

University of Arizona

Construction Engineering Management

Spring 2024 Update



Connecting industry and students

[Construction Engineering Management \(CEM\)](#) continues to connect students with industry as described in this CEM update. The photo above is a construction site visit at I-10 hosted by Granite. Granite has coordinated site visits for the UA Beavers Interns, CE381 students, and students on the heavy civil teams from UA, ASU, and UA. This spring Ron & Kaye Harper made a generous donation to the CEM Endowment. CEM graduates are entering a strong job market and eleven freshmen are involved in the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program. These and additional CEM highlights are described below. Your generosity matters and helps connect UA students to the world of construction.

Meet Our Construction Students

Luis Estrella, Vy Nguyen, and Mia Montoya, UA Civil & Architectural Engineering (BS May 2024)

Luis, Vy, and Mia are all joining McCarthy full time after graduation. Luis is a civil engineering graduate with a construction emphasis while Vy and Mia are architectural engineering graduates with a construction emphasis. All three participated in meaningful construction internships while studying at UA. All three benefited from participating on student construction teams. Mia and Vy participated on the UA Design-Build team in the National DBIA Competition, earning third place. Vy also participated in the UA Sustainable Building team and Luis competed on the Commercial Building team for two years in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competition held in Reno. Vy also served as the secretary of our UA AGC Chapter.



CEM Endowment Donor Spotlight

Ron and Kaye Harper

We are grateful to our alumni and industry partners who are building up the UA Construction Engineering Management Endowment. This year UA alumni Ron and Kaye Harper contributed \$55,000 to the CEM endowment. Ron is the founder of Harper Construction and has a storied career in construction and is a leader in design-build delivery.

Please consider joining these companies and individuals who are making significant annual donations to build the CEM Endowment which is intended to be a sustainable funding source for CEM and a pipeline of next-generation construction engineers.



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SUNDT

Barry & Adrienne Abbott, Dave & Dede Areghini, Dave and Penny Crawford, Ron & Kaye Harper,
Mike & Marie Hoover, Travis & Shannon McCarthy, Becki Nelson

DBIA Western Pacific Region Scholarship

Serianna Hixson, UA Civil Engineering student

Serianna Hixson has been selected for a \$3,000 scholarship from the *Design-Build Institute of America Western Pacific Region (DBIA WPR)*. Serianna is the newly elected president of the DBIA UA Chapter after serving as the treasurer this year. For the past two years, Serianna has participated on the *UA Commercial Building Team* that competes in the ASC Reno competitions. She will be the team captain this coming year. Serianna is also the student liaison for *UA Rise Together Mentoring* for women in civil and architectural engineering. Serianna will be interning with McCarthy this summer. Serianna brings energy and positivity to all her endeavors.



AGC & DBIA nail driving competition



UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internships



The UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship program has grown to **eleven** new freshmen in this third cohort. Through this program, students are introduced to the career opportunities in Heavy Construction. Industry partners interview and select students for summer internships. Selected students are placed in a construction internship preparation seminar where students go through OSHA 10 training and get exposed to several topics in construction presented by industry professionals. This spring's seminar topics included:

- Reading plans and specifications; Envision sustainability framework; Excel; Bluebeam
- Concrete construction: Paul Preston, **Granite**
- RFIs, Submittals, and weekly meetings: Brandon Simao, **Kraemer**
- Conflict resolution for field engineers: Melissa Moreno and Sean Ray, **Sundt**
- Prefabrication: Jeff Buckley, **Aldridge Electric**
- Temporary works: Kasper Kerkhof, **Flatiron**
- Quality Control: Adam Bishop and Kevin Perrault, **Hunter Contracting**

UA Beaver Interns will continue to develop their understanding of the heavy construction industry through UA courses and additional internships as they progress through sophomore, junior, and senior years. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved with the UA Beavers Heavy Construction Internship, please let me know.

Heavy Construction Partner Companies



UA Commercial Building, Heavy Civil, & Sustainable Building Teams

In 2018, UA sent its first student team to the competitions hosted by the [Associated Schools of Construction \(ASC\) Region 6 & 7](#). We added a heavy civil team in 2019. This year, we added our third team in the sustainable building category. Students prepared with industry coaches from Sundt (Ian McDowell), Granite (Paul Preston, Will Vail, Isaiah Bell), and McCarthy (Hunter Brown). On competition day in Reno, NV, student teams are put to the test by preparing their analysis and approach to unique construction projects. Students connect with peers from over 50 universities and over 100 construction companies. This competition remains a highlight for students.



Team presentation at ASC Reno

Thanks to this year's corporate program partners.

**Alta Southwest * Beavers * Borderland * CalPortland
Concord * CORE * DPR * Gervasio and Associates
Granite * Henry George Mackintosh Foundation
Hensel Phelps * KE&G * Kittle * Kraemer * M3
McCarthy * the Ryan Companies * Smyth Industries
Sundt * Swaim * Whiting-Turner**

Thanks to this year's individual donors to CEM.

Sal Caccavale, Matthew McDole, Dean Papajohn, Brandon Skalsky



TAKE 5 lunch



CEM Alumni Spotlight

*Hunter Brown, UA Civil Engineering
(BS May 2018)*

Hunter joined McCarthy during his senior year and started full time after graduation. He is now an assistant superintendent and highly regarded by his peers. While a student at UA, Hunter was the first president of the DBIA UA Chapter, a position he held for two years. He was the captain of the first design-build team UA sent to the ASC Reno competition. This year, Hunter did an amazing job of getting our UA Sustainable Building team prepared for ASC Reno. Hunter met weekly from September through January with student team members exploring various aspects of sustainability and construction.



AGC Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Saul Guillen for receiving an Association of General Contractors (AGC) Arizona scholarship. Saul was introduced to construction through the UA Beavers Internship program and will be interning with McCarthy for a third summer. Two additional AGC scholarships are coming to UA students this coming year as part of the AGC Outstanding Educator Award I received this spring. Estefania Ramon and Leonardo Sanchez are both entering their senior year. Estefania is interning with Hensel Phelps and Leonardo is interning with JH Findorff.



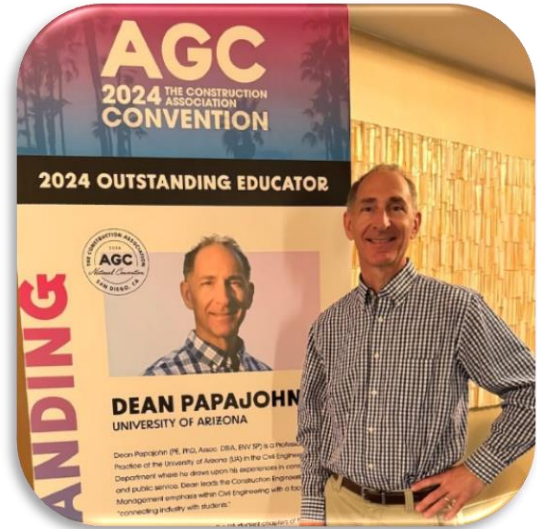
Thank you

This spring I was honored to receive the *AGC Outstanding Educator Award* which came with grant money for scholarships for two students mentioned earlier. I am also grateful to the Arizona Society of Professional Engineers for their *Engineering Education Excellence Award*. I could not do the work I am doing to prepare students for careers in construction without the support of many alumni and industry partners in Arizona and across the United States. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dean Papajohn

Dean Papajohn, PE, PhD, ENV SP, Assoc. DBIA
Professor of Practice
Civil & Architectural Engineering and Mechanics
May 9, 2024



Giving

You can give online at [Give Today](#) or checks can be written to the UA Foundation and sent to:

Margie Puerta Edson, The University of Arizona Foundation, PO Box 210109, Tucson, AZ 85721-0109

Please designate your gift for either

- *CAEM Construction Engineering Management (CEM) Endowed Fund* (for building a sustainable funding source for CEM) or
- *CAEM Construction Engineering Management (CEM) General Fund* (for current operating expenses).

Automatic monthly or one-time gifts can be set up. Thank you!



PPE donated by industry partners.

Please let me know if your company would like to donate hard hats, safety vests, or safety glasses.

