Mentors & Mentees

CAL POLY GRADS TEAM UP
I hope you and your families had a wonderful holiday season. We are very pleased to bring you greetings from the Cal Poly Construction Management Department in the form of this latest issue of Construction Innovator.

At graduation in December, there was ample evidence that the new year is looking better for our profession. Nearly every one of the mid-year graduates had secured a position in the industry or was in final interviews with several companies. While we may not yet be back to 100 percent placement across the board, this seemed to be the strongest showing for our graduates in the past few years. We hope that all of your prospects for 2012 are looking up as well.

These graduates are starting their careers at a time when learning from senior mentors is more important than ever. In this Construction Innovator, we have highlighted a few mentorships that so many of you provide for these young professionals. These relationships – often with more seasoned Cal Poly alumni – are critically important to the early success of graduating seniors. Some of these bonds last for decades.

We also include here activities such as the annual Senior Awards and the successes of our student teams in Reno and other national competitions. Of particular note for 2011 is the success of our National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) team that – for the third time in the past decade – achieved a national first-place finish among teams from some 40 other universities. At Reno, half of our 12 teams again brought home trophies in their respective divisions.

Twice this year we co-sponsored a MAGIC (Mentor a Girl in Construction) Camp with the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). You will read about that as well as updates from CM’s California Center for Construction Education (CCCE). These activities illustrate the breadth of departmental interactions from high school students to active practitioners in the field.

As always, we hope you enjoy reading about our past graduates in the Alumni News section. Without support from our alumni and other friends of the department, none of these accomplishments would be possible. We thank you for your involvement and support.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our faculty accomplishments in 2011. In addition to the short list of national recognitions included here, these dedicated faculty members provide daily instruction and one-on-one mentorship that is developing the next generation of construction leaders. They are an outstanding group of educators with whom I am proud to serve. I am on sabbatical leave, and I particularly want to thank Barb Jackson for serving as interim department head this academic year. She is doing a wonderful job in my absence; my return to this role in June will be a seamless one.

Along with the new year, we welcome your visits to campus. We always enjoy showing off our new facilities and the impressive student and faculty work that is always under way in these buildings. Please come by for a personal tour; we hope to see you soon.

Allan J. Hauck, Ph.D., CPC
Recent grads gladly take cues from their colleagues – but also return the favor

According to several reference books, the word “mentor” can be traced to Greek mythology. Mentor, a trusted friend of King Odysseus, was entrusted with the education of Odysseus’ son, Telemachus.

Today the term is generally used to describe a more experienced person acting as a role model, guide or teacher. Most adults can name someone who, at some point in their lives, had a significant, positive influence on them. It is a proven and powerful way for people to learn.

Mentoring is alive and well in the construction management industry, as illustrated in the features that follow. It is interesting to note that in many instances, the mentor also comes away with some new knowledge or understanding, creating a two-way learning street that benefits individuals as well as the companies they work for.


To Dustin Smith (CM ’00) those words are a roadmap for tapping into the talents of the youngest staff members at Pankow, where he serves as director of construction for the Special Projects Division in Southern California.

It sounds novel, but it’s not a new concept. As a young intern at Pankow, Dustin learned firsthand the meaning of those four words. “I was given responsibility to manage my own project. My boss brought me to the kickoff meeting and introduced me as the project manager,” Dustin recalls. “That trust empowered me, giving me confidence that continues to this day.”

Annie Phu found a valuable mentor in Dustin Smith (top photo, standing) at Pankow.
Annie’s use of the web-based Building Information Modeling (BIM) tool called the Onuma Planning System landed Pankow an $18 million project for the Los Angeles Community College District.

It also played a key role in developing Dustin’s own managerial style. “My success and the success of my company are not related to how I perform,” he insists. “It is related to how my employees perform. As a mentor, my job is to support the people who report to me, the ‘money makers.’ That’s where the value is ... with the folks on the frontline, making decisions and finding better ways of doing things. It is not their job to make me look good. It’s my job to help them learn, develop, and do better so we all succeed.”

And one young dynamo mentored by Dustin indeed found a better way of doing things, which led to a significant win for Pankow. Annie Phu (CM ’07) was given an opportunity and ran with it.

It involved a new web-based Building Information Modeling (BIM) tool called the Onuma Planning System (OPS). Dustin first heard about it at a Cal Poly conference organized by Construction Management Professor Barbara Jackson. BIMStorm, created by conference participant Kimon Onuma, allows different partners to work together on a common platform early in the process.

“I returned from the conference and told the folks at Pankow that we needed to be using this,” Dustin recalls. Only problem was, he didn’t have a clue as to how it could be applied. “We realized it was probably the future, but where do we start?”

Enter Annie. “She took complete ownership of the BIMStorm concept and applied it in the pursuit and award of an $18 million project for the Los Angeles Community College District,” says Dustin.

“She demonstrated to our client how the OPS system allows all players to collaborate in real time during both the design and construction phases, ultimately adding value to the project. She distinguished herself and Pankow, and won the project.”

Annie, like Dustin, also served as an intern at Pankow before being hired full time.

“Having Dustin as my mentor really made a difference in my career. It’s great having someone you can go to for advice on personal and work-related issues.”

ANNIE PHU
Project Manager | Pankow
as an assistant project manager in 2007. She showed her capabilities early on, and after just three years was promoted to project manager. Recently she transferred to Pankow's Honolulu office, but she still sings Dustin's praises. And Dustin sings hers.

Thanks to his nomination, Annie earned Pankow's 2011 Meritorious Award for Quality for helping develop a guide that outlines policies and procedures for all company field workers.

“Dustin has watched me progress at Pankow,” Annie says. “He interviewed me for the internship position in ’05 when I was only a second-year student and fairly green to the industry. Dustin was the first senior project manager I worked with, guiding me through our estimating software and teaching me how to do cost projections in my first month with the company. He has demonstrated a great deal of patience over the past years.”

Before moving to Hawaii, Annie served as mentor to an assistant project manager. Her advice to him was to never be afraid to ask questions. “Until you start digging, you won’t learn,” she says.

She knows of what she speaks and has often sought the knowledge and experience of older superintendents. One superintendent told her early on that she was a smart young woman. “Don’t be afraid to correct someone,” he said. “Chances are you will be right.”

Annie looks forward to each new day because each day brings new challenges, new problems. “Every day is different, especially in the field,” she says. “It gives people an opportunity to find a solution. There will always be problems, and there will always be solutions.

“Having Dustin as my mentor really made a difference in my career,” Annie says. “It’s great having someone you can go to for advice on personal and work-related issues.”

Annie isn’t the only one on the receiving end. Dustin has learned some valuable lessons from Annie, too. “Watching Annie’s management style, I have learned there is more than one way to get things done,” he says, “and it’s not always the traditional method. I tell other project managers to run their ideas or problems by Annie. They can learn more from Annie, on the front lines, than from me, sitting in my office.”

The Selfish Side of Mentoring

Scott Grubb and Matt Vanderpool

To many in the construction management industry, it is a highly unusual situation: a high-ranking project executive mentoring a less-seasoned project engineer. But it seemed perfectly natural to Scott Grubb (CM ’86) and Matt Vanderpool (CM ’02).

“It is an honor to be a mentor,” Scott said. “It doesn’t seem unusual to me that someone in my position would want to mentor someone like Matt.”

Matt agreed. “Our company has a ‘small company’ feel to it, and upper management is very accessible,” he said. “It wasn’t that unusual for this mentoring to be taking place.”

Both Cal Poly grads have worked at Harbison-Mahony-Higgins (HMH) Builders Inc. (a subsidiary of Swinerton Builders) since graduating. They met while working on a very difficult project that Scott was in charge of.

“It didn’t take me long to realize Matt was a bright, capable individual,” Scott said. “We were doing a hospital expansion and renovation in the East Bay. We encountered numerous difficult situations, and I liked what I saw in Matt. He stayed calm, he collected as much information as he could, and then he made a thoughtful decision before moving on. He seemed like a good person to stay in touch with. Of course, that might have been selfish on my part.”

Selfish because Scott claims he has learned as much from Matt as Matt has learned from him. “Matt might choose to handle a situation differently than I would, which might prove more effective than how I would have handled it,” Scott said. “That’s how I learn from him.”
While HMH does provide a formal mentoring program, Scott’s mentoring of Matt was done informally, often at a job site. There’s a delicate balance to the mentor-mentee relationship. Good mentors lend support; they don’t solve the problem.

“Scott wouldn’t answer questions directly, but instead taught me how to problem-solve,” Matt stressed. “He taught me ways to think about things. Eventually I stopped asking questions because I figured out how to solve the problem. I learned to think for myself.

“It’s a difficult thing to teach,” Matt continued. “Mentors are there when you need them, but they are not there to figure it out. I would have a specific question, and Scott would ask, ‘Did you think about this? What would be the impact of that?’ He taught me to widen my view.”

Added Scott, “You don’t want to give a man a fish; you want to teach him to fish. And hopefully, along the way, you are making your employees and your company more successful. A mentor is in a good position to develop good managers.

“I work with anybody who wants help,” Scott continued. “Some people stand out. They give you feedback on how the company operates – maybe on things that need to be changed. There is no better way to find out.”

Scott has been mentoring young professionals for about 15 of his 25 years at HMH. “After 10 years on the job, I had enough confidence and had worked with enough people to be of value,” he said. “And mentoring accelerates your own learning.”

Having a good mentor doesn’t necessarily mean following in their footsteps. Matt’s career path is a bit out of the ordinary. Instead of being “one of the guys in the office,” he is in the field, working as a superintendent.

“It’s not typical to go the superintendent route,” he said. “It’s more typical to go into project management, but I enjoy the field and the people in the field. And having a plan come together is great. Working as a team, building camaraderie, completing the project all validate success and bring a great deal of satisfaction.”

Both Matt and Scott stand by Cal Poly’s hands-on teaching method. “When I graduated, I hit the ground running,” Scott recalled.

“A Harbison-Mahony-Higgins job – the now-completed CalSTRs project in West Sacramento (above)

“Matt might choose to handle a situation differently than I would, which might prove more effective ... That’s how I learn from him.”

SCOTT GRUBB
Project Executive ∙ HMH Builders Inc.

“Matt might choose

to handle a situation
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I learn from him.”
Blurring the Lines Between Mentor and Mentee

**Angela Hanson and Whitney Dorn**

Construction management is historically a man’s world, so when Angela Hanson (Arch ’98) met with Whitney Dorn (CM ’94) at Whitney’s job site more than a decade ago, there was an instant connection.

That bond was intensified by the fact that both women had started at Cal Poly intent on becoming architects. Whitney switched majors to construction management when she was in her third year. Angela, who likes the hands-on, tangible aspects of construction management, stayed with architecture, but added a CM minor.

“When I started school, I didn’t know there was a construction management major,” Angela said. “Architecture is a well-known profession; that was not the case with construction management.”

Former CM Department Head Jim Rodger arranged the women’s initial meeting. “Jim knew I was with DPR Construction, and he phoned to ask if I would meet with Angela,” recalled Whitney, who now works as DPR’s sustainability manager for Southern California.

“He explained that Angela was an architecture major interested in pursuing a career in construction management. He wanted me to talk to her about the transition from architecture to construction management, not interview her for a job.”

But DPR did offer her a job, and Angela – like her mentor before her – started work right after graduation. The mentoring didn’t begin right away, and over the years, the lines between mentor and mentee have sometimes blurred.

The two are close in age, and as the more-senior member of DPR, Whitney started out as the mentor. “When you work together as long as we have, though, the roles switch back and forth. We connected in many ways, on many levels – as friends and colleagues,” Whitney remarked.

“Angela and I were friends, so it was easy to find ways to meet. We would walk around the weekly Farmers Market and talk, or we would arrange lunches and coffees where we touched on topics specific to her career development.”

Angela was grateful for Whitney’s commitment. “One of the great things about Whitney is she always made time to talk about where I was and where I wanted to go,” Angela said.

Angela, now a project manager, liked having someone to bounce ideas off of, someone with a different point of view. “Having someone who was not always in the trenches and who had a more objective point of view...
was invaluable,” Angela said. “Whitney knows me and my personality and how I approach things, so she could suggest alternative ways of solving problems.”

And because both Whitney and Angela come from architecture backgrounds, they can see the architect’s point of view. “I try to look at things with an architect’s eye,” Angela said. “It’s helpful to have that training – to know what they know. It presents an interesting balance.”

Whitney says she has learned a great deal from Angela, the mother of 7- and 9-year-old girls. “Angela does a wonderful job balancing work and family. She is a great mom with a terrific perspective, and she doesn’t get flustered. I have learned a ton from her about being successful at home and at work.”

Whitney thinks all types of mentor-mentee relationships are extremely useful. “Mentoring young professionals helps bridge the generations,” she claimed. “I seek out 20-somethings with whom I can have a mentoring relationship,” she said. “Our differences give me perspective, and I get to learn the language they speak.”

In the end, Whitney’s view of mentoring isn’t restricted to work. Rather she sees it as life enriching. “If a mentee decides to leave the company or industry, I don’t view that as negative,” Whitney explained. “I see it as a decision he made to create a more meaningful, balanced life for himself.”

“Typically you mentor someone you want to succeed, and you invest in that person. Similarly, a good mentee is someone who respects the mentor. It’s give and take; it’s equal. I get as much out of it as Angela does.”

WHITNEY DORN
Sustainability Manager • DPR

DPR works at the Isis Pharmaceuticals job site in Carlsbad.
Jay Lowe and Sean Carolan

Jay Lowe (CM ’08) is one of the lucky ones. As a newcomer to Hensel Phelps Construction, he was fortunate enough to be trained by “mentor extraordinaire” Sean Carolan (CM ’95).

Sean insists there is nothing extraordinary about him. “Providing hands-on training is part of my role as a manager,” he said. But according to Jay, Sean goes well beyond the role of a typical manager by making himself accessible on many levels – at the office, as a friend, and as a project manager. “It’s nice to have someone in the company you can call for help,” Jay said. “Hensel Phelps is a large company; I wasn’t going to call the vice president. But I can call Sean. If I had a question, he would provide resources and point me in the right direction. He had enough trust and faith in my abilities to let me go forth with the project, but he wouldn’t let me fail.”

Sean also took an interest in Jay’s personal life. “About a year ago, I had a pressing personal problem,” Jay said. “Sean was extremely busy. I called and told him I could use his guidance, and he came to work early so we could go to breakfast and talk. We weren’t even working on the same project at the time, but he helped me out as a friend.” And he helped out several others as well. “He would make himself available to me and about nine other young staff members,” Jay recalled. “At least once a week, the group would go to lunch or dinner or grab some appetizers and drinks. He would pass along his experience, lessons learned and tell stories.”

Sean enjoys working with and training younger engineers. “It is one way to stay connected to the job,” he said. “The entry-level engineers are dealing with the daily details. As a mentor, I can stay connected to those details and with the project – so there is benefit both ways,” he said.

Sean recognized something special in Jay early on. “I interviewed Jay at Cal Poly and hired him,” Sean said. “We are an employee-owned company, so when we hire, we look for the highest quality people and those who have a future as an employee-owner.”

Jay was a great fit for a unique project Sean was working on – a prison health care facility in San Quentin State Prison. “Jay was managing the medical equipment package – $7 million worth of medical equipment and furnishings,” Sean said. “Everything was being scrutinized; every move had to be transparent.” It was no surprise Jay did a terrific job. “He has a great personality and is mature beyond his years,” Sean stated.

As a mentor, Sean also gets a good understanding of how the next generation is
Jay and Sean collaborated on San Quentin Central Health Services (above).

Working. And he craves the personal connection. “That’s why I like informal mentoring. There’s the human element, which sometimes gets overlooked when a company doesn’t provide mentors.”

As for Jay, the mentoring relationship provided an opportunity for growth. “I gained knowledge and confidence. Sean trusted in my abilities. He gave me a problem and told me to figure it out.”

Jay was recently promoted to field engineer and has begun work on the California Health Care Facility, a medical facility for prison inmates that is slated to be completed by the end of June 2013. Hensel Phelps’ portion of the project is $129 million.

It’s a big project, and even though Jay has been with Hensel Phelps only three years, he is ready for the challenge – thanks in part to Sean’s mentoring. “By giving me different assignments and projects, Sean pushed me along to the next level,” Jay remarked. “He helped me succeed.”

Succeed. It’s what Cal Poly Construction Management graduates do. Sean is quick to give credit to his alma mater. “I love Cal Poly and what it gave me and what it gives other people: the belief in hands-on training … rolling up your sleeves, getting the job done,” Sean said.

In his own way, as a manager and a mentor, Sean upholds Cal Poly’s highly regarded Learn by Doing tradition.
CAL POLY IS SET TO LAUNCH

Graduate Certificate Programs

In early 2011, Cal Poly's Academic Senate approved the development of graduate certificate programs, a breakthrough concept where advanced education can be provided to industry practitioners. Individuals may be enrolled in a graduate certificate program and earn Cal Poly academic credit without being admitted as an undergraduate or graduate student.

The graduate certificates are stand-alone programs designed to meet requirements for professional competence, expand access to specialized knowledge, and meet occupational needs for advanced interdisciplinary work. The body of knowledge associated with the design and construction process has exploded over the past decade; this approach to advanced education is very “user friendly,” according to CM Professor and Interim Department Head Barbara Jackson.

These certificates are a practical way for architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) practitioners; CM alumni; and others to advance their education in the most innovative techniques and tools associated with project delivery and construction management at a reasonable cost, both in terms of dollars and time. Upper-level undergraduate students wanting to enhance their degrees can complete these certificates before graduating, or tag them onto a traditional graduate degree.

The certificates include 12-24 quarter units (three to six courses) and are market-driven and self-supporting. The classes will be delivered via “special sessions,” meeting outside of regular class schedules; “live” or online; off campus or on; and as all-day workshops, evening classes, or extended “boot camp” events. Although they are delivered through Continuing Education, graduates receive a Cal Poly academic transcript, not simply continuing education units.

CM plans to develop five to six graduate certificate programs through the California Center for Construction Education (CCCE) over the next three years. Two of them are expected to be launched in late 2012.

The first is a six-course certificate in Integrated Project Leadership (IPL). With project owners and industry practitioners jumping on the integrated project delivery (IPD) bandwagon, advanced education in this area is in high demand. Cal Poly CM has been a leader in IPD education since 2001.

This certificate will combine the technical aspects of integrating design and construction functions as a synchronized process, with the development, alignment and leadership of multidiscipline teams to leverage the collective intelligence and diverse perspectives of project participants to come up with comprehensive, high-value project solutions.

The CCCE has delivered advanced IPD education in workshops such as Managing Design in an Integrated Process (MDIP). This course will become part of the new IPL graduate certificate.

The second graduate certificate is being developed in conjunction with the Silicon Valley chapters of the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE). Both organizations helped to fund the development of the new graduate certificate in Facilities Management and Engineering.

Leveraging IFMA’s core competencies and AFE’s technical content, this certificate program will integrate the people, place, processes and technology to prepare today’s comprehensive facilities professional to operate at two levels – the strategic-tactical and the operational – to ensure effective and efficient functionality of the built environment. The certificate focuses on a comprehensive approach to managing facilities from the “boiler room to the board room.”

These certificate programs are geared to contractors, engineers, architects, real estate professionals, facility managers and other practitioners associated with the AEC industry and built environment.

For details, contact Barbara Jackson at 805-756-1723 or bjiang@calpoly.edu.
Six teams from Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department won awards in six categories at the 2011 ASC (Associated Schools of Construction) Competition for Regions VI and VII. The Cal Poly teams tied with CSU Sacramento for winning the most awards at the event, held in 2011 in Sparks, Nev.

Cal Poly won first place in the Commercial Team category; second in the Marine, Multi-Family and Risk Management Team categories; and third in the Concrete Solutions and Heavy-Civil Team categories. In addition, Kevin Niu took first and Jamie Gretz took second in the Alternates competition.

Each team is presented with a problem to which the students must apply their knowledge of estimating, scheduling, project management, contracting and field operations. The problems are based on actual projects the sponsoring company has completed. Teams are given 16-18 hours to prepare their responses to the request for proposals, after which they present their oral proposals and answer questions from a panel of judges.

Among CM’s winning teams: ASC-Risk Management (left) and ASC-Marine (below)

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**Thank You, Generous Sponsors**

CM extends a heartfelt thanks (in alphabetical order) to: Bernards; Larry & Ariel Etcheverry; Haskell; Matt Construction; Skanska; Sprig Electric; Traylor Bros. Inc.; and XL Construction.

** Winning Team Members**

Cal Poly’s winning team members are listed below. Asterisks indicate students who served as alternates.

- **Commercial Team**
  - First place: Greg Amon, Ryan Brown, Jeff Caruso*, Ryan Holman, Crosby Lovell (captain), Brian Poage*, Bria Riparbelli, David Skeber
  - Faculty coach: Phil Barlow
  - Sponsor: XL Construction

- **Marine Team**
  - Second place: Mike Constable*, Joseph Field-Bell, Sean Jordan, Matt Ohlund*, Tyler Molesworth, Alex Passeggi, Matthew Welch (captain), Taylor Zamaroni
  - Faculty coach: Paul Weber
  - Sponsor: Traylor Brothers Inc.

- **Multi-family Team**
  - Second place: Mat Dunlap*, Patrick Garahan, Bryan Laubach (captain), Laura McWilliams, Harlan Prather, Aaron Pusztoi, Cody Strange*, Ryan Wenig
  - Faculty coach: Scott Kelting
  - Partial sponsorship: Alcal Arcade

- **Risk Management Team**
  - Second place: Deanna Alexander (captain), Chris Arce, Clement Balser, Timothy Foley*, Jarrod Haering, Andy Rohner, Sachneel Patel, Kyle Ross*
  - Faculty coach: Phil Barlow

- **Concrete Solutions Team**
  - Third place: Kevin Farrow (captain), Steven Giordano, Daniel Jedynak*, Andrew Kline, Sam Marquez, Austin Nunez, Tyler Pratt, Daniel Twomey*
  - Faculty coach: Paul Weber

- **Heavy-Civil Team**
  - Third place: Tyler Carr, Reid Etcheverry (captain), Brianna Halfhide*, Kelly Keefe, Adam Nash, Johnny Proctor, Zack Saljian, Spencer Stahl*
  - Faculty coach: Greg Starzyk
  - Sponsor: Skanska
Top in Nation
Cal Poly team places first at NAHB Competition

Cal Poly Construction Management students placed first in this year’s NAHB (National Association of Homebuilders) annual competition in Orlando, Fla. The students were charged with developing a model home and sales office complex for a semi-custom and custom home builder in Yadkin County, N.C.

The team created a hypothetical investment proposal and business plan that included market research on feasibility, marketing and sales, project design, green building, project management, cost estimating, a construction schedule, and a 10-year financial analysis. The team spent countless weekends and holidays during fall quarter 2010 working on the project, according to team captain Ryan Wenig. They even flew to North Carolina for a site visit.

Professor Scott Kelting coached team members Mat Dunlap, Mitchell Johns, Laura McWilliams, Michael Stone, Nick Turner and Ryan Wenig for the competition.

Cal Poly team takes first at ASC LEED Competition

The Construction Management Department was invited to compete in last year’s ASC Region II (Southeast) LEED competition in Birmingham, Ala. With just about a month to prepare, the team brought home a first-place trophy and $3,500 in prize money.

The six-member team, coached by Paul Weber, was given a problem statement and plans for a hospital project in Americus, Ga. “We had to develop a LEED scorecard and explain how we could achieve LEED Silver status,” said team captain Greg Amon.

The students had roughly 16 hours to complete the problem. They spent all day in the “war room,” a hotel room-turned-office with one desk per person. The following day they gave a 20-minute presentation and answered questions from the judges.

“It was a lofty goal to win,” Amon stated. “Our team chemistry and attitude gave us the edge we needed.”

Team members included Greg Amon, Dean De Smet, Patrick “PJ” Garahan, Philip Ost, Harlan Prather and Zack Saljian.

Department Awards
Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department received a Warmby Award grant for $35,000 from the Construction Employers’ Association (CEA) of Northern California. The grant supports the professional development of students by helping to send them to regional and national competitions, conferences and field trips, primarily in the Bay Area.

The department was also awarded a Construction Management Education Account Grant for more than $37,000 from the Contractors State License Board. The grant supports the salaries of some part-time faculty, some administrative work, and some faculty travel for professional development.
To Haiti, With Love

David Short (B.S. ConE ’77; M.S. CSC ’78), at far right, recently transitioned from a 32-year career as a project/program manager for such companies as Visa, Chevron, Lockheed Martin, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory into the projects and development director for El Shaddai Ministries International. ESMI is a faith-based nongovernmental organization that has been operating in Haiti since 1995. David went to Haiti to help in disaster response after the January 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince. Now on the executive team, he is responsible for managing all projects and development activities across the country. (See this organization’s work at http://intimatewarrior.blogspot.com.)

David wrote the “Concrete Block Construction Guide for Haiti” and has a team of seven Haitian workers trained in constructing homes according to this methodology, which incorporates California earthquake and Florida hurricane standards. He is developing the plans and designs for a university to be built in Jeremie in the Grand-Anse department of Haiti. He lives in Ohio and travels to Haiti as necessary while managing multiple projects remotely.

Central Coast Construction

Erik Wright (’09) is vice president of Hilyard Concrete Construction in San Luis Obispo. An employee there since June 2009, his work includes estimating and project management of new and existing jobs. Established in 1978, HCC is the largest and oldest concrete construction company on the Central Coast. The firm’s main focus is large-scale commercial structures. Current projects include Windset Farms in Santa Maria, the Administrative Border Patrol Station in San Clemente, and Halter Ranch Winery in Paso Robles.
Doug Ide ('80) works for Parsons Corp. as a senior project manager/mechanical estimator. He moved to Puyallup, Wash., and joined Parsons in 1997. He spent most of his career building large, complex public works projects, such as water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, cogeneration plants and power generating stations.

Mya Krikorian ('07) writes: Hard to believe it’s been four years since I left sunny San Luis Obispo for foggy San Francisco. After graduating and working for a commercial interiors general contractor in San Francisco on some amazing projects, including Salesforce executive offices and Charles Schwab’s San Francisco-based offices, I found my way to Australia looking for adventure. A month of driving tractors on a banana farm in Far North Queensland, some diving, surfing and serious beach time landed me in Sydney looking for more routine and a way to earn back some of my well-spent savings. Just after a warm Christmas and one month-long hoorah traveling the East Coast of Australia with Clancy Simon (CM '07), I found work at Build Group, a large general contractor based out of Sydney. They put me on site where I worked on a 12-story restack in the heart of downtown for four months. Back in San Francisco a year now, 

Outfitted to Be Tied

Cyndy and Manuel Galván ('09) celebrate with newlyweds Megan and Bruce Bailey ('08) on their wedding day in September in Jamul, Calif. The Galvans beat the Baileys to the altar, marrying in August in Laguna Hills. Manny is a project engineer at Balfour Beatty Construction in Redondo Beach. Bruce is an assistant project manager at Bergelectric, currently working on three projects in the Tucson, Ariz., area.

A Promotion & Addition

Jonathan ‘J.D.’ Crans ('01) has been promoted to the position of concrete estimating manager at the Morley Construction Co. in Santa Monica. His new role includes managing the concrete estimating process and people to prepare proposals for senior management review. In February 2011 he welcomed a son, Declan Aiden, to his family. “Along with my stepson and daughter, my wife and I are very happy to welcome Declan Aiden into our family. He is such a joy in our lives!”

Events Calendar

January 3
Winter term begins

January 23-27
World of Concrete 2012 – Las Vegas, Nev.

February 8-11
ASC Competition – Reno, Nev.

February 9-11
NAHB – Orlando, Fla.

February 17
CBF Field Trip Day

March 26
Spring term begins

April 11-14
ASC – England

April 13-14
Cal Poly Open House

April 23-27
ABC Competition & Educational Conference – San Antonio, Texas

May 4
CBF Field Trip Day

May 12
Simpson Strong-Tie Symposium, Cal Poly

May 17-19
AIA – Washington, D.C.

June 1
Senior Banquet – Location TBD

June 2
Alumni Dinner – Location TBD

June 10
NSCM Golf Tournament – Location TBD

June 12
Spring CAED Commencement

Please visit www.construction.calpoly.edu for the latest news, alumni gatherings and events.
A ‘Concrete’ Marriage

Andrew Austin (‘08) and Natalie (Parisi) Austin (‘08) have been married for one year. After a stint working at Whiting-Tuner, building the new Santa Monica Place Mall, Andrew took a job with Shaw & Sons, an architectural concrete firm that holds the patent for lithocrete, a high-end architecturally exposed aggregate concrete. The company does all kinds of concrete work. Natalie is a project manager at Disneyland in Anaheim.

A Breathtaking Opportunity

Bill Frazer (‘77) graduated with the last ConE class in 1977. His first job as a field engineer with Wismer & Becker took him to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where a coal-fired power plant was under construction. After a few years, W&B was acquired by Guy F. Atkinson. During the next 20 years, Bill held various field positions in the company until its bankruptcy in 1997. A year later some staff members were acquired by Calpine Corp., which maintained an office in Folsom, Calif., until February 2010. Calpine undertook an aggressive multi-billion dollar construction program to build and commission more than 25,000 megawatts of gas-fired power plants throughout the U.S. and Canada. With Calpine, Bill served as the senior estimator responsible for capital cost estimates for various power plants. He is now manager of project estimating services with TransCanada in Calgary, Alberta, Canada – a stone’s throw from the picturesque Lake Louise (pictured).

Alumni – visit our job board

Does your firm have an available job, or are you looking for work? If so, what could be better than connecting with Cal Poly alumni to discuss employment opportunities?

You’re invited to visit CM’s job board at http://www.construction.calpoly.edu/opportunities/job-board.html. The site is not limited to student use; it’s a valuable alumni resource as well.

Email your available job postings to Tana Anastasia at ganastas@calpoly.edu or submit them to the web address above. For more information, please email Tana at the email address above or call her at 805-756-6381.

Alumni News

Justin Peterson (‘94) has been appointed president of O’Connor Construction Management Inc. With the company since 1994, Justin is a principal and shareholder credited with establishing O’Connor’s presence in Las Vegas in 1996. He is a certified professional estimator, planning and scheduling professional and LEED-accredited professional. O’Connor specializes in project and construction management, cost estimating, scheduling, construction audits, claims and risk management for building and infrastructure projects. Based in Irvine, the firm maintains offices nationwide and serves a diverse mix of clients including the U.S. government, state and local agencies, and design and contracting pros.

SEND YOUR NEWS to Tana Anastasia at ganastas@calpoly.edu. High-resolution (300 dpi) photos are also welcome.

I have been working at Principal Builders, a small commercial interiors general contractor with offices in Union Square and Palo Alto. I moved back to the office from the jobsite in Sunnyvale, where last February we completed Nokia’s award-winning new Silicon Valley campus. It has been a great couple of years. The only thing CM didn’t really prepare me for was missing the college life as much as I do. Concrete test pours, residential models, and even architectural engineering; I miss it all – especially the great faculty that made San Luis Obispo such a great environment in which to live and learn. I don’t know what lies ahead, but the adventure doesn’t stop. Clancy’s taking her turn at an adventure, and I hope to visit her in Sweden. It might be cold, but I’m looking forward to what I consider a mecca for modern design and construction!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
GET INVOLVED in as many departmental activities as you can – as soon as you can.” That’s the “how-to-succeed” advice the 2011 CM Senior Award winners want new students to hear. And who better to dispense advice on succeeding than the outstanding seniors! The six award winners follow in alphabetical order.

Greg Amon  
Service to the Department

While a senior at Mountain View High School, Greg applied to 17 U.S. colleges, unsure where he wanted to study. Once he learned Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department accepted him, the choice was easy. “Cal Poly had the best reputation among everyone I asked,” he declared.

A stellar student who made the Dean’s List “most quarters,” he was also an involved student, winning first place in three Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competitions, staying active in clubs, and serving as an advocate of the CM program.

He founded Cal Poly’s Emerging Green Professionals (EGP) student chapter and served as its first president. EGP is part of the U.S. Green Building Council.

He and fellow award winners Ryan Brown, Reid Etcheverry and Bryan Fairbanks, plus some 20 other CM students, spent five weeks over the summer with Professor Hal Johnston in Prague in the Czech Republic. When he returned to the States, he began working as a project engineer with DPR Construction in San Diego.
Ryan Brown
Service to the Department

Ryan – or “RB” to his friends – traces his interest in construction to his second year of high school in Walnut Creek. “I liked the idea of working hard and ending up with something tangible,” he explained.

Ryan started and ran the Cal Poly student chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) for a year and a half. He also served on the board of EGP and was a member of the student chapter of the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM). “The department gave us so many opportunities, I wanted to give a little back,” he stated.

Ryan especially liked participating in the ASC Reno competitions. “My second year, I shadowed the Heavy-Civil Team, which won first place in regionals and nationals,” he said. “My third year, I captained the Heavy-Civil Team, winning first place. My fourth year, I co-captained the Commercial Team and won another first place.”

The eight-time Dean’s List recipient was surprised he won the Service to the Department Award. “I didn’t think I was going to get any awards,” he said. “It was nice to know that people went out of their way to recognize the work I had put in over the years.”

After his five-week stint in Prague, Ryan traveled throughout southern Europe and the United Kingdom before starting work at XL Construction in Milpitas, Calif.
Tim Dieu  
**Exceptional Contribution**

Tim came to Cal Poly at 18, fresh out of Clovis West High School, with an interest in construction that began with his involvement in SkillsUSA, an organization that helps students prepare for technical and trade careers.

In addition to studying – Tim made the Dean's List “pretty much every quarter since sophomore year” – he worked for three years as a student technician in the CAED Support Shop. “I like to repair and restore old equipment, rather than have it end up in a dump,” he said.

He enjoyed the Construction Service Learning class so much, he took it twice. The first year, he helped build a pizza oven for Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery. The next year the class built a 20-foot by 14-foot tool shed for the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens. “It was a detailed project, and the students pretty much did it all, from start to finish,” Tim said.

He landed a job as a project engineer with Jacobs Engineering in Bakersfield.

Reid Etcheverry  
**Outstanding Leadership**

Bay Area native Reid always liked taking things apart to see how they were built, so it’s no surprise he wound up studying construction management. It’s also no surprise he chose Cal Poly. “It is the greatest school in California for construction management,” he said.

College didn’t always come easy for Reid, who had some trouble initially. He credits Professor Paul Weber for giving him opportunities to exceed and excel. “Paul introduced me to ASCM, and I eventually became president,” Reid said. “He gave me the opportunity to attend the ASC Reno competition, which started my run with the Heavy-Civil Team. He has always supported me.”

Reid served as a shadow, team member and captain of the Heavy-Civil Team at ASC Reno competitions. “The team won first place when I was a shadow and team member and third when I was captain,” he said.

His leadership roles included serving as ASCM president and department liaison. “I was honored to win the Outstanding Leadership Award,” he said.
**Bryan Fairbanks**  
**Outstanding Senior**

In addition to his Outstanding Senior award, Bryan was recognized for having the highest GPA in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. He earned his degree in a record three years, making straight As while also serving in several leadership roles. And still he found time to play percussion in the Cal Poly Arab Ensemble.

Bryan, from Southern California, served as president of Cal Poly’s chapter of the Sigma Lambda Chi International Construction Honor Society, organizing community service activities for Habitat for Humanity. “This was a great way to incorporate Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy into activities outside of school,” he said. He also served as vice president of the student chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America.

In 2010 and 2011 he was on the BIM (Building Information Modeling) team at the ASC Reno competition. “It was a powerful teaming exercise,” he said. “We were stuck in a single room for 24 hours and forced to work together under pressure to produce BIM models, estimates and schedules.”

In September Bryan began work on a master’s degree in construction engineering and management at Stanford University.

**Joe Field-Bell**  
**Outstanding Leadership**

Joe has always known he would work in the construction industry. “I never wanted to do anything else,” he said. And he got an early start. At 13, he went to work for his uncle, a contractor.

Joe, from Sebastopol, was part of the six-member Marine Construction Team that competed at the ASC Reno, Nev., competition in February 2011, winning second in the region and in the nation.

“We had a great team and a fantastic opportunity to work hard and educate ourselves,” he recalled.

A big fan of the Construction Service Learning course, Joe was part of the team that built a brick pizza oven for Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery, a nonprofit that helps emotionally troubled teens and young adults. The oven is the centerpiece of its healing garden. Seven students worked on it for an entire quarter, donating some 450 work hours.

He demonstrated his leadership ability as a board member and president of ASCM and a board member for the College-Based Fees Advisory Committee. Joe also demonstrated a solid work ethic, cleaning El Corral bookstore every morning at 5 a.m. as a freshman, then working as a handyman for a property management firm.
CM proudly acknowledges three faculty members for their achievements this year:

- **Philip Barlow** earned professional certifications from the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA), the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE), and the American Institute of Constructors (AIC). He was appointed assistant regional director for ASC Region VII.
- **Scott Kelting** won the ASC’s 2011 Regional Excellence Teaching Award for Region VII. He completed his doctorate in summer quarter 2011!
- **Greg Starzyk** earned a Juris Doctorate with scholastic merit from Taft Law School. He earned certification by the Design-Build Institute of America as an associate, and he was awarded the Verla and Paul Neel Faculty Scholarship to attend the 2011 ASC Conference in Omaha, Neb. The Central Coast Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council awarded him a certificate for participating in the 2010 Natural Talent Design Competition. Starzyk also was awarded an honorarium and participated in the National Science Foundation-sponsored workshop, “Collaborative Practice: When Engineering Meets Architecture,” at the University of Pennsylvania.

CM hosted 100 CM parents during Parent’s Weekend in October 2011. Each parent was given a hard hat and put into one of three groups: the Bulldozers, the Cranes or the Scrapers. Groups rotated through three different Learn By Doing activities led by CM faculty. By the end of the event, parents had tested concrete cylinders, utilized a computer program to draft a house plan, and learned about team communication during a Lego building exercise. The event was a huge success, with parents pleased to have a better understanding of the field their child has chosen to pursue.
Community Outreach

The California Center for Construction Education (CCCE), in conjunction with the local chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), hosted the second annual MAGIC Camp – an acronym for Mentoring a Girl in Construction. The event gathers a group of young women from local high schools for a week of activities related to the built environment.

The June 2011 project was planned to utilize the new Simpson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Lab. Eighteen students constructed a playhouse from start to finish, learning about tools, safety, the different construction roles on a job site, and teamwork. The completed playhouse was donated to a local group.

Plans are under way to construct a similar project in June 2012 and donate it to the Cal Poly Children's Center.
CM Department Continues to Grow and Lead

The CM department has undertaken some exciting new programs this year while solidifying its impressive historic tradition of excellence. The faculty have played a leadership role in helping the college activate our new Simpson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Lab, as evidenced by the summer Magic Camp venture for aspiring young women and by course-related, full-scale work (as shown on the opposite page).

The college has benefited further as CM and Architecture faculty devised ways of sharing the space for class-related projects. The exchange of ideas and perspectives was animated as one group tackled learning about contemporary concrete shoring practices (as shown on the right), while the other used unconventional materials to fabricate a lightweight emergency shelter. On weekends, an interdisciplinary team of students used the space to work on the plywood ceiling elements of the Bridge Gallery. And the Mezzanine saw use for both Parent Weekend presentations and a gallery exhibition for students’ work created in our nearby Digital Fabrication Lab.

As this issue shows, the CM department is leading the field, through mentoring, competitions, the development of future certificate programs, and student success. The additional leadership in interdisciplinary collaboration and the use of new, shared facilities all add up to a banner year that brings pride to the entire college.

R. Thomas Jones
AIA

Students get hands-on experience with large projects in the Simpson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Lab (right).
June 2011 construction management graduates continue the “hard-hat” tradition, making our department stand out at every commencement exercise.

Jenay Reynolds (above, center), CM Department administrative assistant, celebrates with the graduates.

If you are hiring your next generation of corporate leaders, call us to get in touch with these and other recent graduates!

2011 CM grad Crosby Lovell (left)