



## Greetings from The College of Arts and Sciences



Readers of the Spring 2002 *Groundbreaker* learned of the consolidation of the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Pure and Applied Sciences into the College of Arts

and Sciences, the new home of the School of Construction. As Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a member of the faculty since 1966, I was, of course, familiar with the School of Construction. However, my knowledge of the workings of that unit was very superficial. Upon becoming Dean of Arts and Sciences, I set out to learn in depth about the program formerly housed in Pure and Applied Sciences and now in the new college.

It has been obvious from the very first that this is a School with a great future, a program of which the University is proud and which deserves additional support, especially staffing, both replacement and additional. We have assured Dr. Parker that he can be confident of both. He has already received authorization to replace a retiring faculty member and to add an additional assistant professor.

Since becoming dean, I have enjoyed close contact with Dr. Parker, the construction

faculty, students, alumni, and members of the Industry Advisory Council. It would be difficult to find a more committed, upbeat and cooperative group both on and off campus. Indeed few programs enjoy the backing of such a configuration of students, instructors, and support groups. This phenomenon is something of which the School can certainly be proud. It is an unflinching coalition for success.

President Cofer and I both attended the Fall 2002 meeting of the Advisory Council and offered essentially the same message. We are proud of our School of Construction. We greatly appreciate the support of alumni and industry. We are determined to support the School administration, its faculty and students in their efforts to grow and become even stronger.

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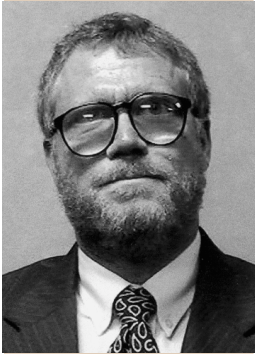
*"We are proud of our School of Construction. We greatly appreciate the support of alumni and industry."*

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**Dr. Carlos Fandal**  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

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*Dr. Keith A. Parker*

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*"We continue our efforts to remain a strong and highly visible program."*

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## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

**Dear Alumni and Friends,**

As I reflect on the past nine months since the arrival of President Cofer and compose "Director's Corner," the three things that stand out are hard work, long hours, and a very bright future. We can all be proud of our faculty, staff, and students for the sacrifices of their personal time during this period of administrative transition. While the hours have been long and the days off have been few, our efforts have been recognized by the new administration. Resources have been committed to our program that will allow us to grow and prosper in the future. We have been given an opportunity by Dr. Cofer's administration. It is up to us to take full advantage of this opportunity.

As part of the commitment to our program, we have been given the go ahead to hire two tenure-track faculty members. One will be to replace Herb McCaskill's position upon his retirement at the end of this school year. The other will allow us to broaden our class offerings and add more flexibility in student course scheduling. We hope to have these new faculty members selected by the end of March. They will begin with the Fall 2003 semester.

We continue our efforts to remain a strong and highly visible program. We are working with the new university recruiters and independently making recruiting visits to area high schools and career centers. Our alumni have now had meetings in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Alexandria, Dallas, and Little Rock. Additionally, we have partnered with the Department of Agriculture to set up our tent and tailgate at every home football game. Come join us at any home game for food, drinks, and fellowship.

Finally, we have begun our fund-raising drive. I have sent each of you a letter introducing the Potts Fund. There are many financial needs during a given year that cannot be supplied through a state budget. These needs will not always be the same, but most certainly will always be there. Your School of Construction needs you now and will need you in the future.

Thank you to all who have contributed in so many ways this past year. The upcoming year 2003 will bring great opportunities to our program. Be a part of your School of Construction and help us take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.

**Dr. Keith A. Parker,  
Director, ULM School of Construction**



*Dr. Willy Hoefler, Head of the ULM Department of Agriculture, helped cook hamburgers and sausages at every ULM home football game.*

*"Come join us at any home game for food, drinks, and fellowship."*

**Dr. Keith Parker**

# FACULTY UPDATES

## Professional Development

July 17, Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, and Ms. Prevost attended the quarterly meeting of the **Association of Louisiana Utility Councils** in Shreveport, LA.

July 24-27, Dr. Parker, Dr. Bray, Dr. Manry and Mr. McCaskill attended the **ACCE Summer Conference** in Charleston, SC.

August 1-4, Dr. Parker and Ms. Prevost attended the **AGC Summer Conference** in Destin, FL.

September 5, Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, and Mr. Ensminger attended the **Educators' Conference** in Dallas, TX.

September 6, Dr. Manry and Mr. Ensminger attended the **ASC Region 5 Meeting** in Dallas, TX.

September 19-20, Dr. Manry attended the **MCAA Student Chapter's Summit** in Charlotte, NC.

Mr. Bobby Ensminger is currently pursuing a PhD. in Education at Louisiana Baptist University in Shreveport, LA.

Dr. David Manry is currently pursuing a Master's in Computer Science at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA.

# FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

This semester, John Hunter, on behalf of Steel Fabricators of Monroe, presented the School of Construction with a check for \$5,000.00.

A total of ten ULM construction graduates are currently employed by Steel Fab. To show its appreciation for the quality of graduates the School puts out, the company decided to contribute \$500.00 per graduate they employ, and encourages every company employing one or more ULM construction graduates to do the same.



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Newsletter  
Fall 2002**

*John Hunter  
presents Dr. Keith  
Parker with a check  
for \$5,000.00.*

Donations should be made to:  
**"ULM Foundation -- Potts Fund"**

and mailed to Dr. Parker, ULM School of  
Construction, 700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540  
The ULM Foundation will send you the  
appropriate tax forms.

# DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT

The ULM School of Construction, in conjunction with the Ouachita Joint Utility Council, hosted its fourth annual Digger's Night Out on October 24, 2002. The event took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the ULM Library with 152 people from 43 different companies in attendance. David Dorsch, a 1972 ULM Construction graduate, was our guest speaker. Mr. Dorsch talked about his experience and involvement in the cleaning up of the World Trade Center site focusing on the slurry wall problems, and showed numerous pictures of the site.

Sponsors of this year's event were:

The Association of Louisiana Utility Councils  
Atmos Energy  
Baroid Industrial Drilling Products  
BellSouth  
Columbia Gulf Transmission  
Entergy  
Gulf South Pipeline Co.  
Koch Pipeline Co.  
Louisiana AGC  
Louisiana One Call  
Rep Com International  
Time Warner Cable  
The ULM School of Construction  
Williams Gas Pipeline



**Call Before  
You Dig  
1-800-272-3020**





*Chuck Penn*

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*"Employment in the construction industry covers a broad spectrum of rewarding career opportunities in design, sales, real estate development, homebuilding, construction law, consulting, finance, surety and insurance, subcontracting, and many, many more".*

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Charles "Chuck" Penn, '83  
Sr. Sales Representative,  
Shreveport Operations, TXI, Inc.**

"My interest in the construction industry started very early on, and began with tree house construction at age nine!" recalls Chuck Penn. "I have always had a natural affinity for building things. But more importantly, I grew up living next door to Mr. A.C. Breckenridge, Jr., founder of Breck Construction Co. Mr. Breckenridge lived and breathed the construction business and my observations of him greatly fostered my interest."

Today, Chuck Penn is a senior sales representative for the Shreveport operations of TXI, Inc., and assists contractor customers in Northwest Louisiana with project requirements regarding concrete; consults with the A/E community with regard to concrete design and specification; handles project problems as they arise; and maintains accounts receivable. In 2002 the company realized 1.35 billion dollars in net sales.

"Projects in my area in the last ten years include casinos and casino hotels; street, road, bridge and highway projects; municipal water and wastewater plants; hospitals and healthcare; airport terminals; automobile manufacturing; wholesale; retail; industrial; warehouse; church facilities; and many more."

Chuck Penn graduated from the ULM School of Construction in 1983. Born in Shreveport, La., in 1952, Chuck grew up in Monroe and graduated from Neville High School in 1970. "After attending ULM for two years in the College of Business Administration from 1970 to 1972, I entered into the construction industry as an apprentice carpenter, regularly progressing through the "ranks" to Job Superintendent by the late 1970's. In 1981, I had the opportunity to return to school while working part-time. I began pursuit of the curriculum in the School of Construction in the fall of 1981 and completed coursework for degree requirement in 19 months."

"My degree in Construction from ULM heightened my awareness of the relationship between all the various players involved in the construction process. Being in the concrete business, I use knowledge gained in the structures courses on a regular basis. Most importantly though, everything I was exposed to in the construction curriculum at ULM has enabled me to be a more professional communicator within the industry. And, lastly, Thurman Potts, former Director of the program, telling me that my future was in sales was also one of the best pieces of career advice I got from ULM."

As a student, Chuck Penn was very active in the student chapters of ACI and AGC, and was also a member of *SLX*. Today, he is still very active as a member of the School of Construction Industry Advisory Council, having been a member since 2000. Chuck Penn is also the president of the School of Construction Shreveport Alumni Chapter. This past semester, Chuck Penn was instrumental in helping secure TXI materials to build a project for the ULM Lady Indian's softball field.

Chuck Penn's life philosophy is simple, "I try to live life to the fullest, enjoy my friends and family, and have fun every day."

"My advice for students today is: Don't pre-occupy yourself with the very narrow career goal of general construction project management. Employment in the construction industry covers a broad spectrum of rewarding career opportunities in design, sales, real estate development, homebuilding, construction law, consulting, finance, surety and insurance, subcontracting, and many, many more. Don't be afraid to make positive career changes to achieve fulfillment and happiness. As far as becoming successful, first become useful, then success will certainly follow."

### **TXI, Inc. Company Profile**

TXI, Inc., is a leading supplier of building materials, primarily cement and structural steel. The company's principal cement markets are Texas and California, the two largest cement markets in the United States. TXI is the largest cement producer in Texas. In structural steel, the company is the second largest supplier in North America, providing materials to nonresidential markets throughout the continent. TXI's strategy focuses on achieving leadership positions in desirable markets while maintaining a low-cost profile. The innovation of new products and processes, particularly in the area of recycling, is key in maintaining and enhancing TXI's competitive strengths. Visit them at [www.txi.com](http://www.txi.com)

# INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Fall meeting of the ULM School of Construction Industry Advisory Council took place Friday, October 25, 2002, at the ULM School of Construction. Nineteen were in attendance. The members of the Advisory Council met with Dr. James Cofer, ULM President; Dr. Carlos Fandal, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; the School of Construction Faculty; and students. The Advisory Council had an open lunch with the Dean and the students.

The ULM President and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences discussed the changes that have been taking place on campus, such as positive attitudes and renewed spirits. Dr. Cofer plans to renovate the old student union building and transform it into a student center. His goals are to increase enrollment, satisfaction, and retention. Dr. Cofer wants the University to have 10,000 students with a 60% graduation rate, but still needs to raise a lot of money to accomplish this goal. A lobbying campaign is taking place.

Fundraising is one of the top priorities of the IAC and

the ULM School of Construction. The IAC members need your help to increase the Potts fund and appreciate any help in that matter. Donations should be made to "The ULM Foundation—Potts Fund," and sent to the ULM School of Construction.

The IAC members determined that recruiting efforts had to be increased to reach the enrollment goal set by the strategic plan. The School of Construction developed a new brochure and will be distributing it to high school counselors around the area. The School is also in the process of developing and producing a new recruiting CD. Please contact Dr. Parker if you want to get some material to distribute in your area.

The following people were nominated for IAC membership:

Buddy Edens – ABC Jackson, MS  
Brent Long '87 – Choate Construction  
Kent Long '86 – Centex Rooney Construction

The Spring 2003 IAC meeting is scheduled for April 2003.

## Groundbreaker Newsletter Fall 2002



*Larry Favolora  
IAC Chairman*

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### Current members of the IAC

**Greg Allen**  
Zachry Construction Corp.

**Don Beach**  
Steel Fabricators of Monroe, Inc.

**Randy Bentz**  
T.J. Lambrecht

**Robert Billeaud**  
J.B. Mouton, Inc

**Jack Blich**  
Walt Disney Imagineering

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

**David Dorsch**  
Dorsch Consulting

**David Dumas**  
B.A.S. Construction Co. Inc.

**Laurence Favolora**  
Favolora Constructors, Inc.

**Jerry Fields**  
ARC Abatement Inc.

**Don Greenland III**  
Nabholz Construction Corp.

**Steven Hallman**  
Hallman & Hallman Inc.

**Cayce Hand**  
Hand Construction

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

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

**Jud Jacobs**  
Brasfield & Gorrie

**John Kent**  
Brisben Development, Inc.

**Kyle Kent**  
Kent Construction, Inc.

**Todd Littleton**  
Whitaker Construction

**Karl Meeks**  
JPI

**Richard Nelson**  
Blair Design and Construction

**Paul O'Donnell**  
Hensel Phelps

**Keith Parker**  
ULM School of Construction

**Chuck Penn**  
TXI

**Charles Poole**  
Angelo Iafrate Construction  
L.L.C.

**Drew Scahill**  
J.E. Kingham Construction Co.

**Lee Smith**  
Austin Commercial

**Kendal Terral**  
D'Arbonne Construction

**Steve Terrill**  
Louisiana AGC, Inc

**Scott Thompson**  
Lincoln Builders, Inc.

Honorary Member:  
**Thurman Potts**

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**The Advisory  
Council  
currently has  
30 members  
and meets  
twice a year  
at the  
ULM School  
of  
Construction**

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# STUDENTS' NEWS

## GUILD Officers



*Nick Nicholson  
President*



*Eric Looney  
Vice President*



*Leslie Dyess  
Secretary*



*Marc Rockett  
AGC President*



*Andrew Brown  
NAHB President*

## Scholarships

The following students received scholarships:

Thurman Potts Scholarship  
A.C. Breckenridge Scholarship  
John E. Baugh Scholarship  
Don A. Baxter Scholarship  
Fred C. Culpepper Scholarship  
Hollis Graham Scholarship  
J. Hilton Heard Scholarship  
Bill Gilbert Scholarship  
Ranny Terral Scholarship

Nick Nicholson  
B.J. Welch  
Leslie Dyess  
Al Hayward  
Chris Highsmith  
Zeb Mixon  
Charles Mardis  
Marc Rockett  
Josh Tarver

NAHB Scholarship  
NAHB Scholarship  
NAHB Scholarship  
NAHB Scholarship

Leslie Dyess  
Al Hayward  
Charles Mardis  
Josh Tarver

David Wayne Geissler Scholarship  
Hurvie Moak Scholarship  
Lamar Rogers Honorary Scholarship

Jack Skaggs  
Brandon Strong  
William Kays

Bill Eason Scholarship  
MCA of Louisiana Scholarship

James Reneau  
Andrew Brown

## Student ABC Chapter

This semester, Buddy Edens, President of the Mississippi ABC, and Herb Ward came to the ULM School of Construction to talk to the students about reviving the ABC Student Chapter at ULM. Mr. Edens discussed opportunities for scholarships, student projects, competitions, and national conventions.

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Inc., is a national, non-profit management association for the construction industry, which actively promotes the merit shop form of construction. ABC is a fast growing commercial construction trade association, operating through almost 20,000 nationwide member firms. The Mississippi Chapter of ABC is the largest commercial construction trade association in the state. It is also the largest ABC chapter in the nation.



## Student Competition

The following students will participate in the ASC competition in February 2003. Mr. Bobby Ensminger and Dr. David Manry will be the faculty advisors for the teams.

### Construction Management

Andrew Clack  
Charles May  
Nick Nicholson  
Robert Rice  
James Thomas  
Bryan Welch

### Heavy/Highway

Robert Bentz  
Charles Mardis  
Brian McClawchlin  
Jason Poland  
Josh Tarver  
Damon Walker

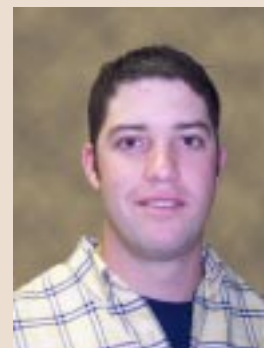
### Design Build

Andrew Brown  
Chris Butler  
Leslie Dyess  
Brian Green  
Eric Looney  
Matthew Naholz

## Sigma Lambda Chi

The Xi Chapter of *Sigma Lambda Chi* held its awards ceremony on October 11, 2002. Approximately 30 people attended the steak cookout at Mr. McCaskill's house. Congratulations to Jacob Nabholz, who received the "Highest GPA Award," and Michael McFerren, who received the "Outstanding Graduate Award."

The *SLX* inductees for the Fall '02 semester are Kirk Anderson, Melton Bell, Chris Butler, Graydon Chandler, Christopher Looney, Brandon Neal, Allyson Sheppard, Amy Simon, Joshua Tarver, William Watson, and Larry Wilkins.



*Jacob Nabholz  
Highest GPA Award*



*Michael McFerren  
Outstanding  
Graduate Award*



## Contractor's Banquet

The annual Contractor's Banquet, which is organized by the student Guild, was held on Thursday, October 17, 2002, at the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center. There were approximately 150 local business representatives and students in attendance. This banquet is the main fundraising event of the year for the students, and its proceeds go toward helping those 21 students interested in attending the March 2003 National AGC Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"This year's banquet was a huge success," says Nick Nicholson, Guild President. "We had a good turnout and four of our students were able to raise enough money to have their entire trip paid for." The Guild officers wish to extend their thanks to those who supported them by contributing financially or by donating an item to be auctioned off.

The table sponsors were Breck Construction, CBC Construction, Favalora Constructors, Fitzgerald Contractors, Holyfield Construction, Lance Bickham

Contracting LLC, Mann's Construction, Mechanical Contractors Association of New Orleans, Monroe Dermatology & Allergy Clinic, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Parker, Roof Masters of America, Scott Construction Equipment, and Steel Fabricators of Monroe.

The following companies donated items for the auction: Articat, Bayou Auto Glass, Billie D. Holland, Body Works, Bradford Lumber, Chile's, Cobb's Truck & Gear, Cracker Barrel, Dean Hart Construction, Discount Golf, Don Leach Construction, Grainger, Gravy's Country Cooking, Happy Days Car Wash, Herbert Land Architect, Herbert McCaskill, Hooter's, Ivy Redding, Joe Banks Drywall, Lincoln Builders, Lowe's, Monroe Oil & Gas, Monroe Welding, Nortax South, Pine Hill Feed, Plumbing Inc., Royal Feed & Seed, Sharpco, Sky Jackers, The Honey Hole, Tool House, Traxler Construction, Tyner Petrus, and Village Sports.

Check out more pictures at:

[www.ulm.edu/construction/guild1.htm](http://www.ulm.edu/construction/guild1.htm)



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The  
*Groundbreaker*  
is published by  
the ULM School  
of Construction  
for its alumni,  
students, and  
friends.

It is funded by  
the Potts Fund.

Editor  
Vanessa Prevost

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# STUDENT'S NEWS

## Light Techniques Models

This semester, in Mr. Ensminger's Light Techniques sophomore class, students were asked to design and build a small-scale model of a house. The students drew their plans in Dr. Manry's Architectural Drafting class, and had the rest of the semester to purchase materials to build their project. In total, 34 models were built.

Jonathan Hill of Mical Hill Construction, a 1998 School of Construction alumnus, and a current member of the NAHB of Louisiana, came to the School to serve as one of the judges, and to determine which

models were the best ones. Criteria included headers, cripples, tees, corners, interior walls, roofing, effort,

finishing, aesthetics, and completeness.

In first place, Tommy Tran won \$30; in second place, Brian Green won \$20; and in third place, Brooks Bolden won \$10. John Hunter, Damon Walker, and Robert Rice received honorable mentions for their models.



*Tommy Tran's model wins first place*

"It was the first time that students were required to build models in quite some time, and many of them were very impressive," Mr. Ensminger said. The students will use their models next semester in Mr. Ensminger's estimating and scheduling classes.



*Mr. Ensminger and Jonathan Hill judge the models*

## Egg Competition

The Reinforced Concrete class, taught by Dr. Hollis Bray, held a competition based on the American Concrete Institute's Egg Protection Device (EPD) competition on November 12. This semester, 40 students in 11 teams participated in the event.

"Since the national ACI's competition is held in the spring, and concrete is taught in the fall at ULM, the ULM School of Construction students are unable to compete in the ACI event," Dr. Bray said. "The School holds its own competition based

on the ACI rules, with minor differences." The goal of the competition is to design and build the highest-impact-load resistant plain or reinforced concrete Egg Protection Device (EPD).

The School of Construction wants to extend a special thanks to this year's sponsor, the Concrete Aggregate Association of Louisiana, represented by Craig Duos, Executive Director. He was accompanied by 1968 alumnus and Industry Advisory Committee member Ken Holland of Delta Concrete Products.

The winning student teams were awarded cash prizes of \$300 for 1st place, \$200 for 2nd place and \$100 for 3rd place.

The winning team was Chris Butler, Boyd Chandler, Zeb Mixon, and Jeromy Pruitt. In second place were Brandon Neal, Joshua Seale, Josh Tarver, and Bryan Watson. In third place were Michael McFerren, Nick Nicholson, and Marc Rockett.



*The winning team receives a cash prize.*

*Left to right: Craig Duos, Jeromy Pruitt, Boyd Chandler, Zeb Mixon, Chris Butler, and Ken Holland.*





# CETF SPEAKER SERIES

## "NEW TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY" by Dr. Benedict Schwegler, Jr.

Dr. Benedict R. Schwegler, Jr., Vice President and Chief Scientist at Walt Disney Imagineering Research and Development, visited The University of Louisiana at Monroe to present "New Tools and Techniques for Construction in the 21st Century" on Monday, September 30, 2002, in the School of Construction auditorium. Over 85 construction students from ULM and LA Tech attended the event.

This lecture was part of the Contractor's Educational Trust Fund's Special Seminar Series, held every year at participating universities. Dr. Schwegler's lecture marked the first time that the series was held at ULM.

Information technology has been on a long and slow path of implementation in the construction industry. In spite of the successes in this regard: the use of CAD, e-mail, the world wide web, and a wide variety of personal computing software together with the growth of e-commerce services and data and document exchange standards, the AEC industry has been remarkably resistant to the cataclysmic business changes of consolidation, productivity improvement and globalization which have overtaken the automotive, aerospace and discreet manufacturing industries.

In his presentation, Dr. Schwegler explored some of the near and long-term information technology challenges facing the construction industry, and suggested how new information technology tools will enable three crucial new capabilities for the

construction industry with the potential to create the profound changes seen in the automotive and aerospace industries.

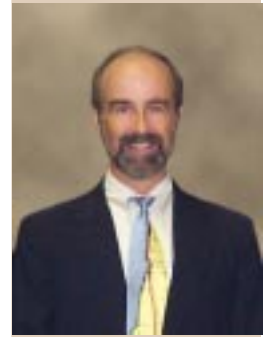
First, new tools like 4D have grown out of the tradition of engineering CAD design. These new tools allow simulations of construction processes as well as visual simulations of the individual components.

Second, transaction performance measurements, which used to be too expensive and time consuming to perform, will be commonplace and virtually free.

Third, improved data sharing with flexible product model schemas will permit the development of new contracting relationships, more geographically dispersed teams, and more tightly integrated supply chain performance.

*Dr. Schwegler holds a doctorate from the University of California Los Angeles. He has been involved in nearly all of Walt Disney Imagineering's construction projects over the past 19 years. He was the creator of and currently manages the 4D Simulation-based Design Team used by WDI to improve its ability to simulate, predict and manage the project delivery process. Dr. Schwegler was the recipient of the 2002 Henry L. Michel Award for Industry Advancement of Research from the Civil Engineering Research Foundation of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is also a member of the Civil Engineering Foundation's Corporate Advisory Board.*

**Groundbreaker  
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Fall 2002**



*Dr. Ben Schwegler*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER 2002 GRADUATING SENIORS

**Prentiss Brad Boyd  
Terry Gordy  
Christopher Highsmith  
Jason D. Howell  
Michael W. McFerrer  
Katrina L. Moore**

**Seth Mulhearn  
Jacob Nabholz  
Samuel Strack  
Nicholas Turner  
William C. Womack**

Check Out  
Our Students'  
Resumes  
at  
[www.ulmedu/  
construction](http://www.ulmedu/construction)

## ULM ALUMNI AWARDS

The annual presentation of the **ULM Golden Arrow Award** was held on Thursday, October 24, at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner as part of Homecoming 2002 festivities. The Golden Arrow Award was established in 1981 by the Alumni Association to recognize outstanding alumni who have served the ULM Alumni Association and their local chapter. This year's recipient is former ULM Alumni Director and Monroe Restaurateur, **Don Weems**.

Weems worked at ULM for 20 years and opened his restaurant, The Waterfront Grill, after retiring from the University in 1996. Earlier this year Weems was named the 2002 Louisiana Restaurant Association "Restaurateur of the Year". Weems has held the positions of ULM Alumni Director and Director of Admissions. He is also a previous ULM Service Award Winner, Athletic Scholarship Foundation Booster Club President, Founder of 31 Ambassadors, Member of the "L" Club, and Life Member of the Alumni Association.

Weems is married to Dewanda, a graduate of ULM, and their two children, Clay and Anna, also attended the University. Don Weems is the brother of 1983 School of Construction graduate Martha Richey.

**The Alumni Chapter of the Year Award** went to the **Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter** with **Michael Smith, 1989 School of Construction graduate**, as their president. The Dallas/Forth Worth Chapter has the highest percentage of Active Alumni of any other chapter. This is the 3rd year in a row for the Dallas/ Fort Worth Chapter to win this prestigious award.

The late **Dan Johnston, 1982 School of Construction graduate**, a former SGA President and Cheerleader, was recognized for his remarkable contribution to ULM. His family accepted the first **Distinguished Alumnus Award** to be presented by the Alumni Association. Johnston meant many things to the University. He was on the implementation committee for 31 ambassadors, a Golden Indian in the Booster Club, a member of Phi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, and, most of all, a strong supporter of all things associated with ULM.

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## ARKANSAS ALUMNI LUNCHEON

On December 17, ULM Construction graduates living or working in Central Arkansas met for an informal luncheon at the North Little Rock Riverfront Hilton. "Years ago, the School of Construction alumni in Central Arkansas would gather for an annual event,"

Don Greenland recalls. "We would enjoy seeing one another, have some food/fun/fellowship, hear what's going on at our *alma mater*, and do our part in supporting the program." Don Greenland, Chief Operating Officer of Nabholz Construction, is an active member of the School of Construction Industry Advisory Council, and took the initiative to rejuvenate the Central Arkansas Alumni group.



*ULM Construction  
Alumni meet in Little  
Rock, AR.*

Dr. Keith Parker, Director of the School of Construction; Vanessa Prevost, CETF Public Relations Coordinator; and Pam Shepherd, Director of the ULM Alumni Association met with the following ULM Construction graduates: **Andrew Adlong**, '94, Nabholz ; **Shannon Earls**, '91, CDI ; **Don Greenland**, '83, Nabholz ; **Bill Hannah**, '72, Nabholz ; **Hank Johns**, '75, Baldwin & Shell ; **Scott Lee**, '86 ; **Frank Moore**, '87, Hills of Arkansas ; **Robert Moser**, '85 ; **John Nabholz**, '86, Nabholz ; and **Ted Van Tassel**, '83, Van Tassel-Proctor.

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## HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

The School of Construction and the Department of Agriculture organized a Horseshoe Tournament on November 23, before the ULM vs. ULL Football game. Eight teams of two people participated, and cash prizes were awarded to the first four teams.

The winners were Anthony Bartley and Chris Ringo. In second place were Dr. Hollis Bray and Nick Nicholson. And in third place were Andy Gable and Steve Tolson. The School looks forward to making this an annual event.



# ALUMNI UPDATES

**Bejarano, Oscar, '02**  
Office Engineer, Austin Commercial, Dallas, TX.  
“I am working on the DFW airport project as an Office Engineer. I am really happy with what I am doing as far as work is concerned. ULM School of Construction prepared me very well for my construction career. I am proud to say that I graduated from such a recognized school. Texas is booming in the construction industry and the new graduates should not have a problem finding a job. Again, I would like to thank all of my professors for the knowledge that I gained as a student at ULM.”

**Chandler, Jon R., '90**  
Owner, Infiniti Constructors, Inc., Shreveport, LA. General Contractor Concrete Construction.  
“We have been involved in design/build post tension foundations and parking garages for 10 years now and working in 11 different states. We are blessed to be doing what we enjoy and look forward to many more years of work. I have been fortunate to cross paths with many ULM, then NLU, Alumni in the past few years and to work with some of them on various jobsites. I have been married to my best

friend for 10 years with two children, two dogs, and two horses. Thanks ULM School of Construction.”

**Dean, Dennis J., '76**  
Civil Engineer, Aillet, Fenner, Jolly & McClelland, Inc., Consulting Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineers, Shreveport, LA.

**Fields, Jerry, '77**  
Vice-President/General Manager, Arc. Abatement, Inc., Houston, TX.

**Keller, Keith, '02**  
Estimating Department, Austin Commercial, Dallas, TX.  
“I am working for Austin Commercial in the Main Office Estimating Department. I work on jobs ranging from 1 million to 50 million dollars in size. I deal with all types of buildings, hospitals, renovation work, sport complexes, and airports.”

**Ogle, Vicky, '02**  
Project Engineer, Weaver Cooke Construction, Greensboro, NC.

**Pierce, John M., '77**  
Vice President Business Development and Sales,

Chamberlin Waterproofing and Roofing System, Dallas, TX.  
“I graduated from law school in December '97, and currently serve as Vice President of the ULM Alumni Association Executive Board. Chamberlin specializes in new construction waterproofing and roofing structural concrete repairs and exterior building restoration.”

**Roussel, Tim, '96**  
Project Controls Engineer, Harmony, LLC – A Turner Industries Company – Baton Rouge, LA.

“Currently involved with British Petroleum’s Deepwater Development Program at J. Ray McDermott’s Fabrication Yard in Morgan City, LA. Our Company is responsible for piping installation on three modules for BP’s Thunder Horse semi-submersible platform. On-site project experience with Turner Industries and Fluor Daniel since graduation have included: Formosa Plastics PVC Dryer Project (Baton Rouge, LA); Vulcan Chemicals 5CP Facility (Geismar, LA); Marathon Ashland Petroleum Sulfur Recovery Project (Garyville, LA);

Caspian Pipeline Consortium (Krasnodar, Russia); HOU Turnaround Consulting Project (Ulsan, South Korea); Murphy Oil USA (Chalmette, LA); and Union Carbide (Taft, LA).”

**Simms, Lance Eric, '84**  
Building Official, City of College Station, TX.  
“I have been the Building Official of College Station for six years. While here, I attended Texas A&M University to earn a Masters in Construction Management. My wife of 15 years, Rhonda, and I have two boys.”

**Thompson, Jeff, '91**  
President, Thompson Contracting, Birmingham, AL.  
“After graduation in '91, I was hired by a natural gas producing company as a pipeline assistant supervisor. After 1 ½ year with the company, I started a commercial and residential waterproofing company. After a couple of years learning the residential side of construction more, I passed the Alabama Home Builders test and built my first speculative house. I am now building 14 to 20 houses a year ranging from 1900 sq.ft. to 6200 sq.ft.

“**Nabholz Construction Corporation** knows the outstanding education students receive at the ULM School of Construction. We are proud to have eight alumni on staff with our company,” said Sherri Claassen, Marketing Director, Nabholz Construction Corporation, Conway, AR.

**Bill Hannah**, 1972 graduate is currently serving as Chief Executive Officer and **Don Greenland**, 1983, is Chief Operating Officer of Nabholz, which has service centers in Conway, Fort Smith, Little Rock, Rogers, Arkansas; Springfield, Missouri; and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**Lonnie Williams**, 1972, is President of the Central Arkansas Operations, which includes the Conway and Little Rock centers.

**John Nahbolz**, 1986, is the Information Systems Manager which oversees the technology functions of the entire corporation.

**Tommy James**, 1972, is a Senior Vice President/Project Manager, currently working on site in Searcy, Arkansas, on a 160,000 square foot medical facility expansion.

**Don Shelton**, 1977, a Senior Project Manager, is currently on site in Ada, Oklahoma, serving as a project manager on a 185,000 square foot office building.

**Andrew Adlong**, 1994, is a Project Manager for the Central Arkansas Operations. He is serving as an on-site Project Coordinator on a 160,000 square foot medical facility expansion.

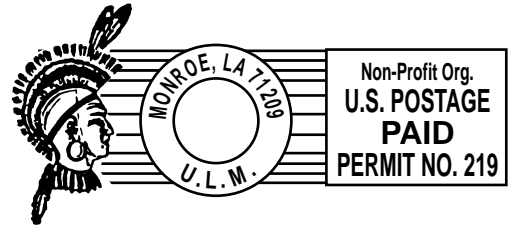
**Adam Seiter**, 2000, serves as a Project Manager for the Oklahoma Division. He is currently based in the Oklahoma City office serving on multiple projects.

Nabholz Construction Company was founded in 1949 by R.D. “Bob” Nabholz, and has been ranked in the *Engineering News Record's* Top 400 Contractors in the United States for seventeen consecutive years. Nabholz Construction was the first and only General Contractor to be awarded the “Arkansas Quality Achievement Award” and the first Arkansas General Contractor to achieve “Level One” Partnership status in the AGC/OSHA Partnership Program.

Visit them at <http://www.nabholz.com>



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 School of Construction  
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 Monroe, LA 71209-9222



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## ALUMNI NEWS, KEEP US INFORMED !

### ALUMNI UPDATE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Grad.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Co. Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in becoming a member of the Industry Advisory Council.

Your news to be published in the newsletter:

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Signed/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return your news to **Editor Groundbreaker**, University of Louisiana at Monroe, School of Construction, Monroe, LA 71209-0540, or e-mail to: [kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu) ; or fax to (318) 342-1861.