

Construction Management Technology News

<http://www.umaine.edu/cmt/>

Fall 2008

ENROLLMENT: Enrollment in the program continues to climb. It now stands at 158 students. Last year the enrollment was 120 students. CMT is now one of the largest undergraduate programs in the College of Engineering. The program is well beyond its capacity given the current number of faculty and facilities. The faculty are working with AGC of Maine to find ways to address this issue.

The current breakdown is the following: 54 first year students, 46 sophomores, 26 juniors, and 32 seniors.

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATING SENIORS: All May 2008 graduates were employed in the construction industry. The average starting salary stayed approximately the same as last year (\$52,000 per year).

ABET ACCREDITATION — In early November the program was reviewed by the ABET/TAC accreditation agency. The program passed with one concern and one observation. The concern was that there was an inadequate number of faculty given the current student numbers. The observation was to include BIM software exposure in the program. Unfortunately, the current fiscal shortfalls will likely prevent the University from funding an additional faculty any time soon.

The program expects to be accredited for the full six years. This program owes many thanks to the IAC members who donated time to improve the program and meet with the ABET evaluator.

EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWS: Despite the economic slowdown, there continues to be a vigorous interest in hiring graduates. Many seniors report interviews and even employment offers. A recent engineering career fair was packed with companies seeking employees. As an employer, you can reserve a booth at the next engineering career fair through the career center. Employers can also register with the Career Center by going to www.umaine.edu/career. After registering, an employer goes to the toolbar at the top of the page and must click on eRecruiting. Completing that step will bring the viewer to the front page of eRecruiting, and view a box that says "employers log in here."

ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS OF CONSTRUCTION (ASC) REGION 1 COMPETITION (Dunn): Several students from the CMT and Civil Engineering Programs participated in the Region I ASC bidding and estimating competition held in Fairfield, New Jersey on November 7-8, 2008. The student teams competed in three competition categories sponsored by the construction companies that built the actual projects. Each school is allowed to have a team of up to six student compete in each of the categories. The University of Maine had eighteen students competing in each of the three categories.

18 students participated in the ASC Region I Bidding and Estimating Competition held on November 6-8, 2008 in Parsipanny, NJ. Students competed against 15 other schools from all along the East Coast. Three teams competed in the Design-Build, Commercial Building, and Heavy Civil competitions. The Commercial Building took 3rd place in a field of 10 schools.

AGC STUDENT CHAPTER – AGC has not been very active. The AGC chapter did help with an AGC of Maine sponsored barbecue. About a hundred students, faculty and industry representatives attended. Many thanks to Sargent Corporation, Lane Construction, and Munters Moisture Control who not only paid for the food, but bought the AGC Student Chapter a really nice barbecue grill that they will be able to use for future events. AGC has recently elected new officers.

ABC STUDENT CHAPTER – The ABC Student Chapter has not met due to the resignation of the officers early in the semester.

ASSOCIATE CONSTRUCTORS EXAM: Thirty two students took the associate constructors exam in October. All CMT students are required to take the exam in order to graduate. Students must pass at least four content areas in order to graduate. Approximately 60% of the University of Maine students passed the exam. Students are not required to pass the exam to graduate.

DEAN'S LIST: The following CMT students earned the honor of being recognized in the Spring 2008 Dean's list: Jonathan Aceto, Nicholas Bacon*, Wayne Berry*, David Biette*, Zachary Davis*, Lacey Fogg*, Ryan Hart, Jonathan Kray, Nicholas Larrabee, Daniel Lyons, Benjamin Manning, Brendan McGuirl, Jaret Miller, Timothy Morley, Derek Pike, Andrew Pires, Thomas Rebmann, Nicole Rubenstein, Courtney Severy, Brayden Sheive*, Nathan Strout, and Vaughn Thibodeau.* Asterisk (*) indicate 2008 graduate.

CMT Web Page: Last year, Mac Gray has taken over the CMT web page. If you have additions or comments, please let Mac know at Mac.Gray@umit.maine.edu

SHIRTS: The construction management technology program has polo and long sleeve dress shirts available for donations in excess of \$30 made payable to the program. The shirts are embroidered with the University of Maine crest and name that is located above "Construction Management Technology." Available sizes include medium, large, and X-large, 2X large, and 3X large. If you are interested in obtaining a shirt please call Linda Liscomb at 207-581-2340 or complete the form attached to the newsletter.

SCHOLARSHIPS — Currently, the program has three scholarship funds available for CMT students. The current amount balance in these scholarships are the following: John F. "Jack" Kelley III scholarship (\$15,588), Stephen R. Nelson scholarship (\$5448), CET Scholarship and the CMT Alumni Scholarship.†

There are two scholarships available to CMT and Civil & Environmental Engineering students. The two scholarships are the James “Red” Bell, Jr. Pike Industries, Inc. Scholarship (\$4,383); and the Herbert E. Sargent Construction Management & Civil Engineering Scholarship (\$97,622). Pizzagalli Construction Company has their own scholarship that they award to CMT and Civil & Environmental engineering students.

There are two scholarships that are available to CMT students that work for particular employers. The two scholarships are the Herbert E. Sargent Scholarship† (\$129,902) and the CPM Constructors Scholarship (\$65,422). These scholarships are campus wide scholarships. For the most part, these scholarships are limited to employees and family of employees of the Sargent Corporation and CPM Constructors.

There are also several scholarships such as the John and Claire McDonough Scholarship that are open to all engineering students.

Those scholarships in excess of \$20,000 can make awards to students. Scholarships under \$20,000 cannot make awards until they reach \$20,000 through additional donations or interest accrual.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED — We are pleased to announce the following scholarship recipients:

CET Scholarship – Melissa Taylor

Construction Financial Manufacturing Association Scholarship – Brendan McGuirl

Construction Specifications Institute Scholarship - Nikki Rubenstein

Ival R. Cianchette Undergraduate Scholarship (National AGC) - Brendan McGuirl

Maine Better Transportation Scholarship — J. Ryan Robinson, Vaughn Thibodeau, and Dylan Michaud

Merit of the Day – Nikki Rubenstein

Midcoast Builders Alliance Scholarship - Nikki Rubenstein

National Association of Women in Construction - Nicholas Champagne

New England Transportation Technician Certification Program Scholarship — Bryan Berry

Pizzagalli Scholarship - Brendan McGuirl

Rodney E. Gallant Memorial Scholarship – Paul Berube

Stephen R. Nelson Memorial Scholarship – Aaron Madison

FRANCIS CROWE DISTINGUISHED AWARD — Each year the College of Engineering presents the Distinguished Francis Crowe Award to alumni who have made major contributions to advancing the art, science or practice of engineering. This year Karl Ward was presented the award.

Karl Ward received his Bachelors of Science in Construction Management from the University of Maine in 1993. This followed a distinctive undergraduate record highlighted by many honors and awards and culminating with him graduating Summa Cum Laude. Since then he has been an active leader in Maine’s construction industry while adding to his education by participating in both the Project Management Program

and Advanced Management Programs offered by the Association of General Contractors of America.

Karl joined Nickerson and O'day, Inc. in 1993 as a staff estimator. Over the next thirteen years, he successfully progressed through increasingly demanding management positions to his current position as President & CEO.

Previous CMT recipients of the Francis Crowe award include: Charles E. Furbish (2000), Robert Chaput, P.E. (2001), Keith Anderson (2001), Eldon Morrison (2002), Jack Kelley (2003), Mark Bancroft (2003), The Sergeant's Clan (Ralph Leonard, Herbert R. Sargent, Herbert E. Sargent, James Sargent, and Shane Sargent) (2005), Timothy Sommers (2006), and Ken Ouellette (2008)

TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS — Please consider establishing a tribute or memorial scholarship fund. This is one way to honor a company or individual or preserve the memory of an individual forever while benefiting students. For those persons that would like to provide for a tribute to a contractor or firm or honor a departed individual, a scholarship can be established for as little as \$500 (awarding the scholarship requires at least \$15,000).

PROGRAM FUNDING — It is common knowledge that state agencies, including the University of Maine have undergone large funding cuts. Given the economic climate, an increase in funding or even stable funding is unlikely. Faculty will be meeting with industry representatives to explore ways to fund the program and handle the increasing enrollment. Your ideas would be appreciated. We will be sending out a letter soliciting donations. Please give some consideration to the requests mentioned in this solicitation letter.

APPRECIATION — Several contractors and suppliers have come into the classroom and have participated with students this semester: Cross Insurance, Maine Local Roads in MDOT, Pike Industries, Sargent Corporation, Consigli Construction, White Sign Company, Nickerson-O'Day (Jack Kelly), Roof Systems of Maine, Pizzagalli Construction, AGC, ABC, Cianbro, Skanska USA, Lane Construction, and Munters Moisture Control

LICENSING & CERTIFICATIONS — If you are an alumni of the two-year CET program or CMT program, please check the alumni list at <http://www.umaine.edu/cmt/Alumni.htm> If you have licenses and certifications that are not included with your name, please send the information to Mac Gray at Mac.Gray@umit.maine.edu so the alumni list can reflect your accomplishments.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES — This newsletter is sent to all alumni by e-mail. If you have the e-mail address of other alumni, please send the address to Knud Hermansen at knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu so they will receive news from the University of Maine.

REQUEST FROM JONI: Joni Fournier, a 1995 graduate of the program, has sent us the sad news that she lost her husband to cancer. Joni is a great athlete and is attempting to raise funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She has sent us the following message seeking support:

As most of you already know Eddie passed away in September after battling cancer for a year and a half. He was a very special husband, father, brother, son and friend. It still doesn't seem possible, because he just repeated over and over again how much he wanted to be here with Allison & Katie. Something that Eddie wanted to do when he got better was to give back to Dana Farber for all the care they gave to him. He said this a number of times. Allison and I were able to get numbers from Dana-Farber for the 2009 running of the Boston Marathon. You can reach my fundraising page at <http://www.rundfmc.org/jonif2009>.

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR: The past year has been challenging for the School of Engineering Technology and the upcoming fiscal year looks to be even more challenging. The good news is that demand for our programs is up. Student enrollment is at an all-time high in our programs. Although economic conditions are creating volatility in the job market, demand for our graduates continues to be strong. Unfortunately, state funding for the University system is down so that we have not been able to bring more resources to bear to meet the increased demand for our programs.

The business challenges facing all of our alumni will be the same challenges we face at the University. I am proud to report that our faculty are being innovative to increase our efficiency at course delivery with minimal support with the goal of minimizing any decrease in program quality. We are optimistic that the economic downturn will hopefully only last 18-24 months and states will need hard working engineering graduates to rebuild infrastructure. We are thankful for all of our alumni support in this environment and will work hard to continue to serve the needs of future graduates.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: The faculty and students of the Construction Management Technology program wish all of you Happy Holidays.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS: Contact Knud Hermansen at 207-581-2168 or Knud.Hermansen@umit.maine.edu if you have comments or questions regarding this newsletter or program information.