## **University of Arizona**

# **Construction Engineering Management**

# Fall 2020 Update







# Connecting industry and students

Construction is an essential activity and <u>Construction Engineering Management (CEM)</u> at the University of Arizona is forging ahead during the pandemic. The three photos above were part of virtual construction site visits held this semester. Industry and alumni partnerships continue to be at the center of everything we do in CEM. This fall Sundt Construction made a significant five-year donation commitment to the CEM Endowment. Read more about this and other CEM highlights below. Your generosity matters and is keeping the progress of CEM steady.

#### Spring highlights include:

- Construction student profile,
- UA Rise Together Mentoring,
- Sundt donation,
- 2020 donors to CEM.
- Design-Build team for ASC Reno, and
- Industry speakers and virtual construction site visits.

#### **Meet our construction students**

# Hector Garavito UA Architectural Engineering/Construction Student (BS May 2020)

Hector is part of the first cohort of students to graduate from the newly formed Architectural Engineering degree program. Hector chose to focus on construction technical electives. This paired with an intership set him up for his current position as a field engineer with Hensel Phelps. Hector grew his leadership skills as secretary of the Design-Build Institute of America-UA Chapter. "The construction courses at U of A are specific, relevant, and industry driven. In every upper division construction class, companies are heavily involved with us, and they usually hire when we graduate."





#### **UA Rise Together Mentoring**

This fall we have 23 women students in civil and construction engineering who are paired with industry mentors in fields directly related to the students' interests. Students and mentors are meeting virtually. Prior to the annual career fair, we held a virtual panel focused on preparing for the job search, career fairs, and interviews. Students were able to meet with the panelists in small virtual breakout rooms. Our panelists included Alina Vo of Hensel



Phelps, Sarah Clapper and Madison Crowley of Sundt, and Karen Hobbs and Diana Kelly of Wood Patel. Students were inspired to meet these professionals and learn about their career paths and hear their advice.

#### **Sundt donation to the CEM Endowment**

This year <u>Sundt announced a five year gift</u> totaling \$250,000 toward the CEM Endowment and student competition teams. This significant gift moves CEM closer to a sustainable funding position. Sundt has been part of the CEM advisory group since the founding of CEM in 2012 and regularly provides industry speakers, construction site visits, and internship and full-time job opportunities for UA students. "Most people don't know how interesting and rewarding construction is until they're exposed to it," said Mike Hoover, president and chief executive officer of Sundt Construction. "That's the real value of a program like this—introducing bright young minds to an industry that offers meaningful work."

Thanks to our corporate program partners

Borderland \* DPR \* Sundt \* Gervasio and Associates
Henry George Mackintosh Foundation
Daniel Creaney Company \* ExxonMobil \* Chevron

Thanks to our individual donors to CEM

Barry Abbott, David Areghini, Sal Caccavale, Phil Hall, Travis & Shannon McCarthy, Matthew McDole, Mike Nelson, Dave Zaleski



#### **Design-Build Team for ASC-Reno**

Although the DBIA Student Competition was cancelled this fall, the Region 6 and 7 <u>Associated Schools of Construction (ASC)</u> will be held virtually from February 4-6, 2021. The UA design-build team is coached by Ian McDowell of Sundt. In preparation of the competition, team members have observed a procurement interview and rating at Pima County, spent time with professionals to learn more about design, sustainability, and site logistics, and are working on practice problems. The heavy civil team is using this year to rebuild under the coaching of Paul Preston and Will Vail of Granite Construction.

#### **Industry Speakers & Virtual Construction Site Visits**

This fall our industry speakers have risen to the challenge of presenting via Zoom. Students continue to value the boots-on-the-ground experience these speakers offer.

- Jake Parduhn (**DPR**) Plan reading
- Alina Vo, Carlos Bunzira, Isaac Gilles (Hensel Phelps) – Concrete takeoff and estimating
- Mandi Peavy (ExxonMobil) Engineer, procure, construct
- Hudson Cox (Sundt) Virtual site visit of UA Bear Down Gymnasium renovation
- Bill Sanders (Hensel Phelps) Walter Washington Convention Center in D.C. renovations for COVID-19
- Cameron Evans (J.H. Findorff) Virtual site visit of HUB IV private university housing
- Ryan Cameron, Travis McCarthy (**Sundt**) Virtual site visit of I-10 and Ruthrauff Road reconstruction
- Mireya Ramos (**Core**) Building envelope takeoff
- Chris DeYoung (**JB Steel**) metal takeoff and estimating
- Matt Thrower, Taylor Fulkerson, and Jeff Ocampo
   (DPR) Construction during COVID-19
- Tom Kittle and Susan Petrus (Kittle Design & Construction) – Starting and leading a small business
- Harry Stewart (**Dutra Group**) Marine construction. This was an outstanding presentation on a type of work that students in southern Arizona typically do not have a chance to see.

In CE483/583, guest presentations by Hensel Phelps, Core, and JB Steel were followed up with student assignments performing takeoff and estimating from authentic plans. I am grateful to our partners for providing these real-life materials.









#### Thank you

This fall I received the 2020 McDonald Mentoring Award from the national Tau Beta Pi engineering society based on recommendations from students and the College of Engineering. The work I can do to bring students and industry together is made possible by your generous donations and participation. I am also grateful for industry partners who provided data and insight into a research paper I published this year called Impact of Alternative Delivery on the Response Time of RFIs for Highway Projects.

Your involvement and gifts are making an impact on students and the construction industry. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

### Dean Papajohn

Dean Papajohn, PE, PhD, ENV SP, DBIA Assoc. Associate Professor of Practice Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics December 22, 2020

#### **Giving**

You can give online at <u>Give Today</u> or checks can be written to the UA Foundation and sent to: *Johanne Ives, Aero & Mech Engineering Building, N515, Tucson, AZ 85721*Please designate your gift for either *CAEM Construction Engineering Management General Fund* (for current operating expenses) or *CAEM Construction Engineering Management Endowment* (for building a sustainable funding source for CEM). Automatic monthly or one time gifts can be set up.

