



ULM LOGO



# GROUNDBREAKER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2000

New Web Site Address !  
<http://www.ulm.edu/construction>

Phone: (318) 342-1860

Fax: (318) 342-1861

Published for the Alumni, Students and Friends of the ULM School of Construction

## WHAT'S INSIDE!

- Greetings from T. Potts
- Digger's Night Out
- Faculty Updates
- Alumni Spotlight
- Scholarship Updates
- Contractor's Banquet
- Industry Advisory Council Updates
- Alumni Updates
- Graduating Students

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the 21<sup>st</sup> century begins, the School of Construction is alive and well. All of the Spring and Summer graduates either found gainful employment in the construction industry or continued their education careers at other universities. The enrollment reached 208 students in both the Spring and Fall. This year (2000) approximately 40 students will graduate from our program.

This past year has truly been an interesting one. As the University of Louisiana at Monroe prepares to go to selective admissions, reduced faculty numbers have presented some unique challenges for many programs. At the end of 1999 the School of Construction was left with three faculty members and over 200 students. In January 2000, after presenting our case to the University, we were allowed to add Dr. David Manry to our faculty on a one-semester appointment. Later, we were fortunate to have Dr. Manry's status changed to full-time faculty. As the Fall semester approached, we were still in need

of additional faculty. Mr. George Hutchinson came out of a comfortable retirement to help us on a part-time basis. Mr. Hutchinson will leave us at the end of the Fall semester and another familiar face will step in to fill that gap. Mr. Carl Cloessner has agreed to teach Estimating in the Spring 2001 semester. With the aid of the Industry Advisory Council, we have presented our case for additional full-time faculty to the University and look forward to adding new faculty in the upcoming year.

This past year, as Interim Director, has been very enlightening for me personally. As a faculty member for the past 12 years, I have gained an appreciation for the support of you, our alumni, and the construction industry as a whole. As Interim Director, I have been astounded by the depth of your support and commitment to this program. You have given of your time, your money, and your voices and this program has greatly benefited from all three. You are the reason this program exists today.

Dr. Keith A. Parker  
Interim Director



**The ULM School of Construction wishes you a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year !**



Dear Friends and Alumni,

**GREETINGS FROM THURMAN POTTS**

You all know that Old Potts has been around for a long time, and I tell you that I am still going! From a couple of quotes from my personal library, you can readily believe it!

"The smallest Church in the world is said to be located on the Isle of Man, the structure being only 10 feet square. The other extreme is St. Peter's, in Rome."

Source: Carpentry and Building, the Builders Exchange, Vol. XV, No. 8, New York, 1893.

"The Building Trades of Baltimore have for some time past been taking active and combined steps looking toward a united effort on January 1, 1892, to secure the establishment of the eight-hour day in all branches of the trade."

Source: Baltimore, Md., The Builders Exchange, Vol. XIV, No.1, January, 1892.

When Nadine and I were traveling from Nebraska to Louisiana in August of 1966, it did not occur to us that we were entering such a rewarding phase of our lives. I looked forward to each day of work for twenty-one years, and I cherish the memories of you who were students.

I am pleased that Keith Parker and Vanessa Prevost invited me to greet you through the *Groundbreaker*. I have been doing well at keeping busy since retiring in 1987.

On November 3, 2000, Charles Poole let me sit in on the Advisory Council meetings at the School of Construction. Here are some observations I have following the meetings:

1. The strength of the School is still what it was when you were here, that is, the caliber of the students attracted to the program. This Fall, a student entered the freshman class making him a third-generation connected with the School of Construction. Several second-generation students are attending or have graduated from the School.

2. The present enrollment seems to be much more regional than in the earlier years. At that time, many students were from southern Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi, as well as many from other states and countries.

3. The Advisory Council is poised to play a role in the development of a master plan for the School. I expect it will require or include much alumni involvement in areas of student enrollment, faculty, finance, goals, and service to industry in order to regain national prominence.

By the time of my retirement, I had money on deposit in the ULM Foundation from Seminars, Continuing Education and Short Courses. With this money, I set up a Thurman Potts Endowment Fund for Construction Education. It would please me very much if your gifts, memorials, etc. would be earmarked for this fund. Many of you have contributed this way so that the balance in the principal at this time shows \$59,787.

Do you remember the definition of "integrity"? Keep working at it!"

Thurman Potts, December, 2000.  
Founding Director

**Rules governing the Potts Fund:**

**I. PURPOSE:** The Thurman Potts Endowment Fund for Construction was established as a tribute to the invaluable contributions made by Thurman Potts to construction education. Funds from this endowment will be used to enhance and enrich construction education at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

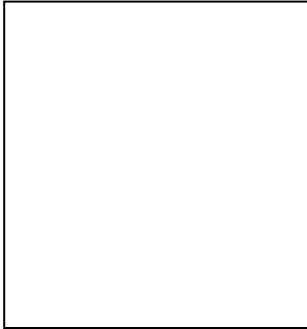
**II. FUNDING:** The endowment will be funded from alumni, the construction industry and friends. Only the earnings from the investment will be used.

**III. USE OF THE FUND:** the earnings of the fund will be available annually for needs of the School of Construction as determined by the Head of the Construction Program and his staff. These needs will be presented to the Construction Advisory Council for their review and approval. Funds will be expended from the fund upon a request from the Head of the School of Construction along with minutes whereby the Advisory Council has approved such expenditures.

**IV. PUBLICITY:** Establishment of the fund will be accorded proper recognition through news releases to the media and Potts Foundation publications.

For more information about contribution possibilities, contact Dr. Keith Parker at:  
(318) 342-1860

## 2000 DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT



The ULM School of Construction, in conjunction with the Ouachita Parish Utility Council, organized and hosted its second annual "Digger's Night Out" on October 19, 2000. The event took place on the seventh floor of the ULM Library.

"Digger's Night Out" is a nationwide safety awareness program that focuses on the risks of digging underground. The emphasis of the seminar is placed on the measures that need to be taken by the contractors, foremen, or operators before they start any digging job.

This year, 138 people from 39 different companies attended the event. Roy McCaskill, Network Manager for BellSouth was our Master of Ceremony. A buffet style dinner was served and door prizes were distributed during the presentation. Dr. Rob McKim, our guest speaker from Louisiana Tech, discussed the aspects of Trenchless Technology.

This year's sponsors were (in alphabetical order):

Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	KOCH Pipeline Co.	Scott Construction Equipment
BellSouth	Louisiana AGC	Sprint
City of West Monroe	Louisiana Gas Service	Time Warner Cable
Columbia Gulf Transmission	Louisiana One Call System	Trans La Gas Company
Entergy	Louisiana Utility Council	ULM School of Construction
KMC Telecom Holdings, Inc.	Mid Louisiana Gas Company	US Filter Distribution
KOCH Gateway Co.	Pro-Techs of Louisiana LLC	Williams Gas Pipeline -- South Central

### Mr. Hutchinson helps the SOC once more

This Fall semester, Mr. George Hutchinson graciously came out of retirement to help the Department, and taught for the third time in four decades.

Originally from the State of Washington, Mr. Hutchinson developed the construction program to department status, and became the first Department Head in Building Construction at the University of Washington. Mr. Hutchinson worked as a contractor in Seattle until 1973, and then went to Texas A&M, where he taught for 5 years.

Mr. Hutchinson's first experience with the ULM Construction Program started in January 1978. He taught at ULM until May 1982, and went back to the construction industry because he felt the need to get current about the industry.

After working for 7 years for Tudor Construction Co., in Alexandria, Mr. Hutchinson came back to ULM in 1989. "I had always planned to come back to ULM (back then NLU)," recalls Mr. Hutchinson. He worked with the ULM School of Construction until retirement, at the end of 1995. Mr. Hutchinson served as Acting Director during his last few semesters.

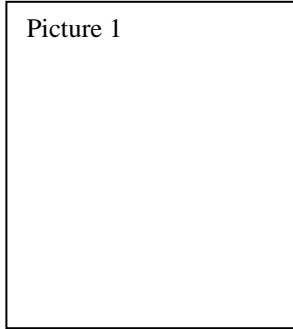
Then, in August 2000, Mr. Hutchinson came back to teach for one more semester. "Dr. Parker needed me to do it, so I was more than willing to help," said Mr. Hutchinson, "I've known 'these guys' for a long time". Mr. Hutchinson taught First Estimates, and Analytic and Conceptual Estimating.

Among the positive things that Mr. Hutchinson observed is that student enrollment is coming back up. "Years ago, enrollment was higher, but when the economy was depressed, there was a corresponding down period in construction," Hutchinson said. "At that time, fewer people were seeking a career in construction, but today, the enrollment is coming back, and this is a very positive sign. It is a great time to be in construction. The Industry Advisory Council is also very helpful and doing a good job for the program."

"Now that I am going back to retirement, what I will enjoy the most is not having to meet anybody's deadlines except my own," Mr. Hutchinson concluded. "And I will, of course, keep in touch with everybody here at the School of Construction."

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Scott Thompson, '81. Vice-President, Lincoln Builders, Inc.**

Picture 1



This semester, our Alumni Spotlight is featuring Scott Thompson, who graduated from the ULM School of Construction in 1981. Born and raised in Ruston, Louisiana, Scott was a member of the student chapter of the AGC and *Sigma Lambda Chi* Honor Fraternity. Scott Thompson is currently the Vice-President of Lincoln Builders, Inc., in Ruston, Louisiana.

"I began working summers with Lincoln Builders when I was 12 years old." Scott recalls. "My mother was Secretary/Treasurer of the company at that time. I continued to work on through high school and college with Lincoln. I had several job offers in the Dallas/Houston area upon graduation, but opted to stay with Lincoln Builders."

Scott is now Vice-President, in charge of estimating. "I am basically responsible for all estimates and sales. I negotiate contracts with owners, sub-contractors, and suppliers. I monitor job costs on past projects. I also project manage specific projects for specific clients."

"ULM gave me a well-rounded education. Not only in construction-type classes, but also in the business/management-type classes. The main thing college taught me was perseverance."

"I would advise today's construction students to get involved in as many construction-based extracurricular activities as possible. Get involved with the student chapter of the AGC and the Construction Guild."

"You can also attend local AGC meetings and functions. Participate in the various competitions, field trips, etc. This will give you more experience and exposure to the industry, thus enabling you to land a better job. The more prepared you are when you get a job, the better job you'll do for your employer and the sooner you'll advance. I would also encourage the students to stay in contact and involved with the School of Construction after graduation. This can be done through various alumni groups and by dropping a line to the school from time to time. Let them know where you are and what you're doing. If possible, volunteer your time and resources to help maintain the program."

Scott has been married to his wife Rita for 22 years. They have two sons, Greg, 17, and Cole, 13. His hobbies are hunting, fishing, and golf. Scott's youngest brother, Clay Thompson, is a 1994 graduate of ULM School of Construction. He is now regional vice president with JPI Apartment Construction, based in Austin, Texas.

Scott is an active member in the AGC and has served on the ULM School of Construction Advisory Council for the past 6 years.

**Lincoln Builders, Inc.** is a 38 year-old company with wide experience in all types of commercial, institutional, industrial, and municipal projects. The company performs construction projects, construction management services, and design-build work and maintain ample bonding capacity for large projects as well as a wide variety of projects. Lincoln Builders maintains its corporate office in Ruston, Louisiana, with a commercial division regional office in Fort Worth, Texas, and a municipal public works division in Birmingham, Alabama. Lincoln Builders is licensed in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.  
<http://www.lincolnbldrs.com>

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING OUR NEXT "ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT" GUEST,  
SIMPLY SEND US YOUR NEWS OR GET IN TOUCH WITH  
DR. KEITH PARKER at (318) 342-1860 or  
e-mail: [coparker@ulm.edu](mailto:coparker@ulm.edu)

**Lincoln Builders currently employs 14 ULM graduates, 12 of which are School of Construction graduates:****Clint Graham, '89**

Vice President, Operations. Clint has been employed by Lincoln Builders since 1989. He currently oversees construction activity and employment of field personnel for the Ruston Division.

**Nat Mixon, '75**

Vice President. Nat began his career at Lincoln Builders in 1980. He is responsible for overall project management and administration of all commercial projects.

**Greg Gammill, '85**

President, Texas Division. Greg joined Lincoln Builders in 1997. He is responsible for overall management and administration of the Texas Divisional Office.

**Wallace B. Rogan, '84**

Vice President, Texas Division. Wallace joined Lincoln Builders in 1999. He is responsible for estimating and project management in the Texas Divisional Office.

**Bobby Ensminger, '73**

Master's Degree, 1988, and Specialist Degree in Education, 1990 - ULM.

Project Manager. Bobby joined Lincoln Builders' forces in 1993. He is presently serving as Manager of Lincoln Builders' Monroe, La. Office and Project Manager for most projects in that area, including the multi-million Library and Conference Center for ULM.

**Rich Nadler, '93**

Estimator/Project Manager. Rich joined Lincoln Builders' forces in 1994. He is currently a Project Manager on projects of various size and scope.

**Jerry Brasher, '89**

Project Manager. Jerry joined Lincoln Builders in 1998. Jerry is currently a Project Manager on projects of various size and scope.

**Mark Graham, '95**

Estimator. Mark has been employed by Lincoln Builders since 1981 in the capacity of laborer, carpenter's assistant, assistant superintendent and super-intendent, project manager, and estimator.

**Junot Dixon, '76**

Superintendent. Junot has been employed by Lincoln Builders since 1976 serving as a field superintendent and project manager on medical facilities, university buildings, office and retail construction projects.

**Scotty Morehead, '82**

Superintendent. Scotty joined Lincoln Builders' forces in 1991.

**Billy Parker, '82**

Superintendent. Billy joined Lincoln Builders in 1983.

<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b>
---------------------

- The following students from the ULM School of Construction were awarded scholarships at the Louisiana AGC-Monroe District Meeting:

Eric Deloach from Alexandria  
 Sammy Echols from Forest Hill  
 Tyler Harrison from Monroe  
 Josh Tuberville from Shreveport  
 Jamie Alexander from Monroe  
 Andre Camenzuli from New Orleans

Don A. Baxter Scholarship  
 John E. Baugh Memorial Scholarship  
 Hollis Graham Memorial Scholarship  
 J.Hilton Heard Memorial Scholarship  
 A.C. Breckenridge Scholarship  
 Bill Gilbert Scholarship

- Robert Hammack from Monroe was awarded the Thurman Potts/AGC Scholarship.
- Ben Clack, from Rayville, and Colin Dunn, from Columbia, were awarded the Northeast Louisiana Home Builders Association Scholarships.

## CONTRACTOR'S BANQUET

The ULM Construction Guild's Annual Contractor's Banquet took place November 7, 2000, at the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center. The Contractor's Banquet is the Guild's main fundraiser, and helps the student members to finance their trip to the annual National AGC Convention. Door prizes were given away during the dinner, followed by an auction. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

Dear ULM School of Construction Supporter:

Due to your support, this year's Construction Banquet was a complete success. Your contributions and/or attendance played a vital role in our endeavors to attend the National AGC Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Thanks to you, we will be able to send several delegates to this meeting. Their attendance to this function would not have been possible without your support. Once again, thanks for your support!

Sincerely,

The ULM School of Construction Guild

This year's Guild Officers are : Robert Hammack, President; Josh Tuberville, Vice President; Dennis Brown, Secretary- Treasurer; Brian Monk, AGC President; Jay Brakefield, NAHB President.

## INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Industry Advisory Council is a major part of the School of Construction program. The members review the school's curriculum progress on a regular basis, and advise the Department on industry-related matters. This semester, the Advisory Council met on November 3, 2000. The members of the council held successive meetings with the faculty members, the President of the University, the Dean of Pure and Applied Sciences, and the students, to discuss and improve the situation of the school.

The current members of the Advisory Council are:

**Charles Poole** --Angelo Iafrate Construction L.L.C., current Chairman of the Council.

**Don Beach**, --Steel Fabricators, Inc.

**Robert Billeaud** --J.B. Mouton & Sons, Inc.

**Jack Blich** --Walt Disney Imagineering

**H. "Chip" Carlson III** --Henry Carlson Co.

**Ray Chadderton** -- JPI Construction, Inc.

**David Dorsch**

**Laurence Favalora** -- Favalora Constructors, Inc.

**Don Greenland III** -- Nabholz Construction Corp.

**Steven Hallman** --Hallman Construction

**Henry Heier** --Mechanical Contractors Association of New Orleans

**Ken Holland** -- Delta Concrete Products Co., Inc

**Richard Nelson** -- Blair Design and Construction

**Chuck Penn**

**John Schween** -- Breck Construction

**Lee Smith** --Austin Commercial

**Steve Terrill** -- Louisiana AGC

**Scott Thompson** -- Lincoln Builders, Inc.

**Danny Van** -- Horizons Bank

**Amos Warner**

If you are interested in joining the Industry Advisory Council, please submit your name and information to Dr. Keith Parker. ULM School of Construction, Monroe, LA 71209-0540; or fax (318) 342-1861; or e-mail: coparker@ulm.edu

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### **Bergeron, Sam G., '87**

Owner, S.G. Bergeron Construction, L.L.C., Baton Rouge, LA.

### **Chalifoux, Thomas E. Jr., '71**

President, CEO, Thomas Contracting, Inc. Kissimmee, FL. "Currently serving as chief of staff, 143<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Command, Orlando, FL. Colonel US Army Reserve."

### **Cooper, William E., '76**

President, S&B Construction Co., Indianapolis, IN.

"I am co-owner of S&B Construction, a \$40 million per year Commercial contractor and a real estate developer of retail properties. We specialize in retail, however, we also build a number of health care facilities -- primarily assisted living-- as well as movie theaters and churches. My wife Reba and I have two children, one 17 years old and one 13 years old."

### **Gipson, Carlos 'Ron', '88**

President, Ron Gibson Construction, Inc., Shreveport, LA.

"I started my business in 1997. I currently own distributorships for

Rockford Metal Bldgs and Tri-Steel Structures Steel Framed Homes. We perform a significant amount of projects involving Commercial and Residential remodeling and new Commercial. We began hiring new staff in April 2000. We plan to venture into bid market along with continuing negotiated work."

### **Landrum, John, Jr., Spring '85**

Site superintendent, Consultants and Builders, Inc., in Norcross, LA.

### **Ponti, Erich E., Spring '87**

Owner, Accent Construction Services, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA.

"Company specializes in Residential and Commercial remodeling projects along with some new construction. Celebrating six years in business. President-elect for the Capital Regions Builders Association."

### **Reseweber, Bret, '95**

Project Manager, P.N. Hoffman, Inc., Washington D.C. " P.N. Hoffman, Inc., is a thriving urban developer/builder in Washington, DC. We buy derelict properties and demo/transform them into high-end

condominiums and office buildings. The condo's range in the \$500's- \$1.5's per unit. Our buildings usually average between 35-60 condos each. P.N. Hoffman has won numerous awards in the past four years, including Washington D.C.'s exclusive, annual "Best Real Estate Deal", two years running. As one of two project managers, I am currently in charge of P.N. Hoffman's flagship project, Tenley Hill. This will be P.N. Hoffman's new office and the first multi-use building for the company. This high rise will include underground parking, retail, commercial and residential. The completion of this project will solidify P.N. Hoffman's position as Washington D.C.'s premier urban developer/builder."

### **Roussel, Optimer "Tim" J., Jr., Fall '96**

Turner Industries, Baton Rouge, LA.

### **Weaver, Timothy A., '87**

Project Manager, Caddo Parish Engineering, Shreveport, LA.

### SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Keep in touch with former classmates and find out what other construction graduates are doing. It's great to hear from you.

Fill out and return the form on page 8 to have your news published in the next issue!

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER 2000 GRADUATES

**Camenzuli, André**  
**Cook, Steven C.**  
**Decker, James A.**  
**Johnson, Bradley D.**  
**Matthews, Scott D.**  
**Monk, Brian G.**

**Phillips, Casey T.**  
**Polk, Kevin T.**  
**Price, Matthew J.**  
**Ratcliff, Jeffrey L.**  
**Schneidau, Stanton**  
**Wright, Ryan P.**