



# CMGT NEWS F2021- F2022

## CMGT Education Excellence

### Notes from the Chair

This past year, we worked together to strive for excellence. We achieved exceptional student success, industry engagement, and faculty productivity.

First, we successfully completed the 6th ACCE accreditation. The Accreditation Visiting Team toured ECU from February 13th through 15th, 2022, and came up with a report resulting in department strengths in the faculty, leadership, and industry support with their only concerns to increasing faculty positions and improving IT equipment for student learning. The CMGT undergraduate program received accreditation for six years, from February 2023 to February 2029.

Second, with the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) support, we successfully organized Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 IAB meetings at ECU, Fall 2022 IAB meeting at Caterpillar, Inc. in Clayton, NC; CONTECH Forums in Fall 2021 and 2022, and IAB Golf Tournament in Fall 2021 and 2022. The career fairs in 2021 and 2022 had approximately 96 and 125 participating construction companies respectively, held at the Greenville Convention Center.

We provided various opportunities to promote student success, starting with hands-on learning opportunities created by our faculty, industry partners, and student leaders. These included the Blockfest contests in Fall 2021 and Spring/Fall 2022, visiting Old Castel facilities in Durham, NC; NAHB Student Competition in February 2022; field trips to Caterpillar, Inc., and ST Wooten sites. More

than ever, industry and alumni guest speakers visited our classrooms, labs, and student organizations to present and connect our students with real construction projects.

It is important to provide a few examples of our recent student success:

- In February 2022, eight students participated in the NAHB competition in Orlando; 12 students will go to Las Vegas for the 2023 competition.
- Senior student Mr. Paxton Hemphill received the third-place award in the 2022 James L. Allhands Essay Contest by AGC.
- Graduate student, Md. Hasibul Rahat was recognized with the ECU International Student Award.
- Graduate student, Mohamad Khalid, received the Jimmie Hinz Best Paper in CIB W099 & W123 Annual International conference in spring 2022, titled "Safety Implications of Using UAVs in Construction: An Ethical Perspective" and Editors' Choice Recognition of Journal Paper, titled "Insidious Safety Threat of Fatigue: Investigating Construction Workers' Risk of Accident Due to Fatigue," by the ASCE Journal of Construction Engineering & Management.

With the industry and pirate alumni's generous support, for 2022-2023, 35 students received various scholarships valued at approximately \$51,000, a 20% increase from last academic year.

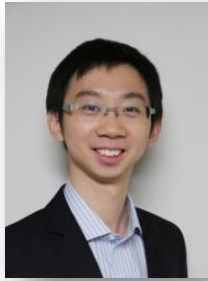
Faculty and staff-wide, we are deeply sorry for our loss of Dr. Batie in June 2022 and Ms. Amy Taylor in July 2022. The department says goodbye and hello to multiple people within the ECU community:

- Dr. Syed Ahmed resigned from his faculty position in early 2022.
- Dr. Yilei Huang joined the Department in August 2021 as a Tenure-Track Associate Professor.
- Dr. Glenn Graham and Dr. Tianjiao Zhao are new Adjunct Teaching Faculty members from January 2022.
- Mr. J Pittman and Mr. Anthony Barnett became Fixed-Term Faculty in August 2022.
- Dr. Daniel Perrucci and Dr. Tianjiao Zhao became Tenure-Track Assistant Professors in August 2022.
- Mr. Marwin Jurjus joined us for the 2022-2023 academic year as an Adjunct Teaching Faculty.
- Mr. Logan Langley started as a Teaching Instructor in August 2022.
- We welcomed Kim Capri, who joined the Department as an Administrative Support Associate, from Boston University, in June 2022.

**Dr. George C. Wang**  
Department Chair  
Gregory Poole Equipment Distinguished Professor

# FACULTY ACTIVITIES

## New Construction Management Faculty



Joining us in Fall 2021, **Dr. Yilei Huang, Associate Professor**, received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, University of Kansas. He also has a Master of Civil Engineering from the University of Kansas. His research interest areas include Building Information Modeling in Construction Management Education, Applications of Virtual Reality and Mixed Reality, and Applications of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Dr. Huang's teaching interests are Construction Surveying, Cost Estimating, Construction Planning and Scheduling, and Building Information Modeling.



Joining us in Spring 2022, **Dr. Glenn Graham, Teaching Assistant Professor**, received their Bachelor and Master of Science in Construction Management at ECU and their Ph.D. from Indiana State University. He teaches Mechanical and Electrical Construction in the department and is currently the Executive Vice President of a commercial construction company in Raleigh, NC. Also, previously held multiple senior management positions at other commercial construction companies.



Joining us in Fall 2022 with previous experience working in the department as an Adjunct Teaching Instructor in Spring 2022, **Dr. Tianjiao Zhao, Assistant Professor**, received her Ph.D. in Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering, Marquette University. Also, her Master of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests include Data Integration, Smart Transportation, Green Building, and Underwater Drones. Dr. Zhao's teaching interests are Construction Economics, Construction Planning and Scheduling, and Equipment Management.



Joining us in Fall 2022, **Dr. Daniel Perrucci, Assistant Professor**, received a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Haven and continued his education with M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Infrastructure Systems from Vanderbilt University. After completing his Ph.D., Daniel joined the State University of New York: Alfred State College of Technology as an Assistant Professor of Construction Management. Dr. Perrucci is joining East Carolina University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Construction Management and eagerly awaits the opportunity to expand his research on analytical methods for sustainable responses to societal disruptions. At East Carolina University, Daniel looks forward to educating future professionals and working together to “build” a more resilient and productive society.



Joining us in Fall 2022, **Mr. Anthony Barnett, Fixed-Term Teaching Instructor** after several years of service in the department as an Adjunct Faculty. His teaching interests are Introduction to Sustainable Building Environment and Building Systems and Codes.



Joining us in Fall 2022, **Mr. J Pittman, Fixed-Term Teaching Instructor** after several years of service in the department as an Adjunct Faculty. His teaching interests are Construction Documents and Analysis and Construction and Civil Materials.



Joining us in Fall 2022, **Mr. Logan Langley, Teaching Instructor**. He teaches Construction Contracts and Specifications and is the Founder/CEO of Langford Builders. Also, previously worked at Flour Corporation as a construction manager in the US and Europe.



During the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 semesters it was our pleasure to host **Mr. Marwin Jurjus**, a visiting faculty member in Construction Management from **HAN University** in the Netherlands. Marwin taught CMGT 4380 - Equipment Management and will continue to teach in Spring 2023. In November 2022, Marwin helped organize a two-day visit of 45 students from **HAN University with the Global Affairs Committee**.

## Other Faculty Activities

**Dr. Yilei Huang** received a **Course Innovation Grant from the ECU Office for Faculty Excellence** to introduce more hands-on and team collaboration activities in **CMGT 3010 Construction Modeling and Information Technology**. These interactive activities include a Lego house-building experience using a BIM model (pictures [here](#)) and VR presentations for students' final project (pictures [here](#)).

**Dr. Yilei Huang** has brought the **full capabilities of the new Leica FlexLine TSO3 total stations that the department acquired in 2020 into CMGT 2950/2951 Construction Surveying and Lab**. With 12 sets of the new generation of surveying equipment in every lab, our students are split into smaller groups for more hands-on time and can perform jobsite surveying and layout tasks more efficiently.

**Dr. Yilei Huang** presented the paper "**Point Clouds vs 360° Photos: Comparing the Workflow and Benefits of Viewing Laser Scans in VR**" at the **2021 ASCE International Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering in Orlando, FL in September 2021**.

**Dr. Yilei Huang** was selected by the Associated Schools of Construction to attend the **VDC Boot Camp at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, in June 2022**. The faculty boot camp allowed Dr. Huang to obtain new teaching materials for course development, network with fellow Construction Management faculty across the country, and receive training for industry-trending software in estimating, reality capture, and drone photogrammetry, including as Bluebeam Revu, Autodesk Construction Cloud, StructionSite, and DroneDeploy.

**Dr. Carol Massarra** was recognized for her **outstanding contribution as a Student Employee Supervisor** in Spring 2022.

**Dr. Carol Massarra** was accepted to the **2022 Graduate Writing Workshop**. The workshop took place in **Summer 1** and the goal of the workshop was to create a Canvas-based module around graduate writing that is focused enough to the discipline.

**Dr. Carol Massarra** attended the **Roofing Alliance Faculty Retreat** in Tempe, Arizona in **October 2022**. The Roofing Alliance Faculty Retreat was designed to educate faculty members about roofing-specific initiatives, including different types of roof systems available, best safety practices, key elements of roof design, technical and building code issues, sustainable roof system options, career opportunities and more.

**Dr. Mostafa Namian** was recognized for his **outstanding contribution as a Student Employee Supervisor** of East Carolina University in **Spring 2022**.

**Dr. Mostafa Namain** was featured as the **2021 Editor's Choice** in the Journal of Construction Engineering and Management for their paper called ***Insidious Safety Threat of Fatigue: Investigating Construction Workers' Risk of Accident Due to Fatigue***. **Dr. Mostafa Namian** was recognized in **Spring 2022** in the Graduate Student Survey from a student as **"The person at ECU who made the most significant positive contribution to his/her education."**

## INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD (IAB)

As an update to the past and future IAB Meetings:

Fall 2021 IAB General Meeting was held in-person at the ECU Murphy Center, Friday October 8, 2021.

The Spring 2022 IAB General Meeting was on Friday, April 22, 2022, in-person at the ECU Murphy Center.

The Fall 2022 IAB General Meeting was held in-person at the Caterpillar Facility in Clayton, NC on October 7, 2022.

# Happenings at ECU CMGT

## 2021-2023 Scholarship Recipients

Construction Management Scholarship Funding awarded over \$43,000 in total for 2021-2020 and over \$52,000 for 2022-2023. A total of 65 awards were given for 2021-2023 with 29 awards from 2021-2022 and 36 awards in 2022-2023.

### 2021-2023 Construction Management Scholarship Recipients:

Christopher Adams  
 Drake Barclay  
 Christian Batchelor  
 Sara Blackwelder  
 Jorge Carrillo Lopez  
 Tyler Davis  
 Connor Dennison  
 Luke Dobson  
 Joseph Dupree  
 Sawyer Garrett  
 Nathan Groves

Richard Hancock  
 Nathaniel Hanselman  
 Jacob Hansen  
 Nathaniel Harrell  
 Kennedy Henderson  
 Leondre Horne  
 Destiny Jackson  
 Robert Jordan  
 Helena Kirk  
 Clark Lambert  
 Davis Lambert

Brady McKay Sterling  
 Ostdahl Spencer Peed  
 Jennifer Perea  
 Nicholas Robinson  
 Karigan Seagle Philip  
 Tarte Mackenzie  
 Turner Dylan White  
 Benjamin Williard

## Fall 2021-Fall 2022 Outstanding Students

We are pleased to announce the seniors selected for the award of "Outstanding Senior" during the Fall 2021 through Fall 2022 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.

### Fall 2022

Randal Dillan Greene (Academics)  
 John Mason McKeithan (Academics & Service)

### Spring 2022

George Hughes (Academics)  
 Leland Padgett (Service)

### Fall 2021

Troy Schuck (Academics) Larry  
 Lancaster (Academics)

## 2022 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 participated in the NAHB Student Competition at the International Builders Show in Orlando, Florida in February 2022. They ranked 16 out of 37 teams that participated and were led by Faculty Daniel Thomas and Susan Castelli. In January 2022 another group of twelve students will participate in the NAHB Student Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Team members were **Luck Bentlage, Marco Nardi, Jennifer Perea, Jeannette Evans, Dylan White, Kennedy Henderson, Preston Skinner, and Kyler Holmes.**



Left to Right: Luck Bentlage, Marco Nardi, Jennifer Perea, Jeanette Evans, Dylan White, Kennedy Henderson, Preston Skinner, and Kyler Holmes.

## Fall 2022 Amazing Techno Race

Held in November 2022, The Center for IoT Engineering and Innovation (CIEI) held the first edition of the Amazing Techno Race. One of our graduate students, Lijun Liu (farthest left in photo) was a part of the winning team along with three other ECU students. Congratulations!



## Fall 2022 NAHB Guest Speaker

Held on November 14, 2022, the NAHB Student Organization hosted P.J. Connelly, Mayor of Greenville, NC as their guest speaker. Former ECU Alumnus and real estate business owner, spoke about the real estate market and property development and answered student questions on topics including city infrastructure and development, the economy and home ownership.





## Fall 2022 Graduate Student Meet and Greet

Held on **September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**, the Graduate Program Director, **Dr. Carol Massarra** and the Administrative Support Associate, **Kim Capri** hosted a Graduate Student Meet and Greet to introduce incoming students to the department as well as introduce and increase relationships between the faculty and students.



## Spring 2022 ACCE Visit

The **ACCE Visiting Team** came to our department on **February 13- 15, 2022** for the **6<sup>th</sup> reaccreditation** of our Construction Management Undergraduate program. The reaccreditation was successfully completed with final accreditation voting done in **July of 2022 at the ACCE Board Meeting**.



Left to Right: Rachel Axness, Stacey Nellis, Marty Garza, Jeff Shropshire, Tom Leathem, Bill Seyler.

## Fall 2021 Faculty Retreat

Held on **August 18, 2021**, in the Joyner Library. ECU Ombudsman, Dr. John Howard facilitated a morning session that focused on teamwork in the department. ACCE Self-study and QIP reports were the main topics discussed in the afternoon session.



## Fall 2021/2022 IAB Golf Tournament

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ECU CMGT Advisory Board Golf Tournament was successfully held on **Monday, September 27, 2021**, at the Governor's Golf Club in Chapel Hill, NC. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Tournament recently took place on **Monday, October 31, 2022**, and was successful with 122 players.



## Fall 2021 Construction Site Visit

The first site visit after the pandemic shut down **September 10, 2021, ST Wooten Ready Mix Plant, Winterville, NC** was successful with 28 student who participated. The plant manager Mr. Pete Pelt gave a wonderful tour and talk on concrete production and quality control.



## Fall 2021 Student Award

Graduate student **Md. Hasibul Hasan Rahat** received the **2021 East Carolina University International Graduate Student Award**. Congratulations!



## Fall 2021 Jimmie Hinze Best Paper Award

Graduate student **Mohammad Khalid** received the **Jimmie Hinze Best Paper Award** for their collaboration with Dr. Mostafa Namian on their paper titled: **"Safety Implications of Using UAVs in Construction: An Ethical Perspective"** from the Joint CIB W099 & W123 International Conference in 2021. Congratulations!



## Sigma Lambda Chi

Fall 2021 through Fall 2022 Sigma Lambda Chi Members (41):

Joshua Allen	Angelo Marc	Amber Fields
Sara Blackwelder	John McKeithan	Robert Hicks
Giovanni Cavalotto	Anthony Mills	Dain Hutton
Trevor Cole	William Mazingo	Austin Johnson
Wayne Cox Jr.	Fahim Ridwan Nabil	Robert Jordan
Tyler Davis	Md. Hasibul Hasan Rahat	Tristen Kenyon
John Gizdic	Nicholas Robinson	David Mairena-Escobar
Brady McKay	John Robitschek	Evan Manning
Garrett Whisnant	Connor Ryan	Owen McGearry
Dylan White	Mackenzie Turner	Declan Murphy
Raj Desai	Victor Villarreal Guerero	Jamel Pittman
William Dudley	Anthony Barnett	Ryan Rowe
Dawson Dupree	Stavros Boardman	Trysten Welch
Richard Hancock	Hunter Crabtree	

## Hard Hats

From Fall 2021 through Fall 2022 there were three **Topping off ceremonies** that graduates were able to come and receive their hard hats for their accomplishments. **Fall 2021 was on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**; **Spring 2022 Topping off was on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** and ending with **Fall 2022 on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**.



## In Memorial - ECU Construction Management Pirate



**Dr. David Batie** joined the ECU Construction Management Department in 1996 until he retired in Spring 2022. He served in the Department of Construction Management for 26 years and was a ranking faculty member. David received his Ph.D. degree in Architecture from Texas A&M in 1996; Master of Architecture from University of Nebraska in 1977, and Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Studies from the University of Nebraska 1975. David was an active member of the Department and selflessly devoted his time to educating student's. He was a friend to all who met and knew him, and he will be deeply missed



**Amy Taylor** joined the ECU Construction Management Department in 2006 and began her career working at ECU School of Medicine prior to joining Construction Management. She was the Administrative Assistant for "Student Services" until recently when she retired in November 2021. She was an integral part to the department and was well-suited for her work because she enjoyed interacting with students and had a genuine interest in each student who came through her door. In October 2009 she was recognized for her performance when she received the Treasured Pirate Award for Outstanding Service. She will be deeply missed by all that knew her.



## Department of Construction Management

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