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Construction Management*

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and Friends of the ULM School  
of Construction Management

## COFER NAMED PRESIDENT AT MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

**T**he Missouri State Board of Governors recently appointed ULM President James Cofer the new president of Missouri State University in Springfield.

Cofer said, "Deborah and I will forever treasure our work and our lives spent at ULM. The support of our university family and greater community paved the way for incredible progress at this institution. Thank you for this extraordinary journey; it will always remain with us as we continue our commitment to higher education."

University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett commended Dr. Cofer and First Lady Deborah for their vision.

ULM has been fortunate to have Dr. Cofer's leadership for the last eight years, as the university has flourished with Jim and Deborah. We wish them much success at Missouri State University," Moffett said.

Citing his forward-thinking support of new academic programs, faculty

member Jessica Dolecheck, department head of Health Studies, called Cofer a "visionary."

"Dr. Cofer has been a progressive leader of this institution," she said. "He supported so many new academic initiatives during his tenure, including the Bachelor of Health Science in Health Studies. He looked to the future and incorporated cutting-edge programs that not only benefited faculty, but students as well. We wish him the very best."

President Cofer will remain at ULM until July 30 to ensure a smooth transition. The UL System Board of Supervisors will direct the presidential search.

For additional information regarding ULM's transformation under Dr. Cofer's leadership, visit: [www.ulm.edu/president/bio.html](http://www.ulm.edu/president/bio.html)



President Cofer

## CONSTRUCTION STUDENT ELECTED HOMECOMING QUEEN!

**ULM** construction students have always had the reputation of being a tough and rowdy crowd...but no more! History was made when our very own Lindsey Eickman was elected as the 2009 ULM Homecoming Queen. Lindsey, a senior from Garland, Texas, was crowned at a PEP Rally and proudly represented the School of Construction Management at all Homecoming events. Lindsey will now have to alternate between wearing her hard hat and her crown!



Lindsey Eickman and Seth Hall

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Dr. Keith Parker

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the construction industry continues to face difficult times, the School of Construction Management continues to prosper. Thanks to alumni and friends we continue to upgrade our facilities and plan for the future.

We would like to wish Dr. Cofer and his wife Deborah success in their new roles as President and First Lady of Missouri State University. When Dr. Cofer first came to ULM, the construction management alumni made a concerted effort to demonstrate the value of the School of Construction Management to the future of ULM. As the search for the next ULM president gets underway, we will ask our alumni and friends to once again come together in support of our program.

For the first time since becoming part of the College of Business Administration (CBA), two of our graduating seniors were selected as part of the four "Outstanding Graduates" in the CBA. Lindsey Eickman was selected for the "Outstanding Scholar Award" and Vanessa Doherty was selected for the "Award of Commendation."

Our "Starving Construction Students" program has been a big hit with our student body. This year's graduating class was the first group to really enjoy the benefits of the program. I would like to thank all the sponsors of the program to date and to encourage those who have graduated recently to continue the success of the program by becoming sponsors themselves.

### Keith Parker

Director, ULM School of Construction Management

## VANESSA DOHERTY TO LEAVE SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Twelve years ago, the School of Construction Management (SOCM) hired a public relations graduate assistant to help develop a modern website and newsletter and to help with recruiting efforts. She did such an outstanding job that after receiving her Master's she was offered a fulltime position as the public relations coordinator for the SOCM. After several years in that position, others noticed her quality of work and she was hired by the university to oversee university publications. Although no longer employed directly by the SOCM she still took care of the website and the newsletter and continued an active relationship with the program.

Along the way she married Dr. Mark Doherty and had two children. One day she appeared in my office and asked me to evaluate her transcripts for admission into the Construction Management program. After being admitted she became one of the most outstanding student leaders this program has had.

This will be her last time to be the "Editor of the Groundbreaker." She has now graduated with honors and is headed into a new career with Walt Disney Imagineering. While we will miss working with her here at ULM, we will continue to ask great things of her as an alumnus.

Congratulations Vanessa!



Vanessa Doherty, Dr. Keith Parker and Lindsey Eickman at the CBA Honors Banquet

# ADOPT A PROFESSOR!!

## College of Business Administration Launches Faculty Fellowship Program

**F**aculty in the ULM College of Business Administration have a long history of being dedicated to educational excellence. They are well-known scholars, caring mentors, distinguished role models, and challenging classroom instructors. The CBA Faculty Fellowship Program was designed to recognize and support the ongoing and substantial excellence of these outstanding faculty members, including the faculty at the School of Construction Management.

The program was established to receive tax-deductible private gifts through the ULM Foundation. Funds generated through this program will be used by faculty to support travel, professional development, research, and other educational-related purposes. Alumni and friends who support the program at a giving level of \$2,000 per year for a three year period have the ability to name a Faculty Fellowship for the three-year time period. This program provides a great opportunity to support our outstanding faculty and allows supporters to honor and recognize a family member, former professor, company, or other chosen individual or cause.

The School of Construction Management would like to thank three members of the Industry Advisory Council for their recent financial contribution and commitment to the CBA Faculty Fellowship Program.

They are:

**Mark Castellana ('77), ACCEDO, Inc**  
**Kyle Kent ('92), Kent Construction**  
**Keith Roberts ('74), Roberts-Taylor, Inc.**

"Keith Roberts and I got involved in the CBA Fellowship Program partially to supplement funding that had been cut for budget reasons, and also to honor some of the Faculty that had a big influence on our development and careers," Castellana said.

"I chose to honor Dr. Ball, who was also my faculty advisor when I transferred to then-NLU as a second semester Sophomore from the University of Maryland," Castellana continued. "Dr. Ball was a role model, and inspiration and a constant example of what you could do and what you could overcome. They tell us that you learn more about someone by how they handle adversity as apposed to how they handle good times. I continue to use the knowledge and skills that I obtained at ULM to this day, some 33 years after graduating. I think new graduates would be stunned to know how often some very basic skills can save you not only time and money but also your career, your business or even the ultimate, your life or the life of someone on your team."

For more information about the Faculty Fellowship Program, please contact Dr. Ron Berry, College of Business Administration Dean at 318-342-1100 or via e-mail [rberry@ulm.edu](mailto:rberry@ulm.edu)

## FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**D**r. David Manry and Dr. Hollis Bray presented a refereed paper entitled "Peer Evaluation Experiences" at the 46th International Conference of the Associated Schools of Construction in Boston, MA, April 2010.

Dr. David Manry and Dr. Hollis Bray attended the Midyear meeting of the American Council for Construction Education in Albuquerque, NM.

Dr. Hollis Bray is currently serving in the American Council for Construction Education. He is on the Board of Trustees and is a member of the Development, Finance, and Training committees. He also serves on the Council of Chairs Task Force.

In October 2009, Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry served on the ACCE reaccreditation team that visited the Construction Management program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Dr. Keith Parker attended the 2010 National AGC Convention, March 17-19 in Orlando, FL.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Todd Roberts, '82**  
ERS, Inc.  
Founder/President

Building two drainage structures off of the side of a mountain sounds like routine business for a heavy/civil construction firm. But when the jobsite is located in an environmentally sensitive area hundreds of miles away from the nearest signs of civilization it becomes a whole different story.

"Access to this project in Big Bend National Park was impossible," Todd Roberts, President of ERS, Inc. recalls. "We had to build a small tent city to live in, and provide our own power, water and food. Putting concrete to "sleep" while we hauled it 100 miles and "waking" it up at the right time so we could place and still be in compliance was very tricky. A deep water well was the only source of water for moisture control of backfill. And a five-hour drive for the testing company and survey party proved to be a very unpleasant task."

But the employees of the award-winning company, founded in 1992, were up to the challenge. "All said and done, this was a great project with nice profit and we are ready for another to bid!" Todd said.

Born and raised in Winnfield, La., Todd has more than 27 years of experience in heavy/civil construction and understands the importance of surrounding yourself with the best field and office personnel you can find. "This company could not have been successful without my partner, Michael Holder," Todd points out.

While his older brother became an architect, Todd decided that a degree in Construction from ULM -NLU at the time- would give him a more challenging and exciting curriculum mix. "ULM had one of the most respected and nationally recognized programs," he said. "There is no doubt that I got the best education at ULM!"

Very active in the construction industry, Todd is currently serving as National Committee Chair for AGC of America to the Natural



**Left to right: Robyn Roberts, Todd Roberts, Michael Holder and Delores Holder**

Resources Conservation Service; Board of Directors for AGC of America; Board of Directors for Mississippi Valley Branch Chapter AGC (past president), and a 2010 Inductee to "Consulting Contractors' Council of America."

Todd and two other ULM construction graduates, Russell Stallings and Jeff Newsome, recently formed The NLU Group, LLC., a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business that performs set aside work for the federal government in the heavy/civil and building construction arenas.

Todd is married to the former Robyn Abbott ('85 ULM alum and cheerleader) and they have three children, Kris, 18, Anna Rachel, 12, and Russell, 10.

*"ULM had one of the most respected and nationally recognized programs...There is no doubt that I got the best education at ULM!"*

## ERS, Inc.

Founded in 1992, ERS, Inc., specializes in clearing, site preparation, paving, riprap, concrete construction, retaining walls, soil nailing, erosion control, channel construction, canal rehabilitation, fabric formed concrete, pile driving, earthwork, drainage structures and disaster cleanup. The company received the following awards: 2009 Small Business Contractor of the Year Award (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture); 2005 Golden Shovel Award for Construction (Harris County Flood Control District); 1999 Outstanding Achievement Award (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - for Black Creek Bank Stabilization).

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!

# SIGMA LAMBDA CHI (SLX)



## Spring 2010 Inductees

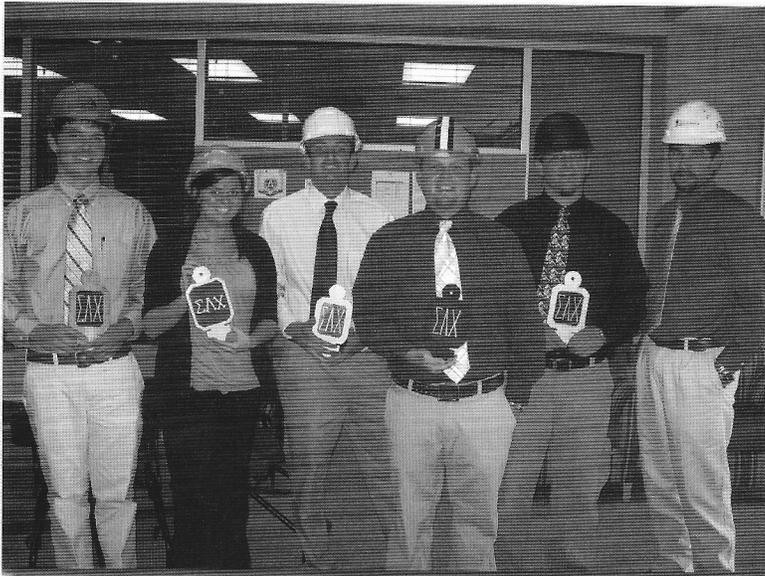
Sigma Lambda Chi, the Construction Honor Society that offers students the opportunity to be recognized locally and internationally for their academic accomplishments is proud to present its latest members: Scott Lavoie, Lucas Meche, Matthew Morris, Helen Portman, Adam Shirley, and Andy Sturdivant. The Faculty Advisor for SLX is Dr. Bobby Ensminger.

## The Spring 2010 SLX Officers were:

**PRESIDENT:** Clay Robinson

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Chan Battaglia

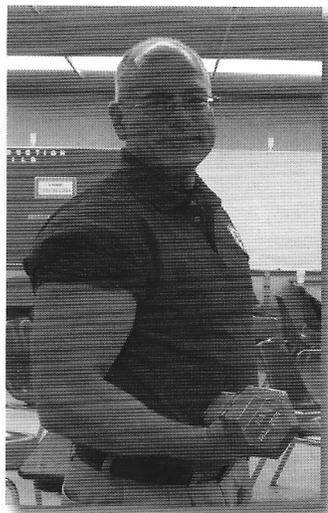
**PLEDGE TRAINER:** Lindsey Eickman



From left to right: Adam Shirley, Helen Portman, Matthew Morris, Andy Sturdivant, Scott Lavoie, and Lucas Meche.

## Spring 2010 SLX Awards:

Vanessa Doherty was the recipient of both "Highest GPA" and "Outstanding Graduate" awards.



## OUTSTANDING CONSTRUCTION PROFESSOR

Sigma Lambda Chi selected Dr. Hollis Bray as Outstanding Construction Professor (Fall 2009) and presented him with an engraved and personalized dumbbell in recognition of his accomplishments inside and outside the classroom! Dr. Bray represented the SOCM again this year at the annual ULM Intramural Benchpress competition where he benchpressed 315 lbs and tied for 2nd place.

Dr. Hollis Bray



Vanessa Doherty



# Habitat for Humanity® of Ouachita

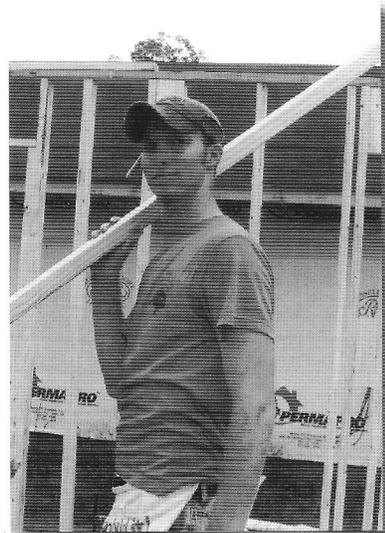
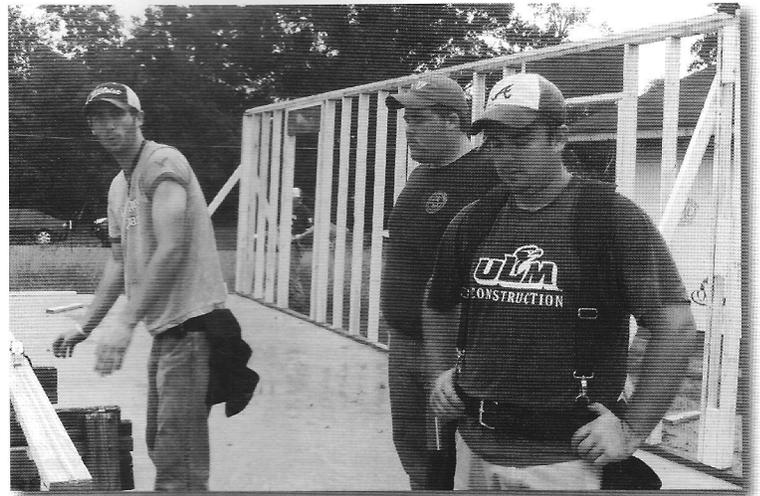
## Guild Community Service Habitat for Humanity

This year, the Guild selected Habitat For Humanity as their community service projects. The student volunteers met several times to lend a hand on Ouachita Habitat for Humanity projects and get additional field experience.



“Measure twice and cut once!”

Right: Chad Henson concentrates on the task at hand, under the close supervision of Clay Robinson and Will Escribano.



Left: Tyler McLemore strikes a pose before joining the group for some real teamwork....

## BEACH GIFT CONTINUES CONSTRUCTION BUILDING UPGRADES

Thanks to a generous donation from Don and Fran Beach and matching funds from the university, major upgrades have been made to the construction building. The student lobby has been completely redone with new furniture and tables, a handicap ramp has been installed at the south side entrance and Studio 100 has new carpet, chairs, counters, and paint.



## CONTRACTOR'S BANQUET

The 2009 Annual Contractor's Banquet was held on October 29, 2009 at the Anna Gray Noe Alumni Center with about 190 people in attendance. The banquet is the main fundraiser for the Guild and proceeds from the event are used to support activities of the Guild. This year, thanks to the generous donations and support from alumni and local construction industry the Guild raised about \$6,500. A special thanks goes to Larry Favalora, President of Favalora Constructors, Inc., for donating a Fishing Trip for four as the main auction item.

### THE 2009/2010 GUILD OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT  
Vanessa Doherty

VICE PRESIDENT  
Tyler McLemore

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
Lindsey Eickman

AGC PRESIDENT  
Andrew Barber

ABC PRESIDENT  
Clay Robinson

MCAA PRESIDENT  
Landon Fleming

NAHB PRESIDENT  
Erik Stanley

### BANQUET TABLE SPONSORS

ACCEDO/Roberts - Taylor  
Blazer Construction  
Cangelosi Ward  
Cory Maher  
FitzGerald's Contractors  
Fluor  
Holyfield Construction  
Ideal Construction  
Jott Delcambre Enterprises  
Kiewit  
Lincoln Builders  
Maxwell Hardware & Lumber Co.  
MCAA New Orleans  
McInnis Brothers Construction  
Nelson Builders  
Dr. Keith Parker  
RCH Engineering  
Steel Fabricators  
The R Group  
ThornCo Inc.  
Tommy Semmes Jr. Surveying Co.  
Trenchless Methods Inc.  
Walt Disney Imagineering

### BANQUET DONATIONS FROM:

ACME Brick  
Austin Commercial  
Cajun Art by Melissa  
Construction Bolts  
Hookin Bull  
"It's Permanent"  
Cosmetic Center  
Kovac Construction  
La Boutique  
Lincoln Builders  
MetLife  
Rain Salon and Day Spa  
Russell-Moore Lumber Inc.  
Salon Couture  
Samurai  
Shananigans  
Robert E. Spatafore-Family Dentistry  
Tom Sanders Building Mart  
T.P. Outdoors  
Victoria Secret

## STUDENTS ATTEND AGC CONVENTION AND MEET WITH WALT DISNEY IMAGINEER JACK BLITCH

Thanks partly to the funds raised at the Contractor's Banquet, six students were able to attend the National AGC Convention held March 17-19 in Orlando, Florida. The students had the opportunity to attend general convention sessions, as well as resumes-building and mentorship sessions developed for students as part of the AGC Campus program.

The students also had the honor to meet with ULM SOCM alumnus Jack Blitch ('71), Vice President of Walt Disney Imagineering - Florida.

"It was such a great opportunity to meet with Mr. Blitch," Ben Waldrop said. "It was very exciting and inspiring to hear about his career and to learn more about Walt Disney's history and their unique way of building Magic."



Left To Right:  
**Dr. Keith Parker,**  
**Amelia Mixon,**  
**Ben Waldrop,**  
**Andrew Barber,**  
**Dolph Minard,**  
**Vanessa Doherty,**  
**Tyler McLemore,**  
**and Jack Blitch.**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

### FALL 2009

Jordan Alford  
 Lester Ayerdis  
 Brandon Brumley  
 Cody Carter  
 John Paul Fontenot  
 Nick Harris  
 Ashton Hines  
 Kyle Hines  
 Christopher Jackson  
 Eugene Ledet, III  
 Matthew Little  
 Justin Marsh  
 Jeremy Newsom  
 Joseph Shipley  
 Michael Tyson, II  
 Justin Waller  
 Randall Windham

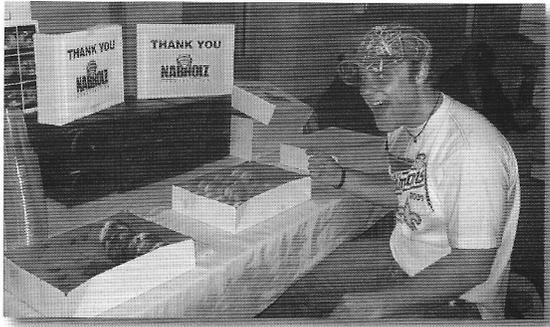
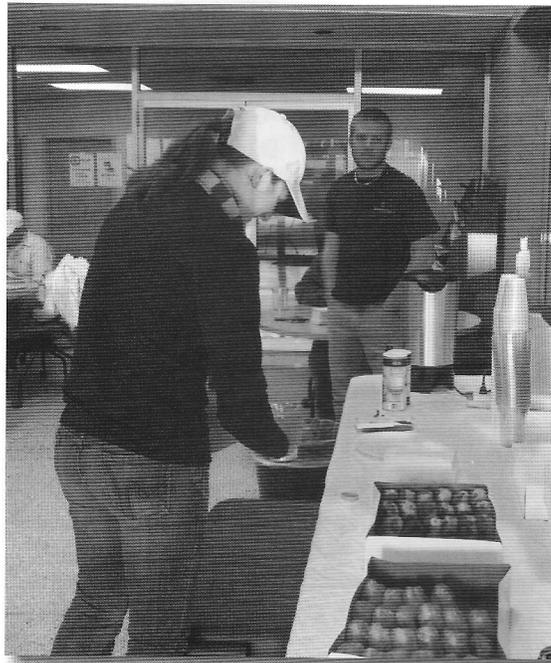
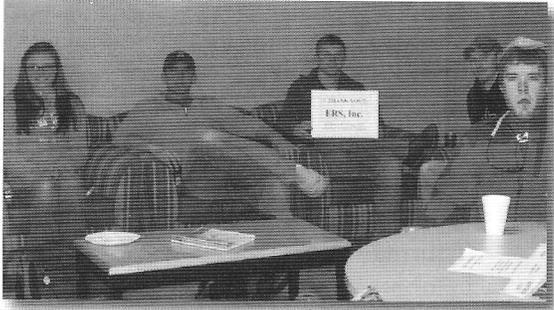
### SPRING 2010

Chan Battaglia	Matthew Hattaway
Kristopher Beall	Wade Hennessy
Jason Bishop	Cole Johnson
DeKendrick Campbell	Andrew Jones
Jeff Chandler	Matthew Korrodi
Matthew Clement	Larry Nguyen
Christopher Cleveland	Gregory Parks
John Cummings	Matthew Pittman
Jeremy Dilmore	Clay Robinson
Vanessa Doherty	Mitchell Robinson
Jesse Dunn, Jr.	Nicholas Russ
Samuel Edwards	Joseph Savoie
Lindsey Eickman	Stephen Shields
William Escribano	Cole Thompson
Jeremy Gray	Derrick Waggoner
Rice Gregory, IV	Cory Wright
Joseph Handy	

Check out our students and alumni resumes at [www.ulm.edu/construction](http://www.ulm.edu/construction)

# STARVING CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS PROGRAM GOING STRONG!

Thank you for your contributions! This semester's sponsors included ERS, Inc., and Nabholz Construction. Please contact Dr. Keith Parker if you or your company are interested in sponsoring a "Starving Construction Student" event.



## SOCM STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE AT ASC REGION V COMPETITION

Lindsey Eickman, a construction management senior and member of the Commercial Construction Competition team at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, won first place in Commercial Building Best Presenters category at the TEXO competition on Feb. 15 in Dallas, TX.

The competition was a team effort and Eickman, of Garland, Texas, was recognized as having the most outstanding presentation skills of all participants. The team was asked to create a fictional company and assigned each person a role. Each member then presented part of the team's bid proposal for a \$5 million monastery in Arlington, TX.

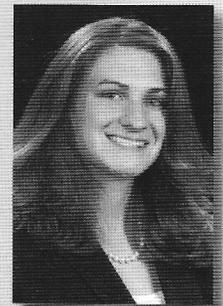
"This competition gives the students a chance to work in a simulated professional situation," said Greg Smith, ULM's constructor in residence and the team's coach. "The team makes a presentation to a panel of judges to convince the judges that their 'company' would be best suited to perform the work for them."

"It was a huge honor to be chosen as the best presenter among the 71 other competitors from all over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana," Eickman said. "I was able to present so well because I was backed by an amazing team that worked together to do our best."

The Commercial Competition Team, coached by Greg Smith, included: Andrew Barber, Chan Battaglia, Matt Boyter, Matt Broom, Vanessa Doherty, Lindsey Eickman, and Chad Henson.

The Heavy Highway Competition Team, coached by Dr. Hollis Bray, included: Fred Baskind, Chris Cleveland, John Paul Johnston, Mitchell Robinson, Stephen Shields and Ben Waldrop.

The Design/Build Competition Team, coached by Bill Cook, included: John Cummings, Holten Elmore, Matt Korrodi, Amelia Mixon, Mallory Murphy, and Jeremy Reed.



Lindsey Eickman

## IAC MEETING

The Industry Advisory Council, chaired by Larry Favalora, held its Spring meeting on April 16 at the SOCM building. The Council met with the SOCM faculty and students, as well as with Dr. Ron Berry, Dean of the College of Business Administration. In attendance were:

**Jeff Acreman**  
**Mark Castellana**  
**David Dorsch**  
**Collin Dunn**  
**David Dumas**  
**Laurence Favalora**  
**Robert Hammack**  
**John Hunter**  
**Kyle Kent**

**Richard Nelson**  
**Trey Pounds**  
**Robert Beryl Richardson**  
**Keith Roberts**  
**Drew Scahill**  
**Steve Terrill**  
**Gary Thornton**  
**Thurman Potts**  
**Robert Ward**

The following new members were nominated and voted in the Council

**Ben Baldwin – McInnis Brothers**  
**Johnathan Kaufman – City of West Monroe**  
**Patrick Stracner – Pohlman and Wilbanks**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Industry Advisory Council, please contact Dr. Keith Parker at [kparker@ulm.edu](mailto:kparker@ulm.edu)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**Jason Deal, '04**  
 President/Owner, Deal Construction, LLC,  
 Geismar, LA

"I am a commercial concrete contractor in Baton Rouge, LA. My company does concrete foundations, walls, paving and most anything associated with concrete. Current and recent projects include: Zachary Early Learning Center, CapitalOne Bank, New Fieldhouse for Plaquemine High School, Burbank Dog Park, and the Northgate Retail Center."

**Clint Graham, '89**  
 President, Lincoln  
 Builders, Ruston, LA.

Clint Graham was recently installed this year as President of the Louisiana Associated General Contractors, Inc., a statewide construction trade association



Clint Graham

headquartered in Baton Rouge comprising nearly 800 construction businesses. Clint Graham has been with Lincoln Builders since 1989. Lincoln Builders, Inc. is a full-service general contracting, construction management, and design/build firm headquartered in Ruston, Louisiana with regional operations in Ruston, Louisiana, Fort Worth, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Lincoln's diverse experience includes educational, health care, religious, institutional, commercial and industrial. Established in 1962 with a vision to build a respected contracting firm committed to superior client service, Lincoln Builders today holds to that vision by remaining firmly rooted in the values that make us strong – honesty, excellence, fairness and integrity. Graham is actively involved in the Louisiana AGC, having served on the board and various committees. In addition, he is also a member of the



Young Presidents' Organization. He has been married to Kim for 23 years and has three children.

**Chad Holloway, '03**

Project Manager/Foreman, Peck Construction, Farmerville, LA.

Chad Holloway plans and administers activities on construction sites. Many of these projects have been sewer treatment and water plants in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. "Since graduation, I have gotten married to my lovely wife Jennifer in 2007, and we have one boy, Ashton, who is a year and a half."

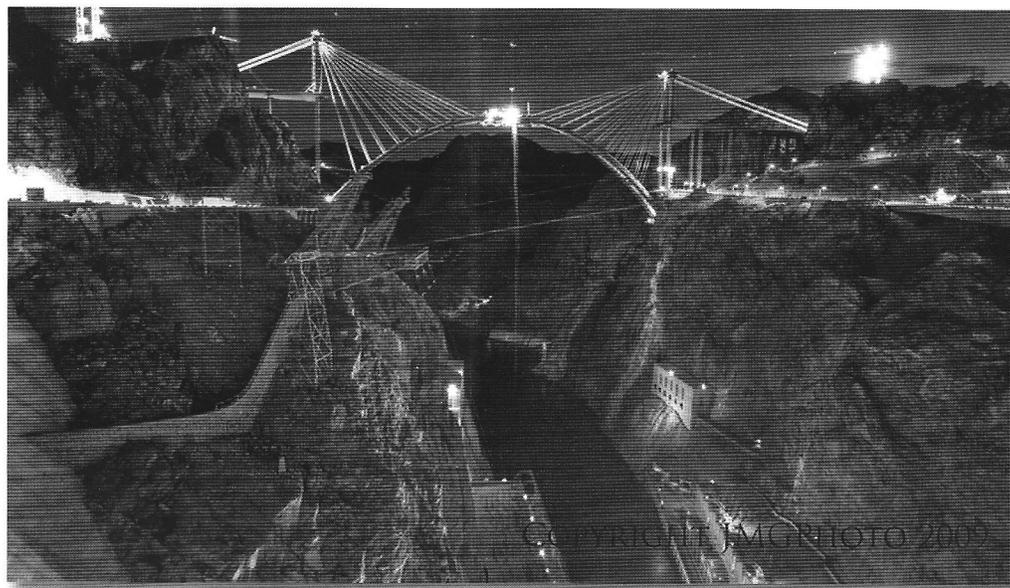
**Steve Holloway, '73**

President/CEO, Holloway Consulting Group, LLC, Lakewood, CO

"After graduating in 1973, I first worked 16 years as a general contractor, and subsequently have worked 20 years as a construction consultant and expert witness. The details of my experience and my firm's construction advisory and disputes services are at [www.hcgexperts.com](http://www.hcgexperts.com). I am married, and have one son and one daughter. My son has

a B.S. in Aerospace from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado State University. He is currently the head of MW Racing's motor sports operations in Halver, Germany. His customers include most of the F1 racing teams. My daughter has a B.A. in Speech Pathology from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and is working toward related graduate degrees.

The news perhaps most relevant to the Groundbreaker Newsletter is my firm's work on the Hwy. 93 Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge. Our client supplied the original cableway system, which collapsed in September 2006. I've been watching this bridge get built for the past three years that I've been in the area. The milestone in this shot is that the two halves of the main supporting arch, which were being constructed from both sides of the canyon were just connected for the first time. Welders are joining the rebar from both sides, and a cone of red sparks is falling into the river. It was total serendipity that I happened to be driving over the dam at that time, and fortunately I had my camera gear in the car.



Highway 93 Hoover Dam Bypass Bridge

**Visit us online:**

**[ulm.edu/construction/](http://ulm.edu/construction/)**

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



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School of Construction Management  
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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