

University of Arizona

Construction Engineering Management

Fall 2023 Update



Connecting industry and students

UA Construction Engineering Management (CEM) connects industry and students through construction site visits, classroom presentations, TAKE 5 lunches, student construction clubs, mentoring, industry coaching of competition teams, internships, and full-time employment. The impact of industry on our program is remarkable and it is the strength of CEM.

Fall highlights include:

- Donations to the CEM Endowment and program,
- AGC and DBIA chapters,
- Beavers scholarship recipients,
- 2023 National DBIA Student Competition,
- UA Rise Together mentoring.

Donations to the CEM Endowment

This year Borderland renewed their commitment to the UA Construction Engineering Management program with a second 5-year donation commitment totaling \$125,000. The CEM Endowment helps bring long-term stability to the CEM program. We are grateful for Borderland's investment in the next generation of UA construction engineers.

Borderland

Thanks to all our corporate program partners

**Borderland * Granite * Hensel Phelps * KE&G * Sundt
Whiting Turner * Gervasio and Associates
Henry George Mackintosh Foundation * the Beavers**



Beavers Scholarship Recipients

This year two UA construction students were selected for the national Beavers scholarship, **Luis Tzintzun** and **Saul Guillen**. This is in addition to the two students selected for the UA Beavers scholarship, **Kent Gamble** and **Sofia Iliev**. The Beavers is an association of heavy civil contractors. Beavers scholarships assist students pursuing careers in heavy construction. Luis is a senior in civil/construction engineering and has interned with Granite for two years. Saul is a sophomore in civil/construction engineering who has been interning with McCarthy for two years. Both Luis and Saul have been participating on the UA heavy civil team for two years as well. The national Beavers scholarship is highly selective and awards students \$10,000 each for the academic year. In October, Dave Woods, the executive director of the Beavers came to campus to recognize these students as well as give a presentaton to our AGC chapter.

With help of the Beavers and many industry partners, we are continuing to grow the **UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program** that attracts freshman engineering students to careers in heavy construction.



Dean Papajohn, Luis Tzintzun, Sofia Iliev, Saul Guillen, Kent Gamble, Dave Woods

2023 National DBIA Student Competition

This fall the UA Design-Build team ranked **third in the nation** in the 2023 National DBIA competition. Three years in a row the UA DBIA team has ranked in the top three. The five-member team consisted of Jacob Ayars (civil engineering junior), Mia Montoya (architectural-construction engineering senior), Vy Nguyen (architectural-construction engineering senior), Reuel Florendo (civil engineering sophomore), and Lene Kruse (civil engineering junior). This was a great showing as this was the first time for each of these students to participate in a DBIA competition. Their strength was in their strong team collaboration. The team was tasked with developing a design-build proposal for a university recreation center including a pool, track, and climbing wall.



Thanks to our individual donors to CEM

**Barry Abbott, Dave & Dede Areghini, Becki Nelson,
Mike Hoover & Marie Torres, Travis & Shannon
McCarthy, Phil Hall, Matthew McDole, Dean Papajohn**

Thanks to our Construction team sponsors

**Alta * Core * Granite * Kittle * Kraemer * McCarthy
Ryan Companies * Sundt * Swaim**

Associated General Contractors and Design-Build Institute of America Chapters

Industry speakers shared their project experiences throughout the semester at our AGC and DBIA chapter meetings. Additionally, DPR, Granite, HDR, and M3 assisted with our *Rapid Resume Review* session in October prior to the career fair where over 30 construction companies and over 40 design companies attended.

- **Whiting Turner:** Eduardo Araiza and Octavio Montoya presented on projects like Block 23 and Adeline.
- **Hensel Phelps:** Gabe Mitchell and Charlie Graif presented on the Southwest Airlines hangar.
- **Granite:** Paul Preston presented on the I-10 widening.
- Alumni panel including Jesus Ruiz (**McCarthy**), Fernanda Fraijo (**DPR**), Travis Ivanecky (**M3**), and Patrick Akin (**Alight**) – spoke on starting your career after graduation.
- A design-build panel including Hudson Cox and Tom Bersbach (**Sundt**), Zoe Sadorf (**Poster, Mirto, McDonald**), and Mike Gubson (**UA PD&C**) shared about design-build delivery for the Arizona State Museum on campus.
- **Kiewit:** Jake Speck and Michael Carrell presented on the variety and complexity of Kiewit projects.
- **Beavers Heavy Civil Association:** Dave Woods spoke on contractor ingenuity.



UA Rise Together Mentorship

This year we have nineteen women students in civil, construction, and architectural engineering paired with women engineers. Mentors listen, encourage, and guide students as they navigate their academic lives and transition into careers. In November, Sarah Kay Twine, structural engineer, shared about her six-month experience on the Appalachian trail earlier this year and related lessons from the trail to thoughts, feelings, and experiences our students face on the path to becoming engineers. This event was jointly sponsored by *Women in Civil & Architectural Engineering*, the *Society of Women Engineers*, and *UA Rise Together*. The UA Rise leadership team includes Edie Griffith-Metty, Priscilla Cornelio, Amy White, Seriana Hixson, and Dean Papajohn.



Thank you

This year I have enjoyed collaborating with Dr. Kevin Lansey in civil engineering, Dr. Noel Hennessey and Tyler Le Peau in the College of Engineering, and Dr. Adriana Cimetta in the College of Education as we implement a three year grant from the National Science Foundation to promote success and retention of students from underrepresented groups in engineering. We call this program [Building Pathways](#). In particular, I am involved in the internship and mentoring components of this program.

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, DBIA Assoc.
Professor of Practice
Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics
December 20, 2023

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. Your gifts matter. Thank you.

