

Construction Management Technology News

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

Spring 2009

ENROLLMENT — Enrollment in the CMT program now exceeds 160 students. This is an increase of 30 students from the same time last year. At this enrollment level two additional faculty or at least five faculty total are required. The student to faculty ratio is one of the highest within the college of engineering (if not the highest). The quality of the education suffers at the current high enrollment and limited faculty numbers. Unfortunately, there is little chance of getting the additional two faculty needed due to budget constraints and spending priorities. As a consequence, the CMT faculty have requested that enrollment for the CMT program be capped to 90 students. This was a difficult decision since the demand for graduates has always exceeded the number graduating.

EMPLOYMENT OF SENIORS — Demand has fallen for graduates when compared to this period last year. Nevertheless, seniors willing to relocate are receiving employment offers. The average starting salary has risen from \$50,000 per year to \$58,000 per year. Approximately half of the seniors will be working in Maine or for Maine based firms.

DEAN'S LIST — The following CMT students earned the honor of being recognized in the Fall 2008 Dean's list: Jonathan Aceto, Erik Berzins, David Englehutt, Alexander Hardy, Erica Jannino, Jonathan Kray, Daniel Lyons, Benjamin Manning, Brendan McGuirl, Benjamin McPherson, Nicholas Melcher, Jennifer Paradis, Matthew Pellerin, Derek Pike, James Robinson, Nicole Rubenstein, Scott Sjoberg, Ryan Sylvia, Melissa Taylor, Vaughn Thibodeau, Zachary Waters, Benjamin Weeks, and Andrew Zimmerman.

3.5 PRESIDENTIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — The Presidential Achievement award is made just one time in a student's studies at the University of Maine. Full-time students must attain a 3.0 grade point average or better for two consecutive semesters. The student must also achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better for the most recent semester. Very few students achieve this honor. This year the following students have achieved this honor: Erik Berzins, Nicholas Larrabee, Jennifer Paradis, Vaughn Thibodeau, Zachary Waters, and Andrew Zimmerman.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS — Scholarship investments have suffered along with private investment accounts. Accordingly, the number and amount of scholarships have been reduced from the previous year. The following students have received scholarships at the Spring semester awards ceremony:

- John & Claire McDonough Scholarship - Kayla White
- Stephen R. Nelson Scholarship — Jonathan Kray

SCHOLARSHIP STATUS — The CMT program has four scholarships that can be awarded (when sufficient interest accrual has occurred). The scholarships are the following:

- **CMT Alumni Scholarship** — The CMT Alumni Scholarship was established by alumni, faculty, and friends of the program. (\$5,000)
- **Pizzagalli Scholarship** — The Pizzagalli Scholarship was established in 2008 by the Pizzagalli Corporation to benefit civil engineering and construction management technology students. (N/A)

- James ‘Red’ Bell, Jr. Pike Industries, Inc. Scholarship — The scholarship was established in 2008 by Pike Industries in memory of James ‘Red’ Bell, Jr. a dedicated employee who worked for the company for over 40 years and was a member of the University of Maine class of 1969.
- Jack Kelley III Scholarship — The Jack Kelley III Scholarship was established by Nickerson & O’Day to honor the work and contributions to the construction profession of Jack Kelley. (\$15,370)
- Stephen R. Nelson Scholarship — The Stephen R. Nelson Scholarship was funded by contributions made in memory of Stephen Nelson, a graduate of the two-year CET program. Steve was killed in a construction accident while employed by S.W. Cole. (\$5,000)

RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS — Establishing a scholarship is a great way to recognize and memorialize the work of a firm, co-worker, peer, employee, or employer. It is also a great way to memorialize a departed friend, family, or peer. Their memory will live on forever in helping future generations of students entering the construction field. If you are interested in setting up a scholarship, please contact Knud Hermansen (207-581-2168 or knud.hermansen@umit.maine.edu) to discuss your interest.

ABC STUDENT CHAPTER — The Student Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors is advised by Assistant Professor Philip Dunn of the CMT program. The chapter has been inactive this semester.

AGC STUDENT CHAPTER — The Black Bear Chapter of AGC has been very busy this past year. There have been several presentations from a variety of companies. Centennial Construction, Rick MacInnis of Kiewit, Pike Construction, Thibodeau Construction, Mark Bancroft of Bancroft Construction, and Sargent Corporation are some of the companies that took time out from busy schedules to come speak with the students. AGC members also volunteered their time to complete a project at the Good Samaritan House in Bangor, Maine. This agency, which assists young mothers, needed a walkway that could be used in case of emergency. Babies in cribs can now be rolled down the ramp, away from danger should the need arise. AGC members also did some cosmetic work to the Good Samaritan's entrance.

The officers of AGC are hoping to have a very successful year next academic year. Currently the AGC student chapter is planning a BBQ for the beginning of the year, along with more presentations from companies. Members are excited about the Black Bear Chapter of AGC assisting with additional community service projects.

PROGRAM FUNDING — Funding for the College of Engineering, including Construction Management Technology has dropped considerably. We are fortunate and grateful that our alumni and IAC members have made donations in the past to cover expenses such as the ASC competition and software renewals. The program has a critical need to cover the ASC competition for the 2009-2010 academic year. Any donations would be appreciated.

Currently, AGC of Maine and the Dean of the College of Engineering are actively seeking donations for adjunct faculty to cover extra courses brought about by the high enrollment in the program and the need to offer more building related courses.

PROGRAM CHANGES — Laptop computers are now required for all students. Phil Dunn is investigating PC based or web based scheduling, estimating, and documentation software. If you have any suggestions for software, please contact Phil Dunn at Phil.Dunn@umit.maine.edu

ASSOCIATE CONSTRUCTOR EXAM — The following students/graduates have passed the associate constructor exam in the Spring Semester 2009: Bryan Chouinard, Chris Curlew, David Englehutt, Patrick Macisso, Aaron Madison, Andrew Pires, and Marcus Sibley. This is an 80% pass rate.

The Associate Constructor exam is offered by the American Institute of Constructors Construction Certification (www.constructorcertification.org). It tests knowledge on surveying, estimating, scheduling, materials, administration, law, and operations. Students are required to take this test and pass four out of the seven sections to graduate.

CMT CROWE AWARD — Congratulations to Bollie Bollenbach for the honor of receiving the Construction Management Technology's Distinguished Francis Crowe Award that was presented at the end of the Spring semester. The Distinguished Francis Crowe Award recognizes individuals who have made considerable engineering contributions to the construction profession and the construction management program.

Bollie Bollenbach is vice president of Pizzagalli Construction Company. Bollie grew up in Minnesota where he enjoyed an active outdoor lifestyle to include hockey, tennis, football, skiing, fishing, and bird hunting. Bollie has a degree in economics from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. in finance and marketing from Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. He has over thirty years of business experience, including twenty in construction and ten in international consumer products. He has been an active supporter of the Construction Management Technology program, where he serves on the CMT industrial advisory committee. He presently resides in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Prior distinguished Francis Crowe inductees include Charles E. Furbish (2000), Robert Chaput, P.E. (2001), Keith Anderson (2001), Eldon Morrison (2002), Jack Kelly (2003), Mark Bancroft (2003), the Sergeant's Clan (Ralph Leonard, Herbert R. Sargent, Herbert E. Sargent, James Sargent, Shane Sargent) (2005), and Timothy Sommers (2006), Ken Ouelette (May, 2008) and Karl Ward (Dec. 2008).

FACULTY NEWS — There are three full time faculty and two adjunct faculty in the program. The three full-time faculty are Howard "Mac" Gray, P.E. (Coordinator); Phil Dunn, P.E., and Knud Hermansen, P.L.S., P.E., Esq.

We are pleased to announce that Phil Dunn has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor and been granted tenure. Phil teaches estimating, scheduling, construction management, documentation, and the capstone course. During the past semester, Phil has been very active as president of the Maine Association of Engineers. He has also attended numerous workshops and training sessions.

During this past year, Knud has been active combining his engineering and surveying licenses with his law license. He has been appointed by the Maine Superior court as a commissioner in one case and a special master in another case. He has also been a referee and arbitrator for numerous disputes as an alternative to litigation. He presented workshops for the West Virginia Board of Professional Land Surveyors, Illinois Society of Professional Land Surveyors, Maine Society of Land Surveyors, Vermont Society of Land Surveyors, Rhode Island Society of Land Surveyors, Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors & Civil Engineers, Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors, and the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR — It has been a unique and challenging year for the School of Engineering Technology. Enrollment exceeded 450 for the first time in history and was led by an all-time high enrollment in Construction Management Technology of 157. This unprecedented demand is good news and is a testament to the quality programs being offered. Unfortunately, the bad news is that University resources have not been available to respond to this demand. Our faculty have worked hard to squeeze more students into their sections. It is likely that we will soon have to elevate our entrance standards in one or more programs to manage demand and maintain quality.

Many of you have read in the news about budget cuts which seem to have become an annual tradition. This year's cuts have been exceptionally painful because they were very deep and occurred at a time when the College of Engineering had already been cut to the bone. While the School of Engineering Technology was able to avoid losing any personnel, the College of Engineering did lose 3.5 positions. These were not open positions. Quality professionals who had served the university for many years lost their jobs. It is heartbreaking and a further sign of the pain associated with this recession. We are extremely appreciative for all the strong support that we continue to receive from our alumni and industry supporters.

On a higher note, I am pleased to recognize Professor Phil Dunn who was awarded promotion and tenure this year. Phil has made tremendous contributions to the Construction Management Technology program and I am confident that he will continue to serve the program with distinction. Please feel free to send him congratulations on his accomplishment.

Finally, I would like to thank our supporters who serve on our Industrial Advisory Committees. Our faculty appreciate that the time you share with us is valuable. During our recent accreditation visit from ABET, the program evaluators commented on the high caliber of our IAC members and the enthusiastic support they provide for our programs. Thank you for your commitment and the direction you provide for our programs.