

CONSTRUCTION

# INNOVATOR

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



Let Their Successful  
Construction Management Careers

# Commence!

CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO

## DEPARTMENT HEAD'S MESSAGE

# CELEBRATING 2014'S ACHIEVEMENTS AS A PROMISING NEW YEAR BEGINS

We hope that 2015 has started off as well for you as it has for us. This year promises to be a record year for the Construction Management Department — just as 2014 set some records as well.

This issue celebrates the year's highlights: the largest freshman class in the department's history and the first department-specific commencement ceremony. This issue also looks at the enduring relationships we enjoy with alumni, the involvement of the industry representatives who hire our graduates, and our expanding network of friends and supporters who make student success possible.

We start with a "picture of a picture" on the cover: President Jeffrey D. Armstrong enjoying a "selfie" with a group of our graduates at the recent winter commencement exercises. While this year's graduating class is small due to the construction sector downturn of five years ago, we introduce you to the largest incoming class ever: 102 freshmen and a half-dozen transfers. The industry recruiters featured in articles about our ongoing placement program, co-op opportunities, and new job fairs can't wait for our students to take their place in the current strong marketplace.

We also announce the new Construction Management Advisory Council, which will strengthen our connections with industry and alumni by inviting a much broader base of input than was possible from the former Industry Advisory Committee. In the coming months, you all will be invited to play an important role in the council as we expand outreach efforts and encourage you to join in activities on campus and throughout the region.

Finally, we celebrate student success. Industry support allows us to be the country's most successful university in bringing home more trophies from student competitions year after year. Just before press time, our interdisciplinary team competing in the annual National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Competition at the International Builders Show won second among 35 other institutions. We finish the issue with news of the faculty, alumni and student recipients of last year's Senior Awards.

We hope to see you on campus and elsewhere as we seek your counsel and input. Remember to include us in your travel plans when you are in the area. Thank you for your support; the next generation of construction professionals benefit from all that you do.



ALLAN J. HAUCK | PH.D., CPC



Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck at winter commencement exercises

"THIS ISSUE ALSO LOOKS AT  
THE ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS  
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**ON THE COVER:** Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong snaps a "selfie" at 2014 winter commencement with CM graduates (from left) Charlie Gage, Vante Smith-Johnson and Wesley McGuire. PHOTO BY JAY THOMPSON



The Construction Management Department this fall welcomed more students — and more women students — than ever before, due to a concerted, collaborative recruiting effort, an improved economy, and a more robust industry.

CM received 260 applications for fall 2014, up from 170 the previous year, marking a 53 percent increase.

This year, six transfer students and 102 freshmen enrolled, setting a record for the highest number of admitted students in the program's history. And that's not all.

"Nearly 20 percent of new students are women, which more than doubles the total number of women currently in our program," said Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck, who teamed up with Admissions, Recruitment & Financial Aid staff to ramp up recruiting efforts.

Those efforts included the creation of a communication flow that included email communication, videos and a Web presence designed to attract prospective students. "The videos were successful, and our

# FULL HOUSE

## CM WELCOMES MORE INCOMING STUDENTS THAN EVER BEFORE

messages to CM prospects attracted a lot of interest and helped to improve the number of applicants," said Aaron Borgeson, communications coordinator in Admissions, Recruitment & Financial Aid.

The videos include a "Student Speaks" segment and a "Grand Avenue" segment featuring Hauck, faculty members Paul Weber, Elbert Speidel and Phil Barlow, and students Kelly Hillman and Colin Leong (who've since graduated) discussing the CM program from their various perspectives.

And if those steps didn't quite do the trick, Hauck personally called all the accepted students who had not yet committed by the May 1 deadline to answer any questions.

To entice prospective students in the future, a Cal Poly Scholars' Program in Construction Management is in the making. "We are looking to partner with industry to award incoming students with scholarships that would be renewable for four years," Hauck said. "All too often it's the cost of attendance that prevents accepted students from committing. These scholarships would be available to incoming freshmen to help get their Cal Poly careers off to a successful start."

Eligible students will be the first in their families to attend college, will have graduated from an architecture, construction and engineering (ACE) charter high school or a Cal Poly partner school, and must demonstrate financial need.

(See the videos at [admissions.calpoly.edu/whyattendcalpoly/cm/promo.html](http://admissions.calpoly.edu/whyattendcalpoly/cm/promo.html) and [admissions.calpoly.edu/whyattendcalpoly/cm/features/prospects.html](http://admissions.calpoly.edu/whyattendcalpoly/cm/features/prospects.html).)

Incoming freshmen visit Poly Canyon during fall 2014 Week of Welcome activities.

COURTESY CAL POLY NEW STUDENT AND TRANSITION PROGRAMS



Cal Poly construction management students don't even have to leave campus to look for work, thanks to a robust career placement program that brings industry recruiters to Cal Poly four days a week nearly every week throughout the academic year.

"We are currently seeing 100 percent placement of our students," said Department Head Al Hauck. "With the industry back up to full stride, some of our top students are receiving multiple offers."

The CM Department began the internal recruiting program about 10 years ago at the request of industry partners who wanted a more personalized way to interview and recruit students. On any given week, representatives from five to eight companies come to campus to conduct information sessions and interviews.

This fall quarter alone, 46 companies signed on to talk to and recruit students. In addition, 35 companies participated in the department's first Job Fair, held in November. (See story, page 6.)

"Between our Job Fair and info sessions, students will be exposed to more than 75 different companies in one quarter," said Jessica Frazier, administrative coordinator who manages the recruiting efforts. "And that doesn't count the companies that come just to conduct interviews."

The program is an obvious benefit to students and to industry. Kathy Abbott, university relations manager at Cupertino Electric Inc., has been recruiting at Cal Poly for about six years.

"The Learn by Doing philosophy is really relevant in this major, and the students are focused and committed and passionate about it," Abbott said.

Cupertino Electric has hired 35 Cal Poly graduates throughout the years, 29 of whom started as interns. "The professors do a lot of outreach to industry," Abbott said. "They recognize the value of employers coming to

# A LEADING STRATEGY

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ATTRACTS TOP EMPLOYERS TO RECRUIT ON CAMPUS







the classroom to guest lecture and educate. The faculty members are very approachable, engaging and supportive.”

Raymond Castillo, project manager at DPR Construction in San Francisco, also recruits heavily from Cal Poly. The company currently employs about 65 Cal Poly graduates. “We pull in a lot of rock stars from Cal Poly,” Castillo said. “The curriculum and educational program give the students the ability to easily jump into the work.

“The students do a lot of the case studies that we experience in the industry, which bridges the gap between college and the real world,” Castillo continued. “The professors reach out to general contractors to give students exposure to real-life experience, which shows them what it’s like out here.”

Department Head Hauck noted there is a correlation between the recruiting program and the generous support the department receives from industry. “Many of our recruiters not only provide jobs, they also support our program by sponsoring rooms and labs, giving to our Associated Schools of Construction-Reno competition fund, supporting our annual Service Learning course, and providing co-op scholarships, in addition to many other types of vital contributions.”

Frazier promotes the recruiting program to CM majors and to students in related majors such as architecture, architectural engineering and civil engineering. “Students in all majors and class levels can participate if they are looking for an internship or a full-time job in the construction industry after graduation,” Frazier said. “They are also welcome if they just want to learn more about the companies and the different industry sectors.”

For more information on the recruiting program, go to [construction.calpoly.edu/content/opportunities/recruitment/info-sessions/interviews](http://construction.calpoly.edu/content/opportunities/recruitment/info-sessions/interviews).

Company representatives attract a crowd at weekly “info sessions” and interviews.

Creating a welcome reversal of gloomy job predictions and a sharp turnaround in the sluggish building industry, the Construction Management Department held its first-ever job fair in early November, linking 80 recruiters from 35 companies with about 100 students seeking internships and jobs.

Administrative Coordinator Jessica Frazier began working on the job fair last summer, when she realized the construction industry is “back up and booming, and everyone is hiring.”

The event was an addition to the department’s regular recruiting activities, which include company representatives coming to campus four days a week nearly every week during the academic year to talk to students about their jobs and organizations. (*See story, page 4.*)

Frazier posts a calendar online early in the academic year so companies that are interested in recruiting on campus can sign up. “I predicted this year’s sessions would fill up quickly, and I was right,” Frazier said. “The calendar filled up the morning we posted it. We decided to give companies another opportunity to recruit on campus.”

The job fair was open to all majors and class levels. Quite a few civil engineering students attended in addition to students in the College of Architecture & Environmental Design, Frazier said. During the morning session, company recruiters spoke with students about job opportunities and internships.

The Raymond Group sponsored a continental breakfast, and Morley Builders sponsored hospitality stations that provided snacks and beverages.

After a barbecue lunch hosted by Architectural Glass & Aluminum, the companies that had elected to do so conducted interviews.

Frazier estimates that about 25 percent of participating companies were brand new to campus and had never hired Cal Poly construction management grads before.

“A wide variety of companies showed up: longtime recruiters and first-time recruiters; general contractors, large and small contractors, heavy-civil contractors, and specialty contractors. It was a good group.”

The feedback Frazier received was all positive. “The companies really enjoyed the job fair,” she said. “They especially appreciated that it was tailored to CM students and other majors interested in CM. The students who came were focused on the industry. And when it was over, several recruiters indicated they were ready to extend offers of jobs and internships.”

A massive amount of logistical planning went into the event, said Frazier, who “tried to think through each step of the day.” It was held in multiple locations on campus. The morning session was in the Performing Arts Center Pavilion; the luncheon was held in the Innovations Center Plaza; and afternoon interviews were held throughout the Construction Innovations Center.

Frazier says she couldn’t have done it without the team of eight students who lent a hand the day of the event.

“I was excited to help, and I was pleased to see so many students taking their futures into their own hands by coming to the job fair, networking with industry representatives, and signing up for interviews,” said senior Jasmine Lomax. “These companies spend months positioning themselves to get a spot at our regular recruiting information sessions — and this year, the job fair — for a reason. They know Cal Poly students are prepared upon graduation. We are very fortunate to be provided an education that has companies fighting for us.”

The department intends to hold a job fair every fall and every spring, with the

BUSINESS IS  
BOOMING  
...  
COMPANIES ARE  
HIRING  
...  
AND CM'S JOB FAIR IS A  
SUCCESS

## CM THANKS THESE COMPANIES FOR JOB FAIR PARTICIPATION

ACCO

Alliance Environmental Group

Alten Construction

Anning-Johnson

Architectural Glass & Aluminum

BNBuilders

Cody Brock Commercial Builders

Cumming Corp.

C.W. Driver

DeSilva Gates

Dome Construction

Dragados

Dryco

Gordon Prill Inc.

Graniterock

Healy Tibbitts Builders

Hensel Phelps

Holland Construction

Independent Construction Company

Largo Concrete

Lencioni Construction

Lyles Services Co.

MATT Construction

McGuire & Hester

McMillan Electric

Morley Builders

NorthWall Builders

NOVO Construction

Pulte Group

Rudolph and Sletten

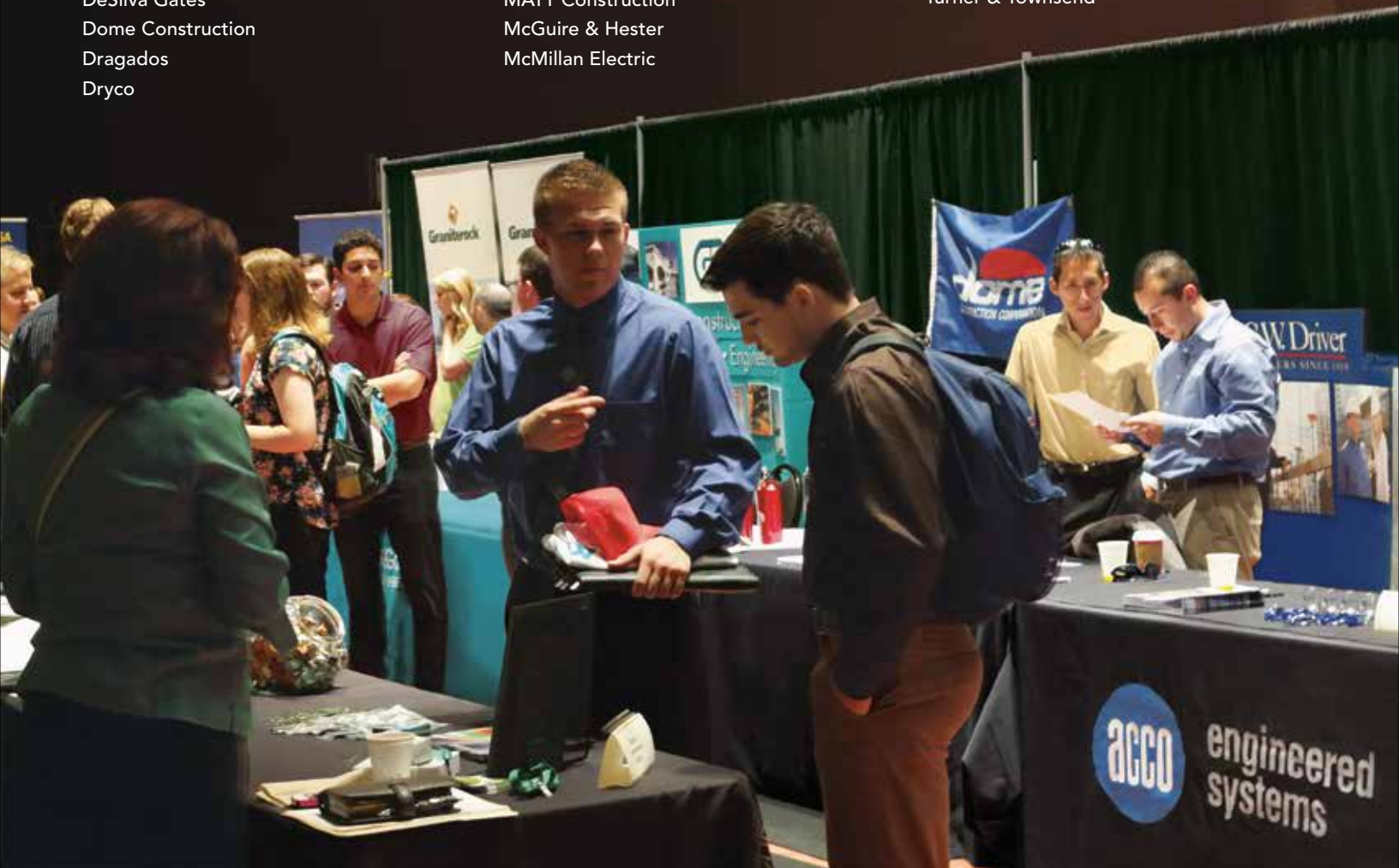
SC Builders

Skyline Construction

Snyder-Langston

The Raymond Group

Turner & Townsend



next one set for April 24. “We are really excited about it,” Frazier said. “It was one of those ‘If you build it, will they come’ moments. And they did.”

“The morning session was scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. From 9:15 until it ended at 12:30 p.m., we had a steady stream of students coming in to talk to the recruiters.”

Even with all the planning, Frazier admits there were a few hiccups. “Coffee was delivered to the wrong location,” she said. “Lunch extended beyond our allotted time; recruiters who said they weren’t going to stay to interview, decided at the last minute to stay. But I had contingency plans in place, and everything ran smoothly.”

Students and representatives from 35 companies mingled at CM’s first job fair in November, shopping for the right employee-employer match.

PHOTO BY JESSICA FRAZIER



## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

# Now In Session

**D**uring its September 2014 meeting, the Construction Management Department's Industry Advisory Committee adopted bylaws for the new Construction Management Advisory Council (CMAC).

CMAC, which succeeds the Industry Advisory Committee, was created as a means to promote increased alumni involvement, provide additional avenues of interaction with the department, and strengthen connections with industry practitioners.

"We formed the Industry Advisory Committee about 10 years ago, when we were planning for the Construction Innovations Center, changing the department's curriculum, and reinvigorating our partnerships with industry friends, but its structure was very

informal," said Construction Management (CM) Department Head Al Hauck.

The American Council for Construction Education (ACCE), the accreditation body for construction management programs, requires departments to have an active advisory council. So Hauck asked department heads from several of the country's leading construction management programs to send him their council's bylaws.

Two things became apparent as he read through the 15 sets of bylaws. The first was that the best boards are self-governing. "The board runs the organization, the department does not. We had been doing it all. If we forgot to call a meeting, we didn't meet," Hauck said.

His first goal is to have a self-governing board that organizes the meetings and establishes priorities. "A board that tells us what the department should be addressing and helps support those things."

The second best practice Hauck discovered is that the board should provide a vital connection between the department and its alumni. "The council becomes similar to an alumni association for the department," Hauck said. "The advisory council membership is open to all interested alumni and friends, not just a small group attending an advisory committee meeting."

Because that could potentially become a very large organization, there will be a focus on regional alumni dinners and events. "Perhaps one large annual meeting will be held on campus along with an awards dinner, a meeting that the CMAC Events Committee plans and organizes."

A smaller group of council members will form the board of directors, who represent the larger membership of the CMAC. This provides the governance structure of the

"CMAC PROVIDES A MEANS TO REINVIGORATE THE DEPARTMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ALUMNI AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS. IT WILL PROVIDE NETWORKING, EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES." — AL HAUCK

council and takes the place of the former Industry Advisory Committee. The board will have responsibility for everything short of final fiduciary responsibilities.

"The board of directors allows us to recognize the people who got us here," Hauck said. "The bylaws also opened the board to younger people who can be elected by the CMAC's general membership. We want the right balance."

Five categories of CMAC membership were established: Legacy, Founders, Individual, Corporate and Association, and Emeritus. (See box, right.)

Twenty-six individuals representing Legacy or Founders members were invited to sit on the board because of their past donations and department involvement. Another 26 will be voted onto the board from all of the CMAC membership categories.

"We wanted to create an inclusive membership structure — one that recognized longtime supporters and invited recent alumni to participate," Hauck





## CMAC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

### FOUNDERS

Any individual who was a member of the original Industry Advisory Committee

### LEGACY

Any individual or corporation with a qualifying lifetime history of donations to the CM Department

### INDIVIDUAL

Any individual associated with construction or construction-related industries

### CORPORATE AND ASSOCIATION

Any corporation or association associated with construction or construction-related industries that gives the CM Department or CMAC a qualifying donation

### EMERITUS

Any member with 10 or more years of service on the CMAC, or its predecessor, who is retired from construction practice or education

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about becoming a member, contact Al Hauck (ahauck@calpoly.edu) or Jessica Frazier (jfrazier@calpoly.edu) in the CM Department. A membership drive is expected to take place early next year, so watch your mailbox for more information.

stressed. "I wanted to recognize and inspire new partnerships and ideas."

A common purpose of CMAC is to support the department, students and faculty, but that is not its only purpose. "We want to provide services to our 3,000 alumni," Hauck said. "In addition to alumni dinners statewide, we will offer educational seminars to practitioners."

All CMAC activities will be administered by the California Center for Construction Education (CCCE) under the auspices of the department. An executive secretary will run the day-to-day activities.

"CMAC provides a means to reinvigorate the department's relationship with alumni and industry partners," Hauck said. "It will provide networking, education and professional development opportunities. It will give members

access to current students and recent graduates for co-ops and permanent jobs.

"Our department is only as successful as what we hear from practitioners," Hauck continued. "We aren't biologists; we aren't necessarily discovering new things. We learn from professionals in the field so that students graduate as current as they can be."

"The council will also provide a structure for raising private funds," Hauck said. "We spend \$100,000 a year on professional development for students — sending them to competitions, field trips, conferences. It's all private money. Industry and alumni are extremely generous, and this will provide a clearer structure to do that."

The Construction Innovations Center (below)





# A CO-OP REVIVAL

## CM AIMS TO BRING BACK THE COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**T**he Construction Management Department has been working to revitalize the co-operative — or “co-op” — educational experience, and according to associate professor — and staunch supporter — Phil Barlow, the program is seeing some success.

“Co-op education is being lost at many universities, and we feel it should be elevated,” Barlow said. It’s a win-win-win that benefits the students, the companies providing the co-op, and the department.

The student earns a reasonable wage while gaining valuable work experience.

Co-ops combine classroom-based theory with real-world application, making students’ coursework and work tasks more meaningful and relevant. It enables students to retain part- or full-time student status and earn course credit, thus shortening their time to graduation.

Employers gain by engaging a potential new employee with minimal risk and cost.

“Cal Poly CM students are highly sought after, and the competition to hire them is fierce,” Barlow said. “In my experience, the most successful strategy a company can follow in attracting the best students is to engage them early and often.”

Jasmine Lomax’s education continues as she works on-site with DPR (above).

A co-op can offer six months of engagement, totally immersing the student in the company’s unique culture and allowing them to perform more meaningful assignments.

The CM Department benefits by adding value to the students’ education through an enhanced Learn by Doing experience. Co-ops help the department develop a





deeper collaboration with industry to benefit student learning and ensure a quality, fully engaged work experience.

Despite all these advantages, fewer students have been participating in co-ops. Because students remain in part- or full-time student status during the experience, the high cost of tuition is partly to blame. To reverse this trend, the department — working with industry partners — is offering “company name” Co-op Scholarship Awards to help cover such student expenses as tuition and rent.

This year, three companies provided \$3,000 Co-op Scholarship Awards: Anning-

Johnson, Pan-Pacific Mechanical and BNBuilders, allowing students Andrew Toomey, Tyler Peinado and Jacob Hague to start their summer-fall co-ops.

“We signed up 15 contractors and matched up three students to participate in the program this year, and we hope to more than double that next year,” Barlow said. “We hope this encourages students to engage in cooperative education and make it at least a cost-neutral proposition for them.”

Anyone interested in learning more should contact Barlow at 805-756-2797 or [plbarlow@calpoly.edu](mailto:plbarlow@calpoly.edu).



A Pan-Pacific Mechanical co-op put Tyler Peinado to work on a Kaiser Permanente Hospital job site in San Diego (top).

Dhakshawn Potuhera works on-site for Marelich Mechanical (above).





CM Department Head Al Hauck with senior honorees (from left): Colin Leong, Spencer Stahl, Kelly Hillman, Cory Beck and Tyler Menard

# THE UP SIDE TO DOWNSIZING

## DEPARTMENT-SPECIFIC GRADUATION CEREMONY DEEMED A SUCCESS

Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck welcomed an enthusiastic crowd of more than 500 family and friends to the very first department-specific graduation ceremony, during which 50 of its 53 winter and spring graduates were recognized.

In the past, the department celebrated the milestone with all the departments in the College of Architecture & Environmental Design. This year the college aimed for individual, more intimate ceremonies that would hold more meaning to graduates and their friends and family.

Spring 2014 commencement fell on Father's Day, giving family members something extra to celebrate. In lighthearted remarks to those gathered, Hauck said, "Before we get to the formal program, let me just say to my fellow dads out there: Isn't this a great way to celebrate Father's Day? If you fathers are anything like I was a year ago when our daughter was

graduating from Cal Poly, you are just beginning to realize the best part about children graduating from the university: You are about to get a raise! As President Jeff Armstrong likes to say, the best part about sending your kids to Cal Poly is that they are going to be gainfully employed."

While conducting most of the ceremony dressed in the traditional somber regalia, Hauck traded his cap for a hard hat before announcing the department's five Senior Awards winners. (See story, page 14.)

Although no formal award is given to the students who invite the most guests, graduating senior Felipe Zamora should be recognized for having 14 guests — many coming from as far away as Costa Rica.

After the ceremony, a reception with refreshments was held in the Founders' Plaza. "Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the event; people lingered for quite a while," said Jessica Frazier, event coordinator. "The smaller celebration provided a more personal touch than the large collegewide ceremonies of the past."

Another special touch was hearing what each graduate thought were their proudest moments at Cal Poly. In the weeks leading up to the ceremony, the students submitted to the department in writing their three proudest achievements, and Hauck read them aloud as each student was called on stage. The statements ranged from reaching professional goals and landing full-time jobs with top-notch companies to serving the school and department. Some comments included: "growing into a confident, well-rounded individual," "learning how to positively overcome many of life's challenges," "earning my bachelor's faster than my mother, father and brother," and "making my family proud."

"This event is something I will look forward to every year," Hauck said. "It took a great deal of planning, and there were a few hiccups along the way, but I don't think anyone noticed. I think everyone had a great time, and the graduating seniors were honored in a special, more personal way. We sent them off in style."



## THE GRADUATES

Matthew C. Beck  
Outstanding Leadership Award  
Jenna Marie Begley  
Connor Patrick Burke  
Armando Ceballos  
Zachary Oliver Celli  
Hyun Jun Choi | Cum Laude  
Ian J. Clark  
Cole Bogaard Collins  
Christian J. Cusella  
Tyler Robert Dennison  
Sydney E. Doyle  
Joseph D. Durantini  
Cole Edging  
Samuel Roy Enmark | Cum Laude  
Peter James Giudici III  
Adrian Richard Godby  
Grant Louis Goebel  
Jonathan S. Graisel  
Kelly Leann Hillman | Cum Laude  
Service to the Department Award  
Sarah Patricia Jimenez  
Michael DeHaven Keeth  
Jeannette M. Komonosky  
Colin Leong | "Go To" Award  
Frank D. Lozano  
Kyle J. Marrs  
Kevin J. McCullagh  
Tyler Matthew Menard | Magna Cum Laude  
Outstanding Senior Award  
Danielle Alise Molyneux | Cum Laude  
David M. Nguyen  
Carly Leticia Novoa  
Marcus L. Pippin  
Taylor Garrett Pope  
Joshua R. Pulver  
Sean R. Puterbaugh | Cum Laude  
Candido Ramirez  
Sean M. Ratekin  
Christopher William Rice  
Brandan Russle Rocha  
Stephen Roongsathapaul  
Christopher J. Rudolph  
James L. Schalich  
William Joseph Schoepp  
Darrin Schultz | Cum Laude  
Thomas Keith Sewell Jr.  
Rhett Wayne Snell | Cum Laude  
Eric Thomas Speik  
Nathan Joseph Sperling  
Spencer Victor Stahl  
Service to the Department Award  
Matthew R. Van Wagenen  
Thomas A. Warren  
Gregory R. Wilson | Cum Laude  
Scott Tyler Yackzan  
Felipe Zamora

# CELEBRATING 'STAND-OUTS'

## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR HARD WORK

On a sunny day in June, Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck welcomed students, faculty and guests who had gathered on campus for CM's second annual Scholarship and Awards Recognition Ceremony. The event recognizes scholarship recipients, students who have made significant contributions to the department, and teams that won regional and national competitions.

"The department awarded \$80,000 in scholarships this year," Hauck said.

Hauck introduced Bob Moore, vice president and director of the board of the Retail Contractors Association, and David Woods, executive director of the Beavers Heavy Engineering Construction Association, who presented scholarships from their respective organizations. "These gentlemen represent the core of this department — our relationship with industry," Hauck said. "The private sector helps us build buildings, pay students' transportation costs to competitions, offer interaction in class, and provide internships, co-ops and jobs."

College of Architecture & Environmental Design Dean Christine Theodoropoulos told the crowd how impressed she was with "the students, the teams, the coaches and the faculty who put Cal Poly on the map." She announced the collegewide scholarships that were awarded to CM students. "These scholarships are awarded only to the best of the best," she said.

Hauck praised students Garrett Whitney and Spencer Stahl for providing support in and out of the lab, and he congratulated the team competitors "for bringing home more trophies than any other university." (See story, pages 14-15.)



CAED Dean Christine Theodoropoulos and scholarship award recipient Jose Oseguera

### CM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Allen and Nancy Minton Scholarship**  
\$24,000: Jasmine Lomax

**Don Tanklage Scholarship**  
\$5,000: Jacob Ruiz

**Don Chapin Co. Scholarship**  
\$3,000: Josh Salinas, Trenton Lundquist, Melody Rahbar

**Vinnell Foundation Scholarship**  
\$2,000: Pedro Ruiz, Eric Bet, Hunter Reaume

**Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship**  
\$1,950: Damien Arredondo, Kent Beecham, Tanner Blumenfeld, Enrique Ivers, Randy Cordova, Matthew Susank

**Blair Tulloch Memorial Scholarship**  
\$1,500: Tyler Peinado, Armin Latifi, Alex Block, Tanner Blumenfeld

**Kris Cello Scholarship**  
\$1,500: Jocelyn Kenmotsu

**Retail Contractors Association Scholarship** \$1,000: Jasmine Lomax

**Co-op Scholarship Recipients**  
\$3,000: Andrew Toomey, Anning-Johnson Co-op; Jacob Hague, BNBuilders Co-op; Tyler Peinado, Pan-Pacific Mechanical Co-op

### CAED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Robin L. Rossi Scholarships**  
\$1,200: Charles Andrews

**Herbert L. Collins Scholarships**  
\$1,200: Damien Arredondo and Pedro Ruiz

**Douglas James Martin Scholarship**  
\$600: Jose Oseguera

# TROPHY TEAMS

## STUDENTS RETAIN HIGH MARKS IN COMPETITIONS

Cal Poly's construction management student teams brought home eight trophies from various competitions held during 2013-14.

Early in October, two teams of six students each traveled to Chicago to compete in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 3 open competitions in the Electrical Construction and Preconstruction Team Services categories.

Teams from across the country were invited to compete in these two categories that were previously open only to schools in the Great Lakes Region. Cal Poly's Electrical Construction Team, which competed against two other teams, placed first in the Transportation and Infrastructure category. The Preconstruction Team, competing against 12 teams, won second in the Preconstruction Services category.

Both teams began preparations in spring, continuing through summer and the beginning of fall quarter.

Assistant Professor Greg Starzyk traveled with the students to Chicago.

"The advance preparation and hard work of Cal Poly students did not go unnoticed by the regional constructors," Starzyk said. "They were dying to recruit our students to work for them in Chicago."

In early February, almost 100 CM students and a handful of faculty advisors filed into chartered buses headed to the



27th annual ASC Regions 6 & 7 Student Competition in Reno, where they won more trophies — six — than any other team from any other university.

While the competition went off without a hitch, the trip itself wasn't without its challenges. One of the buses broke down, delaying half the teams for four hours. The students who arrived on time were able to set up "war rooms" for the teams that were delayed. The students weathered that storm just fine, only to be caught on the way home

In October, two student teams from the Construction Management Department traveled to Chicago to compete in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 3 open competitions in the Electrical Construction and Preconstruction Team Services categories.



## CAL POLY TEAMS AT THE REGIONS 6 AND 7 ANNUAL STUDENT COMPETITION OF THE ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS OF CONSTRUCTION

### Design-Build Team, First Place

Jenny Komonosky, captain; Scott Yackzan, co-captain; Taylor Hayda, Trenton Lundquist, Sean Puterbaugh and Rhett Snell. Alternates: Cordelia Sam and Alex Wright.

### Mixed-Use Team, First Place

Frankie Lozano, captain; Jacob Ruiz, co-captain; Sam Enmark, Ryan Lippi, Tyler Menard and Garrett Rice. Alternates: Torrie Peth and Marina Rosso.

### Commercial Team, Second Place

Cory Beck, captain; Tamara Couchee, co-captain; Zachary Celli, Nickolas Floyd, Bryan Hromatko and Geir Phillips. Alternates: Eric Bet and Jocelyn Kenmotso.

### Concrete Team, Second Place

Michael Keeth, captain; Cameron Procsal, co-captain; Ryan Kisner, Sean Ratekin, Pedro Ruiz and Garrett Whitney. Alternates: Kent Beecham and Matthew Stephens.

### Heavy-Civil Team, Second Place

Spencer Stahl, captain; Colin Leong, co-captain; Tanner Blumenfeld, Gentry Mehrlinger, David Nguyen and Taylor Pope. Alternates: Randy Cordova and Ryan Mahlman.

### Marine Team, Third Place

Cory Babinski, captain; Cameron Johnson, co-captain; Conner Long, Cole Reichenbach, Bradford Reller and Greg Wilson. Alternates: Shawn Kuehter and Gus Lamien.

## CAL POLY TEAMS AT THE REGION 3 ANNUAL STUDENT COMPETITION OF THE ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS OF CONSTRUCTION

### Electrical Team, First Place

Wes McGuire, captain; Thomas Sewell, co-captain; Alex Block, Jeff Hadley, Adam Poffenbarger and Nathan Sperling.

### Preconstruction Team, Second Place

Talia Eschenbach, captain; Jenna Begley, co-captain; Tyler Caglia, Gerard Harkin, Josh King and Billy Schoepp.

### THANK YOU, SPONSORS (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)



HOLLAND CONSTRUCTION, INC



in a torrential rain, sleet and snowstorm over Donner Pass.

Twelve Cal Poly teams competed. In the closed categories (open only to schools in Region 6 and 7) Cal Poly's Mixed-Use and Design-Build teams placed first; the Commercial and Heavy-Civil teams placed second. In the open categories, the Concrete Team took second, and the Marine Team won third.

Students began their preparations for the Reno competition in spring 2013. By the

time the competition opened, each team had spent more than 60 hours preparing.

"The ASC competitions are invaluable to students' career development," said Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck. "There's nothing in the country that compares with it. The Reno competition attracts up to 1,400 students. And what do the students get? They further their education; they gain professional development; they benefit from networking."

The Construction Management Department and the student teams thank the following companies whose sponsorships made participation in these competitions possible:

**2014 Commercial:** XL Construction

**2014 Concrete:** Build Group Inc.

**2014 Design-Build:** XL Construction

**2014 Mixed Use:** Holland Construction Inc.

**2014 Preconstruction:** Snyder Langston

**2013 Risk Management:** Overaa

# Outstanding Seniors

## Cory Beck OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Cory Beck (2014) believes in giving 110 percent and always doing a quality job. "Putting in the effort early has an enormous impact on the outcome of the task at hand," said the CM Department's 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award recipient.

Following his own good advice served Beck well during his time at Cal Poly. Under his leadership as team captain of the Commercial Construction Team at the 2013 Annual Student Competition of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) in Reno, Nevada, the team captured second place. "That was probably my proudest Cal Poly moment," Beck said.

He also stayed active in the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM) student club and helped out in the CM Department.

Beck's philosophy of giving 110 percent extends beyond the workplace. He took to heart advice offered by Department Head Al Hauck at commencement: "Work will always be there, but remember that your commitment to family and friends is the most significant contributor to your success in life, including your job."

As for current students, Beck wants them to enjoy their time in San Luis Obispo. "It's such a remarkable place to go to school, with limitless things to do on the Central Coast," he said. "You are there first to get an education, and second to experience opportunities that might arrive only at this point in your life. Do as much as you can, and as well as you can."

In September, Beck joined another CM senior award-winner, Kelly Hillman, at XL Construction in the Bay Area. He hopes to



Cory Beck

be involved in the company's recruiting efforts, "especially those trips to Cal Poly."

"I feel like I have been involved with the students and the department so much over the past four years that I have a responsibility to continue to maintain and grow it for years to come ... and I have no problem doing it," Beck said.

"Putting in the effort early has an enormous impact on the outcome of the task at hand."

— Cory Beck



## FIVE ARE RECOGNIZED IN CM'S ANNUAL AWARD-GIVING TRADITION, PROFILED HERE, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

### Kelly Hillman SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Some people might consider Kelly Hillman (2014) to be an overachiever, having made the Dean's List every quarter of her undergraduate career and being named a 2014 Service to the Department Award recipient.

The Morgan Hill resident followed in both of her sisters' footsteps by enrolling at Cal Poly. "I fell in love with the campus and San Luis Obispo when I would come to visit," Hillman said. "And Cal Poly has such a prestigious reputation for engineering and construction management."

Hillman started her academic career in engineering, but "liked how construction management combined engineering, business and design."

And she likes how Learn by Doing helps students understand concepts. "We were able to go in the Simpson Strong-Tie Lab and physically build things," Hillman said. "In our residential lab, we built a shed over the course of the quarter while we were concurrently learning about the different building phases in the classroom. It is so much easier to remember things you're taught when you have physically done them with your hands."

In keeping with that hands-on concept, Hillman competed twice on the Marine Team at the Associated Schools of Construction Reno competitions. "In 2012, we got third place, and in 2013 we won first."

She felt honored when she learned she had won the Service to the Department Award. "It was nice to be recognized for my hard work," she said. "Every night, construction management companies would give an 'info session,' during which



Kelly Hillman

representatives present information about their companies to students over dinner," Hillman explained. "The next day, the representatives interview students."

"My job was to meet the representatives before their sessions, get them set up, and make sure everything ran smoothly."

After graduation and a three-week road trip to five national parks and a visit to the Dominican Republic for a week, Hillman began working for XL Construction in the Silicon Valley as a project engineer.

"It is so much easier to remember things you're taught when you have physically done them with your hands."

— Kelly Hillman

## Colin Leong

### "GO TO" AWARD

Colin Leong's (2014) journey isn't typical of most Cal Poly students.

His parents, farmers from China, settled in Hong Kong, where his father worked as a carpenter and custom-furniture maker.

"When we immigrated to the U.S., the only work my father could find was as a laborer/carpenter," Leong said. "We were quite poor, living in a windowless basement. As soon as my siblings and I were old enough, we went with him to jobsites. We were not skilled, but we could clean, carry and move items, and squeeze into small spaces no one else could."

With those memories still fresh, Leong wanted nothing to do with construction. He enrolled at Cal Poly in electrical engineering, then switched to biochemistry.

"Neither major really interested me, but I thought if I stuck with it, other aspects would line up," he said. "But while working as a lab tech, mixing chemicals, a sense of remorse and emptiness filled me. I wanted to find something I enjoyed. The only thing I could think of was when I helped retrofit a disabled person's home for Habitat for Humanity."

Unable to change majors, he went to community college for a year then transferred to Cal Poly as a construction management major. It was the right move at the right time.

Not only was he recipient of the department's 2014 "Go To" Award, he also consistently made Dean's List, was active in the student chapters of the Associated Schools of Construction Management and Associated Builders and Contractors, and participated in several competitions.



Colin Leong

The "Go To" Award is not a standard Senior Award. "From time to time, a student stands out for his or her contributions to the department, but their efforts do not fall neatly into any of the Senior Award categories," said Department Head Al Hauck. "Our solution was simple — we made up another award! Colin always seemed to be there when someone needed help and always reliably stepped up to complete the task."

Leong said, "I genuinely adore this program. I didn't want credit for what I did. I believe in the program and the students it develops."

He is now a project engineer with Nibbi Brothers General Contractors in San Francisco.

"I wanted to find something I enjoyed. The only thing I could think of was when I helped retrofit a disabled person's home for Habitat for Humanity."

— Colin Leong



## Tyler Menard

### OUTSTANDING SENIOR

Tyler Menard (2014), recipient of the department's Outstanding Senior Award for having the highest GPA, made the Dean's List an impressive 10 quarters out of the 12 quarters he attended Cal Poly. Come summer, he finally caught a break.

"I spent a month backpacking in Croatia, France, Italy and Spain. It was an amazing trip, and I can't wait until I get the chance to go back," Menard said.

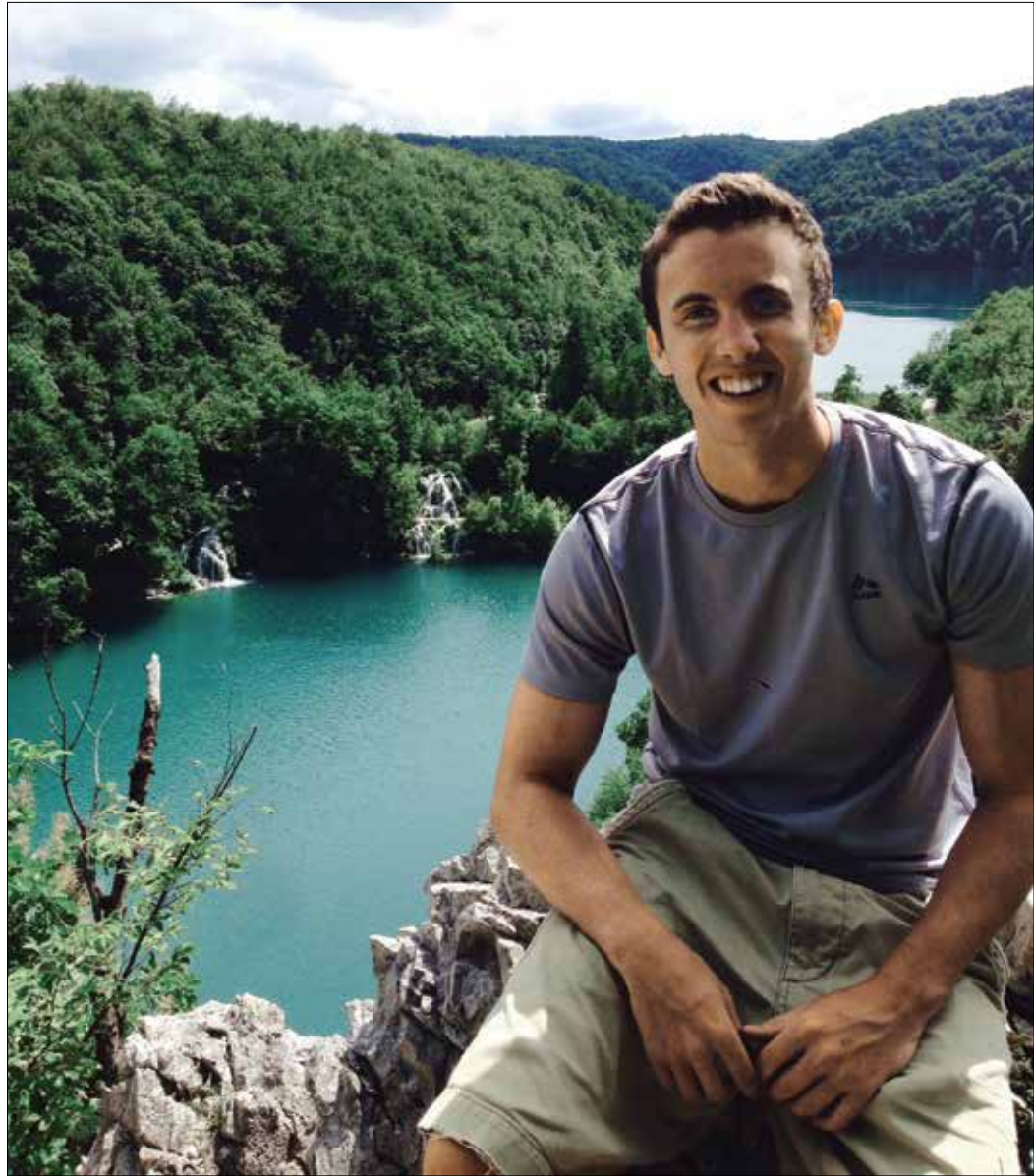
The Northern California native grew up "fascinated by buildings and obsessed with making things with Legos." Originally interested in architecture, he eventually became more interested in finding out how a building was built.

"My neighbor had a general contractor's license for building homes, and he was the one who introduced me to the term construction management," said Menard, who decided to attend Cal Poly because of its "amazing people, reputation and CM program."

"If it wasn't for Cal Poly and Learn by Doing, I wouldn't have landed this incredible job at Sundt Construction," he said.

Menard said the university's hands-on laboratories played a major role in helping cement the knowledge he learned in class. "When you physically do something, it gets engrained in your brain, and your true passion comes out," he said. "There is only so much you can learn from a book."

In addition to maintaining an exceptional grade point average, Menard was active in the student chapters of the Associated Schools of Construction Management and Design-Build Institute of America. He competed twice at the Annual Student Competition of the Associated Schools of Construction in Reno, Nevada, winning first place on the Mixed-Use Team as a senior in February 2014.



Tyler Menard

He admits to having a good work ethic and thinks his curiosity and inquisitive mind helped keep him on track academically. But he said he had "no clue" he was going to win the Outstanding Senior Award.

As for currently enrolled students, Menard advises them to take part in as many internships as possible because of the invaluable learning experiences they provide. "It's important to work hard but also to have fun, because college flies by," he said.

"If it wasn't for Cal Poly and Learn by Doing, I wouldn't have landed this incredible job at Sundt Construction."

— Tyler Menard

## Spencer Stahl

### SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Growing up in Danville in the Bay Area, recent graduate Spencer Stahl (2014) knew he would follow his father into the construction industry.

"My dad is president of a midsized concrete construction company, and I spent a lot of time with him on jobsites," Stahl said. "There's nothing like seeing a construction project from start to finish

and knowing the hard work it takes to complete a project."

Cal Poly was a simple choice for Stahl. "Choosing to attend this school with this degree is something I would do over in a heartbeat," he said. "It's one of the best — if not the best — construction management programs in the country. After visiting the campus, I knew it was the perfect match for me."

Indeed it was. In addition to winning the 2013-14 Service to the Department Award, Stahl made the Dean's List five

times and the President's List once. He participated four times on the Heavy-Civil Team in the Annual Student Competition of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) in Reno, Nevada, serving as captain twice. "Seeing how well Cal Poly was represented and how well we did, gave me a real sense of pride for our department," he said.

That same sense of pride instilled in Stahl a desire to serve the CM Department. He helped run the Simpson Strong-Tie Lab by supervising the "residential build."

"Each quarter the residential class builds a small utility building," he explained. "I purchased the material, supervised the students, and made sure everything ran smoothly."

He was surprised he won the Service to the Department Award. "I helped the department, but I was not expecting an award for it," Stahl said. "It's nice to be recognized for all my hard work."

He urges students to pursue internships, get involved, and get out of their comfort zone. "The department is a great resource, so be sure to use it. All the faculty are here to help you succeed."

After graduation Stahl traveled for a month before joining McCarthy in the Bay Area as a project engineer.

"Choosing to attend this school with this degree is something I would do over in a heartbeat."

— **Spencer Stahl**





# ALUMNI UPDATE

## BALANCING ACT

After graduation, **Adrienne Gallo** (nee Stillwell) (2000) moved to Southern California, where she worked on several notable projects in the San Diego area, including the Lodge at Torrey Pines and Estancia La Jolla. In 2008 she married Mark Gallo, and in 2009 she adopted his two daughters, Mia and Chloe. After a brief hiatus from professional life to entrench herself in motherhood, Adrienne returned to work in 2011 when she was offered employment with the University of California. For the past year, she has enjoyed working as principal educational facility planner in the Capital Planning office at UC San Diego.

Mark and Adrienne Gallo



## ON THE RISE

**Jason Rich** (1999) was recently featured in the Orange County Business Journal for his promotion to vice president of operations for Snyder Langston, where he oversees the execution of all company projects and client satisfaction. He handles the staffing and training needs for all projects and ensures that budgets, schedules and quality are met and



Jason Rich

maintained. Rich has climbed the ranks at Snyder Langston over more than a decade with the firm. He is a valued mentor to his team members, helping to reinforce the culture throughout the organization. Rich's experience includes a diverse spectrum of commercial office and retail construction projects as well as mixed-use and multi-family projects.

## DOMINATING THE FIELD

After graduation, **Tim Rogers** (2009) went to work for Cello & Maudru Construction, a company founded by alumnus **Bill Maudru** (1984) and Kris Cello 27 years ago. Rogers was promoted to project superintendent in 2011 for the Presqu'île Winery project in Santa Maria, Calif. **Doug Pedersen** (2002) was the project manager, and **Chris Herrera** (2011) served as project



Tim Rogers (foreground) and Doug Pedersen at the Presqu'île Winery in Santa Maria (top)

PHOTOS: ADRIÁN GREGORUTTI, WWW.GREGOPHOTO.COM

engineer. "The entire core management team was all Cal Poly alumni, all under the age of 34," Rogers said. The winery was completed in June 2013, with Roger's wife, Katy Westgaard Rogers (B.S., Agricultural Business, 2009), as the director of direct to consumer sales for Presqu'île. After completing the winery project, Rogers and Pedersen formed Rogers & Pedersen Construction Inc. to continue general construction services on the Central Coast. "We will continue to hire Cal Poly alumni in the future and keep the tradition alive," Rogers said.

## IN MEMORIAM: BILL BROWN CM DEPARTMENT FOUNDER DIES JUNE 25



Bill Brown

Bill Brown, 85, professor emeritus and founding head of the Construction Management (CM) Department, died in San Luis Obispo on June 25.

Brown graduated from the University of Florida's architecture

program in the early 1950s. He joined the Cal Poly faculty in 1957 to teach construction management, architectural engineering and architecture.

During a 1967 sabbatical, Brown embarked on a five-month stay at the University of Sydney in Australia, then returned to the University of Florida to earn a Master of Architecture degree with a concentration in construction.

Back at Cal Poly, he was promoted to full professor and appointed one of four directors of the original School of Architecture & Environmental Design, now the College of Architecture & Environmental Design (CAED).

Brown was instrumental in the founding of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) and was an early proponent of the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). Cal Poly's then-Construction Engineering Department — the precursor to Construction Management — was the fifth in the U.S. to earn accreditation from the agency. To this day, the department continues to earn accreditation from ACCE.

After 35 years, Brown retired but continued to support the CAED, establishing the Christine Brown Scholarship in honor of his first wife, who passed away in 1991.

He was awarded the George Hasslein Medal in 2012. The medal is given in memory and honor of George J. Hasslein, FAIA, the founding dean of the College of Architecture & Environmental Design.

The CM Department continues to remember and honor Brown by naming one of two in-house interview rooms after him. The room is one that many industry members use during recruiting trips to campus, serving as a fitting memorial to the founder of the department.

## SIMONIAN PROMOTED TO FULL PROFESSOR



Lonny Simonian

Lonny Simonian earned the rank of full professor in June 2014.

Simonian, who began teaching in the Construction Management Department in 2003, heads up the Specialties Lab course,

which focuses on the mechanical, electrical and plumbing components in buildings.

The professor is an alumnus of Cal Poly's Electrical Engineering Department. He earned a master's in engineering at UC Berkeley and has completed all coursework there toward a doctorate in civil engineering, with his dissertation underway. He holds an Advanced Project Management certificate from Stanford University.

An active member of the National Electrical Contractors Association, Simonian encourages students to join the student chapter.

In 2013 he led a group of CM majors and minors on a study abroad excursion to Prague.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2015  
MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS

### JANUARY

**20-22** National Association of Home Builders Competition, Las Vegas, Nev. | [buildersshow.com](http://buildersshow.com)

### FEBRUARY

**4-7** Associated Schools of Construction Competition (Reno), Sparks, Nev.

**19** CAED Job Fair

### APRIL

**16-18** Cal Poly Open House

**22-25** Associated Schools of Construction International Faculty Conference, College Station, Texas

**24** CM Department Job Fair

### MAY

**TBA** CM Scholarship and Awards Reception

### JUNE

**TBA** CM Senior Banquet

**13** Spring Commencement

Visit [construction.calpoly.edu](http://construction.calpoly.edu) for the latest news and details about alumni events.





Christine Theodoropoulos

"IT IS CLEAR OUR PROGRAM IS POPULAR BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR ALUMNI, THEIR BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY IN GENERAL. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE, AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND TALENT. IT REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS."

## INDUSTRY, ALUMNI, STUDENTS, FACULTY AND VOLUNTEERS:

# You Make A Difference

As I reflect upon the stories in this issue, one thing that really stands out is how engaged industry is in the department. This is so important for the quality of educational experiences that our students receive — the competitions, the internships and co-ops, the information and networking sessions, and the behind-the-scenes exposure to their future careers. It is clear our program is popular because of the involvement of our alumni, their businesses and industry in general. You know who you are, and thank you very much for your time and talent. It really makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Our students are extremely successful academically, but it doesn't stop there. They are also very engaged in extracurricular activities, which aid in their professional development as leaders. They participate in clubs. They work in the shops. They get involved in competitions. These experiences assure that they will be in high demand as professionals. It's important to recognize these students for their contributions of time and talent to the department and college. Thank you, students, for participating in your learning community.

The success of the program — the high rankings we always gain in competitions, the recognition our program receives — speaks to the educational program and quality of the highly dedicated and particularly well-suited faculty that work in the CM Department. Their dedication to our students is apparent in every award our teams bring home. They work tirelessly to make our students' educational experience memorable, of the highest quality, and one that will serve them their entire lives. Thank you to our faculty who make the CM program so popular and meaningful to the students they serve.

The Construction Management Industry Advisory Board has been very active for many years, and its members have been supporters of the program. It is encouraging to witness these longtime volunteers increasing their potential and reach by organizing into a more formal advisory council. At press time, the inaugural executive officers had just been voted in to lead the new Construction Management Advisory Council, just as it becomes further engrained into the fabric of the program. Thank you to all the volunteers of the former board, and we appreciate your continued involvement with the advisory council.

CHRISTINE THEODOROPoulos ■ AIA, PE

# CAL POLY

Construction Management  
Department

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& Environmental Design*

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## Celebrating Guests & Grads

Commencement took on a more intimate feeling in June 2014 as departments campuswide held their own ceremonies. Construction Management Department Head Al Hauck (above) addressed guests in the Construction Innovations Center Plaza.