

CMGT NEWS F2019- S2021

CMGT Education Excellence

Notes from the Chair

By working together, we are getting through the challenging and unprecedented times. We are growing and experiencing new atmosphere from student success and faculty achievements.

Just before the pandemic in early 2020, Dan Thomas and Susan Castelli led eight construction management students to NAHB Student Competition and received 9th place out of 40 teams (see the news in this issue of the Newsletter).

In 2020, we recruited three new adjunct teaching faculty members with extensive professional experience, Jennifer Brandenburg, Robert Klinger and Dr. Nahad El Sawaf. We switched the 2020 Fall semester to alternative delivery (block) teaching scheduling as the result of the impact of pandemic. Our Academic Advisors, Courtney Case and Beth Casey have provided great assistance to students to cope with the issues from virtual teaching and learning environment.

In the Spring 2020, we experienced department leadership change to inspire and advocate for our vision during the growth of the Department. Beginning in the Fall 2020, Dr. David Batie resumed Graduate Program Director and Ms. Chelsea Buckhalter was given the duty of Undergraduate Program Director that has improved program leadership effectiveness.

With the faculty and staff, and lab manager's assistance, we conducted a special hard hat delivery in lieu of the traditional topping-off ceremony. Chelsea Buckhalter, with faculty members' participation, successfully organized hard hat pick up for graduating seniors in November 2020 and April 2021.

In January 2021, Dr. Donna Hollar left us after her 25 years' service at East Carolina University's Department of Construction Management. The memorial site (<http://www.3.remembering.live/donnaahollar>) records our memories of Donna.

Ms. Jessica Fulford joined the Department in January 2021 as Administrative Associate. Beginning in the Fall 2021, Dr. Yilei Huang will join the Department as tenure track faculty after his construction management teaching and research experience at North Dakota and South Dakota State University.

The Department of Construction Management has made great progress in its 34 years journey. Now it is in an intersection to next height. Moving forward, our focus will be on making student success through excellence in teaching to stimulate students to incorporate the knowledge they learned from classroom, lab, and field as their own and to train students as active lifetime learners. In the Fall 2021 and

Spring 2022 we will be diligently working alongside with Drs. Batie and Farrington for the incoming the Department's 6th ACCE reaccreditation. In the Summer 2020, 10 faculty members participated in the ACCE Summer Conference in July, which will help faculty become familiar with the ACCE reaccreditation process.

I would like personally to thank all faculty, staff, and advisors for their supports including voluntarily helping with various issues during the pandemic time and the difficult time of my interim term and the first year as the chairperson. The department is thankful for all of the support and charitable donations to the Department and students from our alumni and industry partners. We will strengthen the win-win relationship with the industry, especially the Department Industry Advisory Board member companies to nurture our students to become the future constructors of the country.

Dr. George C. Wang

Department Chair
Gregory Poole Equipment Distinguished Professor

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

New Construction Management Faculty



Joining us in Fall 2019, **Dr. Carol Massarra, Assistant Professor**, received her Ph.D. Engineering Science (Construction Management), LSU. She also has Masters of Applied Statistics and MS in Engineering Science (Construction Management) from LSU. Her research interest areas include Multi-Hazard Resistant Construction, Resilience to natural hazards, Statistical damage modeling, and rapid, efficient data collection and damage assessment. Dr. Massarra teaches Structures, Introduction to Construction Management, and the Graduate Research Methods classes.



Joining us in Fall 2019, **Dr. Mostafa Namian, Assistant Professor**, received his Ph.D. in Construction Management NC State University, M.Sc. in Construction, Engineering and Management Tehran Polytechnic, Tehran, Iran, and B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, Buali-Sina University, Hamedan, Iran. His research interest areas include Construction Safety Management Human Behavior in Construction, UAVs in Construction Management Visual Sensing in Construction, and Hazard Recognition and Safety Risk Perception. Dr. Namian teaches Surveying and the Graduate Construction Safety Management classes.



Joining us in Fall 2019, **Dr. Jodi Farrington, Fixed Term Teaching Assistant Professor**, teaches Construction Scheduling, Cost Control, and the Capstone classes. Dr. Farrington chairs the Assessment Committee and is working with Dr. David L. Batie in the development and writing of the ECU ACCE Re-Accreditation Report that is due December 2021. Dr. Farrington also serves as a Senator (Alternate) from CET in the ECU Faculty Senate.



Joining us in Fall 2019, **Ms. Chelsea Buckhalter, Fixed Term Teaching Instructor** teaches Construction Materials, Construction Safety, Residential Construction, Planning and Scheduling, and Sustainability in Construction. In addition, Ms. Buckhalter serves as the **Undergraduate Program Director**. She is currently pursuing her PhD and has research interests in Disaster-resilient construction, construction safety, ultra-high-performance concrete and related materials.



Joining us in Fall 2021, **Mr. Robert Klinger, Fixed Term Teaching Instructor**, has BS and MCM degrees in Construction Management from ECU. He comes to us with 20 years of project management and superintendent responsibilities in commercial construction. Mr. Klinger teaches Construction Documents and the Capstone classes.

Faculty Promotions



Dr. Amin Akhnouk, Associate Professor, has received Tenure designation. Congratulations!

Other Faculty Activities

Dr. David L. Batie, Graduate Program Director, chaired the **ACCE Accreditation Visit** at **California Baptist University** in Spring 2020, as one of the last face-to-face visits before COVID 19. He will chair the **ACCE Accreditation Visit** at **Eastern Kentucky University** in October 2021. He served as the **Vice Chair** of the **ACCE Standards Committee** for **15 years**, stepping down from that role in the Summer 2020. He is also a member of the **Chair of Chairs Committee** which is responsible for overseeing all accreditation visits and a member of the **Guidance Committee**. Dr. Batie is a **Board**

Member of the American Institute of Constructors Constructor Certification Commission (AIC-CCC), a board that makes independent decisions regarding the Constructor Certification program. Currently, Dr. Batie and Dr. Jodi Farrington are responsible for creating the **ECU CMGT ACCE Accreditation Report**, which is due December 2021.

Dr. Mostafa Namian has received a **\$75,000 Grant from the Department of Labor – Susan Harwood Training Program** for a project **“Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) Safety in Construction”** The research is proposed to develop new training and educational materials on unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) hazards in the construction industry. In addition, Dr. Namian has published three Peer-reviewed journal papers, and six conference proceedings. In addition, Dr. Namian’s Graduate student, **Mohammad Khalid** was awarded the **CET Students Research Award** in the Spring 2021.

Dr. Mostafa Namian visited the **ECU Life Science Building Construction site** in May 2021 to take 3-D photos as part of his research. The research aims to enhance the hazard recognition and safety risk perception of construction workers using Virtual Reality Technology. Dr. Namian’s graduate research assistant **Mr. Fahim Nabil** is assisting on the research.

Dr. Syed M. Ahmed chaired the *11th International Conference on Construction in the 21st Century (CITC-11)* was held in **London, UK** at the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Headquarters building from September 9-11, 2019. It was jointly organized by ECU CMGT department and the University of Wolverhampton in Wolverhampton, UK.

Dr. Carol Massarra has been selected as a **Director for Coastal Resilience** in the **Directors of Strategic Initiatives** at ECU. The program was established by ECU’s Center for Sustainable Energy and Environmental Engineering (CSE3) to promote the formation of teams of affiliate faculty to address areas of need for the university, region, state, nation, or world.

Dr. Amin K. Akhnouk has received four NCDOT grants dealing with constructability, integral abutments, and the **\$365,075 Harker Island Bridge Replacement: Material Characterization and Structural Performance** grant. He has also received an **\$50,000 NSF Grant** for the Scour Mitigation using 3-D Printed Concrete Coral Reefs. In the past two years Dr. Akhnouk has published five journal articles in relevant journals.

Ms. Susan Castelli received a BIM Training Certificate at the University of Cambridge BIM School after she successfully completed one-week coursework in December. She will be available to present a workshop to industry partners if there is a need.



During the Fall 2019-Spring 2020 semesters it was our pleasure to host **Dr. Marwin Jurjus**, a visiting faculty member in Construction Management from **HAN University** in the Netherlands. Marwin taught CMGT 4380 - Equipment Management. In March 2020, Marwin was required to return to the Netherlands to be with family as his mother-in-law battled and eventually succumbed to the coronavirus. Through it all, Jurjus continued teaching his ECU students as the university transitioned to alternative course delivery. Faculty and students were blessed by his dedication to our ECU students.

<https://news.ecu.edu/2020/04/08/construction-management-professor-teaching-ecu-students-from-the-netherlands/>

INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (IAB)

As an update to the past and future IAB Meetings:

No Spring 2020 Board Meeting took place because of the University determination to be online due to the COVID 19 outbreak in March 2020.

The Fall 2020 IAB General Meeting was a Virtual Team meeting on Friday, October 30, 2020.

The Spring 2021 IAB General Meeting was a Virtual Team meeting on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The Fall 2021 IAB General Meeting will be in-person at the ECU Student Center, Friday, October 8, 2021. Information to IAB Members will be forthcoming on this event.

Happenings at ECU CMGT

2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients

Construction Management Scholarship Funding awarded \$50,500 for 2020-2021! With the generous support of nineteen scholarship donors, twenty-five students were awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. On average, students were awarded \$1,364 in scholarship funds.

2020-2021 Construction Management Scholarship Recipients:

Dawson Armstrong
Christopher Briley
Giovanni Cavalotto
Collin Chappell
Connor Cortes
Thomas Dawson
Jeffrey Deal
Kevin Devlin

Wilson Gallagher-Smith
Grayson Hayter
Raymond Hock
Leondre Horne
George Hughes
Larry Lancaster
Andrew Landry
Davis Latham
Joseph Livesay

Patrick McComas
Sean McHugh
Tristan Merritt
Belen Olvera
Melena Perrella
Pablo Sollecito
Dylan White
Ethan Wolcott

2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

Construction Management Scholarship Funding awarded \$43,500 for 2021-2022! With the generous support of twenty-one scholarship donors, twenty-five students were awarded scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. On average, students were awarded \$1,500 in scholarship funds.

2021-2022 Construction Management Scholarship Recipients:

Christopher Adams
Dawson Armstrong
Sarah Blackwelder
Giovanni Cavalotto
Thomas Dawson
Luke Dobson
Wilson Gallagher-Smith
Jacob Hansen
Grayson Hayter

Michael Hook
Leondre Horne
George Hughes
Helena Kirk
Prince Joe-louis
Andrew Landry
Davis Latham
Jorge Carrillo Lopez
Brady McKay

Justin Miller
Leland Padgett
Spencer Peed
Pablo Sollecito
Phillip Tarte
Dylan White
Garrett Whisnant

Fall 2019 / Spring 2020 Outstanding Students

We are pleased to announce the seniors selected for the award of "Outstanding Senior" during the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. Students were asked to submit their documentation based on academic merit, service, accomplishments during their careers at ecu, and their GPA. CMGT Faculty reviewed each candidate's application, with a final selection being made. Because of COVID 19 the Outstanding Seniors were unable to be recognized at University and College Commencement ceremonies.

Fall 2019

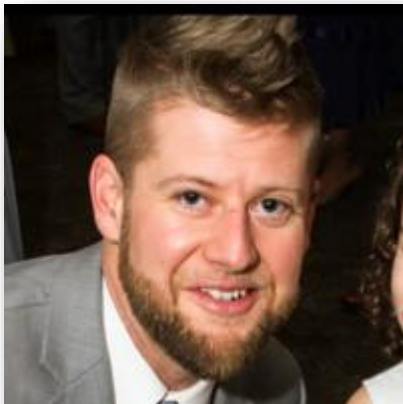


Robert Barnhill (Academics)



Drake Overton (Service)

Spring 2020



David White (Academics)



Kevin Savidge (Service)

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Fall 2020



Mia Choe (Academics)



Travis Belisle (Service)

Spring 2021



Jeff Oldham (Academics)



James Moore (Service)

2020 NAHB National Competition Team

The mission of the NAHB four-year student competition is to expose students to an in-depth residential construction project from concept to closing. This includes **Market Analysis, Product and Site Design, Construction Management** (estimate & schedule), **Sustainability, Sales & Marketing, Financial, and Risk Analysis**. Using real projects, students compete with other schools as they display their problem-solving abilities and learn more about home building. Student teams submit a written proposal (about 100 pages) for judging by a panel of industry professionals and then travel to the International Builder's Show (IBS) to give a live presentation of their proposals.

Eight East Carolina University students in the Construction Management department recently returned from the NAHB Student Competition at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas. They placed 9th out of 40 four-year university construction management teams nationwide.

After performing an extensive market analysis, the team was tasked to find the best use of a 130 acre parcel of land designated to be a 55+ community near St. George, Utah. They designed, budgeted, and scheduled the raw land development, and design, budget and schedule the sustainable homes it would contain. They were tasked with devising a marketing and sales plan to sell the homes, demonstrate a proficient construction and project management plan, and perform a detailed financial & risk analysis. Final budget for this project, which included a negotiated sales price of the land came out to \$180,064,000.

Team members were **Tristan Merritt, Marlen Mendoza-Patricio, Jordan Milhouse, Abby Russell, Abigail Gonzalez, Julian Medina, Austin Jordan, and Cailey Hastings**. Faculty coaches were **Susan Castelli** and **Dan Thomas**.



Left to Right: Dan Thomas, Abby Russell, Cailey Hastings, Tristan Merritt, Jordan Milhouse, Austin Jordan, Julian Medina, Abigail Gonzalez, Marlen Mendoza-Patricio, and Susan Castelli

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the program did not field a team for the 2020-2021 Academic Year.

Construction Site Visits

CMGT Infrastructure and Highway Materials class students, under the direction by **Dr. George Wang**, visited St Wooten's ready mixed concrete plant in Winterville, and asphalt mixing plant in Greenville during the **2019 Fall semester**. The visits are parts of regular activities of the class's lab practices, which normally include three site visits, concrete plant, asphalt plant and a paving site or aggregate quarry visits.

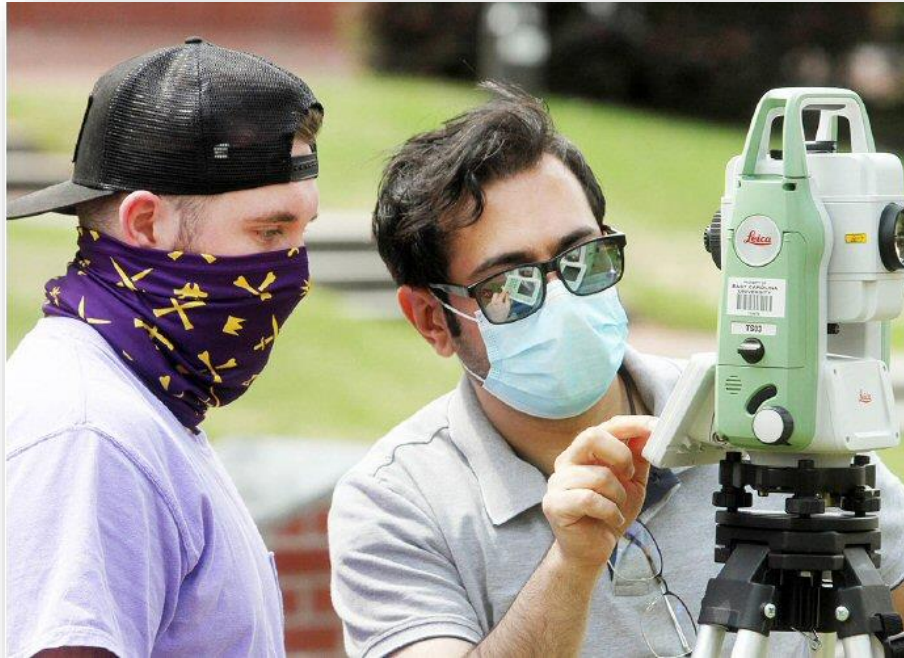
Site Visits were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic after the Spring 2020 semester, as all classes were taught online in the Fall 2020-Spring 2021 academic year.



Courses:

Surveying

Dr. Namian conducted three in-person surveying labs in the field outside Rawl Building. CMGT 2950 students used for the first time a new set of Total Stations recently purchased by the College of Engineering and Technology in support of enhanced education. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the field experience provided students a hands-on experience.



Sigma Lambda Chi

Spring 2020 Sigma Lambda Chi Members (11):

Dylan Martin Box
Miyol Choe
Jacob Lawrence Coats
Andrew Tyler Dickerson
Andrew Thomas Landry
Jacob Bradley Lemon
Leland Grey Padgett
Francis Worlasi Parku
Ezequiel Urias
Jake Shaw Verity
Mark E. Vesley

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, SLC members were not selected in the 2020-2021 Academic year. In the Fall 2021, new members will be selected.

Hard Hats

In April 2020, Senior **Hard Hats** were mailed to Spring 2020 graduates. On November 16-18, 2021 and April 18-22, 2021, Hard Hats pickup by students was arranged in the Construction High Bay for the Graduates of Fall 2020 and the Spring/Summer 2021 students.



Alumni Update



Congratulations to **Kyle Beatty (ECU CMGT S2019)** on his promotion to the position of Engineer with Holder Construction. Upon graduation from ECU CMGT, Kyle relocated to Maryland and joined Holder as a full-time Office Engineer supporting the UMCP New Residence Halls & Dining Facility project. Kyle initially supported the project with pre-positioning efforts to ensure a successful transition into the Construction phase on a compressed project site. His responsibilities included the management of the Site Demolition/Earthwork trade contractor along with the Site Utilities contractor. Kyle helped coordinate and manage the initial site mobilization and installation of the two new roadways on the project to divert traffic around the project site. He embodies the Holder culture through his constant challenging of how tasks are accomplished and striving to do them more efficiently.

In Memorial - ECU Construction Management Pirate



Stephen Christopher "Chris" Ford (ECU CMGT 1991) spent his career involved in the construction industry and most recently served Wake County Public Schools overseeing school construction projects. He was respected by his peers as a perfectionist with an eye for detail. Chris was husband to Kellie Ford, the Chapter President for CMAA NC that endow a scholarship for ECU Construction Management students. Chris leaves behind a rich legacy of compassion, kindheartedness, and generosity. He was a great father, a loyal friend, and a wonderful husband. Nothing will be the same without his smile and infectious laughter, and he will be dearly missed.



Dr. Donna Hollar joined the ECU Construction Management Department in 1996 after three years teaching in the Construction Department at Ferris State University. At ECU, Donna held positions as Teaching Instructor, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. Donna had professional experience in the industry from 1985 to 1993.

Donna received her Ph.D. degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2011; Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from University of Washington in 1995, and Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1988 where she was Cum Laude Graduate.

At East Carolina University, Donna received several awards including **Chancellor's Synergy Awards Nominee** in 2004; **Alumni Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award** in 2000; **National Teaching Award** by Associated Schools of Construction in 2000; and **Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award** in 1996-1997.

Donna was an active member of National Association of Women in Construction, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Engineering Education, Sigma Lambda Chi, Chi Epsilon, and Tau Beta Pi. For many years Donna was the Faculty Advisor for the NAHB Competition Teams and Sigma Lambda Chi Construction Honor Society.

She was a friend to all who met and knew her, and she will be deeply missed by all!!



Department of Construction
Management

College of Engineering & Technology
Rawl Building, Room 346
Greenville, NC 27858
252-328-6490
<http://www.ecu.edu/cet/construction/>