

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

GROUNDBREAKER



SPRING 2019

What's So Special about ULM's School of Construction Management?

"Our ULM Construction Management graduates have unique opportunities and could be successful anywhere in the world," according to Charles Poole, past president, Construction Industry Advisory Council.

This is no accident. ULM's Construction Management program has a great history, but most importantly, as the late SoCM founder, Thurman Potts, is quoted in the program brochure, "It continues to adapt to changes in the industry and technology, producing graduates prepared for our evolving world."

ULM's Construction Management program has been a leader for decades and continues in its commitment to providing its students with a hands-on, practical education. That commitment is why SoCM faculty members

Members of the IAC also provide industry connections, internship opportunities, and knowledge of ongoing technological advances. Networking, through frequent events, gives students a chance to get to know alumni and IAC members who can be a big help when graduation nears.

Faculty, when asked what is special about their program, cite the close relationships that students form with them and with one another. According to Professor Greg Smith, one of the main pluses of the program is its "family atmosphere." Strong connections among industry, alumni, faculty, and students make this program stand out.

Smith also mentions the job opportunities available to SoCM grads, exemplified in a recent contact he made with a local employer who needed an estimator. When Smith put the word out among graduating seniors, everyone had jobs lined up.

Prof. Jerry Madden cites the practical experience of all the faculty—"they teach what's in the books and what's not in the books."

Don Colegrove, SoCM professor, says, "I enjoy being part of a program

that is willing to change and keep up with the industry." He also cites the professors' accessibility as an important plus.

Prof. Nick Hardy, faculty advisor of the Construction Guild, says "the students make the program." They "grow into the program," he notes, usually during their first internship. "CM students must have the desire to be part of a phenomenal program and must have a commitment to themselves and their fellow students," he says.

Program Director Ed Brayton is proud of the fact that "our students are widely known to be able to perform on the first day on the job." Courses are designed to be both



Outstanding Graduate in CM: Donovan Stewart, pictured with Dr. Brayton and Austin Beck (left), the other nominee.

theoretical and practical, including problem-based learning with projects that replicate actual situations. Further, all senior students take the Associate Constructor prep course, followed by an exam potentially leading to certification.

One of the most important components of the SoCM's success is its students. Their leadership qualities, professional demeanor, and helpfulness make the program what it is.

Donovan Stewart is the perfect example of a top SoCM student. Graduating in May 2019, Donovan has been named the *Outstanding Graduate in Construction Management*.

Adolfson & Peterson in Dallas will be lucky to have Donovan on its team after he graduates. He'll be starting out as a project/field engineer.

Also a member of Sigma Lambda Chi honor society, Donovan has been president of the Construction Guild for the 2018-19 academic year. As such, he has contributed tremendously to the program, planning for contractor visits (7 in the fall, 10 in the spring), tailgating, open houses, and fundraisers. Recently, the Guild sponsored its second annual Clay Shoot, with some of the proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity.

"CM is a great program," he says. "It's small enough for students to get help from professors and fellow students. The profs' experience in the field is invaluable. Sometimes it's tough, but the reward is great. New students, stick with it. You'll find that the sky's the limit."



Industry Advisory Council Awards Banquet, March 29, 2019

are required to have at least 10 years of U.S. construction experience.

The intensive involvement and support of the program's alumni and Industry Advisory Council is an asset that cannot be overestimated. The IAC is in charge of approving the use of opt-out licensing board funds. In the past four years those funds have been used for renovation of classrooms, new technology, additional staff positions, recruiting and more.



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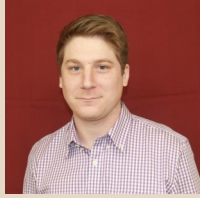
Congratulations to the Fall 2018 Recipients of AIC Professional Certification as Associate Constructors



Andrew Clay



Andrew McClure



Cole Brewer



David Jett



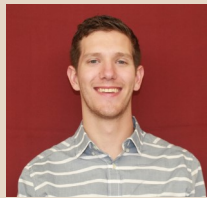
Devin Campbell



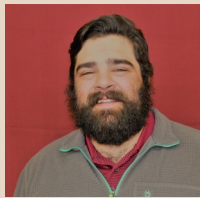
Drake Wilmore



Jacob Ramsey



Jonathan Thomas



Ryan Gouner



The second annual Construction Guild Clay Shoot was a great success. Here Forrest Fife of Habitat for Humanity accepts the proceeds check from Guild president Donovan Stewart.



Clay Shoot winning team "Team Boom Boom" accepts their awards from Guild president Stewart.



Open Houses introduce prospective students and families to the SoCM.



The IAC gave a crawfish boil for SoCM students and faculty. Alums and IAC members Mitch Reppond, Jeff Davis, and Josh Kidd helped cook and serve.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

AWARDS LUNCHEON



Industry Advisory Council board member Richard Nelson opened the 2019 Awards Luncheon with a slide showing the dedication of the event to Mr. Don Beach, after which the SoCM director, Ed Brayton, spoke to the attendees about the School's fine accomplishments during the past year and made introductions. ULM President Nick Bruno was in attendance, as was Dean Ron Berry. Two tables were reserved for Steel Fabricators, founded by Don Beach. Special guest was Fran Beach.

John R. Hunter was honored as the *Constructor of the Year*. Hunter, a 1973 NLU Construction Management graduate, was first an intern at Beach Steel Erectors of Monroe and worked his way up to president and principal owner of Steel Fabricators of Monroe by 2006. After 45 years, Hunter still serves the company as managing member today with 140 employees. He has been a consistent supporter of ULM with both his financial gifts and his time, serving on the Foundation Board, the College of Business Advisory Council, and the School of Construction Management Advisory Council. Steel Fabricators has hired over 50 SoCM graduates and employs at least one intern each year.

David Dorsch was named the *Distinguished Alumnus of the Year*, having graduated from NLU's construction program in 1970. Originally from the Washington, DC, area, Dorsch came to NLU as a result of first seeing an ad in a national magazine and then travelling to Monroe, where he met the persuasive Thurman Potts. After graduation, Dorsch worked for several companies in the DC area, working his way up to partner. After 12 years he became a consultant, working on projects around the world, eventually helping with the clean-up of the Twin Towers in New York. He worked on the White House and the U.S. Capitol, among many other tasks in dams, tunnels, docks, and airports. He's been a member of ULM's SoCM Advisory Council almost from the beginning as well as many other professional organizations.

If you would like to reconnect with the SoCM Alumni Association, please email brayton@ulm.edu.

The School of Construction Management gave *Special Recognition* to **Vic Weston** of Baton Rouge. He is active in the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America and Louisiana. He served as state president and is now on the national AGC executive board. As chair of the State Licensing Board for Contractors and the Contractors Education Trust Fund, Weston plays a major role in significant contributions to the ULM School of Construction Management (over \$750,000 since 2014) from optional licensing fees and fines. He is owner and president of Tri-State Road Boring, Inc., in Baton Rouge. He attended Loyola University and served in the Marine Corps.



Greetings, NLU/ULM CM Alumni and Friends:

In this newsletter I am happy to write about our facilities upgrades over the past four years, along with our capital campaign needed to complete the IAC's strategic plan activities by 2020.

In the past four years, the opt-out licensing fund, managed by the IAC and the Contractors Education Trust Fund, has contributed over \$750,000 to upgrade the facilities, including state-of-the-art computers, surveying equipment, materials- and soils-testing equipment. We have moved from chalkboards to Smartboards in the classrooms.

ULM has contributed another \$430,000 for a new mechanical system, ceiling tile, and a new roof allowing us to increase enrollment by 175 percent. Also, construction internships and employment opportunities have both increased substantially.

Now it's time for the next step—raising \$4 million for capital improvement projects that will allow us to compete with other CM programs. Our founding fathers, Thurman Potts and Don Beach, both had a vision for the SoCM. Thurman Potts' vision was of an enclosed construction practices lab for students to perform hands-on activities. This construction practices lab is envisioned as a 2-story high-bay structure.

Don Beach's vision was of an atrium that will welcome people. Because of his inspiration that we need a visual, welcoming presence, the School has initiated this capital campaign to realize both Thurman Potts' and Don Beach's visions. Our capital campaign features sponsorships and naming opportunities in order to complete the strategic plan activities by 2020. The campaign is being spearheaded by Don Greenland, past president of the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) and a 1983 NLU Construction graduate.

These capital projects are to ensure our continued upward trajectory and provide the highest quality education possible, but we need your support. If you would like to have a copy of our SoCM marketing material, please email Ed Brayton at brayton@ulm.edu. If you would like to learn of the many opportunities to be involved, please go to www.ulm.edu, click on *Donate Now* to give, or call (318) 342-3636. If you would like

to send a check, please make it out to **ULM Foundation—School of Construction Mgmt., Attn: Ed Brayton, Hemphill 100, 700 University Avenue, Monroe, LA 71209.**

Sincerely,

Ed Brayton, Director
ULM SoCM

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Planned Don Beach Entrance Atrium



Ed Brayton and faculty member Greg Smith enjoyed the crawfish boil put on by the Industry Advisory Council for students and faculty.



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