**Alumni Spotlight:**

Kirk Morrow, P.E., Ph.D. 1998

Kirk Morrow has a distinguished career both as a researcher and a professional. In 1989 he completed his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. He went on to complete a Master's degree in Civil Engineering/Construction Engineering and Project Management from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. In 1995, he came to the University of Texas at Austin to pursue his PhD in the CEPM program. Kirk's Doctoral dissertation was on "The Effects of Selected Practices on Project Cost Performance" and was funded by the Construction Industry Institute (CII) under the supervision of Dr. Richard L. Tucker.

Thereafter, he joined Phillips Petroleum as a Construction Industry Institute Specialist where he trained capital project team members in the use of Construction Industry Institute recommended practices/tools and to assist in their implementation. In 1999, he joined BE&K Construction Company as a Project Engineer/Site Construction Manager where he was involved in various projects including a $125 million International Paper Company E1 Paper Machine Rebuild in Eastover, SC. In 2005, he returned to the University of Texas and CII as a Research Engineer and Lecturer where he facilitated a team of industry professionals as part of a CII initiative for the development of a benchmarking and metrics program for the oil & gas industry.

In 2007 he joined S&B Engineers and Constructors, Ltd. where he currently is the Vice-President of Construction Services. He is responsible for the leadership of estimating, procurement, subcontracts, materials management, craft human resources, and the construction technical services functions. Dr. Morrow returns to the CEPM program every Fall as a guest lecturer for the CII Best Practices Course.

Dr. Morrow met his wife Jennifer in Bartlesville Oklahoma while he was working for Phillips Petroleum. They have been married for 10 years and have a 2 year old daughter, Emma. They all currently reside in the Clear Lake area Southeast of Houston where Jennifer is the principal of Clear Horizons High School in the Clear Creek ISD.

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**Graduate Student Organization**

During the Spring 2009 semester, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at CEPM continued to organize social and academic events to support student interaction with faculty and construction industry members.

The GSO was proud to host Sean Pellegrino from Chevron and Jim Rammell from Mustang as guest speakers. A single Q&A session was held with them, in which they talked about their career paths as well as their current work as part of CII’s Research Team 272. In addition, Steve Goodman from J. Ray McDermott joined CEPM students for lunch and provided valuable advice for those who seek jobs in project controls and risk management.

To close the 2009-10 lecture series, Rear Admiral David J. Nash presented a lecture, entitled "The Rebuilding of Iraq". This lecture covered his experience serving, first, as Director of the Iraq Program Management Office, and later as Director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office under the U.S. Department of State.

The 2010 CEPM Annual Golf Tournament took place at the Riverside Golf Club, and involved CEPM students, faculty, alumni, and CII Staff members. The winning team was led by Wayne Crew, closely followed by Dr. O'Connor's team. Everyone got to have fun hanging out in a more relaxed setting.

Finally, a Farewell BBQ with students and faculty was organized to celebrate the 3 Ph.D. and 3 M.S. graduating CEPM students. Upcoming events include more guest speakers, short trips in Central Texas and the traditional Welcome BBQ for the 23 CEPM incoming students.
Accomplishments:

CII has selected **Dr. Carlos Caldas** as the co-recipient of this year’s **Outstanding CII Instructor Award**. In his work as an Associate Professor of engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Caldas has used CII principles, tools, and educational materials to teach Managing the Small Project, Materials Management, Pre-Project Planning and Project Definition Rating Index (PDRI), Project Delivery and Contract Strategies, Scope Control and Change Management.

In each of these classes he received exceptional evaluations from students on such bases as organization, clear communication, accessibility, and interesting presentation.

**Dr. Fernanda Leite** was selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) as **2010 Excellence in Civil Engineering Education (ExCEEEd) Teaching Fellow**. Dr. Leite was selected by ASCE’s Committee on Faculty Development due to her commitment to excellence in education and a willingness to serve as a future role model for effective teaching at the University of Texas at Austin. As part of her duties, Dr. Leite attended the ExCEEEd teaching workshop at the United States Military Academy, in West Point, NY, from July 28 - August 2, 2010.

**James O’Connor**, C.T. Wells Professor in Project Management, and Janet Ellzey, Vice-Provost and Professor of Mechanical Engineering have been awarded the **2010 International Award for Innovative Practices in Higher Education** from The American Council on Education and The University Design Consortium at Arizona State University. In recognition of institutional collaboration in promoting international awareness in the classroom.

Class of 2009 Updates

**Chanmeka Arpamart (Ph.D.)** is the Assistant Vice President and Senior IT Services Sourcing Performance Management Specialist at Kasikornbank in Thailand. **Seokho Chi (Ph.D.)** is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Center for Transportation Research at UT. **Daren Goldin (M.S.)** is working as a superintendent for Turner Construction Co. in school renovation projects. **Youngcheol Kang (Ph.D.)** is working as a postdoctoral research fellow at UT. **TienDung Le (Ph.D.)** Tiendung is a senior executive in a realignment company in Hanoi which develops building projects and industrial parks. **Prakash Singh (M.S.)** is working in a non-profit organization called BigAustin. **Ting-Kwei Wang (Ph.D.)** is an Associate Professor in Chong Qing University in Chinam in the Construction Management area. **Yoav Wolfson (M.S.)** is working as a project manager for a Project Management firm in Tel Aviv. His work centers on residential and infrastructure projects.

Support CEPM

Support the CEPM program by donating to the **Richard & Shirley Tucker Endowed Excellence Fund** in Construction Engineering and Project Management. Learn how to donate by contacting Kelsey Evans at (512) 471-6151 or emailing her at: kelsey.evans@mail.utexas.edu.

“Tucker Excellence Funds have allowed us to recruit some of the best graduate students through supplemental support awards”

-Jim O’Connor, Ph.D.

CEPM Faculty:

John D. Borchering, Ph.D.  
Carlos H. Caldas, Ph.D.  
Brian K. Carroll, J.D.  
Kirby Kuntz, Ph.D., LEED(r) AP  
Fernanda L. Leite, Ph.D  
John McLeod, PhD  
Stephen P. Mulva, Ph.D.

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