“These objectives have to be more precise than already-existing standards, and they need to be adapted to international industrial construction and its variety of disciplines, functions and requirements,” Wagner said. “I will compare different international standards and define which post-seismic operability is economically and technically feasible for different industrial structures such as power plants.

“I assume the dynamic and seismic design for structural construction is far more important in California — and the research more advanced — than in Europe,” she continued.

Although already quite proficient in the English language, one of Wagner’s goals while in the U.S. is to improve her English skills. She also hopes to learn to surf, visit Lake Tahoe, drive down Highway 1 from San Francisco to San Diego, see Hoover Dam and the Grand Canyon, and maybe visit Hawaii and Mexico.

“I look forward to meeting some active, open-minded people who can show me the region and do some leisure activities together like camping, hiking and kayaking,” Wagner said. “I think it will be pretty exciting.”

Austrian exchange students (from left) Marc Kügerl, Katharina Wagner and Florian Kuess are studying in San Luis Obispo this fall.
Solar-powered energy has made it all the way to the Amazon jungle, thanks in part to construction management Professors Thomas Korman and Lonny Simonian.

Those two, along with students Adam Poffenbarger and Wesley McGuire, traveled to Ecuador in November 2014 to help deliver clean spring water to about 200 indigenous people in the Amazon Basin — a project, noted Korman, that would “benefit so many who have so little.”

The trip, partially funded by a $5,000 grant from the Cal Poly Baker Foundation to the student chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and support from industry, was made in partnership with the nonprofit agency Reach Beyond.

The more than 3,500-mile journey to their final Ecuadorian destination was an arduous one. “We flew into Quito, took land transportation to Shell, then flew into the Amazon rain forest in a small Cessna,” Simonian said.

The Cal Poly team was discouraged from bringing in food or any Western cultural bias. “They wanted us to interact with the community,” Simonian said. “We did bring sleeping bags and tents with nets to keep the mosquitoes out.”

The Cal Poly contingent was greeted warmly upon their arrival. “The people were expecting us,” Simonian said. “They have a close relationship with Reach Beyond. The organization’s intention is to work collectively with the indigenous people to better their lives.”

Korman, Simonian, Poffenbarger and McGuire went there to help install a system to pump water from a spring to a village about 5,000 meters away.

The project had begun before they arrived. “Some trenches had been dug, and construction at the spring had started,” Simonian recalled. “A lot of excavation work had been completed, and some pipes had been installed in the trench.

“Cal Poly assisted Reach Beyond in providing quality control and material inspection and helped get material to the site.”

The students experienced a whole new level of Learn by Doing. “They carried machetes and cleared underbrush. They worked in a large, open-walled structure, assembling small components, prefabricating pipes, valves and fittings,” Simonian said.

The students worked alongside the indigenous people, who took the lead on the project. “The people of the village are the ones who do all of the work, solve all of the problems,” Poffenbarger said. “They are the ones who have to own it; they make it happen.”

Before the project was completed, the villagers hand-carried their drinking water in buckets from the spring to their village. They bathed in the river. “The photovoltaic (PV) and water distribution
system pumps drinking water and water for them to wash in,” Simonian said.

That isn’t the end of the story. The Cal Poly student NECA chapter was recently awarded $20,000 from ELECTRI International, the research foundation for NECA. Students Parker Haerr and David Mulder will accompany Simonian on a return trip this fall to work on additional projects.

The Ecuadorian government has also pledged financial support. “The $20,000 ELECTRI grant will be leveraged to almost $200,000 in effective cost benefits,” Simonian said. “With the new grant money and additional support, we will be working on eight projects that will help several hundred people.

“Plus we will install 16 PV panels at Beyond Reach headquarters, allowing it to become carbon neutral,” Simonian continued.

The Cal Poly group learned a great deal on that first trip. Planning becomes paramount. “The village is located 60 kilometers from the nearest road. It is so isolated, the biggest task is logistics,” Simonian said. “What do you need? When do you need it? How are you going to get it there?

“It’s one thing when you can transport materials on a plane, but the Cessna has a very small capacity,” Simonian continued. “The PV panels were too big and had to be transported up-river in canoes. There were obstacles, but it is part of daily life. You have to look at the entire work sequence and stage everything exactly right.”

Simonian found the trip “enriching” and looks forward to returning. “I enjoyed observing and participating in the people’s daily activities. It was great to be part of a team helping a community of people install a system that will dramatically improve their lives.”
Construction management Professor Barry Jones recently returned from a yearlong assignment as a Senior Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia, teaching, giving seminars — and bringing Learn by Doing — to undergraduate and graduate students in that country, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Jones’ extensive expertise in infrastructure engineering and construction project management was deemed essential to helping build Indonesia’s developing economy. That expertise, coupled with his belief that “learning is most effective when it is an interactive and collaborative process,” was an important factor in his being awarded the Fulbright grant.

Continued on next page
EXPERIENCES ABROAD

“There is massive new investment in that country’s infrastructure projects, which need to be delivered within time, cost and performance constraints,” Jones explained. “This will not happen effectively unless students of civil engineering are trained in the skills of managing these mega-projects.”

While he spent the majority of his time at the Institute of Technology in Bandung (ITB), Indonesia, he also presented seminars in the Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Yogyakarta and in Denpasar, Bali.

At ITB, Jones was part of the Civil Engineering Department, working most closely with a small group of about 10 faculty members specializing in project management. His teaching focused on the heavy construction practices associated with civil engineering projects and heavy construction operations.

“The Heavy Civil Construction Engineering Materials, Methods and Techniques course is designed to teach students about the tools, techniques and procedures in managing large civil engineering projects such as roads, bridges, tunnels, dams, rail and power supply, and temporary structures,” Jones said. “I moved students away from a predominantly lecture-based teaching environment to a hands-on Learn by Doing mode that required them to work in teams and present solutions to real projects and real issues.

“To assist with this, I shipped several California project contract documents that took up half my luggage allowance,” he continued. “Faculty and students wanted the experience of working with full contract documents from the California Department of Transportation. Hopefully they will be used for many years at ITB and elsewhere.”

Jones also taught a professional development course, a capstone learning experience in which students consolidate and apply the knowledge they acquired over their previous courses.

“The course was designed to extend students’ ability to work in interdisciplinary teams, co-operate with other practicing professionals, and deliver well-researched information to milestone dates,” Jones said. “Students were expected to show the professionalism that would be expected...
One major task set for graduate students was to propose a solution for a new overhead rapid transport system along some of Bandung’s busiest streets. The students were tasked with providing a “modern, sustainable, safe transportation system to benefit society, the economy and the environment, and that contributes to social inclusion and quality of life.”

They were also tasked with working as part of a “project management team of a multidisciplinary group of experts at an international construction/engineering company with corporate offices in Japan, Singapore, New York and London, and a small regional office in Jakarta set up to construct major parts of Indonesian’s new infrastructure.”

The assignment continued, “The successful company will supply all design, technical and managerial personnel, administrators and key skilled workers for all stages of the project. The integrated project delivery team will be selected through a competitive procedure using a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and a Request for Proposal (RFP). The information obtained from the RFP will be evaluated by a team of experts from Bandung Rapid Transport Development Corp., and the most highly qualified firm will be invited to move the project forward to the next stage.”

According to Jones, “Students had never worked in teams to respond to such a request and then present to a group of industry experts, which included a key engineer responsible for the new high-speed rail transportation across Java. They responded to the challenge and produced some excellent proposals.”

Jones is confident that he delivered on his Fulbright promise to give students the knowledge, ability and confidence to “work in teams to produce a solution that meets the client’s requirements; to solve technical, production and managerial issues; and to apply practical construction management theory and practice.”

“I believe my extensive educational and industry experience — particularly in the areas of the management of infrastructure projects and international construction — benefitted the host universities,” Jones said. “I was very happy with the results.”

Note: Indonesia is a country of 255 million people, predominantly Muslim. Fifty-eight percent live on the island of Java, the world’s most populous island.
The Construction Management (CM) Department feted student success under a clear blue sky during the Senior Banquet a week before June commencement at Avila Bay Golf Resort. Christine Theodoropoulos, dean of the College of Architecture & Environmental Design (CAED); Al Hauck, CM Department head; faculty; staff; and students gathered to celebrate scholarship recipients, Senior Award winners, and the year’s winning team members.

“It was another record year for scholarships,” Hauck noted, “This year the department awarded $81,000.”

Theodoropoulos, who announced the collegewide scholarship award winners, welcomed the group and congratulated the graduates before announcing the Rob Rossi and Herbert C. Collins Scholarship winners. (See a complete list of winners, opposite page.) “Construction management has the most generous scholarship program of any of the programs in the CAED,” Theodoropoulos said. “That is very much a reflection of the work Al Hauck and the faculty do to make the case that scholarships really do help students.”

Hauck announced three new scholarships: the American Society of Professional Estimators Scholarship, the Western Construction Group Scholarship, and the William Cosko and James Hearn Scholarship.

The “grand prize” — the $24,000 Allen and Nancy Minton Scholarship — provides a free ride for a CM student who exhibits extraordinary work ethic and future professional promise. This year that student was Holli Tripp, now a senior. Hauck praised the department’s winning teams, including the seven that placed at the Associated Schools of Construction Competition in Reno, Nev., the multidisciplinary team that took second in the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low-Income Housing Challenge, and the second-place team at the National Association of Home Builders. (Competition details appear on pages 20-22.)

This year the department created an award for the top senior project presentation. Students presented their projects to a group of invited industry leaders. Recent graduate Bryan Hromatko won the inaugural award for “Incorporating Bluebeam Skills and Knowledge into the Existing Cal Poly Construction Management Curriculum.”

Hauck recognized the 2014-15 Senior Award winners. (See pages 23-28.) Eric Walker earned the Outstanding Senior Award for having the department’s highest GPA. Jose Oseguera, Matty Reed and Garrett Whitney won Service to the Department awards; Tamara Couchee won the Outstanding Leadership Award; and Amelia Kraus won the newly created, one-time-only Raising Standards Award for challenging students to work harder.
DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

(Alphabetized by scholarship sponsors)

American Society of Professional Estimators, Chapter 55
$1,900 each: Charles Andrews, Weston Walker, Austin Eberle, Jasmine Lomax and Nicholas Hood

Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship
$5,400 each: Kent Beecham and Hunter Reaume

Kris Cello Scholarship
$1,500 each: Parker Haerr and Christopher Falco

Don Chapin Co.
$2,500 each: Josh Salinas and Melody Rahbar

William Cosko and James Hearn Scholarship
$1,000 each: Pablo Anzoategui, Peter Bronge, Carlos Espinoza, Ashley Martinez and Andy Rios

Allen and Nancy Minton Scholarship
$24,000: Holli Tripp

Retail Contractors Association Scholarship
$1,500: Kent Beecham

Don Tanklage Scholarship
$5,000: Garrett Whitlock

Blair Tulloch Memorial Scholarship
$3,750 each: Tyler Peinado and Randy Cordova

Vinnell Foundation Scholarship
1,500/year; $750/quarter each: Damien Arredondo, Tanner Blumenfeld, Mauricio Mendez and Austin Omara

Western Construction Group Scholarship
$950: Leor Rozen

COLLEGEWIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Herbert E. Collins Scholarship
$1,200 each: Jocelyn Kenmotsu and Kent Beecham

Robin L. Rossi Scholarship
$2,250: Trey Garcia
$750: Jose Oseguera

Top: Department Head Al Hauck honors Senior Award winners (from left): Eric Walker, Tamara Couchee, Matthew Reed, Garrett Whitney and Amelia Kraus. Not pictured: Jose Oseguera.

Middle: Robert Moore awards the Retail Contractors Association Scholarship to Kent Beecham.

Bottom: Randy Cordova (left) and Tyler Peinado are recipients of the Blair Tulloch Memorial Scholarship.
Year after year Cal Poly’s construction management (CM) students compete in a handful of national and regional competitions, and year after year, they bring home bragging rights. The 2014-15 academic year was no exception.


An interdisciplinary team of Cal Poly students placed second at this year’s competition. Cal Poly competed against 38 teams in the four-year college category. In all, 54 teams representing universities, community colleges, high schools and career technical schools from across the U.S. were tasked with completing a land acquisition proposal.

Cal Poly’s proposal included market research and sales strategy, product and site design, green building initiatives, land development, estimates, schedules and a financial analysis.

Team members included CM students Josh Gleason and Eric Sanchez, architecture student Derik DeLonzor, business students Chris Bet and Anna Costa, and city and regional planning student Darya Oreizi. Business student Scott Heath and CM student Nick Gibson helped prepare the proposal.

Since 2001, Cal Poly’s team has won the competition three times, earned four second-place awards and two third-place awards.

CM Professor Scott Kelting served as faculty advisor to the students.

“The competition is designed to engage students in activities associated with the residential construction industry, giving them an opportunity to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom by preparing a proposal for a real-world project,” Kelting said. “They also have an opportunity to engage with other students and industry professionals from all over the U.S. during the International Builders Show.”
CAL POLY’S WINNING TEAMS AT REGION 6 AND 7 ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS OF CONSTRUCTION ANNUAL COMPETITION

Mechanical Team, First Place
A.J. (Alexis) Chamorro, captain; Austin Nelson, co-captain; Richard Huang, Tyler Peinado, Rocky Perrin and Dhakshan Potuhera. Alternates: Tyler Lee and Justin Shen

Design-Build Team, Second Place
Trenton Lundquist, captain; Alex Wright, co-captain; Torrie Peth, Jim Roth, Matt Terrell, and architecture student Ian Crouch. Alternates: Armin Latifi and Lauren Norwood

Marine Team, Second Place
Cory M. Babinski, captain; Cole Reichenbach, co-captain; Dylan Eads, Gus Lamen, Connor Long and Travis Whipple. Alternates: Andrew Jenco and Jake Kidwell

Mixed Use Team, Second Place
Garret Rice, captain; Ryan Lippi, co-captain; Ryan Kisner, Amelia Kraus, Pedro Ruiz and Andrew Toomey. Alternates: Lucas Caruso and Nicholas Halle

Concrete Team, Third Place
Garret Rice, captain; Ryan Lippi, co-captain; Ryan Kisner, Amelia Kraus, Pedro Ruiz and Andrew Toomey. Alternates: Lucas Caruso and Nicholas Halle

Heavy-Civil Team, Third Place
Kent Beecham, captain; Damien Arredondo, co-captain; Austin Eberle, Nickolas Floyd, Dan Leavens and civil engineering student Anmol Marthur. Alternates: John Highleyman and Hunter Reaume

Determining Project Risk Teams, Third Place
Erik Ross, captain; Corey Ward, co-captain; Randy Cordova, Chris Falco, Ryan Mahlman and Jack Sieverding. Alternates: Marco Maffioli and Andrew Martin

THANK YOU, SPONSORS!
Companies and their logos (right) are listed alphabetically by competition category.

2015 Commercial: XL Construction
2015 Concrete: Pacific Structures Build Group Inc.
2015 Design-Build: XL Construction
2015 Electrical: Sprig Electric
2015 Heavy-Civil: McGuire Hester
2015 LEED: Level 10 Construction
2015 Marine: Cody Brick Commercial Builders
2015 Mechanical: W.M. Lyles Co. Contractor
2015 Mixed Use: Holland Construction Inc.
2015 Preconstruction: Overaa
2015 Risk Management: Blach Construction

General Contributor to the 2015 ASC Competition: DeSilva Gates Construction

Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6 and 7 Competition | Reno, Nev.

Seven of 12 Cal Poly teams came home with trophies from this year’s competition. One team took first, three teams placed second, and three came in third.

“The ASC Region 6 and 7 competition is the largest construction student competition in the nation with the largest construction management job fair west of the Mississippi,” said Associate Professor and Region 7 director Phil Barlow. “And this year’s event attracted the largest number of students and companies ever.”

While the competition provides valuable Learn by Doing opportunities for students, the job fair provides longer-term prospects. A recent senior project survey found that “almost 30 percent of Cal Poly CM graduates found their permanent jobs through the competition.”

A total of 178 teams from 43 universities competed in the two ASC regions. Cal Poly students won first in the Mechanical category; second in the Mixed Use, Design-Build and Marine Construction sections; and third in the Heavy Civil, Concrete and Risk Management divisions. (See a list of team members and sponsors above.)

“Year after year our students continue to succeed at this event,” said Department Head Al Hauck. “The education and the professional development they gain during these four days cannot be matched.”

Continued on next page
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

COMPETITIONS
Continued from page 21

Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low-Income Housing Regional Challenge

A multidisciplinary team of Cal Poly students, in partnership with People’s Self-Help Housing, took second place in this annual event, which challenges West Coast universities to create a plan to develop and finance a local affordable housing project.

The Cal Poly plan includes 30 housing units for at-risk and homeless veterans to be built in Atascadero, Calif. The facilities, all ADA-compliant, include a counseling center; first-aid resources; and a “maker space,” a training facility geared to helping veterans reintegrate into the community.

The design also features drought-tolerant landscaping, solar panels, and a gray-water system. The project is named Vestri Vita, which means “your life” in Latin.

Construction management students Holli Tripp and Lauren Norwood were joined by architecture students Derik DeLonzor, Jack Gamboa, Kristine Melendez and Miranda Mills; city and regional planning student Tanner Shelton; and finance student Lauren Weber.

In the final round, Cal Poly’s team competed against teams from UCLA, UC Berkley, and the University of Washington. Cal Poly was the only team of undergraduate students to compete in the final round.

“This challenge provided a cross-disciplinary view of what it takes to create a feasible construction project,” Tripp said. “It gave each of us exposure to the steps and players involved in acquiring land, complying with multiple tiers of regulations, financing a project, collaborating on design, and ensuring its constructability.

“Competitions such as these give students invaluable real-world experience and provides us a platform to reach out to professionals in our major to supplement our education,” Tripp continued. “It embodies the Learn by Doing culture of Cal Poly, and I would highly recommend all students participate in a team-oriented project like this.”

Cal Poly has competed in the challenge previously, winning first place in five of the past 10 years. To view this year’s presentation video, go to youtube.com/watch?v=7nNF_KaNP-E.

Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA)

The MCAA’s Northern California chapter continued its support of the Construction Management Department and its students with two checks.

A check for $1,500 was awarded to the CM Mechanical team for its first-place win at the ASC Region 7 competition.

The organization also donated $16,697 generated from its annual Northern California golf tournament, held at the Sequoyah Country Club in October 2014. More than 155 golfers signed up to play, according to Associate Professor Greg Starzyk.

“This year Cal Poly took the lead in running the event. As always, volunteers from Cal Poly, Sacramento State and Chico State helped out. The proceeds were evenly split between the MCAA student clubs at those three universities.”

Cal Poly’s MCAA student club uses the money to fund participation at such events as the Student Chapter Summit in New Jersey and the MCAA National Conference in Maui.

Cal Poly students won first place in the Mechanical category of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6 and 7 Competition in Reno, Nev. (above).
DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES SIX EXTRAORDINARY SENIORS IN 2015

Honoring Excellence

Tami Couchee
OVERCOMING SHYNESS LEADS TO OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Los Gatos native Tami Couchee (B.S., CM, 2015) decided to pursue construction management after speaking to her sister-in-law, a 2009 Cal Poly CM graduate. Couchee worked hard in high school to get into Cal Poly, and that hard work paid off.

She received the 2015 Outstanding Leadership Award for her work as president of the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM) student club during her senior year. “I would have never imagined receiving an award like this when I started the program because I was so shy,” she said.

Serving as president was a tremendous commitment, but Couchee was prepared. “I worked closely with the officers during my junior year so I knew what I was getting myself into.”

Couchee said three key things helped her overcome her shyness and rise to a leadership position. “I did a lot of group work and presentations in my classes; I listened to the faculty who encouraged me to explore opportunities; and I formed strong friendships with classmates as we moved through the lab sequence together.”

She participated in three Associated Schools of Construction Region 6 and 7 Student Competitions, serving as captain of the Commercial Team in her senior year.

In addition to her club activities, she addressed the new students in the CM 102 Introduction class. “A lot of people trusted and relied on me,” she said.

For new students to succeed, she suggests they talk to older students, use all the resources provided, visit the CM Department office, and get to know the faculty. “The faculty are really approachable and knowledgeable. It was great to know I could always go to them to get valuable advice,” she said.

After traveling throughout Europe during the summer of 2015, Couchee moved to the Bay Area and joined Blach Construction. She is excited to work alongside several Cal Poly alumni.

“I know some students start at a company and are not sure how long they plan to stay,” Couchee said. “Blach is the perfect company for me; I plan to stay for a long time.”

Tami Couchee found that active participation with fellow students in classes and organizations helped her overcome her shyness.
Amelia Kraus

GROWING UP IN Burlingame, Calif., Amelia Kraus (B.S., CM, 2015) wanted to know how things worked. That curiosity led her to Cal Poly and the field of construction management.

The CM program at Cal Poly proved to be more rigorous than Kraus had expected, but the challenge only pushed her to excel. At the end of her four years, she was named the 2015 Raising Standards Award recipient.

This is not an award usually given by the department; it was created to honor Kraus’ unique talent to achieve her highest potential while encouraging those around her to do the same.

“I was really surprised to receive this award,” Kraus said. “I thought my efforts were more behind the scenes. It was very meaningful to be recognized.”

Kraus credits her success to others. “The department has great resources for students. The faculty are knowledgeable and always available to help and offer advice,” she said. “The hands-on activities were my favorite parts of the program, and that’s where I made some great friends who helped me do my best.”

Like many other top students, Kraus was involved with the Associated Schools of Construction Student Competition, participating on the Mixed-Use Team in her senior year. “My only regret was not competing during my sophomore and junior years,” she said.

She advises students to seek out the faculty and to meet as many people in the department as possible.

Kraus completed an interdisciplinary minor in sustainable environments. “It was challenging to work with other majors, but it was worthwhile,” she said. “During my last year, we did a senior project to improve composting on campus. It was gratifying to work on something that will make a lasting change.”

Kraus is ready for the next chapter in her life. After exploring Europe for a month, she began work as a project engineer for DPR Construction in Redwood City.

The CM Department created a special award to recognize Amelia Kraus’ eagerness to excel.
Jose Oseguera

EMBRACING LEARN BY DOING IN THE FIELD AND CLASSROOM

Jose Oseguera considered a number of paths before choosing construction management.

“I grew up in Stockton, basically in the country, and originally thought about majoring in agricultural business or in my father’s field of architecture. When I learned more about the field of construction management, I knew it was the right fit for me,” he said. “It gives me the opportunity to work in a wide variety of sectors and in many roles. I like that I’ll have the chance to follow a number of different paths.”

Oseguera chose Cal Poly because of the program’s reputation and the strong industry interest in its graduates. His goal of earning a degree in four years didn’t prevent Oseguera from taking full advantage of opportunities that came his way. He received the 2015 Service to the Department Award largely because of his efforts as a teaching assistant in the Building Information Modeling (BIM) class.

“I was proud to assist with the class,” he said. “It was a little like being thrown into the fire because the technology is so new and always changing. It was my job to learn it and then teach it in a way the students could understand.”

Oseguera parlayed that knowledge into serving as co-captain twice on the Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) Team at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6 and 7 Student Competition. “It was a great experience to be part of something new to the competition. Even more important to me was being part of such a strong team. That made it worthwhile.”

He advises students to pursue internships. “You can learn a lot from the program and the Learn by Doing approach, but to put it all together takes field experience. It’s important to learn in the classroom and also learn from project managers, subcontractors and owners.”

Oseguera celebrated his one-year wedding anniversary in August. “Getting married while a student gave me a unique perspective on what I was doing in school,” he said. “Completing the program and earning a living for my family was my top priority.”

After graduation in December, he plans to work in the Central Valley while his wife, Brooklyn, finishes her degree.
After spending most of his childhood in Houston, Texas, Matthew Reed was ready to return to his birthplace, California, where he still had family. He explored all the colleges along the coast, and after visiting Cal Poly, he knew he had found the place for him.

Reed started in a different major, but when he took some construction management courses, he realized that the department’s strong team environment “was a better match for what I wanted to do. I was also impressed by the recruiting program and the many companies that come to campus each year.”

During his sophomore year, Reed took the Building Information Modeling (BIM) course and did so well he was asked to help teach it for the next two years. Those efforts earned him the 2015 Service to the Department Award.

“I learned more about BIM because I was teaching it. I needed to stay ahead of the students and learn the material at a deeper level to help them understand it,” he said.

The Associated Schools of Construction Region 6 and 7 Student Competition provided a rich learning experience for Reed, who participated four times — twice as captain of the Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) Team. “It was great to network with people, spend time with the team, and be a part of a competition that is both challenging and fun,” he said.

Reed also played on the Men’s Club Soccer Team, which ranked in the nation’s top five each year he competed and won the prize in the West Coast Region every quarter.

Reed will graduate in December 2015. His senior project, which he hopes has a lasting impact, analyzes the effect of having a mandatory BIM class earlier in the curriculum, with in-depth elective BIM classes available for those who want to continue to learn more.

“It was a challenge teaching the BIM class as an elective because students could be at any level,” he said.

Reed is zeroing in on the right position with the right company. “It’s important that I not only use my BIM background but also the entire education I received at Cal Poly,” said Reed. “I’m lucky to have the freedom to go anywhere.”

As jobs go, Matthew Reed feels “lucky to have the freedom to go anywhere,” thanks to his Cal Poly education.
Eric Walker
SERIOUS STUDYING ENSURES REGULAR SPOT ON DEAN’S LIST

Eric Walker (B.S., CM, 2015) intended to pursue the design side of the built environment, but after arriving at Cal Poly from his hometown of Laguna Hills, Calif., he discovered a better major for himself.

“Construction management utilizes my two biggest strengths — management and organization — so I made the switch,” he said.

Walker, who received the department’s Outstanding Senior Award for having the highest GPA in his graduating class, clearly made the right choice. Being on the Dean’s List an impressive 12 times, he credits his success to “putting in the study time and staying organized.”

For years he had planned to complete his degree by studying abroad in Prague his last quarter. “When Professor Lonny Simonian announced that the program would run, I couldn’t wait to get there,” he said.

Following the five weeks of coursework, Walker took a much-needed extended vacation traveling throughout Europe. “I have so many great memories of that trip: eating amazing food in Italy, driving throughout Iceland, hiking in the Alps, and traveling with good friends,” he said.

Walker is a good role model for current students, exemplifying that hard work pays off. “My best advice to students is to stay organized and know when things are due,” he said. “If you do those two things, you’ll be able to succeed in the program.”

One of the highlights of the CM Department for Walker was the recruiting program. “I love how easy it was to sign up for interviews, get internships, and get hired after graduation,” he said. With more than 200 companies coming to the department each year, “anyone who wants a job can get one.”

After graduation, Walker landed his dream job in his dream city working for C.W. Driver as a project engineer in San Diego.

Eric Walker credits studying and staying organized for his high GPA and consistent Dean’s List status.
Pursuing construction management was the clear choice for Alamo, Calif., native Garrett Whitney.

“Pretty much all of my family is involved in the construction industry in one way or another,” Whitney said. “I grew up around it and had the chance to work in the field and get my hands dirty.”

Choosing Cal Poly was an easy choice. “I knew it had a great program and would be a good fit,” he said. “Plus I loved San Luis Obispo when I played there in high school baseball tournaments.”

Whitney especially benefitted from the department’s close ties to industry. “There are so many connections between the companies, alumni and department,” he said. “It provides students with countless opportunities to learn and get jobs.”

Whitney, who assisted with the building projects completed during the Residential Construction Management course, won the 2015 Service to the Department Award in recognition of the tremendous effort that came with the job.

“I supervised the build, got materials, and made sure things ran smoothly,” he said. “I was surprised to receive the award and grateful to be recognized for all the hours it took to coordinate this lab class.”

Whitney is proud to have competed twice in the Associated Schools of Construction Annual Student Competition and to have sat on the board of the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM) club.

He tells students to get involved, to interview with several companies, to go on internships, and to enjoy San Luis Obispo. “It’s important for students to enjoy living on the Central Coast because, believe me, it goes by so fast.”

Whitney completed three internships while at Cal Poly — all with Rudolph and Sletten. “It was great to have a company reach out year after year to ask me back. It shows how much they value their employees.”

The company reached out one final time. After graduating in December 2015, Whitney will go to work at Rudolph and Sletten’s Fremont office as a project engineer.

Garrett Whitney encourages students to get involved in clubs, to intern and to interview with several companies before making a choice.
Last year was an especially good year for faculty members Phil Barlow, Thomas Korman, and Greg Starzyk. Associate Professor Barlow earned a doctorate degree, Korman was promoted to full professor, and Starzyk was promoted to associate professor.

Barlow earned his doctorate in design construction and planning with a concentration in construction management from the University of Florida in Gainesville. He also holds a bachelor’s degree in construction management from Cal Poly and an MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco.

Barlow came to Cal Poly from industry as an assistant professor in fall 2006 and was promoted to associate professor in 2011. His areas of expertise include construction jobsite management, healthcare construction, quality control and quality assurance, cost engineering, construction education, curriculum and pedagogy.

He also serves as the department’s co-op coordinator and senior project director and is the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 7 director.

Barlow is licensed as a DBIA professional from the Design-Build Institute of America, a certified cost consultant from the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineers, a Certified Professional Constructor from American Institute of Constructors, and a LEED-accredited professional from the Green Building Certification Institute. He has a California Real Estate Broker License and a California General Contractors License.

Korman, also an alumnus, was among 30 Cal Poly faculty members to earn the rank of full professor.

He began teaching at Cal Poly as an assistant professor in September 2005 and was promoted to associate professor in 2010. He developed the new ARCE 475/476: Civil Infrastructure and Building Systems course.

Korman’s expertise is in systems engineering, engineering management and infrastructure engineering. He recently led the NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association) student chapter to install photovoltaic systems in Costa Rica and Ecuador. (See story, page 12).

Korman is a registered professional engineer and land surveyor in California and a safety assessment evaluator for the California Emergency Management Agency. He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly and master’s and doctorate degrees in civil engineering from Stanford University.

Starzyk, along with 29 other faculty members, was promoted to associate professor and awarded tenure, beginning with the 2015-16 academic year. He came to Cal Poly as an assistant professor in 2009.

Starzyk is advisor to the Mechanical Contractors Association of America Club and competition team and advisor to the ASC Region 7 Risk, Preconstruction and Mechanical teams. He also takes groups of students to Chicago every year to compete in the ASC Region 3 open competition.

Starzyk’s areas of expertise include construction law, integrated project delivery, and construction accounting.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Master of Project Management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and a Juris Doctor degree from Taft University Law School in Santa Ana, Calif.

Starzyk is a Certified Professional Constructor, an associate of the Design-Build Institute of America, a Six Sigma Green Belt, and a Supply Chain Management professional.

“I could not be more proud of the quality team of faculty members that we have put together,” said Department Head Al Hauck. “As we prepare for ongoing, significant student growth in the next few years, it is good to know that we have this solid foundation on which to build the rest of the team.”
Coming and Going

The department welcomed new staff members Brigette Olmos-Arreola and Julie Zafiratos in March as well as lecturers James McKenzie and Stacy Kolegraff — both Cal Poly alumni — in September.

Olmos-Arreola is executive secretary of the Construction Management Advisory Council (CMAAC) and program specialist for the California Center for Construction Education (CCCE). (See pages 3 and 6.)

“I’m working to streamline outreach, including our info sessions, job fairs, on-campus interviews, student internships, and industry relationships,” she said.

A Central Coast native, Olmos-Arreola earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts from Pepperdine University in Malibu. After working a few years in Southern California to hone her marketing and outreach skills, she relocated to Los Osos.

She loves to be active and enjoys hiking, kayaking and practicing yoga. Along with spending time with family and friends, she also likes to cook and bake.

Zafiratos is the department’s new administrative coordinator overseeing curriculum, budget and personnel matters. She said the most challenging aspect of her position is scheduling classes.

“I work six months ahead,” she said. “This summer, I was reporting on summer quarter, re-arranging fall quarter, and drafting winter quarter. I match faculty availability with classroom availability so the students get the classes they need. I look at it like a production schedule, matching talent and location availabilities.”

Zafiratos, who holds a journalism degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder, enjoyed a long career in film, television and digital production. The Central Coast is a big departure from her previous home — a high-rise in Los Angeles.

Zafiratos earned her yoga teacher training certificate in August. She also enjoys cooking, visiting friends, wine tasting, going to concerts and the beach.

Kolegraff (B.S., CM, 2002) has been teaching as a part-time lecturer at Cal Poly for more than a year and holds a master’s degree in management from the University of Redlands. She also worked as a senior planner, estimator and scheduler for Cal Poly’s Housing Department and has experience as a site superintendent on residential developments.

As a full-time lecturer, she will teach CM 214: Residential Construction Management, CM 335: Construction Accounting, and CM 371: Construction Management and Project Planning.

McKenzie (M.S., Architecture, 2001) earned a bachelor’s degree in construction management from Chico State. His years of industry experience include stints as a consultant; project, program and construction manager; and project and field engineer. He has worked for Autodesk; Stanford University; and Swinerton Inc., where he served as director of its Center for Excellence.

McKenzie was on several projects that received LEED Platinum Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, and he won the Sustainability Excellence Award from the Western Council of Construction Consumers in 2012.

At Cal Poly, he will teach CM 413: Jobsite Construction Management and team-teach CM 115: Fundamentals of Construction Management.

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK!
The department bid adieu to former Administrative Coordinator Jessica Frazier in March 2015. Frazier left to pursue a career in educational event coordination and freelance writing. She is, however, staying connected to the department in various capacities. She made a special visit to see the seniors graduate in June, and she profiled this year’s Senior Award winners. (See pages 23-28.)

“Over the 8-1/2 years that Jes worked for us, she held every administrative position available and excelled at them all,” said Department Head Al Hauck. “She always knew what the priorities were and was ready with solutions before I even asked the questions!”

“Her final accomplishment was to help hire the two staff members who took over and expanded her duties. We wish Jes the best of success in her new endeavors.”
Construction management students continue to demonstrate the power of Learn by Doing. They are achieving outstanding recognition regionally and nationally, and we are very proud of their generous service to global communities. Our dedicated faculty prepare students to become the construction leaders of tomorrow. Industry partnerships, coupled with support from alumni and friends, ensure that students and faculty have the resources they need to launch careers.

As our construction management and other programs evolve, we seek resources to provide our students and faculty — our people — the technology, tools and equipment they need to keep our leading edge. One area of concentrated focus over the next few years will be an overhaul of our labs and shops, places that are heavily used by all students in the college. As they plan, design and build their projects, we are reminded that the tools we have are not on par with the exceptional rankings we have earned.

We invite you to learn more about the “Places. Projects. People.” initiative at www.caed.calpoly.edu/caed-giving, and join us to create opportunities for all.

Christine Theodoropoulos  ■  AIA, PE
Fabian Zavala, an eighth-grade visitor from Vista Verde Middle School in Greenfield, Calif., helps Simpson Strong-Tie’s Darwin Waite demonstrate his company’s Quik Drive auto-feed screw system in the Residential Construction class. The tool was used to install sub-floor sheathing in the class’s utility building project.