Connecting industry with students and students with industry is the heartbeat of the Construction Engineering Management (CEM) focus at the University of Arizona. Fall highlights include:

- AGC chapter launch,
- TAKE 5 lunches,
- 2018 National Design-Build Competition and DBIA Conference,
- Heavy civil and design-build team preparation for the ASC-Reno construction competition,
- Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship,
- Industry speakers and site visits, and
- Your donation to CEM.

New AGC Chapter at UA

A new student chapter of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) was established this fall at UA. The goal of the chapter is to foster professional growth in UA students and provide interaction with industry. The Arizona Builders Alliance (ABA) is our local sponsor. Through ABA our students have opportunities to interact with local contractors through TAKE 5 lunches, ABA Quarterly Dinners, ABA training seminars, volunteer work days, site visits, guest presentations, scholarships, internships, and employment. This fall Jim Tofel (Tofel-Dent), and Randy Rusing and Tom Bersbach (Sundt), spoke with our AGC and DBIA chapters.

TAKE 5

TAKE 5 is a program where one company (1 or 2 employees) connects with 3 to 5 UA civil/construction engineering students in an informal setting for lunch at the UA Student Union Memorial Center in the Arizona Room. At each TAKE 5, a company will talk with students about their company and industry sector, including types of projects, roles and career paths, life as an intern, and employee opportunities and responsibilities. Students can share with companies about what they are learning in their engineering curriculum, extracurricular activities, and internships. Take 5 is a unique networking opportunity. Participating companies this fall include: Barker, Concord, Chasse, Sundt, HDR, GLHN, and Climatec.
2018 National DBIA Student Competition
For the third year in a row, a UA design-build team was among the nine regional finalists in the 2018 National Design-Build Student Competition sponsored by the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA). A total of 25 UA students with construction or design backgrounds participated on five interdisciplinary teams. The UA team, Student Living Solutions, prepared responses to an RFQ and an RFP for a living-learning university residence hall. The 5-member team along with six other students and DBIA officers attended the National DBIA conference in New Orleans November 7-9, 2018. This competition and conference meant a variety of things to our students, including a chance to put into practice skills they are learning at UA, receiving feedback from industry judges on their work, meeting with professionals to learn more about careers in construction and engineering, and hearing speakers from industry talk about the latest trends. Thanks to DBIA-WPR, Sturgeon, Lease Crutcher Lewis, and Holder for helping to fund this trip.

Heavy Civil and Design-Build Teams for ASC-Reno
Last February UA sent a team for the first time to the construction competition hosted by the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) in Reno. Our UA students were thoroughly impressed by the industry sponsored topics and the participation of 1,400 students from 40 universities, so much so that they committed to bringing two teams to Reno in Feb. 2019. Our UA heavy civil team is being coached by Jake Buckley and Jim Merrigan from Granite and our design-build team is being coached by Tanya Sanchez-Trejo from Kitchell and Hunter Brown from McCarthy. Our students have been meeting as a team and connecting with industry professionals one-on-one to prepare for this intensive event where they will prepare a project proposal and present before an industry panel. We are actively seeking sponsors for team travel.

Beavers Scholarship Endowment
Many years ago a small construction scholarship endowment of $8,000 was started at UA by the Beavers to assist students entering the heavy construction industry. This year this endowment has grown substantially through a gift of $50,000 from the Beavers Trust and $25,000 from Sundt. This year’s recipient of the UA Beavers scholarship is Ryan Nelson. Ryan is a senior in Civil Engineering with a focus on Construction Engineering Management. Ryan has two summers of internship experience working on highway construction and light rail. Ryan is the captain of our heavy civil team preparing for ASC-Reno. We are grateful for these generous contributions to the Beavers Scholarship Endowment which is positioned to impact students’ lives and careers in the coming years.
Industry Speakers and Site Visits

This fall we had some amazing speakers presenting and interacting with our students in the construction classes, including:

- Ray McCoy, Dallas Featherstone, Carlos Bunzira, and Macaulay Christian (**Hensel Phelps**): Construction technology (photo below, left)
- Jim Rogers (**LinkedIn Learning**): Alternative delivery methods
- Ralph Banks (**UA PDC**) and Alex Brandeburgo (**UA Housing & Residential Life**): DB delivery and stakeholder involvement
- Matt Hunter and Fernanda Fraijo (**DPR**): RFIs
- Javier DeEchavarri and Michael Martin (**ADOSH**): Construction Safety
- Andy North and Joel Harris (**Borderland**): Construction equipment applications
- Paul Titzel (**Caterpillar**): Construction equipment operation
- Jim Merrigan and Bob Martinez (**Granite**): Takeoff, estimating, and bidding
- Rob Presuhn, Arnold Neave, Brian Reitmeyer (**Granite**): Estimating earthwork
- Bob Carlson (**Hunter**): Estimating concrete construction
- Rebecca Mirsky (retired, **Boise State U.**): concrete formwork and falsework
- Chris DeYoung (**JB Steel**): Estimating steel construction
- Mike Goodwin (**Climatec**): Estimating for control systems
- American Society of Professional Estimators (**ASPE**): 11th Hour Bid Simulation

We also had some great site visits, including: the Caterpillar Building (Sundt), the UA Honors Village (Okland), Southwest Gas LNG storage facility (SWG and Matrix), Banner Hospital (DPR), the Amazon Fulfillment Center (The Ryan Companies), and Valencia Road and Kolb Road (KE&G) (photo below, right).
Your Donation to CEM Matters
Through generous donations from industry partners and alumni, UA has been able to offer our engineering students a variety of rich opportunities in construction engineering management.

When I joined the faculty of Civil Engineering in 2015 the College of Engineering provided some seed money for the first three years to help build momentum for funding the annual operating expenses of CEM while we seek donors for a CEM endowment of $5 million that will provide sustainable funding into the future. Funding for CEM contributes toward salary, Associated General Contractors (AGC) and Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) student chapters, student involvement in the national DBIA competition and the Associated Schools of Construction competition in Reno. Our goal is to raise $250,000 per year. Donations for 2017-18 totaled $85,000, so there is a ways to go to fully fund CEM.

Will you join the growing team of companies, alumni, and friends of CEM that are excited about preparing the next generation of construction engineering managers? Small and large gifts are welcome. Whether monthly or one-time gifts, all contributions will help to maintain a vibrant CEM program.

You can give online at Give Today or checks can be written to the UA Foundation and sent to:

    Therese Lane, Civil Engineering, 1209 E. Second St., Tucson, AZ 85721-0072.

Please note on the check CAEM Construction Engineering Management General Fund.

Thank You
On a personal note, I was honored to be recognized in December with the Tucson Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS) award for promoting diversity in engineering. I have been working with Edie Griffith-Mettey (SCE), Priscilla Cornelio (retired, PCDOT), Amy White (Sundt), and Jamie Flamm (UA Civil Eng. student) to develop a mentoring program for women students in civil engineering at UA. It is a team effort we are calling Rise Together Mentorship. More on that in the Spring CEM update. Additionally, I was honored to be selected by our civil engineering students as Faculty of the Year and to share a few words of celebration, motivation, and humor with our graduates at the Department pre-commencement ceremony on Dec. 14, 2018.

Industry partnerships are the heart-beat of Construction Engineering Management at UA. The connections between industry and students are what enable us to offer construction courses, extracurricular activities, advising, mentoring, and connections to internships and full-time job opportunities. Your gifts and support are making an impact on students and the industry. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dean Papajohn

Dean Papajohn, P.E.
Associate Professor of Practice
Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics

December 27, 2018