

2009  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

## Construction Industry Advisory Council



Department of Construction Science

**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY



# 2009 Annual Report: Construction Industry Advisory Council



"Our Construction Industry Advisory Council is the finest such academic support organization in the nation both in size as well as quality. The active participation of individuals and companies in our program has once again raised the bar for both students and faculty. As a result, our curriculum has been enhanced and our research efforts advanced as we continue to produce graduates well prepared to take their place in the construction industry."

— Joe Horlen, J.D.  
Department Head



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Dr. Julian Kang’s students tour the College Station construction site for the new Texas A&M Health Science Center.



Department of Construction Science  
College of Architecture

# Letter from the President



“Our financial support of the department is needed more now than ever before as state funding becomes more restricted.”

— Fred Raley  
President  
CIAC

Howdy,

I am amazed at how quickly my time as president of the Construction Industry Advisory Council (CIAC) has passed after taking the reins two years ago. This last year has been a challenge for our various member companies, as we all have had to make difficult decisions in the face of a slowdown in the pace of construction that we had enjoyed in recent years.

I am especially grateful to those member firms that made the decision to continue their strong support of the Construction Science Department through membership renewals and participation in the various CIAC events, such as the semi-annual meetings, career fairs and annual awards banquet. Our financial support of the department is needed more now than ever before as state funding becomes more restricted.

The executive committee has worked hard this year in planning our meetings and events. They made time in their busy schedules to arrive the day prior to each of our general membership meetings to ensure that the council's critical business was addressed in an orderly, effective manner. A key to completing our work was the professional leadership they gave to their respective committees.

A major accomplishment in 2009 was our support of the department's research program. Changes were made in our procedures for submission, receipt, and evaluation of research proposals from faculty members to ensure a more thorough and timely award of the budgeted funds for this key CIAC objective. In addition, CIAC member firms Bartlett-Cocke and Satterfield & Pontikes hosted Research Road Trips to San Antonio and Houston where faculty members presented the status of their respective research agendas and sought industry input on how to best serve the most pressing needs of the industry.

Another new initiative in 2009 was the CIAC Tailgate event prior to the Iowa State game. The event provided a wonderful networking opportunity for CIAC members as well as former and current COSC students.

The strength of the construction program was further enhanced in 2009 with the selection of Dr. Jorge Vanegas to serve as the dean of the College of Architecture. His wealth of construction engineering and management education and experience will continue to serve both the college and the construction science program.

CIAC leadership is in very capable hands as I turn over this post to Jerry Hoog. I want to thank Jerry for his strong support as our vice president and wish him continued success over the next two years. On behalf of CIAC officers and members as well as the faculty and students, serving as the president of this fine organization has been a pleasure and honor. Thank you all for your support.

Fred Raley,  
CIAC President



# Letter from the Department Head/Executive Director

We knew that coming into 2009 that we would be faced with new challenges that would require each of us to make difficult decisions on where to place our time, attention and available funds. I am thankful to our member companies that continued their support of our program through their renewed memberships and active support. We continue to enjoy the benefits of having the largest and most actively involved construction industry support organization in the nation. I have never been more proud of working with our industry partners than this year as we worked together to advance the goals of the department.

As the Construction Science Department prepares for its upcoming re-accreditation process, the participation of our CIAC members in the curriculum reviews during the fall 2009 meeting will assist us in adapting our courses to meet the emerging needs of the industry. This is especially true for the advancement of our building information modeling (BIM) course that was introduced in 2009. As a result, recent construction science graduates with this critical skill were hired by our member firms to implement and advance their BIM programs. I want to thank our member firms Satterfield & Pontikes and Skanska USA Building for their sponsorship of this course during 2009. Beyond the classroom, the department partnered with AGC Houston Chapter to host a well attended BIM Forum in Houston.

A critical CIAC contribution to our program is the continued financial support of our students through the annual and endowed scholarships established by members and their companies. The number of scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen continues to grow each year with the steady financial support of CIAC. A majority of these students are “first generation” college students. Our ability to award additional scholarships last spring was due to members’ positive responses to our calls for support.

Lastly, I want to thank those member firms that have enhanced the quality of our courses through their participation as guest speakers in classes and at student chapter meetings, competition team sponsors, field trip hosts and specific course sponsors. In most cases, the benefit is doubled by having construction science graduates employed by our member firms participate in these activities. There is no better promotion of our program than to have our current students see how their predecessors have gone on to claim their rightful leadership roles in the construction industry.

Joe Horlen  
Department Head, CIAC Executive Director



“We continue to enjoy the benefits of having the largest and most actively involved construction industry support organization in the nation.”

— Joe Horlen  
Department Head,  
Executive Director  
CIAC

# About the Construction Industry Advisory Council

## Objectives

The dedicated construction professionals in the Construction Industry Advisory Council are an integral part of the Construction Science Department at Texas A&M University. They bring to the program real world experience that enhances all aspects of its teaching, research and service efforts, and have made the department one of the finest schools of construction higher education in the nation.

From its beginning in January 1998, CIAC has continually met the objectives set forth in its by-laws through individual and company involvement in semi-annual meetings, career fairs and scholarship programs. The result has been the establishment of a strong partnership where the needs and expectations of the construction industry have been fulfilled by the academic training and expertise present within the Construction Science Department.

The active involvement of council members in the academic progress is evidenced by the large number of guest speakers, class sponsors, internships, field trips and scholarships they provided during 2009. As a result, the quality of the classroom education and internships has been advanced by an open dialog, cooperation and coordination between the industry, faculty and students. The objectives set forth in the CIAC By-Laws include:

1. Promoting and improving the construction profession by education and development of the body of construction knowledge.
2. Advancing and supporting the highest quality faculty, educational facilities and undergraduate and graduate programs for the students enrolled in the Construction Science Department.
3. Providing liaison between the construction industry and the Construction Science Department.
4. Developing and implementing innovative programs which will benefit the Construction Science Department, its students and the construction industry.
5. Offering advice and counsel and providing vision for the Construction Science Department through the active participation of the construction industry.

CIAC held its regular meetings in College Station on March 27, 2009 and October 30, 2009. These meetings provided an opportunity for members of the construction industry to interact with faculty and students and discuss important issues regarding funding, curriculum, development, membership and research. The Executive Committee convened the day prior to each of the regular full membership meetings to ensure the agenda would effectively address all pending matters of mutual concern. As a result, the standing subcommittees produced positive results through their roundtable discussions with faculty and students.

The primary work during the March 27, 2009 meeting included student focus group sessions in which students shared their academic- and industry-related experiences with CIAC members and discussed areas of improvement. A highlight of the spring meeting was the recognition of various student competition teams that received funding support from the council.

The emphasis during the October 30, 2009 meeting was on faculty presentations and industry reviews of approximately half of all construction science classes to CIAC members. Industry needs regarding emerging technologies was a common denominator in open discussions with faculty members on the various academic courses currently offered.

CIAC member firms supported the department's extracurricular programs by providing funding to the student chapters of AGC, ABC, NAHB, MECA, SWIC and DBIA, as well as for guest speakers at chapter meetings and field trips. Such participation gave the students a clear view of demands that are faced by professionals in the construction industry.

Through the funding of faculty research, CIAC provided the industry with a state-of-the-art, self-paced, cost effective training program for project planning and scheduling. The council also promoted the department's overall research agenda through two informative road shows in which individual faculty members presented their research at meetings in San Antonio and Houston.

Through the support of CIAC member firms, scholarships were once again made available to Texas A&M construction science students who participated in study abroad programs in England, Scotland and Germany. This program fulfills

## CIAC Executive Committee

*Throughout 2009, the work of the Executive Committee was instrumental in advancing the goals of the Construction Industry Advisory Council.*



**JERRY HOOG '82**

Vice President  
Chair, Budget Committee  
Vice President Operations  
San Antonio Region  
Bartlett-Cocke



**RICHARD PALMER '88**

Chair, Curriculum Committee  
Chief Estimator  
Satterfield & Pontikes



**RICHARD BOOHER**

Chair, Research and  
Studies Committee  
Vice President,  
Director of Operations  
Alpha Building Corporation



**BOB FLOWERS '80**

Chair, Development  
Committee  
Assistant Vice President  
JE Dunn Construction  
South Central



**JEREMY CLARY '04**

Chair, Membership  
Committee  
Senior Estimator  
Balfour Beatty Construction

student needs to experience the realities of the construction industry on an international level.

The technical advice and financial support provided by CIAC members made possible the formation of award winning competition teams for commercial, residential, design-build and mechanical construction that traveled to regional and national events. CIAC members Joeris General Contractors and Dynamic Systems deserve special recognition for their generous donation of time and finances as team sponsors.

Despite a troubling financial climate during 2009, construction science students continued to receive a large number of individual scholarships through the incoming freshman and endowed scholarship programs established and

funded by CIAC.

The strong participation of CIAC member firms in the CIAC-sponsored spring and fall career fairs provided internships and jobs to construction science students in the face of a reduction in the overall construction employment during 2009. Historically, approximately 70% of all internships and 75% of all fulltime job offers are provided by CIAC member firms.

The economic challenges faced by the construction industry as well as the Construction Science Department showed how the strong partnership built over 10 years has allowed both to respond by continuing to identify emerging technical problems and needs, and provide highly qualified graduates and meaningful research.

CIAC is governed by a set of by-laws that were reviewed and updated in October 2008. This document clearly defines principles, policies and procedures that guide this organization made up of approximately 90 business entities and 39 individual members with an annual budget of over \$300,000.

A copy of the by-laws is available on the Construction Science Department's web site at: <http://archone.tamu.edu/cosc/ciac.html>.

CIAC conducts the majority of its affairs and business through standing subcommittees whose members are appointed from the council membership by the Executive Committee. The president presents the slate of members of each subcommittee for the next two calendar years at the fall meeting of each odd numbered year for council approval. The chairs and members serve for two years beginning January 1 of the next year. The following standing subcommittees are appointed:

1. **Research and Studies:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to determine the priorities for spending CIAC funds on research and studies to further the CIAC objectives. The council sets goals in this area with the input of research faculty members who are funded by and report to CIAC on an annual basis.
2. **Budget:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to prepare the



The Aggie Mechanical Construction Competition Team placed fourth in a field of 10 competitors at the 2009 Associated Schools of Construction competition held in Reno, Nev. CIAC member Dynamic Systems assisted the team in preparing for the competition.

- proposed annual budget for consideration by the Executive Committee. This subcommittee also monitors expenditure of funds from the CIAC account to insure that expenditures are in accordance with approved budgets.
3. **Membership:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to promote and solicit CIAC membership, and to develop and manage a CIAC awards program providing appropriate recognition for students, faculty and CIAC individuals and corporations.
4. **Curriculum:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to provide

continuous review of the department's undergraduate and graduate curriculum and to foster changes where needed to promote constant improvement.

5. **Development:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to support and promote the fund-raising activities of the Construction Science Department.

The Executive Committee of the CIAC may appoint task forces from time to time for special purposes with time limitations as set forth by the Executive Committee.



## Membership Levels

CIAC By-Laws provide four categories of membership: business entity, emeritus, association, and individual.

**Business Entity Members**, “Partners for the Future,” are industry sponsors who pay annual dues of \$2,500. In turn, the companies are entitled to designate two representatives of the business entity to participate in the Council’s activities. Business Entity Members are listed on Pages 19-25.

**Emeritus Members** are constructors who have distinguished themselves in some aspect of construction and whose expertise and participation are valuable assets to CIAC membership. This is a special category of membership that is approved by the Executive Committee to recognize these very experienced individuals. The member is invited and encouraged to participate in all council activities. Emeritus Members are not required to pay dues, and are non-voting members of the council. Emeritus Members are listed on Page 25.

**Association Members** are representatives of professional industry organizations (AGC, ABC, TCA, DBIA, NAHB, etc.) that are invited by the Executive Committee to be members of CIAC and participate in council events. Association Members, in deference to their significant association contributions to the Construction Science Department, are not required to pay dues, but may vote on CIAC issues. Associate Members are listed on



Freshman construction science students gained valuable advice from upper-level students in an orientation session that kicked off the academic year. Above seniors offer a gig ‘em to first-year student Drew Stewart, who won a \$1,000 scholarship at the event. With Stewart is Joe Horlen, department head.

Page 25.

**Individual Members** are construction industry representatives who desire to support the Construction Science Department at Texas A&M University and participate in CIAC activities and meetings. Although many are graduates of the Construction Science Department, membership is open to non-graduates. There are three levels of Individual Membership. While all Individual Members are invited to participate in CIAC activities and meetings, only Lifetime Members may vote on CIAC matters. Individuals seeking a CIAC membership may submit an application form with the appropriate membership fee. The membership form is available for downloading at: <http://archone.tamu.edu/cosc/ciac.html>. An inaugural Tailgate Event on Oct. 31,

2009 was sponsored prior to the Iowa State game to encourage personal networking among construction science graduates and current students and stimulate interest in becoming individual CIAC members. Individual Members are listed on Page 25.

- Annual Membership \$ 50.
- Five-year Membership \$200.
- Lifetime Membership \$500.

For additional membership information or to join, please contact the Construction Science Department at 979.862.7345 or by mail at:

Construction Science Department  
Industry Relations Office – CIAC  
3137 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-3137  
CIAC Web site:  
<http://archone.tamu.edu/cosc/ciac.html>

# Budget & Student Enrichment

## Budget

An annual budget for 2009 was approved at the fall 2008 meeting and revised at the spring 2009 meeting. The revised 2009 budget can be found on Page 27. A key issue in the development of the 2009 budget was the projected level of memberships in light of the downturn in the construction industry. The committee based the budget upon a projected number of 100 members. This projected number was revised to 90 member firms at the March 2009 meeting.

Line item funding was established in accordance with CIAC By-Laws for the major program areas of (1) student enrichment, (2) scholarships, (3) research and studies, (4) program enrichment and faculty development and (5) operations of the CIAC.

## Student Enrichment

CIAC funds make possible many programs unique to the construction science program that would not be possible if not for the financial support that is budgeted annually for such events.

One of the most important is the funding support for the various student competition teams that compete in regional and national competitions each year. In 2009, the department fielded five teams. The Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) held competitions in Dallas for the Commercial Building Team and the Design-Build Team. The Commercial



In 2009, the Department of Construction Science's Commercial Building team placed third overall in the Associated Schools of Construction competition in Dallas.

Building Team placed third overall with one of the team members earning an outstanding speaker award. The Design-Build Team placed first and advanced to the national competition in San Diego, Calif. The Residential Construction Team competed in the National Association of Home Builders national competition in Las Vegas, Nev. where the team placed fifth. The Mechanical Construction team also participated at the national level in Reno, Nev. at an event sponsored by the Associated Schools of Construction where the team placed fourth from a field of ten teams. CIAC member, Dynamic Systems, assisted the team

in preparing for the competition.. A team consisting of graduate students competed in a national competition in Reno, Nev.

The graduation events that are held each semester are a fitting tribute to those who have worked hard to earn their respective undergraduate and graduate degrees. One prized gift presented to each student is a personalized construction science hard hat. Additionally, each graduate student is presented with a master's stole signifying that they are Texas A&M graduates. Prior to the actual graduation ceremony, each class celebrates the end of their academic

studies with an informal cake and ice cream social with a guest speaker chosen by the graduates.

The department has student chapters of Associated General Contractors (AGC), Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MECA), Society of Women in Construction (SWIC) and Sigma Lambda Chi, an honor society. Each chapter conducts monthly membership meetings with guest speakers from among CIAC members. In addition to guest speakers, CIAC members host job tours and field trips during the year for the various student organizations.

## Scholarships

During difficult economic times, the availability of scholarships for students is extremely important. Exit surveys of graduating seniors indicate that 67% worked while taking classes with 73% of those working 15 hours per week or more during their senior year. The average student loan balance for graduating seniors was approximately \$30,000.

The level of budgeted support for CIAC scholarships remained steady despite the financial pressures faced during 2009. The primary funding focus remained on the Incoming Freshmen Scholarship Program that began with the fall 2006 semester. Special attention is given to first-generation college students. The department was able to award \$14,000 of the \$15,000



All graduating construction science students receive a much coveted Texas A&M hard hat.

budgeted. The number of scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen increased from 12 in 2008 to 14 in 2009.

The CIAC Endowed Matching Scholarship Program established in 1999 remains an attractive opportunity for individuals and member firms to fund a named scholarship. The minimum amount for an endowed scholarship is \$25,000. Member companies or individuals can establish an endowed scholarship with a donation of \$15,000 towards a scholarship with the remaining \$10,000 being a matching contribution from CIAC. Donations can be made over a period of time, up to five years, to achieve the minimum funding. This year CIAC budgeted \$60,000 to establish six endowed

scholarships.

The budgeted amount for this program was fully committed in 2009 with one new scholarship established by Sara and Jerry Hoog '82. Marek Brothers, Joeris General Contractors, Jack Morris and Larry Fickel added to their existing endowed scholarships with new gifts. This raised the total of endowed scholarships created through the CIAC matching program to 32, with over \$1.1 million in assets to provide a permanent source of support for our construction science students.

The \$5000 budgeted by CIAC for the Summer 2009 Study Abroad Program made special scholarships possible for five deserving students who traveled to England, Scotland and Germany.



# Scholarships

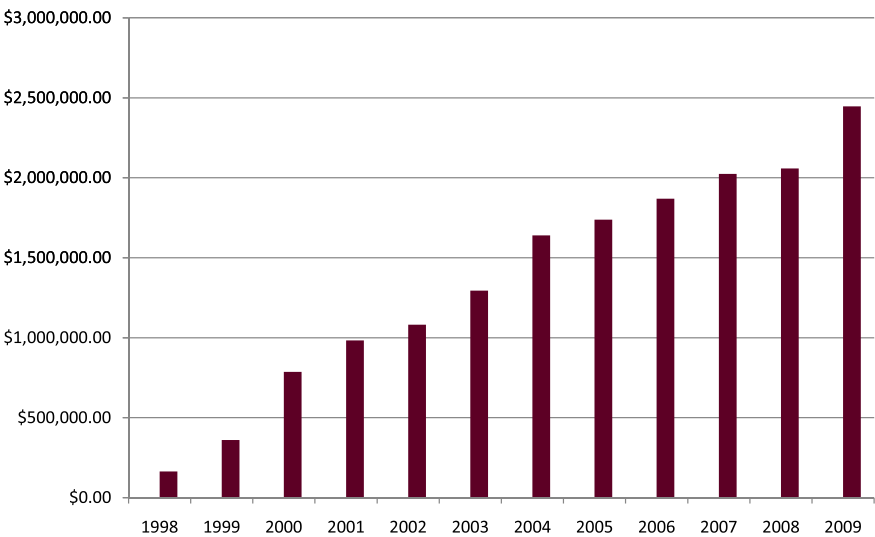
At the end of 2009, the value of all endowed scholarships, including those funded by CIAC was \$2,447,167.

The total number of endowed scholarships increased to 63.

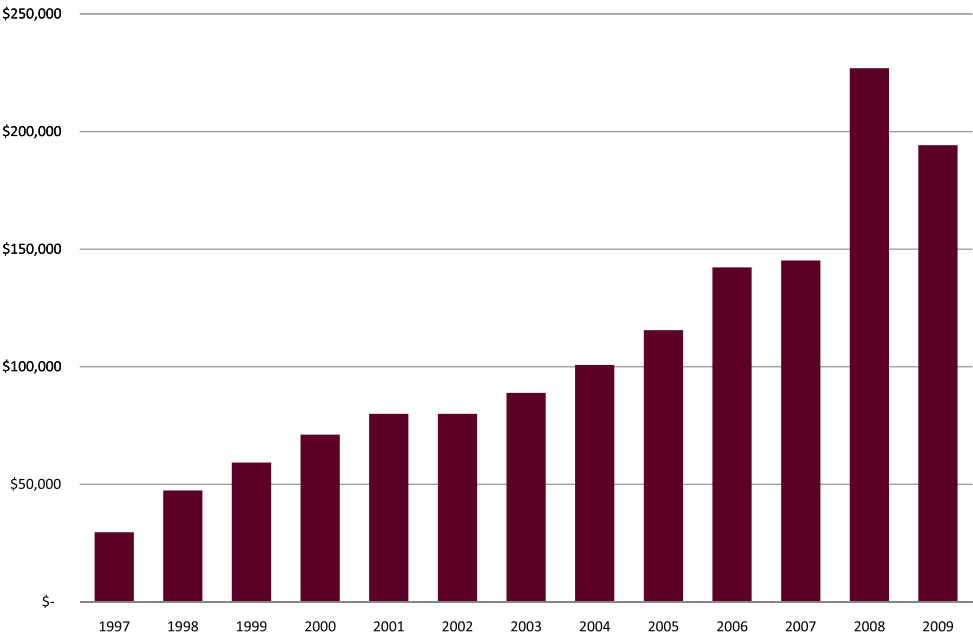
The increase in the total value of scholarships is attributable to the improved financial market conditions and newly funded endowments.

Despite the adverse market conditions, approximately \$195,000 in scholarships were awarded to 148 students for the 2009 – 2010 school year.

**ENDOWMENT**



**SCHOLARSHIPS**



## Curriculum

During the fall 2009 CIAC meeting, subcommittees received presentations from various faculty members on the syllabi, schedules and learning objectives for 12 construction science classes. Following the faculty presentations, the committee members participated in open question and answer sessions with culminating closed sessions. The lists of questions and recommendations developed by the committees were provided to the department for consideration and response. This proactive effort to obtain the industry's perspective on current and emerging needs as they relate to the current coursework is a very important step in both the improvement of the program and the accreditation process of the program.



Prior to the Oct. 31 Aggie-Iowa State game, the Construction Science Department and the Construction Industry Advisory Council hosted friends and current and former students at a tailgate party on the lawn next to the Langford Architecture Center. CIAC met the previous day at the College Station Hilton.

## Development

The planning that originated in 2008 for the design and construction of a new academic building for the construction program at Texas A&M continued throughout 2009 despite the economic climate. The project has received site approval by the university with a location north of the Langford Architecture Center and east of the original civil engineering building. Discussions were possible with companies and individuals interested in donating major contributions to the building programs.

## CIAC Research and Studies

Policies and procedures for CIAC Research Funding were discussed during the fall 2008 meeting. The CIAC Research Subcommittee, led by Richard Booher of Alpha Building Corporation, recommended the following changes, which were approved by CIAC members unanimously during the fall 2008 meeting.

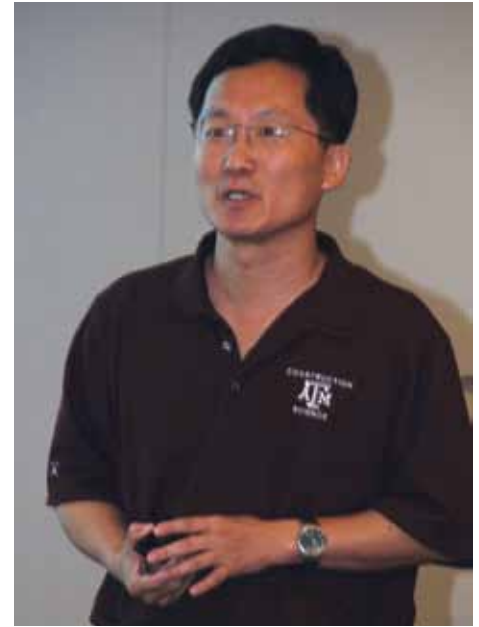
- Faculty members, who understand the industry problems better than students, must write a proposal as Principle Investigator (PI). Previously students wrote a proposal as PI. The faculty member hires students for the project if the proposal is selected and funded.
- Assuming that a senior faculty member may have already established his or her own research agenda, CIAC Research Funding is available for assistant level professors who need to establish their research expertise.
- Only one proposal is selected and funded each year with an increase in funding up to \$25,000. In prior years, two projects were awarded, and each project received about \$12,500.
- The PI can use the CIAC Research Fund for his/her summer salary.
- The CIAC research committee meets four times a year to evaluate the progress of the funded project. The committee has a right to stop funding the project immediately if no proper progress is made as scheduled.



**Dr. Jose Fernández-Solis discusses his research, with George A. Pontikes Jr., president and CEO of Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, during a Department of Construction Science Research Road Tour to S&P's Houston headquarters. Solis is an assistant professor of construction science at Texas A&M.**

The first recipient of CIAC Research Funding with the new system was Dr. Boong Yeol Ryoo, an assistant professor who joined the department in fall 2008. Ryoo received \$23,244 in 2009 to develop “Primavera Scheduler / Microsoft Office Project Training Videos (DVD) and Workbooks for Construction Schedulers.” For this project, Ryoo hired two graduate students and one undergraduate student. The multimedia-based training videos and workbooks were presented to the CIAC Research Subcommittee during the fall 2009 meeting. The final outcome of the project will be delivered during the spring 2010 meeting and they will be available for all CIAC members.

For the 2010 CIAC Research Fund, five assistant professors submitted research proposals prior to the fall 2009 CIAC meeting. Nine CIAC members reviewed the proposals, and two proposals were forwarded to the CIAC Research Subcommittee for further consideration. Two finalists were invited to present their research proposals during the fall 2009 meeting. After listening to their presentations, the committee made a decision to fund the proposal “An Understanding of Quantifiable Waste in Building Construction Planning from the Metrics of the Last Planner® System” submitted by Dr. Jose Fernández-Solis, an assistant professor who joined the department in 2006. Fernández-Solis



**Dr. Boong Yeol Ryoo received \$23,244 in CIAC Research funding in 2009 to develop training material for construction schedulers.**

received \$25,000 for his project in 2010.

The department offered the Research Road Tour for the first time in 2009 for CIAC members in San Antonio and Houston. Dr. Boong Ryoo, Dr. Mark Danso, Dr. Jose Fernández-Solis, Dr. Sarel Lavy, and Dr. Ivan Mutis participated in the Research Road Tour led by Dr. Julian Kang. About 20 CIAC members had a chance to learn about the specialized research of each faculty member. The faculty members on the Road Tour also had a chance to discuss various challenges that CIAC members were facing. The department plans to offer the Research Road Tour again in 2010 for CIAC members in the Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas areas.



## Awards Banquet

The 2009 Construction Science Awards Banquet was held March 26, 2009 at the College Station Hilton with more than 500 students, faculty, scholarship donors and CIAC members in attendance.

John Kinney, a senior public policy adviser with the Washington, D.C. firm Baker and Donelson, presented the keynote address, offering a personal perspective on the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." Kinney discussed how the distribution of funds and spending on the state level would influence the health of the construction industry.

CIAC's Constructor Hall of Fame Award went to Mr. David Preston, vice president of Balfour Beatty Construction, for his support and contribution to the industry and to education throughout the years. Established in 2001, the the Hall of Fame Award honors non-alumni who have made a difference in the industry and have helped advance the construction science program at Texas A&M. A member of CIAC for more than eight years, Preston has participated in several CIAC sub-committees, advising administrators and faculty on contemporary construction issues and influencing the department's strategic direction and course content.

With many donors present, approximately \$195,000 in scholarships was awarded to 148 deserving and appreciative students. Such financial support affords opportunities for students to pursue degrees and prepare to join construction science program graduates who have gone on to further the department's reputation for excellence within the industry.

Dr. David Bilbo was honored with the Educator of the Year Award and Professor Bob Segner received the Student Advocate of the Year Award. Both awards are based upon a vote of the student body recognizing the unique contributions of both faculty. Additionally, Dr. Julian Kang earned the Excellence in Scholarly Work and Research Award.

Other undergraduate and graduate student awards for excellence in academics and leadership were presented to six deserving students pictured on Page 28.



The CIAC Construction Hall of Fame Award was presented to David Preston (center), vice president of Balfour Beatty Construction, for his support and contribution to the industry and to education throughout the years. Pictured with Preston are Joe Horlen (left), head of the Construction Science Department, and Jerry Hoog of Bartlett-Cocke and CIAC vice president.

The 2009 Student Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Bob Segner, professor of construction science. Pictured with Segner are Joe Horlen (left), head of the Construction Science Department, and construction science student Kyle Louderback, a member of the Awards Banquet Committee.



The 2009 Excellence in Scholarly Work Award went to Dr. Julian Kang, (center) associate professor of construction science. Pictured with Kang are Joe Horlen (left), head of the Construction Science Department, and construction science student Mitch Cordova, a member of the Awards Banquet Committee.



## 2009 construction science graduates

Above: spring '09 graduates.

At right: summer '09 grads.

Below: fall '09 graduates.



## Enrollment

The fall 2009 semester enrollment included 596 undergraduate and 90 graduate students. The current enrollment is slightly lower than recent years. An average of 150 students are projected to receive a Bachelor of Science in Construction Science degree each year.



## Student Placement

The Construction Science Department conducts four career fairs each year with two of them dedicated to members of the Construction Industry Advisory Council. Although the slowdown in the construction industry resulted in a slight reduction in the number of participating companies in 2009, overall the career fairs have remained one of the strongest and best attended on campus.

The Brazos County Exposition Center is used each fall and spring to comfortably accommodate the large number of participating companies.

The sustained, strong interest of companies in recruiting Texas A&M students for semester-long internships is of major importance to the construction science program. Surveys of graduating seniors show that 70% of the students pursuing construction science degrees obtain internships through career fairs. CIAC member companies continue to use the career fairs as a major recruiting and staffing strategy. The Construction Science Department is unique in requiring students to complete a semester away internship, making students available during the 15-week spring and fall semesters. An additional 10-week summer internship can be performed as a technical elective. Both internships are designated as writing intensive courses requiring weekly, monthly and final reports, as well as a PowerPoint presentation.





# Studying Abroad

## Study Abroad Summer 2009

In Summer 2009, a group of 17 students expanded their horizons, literally and figuratively, by participating in a study abroad experience in Europe. Professors Kim Carlson and Bob Segner accompanied the students and supervised their learning. Students and faculty alike reported extremely positive learning outcomes, as well as a tremendously enriching experience including opportunities to see and experience different places, new cultures and new methods of doing business.

Summer 2009 was the second study abroad program that has been conducted expressly for construction science majors. On this study abroad trip, as on the first, the response among the students was extremely positive, indicating that students were eager to experience learning opportunities outside the United States. The trip provided the students a unique opportunity to broaden their understanding of overseas construction methods, contracts and construction law, while seeing the construction industry at an international level.

The itinerary took the students to London, Edinburgh and Berlin, where they took law courses that provided degree credit in their undergraduate curriculum. A key learning objective was to compare and contrast U.S. legal considerations and issues with international laws as they pertain to the construction industry. The academic benefits of the trip were



Construction science students pause for a photo in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany.

enhanced by students' participation in cultural activities and field trips to important historical and cultural sites. In London, the venues included the Houses of Parliament, English Heritage Society, Considerate Contractor's Scheme Headquarters and the 2012 Olympic site. The group also visited other entities in London, such as the Chartered Institute of Building, the Construction Law Society, the Royal

Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the law firm of Fenwick Elliott.

In Edinburgh, the students visited the offices and job sites of Scottish Water Solutions, a KBR affiliate, to see how construction on a huge civil project is performed in Scotland. Following the presentations, Scottish Water Solutions hosted the students on a site visit to a freshwater treatment facility and to a pipe extrusion plant.

Additionally, the students visited the offices of Balfour Beatty in Edinburgh. Again there were presentations explaining the contracting methods being employed and the project controls in use by Balfour Beatty. Next, the students visited Balfour Beatty sites where both new construction and restoration and renovation construction were under way.

Cultural events in Edinburgh included visits to Edinburgh Castle, the Holyrood Palace, the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Highland Games. Students also visited King Arthur's Seat and the Edinburgh Underground Vaults. Also included in the cultural experience was an afternoon tea in a private session arranged exclusively for the students and faculty at the four star Howard Hotel, with tea and a lecture explaining the culture of afternoon tea were provided by the head butler of the hotel.

In Berlin, the students took a guided walking tour (or bicycle tour for those who wished) of the downtown cityscape. They visited historical sites and a modern construction site. Also on the agenda were visits to the remnants of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial and Holocaust Museum, the Berlin Cathedral, Humboldt University, the Reichstag, which is the German Parliament Building, and other venues. A day trip by rail to Potsdam provided students with views of historical construction of residences and apartments, as well as cathedral construction. A day trip to the former Sachsenhausen Concentration

Camp provided historical perspective and proved to be a very moving experience.

When the study abroad experience officially ended on June 26, 2009 in Berlin, following a traditional German dinner in a historic German restaurant, a great many students continued on their travels to other venues in Europe, prior to their return to College Station.

The daily itinerary of the class was made available on a blog at [www.ukcosclaw.wordpress.com](http://www.ukcosclaw.wordpress.com). Individual students in the class were assigned responsibility for updating the blog with photographs and narratives of the daily activities of the group.

The trip would not have been possible without the financial support and hospitality of four CIAC member firms: Fluor, SKANSKA, KBR and Balfour Beatty. Jobsite and headquarter visits to the UK offices of these firms provided students an opportunity to make global business connections and helped the Construction Science Department initiate a tradition of global interaction within the construction science discipline.

Additionally, the Construction Law Section of the State Bar of Texas contributed \$15,000 in scholarship funds for the trip. Another \$10,000 was raised for scholarships, providing each student with at least \$1000 to apply to the cost of the trip.

The faculty and students of the Construction Science Department expressed sincere appreciation to the Construction Industry Advisory Council for making possible this tremendously enriching learning experience.

Based upon the success of the 2009 study abroad program, CIAC has budgeted funds for the 2010 program that will return to England, Scotland and Germany and also add a visit to Ireland.



Aggies show their pride in the Scottish Highlands.

## New Faculty

**Dr. Zofia K. Rybkowski** joined the Texas A&M faculty August 2009. She is an assistant professor of construction science and a Faculty Fellow with the Center for Health Systems & Design at Texas A&M University. Rybkowski holds a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley in civil engineering, and advanced degrees from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (M. Civil Engineering), Harvard (M. Architecture), Brown (M.S. Biology) and Stanford (B.S. Biology). She has worked as an architectural and engineering researcher, educator and designer for American, Japanese and Chinese universities and architecture design firms and is a registered LEED AP.

Dr. Rybkowski researches the financial implications of evidence-based design interventions on healthcare facilities' life cycles and investigates ways to overcome the hurdle of first cost sometimes associated with evidence-based design using Target Value Design and Lean Construction processes. Her research interests also include the life cycle costs associated with environmental sustainable buildings.

**Ron L. Workman**, senior lecturer, joined the Texas A&M faculty in 1999. He earned his BBA in business management from the University of



Dr. Zofia K. Rybkowski

Texas in 1974 and began a 25-year career in commercial construction in Houston. He served as vice-president of two general contracting firms, then as president and CEO of his own firm, Workman Construction, Inc.

Mr. Workman earned his M.S. in Construction Management from Texas A&M University in 2002 while teaching in the Construction Science Department. He served as lecturer in his areas of



Ron L. Workman

expertise, which include plan reading, estimating and project management. He created and taught a commercial construction capstone course for exiting seniors. During a brief retirement from teaching in 2007-2009, Workman enjoyed consulting in the commercial sector in San Antonio and Kerrville. He rejoined the faculty in August 2009 and currently instructs plan reading and quantification in Estimating I classes.



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Attachment B

Summary of employment for 2009 Bachelor of Science Construction Science graduates based upon Senior Exit Surveys.

	SPRING 09	SUMMER 09	FALL 00	TOTAL
NUMBER OF GRADUATES	106	28	35	169
NUMBER OF GRADUATES PROVIDING DATA	45	5	6	56
STARTING BASE SALARY**				
Minimum	\$ 41,600.	\$ 50,000.	\$ 46,000.	\$ 45,876.
Average	\$ 54,762.	\$ 52,300.	\$ 51,733.	\$ 52,932.
Maximum	\$ 85,000.	\$ 57,500.	\$ 60,000.	\$ 67,500.

\*\* Information on starting salaries for all majors within the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University is available at:  
<http://careercenter.tamu.edu/guides/reports/WhoHiresMyMajor/ArchitectureIndex.cfm>



# Construction Industry Advisory Council — Budget

## TAMU Foundation Construction Industry Advisory Council, 2009 Budget *(revised March 27, 2009)*

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

Retained Earnings .....	\$ 54,630.72
Income	
Corporate Membership Dues .....	\$ 225,000.00
Individual Membership Dues .....	\$ 1,100.00
Interest .....	\$ 2,000.00
Total Income Anticipated .....	\$ 228,100.00
Total Available Funds .....	\$ 282,730.72
Expenses	
Student Competitions .....	\$ 7,000.00
Graduation Event .....	\$ 2,500.00
Annual Banquet .....	\$ 15,000.00
Research Studies .....	\$ 31,352.27
Student Scholarships	
Individual Freshman .....	\$ 15,000.00
Endowed Matching .....	\$ 60,000.00
Study Abroad .....	\$ 5,000.00
Departmental Support .....	\$ 50,000.00
New Building Feasibility Study .....	\$ 2,500.00
CIAC Meeting Expenses .....	\$ 12,000.00
Fall 2009 Tailgate Expenses .....	\$ 5,000.00
CIAC Endowment .....	\$ 75,000.00
Development Fee .....	\$ 11,305.00
Career Fairs .....	\$ 11,000.00
Total Expenses .....	\$ 227,657.27
Balance .....	\$ 55,073.45

# 2008 Student Awards



## **Outstanding Undergraduate Students:**

**Spring:** Rex Lundeen (pictured above, left with Joe Horlen, department head, and Debra Ellis, senior lecturer)

**Fall:** Carter Charanza

## **Outstanding Graduate Students:**

**Spring:** Vardhaman Vilas Bora (pictured above, right with Joe Horlen, department head, and Julian Kang, associate professor)

**Fall:** Bhagyashri Joshi

## **Craftsman Award recipients:**

**Spring:** Robert Will (pictured at right with Joe Horlen, department head, and Debra Ellis, senior lecturer)

**Fall:** Phillip Gazca









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