# **GROUNDBREAKER** NEWSLETTER

#### UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE

SUMMER 2011

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School of Construction Management 700 University Avenue Monroe, LA 71209-0540 Tel: (318) 342-1871 • Fax: (318) 342-1861 www.ulm.edu/construction

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# **BRUNO NAMED ULM'S EIGHTH PRESIDENT**

by the Office of University Relations

**O** n October 8, 2010, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System named Nick J. Bruno the eighth president of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. "I don't know many occasions when I've been speechless, but I hoped for this result," said Bruno.

President Bruno was one of three finalists that interviewed for the university's top position. During his interview, Bruno spoke about bringing "synergy" to the campus. "If we work with sister schools, community colleges and the community we will maintain a great institution. ULM is critical to Northeast Louisiana, and I will work very hard to build a certain type of synergy to satisfy the mission of having a great institution," he said.

#### Bruno's wife, Linda, expressed excitement when asked about her role as the president's spouse. "To a large

extent I will continue to be a partner and helper to Nick, but I am very excited about the possibilities to do more on campus." She referenced spending extensive time at events, especially athletics, with their daughters when they were last in Monroe.

November 8, 2010 marked Bruno's first day as President at ULM. He immediately concurred with a resolution from the ULM Student Government Association seeking help in offsetting certain fees. SGA leaders were "pleasantly surprised" by Bruno's willingness to spend more than an hour of his first day to deal with the issue. Bruno is a Louisiana native and has a Bachelor's in Accounting and an MBA from Southeastern Louisiana University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Mississippi. He is recognized both regionally and nationally for his consulting expertise in areas such as organizational efficiencies and alternatively financed facility construction.

Prior to ULM, Bruno worked for 27 years at Southeastern Louisiana University in various capacities. His teaching experience includes adjunct instruction in the area of management at Southeastern. He has also contributed numerous articles in various higher education publications and presented programs on campus services management, quality management, outsourcing of campus services, and strategic management.

For more information, visit www.ulm.edu/president.



President and Mrs. Nick J. Bruno

# **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**



#### Dear Alumni and Friends,

This past year has been a busy one for the School of Construction Management, the College of Business Administration, and the university as a whole.

I would like to take this time to welcome our new president, Dr. Nick Bruno and his family, back to ULM. I have met with Dr. Bruno on several occasions, and he has met with our Industry Advisory Council (IAC). Dr. Bruno has made it clear that he plans to support our construction management program but has also made it clear that he expects a lot out of our program. We look forward to the challenges of the future under Dr. Bruno's leadership.

The College of Business Administration has begun to move into the Hemphill Building, next door to the School of Construction Management. That move will place all of the programs in the College of Business Administration in two adjacent buildings instead of being scattered around campus.

We are currently reviewing our undergraduate curriculum and looking at the possibility of offering an online MBA concentration in Construction Management. We have updated our surveying equipment, received a grant to help with the implementation of BIM software, and sent several of our faculty for training in that area.

Following the lead of Keith Roberts and Mark Castellana in Dallas, our local alumni, lead by Jonathan Kaufman, are attempting to organize regular meetings of construction alumni here in the Monroe area. If you are contacted by Jonathan or other local alumni, please try to participate. We need you!

Thanks for your continued support,

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

# **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES**

#### **SUMMER 2010**

Broughnman Beckham Nelson Garrett Cole Thompson Kyle Townsend

#### FALL 2010

Andrew Barber Cole Blackard Jarred Book Bridger Durham Chad Henson Joe Kirksey Brent Knotts Jacob Lensing Ben McElroy Lucas Meche Jordan Poole Andrew Stout Patrick Summerville James Tullos Dustin Volentine James Windham

#### SPRING 2011

Joshua Avery Derek Barnes Matthew Boyter Mathew Garcia Tom Hutson Michael Jackson, Jr. Trey Linzay Brad Lowe Nick McDonald Charles McLemore Jonathan Moreau Matthew Morris Vu Nguyen Stephen Perkins Justin Powell Andrew Ratcliff Jeremy Reed Tyler Roy Erik Stanley Cody Stevens Ben Waldrop Lee Wooldridge

# **ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**



Jonathan Hill, '98 Jonathan Hill Construction Founder

For Jonathan Hill and his wife, Tara, founding their own construction company almost nine years ago seemed like a natural path considering the industry has been a part of the Hill family for three generations. Both Jonathan's father and grandfather were builders; whereas, Jonathan grew up learning and enjoying the trade and even watched his grandfather build his last home at the age of 83. However, Jonathan still humbly refers to their business endeavor as "a step of faith."

"As we relied on each other and struggled to place this business entirely in the hands of its owner, Jesus Christ, we have found freedom from stress and worry," proclaims Jonathan as he also credits their faith and his time at ULM with allowing him to be a better builder and designer than he has ever been. "I don't quarantee a flawless experience or a perfect home, but I do profess that our desire is to give you both," says Jonathan.

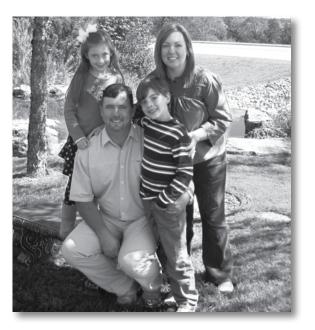
The alum says, "I always knew I would attend the ULM School of Construction Management, because they have the best program to prepare you for the industry." After graduating in 1998, Jonathan continued to work for his father for five years before he and his wife founded Jonathan Hill Construction specializing in custom-built, luxury homes. "We are heavy on service and design," he admits while noting the company's focus is not on building in numbers. Jonathan has one superintendent and works with several subcontractors. The company currently covers a 45-mile radius of the Monroe area and recognizes the importance of those working relationships.

Jonathan is the President of the Home Builders Association of Northeast Louisiana upon which he places an emphasis on the laws, rules, and regulations of home building. He was also recently featured on Dream Smart Homebuyers Edition. Jonathan and Tara Hill have been married for almost 14 years and are blessed with two beautiful children.

#### Jonathan Hill Construction Mechanics with a Passion for Design

Jonathan Hill Construction combines the quality mechanics of home building with

I always knew I would attend ULM...they have the best program to prepare you for the [construction] industry. an "eye for design" that they believe sets them apart from other construction companies. They consider themselves a service business by listening to the customer's ideas and desires. In doing so, they provide a home plan to suit their customer's lifestyles and finances while ensuring a timely delivery. For more information, photo galleries, and customer testimonials, visit www.jhillconstruction.com.



Jonathan Hill and Family

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: <u>kparker@ulm.edu</u>

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



Sarah Sisk Editor

# ULM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT MONROE HOUSING AUTHORITY

by Ann B. Smith, Director of ULM Academic Internships

n January 2010, a cooperative agreement took shape at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, one that involved the Monroe Housing Authority, the ULM School of Construction Management, ULM's Office of Career Connections, and upper-class construction interns. How this project came together is a study in overlapping and reciprocal benefits.

Ms. Eddna Castro of the Monroe Housing Authority did her graduate study at ULM, receiving her Master of Business Administration degree in 2008 and also working with the Office of Career Connections on her job search skills and job placement. She met Dr. Keith Parker, head of the School of Construction Management, while she was a graduate assistant with the College of Business. So when Eddna obtained a position with the Monroe Housing Authority upon graduation, she began to look for ways to use her connections at ULM to benefit the residents of the MHA Retirement Properties.

"The bottom line of this agreement is to benefit low- and medium-income people that live in MHA properties," says Castro. "But it's also a hands-on experience for students from the School of Construction Management."

The assigned task of the student interns is to inspect the properties in order to predict and forestall maintenance and safety issues as well as to find alternatives to improve energy efficiency. So far four properties have been inspected, including 323 dwelling units serving 326 residents. Interns see each project through, not only performing all the inspections but also developing reports and presentations of results. The interns have the additional advantage of access to various resources including technical expertise from ULM faculty such as Dr. Parker in order to make their recommendations. Each presentation has been attended by MHA supervisors, property managers, Executive Director Frank Wilcox, Parker and Castro.

As of April 2011, the MHA has provided internships to six construction management majors with one of last summer's interns having [This] program
is a great example
of how ULM
and its surrounding
community can
benefit each other.
Dr. Keith Parker

 ...we look forward to many more years of participation in this partnership.
– Frank Wilcox, MHA Executive Director

later been hired as an inspector in another of MHA's departments. During the spring of 2011, three interns worked for MHA: Helen Portman, Mallory Murphy, and Matt Morris, *(pictured on page 5)*.

Morris, a graduating senior, says, "My internship has proved to be an important aspect of my education. The knowledge I have gained at Monroe Housing Authority helped me obtain a job with Stebbins Engineering in Port Allen, La! This is a great start for my career."

According to Portman, a construction management senior, she has become "a more detail-oriented person, developing skills that will carry me far beyond my college years." She especially appreciates the "positive work environment" of MHA and says, "I love helping the residents of the MHA properties and thank the Office of Career Connections for the opportunity." (continued on page 5)



(L to R) Intern Mallory Murphy, MHA supervisor Eddna Castro, intern Matt Morris, and intern Helen Portman

"The students serving in internships at Monroe Housing Authority have added an extra spice to life at the administrative offices of MHA. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and fresh outlook about their projects and careers have spread throughout the office. This cooperative endeavor with ULM has been a tremendous success, and we look forward to many more years of participation in this partnership," says MHA Executive Director Frank Wilcox.

Dr. Parker concludes, "The Monroe Housing Authority internship program is a great example of how ULM and its surrounding community can benefit each other."

# NEWSLETTER

# SIGMA LAMBDA CHI SPRING 2011 INDUCTEES



Tyler McLemore Zachary Duchesne Luke Briley Sarah Bonner James Mockosher Kevin Beard

Logan Roberson Joshua Ezell Jonathan Lipsey



## **11TH ANNUAL DIGGER'S NIGHT OUT**

he School of Construction Management in conjunction with the Ouachita Joint Utility Council held its 11th annual Diggers Night Out program on April 14, 2011. Diggers Night Out is a safety program that educates people on the dangers of damaging underground utility lines. The program has an important information session for the attendees, door prizes

and a buffet style dinner. This year's program was attended by over 100 people from the construction and utility industries. Mr. David Frey with Louisiana One Call was this year's featured speaker. He treated the audience to a video presentation of pipeline accidents and discussed the importance of properly working with one call notification systems.

Each year, the Digger's Night Out program provides support for two scholarships awarded through the Ouachita Joint Utility Council for construction management majors. Kevin Beard was selected for the Fall 2010 scholarship, and Ronald Huddleston was selected for the Spring 2011 scholarship.



Kevin Beard receives the Fall 2010 check from OJUC Vice-President, Mike McKey.

#### WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS:

ATMOS AT&T COLUMBIA GULF TRANSMISSION CO. ENTERGY OF LOUISIANA GULF SOUTH PIPELINE JCP MANAGEMENT, INC. LA ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS LA ONE CALL SYSTEM TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE WOMACK & SONS CONSTRUCTION



Ronald Huddleston receives the Spring 2011 check from OJUC president Ricky Dunn. Left to right: Ricky Dunn, Ronald Huddleston, Donald Huddleston

#### STUDENTS ATTEND AGC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS

Leven students, along with AGC student chapter advisor Dr. Keith Parker, attended the 2011 AGC National Convention in March. This year's convention was held in Las Vegas. The students had the opportunity to visit CONEXPO and to see the incredible

variety of construction equipment on display. Additionally, they met with other AGC student chapter members at the student chapter meeting and had the opportunity to hold a roundtable discussion with ULM alumnus Coy McKinney. The students also had the opportunity to have dinner with ULM alumni Ben Baldwin and Richard Harris.

AGC Convention Left to right – Dolph Minard, Jeremy Copeland, Andrew Sturdivant, Helen Portman, Ben Waldrop, Amelia Mixon, Tyler McLemore, Matt Boyter, Wes Moak, Matthew Garcia, James Moore (not pictured)



#### **COASTAL FISHING TRIP HOSTED BY STUDENT GUILD**

aurence P. Favalora, Chairman of the Industry Advisory Council, and his company, Favalora Constructors, Inc. of Kenner, Louisiana, donated two coastal fishing trips to the Student Guild for raffle at the Guild Banquet in the fall of 2009 and 2010. This is the ninth year that FAVCON has donated the trip. Proceeds from the trip, along with other donated items also for raffle at each banquet, benefit the Student Guild.

JDE purchased the 2009 trip, and it was initially set for last spring. However, oil leakage from the Deep Water Horizon explosion caused the fishing areas to be closed and the trip to be cancelled! Lincoln Builders, Inc. purchased the 2010 trip.



Jott Delcambre and company

Jott Delcambre of JDE Enterprises, an alumnus of the School of Construction Management, purchased the trip in 2008 and had such a good time that he purchased the 2009 trip. The JDE trip was held on May 20, 21 and 22 this year. Jott invited one of his employees, Matt Landreneaux, as well as Mike Durham, the flooring subcontractor in Monroe, and one of his employees, Tyler White. The four men fished all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday, and despite a strong wind, the team caught about thirty fish (redfish and speckled trout).

Clint Graham of Lincoln Builders, Inc. purchased the trip offered at last year's banquet, which was held on June 3,

4 and 5. Clint invited his son, Garrett, his brother, Mark, and two employees, Jerry Brasher and Rich Nadler. They had great fishing conditions on Saturday. A severe thunderstorm chased the team back into the marina on Sunday, yet they still managed to catch about thirty-five fish, most of which were trout.

Both fishing teams had an excellent time and may bid on the trip again this year. This year's Guild Banquet will be held on November 17 at the ULM Alumni Center.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

he School of Construction Management wishes to recognize our 2010 – 2011 scholarship recipients for their outstanding academic efforts and involvement in the construction industry.

- A.C. Breckenridge Memorial Scholarship Andrew Barber
- Bill Eason Endowment Memorial Scholarship in Construction Douglas Johnson
- Bill Gilbert Endowment Scholarship in Construction Jonathan Moreau
- Cecil Kay Carter Jr. Scholarship in Construction
  Adam Shirley
- David Geissler Memorial Scholarship Tyler Gahagan
- Don A. Baxter Endowment Scholarship in Construction Robert Baskind

- Hollis Graham Endowment Scholarship in Construction Roy Linzay
- Hurvie Moak Scholarship in Construction Holten Elmore
- J. Hilton Heard Endowment Scholarship in Construction Matthew Boyter
- John E. Baugh Endowment Scholarship in Construction **Chad Henson**
- Bob Brooks School of Real Estate & Insurance Scholarship-Construction Mallory Murphy
- Home Builders Association of Northeast Louisiana Scholarship
  Chad Henson & Jonathan Moreau

#### (left to right) Chad Henson Andrew Barber Jonathan Moreau Trey Linzay Erik Stanley Matthew Boyter Robert Baskin Lee Woolridge Rodney Stoffer



#### **THURMAN POTTS SCHOLARSHIP**

Erik Stanley is selected to receive the Thurman Potts Scholarship.

At right, Erik Stanley is awarded the Louisiana AGC Thurman Potts Scholarship by AGC Area Manager Steve Terrill.



#### AGC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

#### LOUISIANA LICENSED CONTRACTORS PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION

Each year, licensed contractors in the State of Louisiana help support construction education through voluntary contributions collected via the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. These funds help support technology upgrades, faculty and student activities and a variety of other vital functions of the Construction Management programs at our state universities.



Dr. Keith Parker, Director of the ULM School of Construction Management is presented a check from licensing board member Danny Graham.

(left to right) Danny Graham, Dr. Keith Parker, Dr. Ron Berry (Dean of the ULM College of Business Administration), Clint Graham (President – Lincoln Builders of Ruston)

# **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.

# YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

#### **STUDENT COMPETITIONS**

**ULM** Construction Management students competed in the Commercial, Design/Build, and Heavy/Highway categories in the TEXO/ASC Student Competition in Dallas in the spring of 2011. As usual, ULM faced stiff competition from more than ten regional universities from Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas as well as the first participants from across the pond, the Dublin (Ireland) Institute of Technology. Although ULM teams did not bring home any competition awards this spring, the program did receive a grant (valued at \$5000) from the TEXO Foundation that will partially fund AutoCAD Revit Architecture software. For more information about the competition, visit http://www.texoassociation.org/ foundation/competition.asp.

#### **COMMERCIAL TEAM:**

Josh Barton Matthew Boyter Matt Broom Gregory Stuart Tyler Thompson Shane Young

Team Coach: Mr. Greg Smith

#### **DESIGN/BUILD TEAM:**

Holten Elmore Garrett Gibbens Amelia Mixon Daniel Norman Jeremy Reed Alicia Starks

Team Coach: Mr. Bill Cook

#### **HEAVY/HIGHWAY TEAM:**

Fred Baskind Tyler McLemore Rodney Stoffer Andy Sturdivant Ben Waldrop

**Team Coach:** Dr. Hollis Bray



TEXO Student Competition The SOCM Commercial Competition Team, along with other ASC Region 5 teams, enjoy the welcoming dinner at this year's competition.

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

r. David Manry attended the American Council for Construction Education (ASC)/TEXO Educators' Conference held October 7-8 in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Greg Smith attended the International Builders Show on January 12-15 in Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Greg Smith attended the PDPI (Professors Driven Pile Institute) that was sponsored by PDCA (Pile Driving Contractors Association) at Utah State University June 19-24. The class covered pile selection, pile types, driveability studies, types of pile driving equipment, pile testing, and data collection.

Mr. Bill Cook, Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry – along with students Daniel Norman and Jeremy Reed attended three days of AutoCAD Revit Architecture training December 13-15 in Dallas, Texas. This spring Daniel and Jeremy competed in the Design/Build category of the TEXO/ASC Student Competition using Revit to visually render their design.

Dr. Hollis Bray and Dr. David Manry attended the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) Mid-Year Meeting held February 23-26 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

#### ACE GLIDES THROUGH THE GROVE THANKS TO HELP FROM CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT GRADUATE

ailgating during football season is a way of life at ULM. Families and friends come out to enjoy the festivities and prepare to root for the Warhawks. One of the highlights for the children is when Ace comes through in his Acemobile.

Most ULM tailgaters know where to find the "construction tent." The School of Construction Management has been a major participant in the tailgating activities of home football games for many years. Something that most people do not know is that the "Acemobile" exists, due in large part, to the efforts of Construction Management alum Jack Blitch ('71), Vice President & GM, Walt Disney Imagineering Florida.

At the request of the ULM administration, Jack and his fellow Imagineers helped design and bring the Acemobile to reality. Jack quickly used his vast array of contacts to assemble a team to work on the project. According to Jack, "When I contacted our ride engineers to participate, they quickly embraced the effort, and the Acemobile was born."

We are proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and appreciate their help in making ULM a great university.

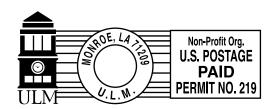
THANK YOU JACK!

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**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	
	ty of Louisiana at Monroe, School of Construction Management, Monroe, LA 71209-0540. to: <u>kparker@ulm.edu</u> ; or fax to (318) 342-1861