

M.E. RINKER, SR. SCHOOL OF  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

COLLEGE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING

Volume 72 Issue 2

Fall 2008



# A Message From

## Dr. Christopher Silver, Dean



We are gearing for a new academic year, and some exciting opportunities await us in 2008/09. Last year brought many notable accomplishments, especially given the financial challenges that all Colleges (here and across the state) endured. Due to the budget cuts, we did not fill some crucial staff vacancies and will need to reapportion the workload to sustain our quality programs. In addition, DCP was affected by the campus cut in

enrollment, a tough situation for everyone given the demand for entry to UF.

Yet on the plus side, our faculty generated in excess of \$5 million in externally funded research, and these grants provided essential support for our graduate students. Collectively, DCP faculty produced a tremendous volume of scholarly work (including no fewer than 12 books). And our alumni and friends continued to generously support our endowments and new initiatives which muted some of the impact of the state budget cuts.

And throughout all of this, DCP students continued to garner a wide array of regional, state and national awards for their work.

This summer, the UF Board of Trustees approved a new undergraduate major in our college, the Bachelor of Science in Sustainability and the Built Environment (BSSBE). As a leader on campus in advancing the cause of sustainability and the “green” agenda, we already have in place three graduate level concentrations. With this new interdisciplinary degree, we will be able to introduce the knowledge and skills to a larger cohort of students earlier in their academic and professional careers. Our BSSBE degree is one of the first of its kind in a College such as ours, and should enable us to legitimize further our claims of national leadership in this critical societal initiative.

At a recent gathering of administrators from the 14 universities which house both building construction and architecture programs in the same college, it was evident that shared interest in sustainability was generating new initiatives for deeper collaboration. In addition, there was much interest in strengthening expertise in new design and building technologies, such as Building Information Modeling. There are so many ways that architects and contractors can collaborate and integrate their shared responsibilities in shaping the built environment. In DCP, we hope to model that collaboration in our teaching, research and service.

We’ll keep you posted as these and other new initiatives. And we welcome your input. After a much needed break this summer from the fiscal challenges of last year, we look forward to another accomplished year.

## Dr. Abdol Chini, Director



I trust that this message finds you all well. I am pleased to present the Rinker School’s report for the 2007-2008. This past academic year, 125 students graduated with Bachelors, 35 with Masters, and 3 with Doctorate degrees. The top 65 students who were admitted to the undergraduate program for the Fall 2008 semester have an average Pre-BCN GPA of 3.41 and average SAT score of 1220. Job placement for BCN

graduates has been very successful and average starting salary for the Spring 2008 graduates was \$54,000 per year. We had 114 companies with 300 recruiters at the Spring 2008 BCN Career Fair in O’Connell Center.

The BCN faculty members have all been busy teaching, pursuing their research, publishing findings, attending professional conferences and securing external funds for research. They generated 13,270 student credit hours, published more than 95 articles, made 35 national and international presentations, wrote 51 research proposals, and received \$2.23 million research funding. These efforts often involve students who are actively engaged in our on-going research and often make presentations or publish with us. I invite you to take a look at some of our faculty, student, and alumni accomplishments in this newsletter.

We were successful recruiting Dr. James Sullivan to fill the Charles R. Perry Endowed Professorship position. James earned a PhD degree in Building Construction from UF in 2007 and has several years of construction industry work experience. He will teach Construction Techniques and take a lead role in using the Perry Yard facility to prepare our students to work effectively with subcontractors and craftspeople.

The Rinker School’s Management team won first place overall out of 23 student teams from universities across the country in the 2008 Student Construction Management Competition during the ABC National Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico in March. Congratulations to the team members and their faculty coach Dr. Raymond Issa.

Let me note what a pleasure it is to be and work with such outstanding faculty, alumni, staff and students. I urge you to come visit us - you will see why we are so excited about our programs, and why we have been able to train so many outstanding graduates. Your support is crucial to our continued success and we welcome your involvement in our educational activities. Please plan to visit the School, be a guest speaker in one of our classes, and join us at the Homecoming BBQ on October 25th.

# Orange & Blueprints

a biannual publication

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Front cover pictures:  
(from left to right)

**Distinguished Alumnus (top left):** John McIntyre

**Construction Hall of Fame Members:** (two top right): Raymond Southern and Breck Weingart

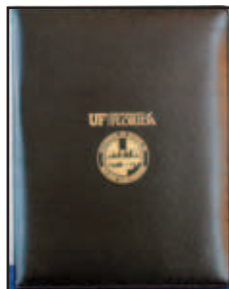
**ABC Team National Champions:** Christian Mercado, Carlos Lorenzo, Kevin Chupp, Eric Weiss, Lindsey Ore, and Adam Milner

**BCN Going Global:** Greg, Patricia and Logan Grooms

## SHOW YOUR RINKER SCHOOL PRIDE



BCN Coffee Mug \$4



BCN Portfolio \$20



Polo Shirts (S, M, X, XL, XXL)  
Blue and White \$30

To purchase contact: Patty Barritt at (352) 273-1150

# Spring 2008 Career Fair

The Rinker School held its Spring Career Fair on February 12, 2008 at the O'Connell Center. The career fair was another success with over 100 companies and approximately 400 students in attendance. Many pre-BCN students attended the fair looking for internships as well as students from other major schools within the University and other building construction programs in Florida attended.

Albert and Alberta were on hand to bring the Gator Nation spirit to the students and career fair representatives. The next career fair will be on October 21st. For more information on sponsoring or attending the fall fair, please contact the job placement office at (352) 273-1187.



L to R: Elizabeth Leng, Hank Huisman and Mike Taylor from Current Builders



L to R: Ian Schwartz and Tanna Thomas from Stiles



L to R: Annette Cornwell and Clark Scherer from Scherer Construction



## The Building Construction Career Fair

October 21, 2008 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Stephen C. O'Connell Center

For more information, visit our website at:  
[www.bcn.ufl.edu](http://www.bcn.ufl.edu) (click on Job Placement)

## Seen Out and About

Several BCN students and Pirtle Construction Managers were out for dinner at a local restaurant the night before the Spring Career Fair. As Coach Meyer, UF's head football coach was leaving the restaurant, several students approached him for a photo. Coach Meyer shook everyone's hands and was happy to pose for a photo with them. The coach is truly an asset to the Gator Nation.

The picture at the right features from left to right: James Kaphusman, Chris Westrick, Vince McKilligan, Coach Meyer, Bill Ellis, Lauren Bird, James Bradley, and Andrew Greener.



# BCN Advisory Council Executive Committee

The BCN Advisory Council Executive Committee (EXCOM) held its biannual meeting on April 11, 2008 in Orlando. **Bob Angle** was presented with a plaque, honoring him as an Emeritus Member of the Committee, and was recognized for his years of service to EXCOM. The Council selected two new members to the Committee, **Karl Watson Jr.**, Florida Regional President of CEMEX-USA and **John Gooding**, President of Deerbrook Inc. in Bonita Springs.

The Committee discussed current efforts towards fundraising for the Endowed Professorship for Construction Services. Other topics of discussion included an update of the curriculum review, other fundraising activities, and BCN Regional Club updates. The Committee implemented the “Class Challenge Gift” which will be a competition between each graduating class to get the highest percentage of alum donating to the school annually.

Dr. Chini reported a BIM software will replace AutoCAD in the BCN 3255 course and will be used in estimating, HVAC, and structure courses. An undergraduate course will be offered in high performance buildings and students will be encouraged to be LEED-AP certified upon graduation.

Present for the April 11th meeting were Bob Angle, John Bennett, Rick Derrer, Paul Hardaker, Sid Jordan (Chair), John McIntyre, Harley Miller, Bill Morthland, Steve Palmer, Bill Pinto, Charles Reid (Vice Chair), Erik Sharpe, Ray Southern, David Stayschich, Abdol Chini, Raymond Issa, Lynne Capece and Kim Stanley.



L to R: Dr. Chini, Bob Angle and Sid Jordan



EXCOM members at Spring meeting

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## Tim Good, BCN Advisory Council EXCOM Member



**Tim Good** is Vice President and Director of Construction for the Industrial Group of the Haskell Company in Jacksonville. Tim graduated with a Bachelor's of Building Construction in 1972 and was a member of Sigma Lambda Chi. After a term in the US Army, Tim began his construction career with Joe M. Rodgers & Associates out of Nashville, Tennessee, later to become Centex Rodgers. Initially, he worked as a project engineer on an addition to Alachua County General Hospital in Gainesville. He then relocated to northern California and gained fast-track experience in building hospitals in California, Oregon, Utah and Arizona. In 1978, he assisted in opening and managing an office for Rodgers in Houston where he continued building on his healthcare experience with projects in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. When Rodgers consolidated operations in Nashville in 1986, Tim stayed in Houston with Robert E. McKee, a commercial arm of Jacobs Engineering. The industrial experience he gained with Jacobs/McKee set him up for his current position where he has worked in Haskell's commercial and industrial integrated design/build environment for over 19 years. His group concentrates on food, beverage, manufacturing and distribution projects across the country and internationally.

He maintains active contractor's licenses in Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina and Oregon.

Throughout his travels, Tim has remained an ardent Gator fan although he has shown great diversity in the education of his three children. His older daughter received a Master's degree in education from Texas A&M and teaches in Austin. His son is a civil engineer in Orlando and received an Environmental Engineering degree from the University of Central Florida and his younger daughter is currently working on a Business degree from Florida State University. Tim and his wife Carol currently live in northwest St. Johns County.

Tim is often seen on campus attending the Career Fairs and participating in recruiting activities, giving guest lectures at Rinker and Weil Halls, reviewing course curricula as a member of the EXCOM Curriculum Subcommittee and at several football games per season. Haskell has maintained Major Donor status through Tim's support of the Design/Build Team since 2002. Tim also works closely with the St. Johns County Career Academy program. Serving as an industry advisor, his efforts help high school students begin selecting careers in engineering and construction.

# BCN Construction Hall of Fame

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**Raymond Southern** and **Breck Weingart** were selected as the 2008 inductees for the BCN Construction Hall of Fame. They will be inducted on October 25th at the BCN Homecoming BBQ. During the ceremony the inductees will have their bronze plaques on the Construction Hall of Fame wall unveiled.



**Raymond Southern** graduated from the University of Florida in 1973, with a degree in Building Construction. After graduation, he returned to Miami and began his career with Frank J. Rooney, Inc., a local construction company founded in 1933. Frank J. Rooney, Inc. subsequently became known nationwide as Centex Construction and now operates as Balfour Beatty Construction. Ray has dedicated his 34-year career to

the same company and is currently the CEO of Balfour Beatty Florida Division, while contributing to the success of the overall organization. Balfour Beatty Construction operates out of four major metropolitan cities covering the Western, Southern and Eastern Regions of the United States, generating annual revenues of \$1.8 billion.

Ray has also been a strong advocate in giving back to the community on both a corporate and personal level. A highly successful and enduring tradition is the “Balfour Beatty Construction Annual Golf Benefit” for which Ray is the executive chairman, event host and the die-hard participant. All proceeds from this event benefit a different organization each year and the Rinker School has been a recipient two times, including a \$30,000 scholarship fund in 2007. At the executive level, Ray has participated as a board member for numerous organizations including the Rinker School Advisory Council Executive Committee.



**Breck Weingart** received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida’s School of Building Construction in 1980 and is president of Charles Perry Construction, Inc. He is also a co-owner of both Charles Perry Construction, Inc. and PPI Construction Management.

Breck first took an interest in the building trade from his father, who worked as a subcontractor. He took a job as a project estimator for Charles Perry Construction in 1983. Breck began taking on more responsibility and eventually became vice president and co-owner with Mr. Perry. PPI Construction Management was subsequently established as a separate company in 1993 to pursue construction management contracts. Through his ownership in the two companies, he employs over 200 people in Gainesville, Orlando, and Flagler County, and has garnered a reputation among his employees and the construction industry as being honest, fair, and a true steward of the industry.

Breck has served on community boards including the Santa Fe Community College Board of Trustees, M&S Bank Board of Directors, Builder’s Association of North Central Florida, and the Alachua County Boys and Girls Club. He is an outstanding alumnus of the BCN program. Breck serves as a member of the Rinker School Advisory Council Executive Committee. He is a founding member of the Gainesville/Ocala Gator BCN Club.

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## Distinguished Alumnus

This award is given annually to a graduate of the School who has graduated a minimum of ten years prior to the award. The Nominee must have distinguished himself/herself since graduation in a construction field and have demonstrated consistent support of the School. The 2008 Distinguished Alumnus is **John McIntyre**.



**John McIntyre** received his Bachelor of Building Construction with Honors in 1984 from the University of Florida’s School of Building Construction. He is the cofounder and president of McIntyre, Elwell & Strammer (ME&S) General Contractors in Sarasota, Florida.

After graduating, John started his career in commercial construction as a project manager for Sarasota based E.E. “Gene” Simmons General Contractors. In 1987 he and two other BCN alumni, Fred Strammer and Greg Elwell founded ME&S to construct retail, banking, schools, churches, and office buildings. For the last 20 years, ME&S has completed more than \$500 million in construction contracts and currently employs 12 BCN alumni. Some of the interesting projects John has been involved with include Whole Foods in Sarasota – the first LEED Silver certified grocery store in US -

and Photo Tech Corporate Headquarters in Sarasota – a Florida AIA Award winning building.

John is currently a member of the BCN Advisory Council Executive Committee and provides proactive input to curricula of the Rinker School to insure they address current industry practices and standards. He has consistently supported the School since his graduation. ME&S is a major donor to the School and John has personally made several major gifts to the School. He coordinated the 20-year Reunion of BCN Class of ‘84, encouraged two vendors to sponsor the fall 2007 career fair, and has been guest speaker at several BCN classes. John strongly supported the formation of the UF Tampa Bay BCN Gator Club and has been involved in many of the Club’s activities including hosting the School’s 70th Anniversary banquet and fundraiser in September 2005 that raised \$50,000 for the 70th Anniversary Endowed Professorship.

# BCN Alumni Regional Club Updates

The Tampa Bay Gator BCN Club will be holding their fall meeting at Feather Sound Golf & Country Club in Clearwater on Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 5:30pm. Dr. Charles Kibert will address the group on preparation to become a LEED Accredited Professional. The Club held a Winter Social at Ferg's Sports Bar and Grill in St. Petersburg, on March 6, 2008, sponsored by Angle & Schmid, Inc.

The Club hosted their Third Annual Golf Scramble at the Feather Sound Country Club in Clearwater on May 19, 2008. Clark Construction sponsored the pre-event luncheon, and 28 foursomes competed. The awards reception, sponsored by Nelson Construction and attended by Rinker School guests: Dr. Abdol Chini, Kim Stanley, and Lynne Capece, featured multiple raffle, silent auction gifts and a light buffet.

The Springer-Peterson Roofing & Sheet Metal team took first place honor for the second consecutive year. The teams from Clark Construction and Brandon Construction/Flager C.E. were second and third place finishers respectively.

Several local area golf courses donated rounds of golf for four and local businesses donated dinner gift certificates, golf equipment, Gator gear, and tools and equipment which were included as silent auction or raffle item. The tournament raised over \$17,000 for the benefit of the 70th Anniversary Endowed Professorship.

The Tampa Bay BCN Gators wish to thank and acknowledge all of the volunteers that assisted in the planning as well as each of the following firms for their generous participation and contributions:

**Reception Sponsor:** Nelson Construction

**Lunch Sponsor:** Clark Construction

**Orange Sponsors:**

Bovis Lend Lease

CEMEX

Coreslab Structures

Diaz Fritz Isabel

Florida Rock Industries

Gerdau Ameristeel

Hunt Construction Group

J.E. Charlotte Construction

Merit Professional Coatings

Tappouni Mechanical Services

W.G. Mills

**Blue Sponsors:**

Hardin Construction

Irwin Contracting

Springer-Peterson Roofing & Sheet Metal

Wal-Mark Contracting Group

**Team Sponsors:**

Aetna

Angle & Schmid

Brandon Construction

Clark Construction

Flagler C.E.

Hawkins Construction

John Carlo

Proefke Construction

Ramcon Roofing

Travelers

Wallace, Welch & Willingham

**Trophy Sponsor:** Nelson Construction

**Putting Contest Sponsor:** Able Body Labor

**Long Drive Contest Sponsor:** Angle & Schmid

**Drink Cart Sponsors:**

R.R. Simmons

Turner Construction & Development

**Hole-In-One Contest:** ASAP Equipment Rental

**Golf Tees Sponsor:** Angle & Schmid

**Hole Sponsors:**

Bankers Insurance Company

Brandon Construction

Courtside Grille

Creative Contractors

Flagler C.E.

Henkelman Construction

Highway Technologies

J. Kokolakis Contracting

Kalemeris Construction

Nelson Construction

Nielson, Wojtowicz, Neu & Associates

Pro-Crete Systems

Sierra Construction

Suncoast Autobuilders

Williams Construction

Zurich

**Auction and Raffle Gift Sponsors:**

Airco Golf Course

Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club

Bascom's Chop House

Buccaneer Blueprint

Emerald Greens

Feather Sound Country Club

Ferg's Sports Bar

Gator Haven

Heads and Tails

The Home Depot

Isla Del Sol Yacht / Country Club

Jim & Slim's Tool Supply

McIntyre, Elwell & Strammer

New City Signs

Outback Steakhouse

RSC Equipment Rental

St. Petersburg Country Club

Sy's Supplies

White Cap Construction Supply

Ker's Wing House



L to R: Chris Lucas, Jeff Charlotte, George Horstman, Abdol Chini, Bob Angle, Jeff Nelson, and Lauren Caby



L to R: Glenn Elkes, Bill Morthland, Bob Sanders and DJ McGlothern

# Alumni Club Updates Continued

The **North Central Florida Gator BCN Club** hosted their 2nd Annual Sporting Clay Shoot on March 21, 2008. After a pre-shoot barbecue lunch, ten foursomes participated in a day of sociable competition at Bradford Sportsmen's Farm. Special thanks to W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor and W.W. Gay Fire & Integrated Systems for sponsoring this event. The club also held a member meeting on June 5, 2008 at Grill Masters in Gainesville. Melisa Miller, BCN alumna and Executive Director of Rebuilding Together North Central Florida, was the guest speaker at this meeting. The club will hold their next member meeting in September. Please visit the BCN website for an update on this upcoming meeting.

The Club would like to encourage all BCN alumni and friends to join their current members in any and all events. For more information please contact Ryan Murphy at [rmm@ppicm.com](mailto:rmm@ppicm.com) or (352) 331-1141.



L to R: Phillip Bottcher, Ivan Oelrich, Eric Drummond and Matt Marino

On February 21, 2008 the **Northeast Florida Gator BCN Club** met for their 6th social in the past 3 years and recorded a strong attendance. Alumni representing several companies attended to hear Dr. Rick Smailes speak on behalf of the Rinker School and give an update on school activities. The social was sponsored by Cemex. The event attracted alumni from all areas of the industry represented by owners, engineers, subcontractors, vendors, and of course general contractors. The event was held at Ker's Winghouse in Jacksonville's Tinseltown off of Southside Boulevard.

The 2nd social of 2008 will be held at Ker's Winghouse in August to parallel the kick-off of football season. Invitations will be sent to all alumni in the NE Florida Area.

In addition, The Club is currently planning a 70th Anniversary Celebration, with a "Gator Tailgating" theme to be held at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Outpost. This event will be open to alumni and their families. Special faculty guests will be attending from past years that will certainly bring back memories for some of you. The event will be held on Saturday, October 18th, 2008

(Gator football off week for football fans). Save the date flyers have been distributed and invitations will go out in August.

Up until now, the BCN Alumni club's primary focus has been to increase recognition of the Rinker School's affairs and to foster a social network between BCN alumni in the Jacksonville area. As the club attendance continues to grow, a more strategic approach is being considered to coordinate the time and talent of our region's alumni to foster professionals into the construction industry. As most of you are aware, talented individuals are scarce in our industry. Hopefully, our organization can bridge the gap between high school students and construction professionals to shed a positive light on the construction industry and foster new kids into our industry.



Jacksonville club attendees

The **Atlanta Gator BCN Club** met in February at the Olde Mille Steakhouse to form a committee of alumni. The first slate of officers were selected as follows: Wayne Wadsworth, President; Jason Spears, VP of Activities; Robert Herndon, VP of Membership, and David Schmidt, Beth Studley, Carlos Asensio and Gary Wax were nominated as Executives-at-large. The Club held its next meeting in July with over 30 alum present. Anyone who is interested in further information about joining the Atlanta BCN Club should contact Robert Herndon by phone at (678) 352-1524 or by email at [robherndon@bellsouth.net](mailto:robherndon@bellsouth.net).



Wayne Wadsworth from Holder Construction speaks at club meeting



**ATTENTION NORTHEAST FLORIDA ALUMNI**

The Northeast Florida Gator BCN Club requests that you

**Save The Date** for the 70th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, October 18, 2008  
The Outpost – Ponte Vedre Inn & Club  
3:00 pm Social / 5:00 pm Dinner

Anyone interested in attending please contact Kim Stanley at [kimms@ufl.edu](mailto:kimms@ufl.edu) or (352) 273-1187

event sponsored by  
Brasfield & Gorrie, Florida Rock Industries, Inc.,  
Gerdau Ameristeel, The Haskell Company

**ATTENTION PALM BEACH ALUMNI**

The Palm Beach Gator BCN Club  
requests your attendance at a social to be held at  
The River House Restaurant

On August 21st from 6:00-7:30 pm

Anyone interested in attending

please contact [dharper@hedricbrothers.com](mailto:dharper@hedricbrothers.com)  
or (561) 242-4309

**ATTENTION TAMPA BAY ALUMNI**

The Tampa Bay Gator BCN Club  
will have its next social event

Thursday, August 28, 2008 at 5:30pm

Feather Sound Golf & Country Club

Anyone interested in attending

please contact Bob Angle at [rpa@angle-schmid.com](mailto:rpa@angle-schmid.com)  
or (727) 530-1467

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## Lessons Learned

Dale Hedrick of Hedrick Brothers Construction has written an article as part of the newsletters new section *Lessons Learned*. This article pertains to the importance of researching an Owner’s Representative, prior to the start of a project.

“When an Owner’s Representative is involved in a project, you must not only investigate the Owner, but it is as important to investigate the Owner’s Representative, as well, to see if they are someone you can work with. During the selection process for bidding a Vet Clinic and subsequently throughout the contract negotiations, the Owner’s Representative was very receptive and cooperative. The project was bid and a contract agreed upon by the Owner, the Owner’s Representative and Hedrick Brothers. Upon the start of construction, within a very short time period the Owner’s Representative’s dialog changed and the Representative became very antagonistic, uncooperative, and incompetent. The cooperation became less and less, until it became apparent the project would have no chance of a successful completion due to

the endless disagreements / constraints. All parties met to try to negotiate and come to terms with the grievances, but to no avail. In the end, it was mutually agreed upon to terminate the contract.

When problems began with this Owner’s Representative, we started investigating and found many red flags that gave us great cause for concern.

The lessons learned are one must be thorough in their investigation of not only the Owner, but also those associated with and working in the Owner’s interest. It is also imperative to make sure there is a large enough contingency in addition to the agreed upon budget. Though this does not assure a trouble-free association, it does provide another layer of protection for the contractor.”

If you would like to submit an article for future publication, please contact Kim Stanley at [kimms@ufl.edu](mailto:kimms@ufl.edu).

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## BCN Going Global

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Certain opportunities come along only once in a lifetime and you have to be prepared to take advantage of them. My name is Greg Grooms. I am a 2004 graduate of the Rinker School of Building Construction. I

married my best friend, Patricia, who is also a UF grad. I was working for Pulte Homes in Jacksonville, FL and then in Ocala as Superintendent when in July of 2007, I received an email from an acquaintance who works for HOPE worldwide, a charitable organization with which I am very familiar through my church. It was a job request for a Deputy Country Director/Program Manager to oversee the construction of an outpatient facility at a maternity hospital. The only catch...the job was in Afghanistan! As I read the request, I couldn't help but see that I fit the description all too well, but I was terrified. Was this "my" chance to use my education and experience to really make a difference? I approached my wife and as expected she was all for it. She is the adventurous one.

Well if that wasn't challenging enough, one week after the original request, we found out we were pregnant with our first child. Our son, Logan, was born in March and after two months, we were on a plane.

Touching down in Kabul was the biggest culture shock of my life. Leaving the airport and heading to our guarded living compound, I saw a lifestyle I never knew existed. Streets were filled with people and vendors. There were really no traffic rules, just mostly guidelines; "Drive on the right...most of the time and don't kill anyone." People scurried in and out of traffic. Children were literally everywhere. Those with disabilities were actually sitting in the middle of the streets begging. In the very busy market areas, people sell just about anything you can make, kill, or

import. Sheep and goats are just out in the open. It was as if we went back in time. Buildings and houses are typically made of non-baked mud bricks. Running water is a rarity so people resort to using ditch water. Guns are everywhere. Last night we went to dinner at a restaurant. We passed by numerous Afghan soldiers with their assault rifles and one in particular was casually leaning on his handheld grenade launcher!

Being here a month now, I am assisting in directing the organization along with consulting on the construction projects that are underway. In North Central Afghanistan we have several irrigation rehabilitation projects. This week we were doing takeoffs for a school we are trying to raise money to build. The current school is too far for the smaller children to walk to, so most don't go. This will particularly affect the long term hope of education for hundreds of little girls. The outpatient facility we hope to build is still in the works and is scheduled to come online soon.

The greatest experience so far has been distributing food for destitute families that are unable to provide for themselves. We found that most of the situations consist of a house of about 3-8 children, a mother, and either no father or a father that cannot work. Disability runs rampant here due to the lack of healthcare and, many times for the men - crippling war wounds. Food consists of flour, rice, oil, kidney beans, tea and sugar. It costs \$102 to provide for one family for one month.

We will be here for about a year and half. We are looking forward to what life will bring and the challenges that come along. I am grateful for this opportunity and I hope I can make the very best of it.

I've attached the website of HOPE worldwide. Please take the time to read the newsletters and the blog. I look forward to hearing from the BCN family. <http://www.hopeww.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=335&srcid=200> and <http://hopeafghanistanblog.blogspot.com/>.

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## BCN Alumni in the News

(Article cited from The Florida Times Union- author-Jason Trevett)

Two BCN Alum and their successful business were featured in the Jacksonville Times Union. The following is an excerpt from that article. "Three years ago, as they saw construction boom in Jacksonville, **Keith Faver** and **Jim Gray** rolled up their sleeves and leaped into a joint venture, chipping in \$500,000 of their own cash to form FaverGray.

Faver and Gray were both in executive positions at The Haskell Co. when they reached their early 40s. Gray worked for Haskell

for 27 years, eventually rising to head Haskell's Commercial Institutional Group. Faver started as a field engineer and became a Haskell vice president, working for Gray for 10 years.

Gray, 55, and Faver, 46, both graduated from the University of Florida, majoring in building construction. Since it's started, FaverGray has been continually growing, bringing in about \$7.5 million in revenue the first year, \$34.5 million the second and \$60 million the third."

# Alumni Updates

1949

**Percy Rudolph Folsom** passed August 21, 2007.

1973

**John Adams** is wrapping up 30 years of land development and small commercial projects in Greater Cincinnati. Headed to Nova Scotia for summers of sailing and writing. Would like to hear from his classmates.

1979

**Mitchell E. ("Mitch") Albaugh** is now a Florida Bar Board Certified Construction Lawyer and a partner at Clark & Albaugh, LLP, in Winter Park, Florida.

1990

**Eric Brent Anthony** is employed by Chicago Bridge & Iron. He is currently assigned as Field Project Controls Manager at the Valero Refinery in Aruba. He is also enrolled as PADI Divemaster Trainee at Unique Sports of Aruba.

1995

**Jonathan Antevy** is the CEO and Founder of e-Builder, Inc., a company that develops Web-based Project Management and Collaborative Solutions for building owners looking to better manage cost and the change management process across their entire program. They are based in Plantation, Florida and their website is [www.e-builder.net](http://www.e-builder.net).

2000

**Daniel F. Adams** has been working for Owen-Ames-Kimball Company since graduation in 2000. He worked as a superintendent for two years, constructing projects for the Lee County School Board and building the 36,000 SF expansion to the Chico's World Headquarters, before being promoted to project manager. In addition to managing multiple on going projects for the Lee County Port Authority he recently completed the construction of the FineMark National Bank and Trust Headquarters here in Lee County.

2001

**Kyle Abney** recently became a LEED Accredited Professional and is principal of the newly formed Abney + Abney Green Solutions, a full-service green consulting firm dedicated to the field of sustainable design and construction of both residential and commercial projects. In addition, Kyle has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the South Florida Chapter of the US Green Building Council which serves the southeast coast of Florida from Indian River County down to the Florida Keys. He also recently completed construction of the first home in Okeechobee County to be certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Kyle resides in Palm City, Florida with his wife, Harmony.

2006

**Ryan Anderson** is working as an Assistant Project Manager for Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC in Nashville, TN. He is currently working

on a 32-story high rise, multi-tenant office building in downtown Nashville. The building is The Pinnacle at Symphony Place and it will be the first LEED certified high rise in Nashville.

**Jonathan Hill** joined BE&K Building Group, Inc. as an Assistant Project Manager, working on the Burnham Institute for Medical Research in Lake Nona. He previously worked as a Project Coordinator for Pinkerton & Laws of Florida on several hotel projects. These included the 104 room Hilton Garden Inn in Gainesville, FL; The 83 room Comfort Suites in Palm Bay, FL; and the 144 unit, 7 story post-tension, Homewood Suites in Tampa, FL.

## Update Your Contact Information

If you have recently graduated or moved; please update your information with the UF Alumni Association.

UF Alumni Association  
1938 W. University Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32603  
(352) 392-1905 or (888) 352-5866  
[www.ufalumni.ufl.edu](http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu)  
[ufalum@uff.ufl.edu](mailto:ufalum@uff.ufl.edu)

## Let us Know!

Tell us about any job appointments, announcements, new contact information, etc.

Email: Kim Stanley at [kimms@ufl.edu](mailto:kimms@ufl.edu)

## Class Reunion Announcement

If you graduated from the 1983 BCN class during the spring and fall, there will be a class reunion on Homecoming weekend, October 25th. A banquet/ social event is scheduled for October 24th and a BBQ at the Rinker School will be held before the game on the 25th. For more information, please contact Jeff E. Charlotte at [jeff.charlotte@jecharlotte.com](mailto:jeff.charlotte@jecharlotte.com) or David Schmit at [marathon@bellsouth.net](mailto:marathon@bellsouth.net). A letter will be mailed out to all 1983 spring and fall graduates, with further details on the reunion.

# BCN Alumni in Higher Education

Starting in the Fall 2006, Orange & Blueprints has highlighted accomplishments made by our graduates in higher education. In this issue, we are highlighting **Dr. Yimin Zhu**. If you are a BCN alumni and currently teach at a post secondary construction education program, please send us a short bio of yourself for publishing on this page.



**Dr. Yimin Zhu** received his Ph.D. degree (1999) in the Rinker School of Building Construction at the University of Florida. Currently, he serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Construction Management at Florida International University (FIU), where he teaches estimating, value engineering and scheduling, and performs research into

information and knowledge integration for green building design, engineering and construction. He is the faculty advisor of the FIU ABC student chapter since 2005. Dr. Zhu has successfully performed research funded by FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation), EI (Electri International), GSA (General

Services Administration) and other private agencies, and published more than 40 articles in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.

Before his current position at FIU, Dr. Zhu worked for the Hartsfield-Jackson Development Program in Atlanta, Georgia Institute of Technology, Citadon, Inc., and Timberline Software Corp. He also worked for a construction company in China.

Dr. Zhu holds a MSc. Degree (1999) in computer and information science and engineering from the University of Florida; a MSc. Degree (1993) in construction management from Harbin Institute of Technology, China and a BSc. Degree (1989) in civil engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China.

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## Rinker Scholar Award



**Philip L. Barlow** is the third recipient of the Rinker Scholar Award. Professor Barlow is an Assistant Professor of Construction Management at the California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. He received his bachelor's degree in construction management from Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo and his MBA from Golden Gate University – San Francisco, California. His area of research and interest

is in developing and expanding the construction labor workforce by promoting the construction industry and providing education and training for new entrants.

Established in 2005 by a generous gift from the Marshall E.

Rinker, Sr. Foundation, Inc., this \$1 million endowment supports fellowship awards to Associated Schools of Construction faculty members pursuing a Ph.D. in construction management at UF. Establishing this endowment was, in part, a response to the growing need for Ph.D. level faculty members actively conducting research and scholarly activities in construction related areas. UF is uniquely positioned to support this type of opportunity for doctoral fellowships in the construction management field because it is one of only few programs in the nation with a doctoral degree focused on the management field. Continued support for the Rinker School through generous gifts like this keeps opportunities available to the most qualified recipients with the greatest potential to maintain the Rinker School's position among the nation's premier building construction management institutions.

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## 2009 ASC Conference

The Rinker School will host the Associated Schools of Construction 45th Annual International Conference on April 1-4, 2009. This event will be in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) Working Commission 89 on Building Research and Education. The conference will be held at the Hilton UF Conference Center in Gainesville, Florida. In addition to the many outstanding papers presented by construction faculty and researchers, there will be faculty professional development programs and discussions on various important issues being faced by the industry and construction education programs.

The theme of the conference is: "International Construction Education." The internationalization of construction will continue

and more companies will operate internationally. The construction curriculum must prepare students for international opportunities. It should prepare them for work in another country, in another culture, or in a firm from another country.

The papers and keynote speakers of this conference will address how international influences, and their accompanying intermix of cultures, should be addressed at the university level and what social and cultural courses will be needed. Issues such as student and faculty exchange programs, study abroad programs, international certification of construction managers, coverage of international codes and standards in curriculum, and international research collaborations will be addressed. For more information please visit the conference website at [www.asc2009.org](http://www.asc2009.org).

# Structures Workshop

The industry review of the Structures courses took place on Monday, February 11, 2008 at Rinker Hall. Attendees included: Chip Reid (Current Builders), Bill Morthland (Hunt Construction), Tim Good (Haskell), Blane Huegel (Haskell), Dan Cramer (J. Raymond), Ray Southern (Balfour Beatty), Rob Gillette (Balfour Beatty), Brian Needham (United Forming), Kevin Fauvell (Holder), Harley Miller (Miller Construction), Brian Sudduth (Miller Construction), Dale Hedrick (Hedrick Brothers), Abdol Chini, Larry Muszynski, Esther Obonyo, and Ajay Shanker (Rinker School).

The review began at 9:00 am and concluded at 4:00 pm. Abdol Chini reviewed the purpose of workshop, the accreditation requirements, and the recent changes in the BCN undergraduate curriculum. A presentation on the Soils and Concrete course was made by Larry Muszynski followed by a presentation by Ajay Shanker on the Structures course and this was followed by a presentation on the Temporary Structures by Esther Obonyo.

The committee strongly suggested using the new Charles Perry Construction Yard to integrate the structures courses with concrete, steel, and formwork models constructed by the students. The following suggestions were also made to best prepare students for the situations they will face as industry professionals.

## **BCN 3223 – Soils and Concrete**

- Students should understand different types of equipment used on civil projects
- Arrange a field trip to a soils testing lab
- Student should be able to read soil-boring logs and understand

the project geotechnical report

- Invite a guest lecturer to discuss subsurface improvement, dewatering systems, sheet piling and soil injection
- Students should have a better understanding of specifications and shop drawings as it relates to field requirements
- Post tensioning techniques need to be discussed

## **BCN 3431 – Structures**

- Provide more details on post tensioning, connection details using 3D models (BIM), Cazaly hangers, and Corbels
- More emphasis should be placed on plan reading and contract/shop drawing interpretation.
- Expand the types of structures discussed in the course scope. Include benefits and draw backs of each type tilt wall, pre-stressed joist systems, hollow core, Etc.
- Provide a reference table of various concrete systems and their value to various building types.

## **BCN 4423 – Temporary Structures**

- Discuss formwork equivalents – post shore vs. scaffold
- Review reactions of cranes tying to structures
- Introduce new technology to students thru guest lectures or field trips
- Discuss different types of formwork system other than wood framing: truss tables, scaffold framing, column hung tables, modular systems, jump forms, etc.
- Discuss methods for proper formwork selections
- Devote more time on formwork and less time in timber design using NDS.

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## Thank You

To all who donated to the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction General Fund (01/08- 07/08)

### **1954**

Mr. John H. Logan, Jr.

### **1957**

Mr. Robert L. Claudy, Jr.

Mr. Myron L. Corets

### **1962**

Mr. Richard G. Kerstner

### **1966**

Mr. John R. Kiker III

### **1969**

Mr. Dale T. Townsend

Mr. Dennis E. Lewis

### **1970**

Mr. Clifton J. Derrick II

Mr. William G. Fischer

### **1971**

Mr. Jorge Echarte, Jr.

### **1972**

Mr. Robert E. Lifton

### **1975**

Mr. Harry P. Ackerman

### **1976**

Mr. Warren H. Keister

### **1978**

Mr. Van A. Hogan

### **1979**

Mr. Robert D. Clark

Dr. Gary D. Cook

### **1983**

Mr. Kent M. Blocher

Mr. William M. Coyne

### **1986**

Mr. Charles A. Congdon, Jr.

### **1994**

Mr. Charles M. Wells

### **1996**

Mr. Gerald C. Parsons, Jr.

### **1998**

Mr. David C. Brady

### **1999**

Mr. Jason R. Moore

### **2001**

Mr. Gregory Alan Pope, Jr.

Mr. Hector E. Valdez

### **2008**

Mr. Chad A. Langford

Mr. Ryan M. Tempone

Ms. Kimberly K. Weeks

### **Companies**

Clark Construction Group

DC Construction Associates

Gerdau Ameristeel

Jobsite123.Com, Inc.

Kiewit Southern Co.

NDC Construction Co.

PPI-CPC

United Forming, Inc.

# Professor for a Day

Every spring semester, the Rinker School offers industry members an opportunity to be a "Professor-for-a-day." The BCN professors are asked to invite guest speakers to their classes to discuss current issues in their field of interest. The two day program which took place on February 13-14, 2008, allowed the students to receive an inside look into the construction industry.

## Professors-for-a-day

- Calvin Helitzer, Vice President Gryphon Construction
- Joseph J. Steinbicker, Senior Structural Engineer, Tilt Con
- John Sofarelli, President, J. Raymond
- Shawn Pagel, Deputy Sheriff, Aachua County
- Arthur Forgey, Crime Prevention Specialist
- Steven Greene, Vice President, NCCER
- Steve Ellis, Regional Safety Specialist, Bovis Lend Lease
- Kevin Bowen, Project Manager, Bovis Lend Lease
- Bryan Parker, Chief Estimator, Balfour Beatty
- John Herridge, AIA Auto Desk Building Solutions Specialist
- Christine Beaudoin, Kiewit Construction
- Chad Kalisak, Project Manager, Trunnell Construction



John Herridge and Dr. Issa



Kevin Bowen, Dr. Hinze and Steve Ellis



Steve Greene and Dr. Wetherington



Dr. Hinze, Shawn Pagel and Dr. Walters



Christine Beaudoin and Dr. Minchin



Dr. Chini and Bryan Parker

# Guest Speakers

We would like to thank the following people for donating their time and sharing their knowledge and experience with our students:

## BCN 3700 Contracts

- Mr. Jeff Braswell, Esq. - local attorney
- Mr. Robert Lash, Esq. - local attorney

## BCN 3735 Construction, Safety, Health and the Environment

- Allan Preston, University of Florida
- Joseph R. Roesler, CAS, OSHA

## BCN 4510 Mechanical Systems

- Jason Sparks - Gainesville Regional Utilities
- Jim Tharp - Tharp Plumbing
- Ryan Abramski - Coastal Mechanical Services
- David Epps - Holder Construction
- Walt Traxler - WW Gay

## BCN 4712 Leadership and Management in Construction

- Pete Pace, Clancy & Theys Construction Company
- Tim Good, The Haskell Company
- Jim O'Leary, The Haskell Company
- Sid Jordan, Clark Construction Group LLC
- John Omran, Clark Construction Group, LLC

- Tim Moore, Stiles Construction Company
- John McIntyre, MES General Contractors, Inc.
- Wayne Wadsworth, Holder Construction Company

## BCN 4612C Construction Estimating 2

- Al Fernandez - President, ANF Construction Company
- Mouji Linarez - Castillo, Chief Estimator, ANF Construction

## BCN 4787 Capstone

- Calvin Helitzer, VP, Pre-Construction, Gryphon Construction

## BCN 4905 Equipment and Methods for Heavy/Highway

- Jeff Nelson - President, Nelson Construction Co.
- Martha Gross - PhD Candidate, Virginia Tech
- Ted Holmes - Project Manager, Archer - Western Construction

## BCN 5618 - Comprehensive Estimating

- Coty Fournier and Craig Noble, JobSite123.com

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## Endowments

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The Rinker School holds nearly 30 endowed funds totaling \$26 million. The forward thinking donors that have given endowed gifts are providing support in the most sustainable way. It is the perpetual interest generated by these invested funds that supports BCN students, faculty and research with steady replenishing beyond state budgets. Endowment funds begin at \$30,000. Funds established with gifts of \$100,000 and above are eligible for matching funds through the State of Florida's Major Gifts Trust Fund. For more information on endowments or other giving opportunities, please contact Lynne Capece at: (352) 392-4836, ext. 314 or [lcapece@ufl.edu](mailto:lcapece@ufl.edu).

### Endowed Professorship for Construction Services

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The Rinker School plans to develop a construction services track using an endowment funded by the construction industry, especially companies in the construction services sector. Students who graduate from this track will be qualified to work for equipment suppliers, material suppliers, testing laboratories, bonding agencies, insurance providers, financial firms, accounting firms, legal firms, and specialty contractors.

Please consider a generous donation to the endowment for Construction Service Professorship. The goal is to raise \$1.2 million and apply for a 50% state match. Total gift with match (\$1,800,000) will generate \$72,000/year. Donors will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Perpetual Donor Wall Recognition
- Orange and Blueprints publication
- Perspective publication
- University Honor Roll of Donors
- LCD monitor advertisement space
- Rinker School Career Fair booklet
- Rinker School Major Donor Status
  - Reduced registration fee for the Career Fair
  - Preferential placement at the Career Fair
  - Reception with the graduating seniors before the Career Fair
  - Priority for interview and seminar at the School
- UF President's Council Recognition

The Rinker School wishes to thank the following companies for their generous donations to the Construction Services Endowment Funds.

#### **Industry Leaders Honor Role**

Angle and Schmid  
Baker Concrete Construction  
Balfour Beatty  
Brasfield & Gorrie  
CEMEX -USA  
CCK Concrete  
Clark Construction  
Climate Control Mechanical Services  
Coastal Construction  
CPC-PPI  
Current Builders  
Florida Rock Vulcan  
Fluor Enterprises  
Gerdau Ameristeel  
Haskell Company  
James Cumming  
McIntyre, Elwell, and Strammer  
Skanska USA  
Springer Peterson Roofing & Sheet Metal  
Suffolk Construction  
TGSV Enterprises

### Stiles Corporate Gift

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The Stiles Corporation, Stephen Palmer (BCN 1979) and James W. Stine gave \$110,000 and pledged to the UF Foundation an additional amount of \$20,000 for a total gift of \$130,000 for the benefit of the Warrington College of Business Administration and the Rinker School of Building Construction. The spendable income from the Fund will be used to encourage and enhance

interdisciplinary faculty teaching between building construction and the graduate real estate programs capstone project courses. The gift will specifically fund building construction faculty teaching in the real estate capstone course and real estate faculty teaching in the building construction capstone course.

### Dickert Excellence Fund

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Paul W. Dickert (BCN 1978) and his wife Laura requested that the Dickert Excellence Endowment Fund they previously established at UF be redirected from the Provost's office to the Rinker School. The spendable income from the fund will be used to support teaching and research in the Rinker School. The balance

of the endowment is currently \$180,000 and part of its spendable income was used this summer to purchase 32 new monitors and a printer for the computer lab.

# Welcome Reception

On January 17, 2008 the Rinker School faculty and staff welcomed new students with a reception held at the Gainesville Woman's Club. The event gave incoming students a chance to meet faculty and staff, and learn about the roles each play in the School. Student clubs and competition teams set up information tables so that students could sign up to get involved and ask questions about the organizations. The Weitz Company sponsored the reception and showed a presentation about their firm, familiarizing students about their company and the opportunities they offer.



L to R: Joe Burgett, Dr. Chini, Doug Strathie, and Chris Hill

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# Graduate Student Reception

The Spring 2008 graduate student social was held on April 24 at the Perry Construction Yard. The BBQ was attended by over 70 students and faculty members. The social gave the graduate students an opportunity to spend a nice evening together. For some, it was their last chance to get together with their classmates before graduating. We would like to thank **Clark Construction** for sponsoring this social and Mr. Joe Benoit from Clark Construction for attending.



Dr. Chini, Joe Benoit, Dr. Issa and Terry Clinefelter

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# Graduation Dinner

On May 1, 2008, graduating students along with their friends and families joined the BCN faculty and staff at Emerson Alumni Hall for the spring graduation dinner. The evening began with a cocktail social hour, and then Dr. Chini's opening remarks and introduction of Dean Christopher Silver. Dean Silver welcomed the graduates and congratulated everyone on their accomplishments and commended the School for its achievements within the College. This was followed by the faculty and staff introductions and a sit down dinner.

Following dinner, Dr. Chini introduced **Earle Cooper**, Executive Vice President of Hawkins Construction, Inc. and **Don Ondrejcek**, Executive Vice President from **Hawkins Construction**. Special thanks to Hawkins Construction for their sponsorship of the dinner.

Ryan Hammond was presented with the Academic Excellence award for having the highest GPA, the Outstanding Leadership Award went to David Smith and Christine Fernandez was presented with the Best Overall Capstone Project. Following the

award presentations, graduating students were given the chance to introduce their guests, share their favorite memories of BCN and thank the faculty and staff for their assistance.



L to R: Dean Silver, Earle Cooper, Dr. Chini and Don Ondrejcek



# BCN Student Competition Teams

## ABC Construction Management Team

The Florida Gators are national champs again! The UF Construction Management Team won first place overall out of 23 student teams from universities across the country in the 2008 Student Construction Management Competition during the ABC National Convention March 3 to 8 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Funding for the trip was provided by the ABC Florida Gulf Coast Chapter and ANF Group, Inc.

The competition was a bid simulation for a retail building in Huntsville, Alabama. Prior to the competition, each student team developed a preliminary estimate, project schedule, safety plan and project management plan. Five finalists were then selected to advance to the second round where they presented their proposals to the judges. The winner was selected based on the work, quality of performance during the presentation and response to the judge's questions. In addition, teams were judged

in the categories of estimating, project management and safety. The UF team also won first place in the estimating category. The team was led by Dr. Raymond Issa.



L to R: Christian Mercado, Carlos Lorenzo, Kevin Chupp, Eric Weiss, Lindsey Ore, and Adam Milner

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## LEED Team

On February 13th – 16th, 2008 the Rinker School's "Green Team" competed on the national sustainable problem statement at the Associated Schools of Construction Conference in Reno, Nevada. Sponsored by the Beck Group, the team was one of only two teams from the east coast competing against 12 other west coast regional schools in this competition. The team was coached by Dr. Charles Kibert and Dr. Jim Sullivan.

The competition focused on a portion of \$211 million mixed use project in downtown Seattle, Washington. The group was asked to respond to several USGBC and LEED based questions and provide a written summary and oral presentation. Although only in its second year in the competition the team scored well in the presentation portion of the competition and looks to improve to a top three place in next year's competition. The team would like to thank the Beck Group for sponsoring the trip.



L to R: Dan Casale, Rebecca Barlage, Jacqueline Mustakas, Kristin Gray, Mathew Forenza (captain) and Shawn Ladd

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## NAHB Team

The BCN residential construction team participated in the annual competition held at the International Builders Show in Orlando this past February. The team developed a complete marketing, site development, and building program for the 192 unit Berkshire Park subdivision in Windemere, Florida. Next year's competition will be in January 2009 at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas. Scott Nelson, next year's project manager, would welcome the assistance of BCN alumni and supporters of the Rinker School for technical assistance as well as sponsorship for travel and expenses.



L to R: Dr. Smailes; Advisor, Matthew Thomas, Ryan Sullivan, J.D. Bevins, Tomeka Jordan, Scott Nelson and Chad Langford.

# BCN Student Exchange Programs

## Germany Exchange Program

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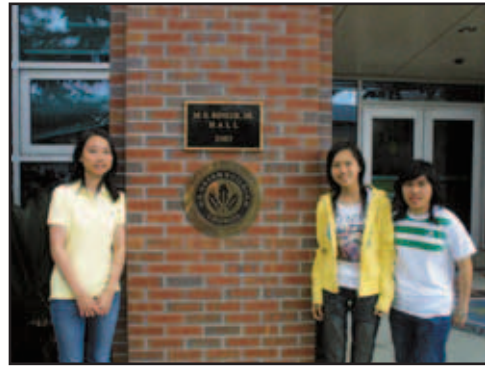
This past May, nineteen Rinker School students participated in the Germany Exchange. This was the largest group since the program began in 1998. While many aspects of the program continue as in the past, some new sites were visited. The group visited such standard tourist spots as the Reichstag in Berlin, the Cecilienhof Palace in Potsdam, and the Cologne Cathedral. The group also visited notable construction sites, including the construction of the new airport in Berlin, the harbor redevelopment in Hamburg, and the refurbishment of the Royal Palace in Dresden. This year the three-week program spent the last day of traveling in Weimar, the birthplace of the Bauhaus.



## Hong Kong Exchange Program

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During the spring 2008 semester, four BCN students, **Matt Algeo, Matt Brown, Jamie Reid, and Eric Schultheis** studied at Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Poly U) and three Poly U students, **Clara Tsz Wing Kong, Lai Kuen Lam, and Man Choi Luk** (pictured at right) studied at the University of Florida. Clara wrote of their overall experience in the Building Construction Exchange Program. She commented that all the exchange students enjoyed life at the University and met many students from around the world, who they miss. They also commented on the always available assistance they received from the professors and fellow students.



**Jamie Reid** (pictured at right), a BCN student, studied overseas at Poly U and reported that it was the experience of a lifetime. "I learned so much more than any text book could ever teach. Learning how the construction industry worked in another country gave me a greater appreciation for the industry back here in the states. The experience ended all too soon, but the friends and memories I made along the way will last throughout the years.



We took the opportunity to visit the Philippines and mainland China. While in mainland China we visited Xian, home of the famous Terracotta Warriors and Beijing. Beijing is home to the Summer Olympics of 2008, and the landmark Great Wall. While on my 6 mile walk along this astonishing world wonder I was able to see how the history of China has made it such a prosperous country over the years. I am so thankful for the opportunity that I was given by the Rinker School of Building Construction.

Hong Kong is similar to New York as the city never sleeps. Local markets start early in the day and last late into the night. You can buy anything at the markets from goldfish, fake IPOD's to clothes. This really is a city that everyone should visit at some point in their lives."

**Matthew Brown** wrote of his experience abroad also, "I find it difficult to sum up my experience in Hong Kong in a short paragraph. I found it to be one of the most eye-opening

experiences of my life. Living and studying in Hong Kong was not the only thing that made my trip great. Although, it is a beautiful city filled with some of the most amazing buildings I have ever seen, it was the bonds that I formed with people from all over the world that truly made my experience there memorable. The reason that I studied abroad was to experience different cultures, and I feel that I satisfied that desire. I found myself surrounded daily by people that span the globe and have entirely different views on things than I do. I think that I learned, saw, and experienced many things that I would never have had the chance to experience had I not taken advantage of the Study Abroad Program. I would recommend this program to anyone who is truly curious about seeing more of the world and learning about new and different cultures.

# Australia Exchange Program

Each year several BCN students attend one of three Australian Universities the Rinker School has exchange programs with and a similar number of Australian students attend the BCN program. During the Spring 2008 semester, two BCN students, Ryan Carter and Traci Wilson attended the Queensland University of Technology Program. and five students from the Melbourne Institute of Technology studied at UF. These are the memories of Ryan and Traci from Australia.

**Ryan Carter** wrote- "Spending this semester as an exchange student in Australia has really been the experience of a lifetime. Not only have I been able to travel to beautiful places, make new "mates"—both Aussie and international, experience the "no worries" Australian lifestyle, and feed/eat a kangaroo or two, but I have also been able to expand my construction knowledge by gaining an international perspective of the industry. My classes consist of students from all around the world, many of whom currently hold construction jobs while attending "uni." Through numerous group projects with fellow classmates and presentations by construction industry employees and experts, I have been able to gain up-to-date knowledge on construction technology and issues faced in an industry, which is spreading hand-in-hand with globalization. With Kevin Rudd, the current Prime Minister of Australia, recently signing the Kyoto Protocol, ecologically sustainable development has become a topic in most every construction class here at QUT, which has allowed me to pursue an area of study in which I am currently very interested. I highly recommend studying abroad to anyone with an open enough mind to consider it. I have had no regrets or dilemmas in making the decision to study abroad



Tracy Wilson



Ryan Carter

and am truly thankful I have been able to undertake such an amazing opportunity!"

**Traci Wilson** wrote - "G'day mates! My study abroad experience is difficult to put in words. It was eye opening to not simply witness a different culture like one might experience on a brief vacation, but immerse myself and learn to live in a way other than what I have grown so accustomed to. I learned a whole new language of Australian sayings and slang. I traveled to places I've always dreamed of seeing, such as the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney Opera House. I got the chance to see how the construction industry works in another country, and learned about sustainability practices in their type of environment, which is similar to Florida. Students pursuing a construction career in Australia began working full time as well as going to "uni" about their second year of college, so all my peers in my fourth level classes were already working with a company and were very familiar with the ways of the industry. I felt that all my classes were very "hands on" with using real work experiences, which enabled me

to learn and get help from my fellow classmates, as I have less experience than they did. All in all it was more than I could have asked for, and am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to experience all that I did, and to study construction overseas."

Five students from RMIT attended the University of Florida Building Construction School: Lauren McKenna, Thomas Haigh, Michael James Baker, William Kwong, and Simon Dick.

## BCN Homecoming BBQ



Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25 during homecoming at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The Gators are schedule to play Kentucky. Plan to stop at Rinker Hall at 9:30 am for some great food, a tour of Rinker Hall, the Charles R. Perry Construction Yard and to visit with Alumni. Special thanks to **Weitz Golf International** for sponsoring the BBQ.

### Homecoming Events:

- 9:30-11:00 am** BCN Advisory Council Review of the BCN Curriculum
- 11:00 am** Honoring 2008 Inductees for the BCN Construction Hall of Fame and the 2008 BCN Distinguished Alumnus
- 12:00 - 2:00 pm** BBQ
- 9:30 - 2:00 pm** Tour of Rinker Hall and Charles R. Perry Construction Yard



**BUILD IN GOOD COMPANY.**

# Commencement

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The Spring 2008 commencement for the College of Design, Construction and Planning was held on May 2, 2008 at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. The Rinker School announced the graduation of 64 students with bachelor's and 13 with their master's degrees. We at the Rinker School wish our newest graduates the best of luck with their new careers or next level of education.

**Janice Tuchman**, editor-in-chief of the Engineering News-Record (ENR), served as the keynote speaker during the commencement. At the University of Colorado, she had noteworthy advice to give the BCN graduates regarding the building construction industry. She encouraged the graduates to take action in the building construction industry and be a part of the "third industrial revolution." She also commented on the worldwide initiatives to make the industry more "green." She gave an encouraging speech, and left each graduate with a copy of ENR magazine.

In addition, **Ryan Hammond** was recognized as the Outstanding Four-Year Scholar for the University of Florida by the University's Alumni Association. Ryan is a National Merit Scholar who maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average while pursuing his degree in building construction.

Lastly, the College presented **Dereck Winning** with the College's Spring 2008 Outstanding Leadership and Service Award in recognition of his excellent service record and strong leadership during his time at the college.



L to R: Dean Christopher Silver, Janice Tuchman and Dr. Brisbane Brown, Jr.



Spring graduates enjoying commencement

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## Heavy Civil Team Field Trip

April 17, 2008 members of the Heavy/Civil Competition Team and students in Dr. Minchin's class in Heavy/Highway Equipment and Methods participated in the First Annual Backhoe Rodeo, hosted in Ocala, Florida by **Peter Kiewit Construction Company** and **Ring Power**, a distributor of Caterpillar Construction Equipment. Thirty-six BCN students participated in the event, which allowed participants an opportunity to operate five pieces of heavy construction equipment. The equipment included a large crane, a Lull lifter, a front-end loader, a bulldozer, and a combination backhoe / shovel.



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## Steel Design Field Trip

Dr. Shanker's Structure class took an all day field trip to Jacksonville in March 2008 visiting (i) Ameristeel Rebar Fabrication Shop, (ii) Ameristeel Steel Mill and (iii) Whitley Steel Fabrication Shop. Students first hand saw fabrication of rebar and structural steel. They also saw the entire process of converting steel scrap to finished rebars. Whitley steel personnel demonstrated use of 3-D detailing and BIM software. A total of 105 students participated in this field trips.



## AGC

The student chapter of Associated General Contractors is primarily a service organization; the members are dedicated to using their construction knowledge and skills to serve the School of Building Construction, the University of Florida and the Gainesville community. The past spring semester concluded with a bang! AGC was fortunate enough to have David Hayes, Board Chairman of AGC of Greater Florida and VP of Wharton-Smith, Inc come speak and offer insight on the construction industry and the interview process. AGC also gave back to the community by sponsoring a lane at the "Bowl for Kids Sake" charity event benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mid-Florida.

Last, but certainly not least who could forget the Social with the Nursing School. The fall semester promises to offer even more. The 2nd Annual AGC/SLX Golf Tournament will be a great way for members of the construction industry to network and meet current BCN students. The tournament will be held the Friday of Homecoming week October 24. For information about registration or sponsorship please contact Will Murphy. We are also in the process of lining up guest speakers for the fall, so if you would like to come speak or participate in any way please do not hesitate to ask. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact Will Murphy at [ufbcnagc@gmail.com](mailto:ufbcnagc@gmail.com).

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## CMAA

The CMAA student chapter continues to make progress toward achieving a balanced blend of undergraduate and graduate students. This past year the CMAA held monthly meetings and bringing in industry CMAA members and discussing topics such as employer expectations, market conditions, networking, preconstruction, professional development and career opportunities. The featured event for the CMAA is the semester trip to the Tampa area to visit

two jobsites. Typically a heavy-highway site is visited followed by a commercial project with a sponsored lunch in between. Next fall the CMAA hopes to join the AGC in participating in the "Adopt-a-Road" program and support the Habitat for Humanity program. The CMAA sponsor also awards scholarships at the end of each semester to worthy CMAA student members. For more information on the club contact Professor Michael Cook.

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## SLX News

With the end of this spring semester we say good-bye to 15 exceptional graduating seniors who proudly displayed their green and gold SLX honor chords at the commencement ceremony. We wish them well in all their future endeavors, both as leaders in the construction industry and in their personal lives.

SLX happily welcomed 17 new members into the honor society this spring, including 5 graduate students. These new inductees have shown the qualities that will make them leaders in the construction industry. In addition to having a GPA in the top 20% of their class, these students participated in community service projects including building a new classroom for Little People's Palace (a daycare for underprivileged children),

Bowling for Kids Sake (to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters), and housing rehabilitation with Rebuild Gainesville.

The coming fall looks to be an active time for members of SLX, with continuing activities such as community service, helping the BCN College Council with the Homecoming Float, and initiating a new pledge class. In addition to these continuing activities we will add some new events involving SLX, including a fall BCN formal, initiate week camping trip, and a football pre-game benefit barbeque. All these activities will keep us busy throughout the semester and we invite any Sigma Lambda Chi alumni to join us at our events. To learn more about SLX please contact Scott Nelson at [wohneli@hotmail.com](mailto:wohneli@hotmail.com).

# 2008-2009 BCN Scholarship Recipients



BCN Scholarship Award Recipients at Welcome Reception

## **Arthur A. Coia And R. P. Vinall**

Christopher Dahlberg	\$2,000
Sean Daniel	\$1,000
Richard Fobair	\$2,000
Guy Nader	\$1,000
Jason Roberts	\$1,000
Timothy Sellers	\$2,000
Sean Snowden	\$1,000

## **Builders Association Of North Central Florida**

Amanda Manthorne	\$1,500
Scott Nelson	\$1,500

## **Frank W. Reed Central Florida Builders Exchange**

### Jack Jennings & Sons

Brandon Griffith	\$1,200
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### R.C. Stevens Construction

Chris Hostetler	\$1,000
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### Tri-City Electric

John Kauffman	\$1,000
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### Walker Company

Richard McIntee	\$1,200
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### Foote Steel

Joshua Morton	\$1,000
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### Hubbard Construction

Spencer Sanjarjo	\$1,000
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## **H.H. Block**

Ryan Brown	\$1,000
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## **James A. Cummings**

Ryan Berg	\$2,000
Justin Burrows	\$2,000
Scott Dennis	\$2,000
Cassidy Resnick	\$2,000

## **Greg Jones**

Silvia Moukhtara	\$1,500
Adam Panzarella	\$1,500

## **NAHB**

Ryan Stroh	\$1,500
Matt Thomas	\$1,500

## **Professor Anthony Section Memorial**

Tomeka Jordan	\$1,500
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## **Rinker Materials**

Kevin Chupp	\$1,000
Terry Clinefelter	\$1,000
Sarah Farmerie	\$1,000
Rui Lui	\$1,000
Adam Picow	\$1,000
Matthew Ruben	\$1,000
James Swick	\$1,000
David Treleven	\$1,000
Wei Wu	\$1,000
Le Zhang	\$1,000

## **Ronald V. Tadrowski**

Michael Oniel	\$2,000
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## **The Clark Construction Group**

Drew Berman	\$1,500
Kristyna Lannon	\$1,500
Ashley Lopez	\$1,500
Romina Mozaffanian	\$1,500

## Faculty News



**Dr. Kevin Grosskopf** presented a paper titled "Use of Disaster Simulation Software to Identify Reconstruction Worker Training Needs" at the 3rd International Built Environment Conference held July 6-8 in Cape Town South Africa. This paper highlighted the use of FEMA software to identify hurricane reconstruction hazards specific to storm track and intensity, urban density and tree cover.

Dr. Grosskopf was selected as the Named AGC 2008 Educator of the Year by the Associated General Contractors. He was chosen from a competitive applicant pool of faculty from across the nation. The selection criteria was a faculty member with a full time undergraduate teaching load, extra-curricular activities with students, and activity with the AGC organization. He was awarded \$5,000 plus an all-expense paid trip to the 2008 AGC Annual Convention which was held in Las Vegas in March 2008. The purpose of this award is to provide recognition and encouragement for university teaching faculty members in construction education.

Dr. Grosskopf was also selected to receive the spring 2008 Teaching Excellence Award by graduating seniors. This award is given to a faculty who provides the highest level of "Excellence in Teaching" during the graduating seniors' studies in Rinker School. Dr. Grosskopf teaches courses in estimating and finance.



**Dr. Jimmie Hinze** made several presentations regarding safety this past semester including: Webinar "The Owner's Role in Construction Safety" for CII, "Managing Safety on Construction Projects" at the Ohio Safety Conference and Expo, "Beyond the Usual Suspects: CII Targeted Safety Programs" at CII Implementation Workshop, and the "Target Safety" at Parsons Group Annual Summit.

Dr. Hinze and Dr. Kevin Grosskopf were awarded an OSHA Susan Harwood Grant aimed at training workers to safely and effectively perform post-disaster reconstruction work. Offered in both English and Spanish, training materials consist of OSHA-approved methods to recognize, avoid and prevent safety and health hazards during post-disaster reconstruction efforts. Training began in May 2008 and will run through September. If your company or contractor association is interested in the 4-hour course, and, is located in OSHA regions 4 and 6 (e.g. Gulf states and Carolinas) please contact either Dr. Hinze (352) 273-1165 or Dr. Grosskopf (352) 273-1158 to schedule a training session at your location free of charge.



**Dr. Raymond Issa** and a multidisciplinary team of computer scientist and Shands doctors has received a \$170,000 grant to develop a traffic records virtual data warehouse and analysis package called TRIP for FDOT. The goal of TRIP is to create software that will facilitate linkage of the crash data generated by EMS, Trauma Centers, Medical Examiners and DHMV. The data warehouse is expected to improve the ability of researchers to analyze crash

data, to improve highway safety, as well as to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of medical treatment of crash-related injuries.

Dr. Issa had a busy academic year with international activities. He was invited by the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to Dubai and Abu Dhabi in May to review construction management and engineering programs at several universities. He also attended the Pan American Federation of Engineering Societies (UPADI) meeting in Costa Rica in September as a US delegate and was appointed to the UPADI Information and Communication Technology Committee. Dr. Issa also presented several papers at conferences in Maribor, Slovenia, Plymouth, UK and Santiago, Chile.



**Dr. Charles Kibert** and **Donna Isaacs** of the Powell Center for Construction and Environment under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center have completed the initial phase of reconstructing the Cotton Club in southeast Gainesville, by stabilizing the heavily damaged wooden structure. The Cotton Club is an important cultural asset of the African-American community in Gainesville, having started

its life as a PX building at Camp Blanding which was transported to Gainesville just after World War II. It was renamed the Cotton Club in the early 1950s and became part of the Chitlin' Circuit where luminaries like B.B. King and James Brown played jazz, the blues, and other popular music of the day. The Cotton Club's restoration will result in a multi-use building, part museum, part music venue, and part community meeting place. Included in the stabilization process were a new foundation, new framing and preparatory work for a new roof and siding. A \$350,000 grant from the State of Florida and another \$300,000 of fundraising were used to complete the stabilization and the start of renovation of the Perryman Grocery Store and several shotgun houses on the site. Art Middleton is the general contractor for the Cotton Club restoration and Jay Reeves was the architect.

Dr. James Sullivan and Dr. Charles Kibert have been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Hinkley Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management. The project is titled "Impact Analysis of LEED Based Design and Construction on Waste Rates" and will begin in fall 2008. The focus of the study is three fold: 1) Examine waste

## Faculty News Continued

diversion efforts via Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) credits achieved on the UF campus, 2) provide guidelines for developing LEED based waste diversion plans, and 3) provide summary of program benefits. This proposal would not have been possible without support from the University of Florida Department of Facilities and Construction, especially that of Ms. Bahar Armaghani, Assistant Director at University of Florida Facilities Planning and Construction.



**Dr. Edward Minchin** has been awarded a research contract by ElectriInternational (EI), the research foundation of the National Electrical Contractors Association. The research project, entitled “Validation and Value Quantification of Negotiated Workers’ Compensation Programs,” calls for Dr. Minchin’s team to identify and quantify the advantages claimed by existing workers’ compensation programs that operate “outside the statutes” in seven

states, including Florida. Assisting Dr. Minchin in this research is Dr. Robert Emerson, a labor economist at UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). This research builds on two prior research projects executed by Dr. Minchin for EI in the area of workers’ compensation over the last three years. Dr. Minchin has also published a paper based on his recent research in the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering. The paper is entitled “Computer Applications in Intelligent (Asphalt) Compaction.”



**Dr. Esther Obonyo** will be chairing a special interest group’s working conference for Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) in November 23-25, 2008. This is a sequel to two previous conferences held in the UK and Hong Kong. Leading Construction IT researchers from USA, Europe, Asia and Australia have confirmed their participation. The Gainesville workshop is directed towards defining a framework for integrating the disparate research endeavors in VDC. It will result in a mutually defined research agenda identifying specific opportunities for collaborations. The proposed workshop will be held in Gainesville, Florida. It will bring together 30 leading researchers and professionals in VDC technology to develop a road map for closing the innovation loop in an integrated manner.



**Dr. Svetlana Olbina** presented a paper titled “Problem Areas in Personal Fall Protection” (co-authored by Dr. Jimmie Hinze) at the 14th Rinker International Conference in March 2008 in Gainesville. She also presented a paper on “Perceptions of Scholarly Standards and Peer Review Guidelines in Technical Publication” (co-authored by Dr. Kevin Grosskopf) at the Associated Schools of Construction 44th Annual meeting in April 2008 in Auburn, Alabama. Lastly, she presented a paper titled “Fostering Citizen Participation in the Creation of Sustainable Communities” (co-authored by Dr. Anne Williamson) at the Urban Affairs Association 38th Annual Meeting in April 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland.



**Dr. Robert Ries** made a presentation at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Europe Annual Meeting which took place May 25 - 29, 2008 in Warsaw, Poland. The paper was entitled “Spatial and temporal variability in the life cycle impact assessment of photochemical precursors.”



**Dr. Ajay Shanker** received a research grant from AISC to develop a five week teaching module for steel design and construction for construction management programs. It may be noted that all construction management programs require students to take between one to three structural courses. Most students are required to take statics, strength of materials and a structural design course.

Because accreditation requires a vast array of subject matter, only a limited amount of time can be spent on the structures area. Consequently, many programs use a combined structures course which address steel, wood and concrete design in a single class, usually with three to five week learning modules. Additionally, these courses may also include modules on loads, soils, and foundation.



**Dr. Richard Smailes** was an invited speaker this June at an archaeological roundtable symposium in Trujillo, Peru. The symposium; Reconsidering the Late Intermediate Period on the North Coast of Peru, was co-sponsored by the Dumbarton Oaks Research Institute of Harvard University and the Universidad Nacional de Trujillo. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss findings and theories concerning the Moche and Chimú civilizations that



## Faculty News Continued

occupied the north coast of Peru from 500 AD - 1400 AD. Dr. Smailes presented his research concerning the construction of the palaces at the pre-Columbian city of Chan Chan. His contributions include estimating the labor investment of the structures, the organization of work crews, possible scheduling scenarios, and 3-D modeling of the site.

**Dr. James Sullivan** presented a paper titled "Developing a Decision Model for the Assessment of Sustainable Alternatives" at the April 2008 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) national conference in Auburn, Alabama. He also gave a presentation titled "Selecting a Decision Model for Sustainable Construction" to the ASC regional conference in Reno, Nevada, in February 2008. In addition he presented an overview titled "Prefabricated Construction - Understanding Alternatives to Stick Built Construction" to the Florida Housing Coalition annual conference in the fall of 2007 at the Omni Orlando Resort, Florida.

**Dr. Anne R. Williamson**, associate director of the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing leads the Center's housing policy and program research agenda. Over the past year, she has brought funded research opportunities to the Center on topics that include



evaluation of a federally funded HOPE VI redevelopment effort, an examination of the link between housing condition and crime, analyses of housing needs for several local governments, and an analysis of impediments to fair housing choice. Funding for these projects totaled more than \$400,000.

Center research also resulted in three academic publications for Dr. Williamson this year dealing with HOPE VI, homeownership among low-income women, and changes in U.S. housing policy since 1980. Further, she presented or co-authored papers for four national conferences during the past year.

She also used her experience in housing and development to retool the BCN graduate course in housing economics and policy with increased relevance for students of building construction and looks forward to being with students again in Spring 2009.

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## New Additions



**Dr. James Sullivan** has been hired as the Charles R. Perry Assistant Professor. He earned a Ph.D. degree from the Rinker School in 2007. His doctoral research focus was on developing a decision model for adoption of green standards in the commercial arena.

His experience includes consulting and lecturing on green construction techniques with focus on LEED based projects and construction management work for Clark Construction in Bethesda, Maryland, and Hines, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Charles R. Perry Professorship is funded by a \$2 million gift from the late Charles Perry for the creation of Charles R. Perry Program for Crafts Awareness. This is a program that Mr. Perry had hoped would educate and instruct our students in the work of subcontractors, master crafts, and trades people. Dr. Sullivan will take a lead role in the crafts awareness program using the newly built Charles R. Perry Construction Yard. He also will teach the Construction Techniques course.



**Lynne Capece** is the new Director of Development for the College of Design, Construction and Planning. She is originally from Freeport, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. She is a graduate of Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia and holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Science. She came to the University of Florida from Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia where she was Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Research. She enjoys volunteering with church and civic organizations and of course, watching Gator sports. The BCN faculty and staff welcome Lynne to the Gator Nation.



**Kim Stanley** has just accepted the position as Alumni Liaison & Job Placement Coordinator for BCN. BCN said goodbye to **Julie E. Segura** as their previous Job Placement Coordinator. Julie made the hard decision to leave BCN after the birth of her second son. Many of you may remember Kim from the years 1988-2003. Once her husband Tim graduated from BCN in 2003 she left BCN to be the Office Manager at PPI Construction Management. She says that she is glad "come home" to her "BCN Family". We wish Julie the best of luck in her motherhood role and welcome Kim back home to new BCN family.

# Visiting Faculty

**Dr. Hashim Alsaleh** of the College of Architecture and Planning at King Faisal University in Dammam, Saudi Arabia was a visiting professor at the Rinker School from September 2007 to June 2008. He was directly working with Dr. Charles Kibert in the area of sustainable construction and high performance buildings. Dr. Hashim interacted with several other faculty at the Rinker School and attended some of their classes to familiarize himself with the Construction Management curriculum. This experience would be very valuable to him when he is back to develop a similar program at the King Faisal University. Dr. Hashim collaborated with several faculty in developing research ideas and writing research proposals. We wish him well and look forward to future cooperation between the College of Architecture and Planning at the King Faisal University and the Rinker School.



Dr. Hashim Alsaleh

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## BCN Overseas - Africa

Drs. Esther Obonyo and Robert Ries recently secured an NSF-International Research Experiences award. On May 15th Dr. Obonyo accompanied 6 students to Tanzania where they worked with professors from Ardhi University and University of Nairobi to undertake research work on different aspects of engineering sustainable building systems within the East African context. The group spent four and a half weeks in Dar es Saalam before proceeding to Bagamoyo for another 5 weeks. During this period, the students interacted with different stakeholders in the Tanzanian construction industry including professionals in private practice as well government representatives from organizations such as the National Construction Council and the National Housing and Building Research Association.

*Photos courtesy of Andy Wehle*



New building for University of Dar es Salaam's Business School



Makumbu Sho (exhibition of traditional construction)



Sampling fruits during a spice farm tour

# SPONSORSHIPS

The Rinker School does have a limited budget and there are many activities and items for which we could certainly use your financial assistance. In return for your underwriting of these activities/items, we would provide appropriate publicity about your support. In the case of events, we would be pleased to have a company representative attend the event and say a few words on behalf of your firm. For the Newsletter, we would include a prominent credit on the front page of the Newsletter. The following is a list of events and their approximate cost to us for which your support would be very beneficial to the Rinker School and its students:

## Available Event Sponsorships

NAHB Competition	Spring 2009	\$5,000
Graduate Student Reception	Fall 2009	\$1,500
Graduation Dinner	Fall 2009	\$3,500
BCN Newsletter	Spring 2010	\$8,000
Welcome Reception	Spring 2011	\$6,000
LEED Competition Team	Spring 2012	\$6,000
Homecoming Bar-B-Que	Fall 2012	\$3,500

## Future Event Sponsors

Welcome Reception (Fall 2008), Robins & Morton  
Homecoming Bar-B-Que (Fall 2008), Weitz Golf  
Grad Student Reception (Fall 2008), Clancy & Theys  
Graduation Dinner (Fall 2008), Kitchen Art of S. Florida  
Welcome Reception (Spring 2009), Hardin Construction  
LEED Competition Team (Spring 2009), Holder  
BCN Newsletter (Spring 2009), Hawkins Construction  
Graduation Dinner (Spring 2009), James A. Cummings  
Grad Student Reception (Spring 2009), Current Builders  
Welcome Reception (Fall 2009), Holder Construction  
Homecoming BBQ (Fall 2009), Brasfield and Gorrie  
BCN Newsletter (Fall 2009), Clancy and Theys  
Welcome Reception (Spring 2010), Brasfield and Gorrie  
LEED Competition (Spring 2010), James A. Cummings  
Welcome Reception (Fall 2010), Clancy & Theys  
Homecoming BBQ (Fall 2010), Hawkins Construction  
LEED Competition (Spring 2011), Clancy & Theys  
Homecoming BBQ (Fall 2011), Current Builders

## Past Event Sponsors

Special thanks to our past event sponsors.

Commercial Team (1998 - present) - **Balfour Beatty**  
Design-Build Team (2002-present) - **Haskell Comp.**  
Heavy/Civil Team (2006-present) - **Nelson Const.**

## NAHB Competition Team

2003 - London Bay Homes  
2004 - Centex Homes  
2005 - BCBE Construction  
2006 - BCBE Construction  
2007 - Mercedes Homes

## LEED Competition Team

Spring 2007 - ME&S  
Spring 2008 - Beck Group

## Graduation Dinner

Fall 1999 - Beck Group  
Fall 2000 - Brasfield & Gorrie  
Spring 2001 - Hensel Phelps  
Fall 2003 - Current Builders  
Spring 2004 - Rinker Materials  
Fall 2004 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2006 - Clark Construction Group  
Fall 2006 - WCI Communities

Spring 2007 - Hunt Construction Group  
Fall 2007 - Charles Perry/ PPI  
Spring 2008 - Hawkins Construction

## Welcome Reception

Spring 2001-Weitz Company  
Fall 2001- Brasfield & Gorrie  
Spring 2002 - Fluor Corp  
Fall 2002 - Turner Construction  
Spring 2003 - Weitz Company  
Fall 2003 - Fluor Corp.  
Spring 2004 - Brasfield & Gorrie  
Fall 2004 - Current Builders  
Spring 2005 - Weitz Company  
Fall 2005 - Charles Perry Construction  
Spring 2006- James A. Cummings  
Fall 2006 - Clancy & Theys  
Spring 2007 - Holder Construction  
Fall 2007 - Clancy & Theys  
Spring 2008 - The Weitz Company

## Home coming Bar-B-Que

2004- Brasfield & Gorrie  
2005- Burkhardt Const.  
2006- Holder Construction  
2007-Angle & Schmid

## BCN Newsletter

Fall 2001- Hardin Construction  
Spring 2002 - Hardin Construction  
Fall 2002 - Hardin/ Prof. Gunby  
Fall 2003 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2004 - James A. Cummings  
Fall 2004 - Hardin Construction  
Spring 2005 - Stiles Corporation  
Fall 2005 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2006 - Hardin Construction  
Fall 2006 - Stiles Corporation  
Spring 2007 - J. Raymond Const.  
Fall 2007 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2008 - Gerdau AmeriSteel  
Fall 2008 - Charles Perry Const/PPI

## Graduate Student Reception

Fall 2000- Ajax Construction  
Fall 2005- Turner Construction  
Fall 2007- Stiles Corporation  
Spring 2008, Clark Construction

If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Abdol Chini ([chini@ufl.edu](mailto:chini@ufl.edu)).

# School Announcements

## Witters' Competition

The Witters' Competition is an annual student competition in the College of Design, Construction, and Planning endowed by Arthur G. and Beverley A. Witters. Interdisciplinary teams from four to six students from architecture, building construction, interior design, landscape architecture and urban and regional planning have one weekend to tackle a problem. This year's competition, held March 28-30, concerned the design and construction of flexible housing that could be rapidly deployed after a disaster, such as a hurricane, strikes a community.

The teams presented design drawings as well as construction schedules and cost estimates for housing that could be put in place quickly, provide occupant comfort without utility grid connections, and could potentially expand and develop into permanent housing. The jury found that the students had done an excellent job with a very challenging program. The winning team consisted of architecture student Franco D'Ascanio, building construction students Scott Nelson and Sean Snowden, interior design student

Catherine Siemon and landscape architecture student Nicholas D'Ascanio. Robert Ries coordinated the competition, and BCN Master's Student, Derrick Winning, assisted.



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## Construction Industry Institute

On February 27th and 28th 2008, an industry-university collaborative research team meeting was hosted by the Rinker School of Construction. The meeting was part of ongoing research directed by Robert Ries, an Assistant Professor at the Rinker School, and funded by the Construction Industry Institute (CII). The purpose of the project, which began October 2007 and will conclude September 2009, is to identify best practices for quality management in the capital facilities industry. Attendees spent one and one-half productive days meeting in the Rinker School conference rooms.



Construction Industry participants

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## LEED-AP Classes Achieving Success

The Powell Center for Construction and Environment, one of the research centers in the Rinker School has been meeting the high demand for green building training by organizing and conducting classes around the State on the USGBC's LEED for New Construction green building certification system. Since September 2007 the Powell Center has conducted training at 40 sites to include several outside of Florida (Boston, Indiana, and Georgia). Almost 2,000 contractors, subcontractors, and architects participated. The team of instructors was organized by Dr. Kibert and includes the newest BCN professor, Dr. Jim Sullivan, plus several graduate students who are LEED Accredited Professionals

(LEED-AP). The LEED team puts on a combination of scheduled on-site courses for individuals and companies in Florida. The success rate for passing the LEED-AP exam is reputedly fairly low due in large part to the difficulty and closed book nature of the exam. Using an innovative combination of pre-course, during course, and post-course assignments, lectures, and testing, the Rinker School provides industry professionals with greatly improved prospects for success in taking the exam.

14th Annual International Rinker Conference

# BIM4Builders

On May 11-13, 2008 at the Hilton UF Conference Center, Dr. Raymond Issa of the Rinker School of Building Construction and Jerry Laiserin, Owner and Editor of The LaiserinLetter(tm), jointly planned and organized the industry Building Information Modeling (BIM) event: BIM4Builders(tm). In all, there were 71 attendees representing a wide cross section of the industry: construction managers, architects, engineers, researchers, owners, software vendors, and many more.

Building Information Modeling is an emerging technological approach that follows a collaborative philosophy employing virtual representations of the physical and functional characteristics of facilities before they are physically built on site. Oftentimes, BIM has been associated with 3-D oriented designs that helps minimize architects' errors and omissions, but this event was different because it was targeted at demonstrating successful business cases for builders, as the event's title implied.

Two of the most well received speakers were Michael LeFevre, Vice President of Planning and Design Support Services for Holder Construction as well as Patrick Burns, Vice President of the Federal Contracting Group for Mortenson. Their insightful examples and data regarding their companies' multi-award winning virtual design and construction approaches were rated as the top 2 presentations out of the 21 information packed plenary sessions.

The Rinker School and The LaiserinLetter are planning on making this an annual and ongoing series of industry events and training. For more information about future BIM4Builders(tm) events or training, contact Dr. Raymond Issa at raymond-issa@ufl.edu.

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## Fire and Emergency Service Program

Fall 2009 will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the first course offered online for Fire & Emergency Services (FES). In addition, a new milestone was reached as four students graduated with a Bachelor of Science; bring the total to 20 graduates. Course registrations have increased substantially from the levels of 2005 showing growth of over 100% and are up 27% from last year alone. This strong growth appears to be the result of increased recruitment and increased educational reputation from prior students.

The FES program is now being assessed for academic excellence by a newly created Advisory Committee. Members were selected from the fire and emergency services agencies and advocacy groups. Alumni have also been invited to attend meeting and provide comments/suggestions. At the 10 year mark, the committee is focusing on curriculum as its highest priority.



Chuck Smeby

The FES coordinator, **Chuck Smeby**, has finished a Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning awarded by the University of Florida's College of Education. As the title indicates, he has acquired considerable knowledge in the creation of online courses to improve the student educational experience and knowledge retention.

Smeby is designing a course that will go online for the Fall 2008 semester; FES 3015 Principles of FES Management. This course uses the University supported "e-learning" distance learning system. This is a beta test and the feedback and experiences will be used for input into future FES courses.

Overall, the future looks very promising to serve the increasing demand for higher education from Florida's and the nation's fire and emergency services.

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## WOW

The Rinker School of Building Construction held a Rinker Hall Open House and Grill-Out as part of the University of Florida's Weeks of Welcome (WOW) program on Monday, July 21st, 2008. The WOW events are designed to welcome UF students and graduate students to campus. This event allowed the Rinker School to showcase our LEED Gold certified building by providing tours through Rinker Hall, the Charles Perry Construction Yard, Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing lab, and concrete/soils lab. Students and advisors from various programs, as well as BCN faculty, students and staff were also able to mingle at the grill-out sponsored by the Rinker School. Our next WOW event, a Rinker Hall tour, will be held in the Fall semester, September 11, 2008.



# School Announcements Continued

## 14th Annual International Rinker Conference

The 14th International Rinker Conference was held in Gainesville on March 9-11, 2008. The theme of the international conference on construction safety and health was Evolution of and Directions in Construction Safety and Health. There were over 60 conference participants, representing twelve different countries and six different continents. The conference was chaired by Jimmie Hinze of the Rinker School.



Participants of the Rinker Conference

Participants at the conference presented approximately 55 papers. Keynote addresses were provided by the representatives of conference sponsors, including Fluor Corporation, Bechtel Corporation, ConocoPhillips, Southern Company and Bovis Lend Lease. Most of the conference participants agreed that the problems of construction safety faced by one country were generally quite similar to those faced in other

countries. There was a general consensus that we all speak the “same language” when it comes to construction safety.

The conference was intense, but there was time to enjoy the local environment. For example at the end of the first evening, the conference participants were taken to Lake Alice where the participants observed the exodus of the 50,000 bats from the famous bat house. The second evening, the participants were treated to more Southern food, after they had an opportunity to

observe the special butterflies at the Butterfly Museum. The last evening consisted of a banquet at the Sweet Water Branch Inn where a blue grass band provided the entertainment and Ron Nunez of Fluor Corporation gave a presentation on the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

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## Charles R. Perry Construction Yard

The Perry Construction Yard was formally dedicated in April 2007 and provides a unique environment for learning with great access and demonstration space for ‘hands-on’ involvement and communication with tradesmen and craft workers. The goal is to bridge the gap between our traditional project management curriculum and the tradesmen in the field - focusing on understanding apprenticeship programs, quality, and productivity concerns of all those involved in putting up structures. Dr. James Sullivan plans more trade involvement in the construction technique course through the continued inclusion of the Perry Construction Yard. He is continuing our existing relationship with National Center for Construction Education and Research as well as developing relationships with material suppliers. This summer he and Dr. Ajay Shanker have been coordinating a steel erection set to be used in the Perry Yard to demonstrate steel connections, rigging, and erection planning. Materials have been designed and supplied by Whitley Steel, Jacksonville, Florida. The mini-erection set should be available for use in fall 2008. Please contact Dr. Sullivan at [sullj@ufl.edu](mailto:sullj@ufl.edu) with regard to coordination of trade-related demonstrations in the Perry Yard.



Dr. Esther Obonyo coordinates a visit from Peri Formwork in Perry Yard



Tony Chavez from Tharp Plumbing gave a demonstration in the Perry Yard

## Advisory Council

The M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction is honored to have an active Advisory Council whose members, both individual and corporate, serve as an important source of advice and support for the School. Advisory Council is an opportunity for you and your company to form a strong liaison with the School. In this way, we can be assured that our program is current and meets the ever-changing needs of the construction industry. We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Advisory Council for the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction.

HERE IS MY GIFT FOR THE M.E. RINKER, SR. SCHOOL OF  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
My gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is made to the University of Florida Foundation  
for the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction  
**Be sure to put BCN in the Memo Line**

Please check the appropriate block:

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP in the BCN Advisory Council  
 \$100 Certificate     \$300 Plaque     \$500     \$2000 - includes membership in the University President's Council

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP in the BCN Advisory Council  
 \$300 Certificate     \$500 Plaque

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send gifts to 304 Rinker Hall, PO Box 115703, Gainesville, Florida 32611

## Help Build the Future with the BCN Brick Paver Campaign!

Want to have your name in Rinker Hall, the new home of the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction?  
Buy a brick paver, support your School, and have your name etched in stone for the world to see! The 4" x 8" brick pavers are available to students, alumni and friends for \$125.00. There is a 3-line limit, with a 16-character limit per line.

Each space, period or other such punctuation is considered a character.

Visit [www.bcn.ufl.edu/brick](http://www.bcn.ufl.edu/brick) for more information.

Please make checks payable to U.F. Foundation. Do NOT send cash. Be sure to note BCN Brick Campaign in the Memo Line. Please send checks to 304 Rinker Hall, PO Box 115703, Gainesville, Florida 32611

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

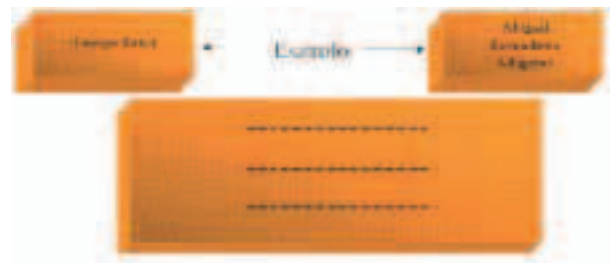
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bricks Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



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