

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

# ORANGE & BLUEPRINTS

COLLEGE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & PLANNING

Volume 73 Issue 1

Spring 2009



## Dr. Christopher Silver, Dean



We are back from a much needed holiday break, and with a great deal of unfinished, but exciting, business to attend to in the College. We have launched internally a new Web site that will soon be available to the outside world once the finishing touches have been applied. We hope you'll like the new look, but more importantly, we hope it will give you easier access to the rich array of our programs, activities and accomplishments.

One of our College's most ambitious new undertakings is participation in the Solar Decathlon Europe, an initiative headed by the Rinker School's Dr. Robert Ries but also including building construction professors Dr. James Sullivan and Dr. Russell Walters, architecture professors Mark McGlothlin, Ruth Ron and Bradley Walters, interior design professor Maruja Torres and doctoral student Dereck Winning. This project will engage students from all of our disciplines, as well as some from other UF colleges, to design, build and operate a marketable dwelling which can function off the power grid. And then, somehow, we need to get that product to Madrid, Spain, by summer 2010 to participate in the competition. We'll keep you posted about our progress on our Web site.

Even with the ongoing fiscal challenges we face here in Gainesville, we are still seeking to strengthen our educational offerings. With funding provided by the Provost's office, we are recruiting a new faculty member to teach in our ever popular sustainability course, and to support our new Bachelor of Science in Sustainability and the Built Environment. This complements the existing graduate-level concentrations in sustainable construction, sustainable architecture and sustainable design. In addition, DCP faculty are working through a campus committee to develop a graduate concentration in sustainability that is likely to be housed in our College.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that we are developing new international opportunities for our students, one being an exchange program with the building construction program at National University of Singapore, and another with the University of Technology, Jamaica. By providing our students with opportunities to complete at least some of their course work within distinctively different quality environments, we will produce graduates even more prepared to make an impact in the field.

Of course, we are excited in DCP about the Gators' latest triumph in football, but we are just as excited about triumphs to come as we continue to lead on the academic and professional fronts. Thanks for your support and encouragement.

## Dr. Abdol Chini, Director



Greetings BCN Gators! I am pleased to present the spring 2009 issue of the Orange and Blueprints that serves as a vital link between the Rinker School and its alumni and friends. We continually strive to strengthen and broaden ties to our constituency and promote the excellence and prestige of our program.

In the pursuit of excellence, we dedicate ourselves to providing students with the highest quality academic training and preparation to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The integration of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in the BCN curriculum and offering a new undergraduate course in high performance buildings are among the most recent additions to the BCN program. The Holder Construction Company has graciously agreed to provide financial support to develop a BIM laboratory to facilitate BIM training.

The Rinker School's 70th anniversary celebration and fundraiser for an endowed professorship in Jacksonville on October 18, 2008, was an exciting event and a successful fundraiser. I would like to thank the hard work and efforts of the planning committee and generous support of the sponsors. The celebration generated more than \$100,000 for the 70th anniversary endowed professorship. The fundraising for the Endowed Professorship for Construction Services also had a successful year. Thanks to generosity of our industry leaders (see the list on page 9) more than \$400,000 was raised.

Our students should be recognized for their achievements at the 2008 Southeast ASC/AGC Regional Competition in Jacksonville. The Construction Management Team emerged with the 2008 Regional Championship and will travel to San Diego in March to compete in the national competition. The Heavy/Civil team ranked second. Congratulations to the team members and their faculty coaches, Professor Mike Cook and Dr. Edward Minchin.

I would like to express my deepest regret about the passing of Bill Lassiter, a member of the BCN Construction Hall of Fame, in January 2009. Bill and his wife, Aneice, have been very generous supporters of the Rinker School, but far more important is the loss of an absolutely fine person whom we all will miss greatly.

Finally, I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all our loyal alumni and friends for their generous financial support of the Rinker School. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the support of our Advisory Council Executive Committee members. They are indeed excellent friends and advisors. In these times of diminishing resources from the State, your continued assistance is essential to maintaining the high quality of our program.

# Orange & Blueprints

a bi-annual publication

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### Front cover photographs:

Top left: BCN Construction Management Team  
Top right: Construction Hall of Fame Induction  
Middle: BCN graduates listen during the Fall 2008 Convocation  
Bottom left: BCN Class of 1983 Reunion  
Bottom right: The BCN 2008 Homecoming parade float

page 27  
page 16  
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page 16

### Correction:

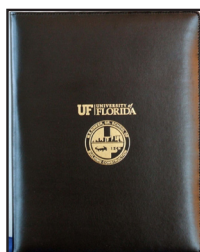
On page 14 of the Fall 2008 edition of the BluePrints [Volume 72, Issue 2], the title for Mr. Kevin Bowen of Bovis Lend Lease, Inc. should have read "SVP Principal in Charge."

## SHOW YOUR RINKER SCHOOL PRIDE

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## BCN Advisory Council Executive Committee

The BCN Advisory Council Executive Committee held its bi-annual meeting on October 24, 2008, at Rinker Hall. The Committee discussed current efforts toward fundraising for the Endowed Professorship for Construction Services. Other topics of discussion included an update of the curriculum review, other fundraising activities, and BCN Regional Club updates. The Committee implemented the "Class Challenge Gift," which will be a competition between each graduating class to get the highest percentage of alumni donating to the school annually.

The Executive Committee is proud to announce the addition of John Gooding and Karl Watson, Jr. John is President of Deerbrook, Inc. and is a BCN 1984 alum. He has 25 years of commercial and residential construction experience in southwest Florida. Karl Watson, Jr., is President of the Florida Region of CEMEX USA. Karl worked his way up in Rinker Materials from 1987 to 2007. He is an alum of Palm Beach Atlantic College and Nova Southeastern.

Present for the October 24 meeting were Bob Angle, John Bennett, Lynne Capece, Peggy Carr, Abdol Chini, Tim Good, John Gooding, Paul Hardaker, Dale Hedrick, Raymond Issa, Sid Jordan, John McIntyre, Harley Miller, Paul Oppenheim, Steve Palmer,

Chip Reid, John Sofarelli, Ray Southern, Kim Stanley, Wayne Wadsworth, Karl Watson, Jr., Breck Weingart, and Louie Wise.



ExCOM members Sid Jordan (from back left), Chip Reid, Karl Watson, Jr., John Bennett, Ray Southern (front left), Steve Palmer, John Sofarelli, Bob Angle, John McIntyre, and Raymond Issa meet in October in Rinker Hall.

## Meet Erik Sharpe, BCN Advisory Council EXCOM Member

Erik Sharpe is Vice President and the Jacksonville Division Manager for Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC. Erik graduated with honors from the University of Florida in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science from the Rinker School of Building Construction. While at the University of Florida, he was an active member of Sigma Lambda Chi, the Construction School's Honor Society and the Associated Builders and Contractors.



While attending college, Erik interned with Fluor Corporation's Greenville, SC, office and Centex Rooney's Jacksonville, FL, office and gained invaluable experience in estimating and construction to supplement his college education. After graduating in May of 1995, Erik joined Brasfield & Gorrie's Orlando, FL, office as a Project Engineer. Over the next 5 years, Erik worked his way to Senior Project Manager before being given the opportunity to manage a 1,200,000 SF industrial complex for Winn-Dixie in Jacksonville, FL that Brasfield & Gorrie had been awarded. This gave Erik the opportunity to move his family back to their hometown of Jacksonville, FL.

In 2000, Brasfield & Gorrie formalized their presence in Jacksonville, FL, with a satellite office. Erik was charged with building up the office. Between 2000 and 2006, Brasfield & Gorrie successfully established their presence in the market with a diversified project resume including retail, office, residential,

hospitality, and commercial. In 2006, Jacksonville, FL., became the 6th permanent office location of Brasfield & Gorrie and the first office expansion for the company since 1998.

Erik is responsible for the overall operations of the Jacksonville Division of Brasfield & Gorrie. He leads the division's efforts in client development and service and is responsible for all aspects of the Jacksonville Division including marketing, estimating, operations, and quality control.

Erik currently is an active member of NAIOP, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and ABC, Associated Builders and Contractors. He currently serves as President-Elect and in 2010 will serve as President of the Northeast Florida Chapter of NAIOP. This is only the second time an associate member has been asked to lead this influential developer organization.

Erik continues to remain active with the Rinker School, where he regularly participates in its career fair as a Major Donor and serves as Director of the Northeast Florida Gator BCN Alumni Club since its inception in 2005. Erik and a group of his industry peers in this club were recently responsible for raising \$100,000 for an endowed professorship to assist the Rinker School. In 2008, the University of Florida and the University Alumni Association named Erik an "Outstanding Young Alumnus of 2008," a distinction recommended by the faculty of the Rinker School.

Erik is married to Corrine and has 2 children: Hayden Eli – 6 years and Loren Emory – 2 years (all Gator fans!).



# In Memory of Bill Lassiter



William G. (Bill) Lassiter, a wonderful friend and benefactor to the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction, passed away of cancer on Sunday, January 4th.

Bill graduated from University of Florida in 1951 with a degree in Building Construction. Upon graduation from UF, Bill was employed by the construction division of the E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company in the Savannah River H-Bomb plant in Aiken, South Carolina for four years. He then became general superintendent of construction for John A. Robbins Co. Inc. of Philadelphia, developing and building shopping centers from 1955-1958. In 1958, he joined W.G. Lassiter Co., a general contracting firm founded by his father, as vice president. He became president of the company in 1972 at the elder Williams' retirement and director of W.G. Lassiter Properties, Inc. from 1977 until he passed away.

The Palm Beach Atlantic University awarded Bill an honorary doctorate degree in 2006 and he was inducted into the UF Rinker School of Building Construction Hall of Fame in 2007.

Bill and his wife, Aneice, have been generous supporters of UF and the Rinker School. Their \$2 million gift in 2006 helped fund an Endowed Professorship in Building Construction and one in Pediatrics.

## Industry Review of Management Courses

The industry review of the Management courses took place on Monday, October 20, 2008, in the Kelsey Conference Room of Rinker Hall. Attendees included: Charles Bauerlein (Skanska USA), Joe Benoit (Clark), Scott Bryan (J. Raymond), Sean DeMartino (Balfour Beatty), Mark Freeman (ME&S), Rob Maphis (James A. Cummings), Sean Mountain (The Alexander Group), David Senko (Fluor), John Sofarelli (J. Raymond), Mike Taylor (Current Builders), Matt Webster (CPC/PPI), Abdol Chini, Mike Cook, Kevin Grosskopf, Charles Kibert, and Rick Smailes (Rinker School).

The review began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 4:00 p.m. Abdol Chini reviewed the purpose of the workshop, the accreditation requirements, and the recent changes in the BCN undergraduate curriculum. A presentation on the Construction Finance course was made by Kevin Grosskopf followed by review of Leadership and Management in Construction course by Charles Kibert. After lunch, Mike Cook reviewed the contents of Construction Contracts course and, finally, a presentation on the Construction Planning and Control course was made by Rick Smailes.

The following were part of the recommendations made to best prepare students for the situations they will face as industry professionals:

### BCN 3700 – Construction Contracts

- Spend some time on subcontract agreement specifics.
- Pick a topic like liquidated damages and have 2 students role play on how they would handle the negotiation process.
- Review the difference between an AIA Cost Plus w/GMAX and Stipulated Sum, and CM vs. Design Build and explain when you would use each.
- Spend less time on the fundamentals of a contract and get into how to use a construction contract and the provisions that are important to a manager.

### BCN 4753– Construction Finance

- Include information regarding the regulations imposed by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. These have become an important part of how construction companies (especially large, publicly traded firms) do business.
- Spend more time on bonding requirements, insurance, subguard and CCIP/OCIP plans with subcontractors and joint venture partners. As the economy contracts, obtaining a bond will become increasingly difficult for GC's and subcontractors.

### BCN 4712 – Leadership and Management in Construction

- For guest speaker sessions, in addition to company CEO's and presidents, consider bringing in mid-level project managers to discuss their leadership challenges and strategies.
- Spend some time with the students on the general differences between generations (age & gender) they will encounter in the field. It may be hard to do without invoking stereotypes related to particular generations including their own.
- Cover how different forms of communications should be used in certain situations (e-mail, letter, telephone).
- New graduates may also experience a lack of respect from seasoned industry professionals and need to understand how to deal with this issue.

### BCN 4720 – Construction Planning and Control

- Cover various "philosophies" of scheduling, such as the benefits/disadvantages of using the various activity relationships (FS, FF, SS, etc.).
- Include discussion of pre-construction phase schedule (design, estimating, permitting, owner design reviews, etc.).
- Demonstrate how to adjust a schedule after a major delay of a Critical Path item.
- Permits should be included in scheduling as Environmental Permits are becoming typical critical path items.
- Demonstrate a Fast Track Schedule.

## Alumni in Higher Education

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Dr. Steven Van Dessel received his Ph.D. degree at the College of Design, Construction, and Planning, M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction, at the University of Florida (2000). He is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Faculty of Engineering, at Ghent University in Belgium.

Dr. Van Dessel teaches courses in construction technology and architectural design, and his research involves the design and development of advanced facade technologies. In his current work, he is investigating the integration of photovoltaic and thermoelectric materials into glazing systems. The aim of this work is to develop energy self-sufficient facade solutions that have the ability to actively control their heat-transfer properties by using solar radiation. Potential applications for this technology include glazing systems that have the ability to actively cool a building's interior during warm weather, and can heat a building's interior in colder weather.

Dr. Van Dessel's research has been funded by multiple research grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation; his work has recently been listed on the 2007 Scientific American 50 - the magazine's prestigious annual list recognizing outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology. Dr. Van Dessel has previously

served at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in NY and at the University of Nottingham in the UK.



Dr. Steven Van Dessel is currently serving as an Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Faculty of Engineering, at Ghent University in Belgium.

## Lessons Learned

---

*By Tim Good, The Haskell Company*

In 2001, we were fortunate to negotiate a design/build contract for a large food products packaging and distribution facility in Ohio.



Shortly after preparing the building pad, the mechanical subcontractor began installing the underground drainage piping for an extensive trench drain system in the packaging area. Thousands of feet of various sized pipe and hundreds of connections and fittings were delivered to the job site.

The superintendent and project manager called from the job site immediately after a site walk through with the client's representative during a monthly progress meeting. They informed me of a problem. It seemed that the client's representative was unhappy with the orderliness of the site, specifically stored materials. The underground drainage piping that was stored outside the building footprint was placed in various angles to the building line and in stacks of mixed diameters. The connections and fittings were in crates, but scattered throughout the stacks of pipe. By normal job site standards, the materials were stored in an orderly fashion. The mechanical subcontractor was easily able to find what he needed and it presented no handling or safety problems.

The client's representative insisted that the storage area be reorganized and all pipes be placed perpendicular to the building line and in order of diameter. The connections

were to be placed in order by size and type. Our superintendent argued with the client that it was the subcontractor's storage area and he was satisfied with the current organization of the materials. And, that it would take the underground crew away from productive work for at least a day to do what the client was asking. Our project manager could not understand the client's reasoning behind the request and refused to take action.

What the superintendent and project manager failed to realize was that as meaningless as this request seemed to them, it was important to the client. If we did not satisfy the client's request, it would remain in the client's mind as an example of our unwillingness to cooperate.

After reviewing the situation, the superintendent and project manager were instructed to immediately comply with the client's request. After a half day's effort, the stockpiled materials were arranged to the satisfaction of the client. Thereafter, when formwork materials, structural steel, masonry and roofing materials were delivered to the project, they were stockpiled in a similar fashion. This not only satisfied the client, but also let all subcontractors and employees on the project know that we were serious about organization, cleanliness and safety.

The superintendent and project manager have been assigned to many projects with different clients since that time, but they always insist upon stockpiled materials being placed in an orderly fashion. Since that first project, we have provided design/build services for that client on over 20 projects valued at close to \$300 million.

**Lesson Learned:** Listen to your customer!



# Thank You

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# Rinker School Major Donors

To show our appreciation to the construction companies who have contributed generously to the Rinker School we have created a major donor status and provided the following recruiting advantages for our major donors:

All Major Donors shall receive a discounted registration fee for the career fair according to their level of donations (Gold, Silver, and Bronze). See the fee structure below.

All Major Donors shall get preferential placement at the Career Fair.

All Major Donors can participate in a reception with the graduating seniors the evening before the Career Fair.

Major Donors will be given priority for interview and seminar at the School before the Career Fair.

## Regular Registration Fee:

For a booth including two (2) recruiters/company representatives. \$1,000

For each additional recruiter/company representative.... add \$400 each

## Major Donor Registration Fee:

### **Bronze Level**

For a booth including two (2) recruiters/company representatives. \$500

For each additional recruiter/company representative.... add \$250 each

### **Silver Level**

For a booth including two (2) recruiters/company representatives. \$300

Add one (1) additional recruiter/company representative free of charge.

For each additional recruiter/company representative.... add \$200 each

### **Gold Level**

For a booth including two (2) recruiters/company representatives. \$300

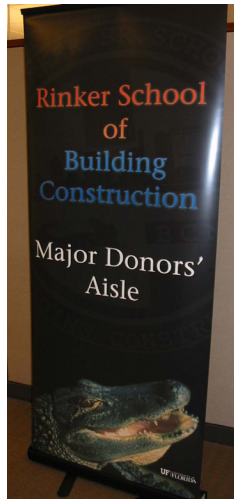
Add up to three (3) additional recruiter/company representatives free of charge.

## Major Donor Levels:

**Bronze:** Companies who have contributed \$10,000 or more to the Rinker School of Building Construction over the preceding 3 years.

**Silver:** Companies who have contributed \$50,000 or more to the Rinker School of Building Construction over the preceding 10 years.

**Gold:** Companies who have contributed \$100,000 or more to the Rinker School of Building Construction over the preceding 10 years.



## **Major Donors as of January 1, 2009**

### **Gold (\$100K in last 10 years)**

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### **Silver (\$50K in last 10 years)**

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Weitz Company Inc.



# Endowments

The Rinker School holds nearly 30 endowed funds totaling \$20 million. The forward thinking donors that have given endowed gifts are providing support in the most sustainable way. It is the perpetual interest generated by these invested funds that supports BCN students, faculty and research with steady replenishing beyond state budgets. Endowments funds begin at \$30,000. Funds established with gifts of \$100,000 and above are eligible for matching funds through the State of Florida's Major Gifts Trust Fund. For more information on endowments or other giving opportunities, please contact Lynne Capece at (352) 392-4836 ext 314 or lcapece@ufl.edu.

## Endowed Professorship for Construction Services

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

- Perpetual Donor Wall Recognition
- Orange and Blueprints publication recognition
- University Honor Roll of Donors
- LCD monitor advertisement space
- Rinker School Major Donor Status
- UF President's Council recognition

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

### Industry Leadership Honor Roll

Acousti Engineering  
Angle and Schmid  
Baker Concrete Construction  
Balfour Beatty Construction  
Bergelectric Corp.  
Brasfield and Gorrie  
CCK Concrete  
CEMEX USA  
Clark Construction  
PPI/Charles Perry Construction  
Current Builders  
Fluor Corporation  
Gerdau Ameristeel  
Haskell  
J. Raymond Construction  
James A. Cummings  
McIntyre, Elwell and Strammer GC  
Nash, Inc.  
Skanska USA  
Springer Peterson Roofing & Sheet Metal  
Vulcan / Florida Rock Industries

## The Nancy V. Perry Endowment for Teaching Excellence



Nancy Perry, a longtime friend and benefactor of the Rinker School, pledged to the UF Foundation the amount of \$125,000 to establish The Nancy V. Perry Endowment for Teaching Excellence. The gift will be endowed and is eligible for the State matching funds from the State of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts. The spendable income from the fund will be used to enhance teaching excellence in building construction. Each year a BCN faculty will be selected by the Director of the Rinker School through a process including a vote by building construction students to receive a \$5,000 teaching excellence award. The recipient will be chosen in April of each year and will be recognized at the BCN graduation dinner.

## The Fluor Corporation Endowment Fund

# FLUOR®

The Fluor Enterprises, Inc. gave \$45,000 gift to the UF Foundation in December 2008. This gift and Fluor's past gifts of \$57,000 (total gift of \$102,000) were deposited into a new endowment fund named "The Fluor Corporation Endowment Fund." The new fund is eligible for State matching funds from the State of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts. The spendable income from the Fund will be used to support teaching and research in the Fluor Program for Construction Safety at the Rinker School.

## The Holder BIM Lab

The Holder Construction Company pledged to the UF Foundation the amount of \$60,000 to support Building Information Modeling (BIM) related education at the Rinker School. The fund will be used to purchase and install equipment and furniture in Rinker Hall Room 202 for a BIM laboratory. The lab will be named "The Holder BIM Lab" in recognition of the Holder's gift.



# Alumni Updates

**Rodney Kincaid, BCN 1958** – Kincaid Construction Company is in its 45th year of operation specializing in commercial construction within the private sector, mostly design build, negotiated lump sum work, and cost plus fee work. Kincaid Construction was named the AIA Orlando 2008 “Contractor of the Year.” Rodney Kincaid was reappointed to the City of Winter Park Construction Board of Adjustments and Appeals and subsequently elected as Chairman of the Board. He was also selected to be listed in Marquis Who’s Who in America and was inducted as a 50 year UF alumni last month.

**Jerry Overstreet, BCN 1959** – Jerry is retired but states that he is still “a rabid Gator fan and promotes BCN whenever and wherever I can.”

**Wink Jackson, BCN 1959** – Wink lives in Lakeland and has said that he would like to hear from his fellow Gator friends at [winkjack@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:winkjack@tampabay.rr.com)

**Wayne Goff, BCN 1963** – Wayne is President of Goff Construction, Inc. of Punta Gorda FL. He is also President of Church Growth and Building Consultants, and acts as a consultant to the Florida Baptist Convention. He is an avid Gator fan and follows the Charlotte High School Tarpons. He sponsored the World Famous “Goff Greyhounds” senior softball team. Wayne resides in Punta Gorda with his wife Donna and is the proud Grandfather (PaPa) to Jensen and Connor.

**Gary Bruehler, BCN 1964** – Gary joined the military and spent 30-plus years as an Air Force Civil Engineer. He retired in 2002. Gary and his wife, Carol, stay busy with the local club activities and tennis officiating.

**Melvin Woods, BCN 1964** – Melvin retired in 2003 from ACI Constructors after completing a 23 gate terminal “E” for Continental Airlines in Houston, TX. He lives in Bushnell, FL.

**Steve Fogel, BCN 1964** – Steve is semi-retired and working in safety for the same heavy construction company that he has been with for the past 20 years, DBM Contractors. He resides outside of Seattle, WA.

**David Fort, BCN 1965** – David is the founder and CEO of Fort Group Development Company, LLC. (previously Campus Development) of St. Augustine FL.

**Harrel Bolden, BCN 1971** – Harrel is fully retired and thoroughly enjoying it. He loves spending time in his cabin in North Carolina and with his two great grandsons. His wife is a retired teaching/media specialist who later received her LPN license where she works part time.

**Patrick Walsh, BCN 1974** – Patrick owned Greater Bay Construction Co., Inc. of Tampa and St. Petersburg for thirty years starting in 1977. He recently sold it to a family member. During those thirty years he completed hundreds of millions of dollars in commercial construction projects. He is currently involved in real estate development primarily in Florida. His daughter graduated from UF with a degree in finance and real estate. His son has applied to go to UF next year and has a strong desire to become a doctor. He states that “I owe a lot to The University of Florida. GO GATORS!”

**Roy Q Friedman, BCN 1974** – Roy is Senior Resident Construction Manager for MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. in Fairchild AFB, WA.

**George Luttrell, BCN 1974** – George has recently relocated to Greer, SC, where he continues to work with Fluor in their Greenville office. He and his wife have two sons ages 16 and 15. He is currently Engineering Director on a multi-billion Engineering/Procurement/Construction Management grass roots solar grade polysilicon project being constructed in Xinyu, Jiangxi Province, China.

**Tim Milcich, BCN 1975** – After graduation, Tim worked in Lakeland, FL., starting then as Estimator/PM and eventually Vice President of Frank C. Decker Construction Co. for 25 years. He worked a couple of years at Folsom Construction, Inc. as Estimator/PM on several Publix Refrigerated Buildings including a 650,000 sf Freezer/Dairy Project. After a 4 year hiatus to Chattanooga, TN, as Project Estimator for EMJ Corporation, he returned to Folsom in 2006. Tim recently received LEED AP status. Tim states “I credit my successful career to my UF BCN education. – Go Gators!”

**Rick Burket, BCN 1975** – After graduation, Rick spent the next 33 years in the construction and real estate development industry, most recently as Vice President of Development, Construction, and Design of North America for Burger King Corporation in Miami. He is now retired to Sun City Texas, near Austin, TX.

**Daniel Stack, BCN 1976** – Daniel is a Catholic priest and stated that he

has not had a great deal of development in his building construction career but hopes that with an improved economy they may be building a new church in the next year or so. He stated that he’d probably “better do a class review”!

**Marti Ziobro, BCN 1976** – Marti works for T.W. Frierson of Nashville TN. Marti is the Project Manager on a Skilled Nursing Facility in The Villages, FL.

**Sunny Collar Waters, BCN 1977** – Sunny is currently CEO of Market Preservation Associates, with offices in King of Prussia, PA. They are currently undertaking the Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse of two city blocks in downtown Wilmington, DE.

**Perry Pearman, BCN 1978** – Perry works as the Reliability Engineer for Ponderay Newsprint Company in Usk, WA. He was the Resident Engineer for Rust Engineering when they built the mill in 1989.

**Jonathan Kurtis, BCN 1978** – Jon is Senior Vice President of Boston Properties since 1984 in their Washington, DC office. Jon’s son is attending the University of Denver studying real estate and construction management. His daughter graduated from UF with her master’s in international business (MAIB) in December. Jon said that while his daughter was in school, he’s been attending homecoming each year and the BCN BBQ. He states that he “spent a lot of time with Director Chini this past November and was very impressed with the curriculum and facilities at the School.” He also stated that he is very proud to be a Florida Gator!

**Randy Higginbotham, BCN 1978** – Randy has been with TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) for more than 30 years now. He was previously the Human Resource Manager at Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, but is now the Senior Labor Relations Consultant for TVA primarily focused on the Craft Labor Representatives and negotiating working conditions, contract provisions, wages etc. TVA is beginning to complete unit 2 at Watts Bar, and it will be the first new Nuclear Reactor in the United States in the past 15 years.

**Mike Neal, BCN 1979** – Mike recently joined Coastal Construction Company as Vice-President of Operations for their Miami office.

**Robert W (Rob) Herndon, BCN 1980** – Rob is the President and Owner of HCC Construction Consulting & Recruiting Services established in 2004 and based in Atlanta, GA. HCC is a nationwide Executive Construction Placement firm specializing in commercial and multi-family personnel placements. Prior to starting this organization Rob was Vice President of Construction for JPI, Lincoln Properties and President of Trammell Crow Residential overseeing all construction activities in the southeast building mixed use, commercial and multi-family apartment communities. He and HCC can be reached at (678) 352-1524 or email at [hccrs@bellsouth.net](mailto:hccrs@bellsouth.net).

**Dave Senko, BBC 1981** – Dave said: “Last fall I had the privilege of participating on the Industry Focus Group Seminar held by Dr. Chini at Rinker Hall. It was a genuine pleasure to see how the BCN course curriculum has blossomed over the years; and very exciting to see the numerous program upgrades and additional degree opportunities. If I recall correctly, during my time frame at UF, there was one undergrad degree program, and one master degree program offered; the masters program had only a few students. Of course, the number of degree opportunities has multiplied plus added areas of specialization within the degrees. In 1977, our programs and faculty (and students!) were the best in all of academia; but have now grown to a completely new level, which I am confident remains as the best. Remarkable is the word that comes to mind.”

**Mark Andrew Phillips, BCN 1981** – Mark is the Vice President of Marcobay Construction in Lakeland, FL. He has been married to UF Education alum (82) Jane Knight Phillips for 25 years and they have 3 children.

**Tim Brown, BCN 1981** – Tim is a Facilities Engineer with the Harris Corporation where he just received his 25-year service award. Harris Corporation is headquartered in Melbourne, FL, and develops and manufactures electronic communications systems. He manages new construction, renovations, infrastructure improvements, maintenance replacements and other facility related projects and his group manages over 2.5 million square feet of conditioned space in roughly 70 buildings.

**Larry S. Aronson, BCN 1982** – Larry is Senior Owner/Partner of Tiernan & Patrylo Design Group, Inc. Engineering and Construction Management, in business since 1984 and located in Peachtree City, GA (20 miles south of Atlanta airport). He is Senior Owner/Partner of Propellant Fracturing & Stimulation LLC, which handles patented deployment of solid rocket propellant in oil wells for extended fractures. They also have an office in Denver, CO. Larry has been married for 22 years and has a 20-year-old son who attends college in Atlanta and a 13-year-old daughter.



# Alumni Updates, cont.

**D. Blaine Shad, BCN 1982** - Blaine has been working as the QA manager for Worley Parsons for the past 2+ years on a Georgia Power plant (Southern Co.) Fuel Gas retrofit project in western Georgia. Before that Blaine had been working the past 15 years overseas in Iraq, South America and throughout the Caribbean.

**Christian Lipke, BCN 1982** - Chris reported this summer to his new post as Vice President of Construction for St. Louis based HBE Corp. overseeing all construction activities for the design-build firm. Chris and his wife, Darla, have seven children (four daughters plus three sons) ages 9 to 19.

**Brian Watson, BCN 1982** - Brian recently celebrated 25 years of service with Cianbro Corporation, which is headquartered in Pittsfield, ME. He is currently the project manager on the Destiny USA project in Syracuse, NY. This is a \$350 million mixed-use facility consisting of retail, dining and entertainment. The project is being built in a paperless environment using some of the latest technology available to the construction industry. It is also setting new standards in "green" construction practices while striving for the highest levels of LEED certification.

**Peter S. Van Keuren, BCN 1983** - Peter graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in 1989 and practices personal injury and commercial litigation in West Palm Beach, Florida as a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer. Contact e-mail FlaAtty@aol.com

**Jose J. Castillo, 1983** - Jose moved to Panama City, Republic of Panama on November 2, 2008 where he is the Vice President of Construction and Operations in Latin America for GATES Builders. GATES is an American construction/real estate/development company out of Naples, FL.

**Stephen Siegel, BCN 1984** - Stephen has just started a new entity called Hospitality CPM in New Jersey. Hospitality CPM is a construction project management firm specializing in asset management of hotel renovations, capital improvements, hotel repositioning and new construction.

**Mike Moran, BCN 1984** - After working around the world on construction projects, Mike has settled down in Brevard County and started his own firm. Moran Construction, Inc. has offices in Cocoa, FL, and is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned (SDVO) small business general contractor focusing mainly on Federal Government construction projects at the Kennedy Space Center, Patrick AFB and all around Central Florida.

**Pete Pace, BCN 1984** - Pete is Vice President/CEO Florida Division for Clancy & Theys Construction Company. He stated that while he has had some exciting professional achievements since graduating, this year he experienced his best yet. His son Cade was admitted to UF's Honors Program and plans to enter the BCN program. He is a 3rd generation Gator!

**Steve Hogaboom, BCN 1984** - Steve works with Pringle Development in Lake County, FL, as Director of Quality Operations. He is the company qualifier overseeing Quality Assurance Trades' scopes of work Training Safety Program Plan Review Warranty Customer Care.

**Helen B. (Boykin) Schultz, BCN 1985** - After almost twenty years in construction, Helen went back to school to get her masters in architecture at UF in 2005. After graduation and much prayerful contemplation she received a calling to "teach poor children". She is in her second year of teaching 1st grade in a Title 1 school and has never been happier. From Helen... "Best wishes to all my fellow alums!"

**David Bockian, BCN 1985** - David has been promoted to Senior Vice President of T.W. Frierson Contractor, Inc. David has worked at the Nashville-based General Contracting, Design/Build company for 18 years. Transitioning from the Industrial and Distribution sectors, David currently manages the Marketing, Sales and Pre-construction efforts of the organization.

**George Seay, BCN 1985** - George is owner of Vanson Enterprises, Inc. of Winter Park, FL. His company has been in business since 1991 and employs 30-40 employees with an annual volume of \$20 million.

**Greg Martin, BCN 1987** - Greg received his JD degree from UF in 1990 and was subsequently admitted to the Florida Bar. He is a partner at Moye, O'Brien, O'Rourke, Pickett & Martin LLP where 95 percent of their practice is construction litigation. He is married to Debi Martin (formerly Debi Carter - 1987 UF grad) and they have two boys Austin (12) and Quinn (9).

**Todd Andrew, BCN 1987** - Todd started Andrew General Contractors Inc. in Central Florida 12 years ago, which specializes in small to mid-size commercial, retail and

industrial construction. He recently took the UF course to prepare for the LEED exam and received the LEED AP designation. He lives in Winter Park. Todd has been married for 15 years and has three kids.

**Andrew Kessler, BCN 1987** - Andrew worked for several years in the construction industry after graduation and then attended law school at Nova Southeastern University where he graduated in 1992. He is presently licensed to practice law in New Jersey and Florida. Andrew has been practicing in New Jersey since 1992 and is a partner in the law firm of Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst, & Doukas, in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

**Joe Russell, BCN 1988** - CDR Joe Russell, US Navy, reported to the office of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASN (RD&A)) in July after completing two years as Officer in Charge, USNS NIAGARA FALLS (T-AFS 3) forward-deployed to the Western Pacific.

**Mike Veal, BCN 1989** - Mike has been working overseas with B.L. Harbert International since 1993. He has worked on projects in Turkey, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Jamaica, Aruba, Rwanda, and is now working as a Senior Project Manager for the construction of the new U.S. Embassy Compound in Lusaka, Zambia.

**Stacey (Glantz) Barton, BCN 1991** - Stacey was promoted in April 2008 to Vice President of Construction for the Civil Public Facilities Group at Haskell. She and her husband, Ellis, have an 11-year-old son (Chase) and 8-year-old daughter (Grace). They live in Jacksonville, FL.

**Bill Clark, BCN 1992** - Bill has his own construction company, Florida Choice Construction, Inc. Recently they have begun work on Harbour Island, Eleuthera in the Bahamas. They have also been hired to manage the renovation and construction at Romora Bay Club and Marina.

**Scott McCarthy, BCN 1992** - After 20 years of living and working in Florida, Scott left the state in February 2008 to return to his home of New Jersey. He currently works in New York City as a scheduling consultant under contract with Con Edison. He states that "I feel that the energy industry is a good fit for the skills I acquired in the BCN program. I miss my friends in Florida, and I make every effort to stay in touch with them. I still enjoy a good Gator football game!"

**Albert Valin, BCN 1992 and Roy Newsome, BCN 1973** - Roy is President and Albert is Vice President for Sound Construction Group, Inc. in Clearwater, FL. The company was established by Roy in 1989 when he built Sarasota Crossings. After interning for Sound Construction Group, Inc. in the summer of 1990 and a two year stint with Centex Rooney in Ft. Lauderdale, Albert joined the firm just prior to the construction of a 12-story, 100 unit condominium called Sunwatch in Clearwater. Roy lives in the Mobbly Bay development with his wife, Robin, and kids, Royce, Payton and Austin. Albert lives in the Feathersound development in Clearwater with his son, Bryce.

**Steven Miller, BCN 1993** - Steven is Partner/Vice President of London Bay Homes in Naples, FL and has been with the company for 12 years. London Bay received the prestigious honor of being named "2008 America's Best Builder" by Builder Magazine.

**Doug Walker, BCN 1993** - Doug worked for Kiewit Pacific Company and Kiewit Construction Company for six years in Hawaii and Seattle. In 1999 he returned to Florida to graduate with a M.S. in civil engineering (2000) and a J.D. in Law in (2003). He is currently a construction lawyer with the Charlotte, NC, based firm of Parker, Poe, Adams, and Bernstein representing construction clients throughout the southeastern United States. He and his wife, Amy, have two little boys, George (6) and James (4). They live in Columbia, SC. Doug proudly stated that "his boys are huge Gator fans, of course!"

**John Mills, BCN 1993** - John has joined Coastal Construction Company as General Superintendent on the St. Regis Resort and Residences at a \$500 million project in Bal Harbour, FL.

**Chris Tappouni, BCN 1993** - Chris is Vice President of Tappouni Mechanical Services located in Tampa, FL.

**Doug Brede, BCN 1994** - Doug last worked in construction with Joyner Construction in Gainesville, FL in 2006. He is currently working for Albemarle County Fire Rescue (VA) as an EMT/Firefighter and will graduate from Paramedic school in April 2009.

# Alumni Updates, cont.

**Jon Antevy, BCN 1994** – Jon is founder of e-Builder. E-builder continues to maintain its status as the pioneers of online project management systems. Jon turned his masters thesis into the e-Builder business plan.

**David Hall, BCN 1994** – In early 2008 David was promoted to Construction Manager for Shaw Construction where he will be managing Western Slope Operations. Shaw Construction performs across the state of Colorado and specializes in working in the mountain ski resort areas (Aspen, Vail, Telluride). Shaw has offices in Denver and Grand Junction.

**William Nassal, BCN 1994 and Matt Brown, BCN 1994** – Bill & Matt are business partners with The Nassal Company. They have just opened an office in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and they have been awarded two projects for the Ferrari theme park in Abu Dhabi with projected completion of Oct. 2009. In addition, they are working with Universal Studios in Orlando on their big expansion, "Project Strong-arm".

**Brian Wetherington, BCN 1995** – Brian works for Suffolk Construction as General Superintendent in Miami, FL. He oversees all of the Dade & Broward county projects as well as all Science & Technology and Healthcare work throughout the state of Florida. One of his current projects is in the preconstruction phase and has a construction value in excess of \$1 billion. Brian is a LEED AP.

**Mark Cantrell, BCN 1996** – Mark is Senior Estimator with James A. Cummings, Inc. out of Fort Lauderdale, and has been with them since graduation. They just started their first project for the University of Florida, which is the UF-290 Southwest Parking Garage Complex on Gale Lemerand Drive. He and his wife had their first child, Isabella, in May 2008.

**Eric Prendergast, BCN 1996** – Eric is currently a Project Manager with Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co, Inc.. EW&S is a general contracting firm located in St. Augustine, FL specializing in pile foundations, steel sheet pile structures, and marine construction covering the lower southeastern United States. Eric is married with two children and lives in Jacksonville, FL.

**Adam Corbin, BCN 1997** – Adam started Corbin Electrical Services, Inc. and was recently featured on NBC Television's Open House NYC performing a residential lighting installation project. The link to the show is on his Web site at [www.corbinelectric.com](http://www.corbinelectric.com). Additionally, with two partners, he recently started a new company called Corbin Solar Solutions that installs PV systems, solar hot water and solar pool heating.

**Brian Natwick, BCN 1997** – Brian & his wife are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Ceila Paige, born on September 15th. They live in Charlotte, NC, and Brian is a real estate developer with Crescent Resources, LLC. He received his MBA in 2003.

**Andrew Needles, BCN 1997** - Andy Needles was a former job placement coordinator for the school of BCN. He recently left active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and transferred to the reserves. He spent 5 years flying the CH-53 heavy lift helicopter and 3 years instructing in flight school at NAS Whiting Field. In 2006 he obtained his general contractor license and started A. Needles Construction, LLC (ANC) in 2007. ANC performs commercial and residential construction and completed over \$3 million in construction in 2008. Andy and his wife have 5 beautiful children and live in Pace, FL.

**Gabriel Everhart, BCN 1998** – Gabe is a Project Manager for The Crom Corporation in Gainesville. Crom is a builder of prestressed concrete water tanks all over the Southeast. He's been with them since 2006 while also enrolled in the BCN graduate program.

**Brian Kappele, BCN 1998** – Brian is now the Divisional Vice President of the Food & Beverage business unit at Stellar. This division has revenue in excess of \$130 million per year with approximately 50 employees in this group. Brian and Anita have a 4-year-old daughter and they live in Jacksonville, FL.

**Pollajak Verawetwatana, BCN 1998** - Paul has been an Investment and Development Analyst and Sales Associate at NAI Realvest in Maitland, FL, since September 2007, handling responsibilities such as Site selection, GIS analysis, Market study, Development feasibility analysis, Project scheduling, Permitting, Design coordination and Construction management.

**Jeff Slade, BCN 1998** – Jeff was promoted to Project Executive for Miller Construction Company and also celebrated the birth of his third

child in May.

**Craig Hawley, BCN 1999** – Craig works with Hawley Realty & Investments, Inc. He was proud to report that he recently harvested a bull elk in New Mexico at 900 yards.

**Alex Moya, BCN 2000** - Alex is co-founder and owner of Construction Management and Consulting Group (CMCG). They are currently in their fourth year of operations in South Florida. They provide Construction Management services to developers as well as GC services. Projects of interest include the Infinity I Tower (52 story, 459 unit condo) in Miami, FL, where they are the Interior Construction Manager for all common areas and units. Alex and his wife, Melissa reside in Miami, FL, with their one-year-old daughter, Sofia.

**Daniel F. Adams, BCN 2000** -- Daniel has been working for Owen-Ames-Kimball Company since graduation in 2000. He worked as a superintendent for two years, constructing projects for the Lee County School Board and building the 36,000 SF expansion to the Chico's World Headquarters, before being promoted to project manager. As project manager he took over managing continuing services contract with the Lee County Port Authority. Under this contract they do everything from constructing airplane hangars at the local GA Airport to the \$28 million dollar Runway Rehab project at the International Airport, a project which won multiple awards from both the FAA and FDOT. In addition to managing multiple on-going projects for the Lee County Port Authority, he recently completed the construction of the FineMark National Bank and Trust Headquarters in Lee County.

**Jim Hanusek, BCN 2000** - Jim, who works for Fluor, has been working overseas on a project called the Abu Dhabi Financial Center in the capital city of the UAE, Abu Dhabi (about 1.5 hours SW of Dubai). The project is being built on a once secluded island backed up to the downtown area of the city. The works include all infrastructure (roads, bridges, utilities, etc.), a trade center building with 4 residential/commercial towers and retail, hotels, Cleveland Clinic Hospital. The first phase of construction is scheduled for completion in April 2010, but there are "many more years until final completion."

**Mike Clancy, BCN 2001** – Mike graduated with his MBA from UF in May. He joined FMI, management consultants and investment bankers for the construction industry, as a strategy and execution consultant for construction organizations around the country. Mike, his wife, Cheryl, and son, Connor, moved to Raleigh, NC in June.

**Chad Adriani, BCN 2001** – Chad is with Coastal Construction Management working on a 348 unit apartment complex in Riverview, FL.

**Matt Carlton, BCN 2002** – Matt is President of Carlton Construction & Development, Inc. based in Green Cove Springs, FL. He was recently appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Florida Building Commission in October 2007 as the General Contractor representative. Matt and his wife, Jacqueline, have 2 sons, Matthew (3 yrs. old) and Benjamin (6 months old). They live in Lake Asbury, FL.

**Dan Roberts, BCN 2003** – Dan works for Coastal Bay Realty, LLC in Tampa, FL. He has a daughter named Lilly who was born June 28, 2007 and is married to Larisa Roberts (formerly Lanton) who is also a UF grad.

**Dean Reed, BCN 2003** – Dean is a Project Manager for Johnson Bros., a national heavy civil contractor. He is currently working on the Maitland Blvd. Extension, a \$37 million portion of a toll road project in Orlando, FL.

**Ramiro Montes De Oca, BCN 2003** - After working for a short time as the Director of Public Works for the U.S. Army Garrison in Miami, FL, on June 23rd Ramiro was appointed as Environmental Resources and Assessment Manager for Navy Region Midwest. His job consists of procuring, managing and disbursing all resources to the Environmental business line for Navy Region Midwest. He is married to Sofia Chitikov (BS in Food Science, UF 2001) and they live in Chicago, IL.

**Jeremy Voss, BCN 2003** – After graduation Jeremy took a position with PCL Construction Services, Inc., Orlando, FL. He started his career with PCL working as a field engineer on the Expedition Everest Roller Coaster in Animal Kingdom. After completing the roller coaster, it was off to the Orlando World Center Marriott, where he worked on a 280,000 square foot ballroom addition. From there he was promoted to a Project Manager and has successfully completed several projects since. He is currently leading a project for PCL in the Jacksonville area. Jeremy is engaged & looks forward to getting married this April. Jeremy stated that "his first 5 years out of college have gone well and that he is looking forward to the next 5 years."



# Alumni Updates

**David Pye, BCN 2003** – David is in Atlanta, working for Whiting-Turner as a project manager. He started working with them after graduation and has enjoyed the company and city “very much.” He states that “Atlanta’s a great place to watch the Gators win championships!”

**Karl J. Weber, Jr., BCN 2004** – Karl works for W.G. Mills as an Assistant Project Manager and has recently received his General Contractors License for Florida.

**Ashlea Offutt, BCN 2004** – Ashlea is a Preconstruction Manager at Stiles Construction Company in Ft. Lauderdale. She became a LEED AP in May 2008.

**Jason Paiva, BCN 2005** – Jason currently works in Saint Petersburg, FL, for Brasfield & Gorrie on a new replacement hospital for All Children’s Hospital. On a personal note, he is also getting married next May to Natalie McGill, DIS ’05, MS DIS ’07.

**Andrew Niemann, BCN 2005** – Andrew works for Hensel Phelps Construction Co. in Orlando, FL, on the Airside 3 Rehabilitation Project at the Orlando International Airport. He is an Office Engineer with Hensel Phelps and has been with them for the past 6 months.

**Matt Widmaier, BCN 2005** – Matt is working for Manhattan Construction Company as part of the joint venture team of Holder, Manhattan, Moody, Hunt, JV. They are constructing the Maynard H. Jackson International Terminal, the newest terminal at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. He and his wife, Jenny, live in Atlanta, GA.

**Matt Ferlisi, BCN 2006** – Matt is currently working at Carolinas Medical Center - Mercy, in Charlotte, NC, on construction of a Medical Office Building, 12 operating rooms, a pharmacy, and various other patient care facilities. In February 2007, while excavating for deep storm water utilities, they uncovered the remains of 13 early North Carolina settlers buried in 1776 and 1777. After an extended bout with city and state officials plus a PBS TV special, their projects are scheduled to conclude in July 2009.

**Vinnie Moreschi, BCN 2006** – Vinnie is a Senior Project Manager for Charles Perry Construction of Gainesville, FL. He achieved LEED AP status in August 2008. Vinnie and his wife, Kristy, have four children, Olivia (7 yrs), Michael (4 yrs), Sophia (2 yrs), and Dominic (newborn).

**Javier Castano, BCN 2006** – In October 2008, Javier joined the Forensic Advisory practice for KPMG, L.L.P. in New York, NY, specializing in Real Estate and Con-

struction Advisory. He brings his experience from Holder Construction Group in Atlanta, GA to serve clients with their advisory needs, which range anywhere from internal construction audit assistance to integrity and forensic advisory. Since graduating from the Rinker School in 2006, Javier remained at UF to complete a Master of Arts degree at the Hough Graduate School of Business and took advantage of an opportunity to work at a United States Embassy in Belgium for school credit. He received his Master of Arts in International Business at UF in 2007.

**Jayd Torchia, BCN 2006** – After graduation, Jayd moved to Houston where he currently work for Jacobs Engineering on multi-billion dollar projects as a Project Controls Specialist.

**Matthew Teele, BCN 2007** – Matt is a Project Engineer for Balfour Beatty Construction in Raleigh, NC. He has worked on several projects for Wake County Schools and Duke University Medical Center, and just started work on a \$40 million office building/cafe/parking deck project for Siemens in Cary, NC.

**Alberto Ribas, BCN 2007** – Alberto is currently working at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS, as an instructor for both Civil Engineering and their Construction Science department. He teaches CE 212 (Elementary Surveying) and CNS 200 (Computer Applications in Engineering and Construction) - about 200 total students a semester. Alberto is currently finishing up his Master’s in Construction Management from FIU this summer 2009 via distance education. He also recently passed the Florida General Contractors exam.

**Kyle Huggins, BCN 2008** – Kyle has been working for NDC since he graduated in May. Kyle married Danielle Van Guling on December 13th.

**Matt Ruben, BCN 2008** – Matt recently married his long-time girlfriend Wendy Fahsholtz (HHP 2007) and the two now live in Atlanta. Matt is an Office Engineer for Holder Construction in Atlanta, where he works on a data center for Hewlett Packard.

**Bryan Menendez, BCN 2008** – Bryan is currently working as an Assistant Project Manager on the Shands Cancer Hospital for Borrell Electric Co., Inc. He is continuing to further his education at the University of Tampa by pursuing a Masters in Business Administration with a Finance concentration. He has also become LEED Accredited, and is now studying for the general contractors exam.

**Ryan Belmont, Kyle Crisp, Tomeka Jordan, Scott Taylor, Jason Skalko, and Caroline McCammack Smith, all BCN 2008** – All are continuing their studies at the University of Florida and will graduate with a Masters in Management in May 2009.

## BCN Alumni Regional Club Updates

### The Atlanta Gator BCN Alumni Club

The Atlanta Gator BCN Club met in October at the Olde Mill Steakhouse to celebrate its newly formed alumni club of one year with a good showing of members present. The Club now has more than 100 members and growing. The club is planning its next meeting in the spring of 2009 along with other social get-togethers and a 2009 fundraising event. Anyone who is interested in further information about joining the Atlanta BCN Club should contact Robert Herndon by phone at (678) 352-1524 or by email at robherndon@bellsouth.net.

### The Palm Beach County Gator BCN Alumni Club

The Palm Beach Club held a preliminary meeting in November to plan their next Quarterly Member Meeting/Social. The meeting/social was held at Duffy’s Sports Grill on January 15, 2009, to start off the New Year with fun and fellowship. The agenda included a meet-and-greet, electing the new board, forming committees for upcoming events, and celebrating our newly achieved National Championship!

### Tampa Bay Gator BCN Alumni Club

The Tampa Bay BCN Gators held the First Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament on Friday November 7, 2008, at the Little Harbor

Resort & Marina in Ruskin, FL. The event raised almost \$6,000 for the Rinker School and had an attendance of almost 60 anglers competing on 16 different boats. Angler’s competed in three “big fish” categories: Snook, Redfish, and Trout, along with one grand prize for the Master Angler who caught the largest combined of all three species. Prizes included rod and reel combos, tackle boxes, flat screen TV, and great framed fish artwork for each winner. The event was a major success and we can’t wait to do it again next year. Contact club president Chris Lucas (clucas@diazfritz.com) for information on next year’s tournament.



Jeff Nelson of David Nelson Construction smiles during the Tampa Bay BCN Gators’ First Annual Inshore Fishing Tournament.

# Northeast Florida Gator BCN Club 70th Anniversary Celebration

The Northeast Florida Gator BCN Alumni Club held its 70th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser on Saturday, October 18, 2008. More than 120 alumni, friends, sponsors and students attended the celebration, which was held at The Outpost, owned by the Ponte Vedre Inn & Club. The Outpost is a beautiful old cabin/lodge on the banks of the Guana State Preserve.

The afternoon began with "Gator Tailgating" and although this was an open weekend for the Gators, there were plenty of SEC games to watch on the flat screens around the room. Tailgating was followed by dinner and a program where Dean Chris Silver (DCP) and Director Abdol Chini (BCN) welcomed the group and provided updates on the College and School. Dr. Chini introduced Erik Sharpe,

Director of the Club. Erik introduced Jesse Childre who was the recognized Grand Guard member for the Northeast Club. Erik also made special mention of Emeritus Faculty Dr. Brisbane Brown and Professor Jack Martin who were in attendance.

A special thanks goes to Arnold Tritt who provided the crowd with some amusing stories, including some about Dr. Brisbane Brown and other faculty. Lifetime Achievement awards were given to Dr. Brisbane Brown, emeritus faculty and Ronald Foster, Sr., of Stellar. After a raffle where many gifts were handed out, the crowd socialized for the rest of the event. Many thanks go to the sponsors and to the planning committee of this event, which raised more than \$100,000 for the Rinker School's Endowed Professorship fund.



Evelyn Martin (from left), Jack Martin, and Stacey Barton attend the 70th celebration.



Alumni, students and friends gather on the porch during the Northeast Florida Gator BCN Club 70th Anniversary Celebration.



Tim Stanley (left) and Jake Vickers smile for a photo.



Dr. Abdol Chini (left) and Tim Good pose for a photo during the 70th Anniversary Celebration.



Alumni, students and friends gather on the porch during the celebration.

## Planning Committee:

Jeff Blount	Myron McCall
Tim Conlan	Erik Sharpe
Josh Edwards	Arnold Tritt
Tom Hanley	Kim Stanley

## Event Sponsors

Brasfield & Gorrie  
Gerdau Ameristeel  
Haskell  
Vulcan / Florida Rock Industries

## Silver Sponsors

Elkins  
Gate  
Haskell Industrial BCN Alumni  
Perry McCall  
WW Gay

## Orange & Blue Sponsors

Auld & White  
Stellar Construction  
Miller Electric

## Lifetime Achievement Award

Tritt and Franson

## Cigar Sponsor

S. David & Company Inc.

## Friends of BCN Sponsor

Acousti  
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Ed Waters & Sons Contracting Inc.  
Flagler Development  
HRH Safety  
Jesse Childre  
Josh Edwards  
Mike Kennelley  
Tim Good  
Todd Russell  
Tom Hanley

*Correspondence for all BCN Club future events are sent via e-mail,  
so remember to update your e-mail address on the UF Alumni Web site.*

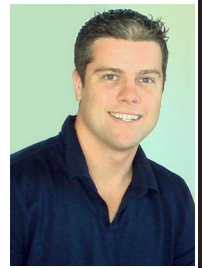


# In Memoriam

## In Memory of Zachary Blaine Schlitt - BCN 2004

On November 30, 2008 the Rinker School and the University of Florida lost a great friend. While returning from the Florida/Florida State football game in Tallahassee, Zach Schlitt encountered severe weather and his plane was lost over the Gulf of Mexico approximately 15 miles west of Yankeetown, FL. Zach had been a licensed pilot and avid flyer since 1997 and was co-piloting with his good friend, Darien Peckham. Zach recently moved from Tampa to West Palm Beach as a result of a promotion within his company, Boos Development Group, where he was a land acquisitions manager. Zach had a tremendous impact on the people he

touched over the course of his life. Family members, friends, and professional colleagues spoke on Zach's behalf with the common theme of his unyielding love for life, and his infectious personality. A testament to his effect on those around him was evident by the hundreds of people who attended his memorial service in Tampa, paying their final respects to an individual who will truly be missed, but never forgotten. Zach is survived by his parents Ron and Pandora Schlitt, and his brother Ryan.



## In Memory of Edward Watts - BCN 2004

*From his friends at Willis A. Smith*

Superintendent for Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc., or as he was also known, First Lieutenant, Edward Watts was unexpectedly taken from us in a motorcycle accident Sunday, January 11th. Ed was born in Montgomery, AL and grew up in Ocala, FL. He joined the army in 1995 and did a tour in Bosnia in 1996, then went on to complete one tour in Iraq in 2003 and another in 2005. In April of 2005 he was sent to Afghanistan and was there until July of 2006. Ed originally contacted us through our website from Afghanistan. Warren G. Simonds, Ph.D., who is a former infantry officer in Vietnam and is now V.P. and CMO of Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc, responded to Ed and believed he would be a great fit at W.A.S.C.



Ed wanted to use his college education in construction upon his return to Florida and there was a perfect job opening for him. He officially became a member of the W.A.S.C. team in 2006 and we were very proud to have him on board. As one of America's finest soldiers, we honor him and as a true member of the W.A.S.C. family, he will be sorely missed, but always remembered. Ed worked with the team on the Southside Elementary School Wing Addition, Sarasota Opera House Renovation, and most recently on Ringling College of Art & Design Academic Building. Ed was a devoted and loving husband to Rian Watts whom he married in March of 2008. Ed loved her son as his own and spoke about him all the time. Ed was a fun loving prankster who kept everyone laughing while he still managed to always be professional. He was as blunt as a 2x4 to the forehead and we all loved him for that. He passed away doing what he enjoyed and we are all heartbroken.

## In Memory of Charles 'Addison' Mead - BCN 1951

Upon graduation from Florida - Charles was employed by the Navy and aided in the construction of Sherman Field, "Home of the Blue Angles" in Pensacola. He was hired by General Services Administration and spent most of his 33 years of government service in Atlanta, GA. His duties there consisted of the supervision of new construction and/or the remodeling of federal buildings in the 8 southeastern states.



After retirement, he returned to Pensacola to the home he had built and spent several years as a consultant for the U.S. Coast Guard on construction sites in Pensacola, FL, Mobile, AL and Pascagoula, MS. His education and abilities afforded him a wonderful life and the opportunity to serve his government. After being diagnosed with inoperable cancer, he died 8 months later on September 28, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

## In Memory of Hugh Thompson - BCN 1950

Lt. Col. Hugh N. Thompson passed away on November 17, 2008. Hugh's education had been interrupted by World War II, when he enlisted in the Navy. On returning home he graduated in time to confront another wartime tour of duty in the Korean War, this time as a commissioned officer in the Army. He later became an instructor in the U.S. Command and Staff College of Fort Leavenworth and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. As a civilian, Hugh was city manager of five cities in three different states, Chief Engineer, SE region, Economic Development Administration and Senior Design Engineer for the U.S. Postal Service.



## In Memory of John Otterness - BCN 1974

John Otterness, who graduated in 1974 with a master degree in BCN from the University of Florida, passed away November 13, 2008. During his years in the construction industry he worked for Geupel De Mars, Hardin Construction, and Brasfield & Gorrie. In 1991 he started Otterness Construction Company. Some of the most notable projects that John was involved with was the Merchants Plaza in downtown Indianapolis; Harbor Island Hotel, One Metrocenter, and Buschwood Park Office facility of Tampa, General Electric Credit Services building in Lakeland and the Esplanade Condo Tower in Naples.





## BCN Homecoming BBQ

On Friday, October 24, 2008, the University of Florida held its 85th annual Homecoming Parade. Every year more than 100,000 fans come out to see the parade floats - including a float made by BCN students - that make their way down University Avenue.



Raymond Southern kneels in front of the bronze plaque noting him as a 2008 recipient of the Construction Hall of Fame award.

On Saturday, October 25, more than 100 alumni and friends of the M.E. Rinker School of Building Construction gathered on the front lawn to celebrate the University of Florida's 2008 Homecoming BBQ. The event kicked off with an 11 a.m. induction of Raymond Southern of Balfour Beatty Construction into the BCN Construction Hall of Fame. Raymond (BCN 1973) has dedicated his 34-year career to the same company and is currently the CEO of Balfour Beatty Florida Division.

The Rinker School also recognized John McIntyre as the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus. John (BCN 1984) is co-founder and president of McIntyre, Elwell & Strammer General Contractors in Sarasota, Florida.

After much mingling, reminiscing, and a healthy dose of BBQ, BCN alumni watched the Gator football team dominate the University of Kentucky Wildcats in a 63 to 5 trouncing at "The Swamp" Saturday afternoon.

A special thanks is owed to **Weitz Golf International** for sponsoring the Homecoming BBQ.



John McIntyre addresses the crowd gathered in front of Rinker Hall before receiving the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus award.



BCN students stand on top of the Rinker School's Homecoming parade float.



Dr. Brisbane Brown (from left), Raymond Southern, Curtis Culver, Rick Derrer and Jim Tucker stand with Dr. Abdol Chini (right)



## Construction Hall of Fame

On Thursday, November 13, 2008, the Rinker School of Building Construction recognized Breck Weingart (BCN 1980) into the BCN Construction Hall of Fame. Breck selected his induction to take place among his friends and colleagues at the Builders Association of North Florida (BANCF) luncheon held at the Best Western Gateway Grand in Gainesville.

Breck is President of Charles Perry Construction, Inc. and is co-owner of both Charles Perry Construction and PPI Construction Management.

Special thanks to the Builders Association of North Central Florida for allowing BCN to have this special event at their luncheon.



Breck Weingart gives his Construction Hall of Fame acceptance speech on November 13.



## Class of 1983 reunion



*By Jeff Charlotte (BCN 1983)*

Some 20 past graduates of the 1983 BCN class met over Homecoming weekend to commemorate their 25-year reunion. On Friday, October 24, 2008, a cocktail party was held at the Best Western Gateway Grand, where our keynote speaker and past Director, Dr. Brisbane Brown, presented a “nostalgic” slide show with pictures evidencing the fact that some of us really did attend UF BCN!

In addition, Dr. Abdol Chini provided information to the Alumni on the “State of UF BCN” in 2008 and beyond. Special thanks also goes out to Professor Emeritus and former Chair Dr. Don Halperin for attending the event as well where his bow-tie and steel manual were retired!

On Saturday (game day), the Reunion class mingled with fellow past and present Gator BCNers at the annual BCN Homecoming BBQ. Those who had not seen the new Rinker Hall were totally impressed with the facility and extremely proud to see how far this program has come in the past 25 years! Following the BBQ, the Reunion Class marched over to the “SWAMP” and watched the Gators trounce the Kentucky Wildcats in a seating block provided to us by the University Athletic Association. It looks as though our 25th Reunion year has shaped up to be a special year for Florida Gator Football as well!

On behalf of David Schmit and myself, we would like to thank all of the 1983 UF BCN graduates who took the time to come back and share in the 25-year Reunion activities. In addition, special thanks goes to Kim Stanley and Lynne Capece who took time out of their busy schedules to help with the cocktail party and gift packages.

This is a very special place and one we are all proud of!  
Go UF BCN and Go Gators!



BCN class of 1983 members Mike Gulley (back row, left) Grier Silverbach, Dave Schmit, John Burket, Matt Craig, Fred Strammer, Greg Ferrone, Lee McNeill (front row, left), Tom Mitchell, Jeff Charlotte, Gordon Gross, and Bill Borregard attend the Fall 2008 BCN Homecoming BBQ.

## BCN Grand Guard - Class of 1958

Congratulations to the following 1958 BCN Alumni who were inducted into the University of Florida Grand Guard Friday, November 21, 2008:

**Billy Ayers**  
**Allan Hall**  
**Elmer Parkin**  
**Nelson Romero**  
**Jay Thompson**

The events of the Grand Guard Weekend included tours of Oak Hammock and the University, lunch at the Rinker School and the Gators vs. Citadel football game. These BCN alums were inducted at a ceremony held at the Hilton that concluded with dinner and dancing.

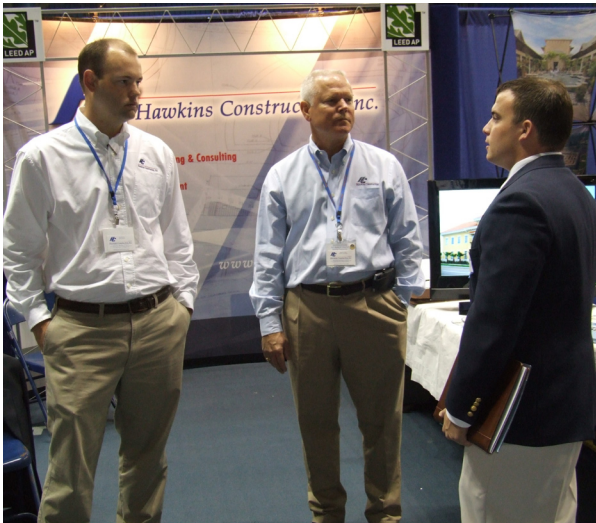


Jay Thompson (from left), Billy Ayers, Abdol Chini and Nelson Romero smile for a photo during the Grand Guard events held at the Rinker School in November.



## Fall 2008 Career Fair

The Rinker School held its Fall Career Fair on October 21, 2008 at the O'Connell Center. The career fair was another success with more than 80 companies and approximately 400 students in attendance. Many pre-BCN students attended the fair looking for internships, as well as students from other schools within the College and other building construction programs in Florida. The next career fair will be in the spring, on February 17th, 2009. For more information on sponsoring or attending the spring fair, please contact the job placement office at (352) 273-1187.



Recruiters Dan Downes (left) and Earle Cooper of Hawkins talk to a student during the career fair.



Charles Perry Construction recruiters Missy Boyer (back) Brian Crum, Vinnie Moreschi (front) talk to BCN grad student Ashley Lopez (front left) and another student.



Brasfield & Gorrie recruiters Josh Johnston (back left), Matt Long, (back right) talk to a student during the career fair.



Graduate student Jesse Belknap talks to Eric Weiss from ANF Group during the Major Donors' Reception.



Graduate student Terry Clinefelter (left) talks to David Wagner from Hensel Phelps during the Major Donors' Reception.

## Fall 2008 Welcome Reception

The newest faces walking the halls of the Rinker School of Building Construction filled a banquet hall at the Paramount Hotel on September 4 for the Fall 2008 Welcome Reception, a chance for just-accepted BCN students to learn about the school's programs and opportunities, and faculty and staff. One pertinent message for BCN students was to embrace and take part in the school's many academic, professional and networking offerings.

"Learn more about the school and make sure you take advantage of all of the opportunities while you're here," urged director Dr. Abdol Chini, describing the school's student organizations as "active" and "hands-on." Nearly a dozen student leaders, such as senior Kevin Chupp – the president of Student Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors – invited new BCN students to join the School's many acclaimed organizations. Students heard from representatives of the NAHB Management Competition Team, National Association of Women in Construction, Sigma Lambda Chi, the USGBC/LEED team, and the BCN College Council, among others. The students also heard brief introductions from faculty and staff, as well as details from Dr. Chini on the school's student exchange program, which offers academic exploration in Australia, Germany, and Hong Kong.



Juniors Adam Milner (left) and Carlos Lorenzo talk to new BCN students.



Senior Matthew Hoyman (right) talks to new BCN student Stephan Bird during the reception.



Katie Klaproth (left) and Tristan Johannessen (right) of Robins & Morton stand with Dr. Abdol Chini during the Welcome Reception.



New BCN students David Cowan, Christopher Anderson and Jordan Wise pose for a photo.

A special thanks is owed to **Robins & Morton**, who sponsored the Fall 2008 Welcome Reception.



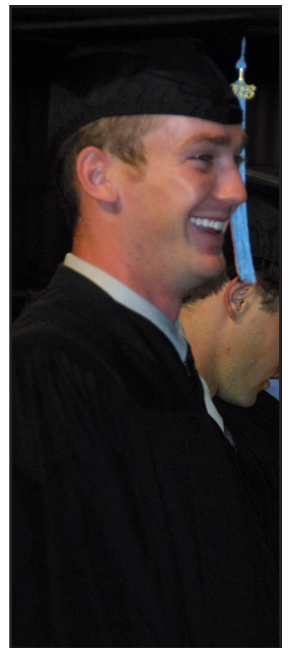
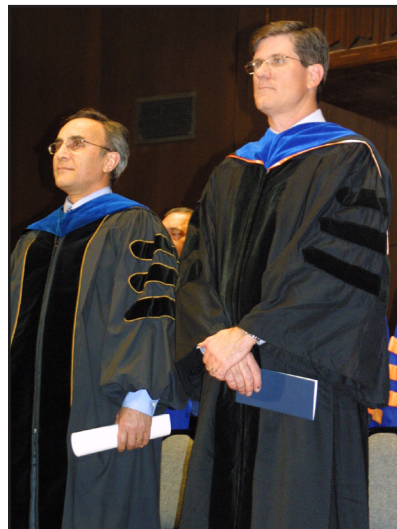
# Fall 2008 Convocation

The M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction hosted an exclusive convocation on December 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the UF Auditorium for its students graduating in Fall 2008.

Convocation speaker **Sidney Jordan** of Clark Construction, who is also chairman of the the school's Advisory Council Executive Committee, reminded graduating students to celebrate friends and family for helping them along the way. He also had a three-fold message for BCN graduates: 1) follow your passion in life, whether or not it is in construction 2) the construction industry "as you will find out, is very small" 3) know that "you have the best education that you can relative to the degree that you are bestowed."

Dr. Abdol Chini awarded four faculty members and students during the ceremony, including **Dr. Esther Obonyo**, who received the College of Design, Construction and Planning International Educator of the Year Award; **Dr. Kevin Grosskopf**, who received the Rinker School of Building Construction Excellence in Teaching Award; graduate **Elizabeth Markham**, who received the Rinker School of Building Construction Student Academic Excellence Award and served as Student Speaker; and graduate **Kevin Chupp**, who received the Rinker School of Building Construction Student Leadership Award. The following faculty members served as marshals during the convocation: Michael Cook, Ian Flood, Kevin Grosskopf, Douglas Lucas, Esther Obonyo, Svetlana Olbina, Robert J. Ries and Leon Wetherington. The convocation was followed by a graduation dinner at the Savannah Grande in Gainesville. Commencement for all undergraduate students was held the following day, Saturday, December 20.

This event would not have been possible without the vital and thorough help of the following organizers: Julie Frey, Patty Barritt, Scott Nelson, and Kevin Chupp. A special thanks is owed to Kitchen Art of South Florida for sponsoring the graduation dinner.



# Centers

## Shimberg Center Name Changed

The name of the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing has been changed to the Shimberg Center for Housing Studies. The purpose of this new name is to reflect the broad scope of housing-related research of the Shimberg Center. The discussion that follows illustrates the broad nature of the research activities of the Center.

Since 1998, the Shimberg Center has been responsible for the design and construction of four Hurricane Damage Mitigation Training & Demonstration Centers. The first regional center was built in St. Lucie County, Florida, in 1999. Similar facilities are now located in Escambia (1999), St. John's (2002), and Broward (2005) counties. The outreach and educational programming that takes place at the center is coordinated by the IFAS Program for Resource Efficient Communities and plays a major role in breaking the cycle of destruction and reconstruction that has been associated with Florida's hurricane season. In late 2006 the Shimberg Center's housing technology staff teamed with the College of Engineering and the IFAS Program for Resource Efficient Communities to develop a program for producing a Home Structure Rating System (HSRS) that can be used statewide to assess the potential hurricane damage for individual homes. Since February 2001, the Shimberg Center has received and processed the Energy Code Compliance Forms from every permit-issuing jurisdiction in Florida. As a result, the Center is able to publish periodic reports summarizing the energy conserving characteristics of new homes in Florida. As 2007 drew to a close, the Shimberg Center's Housing Policy and Programs research team finalized its evaluation of The Oaks at Riverview, a HOPE VI redevelopment effort in Tampa. The Oaks at Riverview is a redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by distressed public housing complexes known as Riverview Terrace and Tom Dyer Homes. The redevelopment effort has made a significant contribution to rising home values and a reduction in crime rates in the surrounding area.

Underpinning much of the Shimberg Center's housing-related research activity is the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse. The origin of the Clearinghouse was with the Governor's Affordable Housing Study Commission. At the Commission's urging, a working group of stakeholders that included representatives from local governments, regional entities, housing advocates, groups such as the Florida Home Builders Association and the Florida Association of Realtors, and state agencies was organized in 2000. The Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse was created to provide public access to data on housing need and supply from a variety of national, state, and local sources. Funding for the Clearinghouse is provided by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation. In addition to collecting and developing housing data, the Clearinghouse continues to expand its capacity to collect, produce, and store this information for easy public access. Users obtain data, produce reports, and perform analysis by going to the Clearinghouse Web site (<http://www.flhousingdata.shimberg.ufl.edu>). Indeed, the Affordable Housing Needs Assessment, which is the data and analysis package prepared by the Clearinghouse for each local government to aid them with their comprehensive planning responsibilities, is available on the clearinghouse

Web site along with a variety of other reports.

## UF doctoral student wins award for housing article

University of Florida doctoral student Patricia Roset-Zuppa is the recipient of the ING Clarion "Most Outstanding Article Award" given by the Cornell Real Estate Review, a student-edited and managed real estate journal. The award is given each year to the student with the most distinguished article that appears in the Review. Roset-Zuppa's article, "Curbing the Loss of Affordable Rental Housing in Florida: A Risk Assessment Approach," was selected among submissions by graduate students from around the world.

## The Powell Center for Construction and Environment

The Powell Center for Construction and Environment, one of the research centers in the Rinker School, has been meeting the high demand for green building training by organizing and conducting classes around the State on the USGBC's LEED for New Construction green building certification system. Since September 2007, the Powell Center has conducted training at 60 sites to include several outside of Florida (Boston, Indiana, and Georgia), and almost 3,000 contractors, subcontractors, and architects. The team of instructors was organized by Dr. Charles Kibert and includes the newest BCN professor, Dr. Jim Sullivan, plus several graduate students who are LEED Accredited Professionals (LEED-AP). The LEED team puts on a combination of scheduled on-site courses for individuals and companies in Florida. The success rate for passing the LEED-AP exam is reputedly fairly low due in large part to the difficulty and closed book nature of the exam. Using an innovative combination of pre-course, during course, and post-course assignments, lectures, and testing, the Rinker School provides industry professionals with greatly improved prospects for success in taking the exam. The following is the schedule of on-site LEED courses for the Spring and Summer 2009:

Jan 15-16, 2009	Orlando	Apr 16-17, 2009	Miami
Jan 29-30, 2009	Gainesville	Apr. 23-24, 2009	Tampa
Feb 12-13, 2009	Tampa	May 7-8, 2009	Ft Lauderdale
Feb 26-27, 2009	Ft Lauderdale	May 21-22, 2009	Gainesville
Mar. 5-6, 2009	Orlando	June 18-19, 2009	Orlando
Mar. 19-20, 2009	Jacksonville	June 25-26, 2009	Miami

The two-day course provides continuing education credit for contractors, architects, professional engineers, and landscape architects. Registration information can be found at <http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/LEED>. Study materials and a support Web site for the LEED-AP exam can be found at the Powell Center for Construction and Environment Web site at <http://www.cce.ufl.edu/LEED/index.asp>. Companies considering an on-site course can contact Laurel Brown at (352) 392-9570 ext. 231 or at [lbrown@treeo.ufl.edu](mailto:lbrown@treeo.ufl.edu).

## Fluor Program for Construction Safety

Safety education at the Rinker School extends beyond the traditional classroom lectures. This fall, the safety classroom instruction was augmented with a scaffolding demonstration. This demonstration was presented by Crom Equipment Rentals, Inc., a subsidiary of Crom Corporation of Gainesville.



## Centers, cont.

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This took place in the Perry Construction Yard with examples of walk-through frame scaffolding and mobile scaffolding. The frame scaffolding consisted of an example of well-constructed scaffolding and an example of scaffolding with many common flaws. The information on the scaffolding was provided by Bob Hendrix of Crom Corporation and Brian Haddle of Crom Equipment Rentals. The students learned a great deal by being able to actually see the scaffolding and having experts point out the key points to remember when erecting and inspecting scaffolding. This was the second year that Crom has set up this demonstration for our students. Safety education is not limited to the students of the Rinker School. In December, several faculty members attended an OSHA-500 class, which qualifies these faculty members to teach the OSHA 10-hour

and the 30-hour courses. This OSHA-500 instruction was provided by John Beaudry, Safety Director of Mechanical Services of Central Florida (MCI). This four-day class was conducted in Rinker Hall. The course covered a number of different safety topics and was well-received by those who attended the class. We are grateful to John Beaudry and MCI for accommodating us with this instruction. The fall was the first semester in which only Junior-II students were taking the safety class. Last year was the transition year during which the safety class was taken by both J-IIs and S-IIs. The seniors who graduated this past December were the first students who had enrolled in the safety class as juniors. The graduating senior who was selected as the Fluor Program Outstanding Student in Construction Safety was Sean Snowden.

## Conference

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### Associated Schools of Construction (ASC)

The Rinker School was selected to host the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) 45th Annual International Conference in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Conseil International du Bâtiment (CIB) Working Group 89 - Building Research and Education - at the University of Florida, April 1-4, 2009. The theme of the conference is "International Construction Education." The internationalization of construction will continue and more companies will operate internationally. The construction curriculum must prepare students for international opportunities. It should prepare them for work in another country, in another culture, or in a firm from another country. The papers and keynote speakers of this conference will address how international influences, and their accompanying intermix of cultures, should be addressed at the university level and what social and cultural courses will be needed. Issues such as student and faculty exchange programs, study abroad programs, international certification of construction managers, coverage of international codes and standards in curriculum, and international research collaborations will be addressed.



The ASC is the international association representing the interests of both academic and industry professionals interested in institutional construction education. The membership of the ASC, like the field of construction management, is richly interdisciplinary, drawing membership from such disciplines as architecture, engineer-

ing, management, technology, to name only a few. The Association offers a variety of programs and services designed to help its members serve their customers more effectively and succeed in an increasingly challenging environment of information management and technology. The Association is organized into seven regions in the United States (Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, North Central, South Central, Rocky Mountain, and Far West) and two international regions, one for international institutions (Canada; Europe; Asia and the Pacific; and Caribbean/Central/South America) and one for industry professionals. Regions within the U.S. hold individual conferences and combine in the spring for a large international ASC Annual Conference. The ASC is dedicated to the professional growth and success of its membership, and is committed to fostering excellence in construction communication, scholarship, research, education, and practice.

Industry sponsorships for the 45th Annual International Conference are still available. Sponsors will be provided recognition on the conference Web site and in conference materials, four free registrations, and many other benefits. In addition, a two-day guest program will provide friends and families the opportunity to enjoy Florida's Nature Coast, St. Augustine and many other area attractions. The conference will be held at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center. More information on the conference can be found at [www.asc2009.org](http://www.asc2009.org) or by contacting Dr. Kevin Grosskopf at [kgro@ufl.edu](mailto:kgro@ufl.edu).

## Workshop

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### Gainesville VDC Workshop

Dr. Esther Obonyo, with the support of Dr. Raymond Issa, hosted the Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) Technologies at Emerson Alumni Hall on November 24th and 25th, 2008. A total of 22 people participated in the workshop, which had a particular emphasis on how to best develop integrated VDC capabilities that support education and learning within the built environment.

After a welcome message from Dr. Abdol Chini, there was a keynote presentation from Prof. Fedro Zazueta, University of Florida's Director for Academic Technology. Other keynote speakers included Dr. Dennis R. Sheldon (Chief Technology Officer - Gehry Tech-

nologies), Stephen Stott (Autodesk -Education Program Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa), Garry S. Orsolini (Technology Director - HP Education Services), Joerg Rudolph (Southeast Regional Manager, PERI Formwork Systems, Inc.) and Mark Telam (Project Manager, Technology Transfer & Commercialization Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership).

The workshop attracted participants from the University of Florida, Penn State University, University of Central Florida, Georgia Tech and University of Arkansas. There were two additional participants representing the Alachua County School System.



## Guest Lecturers

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

### BCN 1102 - Intro to Building Construction

- Matt Webster, Charles Perry Construction
- Tim Good, The Haskell Company
- Chip Reid, Current Builders
- Vince Carnes, Career Placement Center

### BCN 4510 - Mechanical Systems

- Jason Sparks, Gainesville Regional Utilities
- Jim Tharp, Tharp Plumbing
- Erik Linquist and Tim Johnson, Brasfield & Gorrie
- Walt Traxler, W.W. Gay
- David Epps, Holder Construction
- Ryan Abramski, Coastal Mechanical

### BCN 4023 -Creating Affordable Housing

- Adam Bolton, Robinsone, Inc.
- Dr. Pierce Jones, IFAS Program for Resource Efficient Communities
- Diep Tu, Florida Concrete & Products Association
- Linda Patrick, Gainesville Building Dept.
- Ron Gaines, Simpson Strongtie Company

- Robert Beisel, NuDura Insulated Concrete Forms

- Michael McCormick, Hanes-City-based Aercon of Florida, LLC

### BCN 5618 - Comprehensive Estimating

- Coty Fournier, Jobsite123.com
- Craig Noble, Jobsite123.com

### BCN 4787 - Construction Capstone Project

- Michelle Forte Young, Forte Young Construction, Inc.



Dr. Richard Smailes (from left), Michelle Forte Young of Forte Young Construction, Inc. and Dr. Abdol Chini pose for a photo.

### BCN 4712 - Leadership and Management in Construction

- Pete Pace, Clancy & Theys Construction
- Tim Good, The Haskell Company
- Sid Jordan, Clark Construction Group
- John Omran, Clark Construction Group
- John McIntyre, MES General Contractors
- Ray Southern, Balfour Beatty
- John Sofarelli, J. Raymond Construction



Coty Fournier (left) and Craig Noble (right) of Jobsite123.com stand with Dr. Abdol Chini.

## Internship Experiences

### Allen Strickland - BCN Junior

I have had the opportunity to work for M.M. Parrish Construction Company in Gainesville while going to school. I've been working with them for 3-1/2 years with that time being split between the field and the office. I gained valuable experience in the field seeing the project being built from the ground up. Adding that experience with where I'm at now in the office, I understand not only the construction side but the business aspects as well. M.M. Parrish has allowed me to gain invaluable experience that I will carry with me when I graduate from the University of Florida and start a career.



Cirque du Soleil, to name a few. I worked on the ARIA tower out in the field for half of the summer. Some of the responsibilities I held included handling submittals, running a punch list crew, and working on OST. I then moved to the on-site Perini office (which was a 2 story, tilt up real building) and worked with the QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Control) team and worked mainly on firestop issues. Perini also had us go through several training programs such as one for OST, one for ProLog, Safety, as well as a LEED for CityCenter course.

### Haim Benjamin - BCN Senior

I have completed two internships, one with James A. Cummings in South Florida and most recently in Las Vegas with the Perini Building Company. Perini is one of the premier builders on the strip, and the project I was working on was CityCenter, which is a new mixed-use development located on the strip between the Monte Carlo and the Bellagio. MGM Mirage is the owner and the project is worth over \$11 billion dollars, making it the largest privately funded project in U.S. history. The project highlights include the 4,000 room ARIA hotel and casino which serves as the centerpiece of the project, multiple high rise condos, another hotel called the MANDARIN, retail shops, a monorail, and a theatre for



Hardin Construction Company interns and BCN students Allan Marshall (from left), Alyce Anderson, Alex Wood, and Jared Contat stand with Brantley Barrow (center), Company Chairman.

# Sponsorships

## Opportunities to help

The Rinker School has a limited budget, and there are many activities and items for which we could certainly use your financial assistance. In return for your underwriting of these activities/items, we would provide appropriate publicity about your support.

In the case of events, we would be pleased to have a company representative attend the event and say a few words on behalf of your firm. For the Newsletter, we would include a prominent credit on the back page of the Newsletter.

The following is a list of events and their approximate cost to us for which your support would be very beneficial to the Rinker School and its students:

### Available Event Sponsorships

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

**If you need additional information, please contact Dr. Abdol Chini (chini@ufl.edu).**

### Past Event Sponsors

Special thanks to our past event sponsors.

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

#### NAHB Competition Team

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

#### LEED Competition Team

Spring 2007 - ME&S  
Spring 2008 - Beck Group

#### Graduation Dinner

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

Spring 2006 - Clark Construction Group  
Fall 2006 - WCI Communities  
Spring 2007 - Hunt Construction Group  
Fall 2007 - Charles Perry/ PPI  
Spring 2008 - Hawkins Construction  
Fall 2008 - Kitchen Art of S. Florida

#### Welcome Reception

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

#### Homecoming BBQ

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

### Future Event Sponsors

#### Welcome Reception

Spring 2009 Hardin Construction  
Fall 2009 Holder Construction  
Spring 2010 Brasfield & Gorrie  
Fall 2010 Clancy & Theys  
Spring 2011 Hardin Construction

#### Graduation Dinner

Spring 2009 James A. Cummings

#### Homecoming BBQ

Fall 2009 Brasfield & Gorrie  
Fall 2010 Hawkins Construction  
Fall 2011 Current Builders

#### BCN Newsletter

Fall 2009 Clancy & Theys

#### LEED Competition

Spring 2009 Holder Construction  
Spring 2010 James A. Cummings  
Spring 2011 Clancy & Theys

#### Graduate Student Reception

Spring 2009 Current Builders

2007 - Angle & Schmid  
2008 - Weitz Golf

#### BCN Newsletter

Fall 2001- Hardin Construction  
Spring 2002 - Hardin Construction  
Fall 2002 - Hardin/ Prof. Gunby  
Fall 2003 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2004 - James A. Cummings  
Fall 2004 - Hardin Construction  
Spring 2005 - Stiles Corporation  
Fall 2005 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2006 - Hardin Construction  
Fall 2006 - Stiles Corporation  
Spring 2007 - J. Raymond Const.  
Fall 2007 - James A. Cummings  
Spring 2008 - Gerdau AmeriSteel  
Fall 2008 - Charles Perry Const/PPI  
Spring 2009 - Hawkins Construction

#### Graduate Student Reception

Fall 2000- Ajax Construction  
Fall 2005- Turner Construction  
Fall 2007- Stiles Corporation  
Spring 2008 - Clark Construction  
Fall 2008 - Clancy & Theys  
Spring 2008 - Clark Construction



# Scholarships



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

Guy Abi-Nader	\$1,000
Nathan Bevan	\$1,000
Kristin Gray	\$1,000
Nicholas Hohman	\$1,000
Cassidy Resnick	\$1,000
Allison Stanley	\$1,000

## **Balfour Beatty Construction**

Silvia Moukhitara	\$1,000
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## **Builders Association of North Central Florida**

Christian Terrell	\$1,500
Michelle Updike	\$1,500

## **CEMEX Scholarship**

Ankit Bansal	\$1,000
Sandra Beich	\$1,000
Sarah Farmerie	\$1,000
Kristen Hlad	\$1,000
Rui Liu	\$1,000
James McGuire	\$1,000
Romina Mozaffarian	\$1,000
Gregory Schlaffer	\$1,000
Mitchell Thurston	\$1,000
Le Zhang	\$1,000

## **James A. Cummings**

Haim Benjamin	\$2,000
Matthew Estler	\$2,000
Conrado Rodrigues	\$2,000
Chris Zink	\$2,000

## **Daugherty Endowment**

Richard Fobair	\$1,000
Carlos Lorenzo	\$1,000

## **Fluor NAWIC**

Rachael McKercher	\$1,000
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## **Frank W. Reed Central Florida Builders' Exchange**

Reed – Foote Steel	
Alireza Daverizadeh	\$1,000
Hubbard Construction	
Michael Perdomo	\$1,000
R.C. Stevens Construction	
Timothy Sellars	\$1,000
Tri-City Electric	
Adam Milner	\$1,000
Jack Jennings & Son	
Eric Hamm	\$1,200
Walker & Company	
Michael Mealor	\$1,000

## **H.H. Block**

Andrew Green	\$1,000
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## **Jones Endowment**

Terry Clinefelter	\$1,500
Adam Picow	\$1,500

## **Matthew Remsen**

John Kauffman	\$1,000
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## **Paul and Laura Dickert**

Catherine Siemon	\$1,000
Robert Wells	\$1,000

## **Professor Anthony Section Memorial**

Seong Jin (Tommy) Kim	\$1,500
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## **Ronald V. Tadrowski**

Michael O'Neill	\$2,000
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## **The Clark Construction Group**

Drew Berman	\$1,500
Lacinda Cheney	\$1,500
Mathew Forenza	\$1,500
Chris Hostetler	\$1,500
Kristyna Lannon	\$1,500
Joshua Walker	\$1,500



# Building Information Modeling (BIM)

By Patrick Suermann

With Engineering News Record labeling 2008 as the so-called “Building Information Modeling (BIM) tipping point,” BCN alumni should be glad to know that the Rinker School has already been active in BIM for many years. Dr. Raymond Issa and his Ph.D. students have researched and published on BIM and its collaborative efforts. In May, the Rinker School helped put on the first BIM4-Builders Event at the Hilton UF Conference. Industry leading professionals convened to discuss best practices and lessons learned. In June, the Rinker School hosted the first of two extension program BIM classes held in 2008 where construction project managers and engineers came to Rinker Hall’s computer lab to learn first-hand how to author and manage BIM content in the Revit suite of products—Revit Architecture, Structure, and MEP. Dr. Svetlana Olbina, who taught part of the class, said that this was a great way to keep the industry abreast of the latest technical knowledge while opening our doors to industry and learning about what was going on in the field.

In the summer and fall of 2008, the Rinker School coordinated an initiative by the buildingSMART Alliance North American educational outreach team to develop a survey and create a database of all the schools in North America who were teaching, researching, or using BIM in their curriculum. More than 60 schools from most of the 50 states and even Australia and the island of Mauritius responded! Dr. Raymond Issa presented the results of the survey at the AEC-ST fall event in December in Washington, DC.

The students are the primary benefactor of all this BIM research. BIM is supplementing the accredited curriculum in estimating, HVAC, and drawings classes this semester. We never forget who we’re working for, and we want our graduates to be the most prepared candidates in today’s competitive construction market. BIM

training and knowledge helps our students continue our prestigious

reputation as not only the oldest, but one of the best Schools of Construction in the country.

Also of note, Air Force Major Patrick C. Suermann, P.E. expects to receive his doctoral degree in May of 2009. His dissertation titled, “Evaluating the Impact of BIM on Construction” sought to document qualitative and quantitative differences from pilot BIM projects in the Army Corps of Engineers. His benchmarking method used for statistical analysis is slated for inclusion in the next Army BIM road map and should be used as a tool to help the Army evaluate their \$24 billion of MILCON annually starting in Fiscal Year



Rinker Scholar, Ph.D. Candidate, Patrick Suermann stands outside Bird's Nest in October 2008 for the International Conference on Computing in Civil and Building Engineering (ICCCBE).

## 2008 CEMEX-USA Field Trip

By Dr. Robert Ries

More than 40 students participated in the 2008 CEMEX-USA field trip to the Miami area this past fall. The trip included a visit to a cement plant, an aggregate mining operation, and a construction site where concrete is an important construction material. This gives students a chance to see how concrete is made from raw materials and used in construction.

On November 12, 2008 a charter bus transported students and faculty to a hotel in the Miami area. Early the next morning the field trip began with the first stop at a CEMEX-USA cement plant, where plant managers discussed the details of cement manufacturing, including how clinker kilns work, the raw materials needed and their sources, and the operating procedures.

We then re-boarded the bus and drove to the FEC Quarry. The quarry mines raw materials and aggregate for concrete. FEC personnel gave a presentation on quarry operations while the group had their lunch. We then went for a tour of the quarry. One of the highlights was an opportunity to closely examine some of the heavy equipment used on the site. Our next stop was a construction site in downtown

Miami, where we took a tour of a hotel/condominium project. The tour was comprehensive and gave students an opportunity to discuss various types of concrete construction techniques with the construction managers. The trip was extremely educational, and students and faculty would like to thank everyone involved for making the opportunity possible.



More than 40 students participated in the 2008 CEMEX - USA field trip to Miami in the fall.

# Student Exchange Program

## From Gainesville to Hong Kong ...

By Jared Contat and Justin Gelynski

The exchange program to Hong Kong Polytechnic University has provided a truly unforgettable experience. Throughout our semester, the faculty and students of Poly U have been very welcoming and hospitable. From our very first day, local students excitedly waited for the end of class to introduce themselves and make us a part of their student community. We were integrated into local groups for course and lab work, invited to join local students for out-of-class study sessions before exams, and even played University sports for the Poly U team. Within the first few weeks, our classmates had even given us Chinese names according to our personalities. Our teachers were eager to help in any way possible and our classmates were as interested in learning about America as we were about Hong Kong. We felt proud to be able to share the American culture with both the local students as well as other exchange students from around the world. We honestly couldn't have asked for a more enjoyable and invaluable semester, and have made lifelong friends in the process.

Hong Kong itself is really an amazing place with countless new things to enjoy and learn from. Beyond the classroom, we feel very fortunate to have been able to take part in the local life and experience many new traditions, try many new types of food, and see many naturally beautiful places. The nightlife is an experience in it-

self and never really stops until the sun is out again. Living in Hong Kong was also a great opportunity for us to visit other Asian countries and further our cultural experience. We are looking forward to bringing the culture and experiences of Hong Kong back to The Gator Nation and are very grateful to UF for giving us this opportunity to be a part of this exchange, as well as to Poly U for welcoming us to their family. We strongly encourage other UF students to take the same adventure that we did to Hong Kong; it's been a journey we will never forget.



BCN students Jared Contat (left) and Justin Gelynski (right) stand next to lab instructor Joseph Lam (center) during their semester abroad in Hong Kong.

## From Hong Kong to Gainesville ...

Cheuk "Jack" Yin Wong, Chun "Ryan" Yu Lee, and Fan "Sophia" Zhang were the Rinker School of Building Construction's three exchange students from Hong Kong during the Fall 2008 semester. Jack, Ryan and Sofia sang the praises of Gainesville, the University of Florida, the Rinker School of Building and Construction, and Gator football. All three students said that they were "very thankful for the opportunity" to attend the University of Florida and were grateful for the warm welcome they received from the Rinker School students, staff and faculty.

Of his time in the United States, Ryan said:

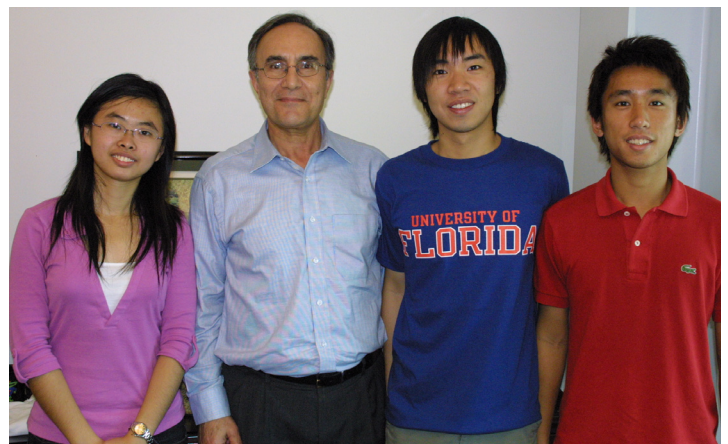
"I think this is a really good school and I had a lot of great experiences here. I really benefited from taking part in a construction program called Rebuild Gainesville, where I learned about buildings and gained real-life experience." Ryan said he made a lot of close friendships on campus and had an excellent time experiencing American culture, from movies to student gatherings to BCN classes. "Also the football games are really exciting, because you can see the passion of the people in The Gator Nation," said Ryan. The positive vibe he felt when surrounded by Gator fans was a wonderful feeling that will be hard to replicate, he said.

Meanwhile, Jack said:

"The University of Florida is a great place to study. In Hong Kong, people are always rushing around and seem to be too busy for anything. Here, you always see students studying on the grass or relaxing on one of the quads." Jack, who is a proud honorary Gator, also said he really enjoyed the weather in Florida, since Hong Kong is "much more humid."

And Sophia summed up her experiences with the following statement:

"I really enjoyed the environment and the weather in Gainesville. There's really a lot of vegetation and blue skies. In Hong Kong, there are a lot of tall buildings and too many people. UF, I think is an excellent university and offers a lot of courses and opportunities. Besides construction, I also took a course in photography. The professors here are very helpful. In the beginning I had some difficulty staying with the class, but professors were very patient; and also my classmates, they helped me a lot. I think this is really a good academic environment to pursue a master's degree. I really enjoyed it here."



Fan "Sophia" Zhang (from left), Dr. Abdol Chini, Cheuk "Jack" Yin Wong, and Chun "Ryan" Yu Lee stand together in December before the trio headed back to Hong Kong.



# Student Competition Teams

## Construction Management Team

The University of Florida Construction Management Team did it again! On October 22nd-24th the Rinker School of Building Construction, Construction Management team won the 2008 ASC-AGC Region II Student Competition in Jacksonville, FL. Members of the team included Kevin Chupp as Project Manager, Lindsey Ore as Company President, Scott Nelson as Superintendant, Sean Snowden as Director for Pre-Construction, Adam Milner as Quality Control, Carlos Lorenzo as Environmental, Health, and Safety Director, and Marisa McGough and Alyce Anderson shadowed the team. Professor Michael Cook attended as the Team Faculty Advisor and Coach. The team was sponsored by Balfour Beatty Construction. Balfour Beatty contributed financially, and also sent a group of industry professionals to coach the team before leaving for the competition.

The teams received the construction documents for the Florida Hospital Bed Tower addition in Orlando, FL on Thursday morning and had 12 hours to put together an estimate, project management plan, schedule, and safety plan. Team presentations took place Friday morning with an awards ceremony that night. This year the competition also included a debriefing where the judges gave each team a brief critique on their presentations and work during the competition. The Rinker Construction Management team was the only team to estimate the actual bid price of the project within 1%. The University of Florida took home first place, ahead of Clemson and

Auburn, and will attend the National Competition in San Diego in March. The team was incredibly excited by the victory, including returning team member Carlos Lorenzo who said, "It was a great victory that we could only have achieved as a team and we are proud to bring success to The Gator Nation."



BCN students Adam Milner (from top left), Sean Snowden, Carlos Lorenzo, Team Faculty Advisor and Coach Mike Cook, Lindsey Ore, Scott Nelson, Kevin Chupp, Alyce Anderson (bottom left) and Marisa McGough (bottom right.)

## Heavy Civil Team

The Heavy/Civil competition team finished second in the Southeast Regional ASC/AGC Student Team Competition, edged out by Virginia Tech by 0.15 point on a scale of 100. The Competing Schools besides UF and Virginia Tech were Clemson, Auburn, NC A&T, Southern Polytechnical Institute, Georgia Southern, Western Carolina, and UNC-Charlotte.

The team was sponsored by Nelson Construction Company and was aided by several contractors who spent time with the team helping them prepare for the competition, including Jeff Nelson and the competition sponsor, Kiewit Construction. Team members, all Rinker students, included Allen Smith (Captain), Ryan Dehahn, Eric Kleinzweig, Andrew Green, Russell Dingman, and Sina Bazargan Lari. The team was coached by Dr. Edward Minchin.



Front: Dr. Edward Minchin (from left), Ryan Dehahn, Sina Bazargan-Lari, Andrew Green. Back: Eric Kleinzweig (from left), Allen Smith, Russel Dingman.

# Student Club Activities

## National Association of Women in Construction

The National Association of Women in Construction, UF Chapter participated in many fun events during the Fall 2008 semester. Each semester, NAWIC takes a professional trip to tour various construction projects. This semester, NAWIC went to Orlando and toured three of Disney's current hospitality projects, the Treehouse Villas, the Contemporary Bay Lake Tower, and the Animal Kingdom Lodge. The ladies of NAWIC put on a fundraiser breakfast at Applebee's on October 4th to raise money for club activities. NAWIC partnered with ABC and hosted the South Carolina game tailgate at Rinker Hall on November 15th. They also helped organize and fund the BCN college council social at Eight Seconds on December 4th.



Dana Shaut, Vice President, (from left) Allison Stanley, Treasurer, Kelly McLaughlin, Secretary, Rachael McKercher, President, Courtney Zurich, Professional Trip Chair.

## National Association of Home Builders

The Fall 2008 semester was a very exciting one for the National Association of Home Builders. NAHB kept very busy with events, meetings, speakers, and socials. The club started strong with its first meeting of the semester in September with a great turn out for our guest speakers, two UF construction management graduates, Jennifer Grinnan and Adam Bolton from Robinshore Homes.

NAHB teamed up with AGC for the second meeting of the semester. Members enjoyed a very interactive meeting with a representative from Kiewit Southern Co. Ms. Christine Beaudoin prepared members for the upcoming career fair with advice on interviewing and resume



From left to right is Dr. Robert Stroh, Cassidy Resnick (President), Angela Campbell (Vice President), Jody Crabtree (Treasurer), and Devon Toohey (Secretary).

tips. NAHB had their final meeting in November with John Sofarelli from J. Raymond Construction. Mr. Sofarelli gave students insight into the job market and some very good suggestions for how to get a job in this market or explore other options.

On October 16, 2008, NAHB volunteered to help staff the Builders Association of North Central Florida's Horseshoe Tournament. NAHB has been a huge support for the Rinker School of Construction Home Building Team. Volunteers helped by serving food, setting up, and directing cars. NAHB also held a bowling social in September at Alley Katz, and all NAHB members were encouraged to come out for the BCN Toys for Tots event at 8 Seconds.

## Sigma Lambda Chi

Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX) is conducting an ongoing service project at CARD, the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities ([www.card.ufl.edu](http://www.card.ufl.edu)), which serves local children and adults of all levels of intellectual functioning who have autism.

SLX members dedicated time and effort this November to renovating and repairing CARD's office space in Gainesville by installing cabinets, moving furniture, assembling new furniture that SLX purchased, and painting walls, among other services.

Scott Nelson, the UF BCN SLX Chapter President, organized a BBQ fundraiser before the LSU game on October 11, 2008, to raise money for supplies, furniture and art for the center.



## Faculty & Staff News

### New Additions

Florida native **Daphne Choice** has recently joined the BCN staff as the new senior secretary, a demanding position that includes manning the front desk at 304 Rinker Hall; handling office supply purchasing; and organizing staff and student events, such as welcome receptions and graduation dinners.



"It just keeps you busy," she said of her new role at Rinker. "I'm definitely the type of person that just doesn't like to sit around, so this position is perfect." Daphne left her job as a mail clerk at Gainesville Regional Utilities to become a member of the BCN team in August. "I really enjoy the close relationships everyone has and everyone is really enjoy-

able to work with," said Daphne, who added that she "loves coming to work every day."

Daphne, who was born and raised in Perry, FL, lives in Gainesville with her 10-year-old son Chris.

### Return from Sabbatical

This past fall semester, **Dr. Jimmie Hinze** was on sabbatical leave. He spent most of the semester as a visiting faculty member in the Construction Science Department at Texas A&M



University. He helped teach a graduate-level course on construction safety and he also collaborated on research and publications.

Dr. Hinze concluded his sabbatical leave with a brief visit to the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, where he collaborated on research. During the semester, he also worked as a co-author on a textbook on managing the scope of work of subcontractors. The book is expected to be released later in 2009. He returned completely refreshed to the University of Florida campus where he has resumed his usual responsibilities in the Rinker School.

### 'Extra Mile' Award



BCN Office Manager **Patty Barritt** was selected to receive a 2008-09 Division Three Superior Accomplishment Award, an achievement that recognizes efforts that "go the extra mile and beyond normal assigned duties." Ms. Barritt received a check in the amount of \$200, a certificate, and a coffee mug as tokens of appreciation. All winners in the Division Three categories move forward to be considered for the university-wide awards.



# Faculty News

**Dr. Edward Minchin** has been awarded a research contract by the Construction Industry Institute to research the impact of counterfeiting on the construction industry. The contract, worth \$223,000, includes BCN visiting faculty member Dr. Russell Walters as Co-Principal Investigator. The project, titled "Product Integrity Concerns in Low-Cost Sourcing Countries," runs through December, 2010, and has a research team that includes investigators from five nations.



In June, Dr. Minchin made a presentation titled "Activities of ASCE Committee on Construction Quality Management and Inspection," to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Construction Leadership Forum in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Minchin also presented a paper based on his recent research at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Association of Preservation Technology in Montreal, Quebec, on October 15, 2008. The paper was entitled "Active Interrogation Techniques for Non-Destructive Investigation of Historic Structures." Finally, Dr. Minchin had two papers published in top journals this fall. One entitled "Computer Applications in Intelligent Compaction" was published in the ASCE Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering; and another, titled "A Highway Construction Quality Index for Florida," was published in the Transportation Research Record, the Journal of the U.S. Transportation Research Board.



**Dr. Charles Kibert** received a grant from the National Science Foundation of \$297,000 to develop a novel ethical framework for sustainability that will be designed to be delivered to graduate students and technical professionals via conventionally delivered classes, distance learning, and professional development courses.

Dr. Kibert organized a multidisciplinary team from the Political Science, Religion, and Forestry Departments to carry out the objectives of this two-year research program.

Dr. Kibert completed the second edition of "Sustainable Construction: Green Building Design and Construction," published by John Wiley & Sons. The book has evolved into one of the most successful publications from John Wiley, having sold over 12,000 copies. The third edition of this book is planned for 2010 publication. Dr. Kibert was one of the keynote speakers for an international conference, "Operations Research 2008" held in Augsburg, Germany in September 2008. The title of his presentation was "Applying Operations Research Methods to Resolve Complex Sustainable Construction Problems" which addressed how sophisticated mathematical and optimization tools could be applied to determine the least cost approach to resolving many of the complex sustainability problems facing the construction industry.

**Dr. Esther Obonyo** received an NSF-ASEE travel fellowship to present at a Globalization of Engineering Workshop held at the Pre-

toria Hotel Sea Point in Cape Town South Africa on the 17th and 18th of October. This workshop focused on lessons learned from



USA-Africa Partnerships. She was also invited to participate in the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies' (IFEES) annual Global Engineering Education Summit immediately following the NSF-ASEE workshop, on October 19 and 20 at the University of Cape Town. Dr. Obonyo also presented a paper (co-authored with Dr. Alfred Omenya and Dr. Robert Ries) at the ASEE's Seventh ASEE Global Colloquium, which was organized

in partnership with the African Engineering Education Association and the University of Cape Town from the 21st to the 23rd of October. The paper focused on the NSF award for creating international research experiences for students.

During the three years that Dr. Obonyo has been at the Rinker School, she has had major accomplishments as an "international educator." Dr. Obonyo's research interests range across construction informatics (intelligent information and knowledge-based systems for construction), sustainable building technologies and more recently the globalization of construction engineering education.

In all these areas, she has collaborated with leading professionals in the built environment to further scientific advances. Her recent international research activities in the area of sustainable building technologies have been focusing on the use of eco-materials.



**Dr. Jim Sullivan** and Ph.D. Candidate Mark Russell studied together and passed the State of Florida Certified General Contractors exam this past summer and Dr. Sullivan received his license this fall. Dr. Sullivan will be incorporating portions of the exam study material and text in his BCN 3224 Construction Techniques class. The current Florida Building Code is already included throughout the course and elements of the Safety and Estimating preparations will be added.



**Dr. Kevin Grosskopf** received funding from the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) for the development of post-disaster training materials for electrical workers. This project will train electrical contractors and their employees to identify, avoid and mitigate electrical safety hazards during post-disaster reconstruction efforts. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of OSHA compliant low-literacy and non-English training materials.

A secondary focus will be devoted to non-electrical clean-up workers likely to be exposed to downed power lines, damaged electrical systems and equipment.



# The Charles R. Perry Construction Yard - Craft Awareness

Dr. Jim Sullivan, Leon “Doc” Wetherington, and BCN staff member Donald Alex took advantage of the Perry Yard facility to promote craft awareness this semester. Labs were held with regard to structural steel, carpentry, masonry (brick and block), concrete placement, pre-cast, and residential framing. Students performed well with regard to all projects and the opportunity to work directly with materials and industry representatives was appreciated. Whiteley Steel, along with support from Dr. Ajay Shanker, produced the design and donated the steel erection set. Division Five steel erectors donated a crew for the initial erection and set-up.

the importance of craft training throughout the state. According to Employ Florida Banner Center for Construction, the construction industry faces the following three significant challenges: the recruitment of both entry level and skilled workers; the assessment of new and incumbent workers; and the delivery of cost effective, certified craft training. The Mobile Training Center was created as a “demonstration product designed to show any construction partner an innovative methodology for delivering all, or any combination of the above.” The students had the opportunity to try their skills at the heavy equipment simulator, which they found to be quite challenging.

Mr. Kurt Morauer from Santa Fe Community College brought the Banner Mobile Training Center to the Rinker School to emphasize



BCN students place a concrete footer during a class in the Perry Yard.



BCN Junior Ryan Gleason (left) reviews project outlines with BCN Junior Peter Vastyan in the Perry Yard.



BCN senior Lindsey Ore helps build concrete formwork in the Perry Yard.



Dr. Jim Sullivan (right) and grad student Terry Clinefelter (left) take a break after tearing down a steel erection set in the Perry Yard.



Kurt Morauer (center) from Santa Fe Community College speaks to students about the Banner Mobile Training Center.



BCN Junior Brian Morgan pours Quikrete into a mixer in the Perry Yard.



BCN junior Rachael McKercher takes part in the brick lab in the Perry Yard.



# Advisory Council

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

## HERE IS MY GIFT FOR THE M.E. RINKER, SR. SCHOOL OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

My gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is made to the University of Florida Foundation  
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## Help Build the Future with the BCN Brick Paver Campaign!

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

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