



Construction Management

ASCM Newsletter

Summer 2021

Updates

Welcome to the summer 2021 edition of the Associated Students of Construction Management newsletter. As has become commonplace when communicating with friends, colleagues, and strangers in this COVID era, we sincerely hope that you are well - that you are staying safe, healthy, productive, and happy. We're coming out of one of the most challenging times in recent history - a global pandemic, staggering unemployment and/or job loss, the politicization of almost everything, social justice issues, and many others have culminated in a span of time that has been like no other that we have experienced. Who would have thought that 15 days to slow the spread would have resulted in more than a year of restrictions, challenges, and such great loss? I know that I didn't! I certainly didn't think that we'd convert to a work from home environment wherein the standard mode of teaching, engaging, and communicating would be done online. This last year and a half has required a considerable amount of effort, flexibility, empathy, and grace in order to be successful as a student, a professor, in business, and life in general. That said, it does look like we are getting to the point where some sense of "normalcy" is returning. To say that this last year has been a tough one would be an understatement but there is optimism to be found in what our new normal might look like across the board.

Despite all of the challenges and changes over the last year, we have concluded another successful year for the CM program and still have much to celebrate! The students exhibited the resilience of youth on an almost daily basis and the faculty showed their dedication to the students and construction education. I cannot fully express how impressed and proud I am to be a member of this community of Cougs! Despite the fact that much of what we would "normally" have done this year was either canceled or moved to an online platform, the end result should be viewed as nothing short of a success.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the incredible impact that our industry partners have on the CM program as a result of their willingness to engage and give back. Here are a few examples:

- Approximately 50 companies participated in online or virtual information sessions and interviews to recruit students for internships and full-time employment.
- Over 50 industry professionals provided guest lectures (via Zoom) in many of our courses - sharing their expertise and life experiences with the students
- Two (2) new scholarships were created to support underrepresented students and we received a private donation to support the program and our students who were impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The level of engagement and generosity of our amazing industry partners and alumni continue to be a huge reason we have so much to celebrate. And this year, of all years, I cannot thank our faculty enough for all that they have done to support the students on their path to a degree in Construction Management from WSU. It hasn't been easy, but they all exhibited a great work ethic and compassion for the students with nary a complaint. Please continue reading to learn more about these and other accomplishments.

Go Cougs!

Jason Peschel
Program Head, Construction Management

Retirements and Departures

The last two years have been that of change and transition within the program. Anne Anderson accepted a position elsewhere and David Gunderson formally announced his retirement from teaching this past spring.

Anne's time at WSU launched the program into the 21st century and the wonders of technology. Instrumental in creating the BIM lab, she has put us on a path to provide students the tools they need to be successful.

David's tenure in the CM program is best highlighted by the wonderful legacy of commitment to the students and construction education he leaves behind. We admire his efforts and strive to bring the same passion to our work.

We are all saddened to see them leave the program and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

However, we also know that this creates an opportunity to re-evaluate our trajectory and chart a new path forward. As we maintain an optimistic approach we'll keep their lasting impacts at the fore.



CM Certificate Program

The CM program, in collaboration with the CM Advisory Board and several industry partners, is working to develop a non-credit bearing certificate program in construction management in an effort to provide greater support to the construction industry.

The anticipated launch date for the program is fall 2021. The details are currently being finalized but we anticipate that the certificate program will consist of five distinct courses delivered sequentially over a nine-month period of time.

The curriculum will cover key content areas including, but not limited to, contract administration, delivery systems, estimating, scheduling, and leadership. The program is intended to provide a continuing education opportunity for individuals who are already in the industry (foremen, office managers, etc.) who are looking expand their knowledge base and transition into an entry level management position.

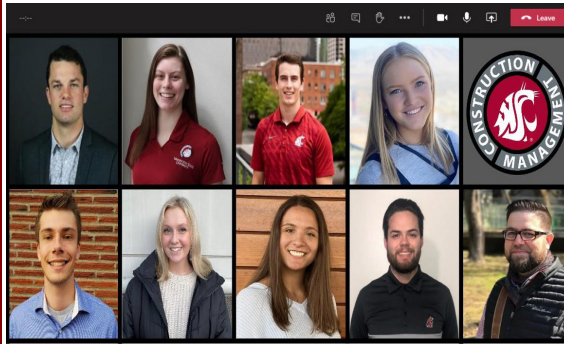
If you know of someone who fits this criteria let them know that this exciting opportunity is in the works and more information will be released in the coming months!



Student Competitions

ASC Region 6|7 Student Competition: Due to the impacts of the global pandemic the competition was modified to accommodate a virtual format this year. This year the teams solved two rounds to problems over the course of two, ten-hour days that included virtual meetings with the problem sponsors. This, and myriad other factors, resulted in WSU having only two teams compete this year. Despite the challenges and modified format, almost 1,100 students from 47 universities participated in the competition's Region 6, Region 7 and/or Open categories. One of the teams placed this year and everyone did an amazing job of representing WSU and the CM program. Regardless of the outcome, the students ability to improvise, adapt, and overcome in light of the challenges associated with performing collaboratively in a virtual environment was truly impressive.

- Competing against 8 other teams, the WSU Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) team was sponsored by Absher and coached by Dr. Julia Day.



Earning **1st place** in the Commercial category - and competing against 12 other teams was the WSU team. Our Commercial team is sponsored by Howard S. Wright and coached by Jason Peschel. The winning group this year included [left to right -top row] Cory Condon, Meghan Smith, Hunter Hohman, Grace Lium (alternate), [left to right - bottom row] Austin Cornell, Kali Saueressig, Georgia Robinson, RJ Clemons (alternate),

and Jason Peschel (coach). For the first time in memory, the commercial team was tasked with developing a proposal for a "local" project - the Sound Transit Operations & Maintenance Facility East project. In their proposal to the problem sponsor, Hensel Phelps, the students had to use a variety of construction management skills such as scheduling, estimating, site logistics, site safety and technical writing.

A huge THANK YOU to Exxel Pacific, Howard S. Wright, Mortenson, Absher, and Swinerton for providing practice problems and/or workshops for the teams in this virtual environment. Due to the change to a virtual competition there were a lot of unknowns as to what the actual structure of the competition would look like. The individuals responsible for developing this years practice problems were incredibly patient and flexible. The practice problems ended up being very similar to the competition! The exposure to a variety of projects - along with the wisdom and industry knowledge shared - provides incredible value to the teams in preparing for the competition.

Sunich COVID Relief Fund

Through an amazing display of generosity and a desire to support students who were having trouble financially due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, more than 100 CM students received scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$2,750 via the Sunich COVID Relief Fund. The scholarships were provided by Steve Sunich, a second-generation CM alumnus, who wanted to support students during the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. He provided more than \$50,000 for scholarships and program enhancements.

The CM program and our students are so fortunate to have alumni and advisory board members like Steve. His generosity provided much needed financial support to the students in the form of scholarships as well as funding to offset the cost of textbooks and online resources used in classes during the spring semester. Not only does a gift like this support students financially but provides them with encouragement to persevere in these challenging times.



Alumni of the Year Award

The W. Max Kirk Construction Management Alumni of the Year Award was established in honor of the dedication exhibited by Dr. Kirk in his decades-long career in construction education. Dr. Kirk worked tirelessly for the advancement of the CM program at WSU through his generous contributions in terms of student education, mentorship, leadership, service, and financial support. This award was first given to Dr. Kirk in 2019 but not in 2020 due to the pandemic. We are looking forward to awarding it to a worthy recipient at our CM Mixer this fall. If you know a WSU Construction Management alumnus who has demonstrated exceptional support to both the CM program and WSU, as well as a dedicated commitment to the construction industry as a whole - please submit a nomination here - [CM Alumni of the Year Award Nomination Form](#).

2021 Senior Capstone

This outstanding collaborative education opportunity for our Construction Management and Architecture students that showcases the amazing work that our students are doing was a great success despite the challenges of the pandemic! Professors Cherf, Boerkrem, and Cowan facilitated the Capstone with 4th year CM and Architecture students. The faculty continued the focus on creating a collaborative experience designed to prepare the students for the industry while also working to overcome the realities of remote learning and geographically dispersed teams. The students were divided into thirteen integrated companies or teams. Over the course of the semester, there were several integrated workshops providing a wealth of information to the students. These workshops were delivered by industry partners representing the client, contractors, architects, and consultants. The final deliverable for the course was a response to an RFP + construction documents for a mixed-use project in the South Lake Union area of Seattle. The integrated student teams then competed against one another by presenting their proposals to a group of industry judges. The first round judges narrowed the field to three teams who would then compete for the top spot.

All three teams did an amazing job of presenting their proposals and the judges had a difficult task of selecting the top team. After deliberations, the judges announced **Hammer & Nail + Balance Design Group** as this year's winners. The members of the winning team were Wyatt Fueston (CM), Devon Walters (CM), Anthony Palandri (CM), Max Nail (CM), Maggie Cooper (Arch), Kyle Hoak (Arch), Kodie Denman (Arch), and Connor Lacey (Arch). *Kaizen Construction/Blueprint Architecture* consisted of Drew Kistner (CM), Cory Condon (CM), Parker Lester (CM), Hunter Hohman (CM), Chad Bolte (Arch), Devon Becker (Arch), Madison Wittman (Arch), and Tom Kane (Arch). And *Terra Design & Construction Group* consisted of Samuel Slothower (CM), Taylor Wilson (CM), Trevor Cook (CM), Sean Ortlieb (CM), Mike Wittenberg (Arch), Matt Mollenberg (Arch), Grant Jordan (Arch), and Lucas Bacon (Arch).

All of the students did a wonderful job developing their proposals and presenting - spotlighting each program and showing that they all have a bright future ahead of them!

Congratulations to the teams and Thank You to the judges!

A sincere THANK YOU to **Vulcan Real Estate Group** and our industry partners who offered the workshops for the students. We would like to give special thanks to our judges for the first and final round of presentations. We are incredibly grateful for the time and efforts you give back to the students and the CM program!

The first round judges included :

Marjorie Chang Fuller (Hoffman)
Patrick Gordon (ZGF)
Deb Willard (Vulcan)
Brett Wiggins (CallisonRTKL)
Ryan Bussard (Perkins+Will)
Pedro de Magalhaes Castro (Magellan)

Jesse Canzler (Mortenson)
Deanna Boyle (Vulcan)
Todd Williams (Exxel Pacific)
Corey Anderson (Fisher)
Matt Lessard (Wilcox Construction)
Paul Snorsky (Howard S. Wright)

The final round judges included :

Raymond Burdick (Vulcan)
Meg Winch (Communication Resources)

Ray Calabro (BCJ)
Gregory Kessler (WSU)

Faculty Awards and Honors

Rick Cherf was nominated for the 2021 Reid Miller Excellence in Teaching Award (non tenure-track) that is awarded annually in the Voiland College of Engineering & Architecture.

WSU has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to launch a joint appointment program and Julia Day was announced as the first ever WSU-NREL joint appointee earlier this year. NREL specializes in the research and development of renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy systems integration, and sustainable transportation.

Steve Call was awarded a grant from the Simplar Foundation to support his research on healthcare facilities staff benchmarking.

Tommy Tafazzoli and Kishor Shrestha were both recipients of grants from the Pacific Northwest Transportation Consortium (PacTrans). Tafazzoli's research is focused on developing a fuzzy-logic model for optimizing winter road maintenance in cold urban areas using real-time data. Shrestha's research is addressing a cost comparison of Washington state rest area operations with other states.



New Scholarships

Inspired by the economic impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the recent social justice movement, and the need to support underrepresented individuals in the construction industry, two (2) new scholarships were recently created to support students in the CM program. The scholarships - the Sellen Community Foundation Scholarship and the Schuchart Construction Management Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship - will provide financial assistance to six students in the form of \$2,500 in individual scholarship awards annually.

The Russell Hitt Memorial Scholarship - in memory of Russell A. Hitt, Chairman Emeritus of HITT who passed away in 2020 - was created this year. It will fund one, \$5,000 scholarship per year for a period of 5 years.

We have a few other scholarships in the pipeline that we hope to announce in the near future. Thank you to all of our scholarship donors for your generosity in support of the CM students.

If you'd like to learn more about creating a scholarship or other ways to support the program, please contact Dana Sprouse (Director of Development) at 253-987-5052 or via e-mail at dana.sprouse@wsu.edu.



Calling All Cougs!!

The Construction Management program is in serious need of temporary and/or adjunct faculty for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semester. Due to the aforementioned resignation and retirement, we are short staffed by two full-time faculty for this upcoming academic year. We were fortunate to have two people teach as adjuncts in the last academic year to cover two classes, but this coming school year is a different story. We are currently searching for a Visiting Professor in Construction Management to offset some of this need. If you know of someone who is at a point in their career where they are looking for an opportunity to "give back" and have an interest in teaching, please share this link - <https://sdc.wsu.edu/2021/06/07/sdc-seeking-visiting-professor-in-construction-management/>.

Unfortunately, the number of courses we need covered is more than a temporary faculty member can handle. As a result, we are also looking for adjunct faculty to cover individual courses on an "as needed" basis. If this is something that you (or someone you know) are interested in doing, these classes need to be covered in the fall semester:

CstM 201 - Materials & Methods I: Main topic areas include concrete, steel, masonry, & wood (including CLT, mass timber, etc.)

CstM 254 - Construction Graphics: Main topic areas include introduction to plan reading and Bluebeam in the lecture and Revit + Bluebeam + SketchUp in the CM labs.

CstM 451 - Delivery Systems: Main topic areas include the design/construction process and project delivery systems and/or approaches (DBB, CM@R, DB, IPD, & P3).

CstM 462 - Planning & Scheduling: Main topic areas include methods, principles, and concepts required to plan and schedule projects + usage of scheduling software (P6).

And, these classes need to be covered in the spring semester:

CstM 252 - Construction Administration & Documentation: Main topic areas include the study and understanding of administrative procedures found within construction projects and respective documentation + plan reading.

CstM 482 - BIM I: Main topic areas include the use of Building Information Modeling for construction coordination via emerging technologies and/or BIM software to collaborate with other project partners.

Please contact Jason Peschel at 509-592-7578 or via e-mail at jpechel@wsu.edu if you'd like to learn more about teaching a class for the CM program.

By the Numbers...

95% 3rd year students who have summer 2021 internships.

85% 2nd year students who have summer 2021 internships.

98% Students who have completed at least 1 internship prior to graduation.

91% Students who have secured employment prior to graduation.

\$69,219

Average starting salary for a WSU CM graduate.

50+

Companies that recruit interns & full-time employment via the CM program annually.

** All data collected from 2021 CM program surveys.*



BIM Lab - Phase 1 completed (Fall 2017)

Help Strengthen the CM Program

The WSU Construction Management program has a long, rich history of producing graduates who are “work ready, day one”. To continue this proud tradition, we look to alumni and supporters to help us provide resources to inspire and encourage our students to reach their full potential. The industry and alumni can provide financial support to the program through gifts to the following primary funds:

CM Student Excellence Fund (student experience fund)

These gifts are used to fund learning opportunities for students in the CM program outside of formal classroom activities. The opportunities include student clubs such as ASCM, regional and national student competitions, conferences, field trips, and the Senior Capstone event. Our goal is to generate a minimum of \$100,000 annually.

[Learn more about the opportunities created by the CM Student Excellence Fund](#) or [Give to the CM Student Excellence Fund](#)

A. Donald Poe CM Laboratory Fund (BIM laboratory fund)

These gifts are used to create, maintain, and update student access to technology and laboratories within CM. We are currently undertaking a major fundraising effort for a three-phased plan that will provide equipment, software, and upgraded classrooms for our students that is reflective of current industry technology.

The fund will provide workstations in the lab and classrooms to allow students to collaborate with building information models and provide for future research and development for BIM, augmented reality, and virtual reality as they become increasingly more relevant to the design and construction industry. Our goal is to raise a total of \$800,000 which includes \$500,000 for facility updates and equipment plus an additional \$300,000 to build an endowment for future upgrades and maintenance.

[Learn more about the BIM Laboratory Fund](#) or [Give to the BIM Laboratory Fund](#)

A. Donald Poe CM Excellence Fund

This fund is the discretionary source we utilize to assist our students and support the highest needs for the CM program.

[Give to the CM Excellence Fund](#)

Please support the future of the construction industry and the WSU Construction Management program through one of these important opportunities. Go Cougs!

CM Advisory Board Members

Corey Anderson
Fisher Construction Group

Marjorie Chang Fuller
Hoffman Construction Co.

Darin Chestnut
PCL

Marc Everson
Abbott Construction

Kathryn Emtman
Amazon

Mahmood Ghassemi
Sequoyah Electric

Brad Kirkpatrick
Kiewit

Dave Harrison
Skanska USA Building, Inc.

Gus Simonds
MacDonald-Miller

Steve Sunich
SGS Associates, LLC

Tess Wakasugi-Don
GLY Construction

Jason Wandler
Oles Morrison

Todd Williams
Exxel Pacific

