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PRESENT RESEARCH

AND MORE!



**School of Construction Management**

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

## Community vision results in new University Residence



When guests visit Bon Aire, ULM's new University Residence, they will encounter the work of master craftsmen and people of vision – a dynamic masterpiece produced by the ULM Foundation and community cooperation. ULM's jewel on the bayou was completely funded with private dollars.

Betty Cummins, immediate past president of the University of Louisiana at Monroe Foundation Board of Trustees, marveled at the elegant culmination of so much community teamwork. "It's exactly as we pictured it, it's exactly as we planned it, and I really feel like we accomplished what we set out to do. To think everything was given by other people, believing in us – it's pretty overwhelming. This house captures the past, present and future of this great university."

The decision to build an on-campus residence for the university president occurred in 2005 after the ULM Foundation, a private, non-profit affiliate organization, examined the increasing demand for university presidents to be involved in fundraising and other external activities, and how crucial a president's home could be for these missions. At the time, ULM was the only institution of the eight members of the University of Louisiana System to lack such a residence.

Now, ULM's university residence is a beautiful showpiece, according to Cummins. She praised the work of all involved. "It flows; it will entertain beautifully without being intimidating, which is what we strived for. We want students to feel comfortable, sitting around the dining room table. This home should be welcoming, whether the governor comes in and stays the night, or whether the university is entertaining someone they'd like to recruit."

Cummins identified the ULM Foundation's Board of Trustees campaign steering committee, under the leadership of Tex and Carole Kilpatrick and James and Lynn Moore. They were instrumental in raising and providing the needed funds to construct the new university residence, which will be donated to ULM.

"And now the university has a magnificent tool to attract new faculty, students and supporters, making us all stronger in the process. This has been a fantastic group effort," Cummins said.

### More about Bon Aire's past, present and future:

Bon Aire is established on the site of Bon Aire Plantation, its namesake. The French definition is "good air" (in this case referring to quality appearance, look, manner, or style). The plantation was established prior to the Civil War by Wesley John Quincy Baker and his first wife Columbia Winston Hamblen. Baker was a planter and an

*(continued on page 4)*

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I would like to invite those of you who have not visited the campus lately to come see our newly completed university house, our new bronze Warhawk statue, and the continuing renovations here in the School of Construction Management.

Each year our students continue to be active outside of the classroom. This year our students have attended the MCAA student summit, held a very successful "Contractors Banquet," and will attend the AGC national convention. Many worked as summer interns and others helped through community service.

Congratulations to Vanessa Doherty for becoming the first female recipient of the "Thurman Potts Scholarship" and congratulations to Lindsey Eickman for her success in the Miss ULM Pageant.

I would like to thank the Louisiana contractors who donated to the program through the license renewal option and to the many others who have helped fund projects through their private donations. Special thanks go out to David Dumas and Martha Richey for helping us with our "Business Symposium." Also, in the last newsletter, we introduced our "Starving Construction Students" program. I am glad to say that the program got off to a good start and that we continue to seek sponsors for the event.

As we face a difficult economic situation in the upcoming year, both in industry and education, please continue to support our program when you are able and remember that you can always call on us.

**Keith Parker**  
**Director, ULM School of Construction Management**

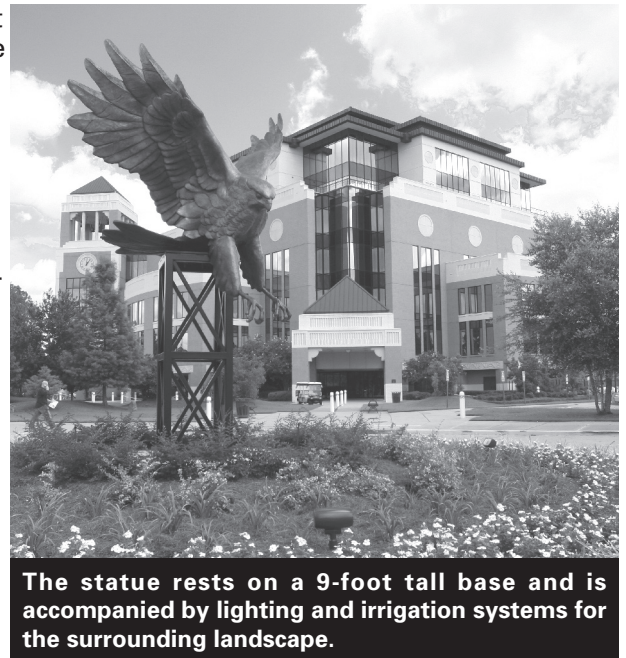
## THE WARHAWK LANDS

A bronze Warhawk statue, with its 17-foot wingspan, safely perches at its new home at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The sculpture was installed next to the ULM Library.

The 2,000-pound Warhawk was transported on a flatbed truck from Lander, WY, where it was created by Sandy Scott, one of the country's premier animal sculptors.

ULM First Lady Deborah Cofer and Executive Assistant to the President Dr. Richard Hood thought of the idea for the statue shortly after ULM adopted its new mascot in June 2006.

The bronze sculpture, funded by private dollars, is everything First Lady Deborah Cofer imagined. "This statue instills a new sense of excellence, a new sense of energy. That is what this Warhawk means to ULM. It identifies us now and brings a wholeness to who we are, and it will carry us forward in every aspect. I think students, faculty, staff, and everyone else who visits the bronze Warhawk will understand what this mascot really means to us."



**The statue rests on a 9-foot tall base and is accompanied by lighting and irrigation systems for the surrounding landscape.**



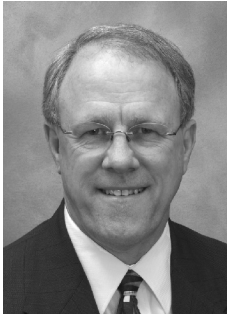
**Dr. Keith Parker**

*The Groundbreaker is published by the ULM School of Construction Management for its alumni, students and friends. It is funded by the Potts Fund.*



**Monica Castro**  
**Editor**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Keith Roberts, '74**  
Roberts, Taylor & Sensabaugh, Inc.  
President

Keith was born in Monroe, LA and lived there until he was 12 years old. At that time, Keith's father returned to active duty as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, which allowed Keith the opportunity to travel and experience many different cities and countries. He completed the 8th grade in Warner Robins, GA, the 9th and 10th grades in Tokyo, Japan, the 11th grade at Neville High School in Monroe, and graduated from high school in Washingtonville, NY.

After graduating from high school, Keith was interested in majoring in architecture at a different university in Louisiana. However, Keith's friends and relatives told him about a new degree program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (then-NLU). "My parents convinced me to start college at ULM to get basic courses out of the way and transfer the courses to the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) later if I still wanted to major in architecture. However, I enjoyed the Construction Program so much that I never considered transferring," stated Keith.

During his years at ULM, Keith was involved in the honorary society Sigma Lambda Chi and the student chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) chapter. During Keith's last semester, he had the opportunity to take a class taught by the department head — Thurman Potts— that had a tremendous impact on his life. "Thurman Potts walked into the classroom the first day, turned to the blackboard and wrote the word "INTEGRITY." Thereafter, he gave a lecture on ethical practice and conduct. I learned a lot of other things while attending NLU, but nothing more important."

Upon graduating with his M.S. from the University of Dallas in 1979, Keith spent 15 years of his career building power generating plants and heavy industry projects for an ENR Top 50 construction firm based in Dallas, TX. "I began as a field engineer and progressed to project management/contract review officer handling \$100 million contracts."

At the age of 38, Keith joined the consulting firm of Carpenter, Carruth & Hover as Executive Vice-President. "We specialized in the takeover and completion of construction projects where contractors had been defaulted and terminated for various reasons." In 1992, he formed the firm of Roberts, Taylor, & Sensabaugh, Inc. "We continue to provide consulting to our core clients in the areas of construction claims analysis, contract completion, litigation support and expert witness testimony." As the president of Roberts, Taylor, & Sensabaugh Inc., Keith oversees administration and technical staff. One of the most exciting projects Keith has been involved with included the takeover and completion of numerous curtainwall projects, located from the Bahamas to Louisiana, and Minneapolis-St Paul to Houston with an aggregate value of approximately \$50 million. The term "curtainwall" as used herein refers to the outside skin of a building

comprised of aluminum, glass, and stone. "We had 80,000 square feet of manufacturing space and 600 employees. Projects included a 52-story office tower in Minneapolis, MN, a 32-story bank building in Birmingham, AL, and significant office projects in Washington, DC, and Arlington, VA."

Keith currently lives in Dallas, TX and has been married for 38 years.

He has two sons, a daughter, a daughter-in-law, and a son-in-law.

"My education from ULM was a great base from which to build on in the construction industry. A combination of technical and management courses provided the background to recognize and comprehend the issues and problems that I later confronted in the construction industry."

## **ROBERTS, TAYLOR & SENSABAUGH, INC.**

With principal offices in Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston, TX, Roberts, Taylor & Sensabaugh's specialists are trained to provide comprehensive consulting services second to none, offering clients decades of construction, surety and fidelity experience.

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*"My education from ULM was a great base from which to build on in the construction industry."*

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Groundbreaker  
Newsletter

***Interested in becoming our next Alumni Spotlight Guest?***

***Send us your news or get in touch with Dr. Keith Parker at (318) 342-1871 or e-mail: [kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu)***

***Keep in Touch! It is great to hear from you!***

*(Continued from page 1 Community vision results in new University Residence)*

attorney. Bon Aire Plantation adjoined Ingleside Plantation to the east across Bayou DeSiard and Limerick Plantation south of Bayou DeSiard.

Located on picturesque Bayou DeSiard, the present Bon Aire serves as the home for the ULM president and family, but its role in the life of the university goes well beyond that of a residence.

This 6,893 square-foot Country Acadian-style one and one-half story home provides an elegant setting for receptions, dinners and other events. These events will center on gatherings for faculty, students, or alumni, recognition of donors, and volunteer appreciation.

At a glance, visitors will notice an eye-catching array of live oaks, red maples, cypress, Vitex trees, sweet olives, iris, indigo, and azaleas long before they enter the foyer. Once inside, guests may take in the hand-crafted curving staircase and lovely furnishings.

On the ground floor, many features will capture attention, from the Country French décor to the subtle rural nature theme present from artwork (much of it ULM students' work) to the tapestry attached to the curve of the stair wall. One trip through the president's eucalyptus-paneled library will highlight the ULM connection after a visitor spots the custom-made wood carving of the Bell Tower on the west wall over the fireplace.

Culinary appetites will be met as food is prepared in the catering kitchen and the butler's pantry, while guests gather together in the spacious breakfast room, replete with buffet and dining tables, a baby grand piano, chandelier, and a dazzling view of the beautiful Bayou DeSiard – either inside through the floor-to-ceiling windows, or by taking a stroll outside to the terrace, surrounded by further lush landscaping. Two fountains, an arrival garden, a bayou garden, and a rose garden also grace the property.

Powder rooms and storage space abound, ready to accommodate all guests' comfort.

The second floor is intended for guests staying at Bon Aire. Guests may travel to the second floor by way of a handicapped-accessible elevator or by the staircase. Upstairs, they will encounter three bedroom suites: one with a king bed (including a handicapped-accessible bathroom), a suite with a queen-sized bed, and another containing twin beds. Guests have access to the upstairs den, stocked with all amenities and entry to the outside upper veranda.

Complete information about Bon Aire can be found at the ULM Web site at [www.ulm.edu/bonaire](http://www.ulm.edu/bonaire).

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2008 GRADUATES**

Ashton Adams	Todd Hunnicutt
Nathanial Butler	Christopher Hunt
Michael Davis	Chance Payne
Brandon Earl	Justin Penn
Severen Girod	Tyler Rhodes
Kevin Hendricks	Daren Richey
Matthew Hendricks	Jordan Stanley
Mark Herring	Michael Stutson
Ali Hijazi	Drew Wiggers
Brennan Holloway	Chase Womack

Check out our Students' Resumes at  
[www.ulm.edu/construction](http://www.ulm.edu/construction)

## 2008 FACULTY UPDATES

July 23-26: Dr. Keith Parker, Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry attended the **American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) meeting** in Schaumburg, IL

September 11-12: Dr. Bray, Dr. Manry and Greg Smith attended the **QUOIN Educator's Conference** in Dallas, TX

September 11-13: Dr. June Conway attended the **Antiques Forum** in Natchez, LA

September 18: Mr. Greg Smith attended the **Northeast Louisiana Home Builders Association meeting** in Monroe, LA.

September 25: Dr. Parker attended "Meet ULM" in Alexandria, LA

September 30: Dr. Parker attended "Meet ULM" in Shreveport, LA

October 1-2: Dr. Bobby Ensminger attended the **Fundamentals of Effective Project Management Seminar** in Knoxville, TN

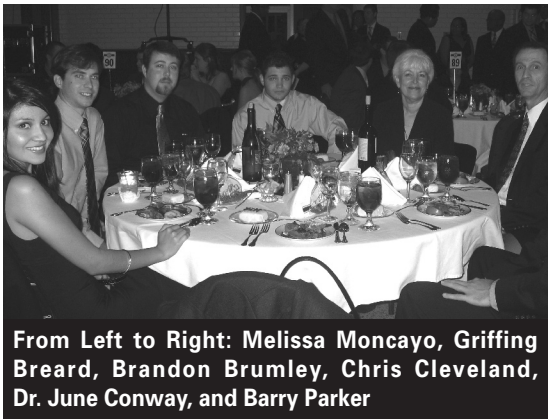
October 10-11: Dr. Manry attended the **Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Student Chapter Summit** in Omaha, NE.

October 15: Dr. Parker attended **Diggers' Night Out** in Baton Rouge, LA

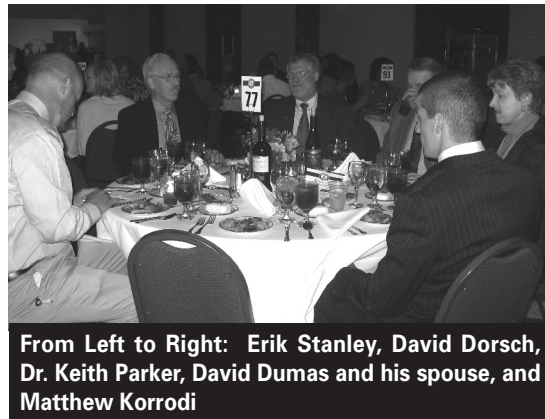
November 5: Mr. Bill Cook was part of the **Architecture Review Board** in Baton Rouge, LA

November 8: Dr. Parker attended the **Johnny's Pizza Party Alumni Event** in Dallas, TX

November 13: Dr. Conway and Dr. Parker attended **Envision ULM** at the Monroe Civic Center in Monroe, LA



From Left to Right: Melissa Moncayo, Griffing Breard, Brandon Brumley, Chris Cleveland, Dr. June Conway, and Barry Parker



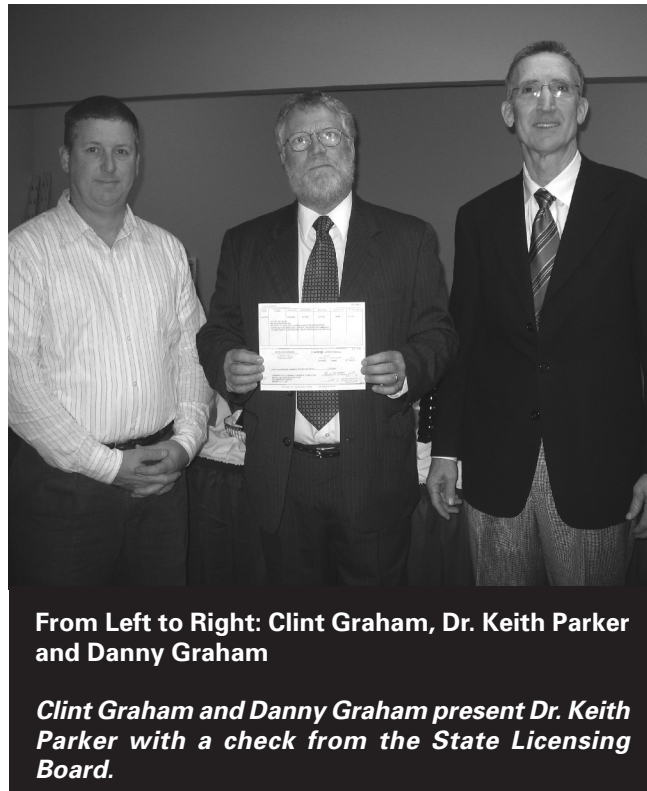
From Left to Right: Erik Stanley, David Dorsch, Dr. Keith Parker, David Dumas and his spouse, and Matthew Korrodi

## FACULTY MEMBERS' EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry presented a paper titled "Peer Evaluation in an Active Learning Group Project" and Mr. Greg Smith presented a paper titled "Using Technology to Overcome Obstacles" at the Region V Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Conference in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Bobby Ensminger submitted a paper titled "Teaching Ethics in a Culture of No Absolutes" to the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics (SOBIE).

Dr. Bobby Ensminger submitted a paper titled "Fifteen things you should know before you hire that Construction Management graduate" to the Association of Advancement of Cost Engineering International (AACE).



From Left to Right: Clint Graham, Dr. Keith Parker and Danny Graham

*Clint Graham and Danny Graham present Dr. Keith Parker with a check from the State Licensing Board.*

# STARVING CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS

During the fall semester, a donation from Andres Construction Services funded the third "Starving Construction Students" event. During this event, Construction Management students were able to enjoy a cook-out at the School of Construction Management building.

This event allows "starving construction students" to be fed and to interact and get to know other students who are in the program. The Guild members and other students of the School of Construction Management volunteered to grill hamburgers, sausages and hot dogs thanks to the funding of companies such as Andres Construction Services.

The School of Construction Management students would like to thank Gary Barnhill and Andres Construction Services for funding these events.

If you are interested in sponsoring the next "Starving Construction Students" event, please contact

**Dr. Keith Parker**  
[kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu)



# STUDENT NEWS .....

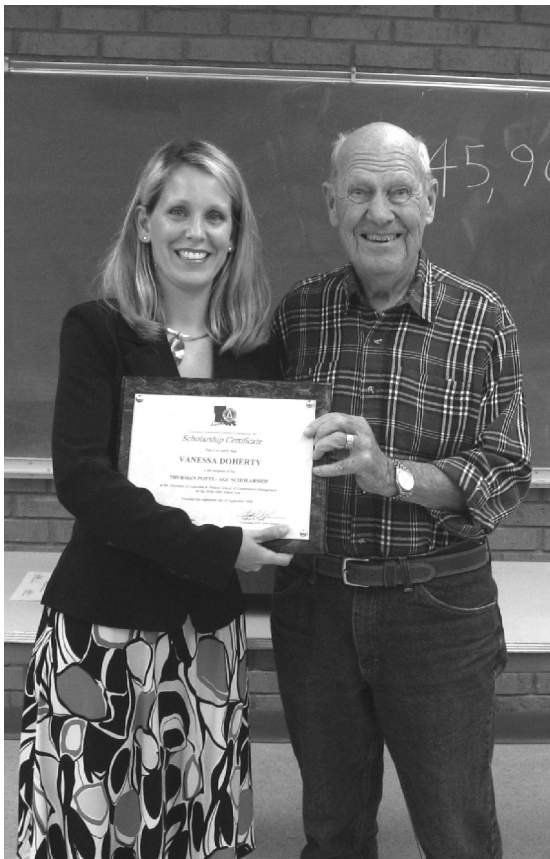
## SCHOLARSHIPS

The following students received scholarships for 2008/2009:

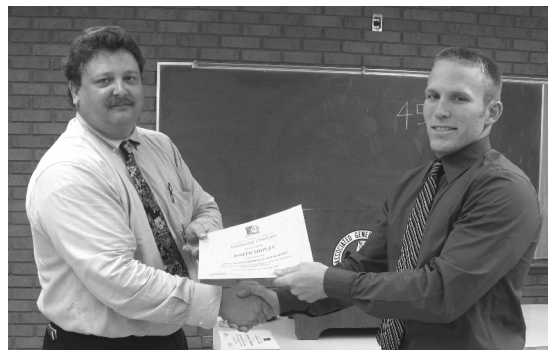
Thurman Potts Scholarship  
John E. Baugh Scholarship  
Don A. Baxter Scholarship  
A.C. Breckenridge Scholarship  
Fred C. Culpepper Scholarship  
Bill Gilbert Scholarship  
Hollis Graham Scholarship  
J. Hilton Heard Scholarship  
Ranny Terrell Scholarship  
Cecil K. Carter Scholarship  
Bill Eason Scholarship  
David Wayne Geissler Scholarship  
Hurvie Moak Scholarship  
Lamar Rodgers Honorary Scholarship  
John Ball Memorial Scholarship  
Homebuilders Scholarships  
Kitty DeGree Scholarship  
Bob Brooks Scholarships

Vanessa Doherty  
Mark Herring  
Joseph Shipley  
Chad McMillan  
Lindsey Eickman  
Michael Davis  
Cole Thompson  
Mitchell Robinson  
Stuart McKeithen  
Cody Carter  
Aaron Vice  
Chance Payne  
Anthony Savana  
Matthew Korrodi  
Michael Stutson  
Joe Hutchinson and Chad McMillan  
Mallory Murphy  
Lance Hilton, Adam Shirley, Roy Linzay,  
and Andrew Barber  
Matthew Korrodi

Ouachita Joint Utility Council



Vanessa Doherty and Mr. Thurman Potts



Steve Terrill and Joseph Shipley



Recipients of the AGC Scholarships:  
From Left to Right: Stuart McKeithen, Mark Herring, Lindsey Eickman, Michael Davis, Vanessa Doherty, Mitchell Robinson, Joseph Shipley, Cole Thompson

## CONTRACTOR'S BANQUET

The annual Contractor's Banquet, which is organized by the Construction Guild, took place on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center. Around 160 people attended this event and enjoyed the delicious food catered by Chauvin Grocery, a live auction and door prizes.

"The banquet was really successful this year. We would like to thank all the table sponsors and the attendees for their cooperation in our effort to raise funds for the Construction Guild," stated Chris Cleveland, Guild President. "I would also like to thank the Guild members and other School of Construction Management students for their commitment to our organization."

The Contractor's Banquet was possible thanks to sponsors such as Acme Brick, Avenue Shoes, Bayou Honda, Blazer Construction, Brad Smith LLC, Breck Construction, Chauvin Grocery, Chili's, Construction Bolts, Delta Disposals, Dr. Keith Parker, Faulk & Foster, Gentry, Gray Stephens D.D.S., Habitat for Humanity, Happy Days, Harold Sullivan, Hob Nob Steakhouse, Holyfield Construction, Hooters, Ivan Smith Furniture, Jack Blitch and Disney Imagineering, Kiewit, Kovac Construction, Kris Beall Construction, Land Architect Inc., Larry Favalora, Lincoln Builders, MCAA New Orleans (Henry Heier), MetLife, Mustang Sally's, Louisiana NAHB, Pohlman & Willbanks, Ram Rental, River Outfitters, Robert Spatafora D.D.S., Rocket Lube, Russel Moore Lumber, Salon Couture, Scott Construction, Herbert, Simmons Sporting Goods, Southern Fastening Systems, Steel Fabricators, Stutson's Dirtwork, The Pickle Barrel, Tom Sanders, T.P. Outdoors, Twin City Equipment, and the ULM Aviation Department.

The Contractor's Banquet was organized by the 2008 ULM Construction Guild officers:

Chris Cleveland, President  
Erik Stanley, Vice President  
Jonathan Huey, Treasurer  
Mitchell Robinson, ABC President  
Lindsey Eickman, AGC President  
Vanessa Doherty, MCAA President  
William Escribano, NAHB president  
Dr. Keith Parker, Advisor of the  
ULM Construction Guild.





## Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX)

Ali Hijazi received the "Highest G. P. A. Award" and Daren Richey received the "Outstanding Student Award." Congratulations!



Ali Hijazi



Daren Richey

### Fall 2008 SLX officers

Brandon Earl  
Brandon Brumley  
Daren Richey

President  
Vice President  
Pledge Trainer

## Sigma Lambda Chi Fall 2008 Inductees

Back Row: Felix Armstrong, Paul Coplen, Joe Hutchinson, Charles Kordsmeier, Matthew Korrodi, Mitchell Robinson, Kim Sword  
Front Row: Clay Robinson, Jason Bishop, Derrick Waggoner, Chris Cleveland, Stephen Shields, Jonathan Huey.



## **GUEST SPEAKERS TALK TO SOCM STUDENTS**

This past semester, two guest speakers from TXI, a leading supplier of aggregate, ready mix and package concrete, spoke to Mr. Smith's Light Techniques class about ready mix concrete and discussed different concrete add mixtures.

A guest speaker from Makita, a leader in industrial power tools, performed a demonstration with various tools in Mr. Smith's Light Techniques and Surveying classes.

And three guest speakers from L.B. Foster Inc., a company that manufactures steel and produces sheet piling, showed students in the Heavy Techniques class the uses of sheet piling on job sites.



## *Miss Congeniality*

### at the **School of Construction Management**

Lindsey Eickman, a 20-year-old Construction Management student, was the second runner-up and winner of Miss Congeniality in the Miss ULM 2008 Pageant. Her platform was "Leaving a Legacy: The Importance of Campus Involvement." Lindsey's talent was vocal and she performed "I Could Have Danced All Night." Lindsey received a \$250 scholarship, awarded by the Campus Activities Board (CAB). "I loved doing the pageant because it was an honor to represent the School of Construction Management program at Miss ULM 2008," stated Lindsey.



Lindsey Eickman

## ***Congratulations Lindsey!***

## STUDENTS ATTEND THE MCAA SUMMIT

This semester, six students attended the MCAA (Mechanical Contractors Association of America) Student Summit held in Omaha, Nebraska, on October 10 and 11. Every year, the annual event brings together MCAA student chapters, mentors and industry sponsors for two days of learning, exploring, networking, and fun.

This year's program captured the trends that are moving the mechanical contracting industry forward at lightning speed: green and sustainable building and labor estimating using a new Internet-based system, MCAA's WebLEM.

Fred Baskin, Griffing Breard, Brandon Brumley, Chris Cleveland, Vanessa Doherty, Will Escribano, and Larry Nguyen had the opportunity to tour the mechanical facilities of the Qwest Center Omaha Convention Center and Arena, as well as the mechanical rooms of the Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, the Scott Aquarium and the Lied Jungle.

"We really want to thank Dr. David Manry, faculty advisor for the ULM MCAA Chapter, for taking us on this amazing trip. Dr. Manry covered all of our expenses with his Endowed Professorship," Vanessa Doherty said. "We learned a lot about the mechanical, plumbing and service industry at the event, and it was a great networking opportunity."

The Summit was also the official start of the annual MCAA Student Competition, and the ULM team received a thorough briefing on the project details, requirements, specifications, and competition rules.



From Left to Right: Larry Nguyen, William Escribano, Ann Mattheis, Vanessa Doherty, Brandon Brumley, Chris Cleveland, Robert Baskin, and Dr. David Manry.



L-R, Front Row: David Dorsch, Trey Pounds, Dr. Keith Parker, Tom Rabb, David Dumas, and Thurman Potts. Back Row: Steve Terrill, Drew Scahill, Gary Thornton, Larry Favalora, Don Greenland, Mark Castellana, Robert Ward, and Popie Billeaud.

## IAC

### INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) held its fall meeting on November 14, 2008, at the School of Construction Management building. Fifteen members of the IAC were present at this meeting.

Mr. Larry Favalora, Chairman of the IAC, called the meeting to order and reviewed the meeting minutes of the previous meeting held in the spring semester. Dr. Keith Parker followed in the program by providing the director's report and providing some enrollment figures for the fall 2008 semester.

Administration (CBA), also met with the members of the IAC to discuss enrollment figures in the CBA and the success of the Business Symposium.

Dr. June Conway, ULM Interior Design Assistant Professor, updated the attendees on the renovations that will take place in the lobby area of the School of Construction Management building. The goal of these renovations will be to provide a modern look for the building by adding a coffee-lunch area – to give faculty members more space – and by purchasing new furniture to create a waiting area. In addition, the updated recruitment video for the School of Construction Management was shown to the IAC members.

If you wish  
to become  
a member  
of the  
**Industry  
Advisory  
Council**,  
please  
contact  
Dr. Keith Parker  
at  
(318) 342-1871  
or  
e-mail  
[kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu)

# CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE IAC

**JEFF ACREMAN**  
Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, MLP

**DON BEACH**  
Steel Fabricators, Inc.

**ROBERT BILLEAUD**  
J.B. Mouton, Inc.

**JACK BLITCH**  
Walt Disney Imagineering

**MARK CASTELLANA**  
ACCEDO Inc.

**BILL COCREHAM**  
Village Life

**DAVID DORSCH**  
David Dorsch

**COLLIN DUNN**  
Ranger Steel Erectors

**DAVID DUMAS**  
Brown Builders

**LAURENCE FAVALORA**  
Favalora Constructors, Inc.

**JERRY FIELDS**  
LVI Services

**JOHN FRANKLIN**  
Sundown Services Inc.

**LANE FOUTS**  
Austin Bridge and Road

**DON GREENLAND III**  
Nabholz Construction Corp.

**ROBERT HAMMACK**  
Brasfield & Gorrie

**HENRY HEIER**  
Mechanical Contractors  
Association of New Orleans

**JOHN HUNTER**  
Steel Fabricators, Inc.

**JOHN KENT**  
Gables Construction, Inc.

**KYLE KENT**  
Kent Construction, Inc.

**SHAWN LEGE**  
Tulane University

**TODD LITTLETON**  
Precision Builders

**TREY POUNDS**  
Hensel Phelps

**KARL MEEKS**  
JPI

**RICHARD NELSON**  
Blair Design and Construction

**JAKE NEWMAN**  
American Campus Communities

**DR. KEITH PARKER**  
ULM School of Construction

**CHARLES POOLE**  
James Construction Group

**DAN POOLE**  
Boggs and Poole

**TOM RABB**  
Fluor

**KEITH ROBERTS**  
Roberts – Taylor Inc.

**DREW SCAHILL**  
Austin Commercial

**STEVE TERRILL**  
Louisiana AGC, Inc

**GARY THORNTON**  
Thornco Inc.

**ROBERT WARD**  
Cangelosi and Ward

**AMOS WARNER**  
Chicago Bridge & Iron

**THURMAN POTTS**  
Honorary Member

## SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ALUMNI SPEAKS AT 2008 ULM BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

Martha Richey, President of Richey Construction, Inc., and David Dumas, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Brown Builders Inc., both graduates of the School of Construction Management (SOCM), were speakers at the College of Business Administration Symposium. The symposium began Wednesday, October 15 and concluded Friday, October 17, 2008.

Both Martha Richey and David Dumas shared with students their experiences and insight on "Making Tough Choices: The Art of Decision Making," which was the theme of the 2008 Business Symposium.

In her presentation titled "Decision Making When It's Your Business," Martha Richey, a 1983 graduate of the SOCM, shared with students the decision making process in which she has been involved since she and her husband Ron — a 1989 ULM School of Construction Management graduate — started their own company. Some of the decision making processes Martha and her husband are constantly involved in include negotiating, scheduling, bidding on projects, and building relationships with clients. "It is a learning experience to work for yourself. Every decision you make is your responsibility," stated Richey.

David Dumas, a 1975 graduate of the SOCM, discussed "Decision Making in the Construction Industry." David stated that "making tough decisions is part of the daily operations." After working for over 30 years in the construction industry, David knows that decisions have a direct impact on company profits. David also gave advice to the students who attended this Business Symposium session about receiving help from others when needed in order to make smart decisions and to manage people. "Being able to adjust to every circumstance is important in the construction industry," stated Dumas.



From Left to Right: Martha Richey, Vanessa Doherty and Dr. Keith Parker



David Dumas (left) and Dr. Keith Parker

**Keep in  
Touch!**

**It is great  
to hear from  
you!**

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### **CLINT GRAHAM, '89**

Lincoln Builders of Ruston  
President  
Ruston, LA

"I currently have under construction a new Orthopedic and Sport Medicine Clinic in Monroe, LA, Hilton Homewood Suites Hotel in Shreveport, LA, and Marriot Courtyard in Bossier City, LA. In addition, I am the Senior Vice President of The Louisiana Associated General Contractors, and I am a member of YPO (Young Presidents Organization). Wife of 21 years is Kim and have 3 kids: daughters — Taylor (18 yrs), Mary Hollis (12 years) and son — Garrett (10 years)"

### **COREY GUERRERO, '08**

Fluor  
Project Controls Specialist  
Houston, TX

"I am currently working on the BP Alaska AF&G Renewal Program and previously worked temporarily on the Lion Oil Refinery Expansion Project."

### **JAMIE NORTON, '08**

Austin Commercial  
Office Engineer  
Dallas, TX

"I am currently on a publically-funded, LEED certified, college campus project with portions that have been put on hold, portions that have been deleted and a school board that has yet to make a decision as to what it is we are building. It has been a great learning experience for what processes must be achieved during a 'termination for convenience.' It has also given me enough time to further my knowledge with the LEED certification process. I became a LEED AP on December 6, 2008. "

### **DREW SCAHILL, '98**

Austin Commercial  
Project Manager  
Houston, TX

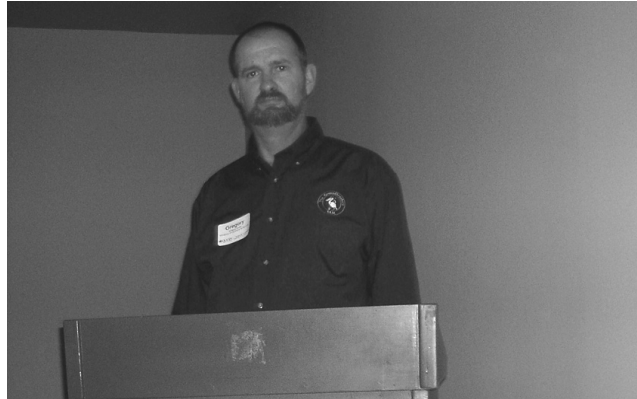
"I am currently working on a \$240 million dollar hospital project for Methodist Hospital that started in July 2008 and is scheduled for completion in January of 2011. The project consists of a 70-acre Greenfield site that currently has one six-story, 500,000-square foot 200-bed main hospital, one six-story, 170,000-square foot medical office building, and a one-story central utility plant that will service the hospital and medical office building."

## FACULTY AND STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE

In September 2008, three construction management professors along with students Brandon Brumley and Lindsey Eickman presented papers at the regional Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Conference held at the QUOIN office in Dallas, TX.

Professor Greg Smith – last year’s ASC National Teaching Award winner – discussed one of his approaches in provoking a “think outside the box” attitude in his students. His presentation, titled “Using Technology to Overcome Obstacles on the Jobsite,” described how technology can be used in solving some common on-the-jobsite problems.

Brandon and Lindsey along with Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry presented the results of research on “Peer Evaluation in an Active Learning Group Project.” Their research summarizes their latest attempts at accomplishing peer evaluations in the building of a scale-model reinforced concrete structure in the Concrete Structures and Form Design class.



Professor Greg Smith presenting his paper at the ASC Conference.



Lindsey Eickman and Brandon Brumley

### THANK YOU NOTE FROM ALUMNA

**Corey Guerrero, '08**

“I never got the chance to thank all of you for doing what you did for us as students and would like to do that now. If it were not for all of you, I would not be where I am today. I really enjoy my job! I have been given many compliments on my work and continue to amaze my supervisors, leaving them asking, “Are you sure you haven’t done this somewhere else before? You know all the right questions to ask and many good solutions to the problems.” You cannot imagine the calming feelings of confidence that comes over me when I am given a task and know how to do it already because of the quality education that I received from all of you in the ULM School of Construction Management! So, for all of this and much more, I just want to say “Thank you!”

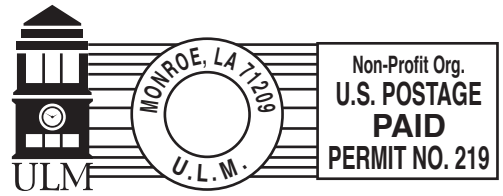
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Monroe, LA 71209-6205

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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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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