



CMGT Education Excellence: Notes from the Chair

Over the past year, our dedication to excellence has remained unwavering, and we are thrilled to share the significant progress we have made in various areas in this newsletter. We are particularly proud of the remarkable strides we have taken strengthening our collaboration with industry partners, which has played a pivotal role in the growth of the CMGT program. Through this enhanced partnership, we have harnessed innovative technologies and united our efforts to achieve exceptional outcomes. Our active engagement with industry leaders has resulted in valuable connections and support, propelling our program forward. These efforts have not only enhanced the learning experience for our students but have also opened doors for their future success in the professional realm.

We have achieved outstanding results in line with our commitment to student success. We have provided comprehensive support and resources to ensure the holistic development of our students, empowering them to excel academically and personally. The achievements of our students are a testament to their hard work and the nurturing environment we strive to create.

By fostering a collaborative and stimulating atmosphere, we have enabled our faculty members to excel in their teaching, research, service, and mentorship roles. The accomplishments reflect their expertise, dedication, and commitment to delivering a transformative educational experience. Looking back on the past year, we take pride in our progress. Moving forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence, industry collaboration, innovative technology,

student success, and faculty productivity. Together, we will continue to set new benchmarks and inspire future generations of professionals in the field of CMGT.

Our undergraduate student enrollment has experienced growth. As our enrollment increases, we have taken steps to enhance rigor and quality and requested additional faculty positions to meet the growing demand.

The Board of ACCE has officially approved our undergraduate program accreditation from February 2023 to February 2029. This accreditation renewal affirms our commitment to maintaining high standards and delivering quality education to our students. We are grateful for the unwavering support of our Industry Advisory Board (IAB), which has enabled us to organize various events and meetings throughout the year successfully. Notable events include the Fall 2022 meeting hosted by Caterpillar, Inc. in Clayton, NC; the CONTECH Forum in Fall 2022; and the IAB Golf Tournament in Fall 2022. We are excited to announce that the Fall 2023 Golf Tournament is scheduled for October 2, 2023, and the CONTECH Forum will take place on October 26, 2023.

Recognizing the importance of embracing emerging technologies, we have provided numerous opportunities to promote student success. Our dedicated faculty, industry partners, and student leaders have collaborated to create hands-on learning experiences. These initiatives include construction site visits, classroom guest speakers, student participation in contests and competitions, and increased interaction with

industry professionals and alumni. By connecting our students with real construction projects and innovative technologies through classroom lectures, laboratory sessions, and engagement with student organizations, we have prepared them for the industry's challenges.

Regarding faculty and staff changes, we bid farewell to Mr. Dan Thomas, who retired in May 2023 after seven years of dedicated service in the Department. Additionally, Mr. Marwin Jurjus completed his one-year visiting teaching and returned to the Netherlands. Kim Capri and Jessica Fulford left us to pursue other opportunities. While we express gratitude for their contributions, we are delighted to welcome new members to our department. Dr. Sue Sayger joined us as a Teaching Assistant Professor in January 2023. We have also recently welcomed Mrs. Kim Gillikin and Mrs. Sabrina Bakley, who have joined the department as Administrative Support Associates.

As we embark on another year, we eagerly anticipate collaborative efforts, innovative approaches, and an unwavering commitment to achieving continued excellence in fostering student success. Together, we will continue to shape the future of CMGT education and inspire the next generation of professionals in the field.



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

New Faculty and Staff Members

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Sue Sayger who joined us in January 2023, as a Teaching Assistant Professor. Dr. Sayger brought her extensive professional experience in industry, government agencies, and higher education institution to the Department.



Joining us Summer of 2023, Kim Gillikin, who will be filling the role of Administrative Support Associate. Her jobs include Assistant to the Chair, Personnel, Budget, and Office Management. Another part of her role will be Liaison for the Industrial Advisory Board. (Pictured to the right)



Joining us Summer of 2023, Sabrina Bakley, who will also be filling the role of Administrative Support Associate. Her jobs within the department include Student Services, Travel, and Office Management. (Pictured on the left)

Faculty Activities

- CMGT Graduate Program Director and CSE3 Director of Coastal Resilience, Dr. Carol Massarra, was inducted to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society due to her achievement of scholarly distinction. (Pictured on the right)
- Dr. Yilei Huang was selected by the 2023 ECU Sponsored Activities and Research Catalyst (SPARC) Program for his proposal, “*Automated UAS Model Comparison for Construction Verification with Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing.*” This project will fund a new aerial lidar sensor mounted on an existing surveying drone.
- Dr. Yilei Huang was awarded the 2023 ECU Teaching Grant for his proposal,



“*Leveraging Modern Surveying Equipment to Enhance Career Readiness for Construction Management Students: Total Stations, GPS, and Drones.*” This project will integrate the latest GPS and drone technologies in CMGT 2950 Construction Surveying.

- Dr. Yilei Huang established a VR treadmill system to integrate the new CET Digital Development Lab and Lounge for the Construction Management course. (Pictured on the left)
- Dr. Yilei Huang was selected by the 2023 ECU Engagement Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) for his proposal, “*Evaluating the Effectiveness of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality on Electrical Construction Curriculum in Community Colleges.*” Dr. Huang will partner with Pamlico Community College to evaluate VR/AR technologies for electrical construction education.
- Dr. Yilei Huang was nominated for the 2023 Student Supervisor of the Year for advising graduate research assistants.





- Dr. Carol Massarra, CMGT Graduate Program Director and CSE3 Director of Coastal Resilience participated in Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy (EOSA) Reunion. As part of EOSA, Dr. Massarra worked on a project, titled, *Building Hurricane Resistance Homes with Kids* (pictured to the left)

Student News

- Graduate student Andres Acero Molina presented a surveying drone at the 2022 Washington-Warren (OCW) Air & Drone Show in Washington, NC.



- Graduate student Andres Acero Molina presented a research poster, "*Using Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Construction Verification, Volume Calculation, and Field Inspection,*" at the 2023 NCDOT Research and Innovation Summit in Raleigh, NC.

- Graduate student Andres Acero Molina presented a conference paper, "*Comparing Bulk Volume Measurements between Surveying GPS and UAS-Mounted LIDAR,*" at the 2023 ASCE International Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering in Corvallis, OR.
- Graduate student Lijun Liu presented a conference paper, "*Optimizing HVAC Design for Pharmaceutical Requirements with Computational Fluid Dynamics,*" at the 2023 ASCE International Conference on Computing in Civil Engineering in Corvallis, OR.
- Graduate student Andres Acero Molina was featured by the CET news as a new MS Construction Management graduate to share his wonderful experience at ECU. During his two years with the Department of Construction Management, Andres published three journal and conference articles, gave five oral and poster presentations, and received his FAA drone license

Sigma Lambda Chi

- There have been 16 new members inducted in November 2022.
 - Two honorary members, Anthony Barnett and J. Pittman.
 - First banquet and in-person induction since Fall 2019.
- Twenty-seven new members were inducted in April 2023. This is the **largest number of inductees** since Fall 2010.
- Fall 2023 Induction and Banquet scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at the Holiday Inn in Greenville, NC.



- Approximately seventy students will be eligible and invited to join in the fall semester; spring inductees will also be invited.
- We are seeking individual, table, and event sponsors so that our recognized students and guests can attend at no cost.
- We need also need a keynote speaker for the event.

- Please reach out to Ms. Chelsea Buckhalter (buckhalterc15@ecu.edu) if interested in sponsorship or speaker opportunity.
- To sponsor the banquet or make a non-sponsorship contribution of any amount, please visit our website by scanning the QR code to the right:



- CMGT Sigma Lambda Chi Construction Honor Society chapter, IOTA II, supervised by Ms. Chelsea Buckhalter, has received the Silver Level Award. This is a momentous accomplishment, especially as it is the first time that this award has been granted to our department. This award is a testament to the outstanding contributions made by each organization member.

2023-2024 Scholarship Recipients

Construction Management Scholarship Funding awarded over \$44,000 in total for 2023-2024. A total of 27 awards were given for 2023-2024.

Construction Management Scholarship Recipients

- Morgan Dixson
- Mystery Knope
- Jakob Nilsson
- Carson Haithcox
- John Pendergrass
- Kennedy Henderson
- Dayton McDonald
- Courtney Baker
- James Harper***
- Elmer Mateo-Estrada
- Grady McKay
- Joshua McCarter
- Shelton Hankins
- Elmer Mateo-Estrada
- Shelton Hankins
- David Styron
- Robert Smith
- Devin Rivenbark
- Christian Batchelor
- Madison Byrd
- Robert Ellis**
- Abel Contreras-Ramirez
- Nathaniel Hanselman**

**Recipient of two different scholarships

***Recipient of three different scholarships

Fall 2022 – Fall 2023 Outstanding Students

Fall 2022

Randal Dillan Greene (Academics)

John Mason McKeithan (Academics & Service)

Spring 2023

Erick Thronson (Academics)

Dylan White (Academics and Service)

Jacob Hanson (High Achievement in the Face of Adversity)

2023 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.

Twelve East Carolina University students in the Construction Management department participated in the NAHB Student Competition at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas in January 2023.

NAHB Competition Team members for 2023 were **Shannon Mary Ellis, Kennedy Henderson, Kyler Holmes, Jalene Mireles Camey, Ameen Muhiddin, Marco Nardi, Neycer Ortiz Rodriquez, Spencer Peed, Catherine Parker, Preston Skinner, Victor Villarreal, and Dylan White.**

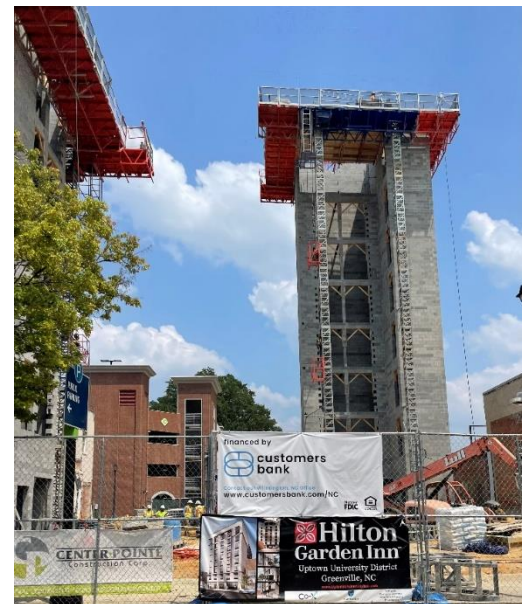


Left to Right: Catherine Parker, Shannon Mary Ellis, Jalene Mireles Camey, Dylan White, Kennedy Henderson, Kyler Holmes, Spencer Peed, Marco Nardi, Victor Villarreal, Preston Skinner, Neycer Ortiz Rodriquez, and Ameen Muhiddin.

Other Construction Management News

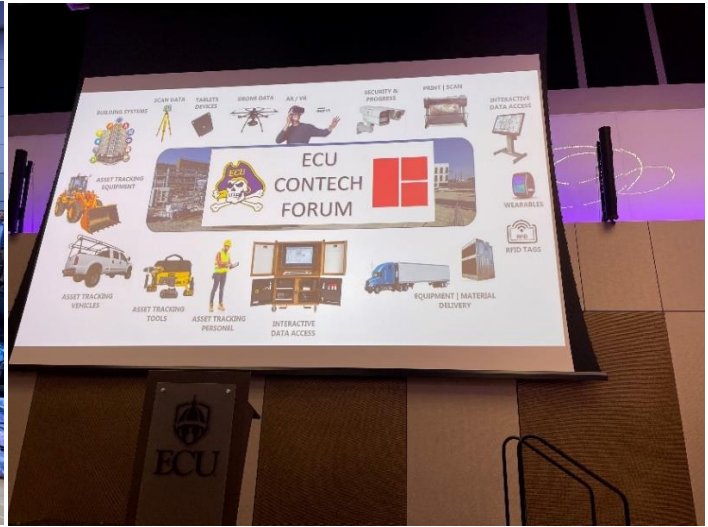
Dr. Dina Al-Dajani from the Interior Design and Merchandising Department and Dr. Carol Massarra from the Construction Management Department have collaborated with the industry to enhance student learning. Together, they have joined forces with Clarendon Properties to incorporate the new Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Hotel project on Evans Street in Greenville as a valuable educational opportunity for students.

In a meeting held in late spring, Drs. Al-Dajani, Massarra, and Dr. Wang engaged with the Developer and General Contractor at the project site. Following fruitful discussions, all parties have agreed to involve construction management students in regular site visits starting in the fall of 2023. This collaboration will provide students with hands-on experience and exposure to real-world construction practices, further enriching their educational journey.



Fall 2022 CONTECH Forum

The CONTECH Forum, a highly anticipated event, was successfully held on Thursday, October 27, 2022, showcasing cutting-edge technologies in the construction industry. This exceptional gathering brought together six esteemed experts from various states who shared their expertise and insights. The Forum garnered significant attention, attracting an audience of approximately 300 students, faculty members, and industry representatives. It served as an invaluable platform for our students and faculty to witness firsthand the latest innovations that are shaping the industry. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Matt Chance, Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Exterior Systems, for organizing this important event and making it a resounding success.



Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Industry Advisory Board Meeting

The Fall 2022 Industry Advisory Board Meeting was held on Friday, October 7, 2022, at Caterpillar's facility in Clayton, NC. We express our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Scott Cooper, the President of the CMGT IAB, for his outstanding efforts in organizing and hosting the delegates during this significant event. His unwavering dedication and commitment to the CMGT IAB Board have proven invaluable.



The Spring 2023 Industry Advisory Board Meeting was held on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the Harvey Hall Murphy Center at ECU. A highlight of the meeting was the well-deserved recognition bestowed upon Mr. Scott Cooper, who received the prestigious Excellence Award. This accolade celebrated his remarkable 16-year tenure of service on the CMGT IAB Board. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Cooper's unwavering dedication, contributions, and exceptional leadership have played a pivotal role in shaping the CMGT IAB's achievements in supporting the CMGT Department of ECU.



Fall 2022 IAB Golf Tournament

The 4th Annual ECU CMGT Advisory Board Golf Tournament occurred on Monday, October 31, 2022, at the Governor's Golf Club in Chapel Hill, NC. This highly anticipated event brought together industry professionals and enthusiasts for camaraderie and friendly competition on the greens. A special acknowledgment goes to Mrs. Mary Brinn, whose unwavering support and exceptional organizational skills were instrumental in ensuring the seamless execution of the tournament.



Fall 2022 NAHB Guest Speaker



On November 14, 2022, the NAHB Student Organization proudly hosted a captivating event featuring P.J. Connelly, Mayor of Greenville, NC, as the esteemed guest speaker.

P.J. Connelly, an accomplished former ECU alumnus and successful real estate business owner, shared his expertise on the dynamic real estate market and property development. Students were fortunate to gain firsthand knowledge from a seasoned professional who contributed significantly to the field.

During the event, Mayor Connelly engaged with the students by addressing their questions on various topics related to city infrastructure and development, the economy, and the intricacies of home ownership. His insightful responses provided valuable perspectives and deepened the students'

understanding of these critical aspects of the real estate industry.

The event served as a platform for students to learn from prominent industry figures and gain practical insights that will undoubtedly shape their future careers. Mayor Connelly's presence and willingness to share his knowledge further enhanced the event's significance, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

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!

CMGT to 2023 HAN University Global Week



In May, Dr. Daniel Perrucci, chair of the CMGT Global Affairs Committee, led a group of CMGT students on a brief visit to HAN University in the Netherlands. The students included Jalene Mireles Camey, Stavros Boardman, and Carson Haithcox. Their primary objective was to participate in the HAN University 2023 Global Week, providing them with valuable international academic and cultural exchange opportunities.

Building on the success of previous visits, the CMGT department will host a study-abroad team from HAN University's Built Environment program in October 2023. The upcoming visit will offer the HAN University team a chance to explore and gain

knowledge about various aspects of construction and the built environment within the local context.

In HAN Campus, from left, Carson Haithcox, Stavros Boardman, Jalene Mireles Camey, Dr. Perrucci, and Annika Treiber, HAN University International Relations Advisor



CMGT Team visiting the Netherlands' seawalls and green energy production facility



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