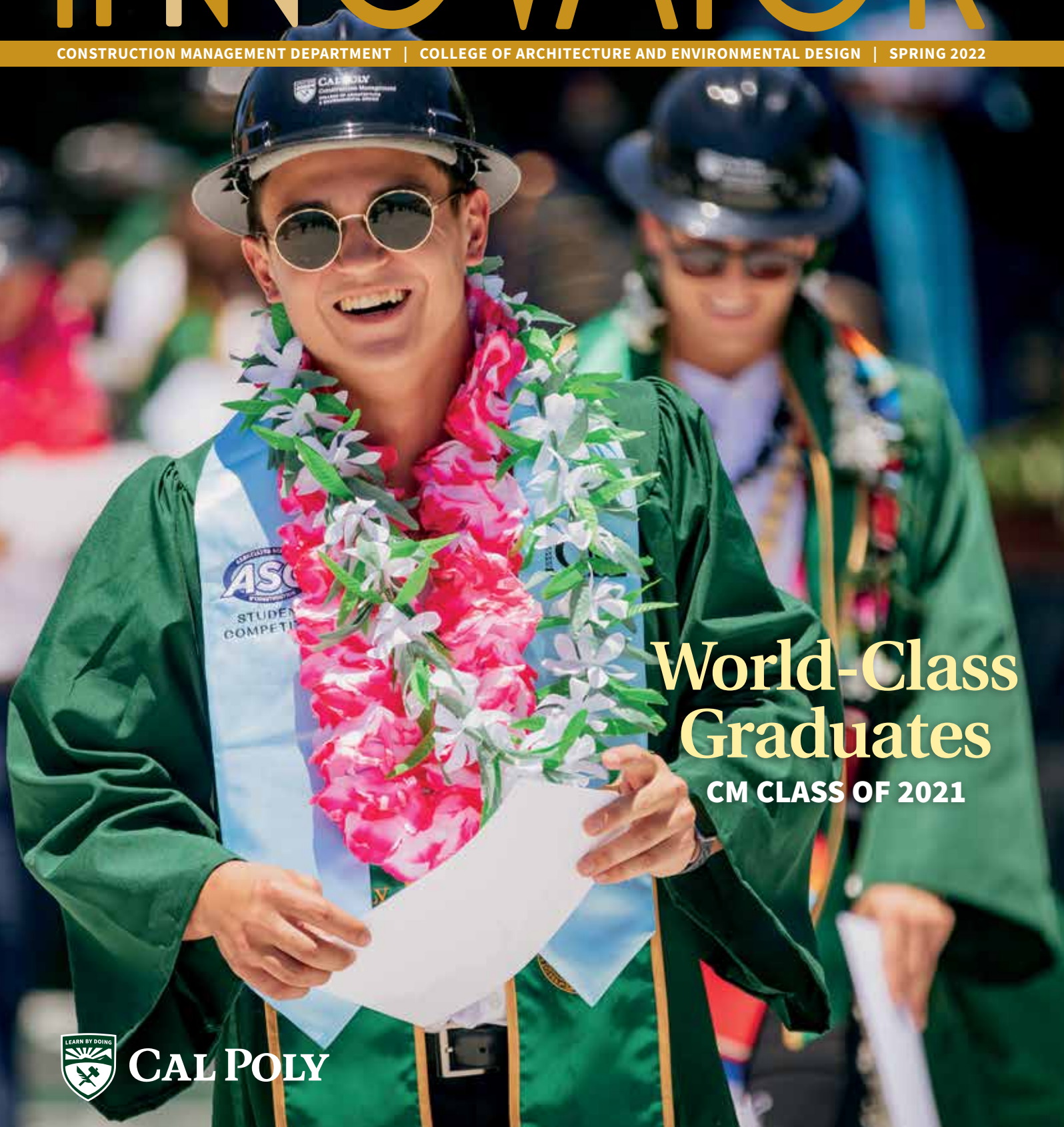


CONSTRUCTION INNOVATOR

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT | COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN | SPRING 2022



World-Class Graduates

CM CLASS OF 2021



CAL POLY



Enriching Our CM Community

REAPING THE REWARDS OF BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE PROGRAM

I hope you and your family started 2022 with a bunch of blessings. As I write this, the Construction Management (CM) Department has participated in a few important in-person events, including the CM winter career fair and ASC Region 6 & 7 Student Competition, and we look forward to hosting our 50th anniversary celebration.

I am so grateful to see our students are excited to attend in-person classes, enjoy social events and further their education by participating in extracurricular activities. I am glad to share in this issue how CM has been creating more inclusive and diverse communities. As noted in the story of new student club CM CASA, the department has a remarkable sense of community. We continuously develop stronger communities in which all students can get involved and feel safe.

I understand some of you have been waiting for this issue of Construction Innovator. We purposely sent this issue in April to include the invitation to CM's 50th anniversary celebration. Please check the back cover to see how to sign up for the celebration events. We are planning to add exciting events and activities that celebrate our success over half a century — with proper safety protocols in place.

We experienced many unforgettable moments and historic achievements in 2021. With your continued support, we

▲ CM Department Head Jeong Woo is happy to see a strong turnout at the 2021 Career Fair at the Madonna Expo Center, San Luis Obispo.

funded critical initiatives that benefit students, including promoting diversity; awarding scholarships; assisting students in such professional development activities as competitions, field trips and conferences, while also providing students with resources to support hands-on and virtual learning.

Once again, on behalf of our students and faculty, thank you for your support of construction education at Cal Poly. The CM Department will continue investing our resources to create innovative curricular activities, provide students with unparalleled opportunities, and support faculty members who cultivate talent and inspire innovations. We have earned a reputation for educating and graduating some of the best students in California; your support has been central to this success.

Looking forward to meeting you and celebrating the CM Department's 50th anniversary in May 2022. Thank you for reading. I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy.

Jeong Woo

JEONG WOO | DEPARTMENT HEAD

Inside

ON THE COVER

As the number of COVID-19 cases fell in spring 2021, the pandemic lockdown lifted briefly in June, enabling Cal Poly students to attend campus commencement ceremonies. Construction management (CM) graduate Evan Tookey took advantage of the opportunity to see his classmates and pick up a generic diploma, understanding that the genuine document would be mailed.

THIS PAGE

CM graduates commemorating the special occasion in Mustang Stadium in 2021 are (from left) Steelee Morgan, Evan Tookey, Isidoro Amalfitano and Shaina Suanico.

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CM CASA

New campus club focuses on supporting Latinx and first-generation students

LATINX STUDENTS — specifically first-generation college students — in Cal Poly's construction management (CM) program can now find the targeted support they need through CM CASA, the department's newest student club.

Created by lecturer Eric Brinkman and senior Itzell Ruiz, CM CASA, which stands for Community and Student Achievement, seeks to promote diversity and inclusion among the department's student body.

"CM CASA offers first-year students an opportunity for mentorship and guidance while they navigate the college experience," Ruiz said. "Other goals include supporting the participation of Latinx CM students in other department clubs, activities and competitions."

Brinkman and Ruiz had been working on the club's opening since 2020.

"I had been interested in developing something to support Latinx students for a few years," Brinkman explained. "As a teacher, I have noticed that many Latinx students are quiet and hesitant to speak up in the classroom, yet they are outstanding students with so much to contribute."

"It seemed that they might be intimidated by the predominately white male makeup of our students," Brinkman continued. "I wanted to create some sort of platform to address that. Making this happen during COVID-19 has been a challenge. Club leaders Itzell and senior Miriam Robles demonstrated an ability to motivate, organize and lead."

Ruiz sees the club as a way to provide more Latinx representation in the university, department and industry.

"I think it's important to have a club focused on Latinx students because in a predominately white institution, it can be very difficult for many students to feel supported," Ruiz said.

◀ Members of Cal Poly's CM CASA and Women in Construction clubs tour the 8th & Fig Project job site during a field trip to Los Angeles in fall 2021.



▲ The CM CASA and Women in Construction clubs coordinated their visit to the site with project builder Lendlease, a global real estate and investment group. Lendlease staff took club members on a guided tour of the project.

“As minorities in this university, industry and world, it is easy to get discouraged. The club aims to be a support system and safe space for all members.”

Brinkman added, “The Construction Management Department has a remarkable sense of community, which is one of its greatest strengths. I want this club to help Latinx students feel like they are part this community.”

Ruiz and Brinkman hope the club continues to grow. “I would like the club to continue to be a place for students to find support and encouragement and also a space to grow and learn more about diversity and its importance in construction,” Ruiz said. ■



▲ CM CASA's first in-person meeting attendees in fall 2021 include (from left): Johnny Zepeda, Eddie Pascua, Estevan Hurtado, Juan Zacarias, Tony Ibarra (foreground), Miguel Duran and Itzell Ruiz.



POISED TO MENTOR AND INSPIRE AT

Summer Camp

CM Department Head Jeong Woo, student and alumni volunteers participate in an event that introduces girls to construction activities, aiming to generate interest in the industry

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT (CM) Department Head Jeong Woo, three CM seniors and three CM alumni spent a week in San Diego last July serving as volunteer counselors at an all-girls camp designed to spark interest in construction industry careers.

The free, girls-only camp is sponsored by the Future Construction Leaders Foundation of San Diego in partnership with the National Association of Women in Construction. The camp offers girls 12 to 18 a supportive environment in which to develop teamwork,

▲ Program volunteers (from left) Chloe Riddlespurger (CM, '21) and Ally Forster (CM, '19) join Construction Management Department Head Jeong Woo at the 2021 summer boot camp in San Diego.

leadership and mentoring skills while exploring the basic elements of trades, such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, sheet metal, landscaping and heavy equipment.

In addition to Woo, CM seniors Chloe Riddlespurger, Alex Gattuso and Ashley Isla participated, as well as alumnae Allison Forster ('19), Morghan Heim ('19) and Ashley Garber ('18).



▲ Volunteer supervisors help campers hone their skills in construction-related activities, such as building and painting sheds and using propane torches ...
◀ ... to operating heavy equipment.



Isla jumped at the opportunity to mentor young girls. “I was thrilled that a camp like this even existed,” she said. “I’ve always been passionate about getting the younger generation excited about the construction industry.”

Through various hands-on activities, campers — both first-time “apprentices” and returning “journey-women” — learned to demonstrate effective communication while building the self-confidence to tackle and complete challenging projects.

“On sheet metal day, we made sheet metal roses,” Isla said.

“On framing day, we built picnic tables. The journey-women built three sheds in a week.”

The camp benefits both the campers and the industry it strives to serve.

“Camp NAWIC is an awesome experience for girls to get an overview of the construction industry,” Isla said. “They learn about the project manager route, superintendent route and trade route.

“The construction industry doesn’t have enough young people going into skilled trades,” Isla continued. “It seems that many

high school students are not aware of the various opportunities the construction industry offers, such as apprenticeships or going to trade school. This camp exposes high schoolers to different options.”

The experience further fueled Isla’s passion. “This camp led me to my senior project, which is developing a camp like this at Cal Poly,” she said. Cal Poly’s camp is tentatively scheduled for July 25-29, 2022.

“I could not be more excited for local high schoolers to experience this opportunity,” Isla said. ■

Pitching Skills and Opportunities

CM's career fairs successfully connect job-shopping students and employee-seeking industry partners

▼ A CM student connects with Manson representatives at the October 2021 CM Career Fair in San Luis Obispo.

ACCORDING TO THE university's Career Services, construction management (CM) graduates have boasted 100% job placement for the past five years, thanks in part to strong industry support and Cal Poly's California Center for Construction Education (CCCE) program efforts.

The CCCE has continued to hold its popular Construction Management Career Fairs, although they were offered virtually. In the last academic year, more than 230 construction companies hired new employees through CCCE's robust recruitment programs.

More than 400 industry representatives and 300 students attended each of the virtual Construction Management Career Fairs in 2020-21. The technology allows students the ability to share their elevator pitch videos and resumes with recruiters in a way that mimics an in-person interview. Students had a chance to visit virtual company booths to review brochures and documents and obtain a digital flyer that includes links to participating company websites.

The CCCE team ensures that diversity and inclusivity are promoted, and local women-owned and minority-owned small businesses were invited to participate.

"The career fairs are not a one-time event, but rather a virtual collaboration hub for our students to establish and maintain connections with employers," said Department Head Jeong Woo. "We are very confident that our students will create meaningful relationships with recruiters and make informed decisions on their future career paths."

Safe, in-person on-campus recruiting activities returned in 2021 with daily recruitment sessions and the first Construction Management Career Fair in October. CCCE Program Manager Rachell Smith leveraged virtual activities from the previous year to enhance the recruiters' and students' experience by implementing an online interview scheduling platform, weekly social media posts and an email marketing campaign to students.

In addition, the CCCE launched the "Hard Hat Discussion" series featuring members of the Construction Management Advisory Committee





▲ A CM student learns about job prospects with a Granite representative.

► At an additional CCCE event, McGuire & Hester and the 46 Northern Carpenters Union hosted a celebration for students who completed the 2020-21 Carpenter's Apprentice Program.

(CMAC) and CM alumni. The recorded discussions are available to watch on the CCCE website: <https://ccce.calpoly.edu/hard-hat-discussions/>.

The CCCE's Carpenter's Apprentice Program continues to grow, despite the challenges of a global pandemic. In 2020-21, 30 students participated in Northern and Southern California. The first annual end-of-program celebration was hosted by McGuire & Hester and the 46 Northern Carpenters Union. ■





It Takes A Team

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOW THEIR SUPPORT WITH PARTICIPATION, DUES AND DONATIONS

THE RAPID GROWTH in membership to the Construction Management Advisory Council (CMAC), established in 2014, has been a boon to students, faculty and CMAC members, creating new opportunities for all. However, financial challenges have also arisen because of escalating costs for expanded Meet and Greet and Info Sessions, off-campus career fairs and networking events, additional support for Senior Project Grants, among other costs.

To create a more stable financial foundation and further support students, CMAC has instituted new Corporate Membership levels ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,000, with various benefits afforded to each level. The change was approved by the board of directors in July 2021. For more

▲ Department Head Jeong Woo and Howard Mills of Rudolph and Sletten offer thumbs up to CMAC members who gathered for a mixer at the company's San Diego office in 2021.

information, go to: <https://ccce.calpoly.edu/cmac-membership/>.

In addition, CMAC has appointed Rick Pomeroy (Construction Management, '91) of Millie & Severson General Contractors as its new president; Brad Denney (Construction Management, '98) of Webcor Builders as vice president; and elected Karri Novak (Civil Engineering, '93) of Suffolk Construction as secretary. Marcus Staniford (Construction Management, '91) of XL Construction is serving as past president. CMAC Executive Committee members serve two years.

"Our CMAC members have been especially supportive and helpful during this uniquely challenging time," Smith said. "Clayco Inc., headquartered in Chicago, donated 16 laptop computers to support our students during the pandemic, as did several other CMAC members, including Anning Johnson, Morley Builders, Overra, Truebeck, W.E. O'Neil Construction and Whiting-Turner.

Three CMAC Mixers were held over the summer. On Aug. 19 Webcor hosted a mixer in San Francisco, Rudolph and Sletten Inc. hosted one on Aug. 25 in San Diego, and Suffolk Construction hosted an Aug. 26 mixer in Los Angeles.

For more CCCE and CMAC information and activities, visit: <https://ccce.calpoly.edu/cmac/>. ■

Competitive Spirits Soar

ALL CAL POLY CM TEAMS IN 2020 ASC REGION 3 COMPETITIONS WIN FIRST- AND SECOND-PLACE AWARDS

ALL FOUR CAL POLY construction management (CM) teams that participated in the 2020 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 3 annual competition placed first and second, with the two Preconstruction teams winning both first- and second-place awards.

“We proved that the only team that can beat us is ourselves,” said CM Department Head Jeong Woo. “One of the judges said that they tried to rattle the Cal Poly team by throwing a lot of curveballs, but that the Cal Poly students were calm and confident as they answered all of the tough questions.”

The annual student competition, held virtually last year, includes some categories that are open only to undergraduate students in the Great Lakes region of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. However, the competition also includes open categories in which undergraduates from universities throughout the U.S. can compete in. Cal Poly’s teams competed against students from Purdue University, Sacramento State, Eastern Kentucky and Ferris State.

One Cal Poly student said that the virtual presentation may have been the most daunting because “you can’t see the expressions or reactions made by the judges when you are speaking.”

Woo added, “While there were bugs, troubles and unforeseen issues, the competition challenged all participants, and the company sponsors put together problems that made the students think. I can’t say enough about our sponsors and their involvement with the competition; they are truly amazing.” ■



CM'S 2020 WINNERS IN ASC REGION 3

Preconstruction Team (First Place):

Makenna Gitchell, Sophie Harrington, Collin Martin, Reagan Milligan, Molly Pryde, Alex Trujillo.

Preconstruction Team (Second Place):

Molly Bobrovitch, Kyra Glaus, Connor Morinini, Ryan Nielsen, Shay O'Laughlin, Jane Runte.

Electrical Team (Second Place):

Connor Avrit, Morgan Gawle, Braden Hotra, Miriam Robles, Amanda Schrader, James Ziebell.

Concrete Solutions Team (Second Place):

Connor Avrit, Grace Vaughan Brekke, Peter Finocchio, Jack Radovan, Thomas Rogers, Jackson Thomas, Sterling Treloar.

▲ Competing virtually didn't keep the Concrete Solutions Team down, nor did it hinder the other Cal Poly CM teams participating in the ASC Region 3 competition in 2020.

SCORE!

DESIGN-BUILD TEAM PLACES SECOND IN COMBINED CONTEST

CAL POLY CONSTRUCTION management students, along with students from the Czech Technical University (CTU), competed — and won second place — in the Design-Build category of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 5 and 8 virtual competition in 2021.

Region 5 is the South Central region, comprised of colleges and universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas; Region 8 is the European-based arm of ASC.

“This was Cal Poly’s first entry into an ASC Region 5 event,” according to CM Professor Lonny Simonian, team advisor. “Because of COVID travel restrictions, the ASC Regions 5 and 8 co-hosted this combined multi-region event.”

The Design Build category was the only portion of the competition that the Cal Poly/Czech Technical University students entered. They placed second, behind Oklahoma State University.

“The Cal Poly/CTU team did a great job on a challenging project problem, performing at a different ASC region venue, alongside team members from the CTU with whom they had never met in person and only had a brief time working together virtually,” Simonian said.

Team members included CM students Madison Lightfoot, Itzell Ruiz, Samuel Wong (leader); Czech Technical University students Anna Karbanová, Barbora Macková, Tadeáš Zahradník.

CAL POLY STUDENTS brought home 11 trophies from the 2021 annual Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6 and 7 Student Competition, breaking the record they set in 2020 with 10 awards, including six first-place trophies.

This year 11 of Cal Poly’s 14 teams finished in the top three spots, including 10 trophies won by construction management (CM) students and one trophy by civil engineering. Four Cal Poly teams placed first, including three CM Department teams — Project Management, Electrical and Mixed Use teams — and the Virtual Design and Construction Team from the Civil Engineering Department.

Cal Poly won nearly three times more trophies than its closest competitor, Boise State.

▼ The Integrated Project Team that scored a second-place win included (from left): Rafael Gali, Ashley Pang, Ezra Zuidema, Dara Lin, Samuel Wong, Kiana Dehpanah, and Joyce Huang Ooi.

The competition, ASC’s 34th annual contest, was held virtually Feb. 3-6. It attracted over 900 students representing 47 universities from 17 states.

In addition to the four top-place finishes, Cal Poly’s Commercial, Design Build, Integrated Project, Sustainable Building, Preconstruction and Concrete Solutions teams took second place. A second Cal Poly Virtual Design and Construction Team placed third.

Senior construction management student Dara Lin participated with the Integrated Project Design team, which took second place in the graduate division. “Our hard work paid off,” Lin said. “Although we hadn’t participated in the ASC competition before and the format was all virtual, we were able to collaborate effectively, and I’m proud of what the team was able to achieve.”

CM Department Head Jeong Woo added, “Our teams’ outstanding results tell a great deal about student quality, faculty dedication and the excellence of Learn by Doing.” ■

STUDENTS COMPETING IN 2021 ASC REGION 6 AND 7



2021 ASC REGION 6 AND 7 WINNING TEAMS

First Place

Electrical: CM students Connor Avrit, Morgan Gawle, Braden Hotra, Miriam Robles, Amanda Schrader, James Ziebell; alternates Heather Sailor, Allison Wild.

Mixed Use: CM students Jacob Clark, Keagan Coyne, Sebastian Froman, Ashley Isla, Ryan Proctor, Chloe Riddlespurger; alternates Anna Knutson, Jake O'Balle.

Project Management: CM students Makenna Gitchell, Sophie Harrington, Collin Martin, Reagan Milligan, Molly Pryde, Alex Trujillo; alternates Christian Blevins, Jonah Kim.

Virtual Design and Construction: Civil engineering students Sergio Beltran, Casey Boyle, Serina Feng, Esmeralda Cruz Pacheco; alternate Ingrid Chan.

Second Place

Commercial: CM students Josh De Mattei, Liz Galvez, Skylar Schrank, Sophie Stewart, Shaina Suanico, Evan Tookey; alternates Dylan Barrett, Joseph Miller.

Concrete Solutions: CM students Grace Brekke, Peter Finocchio, Jack Radovan, Thomas Rogers, Jackson Thomas, Sterling Treloar; alternates Jenny Knickerbocker, Sierra Williamson.

Design Build: CM students Ellis Fryer, John Leone, Zack Pasma, Sydney Sitton, Greta Stout, Luke Terrio; alternates Michaela Denny, Catie Dines.

Integrated Project: CM students Kiana Dehpanah, Dara Lin, Joyce Huang Ooi, Ashley Pang, Samuel Wong, Ezra Zuidema; alternate Rafael Gali.

Preconstruction: Molly Bobrovitch, Kyra Glaus, Connor Morinini, Ryan Nielsen, Shay O'Laughlin, Jane Runte; alternates Kieran Barker, Jack Sampson.

Sustainable Building: CM students Bradley Burfield, Bella Crafton, James Foad, Hailey Lancaster, Danielle Moody, Madeleine Zetterquist; alternates Jaqueline Badal, Oliver Legrandis.

Third Place

Virtual Design and Construction: CM students Kyle Bresnahan, Sydnee Greer, Jared Jacobs, Allen Le, Carter Melick, Joshua Shockey; alternates Nathan Giannini, Cooper Strong.

THANK YOU, 2020-21 SPONSORS!



HOLLAND CONSTRUCTION, INC



OUTSTANDING IN THE CITY

Cal Poly alumni from various majors and different companies met in front of One Steuart Lane, a recently completed high-rise luxury condominium building on the San Francisco Embarcadero. They included **Mallory Arend** (Architectural Engineering, '14), Swinerton Builders; **Dixie Bronec** (Construction Management, '18), Swinerton Builders; **Nick Traverso** (Forestry and Natural Resources, '15), Rosendin Electric; and **Thomas Will** (Construction Management, '09), Rosendin Electric. The project was previously featured in Construction Innovator's Alumni News section when it broke ground in 2019 under its previous name, 75 Howard Street.

BUILDING BETTER BEDDING

Heather Kearsley Wolf (Construction Management, '94) is president, owner and founder of Kearsley, a luxurious high-end custom-made line of bedding that includes sheets, fabrics, duvets, pillows and blankets, available online. Wolf designs the merchandise, which is made in Italy, from the finest fibers and to the highest ethical and environmental standards. Items are sold to interior designers and direct to consumers. Wolf grew up in homes being built or remodeled by her parents, which inspired her to major in construction management. She studied interior design as a graduate student at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Chicago and is a National Council for Interior Design-qualified interior designer and a professional member of the American Society of Interior Designers. She is a partner, a sales/marketing/overall advisor and the interior specialist for Hestia Sonoma LLC, a company that does a variety of real estate development projects.

RISING AT XL CONSTRUCTION

Trace Pesavento (Construction Management, '95), a senior construction industry leader with more than 25 years' experience, has been named to the new position of vice president of field operations for XL Construction based in Northern California. Pesavento is responsible for managing and supporting the company's superintendents in its advanced technology,



civic, corporate office, education, healthcare and life sciences business groups. His focus on planning and execution includes assessing and validating contingency and risk factors. Pesavento has been married to his wife, Carrie, for 25 years. They have two sons, both attending college. >

▲ Top: Hanging out in San Francisco are alumni (from left): Mallory Arend, Dixie Bronec, Nick Traverso and Thomas Will.

▲ Trace Pesavento scored the new position of vice president of field operations for XL Construction in Northern California.

FROM LOS ANGELES TO HOUSTON

Gregory Scarcell (Construction Management, '00) went to work as a field engineer for Turner Construction right after he graduated. It was a “great experience and awesome resume builder.” He writes: “A few months after 9/11 hit, work slowed down, so I was laid off. But I continued to live and work in the Los Angeles area, building single family homes, retail facilities, multifamily dwellings and student housing at Pepperdine University in Malibu. So far in my career, I have completed 22 new construction projects of all types, totaling over \$600 million. I have specialized in multifamily dwellings over the last 17 years and have completed over 4,000 units among 18 projects in Texas. When the California economy got hit by the housing recession in late 2006, I relocated with my family to Houston, where I have lived ever since. I am a senior project manager for Elmington Construction LLC (www.oneelmington.com), a builder/developer and property management company based in Nashville. My wife, Cynthia, and I have a 9-year-old son, Ayden. Ayden and I fish in the many local lakes and rivers in our neighborhood and shoot sporting clays and bird hunt. I am a member of the U.S. Tennis Association and play in local competitive tournaments. My son plays soccer. The family also enjoys camping, the beach and backyard barbecues.”

AN ELECTRIFYING CAREER

David Nguyen (Construction Management, '14) writes: “I made an electrifying shift shortly after graduation and decided to apply Cal Poly’s construction management education to driving innovation in the electric vehicle industry. My EV industry journey started as a sophomore in 2011 when I responded to a posting on Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design job board by a little-known company — at the time — called Tesla. Since I’m a “gearhead” at heart, it was a dream come true to apply concepts I learned at Cal Poly, such as new structural concrete techniques and BIM design, to the process of building the first production lines in the Tesla factory in Fremont, California. After graduation I joined Tesla again in 2014 as a construction



▲ Self-proclaimed “gearhead” David Nguyen’s career moves have been inspired by his interest in electric vehicles, such as this Arrival delivery van.

project manager. In the following four years, I had the opportunity to manage over \$50 million to install world-class paint shop robots, body panel stamping tooling, and assembly line construction for the Tesla Model S, X and 3. The rigging and safety skills I learned at Cal Poly took on a whole new meaning when I managed the rigging and installation of 100,000-pound stamping press components inside an active production facility. In 2018 I took a job at electric bus manufacturer Proterra and established Proterra Energy, which specializes in heavy-duty electric transit bus charging and renewable energy applications to EV charging. In the first two years, Proterra Energy was able to design, produce and install over 250 electric vehicle direct current fast chargers across the U.S. for such transit agencies as Chicago and Los Angeles. In May 2021, I became senior manager of charging infrastructure for the Americas at electric vehicle startup Arrival, which manufactures all-electric last-mile delivery vans working with UPS. In this



▲ Gregory Scarcell continues to specialize in building multifamily dwellings and enjoy life with his family in Houston, Texas.

latest position, I cover all aspects of project management and commercial strategy for North and Latin America.” Nguyen is a licensed general contractor in California and enjoys kayaking in the San Francisco Bay with his two dogs. ■



CALLING WITH SKILL AND PURPOSE



CM students choose senior projects that broaden their knowledge and experience while also benefiting others for years to come

- ▲ For his senior project, Connor Morinini chose to build a commercial-sized produce cooler for City Farm SLO, a nonprofit farm in San Luis Obispo.
- ◀ The project expanded Morinini's skills in planning, financing and construction, while providing a much-needed food storage facility for the city farm.

SENIOR PROJECTS ARE a mainstay of a Cal Poly Learn by Doing education, and many projects undertaken by students in the Construction Management (CM) Department are project-based that serve the community. A few noteworthy projects are highlighted below.

◀ KEEPING IT COOL

digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cmstp/487/

City Farm Cooler, completed by Connor Morinini, entailed the planning, financing and construction of a commercial-sized produce cooler for City Farm SLO (<https://cityfarmslo.org>), a nonprofit urban farm in San Luis Obispo, California, that seeks to empower the next generation to live healthier, more prosperous lives through sustainable agriculture and farm-based education.

Morinini chose a project-based senior project because he knew it would be challenging. He also wanted it to have a lasting impact on the community. “Originally, I was going to build a gazebo-like structure, but they suggested I build a commercial-sized cooler, and I jumped at the challenge,” he said.

The project involved site grading, building a Tuffshed, framing a room, hanging a door, installing electricity inside the room, insulating the interior, painting the exterior, installing an air conditioner, and wiring the Coolbot to the air conditioner. Faculty member Andrew Kline served as advisor.

The project provided Morinini with a great learning opportunity — and a few surprises.

“I learned the importance of planning and perseverance and how to communicate and work through constructability issues in the field,”

he said. “The first surprise was the scope of the change of the project. I had to research how to build a commercial-sized cooler at an affordable cost within a reasonable amount of time.”

Overall, Morinini was pleased with the outcome.

“It felt amazing to see the finished product functioning after all the time that I put into it,” he said. “I learned so much, and it gave me a glimpse into what life might look like in the future if I were to start my own company.”

The folks at City Farm were likewise pleased.

“Connor’s project has made a big contribution to our overall operation,” said City Farm board President Steven Marx. “It allows us to store expanding harvests by our students and volunteers so that the food can be kept long enough for sale at various outlets and for donation to the Food Bank. Without his donated labor and skills this project would not have been possible on our limited budget.”

Senior projects can seem formidable in scope, and Morinini suggests that students aim to complete a senior project that challenges them.

“It might seem daunting at the beginning, but seeing the final product is extremely rewarding,” he said. “One of my favorite quotes reads, ‘A journey of a thousand steps begins with a single one.’”



▲ Danny Liu updates the thermostat control as part of his senior project to convert a traditional home into a smart home in Alameda, California.

▲ HOME SMART HOME

digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cmstp/462/

Danny Liu’s project, Value of Smart Home Devices and Cost of Implementation, could have an impact on how people live in their homes.

“For many people, their home is a comfortable, safe place to enjoy their leisure time and a secure haven from the world around them,” Liu said. “A smart home can enhance the comfort, efficiency and value of a home.”

And, according to Liu, upgrading a traditional home to a smart home

► The user's Amazon Echo interface controls video cameras that Liu installed in the backyard and garage, along with all other smart devices in the home.

can be easily accomplished “on one weekend or several, depending on the number of upgrades desired.”

His senior project, which was advised by faculty member Jason Hailer, estimates the cost of transforming a typical 2,400-square-foot home in Alameda, California, to a smart one. His investigation revealed that transforming an ordinary home into a smart one does not have to be expensive or complicated.

“You don’t have to be very handy or a technological genius to adapt your home to perform simple tasks such as automating lights or thermostats,” he said.

Liu’s research led him to adopt some new technology in his home.

“I loved working on this project because of the technology factor that played into it,” he said. “It didn’t feel like work because I was researching a topic that I truly enjoyed. I’ve started to use things in my home like a smart thermostat, automated lighting and smart speakers.”

Hailer advises students to pick a senior project topic that interests them.

“One of the most difficult hurdles to overcome for a senior project is landing on a topic that interests the individual and adds to the body of knowledge,” Hailer said. “Danny had a well-thought-out project, and his heart was into it. As I like to say, ‘If your heart is not in it, your head will not be either.’ Danny knew how to plan and execute the project to achieve the desired results set out in his proposal. His thought ideation, planning and subsequent deliverables, as exhibited by his passion for the project, is what made his senior project a success.”



▲ Center: Liu shows off a motion-activated doorbell camera that captures a 30-second video of visitors who approach the door.

▲ Bottom: He installed and programmed a smart sprinkler system with the residents’ desired landscape-watering schedule.

► CONCRETE LESSONS

digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/cmisp/478/

A team of six seniors designed and built 10 concrete benches to provide stadium-style seating for about 40 people at a new outdoor theater venue in San Luis Obispo. The project, Pouring Concrete Benches for the Amphitheater at SLO Botanical Garden, was completed by Devon Barthmaier, Kyler Cruz, Makenna Gitchell, Sydnee Greer, Brandon Keefer and Anthony Masarweh. Faculty member Dan Knight served as adviser.

The students worked on preconstruction and construction teams, with the construction team coordinating material deliveries, building the formwork, pouring concrete, installing composite decking, and transporting the benches from Cal Poly to the garden. Their paper describes each process.

Construction team member Gitchell wanted a project-based senior project to gain more hands-on experience and field knowledge. “This opportunity was exactly the kind of project I was looking for,” she said.

And the experience gave her much more than she expected.

“We expected to learn technical things about concrete and how to estimate, schedule and coordinate a project like this,” she said. “But we also learned invaluable lessons about designing, communicating and problem-solving. We learned how to design and build proper formwork; build, tie and secure rebar cages within the forms; and work concrete out of a pump truck chute. We also learned concrete finishing techniques.”

Chenda Lor, executive director of the SLO Botanical Garden, expressed her gratitude for the new benches. “Thanks to the construction management team led by Department Head Jeong Woo and Professor Daniel



- ▲ A team of six seniors and two faculty members try out the concrete benches the students designed and built for the SLO Botanical Garden's new amphitheater.
- ▶ The students worked on every aspect of the project, including form building (center) and concrete pouring (bottom).

Knight for the design, construction and installation of the concrete benches in our Preview Garden," she said. "The benches turned out great and allow the SLOBG to provide another beautiful space for the public to gather, learn and grow. We benefit so much from our relationships with Cal Poly faculty, staff and students. Our partnership brings the public excellent programming, shared events, senior projects, much-needed hands to maintain and grow our garden, and many interns and volunteers that work in our gift shop, greenhouse and on committees."

The project was sponsored by the Construction Management Advisory Council and Precision Construction Services in San Luis Obispo (<https://www.theprecisioncs.com/>). ■



Just Rewards

SCHOLARSHIPS BLOSSOM FOR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS IN 2021-22

THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT Department's annual Scholarship Ceremony and Awards Celebration was again held virtually in 2021 because of COVID-19 pandemic concerns, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the 18 students who were awarded scholarships totaling \$103,950.

"It was disappointing that we couldn't hold an in-person event to celebrate our hard-working students; however, we were still able to reward them with some financial assistance through these scholarships," Department Head Jeong Woo said. "I want to thank our many generous donors for establishing these scholarships for our outstanding students that we recognized for their commitment and dedication to their studies and to the field of construction management. We are thrilled to be able to reward them this way." ■



▲ Samuel Wong was awarded the \$25,000 Allen and Nancy Minton Scholarship.

▼ Springtime colors the hills above campus.

2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND DONORS

2021-22 construction management scholarship recipients are listed in alphabetical order by donor.

Beavers Heavy

Construction Scholarship

\$7,200 each: Flint Merrill Gehrke and Nicole Nguyen

Kris Cello Scholarship

\$1,500 each: Nicole Nguyen and Angel Sanchez

Don Chapin Company Scholarship

\$3,750 each: Carson Ernst and Matthew Keeth

Fluor Corp. Scholarship

\$1,000: Sofia Amalfitano

Hayward Lumber/ Edgar Contreras Memorial Scholarship

\$1,000: Alberto Solano

Paul Matt Scholarship

\$5,000 each: William Bellios, Tony Ibarra and Danny Liu

Allen and Nancy Minton Scholarship

\$25,000: Samuel Wong

Mitchell Family Scholarship

\$1,200: Enrique Duran

RRM Design Group Scholarship

\$3,000: Carson Ernst

Ryan Companies Scholarship

\$2,375 each: Enrique Duran and Tony Ibarra

Don Tanklage Scholarship

\$5,000 each: Enrique Duran and Luka Kosor

Blair Tulloch Memorial Scholarship

\$4,500 each: Aliza Arif, Angel Sanchez and Jake Torres

Vinnell Foundation Scholarship

\$2,100 each: Jacqueline Badal and Ryan Preciado

Bob Yoder Nicholas Diaz Scholarship

\$950 each: William Bellios and Enrique Duran

Shining Examples

HARD HATS OFF TO 10 EXTRAORDINARY STUDENTS IN CM'S CLASS OF 2021

ALEJANDRA ARROYO PEREZ OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Alejandra Arroyo Perez was named the 2021 Outstanding Senior Award winner for maintaining a nearly perfect GPA — 3.984 out of a possible 4.0 — an accomplishment for which she gives partial credit to her professors.

“My instructors are gold,” she said. “They helped guide me toward success. I’ll forever be grateful for their support.”

As a transfer student, Perez felt she was prepared for the rigors of Cal Poly.

“I had already matured and developed study habits that worked for me,” she explained. “I feel like I started with a sprint and ended with a sprint.”

Perez, who hails from Santa Maria, California, became interested in construction management when she started working for her uncle’s engineering company.

“That’s when I realized a career in construction management would be rewarding and exciting,” she said. “Construction is so unpredictable; there is always a need for problem solving, which I enjoy. I also really liked that I could be in both a professional office environment and in the field.”

A self-described hands-on person, Perez said that Cal Poly and its Learn by Doing philosophy was the best fit for her. “While the classroom and textbooks provide necessary knowledge, getting hands-on practice broadens your perspective,” she said.

When COVID-19 hit and everything switched to online, she said it was difficult to stay motivated, “but I pushed through and made it happen.”

Perez graduated in December 2021.



Alejandra Arroyo Perez



Kyle K. Bresnahan

KYLE K. BRESNAHAN SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AWARD

Before graduating, Kyle K. Bresnahan was creating tutorials for the Construction Management (CM) Department’s BIM (Building Information Modeling) course, creating labs for the new surveying course, and serving as president of the BIM Club.

That work, combined with other endeavors, helped him earn one of three 2021 Service to the Department Awards; however, his efforts could actually improve some processes for the entire university.

“One of the most interesting opportunities I had was taking my Autodesk Revit model of the Construction Innovations Center and using it to pilot Cal Poly’s Smart Campus Initiative,” Bresnahan said. “The initiative employs a digital twin using real-time data to enable better understanding of an area and its constituents, resulting in informed decision-making on issues such as campus space management, student activities and classroom scheduling. The as-built model provided a cross-collaborative workspace for infrastructure improvements on campus, thus providing an opportunity for a digital environment to exist within Cal Poly’s proposed Master Plan.”

Bresnahan moved from Long Beach, California, to attend Cal Poly — the fourth in his family to do so.

He spent his summer interning as a field engineer with PCL Constuction in La Jolla, California, before returning to campus to pursue an MBA and serve as a lecturer in the CM Department.

JACOB CLARK

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AWARD

Jacob Clark, a 2020-21 Service to the Department Award winner, experienced his most challenging year last year, juggling a full-time job and keeping up his grades during the pandemic.

The Placentia, California, native pursued construction management because its practitioners possess a range of knowledge and skills. “You have to know a little bit about everything,” he said.

His love of San Luis Obispo’s natural beauty and the Learn by Doing philosophy were major reasons he chose Cal Poly. “Learn by Doing has been vital for my growth as a young professional,” he said.

Clark’s fondest Cal Poly memories include spending time outdoors, chatting with friends late at night in the CM labs, and participating in school competitions. He was a member of the Mixed Use Team in 2020 when it placed second in the Associated Schools of Construction Region 6 and 7 Competition, and he was co-captain in 2021 when the team placed first in the competition.

Clark’s valued work as an instructional student assistant in the BIM (Building Information Modeling) class earned him a Service to the Department Award.

“There were so many great CM graduates this year; it is a privilege to be recognized among them,” Clark said. “I loved teaching as an instructional student assistant and being available for faculty, staff and students. I’m thankful for my time at Cal Poly and grateful to my friends, the faculty and the CM Department.”

Clark began his career as a project engineer at Specialty Construction in San Luis Obispo. “I’m looking forward to making new friends and exploring new projects.”



Jacob Clark



Josh De Mattei

JOSH DE MATTEI

DON QUIXOTE AWARD

When Josh De Mattei learned he had won the Construction Management (CM) Department’s Don Quixote Award for his devotion to furthering construction management engagement, he was not just surprised; he was “shocked.”

“I think several other students also qualified for this award,” De Mattei said. “I heard the description of the award during the Spring Banquet, which was held via Zoom, and then my name popped up on the screen. It was pretty shocking.”

While winning the award might have come as a shock to the San Jose, California, resident, enrolling in construction management was a natural choice.

“My interest in construction management stems from my family, as they are in the industry,” De Mattei said. “My father started a residential building company specializing in custom homes. Working summers — seeing multiple projects go from dirt to exquisite homes — was ultimately why I chose to go into the field.”

While a freshman in high school, De Mattei had met several Cal Poly alumni who worked in the construction field.

“They are knowledgeable people that I look up to today,” De Mattei said. “After doing some research, I found that Cal Poly was one of the top universities in the country with a construction management program, and at that point, I was sold.”

One of the reasons Cal Poly remains a top-tier university is its focus on hands-on learning.

“Learn by Doing taught me that you learn best by putting in all the effort you can, making mistakes along the way, and having a solid team pushing you to the finish line,” De Mattei said.

LIZETTE GALVEZ

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AWARD

First-generation college graduate Lizette Galvez traces her fascination with structures to childhood, when she took an architectural boat tour of Chicago's downtown skyline.

"From that point forward, my curiosity about how a building is built — along with my enjoyment of mathematics, critical thinking and decision making — influenced my decision to pursue a degree in construction management," said the Camarillo, California, resident.

Her stint as the Simpson-Strong Tie technician assistant helped her win a 2021 Service to the Department Award.

"Using my experience as a Carpenter's Apprentice intern, I served as an instructional student assistant my junior year," she explained. "As the Simpson Strong-Tie technician assistant my senior year, I was responsible for creating inventory lists with faculty; completing material takeoffs; communicating with suppliers; placing lumber, concrete masonry units and other material orders; arranging deliveries and picking up miscellaneous materials from suppliers — all while adhering to COVID-19 restrictions."

Galvez was pleased she won the award. "I'm honored to have been recognized alongside such hardworking peers and dedicated faculty. A big thank you to the faculty and staff for trusting me to handle this role and for making my job easy and enjoyable," she said.

Being a first-generation college student presented challenges, Galvez admitted. "The transitional phase of moving away from home and creating a balanced academic schedule made my first quarters the most difficult."

Galvez began her career in the summer as a field engineer with PCL Construction in San Diego.



Lizette Galvez



Makenna Gitchell

MAKENNA GITCHELL

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Even the most dedicated and devoted students have their share of challenges. Just ask Makenna Gitchell, a Construction Management (CM) Department 2021 Senior Award winner.

"The most challenging parts were learning time management between classes and a social life, navigating virtual classes and clubs, stepping outside my comfort zone when going to career fairs and info sessions, and passing physics and architectural engineering classes," Gitchell said.

She obviously learned how to meet those challenges while succeeding at a level high enough to earn her an Outstanding Leadership Award.

"I was very involved in the department and invested a lot of time building connections with my peers and faculty," Gitchell said. "I loved spending time on campus, chatting and getting to know people, which over time, evolved into me getting more and more involved. I served on club boards, competed on ASC (Associated Schools of Construction) teams, helped teach our BIM (Building Information Modeling) classes, graded for a few professors, and always tried to help out where I could."

Gitchell's appreciation for the balance between technical skills and people skills drew her to the field of construction management. "This is a career that relies on teamwork, organization and communication to problem solve and deliver a physical finished product," she explained.

The Orcutt, California, resident advises students to be involved. "Building a network of relationships is easy to do and can greatly benefit in building your resume and later in your career," she said.

Gitchell has moved to Sacramento to begin her career as a project engineer with XL Construction.

COLLIN MARTIN

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD

Recent graduate Collin Martin was the hands-down choice to win the department's Most Valuable Player Award, a unique award created this year to recognize his invaluable contributions to the competition teams.

Martin, from San Rafael, California, followed his grandfather's lead into the construction industry.

"My grandfather owns a residential construction company in Marin County, and I grew up working on his jobsites," Martin said.

Now a project manager at his grandfather's company, Martin admits that the job has its challenges — and rewards. "Every day is different and challenging, which makes it exciting and keeps me on my toes," he said.

As an undergraduate, Martin also faced challenges head on.

"The most challenging part of college was learning to manage my time efficiently," he said. "Cal Poly did a great job of giving me a busy schedule and forcing me to develop my own system of prioritizing tasks. This will serve me most in my career."

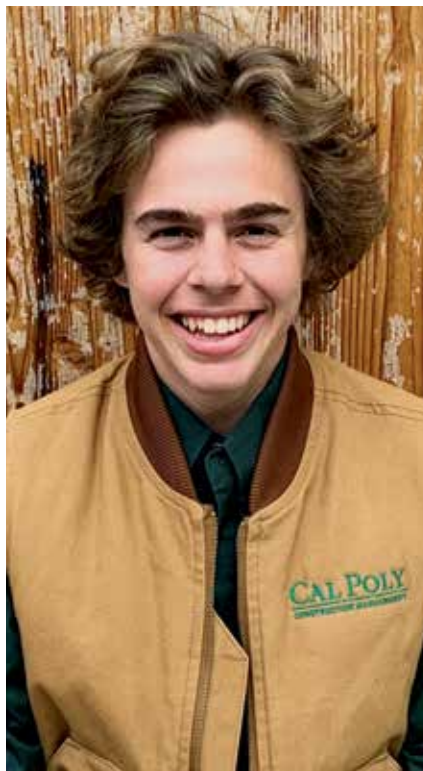
Martin received the Most Valuable Player Award in recognition of his contributions as captain of the Project Management Team that competed — and won — in the Associated Schools of Construction Management annual competition in Nevada and Illinois.

"During my two years as captain, we won first place four times in a row at national competitions," Martin said. "I'm happy that I was able to contribute to the legacy that is Cal Poly Construction Management. After years of hard work, it's gratifying to be recognized and rewarded."

Martin understands that "greatness is found outside your comfort zone," and he urges students to take advantage of all that Cal Poly has to offer.



Collin Martin



Shay O'Laughlin

SHAY O'LAUGHLIN

KEN BRICKWEDEL INSTRUCTIONAL STUDENT ASSISTANT AWARD

Shay O'Laughlin was honored when he heard he was selected the 2020-21 Ken Brickwedel Instructional Student Assistant Award winner in recognition of his work assisting Lecturer Bryan Knakiewicz teach CD 232: Evaluation of Cost Alternative.

O'Laughlin was also recognized for his leadership role in the Associated Students of Construction Management Club and his service on the Preconstruction Team, which competed and won first at the 2020 Associated Schools of Construction's Student Competition in Region 3 and Region 6 and 7 and second in both competitions in 2021.

"It was very rewarding to know that all the hard work and effort that I put into the department did not go unnoticed," O'Laughlin said. "My favorite memories are from the ASC competitions my junior year in both Chicago and Reno, where we won first place in both," he said. "Getting to travel with my team and everyone else representing Cal Poly is something that I will never forget."

While he admits that he will miss seeing his classmates and professors every day — and miss all the fun he had in class and participating in extracurricular activities — O'Laughlin will not miss the "extravagant projects we had to do for classes or trying to juggle multiple competition teams as well as school and life."

He advises students to get involved, "whether it be in clubs, competitions or becoming close with faculty. Being able to get involved will make your time at Cal Poly that much more memorable and will create friendships along the way," O'Laughlin said.

Originally from Cardiff, California, O'Laughlin is now a field engineer for Whiting-Turner in San Diego.

REAGAN MILLIGAN OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Reagan Milligan was named a Construction Management (CM) Department Outstanding Leadership Award winner in recognition for her service as co-president of Cal Poly's Women in Construction (WIC) club.

"Our goal was to transform the perception of WIC," Milligan said. "We wanted to shift the idea that the club was only for women because you don't need to be a woman to support women in construction. We hosted events with various companies, attended field trips to job sites, sold merchandise, and celebrated Women in Construction Week. The WIC board and I created excitement around the club and greatly increased membership."

Milligan, a San Jose, California, resident has always been passionate about the construction industry.

"When I was younger, my dad took me to visit one of his projects in downtown San Jose. There was something special about hearing him say, 'This is a project I worked on.' To this day, every time I pass that high-rise building, I think of my dad."

She considers her decision to attend Cal Poly as the "best decision I could have made. I'm so grateful for my relationships with my peers, the faculty and members of the industry."

Milligan's enthusiasm for the construction industry fueled her success as an undergraduate.

"Even though my construction management courses were challenging, I was so passionate about the subject matter that I was eager to devote countless hours to succeeding and making sure that I understood the material," she said.

Milligan is a project engineer with Blach Construction in San Jose, California.



Reagan Milligan



JAMES ZIEBELL HIGH VOLTAGE AWARD

James Ziebell won the High Voltage Award for supporting student efforts in the electrical division of construction management. This is not a regular annual award, but a custom-tailored one for students who the department feels deserve recognition yet don't fit into the standard categories.

Ziebell was not available for an interview by press time. ■

2022 ACTIVITIES

• MAY 13 •

CMAC All-Hands Meeting
Cal Poly campus

• MAY 13-14 •

Construction Management's
50th Anniversary Celebration
Cal Poly campus and
San Luis Obispo County

• JUNE 3 •

Construction Management Senior Banquet
and Scholarship Awards Ceremony
Location TBD

• JUNE 4 •

Associated Students of
Construction Management Golf Tournament
Location TBD

• JUNE 11 •

Spring Commencement
Cal Poly campus
Please check for updates at
<https://commencement.calpoly.edu/spring>.



His Hard Work Pays Off

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ANDREW KLINE'S ACHIEVEMENTS RECOGNIZED

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT Assistant Professor Andrew Kline (Construction Management, '10), who began as a full-time lecturer at Cal Poly in fall 2017, is now in a probationary tenure-track faculty position. His new position will allow him to contribute to the CM department in various areas, including teaching, scholarly activities and service.

Kline came to Cal Poly after garnering extensive industry experience as a project engineer and project manager, giving him a unique perspective in multifamily and commercial construction that he brings into the classroom.

▼ Assistant Professor Andrew Kline endeavors to "make students' learning experiences dynamic, interesting and industry-relevant."



Known as a passionate teacher whose top priority is student learning, Kline said, "I'm always looking for ways to make students' learning experiences dynamic, interesting and industry-relevant."

His classes include Commercial Construction Management, Jobsite Management, Building Information Modeling, Advanced Scheduling and Fundamentals of Construction Management.

In addition, he serves as the head coach for the Commercial and Mixed-Use teams that participate in the annual Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Student Competition and assistant coach for the Virtual Design and Construction Team for the ASC Student Competition.

Kline is also faculty advisor to the student chapter of the Associated General Contractors Club and the Building Information Modeling Club. He served as faculty advisor on a service-building trip to Belize with six Cal Poly students during winter break.

The heavy workload does not diminish Kline's passion for teaching, student success and service.

"I'm encouraged each and every day seeing their excitement and desire to learn and grow in pursuit of their careers," Kline said. "I'm also encouraged to see how motivated they are to shape the future of the industry, focusing not only on themselves or the bottom line, but also on ways they can positively impact those around them throughout their careers."

Kline is happy to be on track to tenure.

"I'm extremely excited for the opportunity to teach our amazing

—

"I'm encouraged each and every day seeing [students'] excitement and desire to learn and grow in pursuit of their careers. I'm also encouraged to see how motivated they are to shape the future of the industry, focusing not only on themselves or the bottom line, but also on ways they can positively impact those around them throughout their careers."

—

students and serve our department, and I strive to make a lasting impact on our students' futures," he said.

After earning his B.S. degree from Cal Poly, Kline earned an MBA at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in construction science from Arizona State University. ■



Students in the Granite Heavy Civil minor program express their pleasure with the appointment of Ed Boucher (center, red shirt) as program director.

A Rock-Solid Selection

EDUCATOR ED BOUCHER IS CHOSEN AS GRANITE HEAVY CIVIL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

FACULTY MEMBER ED Boucher, who has taught full time in the Construction Management (CM) Department and part-time in the Civil Engineering (CE) Department since 2017, was selected director of the Granite heavy civil minor program, a joint venture between the two departments.

The program is designed to better prepare students for an evolving industry that combines elements of design and construction. The minor was established in 2019 through an endowment created with donations from Granite Construction, Caterpillar and Beavers Charitable Foundation. The endowment covers, in perpetuity, the costs of a joint CE and CM director with funding to support scholarships for women and underrepresented students in construction.

The program, which admitted 52 students in its first two cohorts, teaches CM students about heavy civil engineering fundamentals, and CE students have access to more construction management classes.

Boucher served on the committee that developed the Granite heavy civil minor. As director, he will teach in both the CM and CE departments while also being responsible for the administration and sustainability of the Granite

heavy civil minor program, including recruiting and advising students, overseeing budget administration, fundraising, implementing program improvements, interfacing with industry, coaching team competitions, and developing two new courses.

The heavy workload does not intimidate Boucher, a self-described “construction guy.”

“I have passion for aiding student development and growth as construction professionals,” he said. “I also have passion and strong knowledge of the heavy civil sector of the construction industry, as I spent 44 years in heavy construction before ‘retiring’ in 2018. Additionally, I want to aid the university and promote student interest in the heavy civil field.”

Boucher wants to grow the program.

“Improvements will be iterative and ongoing,” he said. “Growth will be based on input from students, sponsors and the Granite heavy civil minor Industry Advisory Board. My interface with industry is critical. The program needs to understand what industry desires of their new employees and to adequately prepare the students for success.” ■

Gone Fishin'

GREG STARZYK RETIRES TO THE MIDWEST

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT (CM) faculty member Greg Starzyk, who began teaching at Cal Poly in 2009 after working 33 years in industry and four years teaching at East Carolina University, earned emeritus professor status when he retired at the end of academic year 2021.

While on the faculty, Starzyk developed and taught CM 334: Construction Law and CM 450: Integrated Project, Design and Program Management, and its predecessor courses, CM 415: Integrated Project Delivery and CM 480: Preconstruction Integration and Planning.

In addition, he team taught in 15 interdisciplinary project studios involving students and faculty from throughout the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

While he admittedly won't miss grading papers, Starzyk will miss the "interdisciplinary projects that reached out to California communities and involved students and faculty in architecture, architectural engineering and landscape architecture. I already miss the dialogue."

Retirement means different things to different people, usually suggesting a slowing down; however, that is not the case with Starzyk, a published author of two textbooks.

"I have already created new video content for my books on construction law, will soon complete the third edition of my construction law textbook, and am looking forward to starting my next book — not on construction law," he said. "Some of that work has had to pause while I catch up with my daughters and grandchildren in Crystal Lake,



Illinois, where my wife, Cindy, and I have moved.

"I've already been fishing with my grandson and helped him catch his first fish, and we've watched our granddaughter go to her first day of kindergarten and our grandson to his first day of pre-kindergarten," he continued. "I love to write. I love the kids even more. Retirement is good so far."

Starzyk earned a B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of

▲ Professor Emeritus Greg Starzyk reaps the rewards of retirement, celebrating a good catch with grandson Reznor Bonham.

PHOTO BY CINDY LAMBERT

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, an M.S. degree in project management from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and a J.D. from Taft University, in Santa Ana, California. ■

In Memoriam

JANICE EMMACK

Janice Emmack, who served as the Construction Management Department's administrative support coordinator from 1984 to 2004, passed away at her home Jan. 8, 2021, surrounded by loved ones. She was 78.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Milo Emmack, children Staci and William, grandchildren Chance and Hannah, great grandson Radley, soulmate Melody, and two best friends, Michelle and Shirley.

Emmack, a "proxy mom to the students" in construction management, is remembered as "one of the funniest women ... who taught all of us about family, honor, acceptance and technology. She was as smart as she was a loving ally." After retiring from Cal Poly, Emmack reinvented herself as an artist who enjoyed and excelled at quilting and embroidering.

WILLIAM "BILL" EPSTEIN

Professor Emeritus William "Bill" Epstein, who taught in the Construction Management (CM) Department for 10 years, from 1996 to 2006, passed away earlier this year from melanoma.

Born on June 4, 1961, Epstein grew up in Key Biscayne, Florida. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Miami in 1984, a master's degree from the University of Florida in 1988, and a doctorate, also from the University of Florida in Gainesville in 1995. He was a certified general contractor and a registered professional engineer in Florida.

"Bill was a very dedicated teacher," said former CM Department head and Professor Emeritus Jim Rodger. "He was student-oriented and related well both in and out of the classroom. His time in the CM Department ended too soon."

After retiring from Cal Poly, Epstein went to work for Pacific Structures in the Bay Area. He led the company's in-house education unit, giving seminars on form work, safety and scheduling.

He returned to Florida in 2020 to work for Ben Sharfi, owner of General Micro Systems. He was only there for about three months before he was diagnosed with cancer.

Epstein leaves his wife, Hilda Villalobos, and two sons, Lucas, 24, a UC Davis graduate now working for the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, and Isaac, 21, a senior at Johns Hopkins University.

"Bill was a resolute protector," said Villalobos. "He was a great dad and believed passionately in education. He fully supported both sons' academic endeavors. Lucas plans to get his doctorate and follow in his father's footsteps as an educator." ■



▲ TOP: Janice Emmack celebrates her retirement with husband, Milo (left), friends and colleagues in 2004.

▲ Professor Emeritus Bill Epstein beams with sons Isaac and Lucas, wife, Hilda Villalobos, and Ziggy, as the family celebrates a milestone.

Still Building Strong

DEPARTMENT AND COLLEGE CELEBRATE MILESTONES, LEGACIES OF LEADERSHIP


As we complete half a century of construction management education — and as the College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED) prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary — I'm thinking about how our programs have contributed to preparing the future leaders of the built environment. Myriad projects come to mind that embody our legacies, which are continually being created by our students, faculty and staff.

One example that resonates for me is how proud I am of the amazing leadership of Nathan Horst and Steven Zheng, construction management students from the class of 2022, who donated their senior project efforts to create a new work yard for the CAED Support Shop. With help from generous friends of the college — including the Wallace Group and Earth Systems, which donated engineering services; CalPortland Construction, which donated materials and a construction team; and United Rentals, which donated equipment — our students practiced design-build and project coordination under the guidance of their faculty advisors and with the collaboration of Cal Poly Facilities.

The result was a hands-on Learn by Doing experience that resulted in a new space for students made possible by a forward-thinking and altruistic team encompassing our ethos here at Cal Poly.

I wish to extend a big thank you to all our alumni and friends who advise our student leaders and partner on their projects. I also remain grateful for the leadership provided by the Construction Management Advisory Council and for everything our alumni in industry and our supporters do to guide our graduates.

Best regards,



CHRISTINE THEODOROPOULOS | AIA, PE | DEAN
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN



Dean Christine Theodoropoulos at 2021 commencement ceremonies.

“I’m thinking about how our programs have contributed to preparing the future leaders of the built environment. Myriad projects come to mind that embody our legacies, which are continually being created by our students, faculty and staff.”

Comments and content contributions are welcome for Construction Innovator, an annual publication of Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department. Contact **Project Coordinator** Jenay Reynolds-Sibbach at 805-756-6385 or jreyno00@calpoly.edu. | **Writer:** Jo Ann Lloyd | **Designer:** Shirley Howell; Gabriella Plue (back cover ad) | **Photography:** Joe Johnston; Josef Kasperovich; Chris Leschinsky; courtesy photos | **Copy Editing:** Jo Ann Lloyd.

CELEBRATING YOUR SUCCESS



AND ENSURING IT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDENTS

▲ In her sophomore year, Lizette Galvez (Construction Management, '21) constructed a storefront mockup in Professor Joe Cleary's Commercial Construction lab.

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Your choice to enroll in Cal Poly's construction management (CM) program was brilliant, and now your Learn by Doing education is paying off. What could be more satisfying than realizing your professional hopes and dreams? For many Cal Poly alumni, giving back is the next step.

Your monetary gift will help update equipment, support hands-on labs and offset the cost of student travel to job sites. It will ensure that current and future students continue to learn and grow from the best CM program in the nation.

To make a donation, visit <http://construction.calpoly.edu> and click on the "Support CM" box. Questions? Contact Department Head Jeong Woo at 805-756-5493 or jwoo21@calpoly.edu. Thanks for your support!



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May 13-14, 2022

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