

## CONTENTS

- 2 DIRECTOR'S CORNER
- 3 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
- 4 FACULTY UPDATES
- 5 DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT
- 6 STUDENT NEWS
- 7 STUDENTS' DEER STAND
- 8 AGC GOLF TOURNAMENT
- 9 IAC
- 10 IN MEMORY OF JERRY BRADLEY
- 11 ALUMNI UPDATES
- 12 STARVING CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS
- 13 DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI
- 14 CORPORATE SPONSOR FORM
- 15 ALUMNI/INDIVIDUAL FORM



### School of Construction Management

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



## The R.D. Richardson Memorial Construction Materials Laboratory

Last spring semester, the family of R.D. Richardson made a \$50,000 donation to the School of Construction Management (SOCM) naming the materials laboratory "The R. D. Richardson Memorial Construction Materials Laboratory." Proceeds from this endowment will be used to support both students and laboratory activities. "This donation was given to the School of Construction Management in honor of R. D. Richardson and his legacy in the construction industry," stated Richard David Richardson, grandson of R. D. Richardson and 1998 graduate of the SOCM. "He grew up in construction and loved it. It was in his blood," stated Robert Beryl Richardson, grandson of R. D. Richardson and 1999 SOCM Alumnus.

R. D. Richardson was born in Chatham, LA on October 20, 1930. He completed grade school and later worked for the Louisiana Highway Department, Operating Engineers Local 406, and various highway and utility contractors, furthering his education in the highway and municipal construction industry.

On September 20, 1967, R. D. Richardson and his brother, A. H. Richardson, Jr., purchased a rubber-tired backhoe, a pickup truck, and a trailer and thus began D & J Construction Company, Inc., in West Monroe, LA, with R. D. Richardson as President and A. H. Richardson, Jr. as Secretary-Treasurer. The name D & J Construction Company, Inc. was formed by the initials of the co-founders Robert David Richardson and Almer H. Richardson, Jr. D stands for David and J stands for Jr.

On December 31, 1986, the two brothers sold D & J Construction Company, Inc. to Richard Richardson, R. D. Richardson's son, who had been with the company since the beginning.

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*"If it's progress, I am for it,"*  
– R. D. RICHARDSON

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Throughout his personal life and his career, R. D. Richardson exemplified the lifestyle of simple, but sincere, commitment to those things that matter for eternity. He was tirelessly devoted to his company, his family, his church, and his Lord. His lifetime of accomplishment and progress is the product of those few rock-solid commitments.

For over 40 years, D & J Construction Company, Inc. has been one of the leaders in asphalt paving in Louisiana and a recognized heavy-highway construction contractor.



**Monica Castro  
Editor**

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

## **THANK YOU Louisiana Licensed Contractors**

Through your license renewal donations, you have helped with student travel, equipment purchases, and building renovations. Your investment in the future leaders of our industry is something of which all of Louisiana can be proud.

### **YOU ARE TREMENDOUSLY APPRECIATED!**

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

**Dear Alumni and Friends,**



**Dr. Keith Parker**

This past year has been a very good one for the School of Construction Management. Our facility has undergone the first phase of a significant upgrade, the Richardson family has established the "R. D. Richardson Memorial Construction Materials Laboratory," the employment market has been outstanding, and enrollment has been at its highest in twenty years.

Dean Berry's efforts in securing university funding helped begin our facility upgrade campaign. We would like to thank him for taking a leadership role in this effort. In order to continue our upgrade, it will be necessary to rely on private contributions. IAC Chairman Larry Favalora has placed a letter to all friends and alumni in this newsletter. Please consider being part of this effort.

Additionally, an effort to have regular cookouts here at the school was started during the spring semester. We think this will be a great opportunity to build camaraderie and team work within our student body. Please see "Starving Construction Management Students" at the end of this newsletter.

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

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Gary Thornton, '79**  
Owner  
ThornCo, Inc.

Gary was born in Winnsboro, LA and after high school sports received scholarship to the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL). Early in the spring

of the second year a knee injury ended any hopes of playing collegiate football. Gary returned back to his home town and enrolled in the construction program at ULM. He knew that construction was in his blood from the early days of working small construction jobs with his dad, so it was only natural that Gary followed that path.

"ULM was more than a foundation for my career in construction, but also a foundation in life," stated Gary. He met his wife (Cindy Cyr, Dec. 79) of 28 years in Professor George Hutchinson's conceptual estimating class. They have become business partners as well as life partners and have two children, Michael (26), who is living in Japan and teaching English, and Ashley (17), a junior at Parkview Baptist in Baton Rouge. Upon graduating from ULM in December 1979, Gary moved to Houston, TX and joined the rank and file of Brown & Root, where he was a cost engineer on a Petro Chemical Project in Deer Park just outside of Houston. After completing that assignment, he was reassigned to Gonzales, LA as the chief cost engineer with a staff of six cost engineers on what was then one of Brown & Root's super projects, the Texaco Refinery expansion. But there was one thing missing in his business experience. He wanted his own construction company, but knew that an industrial type construction company would take millions of dollars and a lot of luck. One he had none of and the other only a little. He continued to keep up with ULM and several of his fellow alumni with an occasional phone call to Professor Hutchinson who remained on the ULM faculty.

One day in 1982, Professor Hutchinson called Gary to tell him that he had accepted a position with Tudor Construction Company as vice president, and he asked if he would be interested in a project manager position on the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries Campus in Baton Rouge, LA. Gary

knew that this was his opportunity to get into the commercial construction business, so he accepted the position. He remained there for four years, but his entrepreneurial spirit kept prompting him to get his building contractor's license and prompting him to go into business for himself.

Gary's longtime goal finally happened, and ThornCo was formed in 1996 as a specialty contractor. ThornCo's primary goal was simple: to develop a reputation of excellence among demanding general contractors and building owners by completing projects in a timely basis, at reasonable rates, while offering the highest quality available in the industry. Gary felt his clients deserved the highest quality workmanship and service available in the industry, and it was his goal to give time, attention and manpower needed in preserving a reputation of quality workmanship with a team of committed personnel.

ThornCo, Inc. is one of the top framing and drywall contractors within the southern region with four divisions within the company portfolio: ThornCo's metal wall panels and light-gage metal trusses, ThornCo's drywall, ThornCo's Stucco, and ThornCo's water management.

ThornCo's metal wall panels and light-gage metal trusses division handle complete engineering, fabrication, transportation, and erection of load bearing wall systems and light-gage metal trusses. This division has performed work as far north as

Myrtle Beach, North Carolina, east to Fort Myers, FL, west to Middleland, TX. International work includes the Marriott Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica where materials were containerized for exporting, and then upon delivery to the jobsite, crews were dispatched from the United States to complete the erection phase.

ThornCo's drywall division is proud of having many supervisory personnel with years of experience within the company. This core of experience and knowledge is invaluable in meeting the demands and expectations of the marketplace it serves.

ThornCo's plastering division is a full service stucco and plastering company working on both large and small projects throughout the southern region.

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*"ULM was more than a foundation for my career in construction, but also a foundation in life."*

---

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:  
kpark@ulm.***

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

*(Alumni Spotlight continued)*

ThornCo helps their clients transform their projects into an end product that encompasses all their ideas with the most up-to-date, state-of-the-art materials and applications on the market today.

ThornCo's water management division is the common tie to all other divisions. This division reviews plans, consults on plan details where water infiltration could occur, and most importantly assists with field inspections insuring the building envelope is water tight.

The goals that have been established by Gary are not that unusual. "It is simply to make sure that our clients are completely satisfied no matter what difficulties and problems occur," stated Gary.

### **Greg Smith receives National Teaching Award**



**Greg Smith**

Greg Smith, assistant professor of construction management at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, received the National Teaching Award at the 44th Annual Associated Schools of Construction Conference in Auburn, AL in April. This honor recognizes a faculty member's contribution to construction education, excellence in teaching and dedication to the construction profession. Smith was chosen as the winner in Region 5, which includes construction programs in Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. ASC Region 5 Director Richard Ryan said, "Greg is a strong representative for our region, with recognized dedication and ability. He is a great asset to his program and to his construction education." Smith has taught at ULM for the past five years. Of the award, Smith said, "It is a huge honor to receive this award, especially when you consider the knowledge and abilities of my colleagues." Congratulations, Mr. Smith!

### **TENURE & PROMOTION**



**Bobby Ensminger**

Dr. Bobby Ensminger was granted tenure and received promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in Fall 2007.

Congratulations,  
Dr. Ensminger!

## **FACULTY UPDATES**

February 15, 2008 Dr. June Bruyninckx, Dr. Keith Parker, Mr. C. William Cook, and Dr. David Manry attended the Home Expo 2008 in Monroe, LA

February 20-23, 2008 Dr. Parker, Dr. Manry, and Dr. Hollis Bray attended the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) meeting in Dallas, TX

March 2-5, 2008 Dr. Manry attended the MCAA Convention in Palm Springs, CA

March 12-16, 2008 Dr. Bruyninckx, attended the American Society of Interior Design National Conference in New Orleans, LA

March 26, 2008 Mr. C. Cook was part of the Architecture Review Board in Baton Rouge, LA

April 15, 2008 Dr. Manry and Dr. Bray attended the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics meeting in Sobie, FL

April 25, 2008 Dr. Parker and Dr. Manry attended the College of Business Annual Honors Banquet in Monroe, LA

May 2, 2008 Dr. Parker and Dr. Manry attended the Crawfish Boil Alumni Event in Alexandria, LA

May 31, 2008 Dr. Parkler attended the Crawfish Boil Alumni Event in Washington, D.C.



**Dr. Parker attended the Louisiana AGC's Shreveport monthly meeting on April, 1, 2008.**

From L-R: Front Row: Benji Dumas, Mike Turner, Dr. Keith Parker, Gary Ferguson, Mark Carver, Richard Harris, Mike Boggs, and Chuck Penn. Back Row: David Dumas, Hank Boggs, Richard Broussard, Ben Baldwin, Dan Poole.

# DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT

The eighth annual Digger's Night Out, presented by the School of Construction Management and the Ouachita Joint Utility Council, took place on April 3, 2008 in the Student Union Building (SUB) at ULM. Around 140 people from 30 companies and organizations attended this event to support digging safely.

Digger's Night Out gives contractors and excavators in the area an outlook on the liability and importance of why they should call before they dig. "Digger's Night Out" is a nationwide program that makes people aware of the risks of digging underground.

Dr. Keith Parker, Director of the ULM School of Construction Management, was the master of ceremonies and David Frey, Louisiana One Call Damage Prevention manager, was the guest speaker.

David Frey reminded the attendees of the importance of digging safely and gave some statistics on people who have been injured in the field. David Frey emphasized the importance of calling the toll-free number to reach Louisiana One Call to help excavators locate utility lines before digging. A short video with scenes showing excavation damages was presented at the Digger's Night Out with the main purpose of raising awareness of underground damage.

The School of Construction Management and the Ouachita Joint Utility Council would like to thank the 2008 Digger's Night Out sponsors for their contributions to this event. Special thanks to Atmos Energy, Comcast Cable, Entergy of Louisiana, GD Womack Trenching Inc., Gulf South Pipeline, JCP Management Inc., Louisiana AGC, Louisiana One Call, Scott Construction, Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co., and Vermeer MidSouth.



## REMEMBER

Call before you dig

811 or 1-800-272-3020

• Respect the Marks •

Wait 48 Hours • Dig Safely



## FACULTY PRESENT RESEARCH ON PEER EVALUATIONS

Drs. Hollis Bray and David Manry were one of eight representatives from the ULM College of Business Administration who made presentations at the 10th Annual Academic Conference of the Society of Business, Industry, and Economics (SOBIE) on April 15-18, 2008 at the Sandestin Resort in Destin, Florida.

SOBIE is a consortium of small and regional colleges and universities that promotes peer-reviewed research through this conference and its publication.

Their paper "Peer Evaluation in an Active Learning Group Project" centered on their solution to accomplishing peer evaluations in the building of

a scale-model reinforced concrete structure in the Concrete Structures and Form Design class.

In September 2007, the construction management professors along with students Brandon Brumley, Brandon Fryday, and Matthew Lee had presented a preliminary paper on the same subject at the regional Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) meeting held at the QUOIN office in Dallas.

Additionally, during University Week in January 2008, Drs. Bray and Manry, joined with finance professor Dr. Melissa Melancon to host a professional development session on peer evaluations for group projects.

## GUILD OFFICERS



Chris Cleveland  
President



Erik Stanley  
Vice-President



Jonathan Huey  
Treasurer

# STUDENT NEWS

## Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX)

Sigma Lambda Chi held its awards ceremony on April 4, 2008 at the home of alumnus Alan Bratton. Approximately 30 people attended the event. John Justice received awards for both the "Highest G. P. A." and the "Outstanding Student." Congratulations, John!



John Justice

### Fall 2008 SLX officers

Brandon Earl	President
Brandon Brumley	Vice President
Daren Richey	Pledge Trainer

## STUDENT COMPETITIONS

The following students participated in a competition in February 2008 at the QUOIN Chapter of Associated General Contractors (AGC). Professors Hollis Bray and Greg Smith were the faculty advisors for the teams.

### Heavy /Highway Team:

Brandon Brumley  
Lee Horstmann  
Matt Little  
Mitchell Robinson  
Michael Stutson  
Team Coach: Dr. Hollis Bray

### Commercial Team:

Lester Ayerdis  
Brad Coats  
Lindsey Eickman  
Chad Henson  
Joe Hutchinson  
John Justice  
Team Coach: Greg Smith

## Sigma Lambda Chi Spring 2008 Inductees



From Left to Right, Front Row: Gabriel Bass, Kevin Hendricks, Corey Guerrero, Derrick Pohl, Stuart McKeithen, and Brandon Brumley. Back Row: Chance Payne, Michael Davis, Brandon Earl, Brandon Fryday, Daren Richey, Cole Thompson, Aaron Vice, and Mark Herring.



Mike McKey, Vice President of the Ouachita Joint Utility Council, presents a check to Daren Richey.



From Left to Right: Commercial Team: Joe Hutchinson, Chad Henson, Brad Coats, Lester Ayerdis, Lindsey Eickman, and John Justice.

Lindsey Eickman was awarded 3rd place in the best presenter category in the Commercial Building Competition. Congratulations, Lindsey!

## DEER STAND BUILT BY STUDENTS FOR HOME EXPO 2008

The Home Expo 2008, sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Northeast Louisiana, allowed homebuilders, remodelers, decorators, residential designers, and mortgage bankers to show their services and products to potential builders and remodeling clients on February 15, 2008.

The School of Construction Management students were also part of the Home Expo 2008. The students built a deer stand that was to be raffled off at the culmination of the Home Expo 2008. The money collected was directed toward the School of Construction Management Guild's funds.

The following students were involved in building the deer stand: Cole Blackard, Chris Cleveland, Brandon Earl, William Escribano, Brandon Fryday, Severen Girod, Erik Stanley, and Jordan Stanley.



From Left to Right, Front Row: Dr. Keith Parker, Cole Blackard, Chris Cleveland, Daren Richey, and Dr. David Manry. Back Row: Jordan Stanley, Brandon Earl, Brandon Fryday, William Escribano, and Erik Stanley.

The School of Construction Management students would like to thank Paul Stephenson, Executive Officer of The Home Builder's Association, and Russell Moore Lumber Co. for their cooperation.

## LONGTIME MATALIN FAN CHANCE PAYNE MEETS PERSONAL HERO



Mary Matalin and Chance Payne

attend West Point. A few weeks later, she sent me an autographed picture saying 'To Chance Payne - Our nation's future, best hope and leadership. P.S. Go Army!'"

School of Construction Management senior Chance Payne finally had the chance to meet a personal hero, Mary Matalin, after she spoke at the Presidential Lyceum Series Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in Brown Auditorium.

Payne, also a ULM football player, spoke about his respect for the visiting luminary. "When I was in the fifth grade, my dad and I would listen to her national radio program. With the help of my dad, I sent her an e-mail talking about how I enjoyed listening to her show and strongly agreed with her conservative beliefs. My brother was a plebe (freshman) at West Point, and I desired to follow his footsteps and

## SOCM STUDENT AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

Construction Management student Vanessa Doherty received the Phyllis Kinnaman Memorial Scholarship from the American Institute of Constructors - Arkansas Chapter for the spring semester.

Vanessa competed against students from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, John Brown University and ULM for this award and received a plaque at the "Constructor for A Day" event sponsored by the AIC-Arkansas Chapter and held on March 6, 2008, in Little Rock, AR.

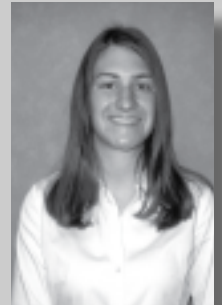
This scholarship competition required students to write a five-page report about current concerns of the construction industry. Vanessa's paper focused on the importance of underground facilities damage prevention.

"Underground damage prevention is a shared responsibility between many stakeholder groups," stated Vanessa. "As the construction industry strives to increase safety for their employees and the public in general, best practices in underground damage prevention should become of the utmost importance for everyone."

**Fill out and return the form on the last page or e-mail your news to [kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu) to have your news published in the next issue**

University of Louisiana at Monroe  
School of Construction Management  
700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540

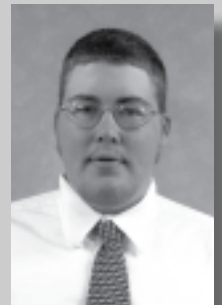
## Groundbreaker Newsletter GUILD OFFICERS



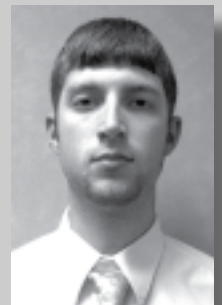
Lindsey Eickman  
AGC



Vanessa Doherty  
MCAA



William Escribano  
NAHB



Mitchell Robinson  
ABC

## **AGC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

*by Stephen Terrill  
(AGC Area Manager Monroe-Northwest Districts)*

The LAGC Monroe District held their 14th annual golf tournament on Monday, April 21, 2008. The Thurman Potts-AGC Scholarship Golf Tournament was held at Calvert Crossing Golf Club in Calhoun. A record crowd of 200 golfers were greeted with beautiful, golfing weather. This year's tournament was a sellout with the tournament filling up almost two full months before the event.

This annual event raises funds for the Thurman Potts-AGC Scholarship, which is the largest scholarship given each year to a ULM School of Construction Management student. Due to the overwhelming success of this tournament, two additional scholarships to be awarded to ULM School of Construction Management students have been established. To date, approximately \$40,000 in scholarship funds have been presented due to this tournament.

Dr. David Manry, a faculty member of the School of Construction Management, was one of the Golden Pelican sponsors (the tournament's highest sponsor level) who made possible the Thurman Potts Tournament.

## **WAL-MART CORPORATE OFFICE SPEAKS TO SOCM STUDENTS**



From left to right: Carl Crowe and Dr. Keith Parker

Carl Crowe, a 1985 graduate of the School of Construction Management, visited the University of Louisiana at Monroe on March 10, 2008 to give a presentation to the students in the auditorium of the School of Construction Management.

Carl Crowe shared with students some of his main responsibilities as a Director of Construction for Wal-Mart

as well as some of the current environmental aspects in the construction field. Additionally, Crowe discussed important interview and resume tips. Some of the interview tips he shared with students were to always keeping a positive attitude and to show interest to employers by asking questions. With regard to resumes, he reminded students to make them no longer than two pages.

Throughout his presentation, Carl Crowe emphasized the importance of treating people in the workplace with dignity and honesty. "Be humble and rely on people who can guide you to success," stated Crowe.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**Sept. 13**  
Shrimp Boil

**Oct. 15-17**  
College of Business Symposium

**Oct. 18**  
Homecoming

**Nov. 1**  
Chili Cook-off

**Dec. 13**  
Fall Commencement



## **2008 Football Schedule**

Aug. 30	at Auburn, AL
Sept. 6	at Little Rock, AR
Sept. 13	Alabama A&M at Monroe, LA
Sept. 20	at Tulane*
Oct. 4	Lafayette at Monroe, LA*
Oct. 11	Arkansas State at Jonesboro, AR*
Oct. 18	North Texas at Monroe, LA*
Oct. 25	Florida Atlantic at Monroe, LA*
Nov. 1	Troy at Monroe, LA*
Nov. 8	Middle TN at Murfreesboro, TN*
Nov. 15	Ole Miss at Oxford, MS
Nov. 22	at FIU*

\*Sun Belt Conference Games

**For more ULM athletics  
schedules, visit:**

**[www.ulmathletics.cstv.com](http://www.ulmathletics.cstv.com)**



# IAC

## INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) held its spring meeting on April 11, 2008, at the School of Construction Management building. Approximately 25 members of the IAC were present at this meeting.

Mr. Larry Favalora, Chairman of the IAC, introduced the meeting by discussing some of the main points highlighted at the previous IAC meeting held during the fall semester. Dr. Keith Parker followed the program by sharing with the members of the IAC some enrollment and retention figures for the School of Construction Management.

The IAC members voted to accept the following members: John Franklin – Sundown Services Inc., Drew Scahill – HOAR Construction, and Robert Ward — Cangelosi Ward General Contractors.

Dr. Ron Berry, Dean of the College of Business, also met with the members of the IAC to discuss some of the new fund-raising efforts of the College of Business Administration. Additionally, Dr. June Bruynincks, ULM Interior Design Associate Professor, updated the attendees on the Construction Management building renovation that started this summer of 2008.

One of the main goals of the IAC is to increase the Potts Fund to make it possible to improve the School of Construction Management. The IAC appreciates your contributions for this purpose.

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)



L-R, Front Row: David Dorsch, Chuck Mays, Jeff Acreman, Tom Rabb, Robert Ward, John Kent, Amos Warner, Dr. Keith Parker. Back Row: Keith Roberts, Mark Castellana, Drew Scahill, Larry Favalora, Gary Thornton, John Franklin, Robert Hammack.

## Delegation Attends Mechanical Contractors Convention

Construction management student Vanessa Doherty and faculty advisor Dr. David Manry attended the 119th Annual Convention of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) held in Palm Springs, CA from March 2 – 6. They joined approximately 200 other representatives from MCAA student chapters across the nation and Canada.

The convention allowed the ULM delegation to interact with both of the Louisiana MCAA affiliates who also happen to be strong supporters of the ULM School of Construction Management. The ULM delegation spent some time with mechanical

contractors from both the MCA of Shreveport-Bossier and the MCA of the Central Gulf Coast during the convention.

Besides attending educational sessions and networking with fellow students, the Annual Student Chapter Exhibit allowed students to meet mechanical contractors who are looking for interns and full-time employees.

Dr. David Manry is planning to take several SOCM students to both the MCAA student chapter summit in Omaha, NE on October 10-11, 2008 and the next annual convention of the MCAA, which will take place in Scottsdale, AZ on March 1-5, 2009.

## IN MEMORY OF JERRY BRADLEY



**Jerry Bradley**

Jerry Bradley joined the ULM (formerly NLU) faculty in 1967 and served the School of Construction Management in numerous capacities. He acted for several years as advisor to the student chapter of AGC, coordinated the many activities related to obtaining employment for graduates, provided advice and assistance in curriculum development and course scheduling, and maintained liaison between the School of Construction Management (previously known as the Department of Building Construction) and professional engineering organizations.

Jerry was born in Tulsa, OK. He attended Tulsa University, Notre Dame University, and Oklahoma University, where he was a graduate assistant and received the Bachelor and Master of Architectural Engineering.

"I have a lot of memories of Jerry Bradley and I must say; they are all good. He was an

The School of Construction Management (SOCM) was saddened by the loss of former faculty member, friend, and mentor, Jerrold F. Bradley, on February 26, 2008.

Jerry Bradley joined the ULM (formerly

extraordinary teacher with the "patience of Job". Mr. Bradley not only taught the engineering courses, but also took the time to set up our annual field trips. He loved his job and always had a smile on his face and spare time for any student. I remember him as one of the finest instructors I had at college, a true professional and mentor."

*Richard Nelson, '71, Alumnus of the SOCM.*

"Jerry Bradley is certainly at some level, a part of who I am today, and a part of the lives of many, many young men and women with which he interacted through his many years in the classroom. Jerry Bradley brought clarity into our lives, by reassuring us we had made the right choice, by pointing us toward professionalism, and by teaching us that our contribution to the construction industry was needed, was expected, was worthwhile, and demanded our best effort. He was dedicated, he was knowledgeable and he was personable. I am thankful for the time I spent with him and the lessons I learned from Jerry Bradley. May God bless his family at the time of his passing."

*Dr. Bobby Ensminger, '73, Alumnus and Associate Professor in the SOCM.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING GRADUATES

Jonathan Barnes  
Heath Barthol  
Brad Coats  
Christopher Collins  
Nick Connella  
Justin Cooper  
Christopher Emanuel  
Kevin Ellington  
James Folk, III  
Jonathan Gibbs  
Corey Guerrero  
Jaciell Guerrero  
Steven Hinton  
Lee Horstmann  
Drew Huffstickler

John Justice  
Timothy Kemp  
Daniel King  
Dale Langford  
Matthew Lee  
Donnie McDonald  
Jamie Norton  
Patrick Pearce  
Nam Pham  
Derick Pohl  
Adam Rambin  
Jarrod Wallace  
Barry Wilhite  
Jason Willhite  
Weston Williamson

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

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## Jeff Acreman, '97

Boardwalk Pipeline Partners  
Project Control Leader  
Homer, LA

## Brad A. Bolyard, '92

Excel Contractors Inc.  
Owner and CEO  
Williamsport, MD

"I am currently a partner with a commercial GC near Hagerstown, MD, about an hour outside the Washington DC area. Live just across the Potomac River in Martinsburg, WV."

## Ken Brazzel, '70

Swinerton Builders  
Project Executive  
Lahaine, HI

"I have just recently completed a 12 story Time Share for Marriott on Kaanapali Beach on Maui, and we are currently building another 10 story on the same site. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year."

## Heath Culp, '07

AECC, Inc.  
Project Manager  
Dallas, TX

"I am currently a project manager for over twenty to twenty-five projects, which is inclusive of residential, land developments, two hotels (Residence Inn and La Quinta Inn and Suites), and retail development (shopping centers)."

## Lane Fouts, '01

Austin Bridge and Reed  
Project Manager  
Shreveport, LA

## Chuck May, '03

Hensel Phelps Construction Co.  
Project Engineer  
Augusta, GA

## Brian Welch, '03

Southeast Construction  
Project Manager / Estimator  
West Monroe, LA.

"I work for a company that specializes in drywall, acoustical ceilings, and plaster."

## Mark West, '99

Integrated Construction, LLC  
President  
Flower Mound, TX

# ALUMNI EVENTS

The School of Construction Management faculty members and the ULM Alumni Association attended several alumni events during the Spring Semester.

On May 10, 2008 Dr. David Manry attended the Crawfish Boil Alumni Event in Atlanta, GA. On May 17-18 Dr. Keith Parker attended the Crawfish Boil Alumni Events in Dallas, TX and in Tyler, TX.



## Crawfish Boil in Dallas, TX

From L-R, Front Row: Mark Castellana, Matt Reitzell, Madison Flowers, Dr. Keith Parker, Stephanie Clausing, James Hewitt, Keith Roberts, and J. P. Pierce. Back Row: Cole Wisenor, Heath Culp, Luke Tyler, Charlie Paris, Jared Wisenor, Yancie Sullivan, and Adam Wyatt.



## Crawfish Boil in Atlanta, GA

From L-R: Betty Franklin, Dr. David Manry, and John Franklin.

**Groundbreaker  
Newsletter**



**Kelly Barkley**

*"I challenge graduates to support the future of graduates of the School of Construction Management with a donation for this cookout challenge."*

*(Kelly Barkley, '05)*



**Gary Barnhill**

*"Enjoy your time at school because after you start work you will realize, even with no money, your school days were the best time of your life and the friends you made will last a lifetime. To all my friends who I graduated with remember how it was? I challenge you to sponsor a starving students lunch or get your company to do it"*

*(Gary Barnhill, '98)*

# Starving Construction Management Students

What is "Starving Construction Students?" Remember when you were in school and money was really tight; when you may have skipped lunch because of a lack of money? Conversations with recent graduates led to an initiative to have cookouts on a regular basis for the construction students. The cookouts would not only feed our students, but provide an opportunity for entering students to get to know those already in the program. The funds to cover the cookouts would come from donations while the students themselves would do the cooking.



**Students and Kelly Barkley enjoying the cook out at the School of Construction Management building.**

During the spring semester, a donation from Kelly Barkley, '05, funded our first two "Starving Construction Students" events. Gary Barnhill, '98, got behind the event and sponsored the third one. The cost to sponsor a cookout is \$150. Several people can get together to sponsor one. Use the "Starving Construction Students" form below to be a sponsor.

Kelly has worked for Barnard Pipeline Incorporated for the last two years as a Bending Engineer. Kelly is currently working on a project for Exxon Mobile in Riffle, CO.

Gary started Barnhill Construction in May 2006 specializing in concrete construction. Gary is currently performing work in the greater Dallas area.

## Starving Construction Students Contribution Form

Sponsor(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "ULM Foundation/Construction"

**Send to:** Dr. Keith A. Parker  
ULM School of Construction Management  
700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540

# DEAR FELLOW ALUMNI

At the spring meeting of the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) held April 18, 2008, discussions were held about the renovation work that is being done this summer to the interior of the School of Construction Management office area. The work involves the removal of vinyl wall covering, preparation of the walls, painting of the walls and new carpet and vinyl base board. There was also discussion about replacement of countertops and some furniture. This area is used by the faculty. More importantly, construction companies that hire our graduates hold interviews in this area and we want this area to have a professional and current look.

A motion was made by the IAC to ask the alumni of the ULM/NLU School of Construction Management to make an annual contribution to the School of Construction Management. These funds would be used as the department needed them for equipment, furniture, etc. The director, Dr. Parker, would present a list of needs to the IAC during the fall and spring meetings and would provide a full accounting of these contributions annually.

We are requesting that you use the forms (alumni and/or corporate) included in this newsletter when sending in your contribution, your company's direct contribution, or your company's matching contribution. You can specify whether you want your contribution(s) to go to the Potts Fund where only the interest can be spent or to the Building Fund which can be accessed as the director and department need funding. The Potts Fund has a principal balance of approximately \$130,000. It is a goal to get this fund to \$1,000,000 within the next several years. At a 4% rate of return that would produce \$40,000 that the department could spend each year. Any expenditure from the Potts Fund must be approved by a motion of the IAC.

Remember, these contributions are for improvements to the facility and for equipment needs of the department. The State is funding less for public universities and the money needed to enhance this program is going to have to come from the private sector.

Every graduate of this program has had the opportunity to make a very good living from their education earned from this program. It is now time to give back to the School of Construction Management. We are asking you for a minimum contribution of \$200 annually but will accept any amount, larger or smaller, that you wish to contribute. All contributions are tax deductible and the people in charge will be good stewards of your contributions.

Along with Dr. Parker, the faculty, and students, I thank you in advance for your contributions.

Sincerely,

**Laurence P. Favalora, Chairman**  
ULM School of Construction Management Industry Advisory Council



Laurence Favalora  
Chairman

# THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

## CORPORATE SPONSOR CONTRIBUTION FORM

Corporation's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar year: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation is requested to be deposited in the following account:

\_\_\_\_\_

Potts Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to-ULM FOUNDATION/POTTS FUND

Construction Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to-ULM FOUNDATION/CONSTRUCTION

Your contribution to the POTTS FUND will go to increase the principal amount in the fund. Only the income from the investment of the principal can be spent with Industry Advisory Council approval. Your contribution to the CONSTRUCTION FUND will be used by the Director of the School of Construction Management with Industry Advisory Council oversight of the spending.

**Mail your check and this form to: Dr. Keith Parker  
University of Louisiana  
School of Construction Management  
700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540**

THANK YOU in advance for your investment in the future of this program and  
the Construction Industry

# THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

## ALUMNI / INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum amount suggested \$200.00

Calendar year: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation is requested to be deposited in the following account:

\_\_\_\_\_

Potts Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to -ULM FOUNDATION/POTTS FUND

Construction Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to-ULM FOUNDATION/CONSTRUCTION

Your contribution to the POTTS FUND will go to increase the principal amount in the fund. Only the income from the investment of the principal can be spent with Industry Advisory Council approval. Your contribution to the CONSTRUCTION FUND will be used by the Director of the School of Construction Management with Industry Advisory Council oversight of the spending.

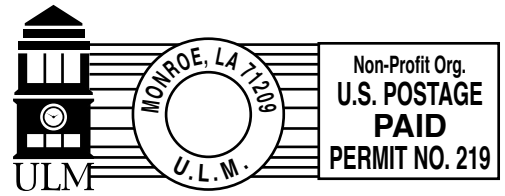
**Mail your check and this form to: Dr. Keith Parker  
University of Louisiana  
School of Construction Management  
700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-0540**

THANK YOU in advance for your investment in the future of this program and the Construction Industry.



**University of Louisiana at Monroe**  
School of Construction Management  
700 University Avenue  
Monroe, LA 71209-6205

*A member of the University of Louisiana System • AA/EOE*



## 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



