Connecting industry with students and students with industry

Industry connections are the fulcrum of Construction Engineering Management (CEM) at the University of Arizona. Industry partnerships provide leverage that multiplies what we are able to do for students and for the construction industry. Spring highlights include:

- AGC and DBIA chapter activities at UA,
- Beavers scholarship endowment,
- Construction scholarships,
- Construction leaders’ lunch,
- Heavy civil and design-build teams for ASC Reno,
- Industry speakers and site visits,
- Looking for 100 Civil Alum and Industry Partner Donors in 2019-20, and
- Spring Graduation.

AGC and DBIA Chapters at UA
The Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) UA chapters are supported by Arizona Builders Alliance and the Western Pacific Region of DBIA. The UA chapters met monthly with great industry speakers throughout the year. In the photo are Lee O’Connell and Nick Pearce of McCarthy presenting on a complex DB hospital project.

Beavers Scholarship Endowment
This spring the Beavers Trust directed $100,000 to the UA Beavers Scholarship Endowment for students pursuing careers in heavy civil. Mike Hoover, CEO and President of Sundt Construction and past president of the Beavers was on campus to present the honorary check. This year’s gift of $100,000 follows last year’s gift of $50,000 from the Beavers and $25,000 from Sundt Construction. The total endowment is approaching $200,000, which will generate nearly $8,000 in scholarship awards every year.
Construction Scholarships

Construction scholarships are a big boost for our students pursuing careers in the construction industry. In addition to the Beavers, some of the recent construction scholarship recipients include:

- **Bill Lloyd Sr.** – Garrett Hooker, Spencer Browne
- **Western Pacific Region DBIA** – Will Vail
- **Simpson Strong Ties** – Travis Shollin
- **Mike Kolling** – Jessica Neill
- **Harold Ashton** – Susan Barger
- **Beavers** – Will Vail

Construction Leaders’ Lunch

Good things happen when you put construction leaders, construction students, and baked potatoes together! This spring Granite Construction held a leadership retreat in Tucson and offered to host a baked potato bar lunch for all the students in the Civil Engineering department. Twenty-one leaders from Granite met with over 75 students and faculty from UA Civil Engineering to talk construction, leadership, and of course, enjoy some great baked potatoes and toppings. Your company may not have two dozen leaders in town to host a lunch, but your company can consider hosting a **TAKE 5 lunch** where one or two engineers from your company take 5 UA students to lunch on campus to talk about the construction industry and the work your company does. **TAKE 5** is an excellent way to raise the profile of your company name on campus and encourage students to pursue careers in construction. If you are interest in hosting a **TAKE 5** lunch, contact me for more details.

Heavy Civil and Design-Build Teams for ASC-Reno

This year we had seventeen students involved in the heavy civil and design-build competitions hosted by the [Associated Schools of Construction (ASC)](https://asc-schools.org) in Reno, NV. Our heavy civil team was coached by Granite Construction (Jake Buckley and Jim Merrigan) and our design-build team was coached by Kitchell (Tanya Sanchez-Trejo). Our students benefited immensely from working with these industry professionals to prepare for the competition. One student commented, “This is the best way for students to learn how construction companies actually work and the logic that goes into planning construction.” At the competition, our students interacted with 1,250 industry professionals from 42 companies. Our students learned more about what careers in construction can look like.
Industry Speakers and Site Visits

Some amazing speakers presented and interacted with our students in our construction classes.

Industry speakers

- Jim Merrigan, Bob Martinez, Arnold Neave, Joe Crank, and the Granite team – quantity takeoff and cost estimating
- Ray McCoy, Carlos Bunzira, Macaulay Christian, and Dallas Featherstone (Hensel Phelps) – technology in construction
- Michael Martin and Xavier DeEchavarri (ADOSH) – construction safety
- Andy North, Joel Harris, and Clint Elder (Borderland) – construction equipment operations
- Paul Titzel (Caterpillar) – construction equipment
- Naresh Samtani (NCS GeoResources) – geotech for Construction Managers
- Eric Cylwik (Sundt) – Virtual Design and Construction
- Ron Stuff – construction claims and disputes
- Jim Rogers (LinkIn Learning) – project delivery
- Ralph Banks and Alex Brandenburg (UA) – design-build procurement
- Matt Hunter, Fernanda Fraijo, Taylor Granat (DPR) – RFIs
- Rob Murphy (Kiewit) and James Harrald – safety harness demonstration
- Grey Major (KE&G) – project control
- Dave Weber (PMA) – construction delays and claims
- Bob Carlson (Hunter) – estimating for concrete construction
- Chris DeYoung (JB Steel) – estimating for steel construction
- Mike Goodwin (Climatec) – estimating for control systems
- Rebecca Mirsky (Boise State University) – estimating for formwork and falsework
- Rob Presuhn, Arnold Neave, Brian Reitmeyer (Granite) – estimating for earthwork

Our industry partners provided some great site visits.

Construction site visits

- Caterpillar Building (Sundt)
- I-10 and Ina Road Interchange (Sundt-Kiewit)
- Banner University Medical Center (DPR-Sundt)
- Valencia Road and Kolb Road (KE&G)
- LNG Storage Facility (Southwest Gas, Matrix)
- UA Honors Village (Okland)
- TEP substation (TEP and Ashton)
- Raytheon (Brasfield & Gorrie)
This spring Civil Engineering alum Dave Areghini provided seed money to launch a CEM Endowment with an annual gift of $10,000 a year for five years. Our vision is to grow the CEM Endowment to $5 million to cover the CEM program expenses listed in the table. Endowments generate 4% annually. The University has no dedicated funds for Construction Engineering Management, so while the CEM Endowment is being developed, approximately $250,000 for operating expenses are needed annually. Donations from industry partners and alumni for 2017-18 totaled $85,000, so there is a way to go to fully fund CEM. We want to demonstrate to the new Dean of Engineering, David Hahn, that alumni and industry are solidly behind CEM. To do this, we are encouraging industry professionals and UA civil alum to donate to CEM at UA. Large and small gifts are welcome, our goal is to have 100 alum giving to CEM this year.

Will you consider being one of these donors?

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 designate your gift for either CAEM Construction Engineering Management General Fund (for current operating expenses) or CAEM Construction Engineering Management Endowment (for building a sustainable funding source for CEM). Automatic monthly or one time gifts can be set up.

### Spring Graduation

This spring I completed all requirements for a PhD in Civil Engineering. My dissertation research is titled [Contract Administration Functions and Tools for Design-Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor Project Delivery in U.S. Highway Construction](#) (available at the highlighted link). I am grateful to have worked with a great committee including my advisor Mounir El Asmar, Wylie Bearup, Edd Gibson, and Keith Molenaar. I am also grateful for the many DOT personnel and industry professionals that gave their time to assist with data collection.

Your gifts and support are making an impact on students and the construction industry. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dean Papajohn

Dean Papajohn, PE, PhD
Associate Professor of Practice
Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics
*July 10, 2019*