

# University of Arizona

## Construction Engineering Management

### Fall 2021 Update



## ***Connecting industry and students***

Interest in construction remains strong and is growing among our engineering student in [Construction Engineering Management \(CEM\)](#) at the University of Arizona. Likewise, industry and alumni partnerships continue to flourish. “*Connecting industry with student*” is at the center of everything we do in CEM.

Fall highlights include:

- Construction student profile,
- 2021 National DBIA Student Competition,
- Whiting-Turner donation,
- 2021 donors to CEM,
- Heavy civil team and Commercial building team for ASC Reno, and
- Industry speakers and virtual construction site visits.

## **Meet our construction students**

***Emma Lenarz***

***UA Civil Engineering (BS May 2021)***

After interning with Granite Construction, Emma joined Granite full time as an Engineer I in Indio, CA. At U of A, Emma was the Secretary of the UA Chapter of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and was active in the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) chapter and the UA American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). You can hear more about Emma’s first year on the job on the [UA AGC/DBIA podcast: #001: Emma Lenarz from Granite.](#)



## 2021 National DBIA Student Competition

This fall the UA Design-Build team ranked **third in the nation** in the 2021 National DBIA competition. The five-member team consisted of Zack Hansen, Melanie Macioci, Samone Marquez, Aria Mascall, and Josh Romero. The team prepared an SOQ in response to an RFQ in the first round and a proposal in response to an RFP for a two-story university health services center. The team traveled to Denver in November to attend the DBIA National Conference and to present their team proposal to an industry panel. Additionally, our DBIA UA Chapter president, Zack Hansen, received the [2021 Distinguished Leadership Award for students](#), and I received the 2021 Distinguished Leadership Award for faculty. Zack has done an amazing job of leading our DBIA UA Chapter through the pandemic.



## Donations to the CEM Endowment

This fall Whiting-Turner announced a three year gift totaling \$9,000 toward the CEM Endowment which will help bring long-term stability to the program. Whiting-Turner's motto of "working together" extends to CEM where they provide construction site visits and hire interns and graduates.



Thanks to our corporate program partners

**Borderland \* Hensel Phelps \* KE&G \* Sundt \* Whiting-Turner \* Gervasio and Associates  
Henry George Mackintosh Foundation  
ExxonMobil \* Chevron**

Thanks to our individual donors to CEM

**Barry Abbott, David Areghini, Sal Caccavale,  
Phil Hall, Travis & Shannon McCarthy,  
Becki Nelson, Dean Papajohn, Nic Trandai,**



## Heavy Civil Team and Commercial Building Team for ASC-Reno 2022

This year the University of Arizona will have student teams competing in the Heavy Civil competition and the Commercial Building competition at [Associated Schools of Construction \(ASC\) Regions 6 & 7 competition](#) in Reno. This is the first time our university is competing in the commercial building competition. This team will perform concrete take-off and estimating, selection of subcontractor bids, and other project planning and scheduling activities. The UA commercial building team is coached by Ian McDowell of Sundt with help from Jake Parduhn (DPR) and Shiann Claridge (DPR) and the heavy civil team is coached by Paul Preston and Will Vail of Granite. Will and Shiann were part of the UA teams when they were students, and it is great to have them involved now as coaches.



Thanks to our team sponsors

**Alta \* Ashton \* BFL \* CASC \* Concord \* DPR \* Granite  
Holder \* Kappcon \* Kitchell \* Kittle \* RLB \* M3  
Sturgeon \* Sundt**

## Industry Speakers & Virtual Construction Site Visits

This fall we have had a great line-up of industry speakers in *CE483 Construction Cost Estimating*, and student chapter meetings for the *Associated General Contractors (AGC)* and the *Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)*.

- Jake Parduhn (**DPR**) – Plan reading
- Mike Lee, Jonathan Johnson, Lee Alexander, Farah Alkerwy, Jesus Ruiz, and Dave Hollenack (**McCarthy**) – site visit to the UA Applied Research Building
- Alina Vo, Robert Verdugo, and Rueben Olivas (**Hensel Phelps**)-concrete takeoff and estimating
- Jake Spec and Michael Carroll (**Kiewit**) – InEight estimating software
- Mandi Peavy (**ExxonMobil**) – Engineer, procure, construct
- Chris DeYoung (**JB Steel**) – metal takeoff and estimating
- Rick Hook and Cory Thellmann (**Kitchell**) – site visit to the UA Grand Challenges Building



- Arturo Aguilar and Arjun Muralidaran (**McCarthy**) – estimating a building envelope
- Jose Aguilar (**WSP**) – personal finance for new engineers
- Jake Parduhn (**DPR**) – design-build proposal for the UA Andrew Weil Center for Integrative Medicine
- Jake Speck (**Kiewit**) – light rail construction in Phoenix
- Mike Gonzalez (McCarthy) – design-build proposal for UA Applied Research Building
- Chase Farnsworth and Chase Gibbs (**Mortenson**) – cross laminated timber construction on an office building called the Beam on Farmer
- Paul Preston (**Granite**) – BEBO Bridge Concrete Arch System
- Ryan Buckley (**Flatiron**) – floating the new Wellsburg Bridge into place



We are grateful for the generosity of all our industry speakers for spending time with our students.

## Thank you

The activities you read about in this update and many more are made possible by your generous donations and participation. We are grateful for your partnership.

Sincerely,

*Dean Papajohn*

Dean Papajohn, PE, PhD, ENV SP  
 Professor of Practice  
 Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics  
 December 23, 2021

## Giving

You can give online at [Give Today](#) 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.

