



GROUNDBREAKER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2000

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

Dear Groundbreaker Readers,

You will find in this *Groundbreaker* summaries of the major events that took place at the School of Construction in the 1999 fall semester, a list of the December 1999 graduates, and general news about the construction industry and its people.

Your feedback is very important to us. You can fill out the form that you will find on the last page of the *Groundbreaker*, to keep us informed about your latest news, and voice any comments, recommendations or ideas for the next *Groundbreaker*.

You can also check our Website, which will be regularly updated at <http://hurricane.net2.nlu.edu/~const/english.htm>. You will find there very useful information about the School of Construction curriculum, faculty members news, students' resumes, current events involving the school and other useful links.

As the editor of this issue, I particularly want to thank Dr. Parker, the officers of the construction Guild and the members of the Advisory Council for the time they took to help me collect information and documents to prepare this newsletter. I look forward to getting your feedback and starting work on the next issue of the *Groundbreaker*.

Vanessa Prevost, Editor

Dr. Greg Wilson, Director of the School of Construction, resigns.

The School of Construction was surprised this fall semester by the resignation of Dr. Greg Wilson. Wilson served as Director of the school for the past four years. His last official day as director was the last day of the fall academic term.

Dr. Wilson especially thanks the Advisory Council members for their financial and spiritual support. Dr. Wilson will stay involved with the ACCE from an industry standpoint, recruiting, and providing scholarships and summer jobs. We wish him well in his new job.

Dr. Parker will serve as the interim director while the national search for a new director is being conducted.

New Faculty Member joins the School of Construction

The School of Construction is glad to welcome its newest faculty member, Dr. David Manry. This semester Dr. Manry will be teaching two sections of architectural drafting, and one section of static and strength of materials. He will also be involved and serve as a research associate in the Energy Audit project (see details page 5).

Originally from Shreveport, Manry and his family traveled a lot before returning to Shreveport, where he graduated from Byrd High School. Dr. Manry received his Bachelor's degree in 1981 in Mechanical Engineering from Louisiana Tech.

His interest in the construction business started while working summertime and vacations in a supply house for construction industries. He gained his first experience while working for four years at PPG Industries. He first worked in a chemical plant in Lake Charles, La., as a project engineer and then in another PPG plant in Houston, Texas. He then gained more experience in Lake Charles, working as a consulting engineer at another chemical plant.

Dr. Manry went back to Louisiana Tech in 1986. While studying for his Master's degree, he worked as a consulting engineer for chemical plants and refineries around the Lake Charles area. He received his Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1993, and his Doctorate in Engineering in May 1999. He is registered as a Professional Engineer in the state of Louisiana.

From a family of six kids, he used to play the teacher when he was younger. "Already in high school, I was interested in teaching," Dr. Manry recalls. He taught some labs as a graduate assistant while studying at Tech. "I got a feel for what teachers had to do: make up experiments, teach labs, and of course, grade papers. I hope to grow as a teacher and help students on a personal basis. I intend to do more research into computer information technologies, and the other uses of computers in the industry."

ANNUAL CONTRACTORS' BANQUET

The School of Construction hosted its annual Contractors' Banquet on November 5, 1999. The event was successfully organized by the members of the Construction Guild and took place at the University Conference Center.

The banquet helped the Guild's students raise money to attend the National AGC Convention and Equipment exposition next March in Seattle.

During the dinner, door prizes were given away. A live auction and a silent auction took place. Rick Fisher, professional auctioneer, sold the items donated by local companies, which students collected beforehand. There were approximately 125 participants.



"On behalf of the ULM Construction Guild, I would like to thank everyone who helped support us this year. Whether it was by making a donation, buying auction

tickets, or just buying a banquet ticket, your effort was much appreciated. We also send special thanks to Mr. Joe Tannehill and Mr. John Hunter of Steel Fabricators; Mr. Fred Culpepper, Breck Construction; Greg Morgan; Derek Kennar; and Todd Polk for their extra effort. We were able to raise approximately \$3,000 to help us on our trip to the 2000 AGC national Convention in Seattle, Washington. I think the banquet was an overall success and I was very pleased with the turnout," said Trey Waller, President of the Construction Guild.

"It's a great time to be in construction"



Don Greenland III, Executive Vice President of Nabholz Construction, Conway, Ark., was invited as the guest speaker of the '99 ULM annual

Contractors' Banquet. Greenland graduated from ULM in 1983. He is now an active member of the Advisory Council. He is Certified Professional Estimator (CPE) and past national President of the American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE).

"My company has really benefited from the Northeast (ULM) program." Greenland said in his speech. "16 managers of Nabholz construction come from ULM. We believe in the program, we believe in the people that come from the program, we believe in the people that built the program. That's why we are huge supporters of the program. The ULM School of Construction is a recognized program with a high reputation. That's why I am so proud of saying I am a Northeast (ULM) graduate."

In his speech, Greenland talked about the trends in the construction industry. "The construction market today is booming. It is a great time to be in construction. It is clear that companies that have the capacities and resources will dominate."

Greenland sees three guarantees in the future: more speed in construction, more value, and higher quality. "The trend is toward more expanded services. People look for a contract that will include full services from contractors." There will be more government regulations, and this will lead to more partnerships.

Other predictions for the future of the construction industry are that half of the public sector will be design build by 2010. Greenland explains that the biggest change for the future will be in the work force: there will be fewer people and women and minorities will dominate. Because there will be less offers and more demands, construction professionals will be more valuable and will make more benefits. Training will become more and more important.

The impact of technologies on businesses will result in a speed thrill. The development of innovations and the Internet will change the way of working, scheduling, and communicating. However, Greenland said that computer softwares will not replace the knowledge of how to build a building.

"Construction is an old and honorable profession. We have it in our blood; that's why we like it so much!"

We thank Don Greenland for his participation and his contribution to the success of the annual Contractors' Banquet.

Check for more information and pictures on our Website !

<http://hurricane.net2.nlu.edu/~const/english.htm>

DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT AT ULM

The ULM School of Construction successfully hosted its first "Digger's Night Out", the nation-wide program focusing on underground utility damage prevention and safety education. The event took place October 13, 1999 on the seventh floor of the ULM Library.

This was a free safety awareness program, sponsored by public utilities companies, and geared toward foremen, operators and anyone who digs underground. "Public Utilities and Pipelines have a vested interest in ensuring that the excavating community is aware of the physical and financial dangers associated with underground lines," Dr. Keith Parker, Associate Professor at the ULM School of Construction, said. "By hosting this event on the ULM campus, the School of Construction established ULM as the center of excavation safety education in Northeast Louisiana."

Digger's Night Out's Master of Ceremonies was Roy McCaskill, network manager for BellSouth. The guest speakers were Mr. Vic Weston of Tri-State Road Boring, Inc., and Mr. David Frey of Louisiana One Call. They presented some aspects of the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law, passed in 1988 and last amended in 1999. An 8-minute safety film and the AGC America video were shown, providing recommendations and advice for diggers. Indeed, companies digging underground could get a fine up to \$25,000 if they don't call Louisiana One Call before actually starting their digging operations. The new law states that such companies have to call Louisiana One Call and allow a 48-hour waiting period for the utility companies to locate underground pipes, using colored sprays to identify them. In case anything should happen, companies are expected to report the incident as soon as possible.

141 people from 35 different companies attended the presentation. A buffet style dinner was served and door prizes were awarded during the presentation.

The ULM School of Construction wants to thank the Digger's Night Out sponsors for the success of the operation: ANR Pipeline, BellSouth, BE&K telecommunications, Columbia Gulf Transmission, Entergy, Koch Gateway Pipeline, Louisiana AGC, Louisiana Gas Service, Louisiana One Call, Ouachita Parish Joint Utility Council, Scott Equipment, Texas Eastern Transmission, Texas Gas Transmission, Time Warner, Trans LA Gas, Trunkline Company, and United Rentals. The School of Construction particularly thanks Vic Weston, David Frey, Steve Terrill from Louisiana AGC, and Roy McCaskill from BellSouth for their very good job at organizing the event.

The feedback from participating companies was so good that the School of Construction is planning on renewing the experience next year, and on establishing the Diggers Night Out as a yearly event at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP



From left to right: Foreground: Lawson Swearingen, Henry Heier, Greg Wilson.

Last October, Henry Heier presented ULM President Lawson L. Swearingen, Jr., with a check from the Contractors Educational Trust Fund, establishing a \$100,000 Endowed Professorship in Construction.

Henry Heier, who represented the Mechanical Contractors Association of Louisiana and the Louisiana Council of the National Electrical Contractors

association, as well as the Contractors Educational Trust Fund, made a short presentation during the biannual meeting of the Advisory Council for the School of Construction.

"We think developing scholars and people to work in all areas of construction is very important," Heier said. "We believe in working with students K through 12 all the way up to this level."

"It is very farsighted of Henry Heier and his group to put this money into education," ULM President Lawson L. Swearingen said. "I can't begin to describe how great an impact these Endowed Professorships and Chairs have on our University."

This Professorship will be used to promote mechanical and electrical specialties and to develop a specialized curriculum. During this year, the School of Construction's faculty members will meet with different contractors to further discuss the implementation of the electrical and mechanical options.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ULM and Steel Fabricators of Monroe



John Hunter is currently corporate vice president of Steel Fabricators of Monroe, Inc. He oversees sales and much of the business management of the company. Steel Fabricators serves the commercial, chemical and petro-chemical, and pulp and paper markets both nationally and internationally.

It has grown from a 2,400 square foot fabrication facility to its current size of over 112,000 square feet.

John Hunter graduated from ULM (then NLU) in 1973. "My degree in Construction from NLU has familiarized me with construction materials, techniques and methods, finance, accounting, personnel, and general business principles and law. My exposure to these items has allowed me a background to learn each of these areas that are vitally important to me daily in management of my company."

John was active in the Student AGC where he served as president and belonged to *Sigma Lambda Chi* Fraternity. "My advice for construction students today is to learn all you can from your construction classes, but do not discount the importance of the other classes. Students should meet as many people and get involved in as many activities or projects as possible and visit the local construction community to learn everything possible from the 'real world' of construction on a local level."

Born and reared in Franklin Parish, John Hunter is now married with two children, two stepsons, and three granddaughters. He spends most of his spare time on church committee work and other family activities. In addition, he is a member of the national education committee of the American Institute of Steel Construction, associate member of the Louisiana AGC, chairman of the state AGC associate member of the advisory council and, as such, on the board of directors of the La AGC.

"We at Steel Fab. are actively involved with the School of Construction activities, programs, and fund raising activities. Our future in the construction industry is directly related to what we put in to the education of our construction business leaders of tomorrow. We would like to challenge all of our alumni to get involved with the ULM construction program."

Steel Fabricators of Monroe, Inc., employs currently seven other ULM graduates:

Jane Brown, graduate of 1974; Kevin Fuller, graduate of 1981; Doug Amos, graduate of 1988; Jimmy Johnson, graduate of 1992; Joe Tannehill, graduate of 1997; Jeff Acremon, graduate of 1997; and Ben Baldwin, graduate of 1997

You can check Steel Fabricators of Monroe at <http://www.steelfab.com>

ELECTRICAL CLASS



The ULM School of Construction offered its 10th "Electrical Class" in the Fall semester of 1999. This continuing education class was taught by Dr. Keith Parker and dealt with the 1999 National Electrical Code.

The "Electrical Class" is aimed at industry people. It lasts 8 weeks and represents a total of 20 hours of night classes.

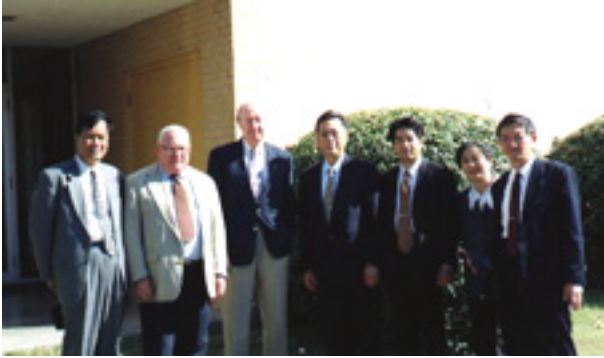
At the end of the program, participants receive a certificate of completion of the course and two CEUs (Continuing Education Units).

So far, this class has been offered on a yearly basis. Expectations are that it will be offered every other year in the future. Studies are on the way to identify other courses to be offered to industry people.

"This program is part of the School of Construction's responsibility of providing continuing education for the industry," Keith Parker said.

The Fall '99 class was made up of ten participants. From Angus Chemical: Gerald Brunson, Danny Collins, Paul Gore, Gary Griffith, Jessie W. McCarty, and C.M. McFee; Edward Dayton, City of West Monroe; Jimmy Knox, Davidson Petroleum; John R. Ruff, P.E., International Paper; and Chet L. Tidwell, Smurfit – Stone Container.

Chinese construction educators visited the ULM School of Construction



From left to right: Lin Zhiyan, Herb McCaskill, Dan Dupree, Shizhao Ding, Yang Qing, Zhu Yan, Bosen He.

A delegation of five construction educators from the People's Republic of China came to the ULM School of Construction October 5 and 6 to discuss the American accreditation process for construction-management programs.

The Chinese group met with Herbert McCaskill, president of the American Council for Construction Education – the national accreditation body for construction management programs – and Dan Dupree, executive vice-president of the ACCE. McCaskill, current associate professor at ULM, served as director for the School of Construction from 1987 to 1994.

There are currently approximately 200 construction management programs in China. The Chinese delegation members intend to use the ACCE accreditation procedure as a model to develop their own accreditation program. "If they apply the same criteria and standards for accreditation as we do, we will develop an agreement with them," McCaskill said. "We will then accept their graduates and they will accept ours."

Such an agreement already exists between the ACCE and the British accreditation body. "We want to get international," McCaskill said. The ACCE is currently developing agreements with Canada, Australia and now the People's Republic of China. The ULM construction degree has thus more chances to be internationally recognized.

The ULM (then NLU) School of Construction program was the first program to be accredited by the ACCE in 1976, and, so far, has always had a 100 percent placement of its graduates in the construction industry.

The delegation was composed of Professors: Ding Shizhao and Lin Zhiyan, Tongji University; He Bosen, Tianjin University, Zhu Yan, Tsinghua University; and Yang Qing, Northeast China University of Finance. The ULM School of Construction was the first program they visited. The Chinese delegation returned to China after visiting four other American Universities.

ENERGY AUDIT GRANT

The University of Louisiana at Monroe received a \$ 500,000 grant to put in place an "Energy Audit Program."

The objectives of this program are to provide the University of Louisiana at Monroe and the surrounding community with energy audits free of charge and to assist participants in implementing recommended energy conservation measures. Additionally, this program will develop future community leaders educated in the importance of energy education.

The "Energy Audit Program" will be housed in the ULM School of Construction. It started Sept. 1, 1999, and will run for three years.

The Program Director is Dr. Keith Parker, Associate Professor at the ULM School of Construction. The Associate Director is Dr. Beverly Flowers, Assistant Professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Department. Dr. Manry, Instructor at the School of Construction, will serve as research associate. The base program includes two graduate students and five undergraduates, who will gather energy-related information and be trained in audit procedures.

"ULM has a duty, to the people of the State of Louisiana, to operate as efficiently as possible," Dr. Parker said. "This energy audit program would identify areas where financial savings could be realized."

The primary targets of the program are buildings operated by ULM. The program will then extend to public and private buildings in Northeast Louisiana. Selection criteria will be determined in conjunction with the DNR Rebuild Louisiana program.

Program Director:	Dr. Keith Parker
Associate Director:	Dr. Beverly Flowers
Research Associate:	Dr. David Manry
Graduate Students:	Brian Barr Kathy York
Undergraduate Students:	Jay Brakefield Joe Ensminger Sarah Lowery Iris Nwokolo Perla Rivera

IN BRIEF

- **Scholarships**

The following students from the ULM School of Construction were awarded scholarships at the Louisiana AGC – Monroe district meeting.

Robert Hammack from Monroe:	J. Hilton Heard Memorial scholarship
Josh Kidd from Alexandria:	A. C. Breckenridge scholarship
Eric Deloach from Alexandria:	Don A. Baxter scholarship
Sammy Echols from Forest Hill:	John E. Baugh Memorial scholarship
Andre Camenzuli from New Orleans:	Bill Gilbert scholarship
Jamie Alexander from Monroe:	Hollis Graham Memorial scholarship

The following students were awarded the Northeast Louisiana Homebuilders scholarships:

Ben Clack from Rayville
Trey Waller from Minden
Connelly Luke from Houma
Joseph Stanley from Oak Grove

The following students were awarded the Dallas AGC scholarships:

J.J. Huckabay from Monroe, who is also the first recipient of the Thurman Potts scholarship
Ben Clack from Rayville
Robert Hammack from Monroe
Greg Morgan from Bastrop

- **Patrick Stracner**, graduate of the Fall semester '99, is working for **Breck Construction**. He is the Project Manager of the construction of the ULM new Airway Sciences/Computer Science building. The groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday, Jan. 14. Completion of the project is expected by June 2001.
- **Laurence P. Favalora**, President of Favalora Constructors, Inc. of Kenner, Louisiana received the professional designation of Certified Professional Constructor (CPC) in June. He is now one of 700 practitioners throughout the United States to be certified in a program developed by national construction trade and professional associations under the auspices of the American Institute of Constructors.
- **The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)** donated \$1,500 as a financial gift to the ULM School of Construction to help students who may fall short of funds. Sherri McMurray, president of the Shreveport–Bossier chapter said that NAWIC would like to start a chapter at ULM.
- **The Guild Members** transformed the School of Construction's old library into a new office. They donated over 300 books to the ULM Library last September. The new office will soon be equipped with computers and a direct phone line. Guild members thank the people who helped them raise money to allow them to work in better conditions and increase their efficiency. This year Guild's Officers are Trey Waller, President; Trent Livingston, Vice-President; Sarah Lowery, Secretary; and J.J. Huckabay, ABC President; Gabe Crawford, AGC President; and Connelly Luke, NHBA President.
- 16 students will attend **the National AGC Convention and Equipment exposition** in March in Seattle thanks to the money raised during the annual Contractors' Banquet.
- The School of Construction students participated in the construction management, and heavy highway **AGC regional competitions** which took place February 5, 2000, in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Hollis Bray served as advisor.

CONTACT US TO PLACE AN AD FOR YOUR COMPANY IN THE NEXT GROUNDBREAKER ISSUE!!!
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DECEMBER 1999 GRADUATES

Delcambre, Jott J.
Gore, Anna C.
Hannigan, Casey V.
Kidd, Joshua M.
Plauche, Steven K.
Powers, Ashley
Roberts, Jason B.
Stracner, Patrick
Tedeton, Marlin R.

GRADUATING SENIORS 2000 SPRING SEMESTER

YOU CAN CHECK THEIR RESUMES ON OUR WEBSITE

<http://hurricane.net2.nlu.edu/~const/english.htm>

Cooper, William A.
Crawford, Gabe
Crews, Jason Y.
Davis, Daniel W.
Foy, Scott
Hays, Brandon D.
Huckabay, J.J.
Johnson, Bradley D.
Livingston, Trent H.
Luke, Connelly M.
Mayo, John P.
Milton, Joseph M.
Moak, Jimmy E.
Reppond, Mitch
Sanford, James R.
Seiter, Charles A.
Sitton, Christopher T.
Smith, H. Jason
Waller, Samuel E.
Warren, Darren L.
Weems, Brian C.
Yates, Jarrod C.

ALUMNI NEWS FOR FELLOW ALUMNI

Keep in touch with former classmates and find out what other construction graduates are doing. Share your latest news and opinions with us! It's great to hear from you.

FILL OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 8 AND SEND IT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!