Alumni Spotlight:
Jim Broaddus, P.E., Ph.D. 1991

With three degrees in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Broaddus has had distinguished careers as a military officer, public servant and owner of a firm providing facilities planning, project management and construction. During his 20-year career in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees, he built facilities for the Navy throughout the world. He also had a unique assignment as Commanding Officer of the Presidential Retreat at Camp David, Maryland, for President Ronald Reagan. While finishing his Ph.D., he was Associate Director of The University of Texas Construction Industry Institute, where he focused on implementing research to improve the project management of capital projects.

In 1994, he became the senior University of Texas System official responsible for the statewide capital construction program of the 15 U.T. institutions. During his tenure there, he aggressively championed changes to Texas statutes that expand the menu of project delivery procurement options to public owners. Over the last decade, the use of Design-Build, Construction Management-at-Risk, and Competitive Sealed Proposals have virtually eliminated low-bidding for the billions in construction contract value awarded each year in Texas. In 1998 he became the first full-time CEO of the Design-Build Institute of America in Washington, doubling membership and expanding Design-Build rapidly nationwide as a construction contracting alternative.

In 2000, Dr. Broaddus founded Broaddus & Associates, an owner-oriented planning and program management firm based in Austin employing 120 people with offices and projects throughout Texas, Mississippi and Washington, D.C. The Broaddus family of companies includes two construction firms, PM2i and FJW Construction. Now ranked as the 32nd largest Program Management firm in the U.S., Broaddus & Associates has in progress or completed $5 Billion in projects, primarily institutional, healthcare, research and higher education. In 2003, Dr. Broaddus was appointed by President Bush to the National Institute of Building Sciences, where he served as Chairman from 2007-2008. Under his leadership, the buildingSMART Alliance was founded to promote the rapid expansion and interoperability of Building Information Modeling (BIM).

In 1970, Jim married Kay Holmes (Southwestern University '70) while a senior Engineering student at U.T. They reside in Austin where Kay is an Owner and Director in Broaddus & Associates, as well as a volunteer and supporter for children and the arts. Their two sons and daughters-in-law, along with five grandchildren, live in Austin and Los Angeles.

Graduate Student Organization Update

CEPM’s Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is proud to have organized events for incoming and graduating students all throughout 2009. Throughout the year, 4 Ph.D. and 10 M.S. students graduated from our program, and Farewell events were organized at the end of both the Spring and Fall semesters. Likewise, 20 new students were admitted to CEPM and a Welcome BBQ was organized, as well as subsequent get-togethers and sports activities.

On this regard, the main social event of the year, the 2009 CEPM Annual Golf Tournament, took place last April. Dr. O’Connor led the winning team with a final score of +1, closely followed by Dr. Tucker’s team with a final score of +2. The rest of the teams had a lot of fun, and hit the ball many more times.

GSO was also proud to host Mr. Thomas Kornegay, who agreed to join us for a Q&A session right before he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni by the School of Engineering. Mr. Kornegay shared his knowledge and experience in construction projects management with the Port of Houston Authority.

Upcoming events include the Annual Golf Tournament, more guest speakers, and the traditional Farewell event for graduating students.
New Faculty Member

The CPEM Program at the University of Texas at Austin is pleased to welcome one new faculty member:

Dr. Fernanda L. Leite, a native of Brazil, joins the faculty from Carnegie Mellon University, where she completed her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering. For her Ph.D. research, she supported first responders in building emergencies caused by failures in building systems. Her work is one of the first attempts in formalizing vulnerability assessment in building emergencies, supported by building information models (BIM) and a formalized vulnerability representation. She also has research experience in requirements management and streamlining the process of mechanical, electrical and plumbing design coordination through the use of BIM. Leite is interested in expanding upon her work of identifying vulnerabilities related to failures in building systems by using sensors to provide input for various algorithms. At Carnegie Mellon, she worked closely with students as a teaching assistant for an advanced undergraduate and graduate level course in which they learned construction management concepts and tools such as estimating, scheduling, and 4D CAD. She would like to provide our students with hands-on experience in BIM applications, so that they can see how such technologies support the decision-making process of architects, engineers, construction managers and project owners.

Accomplishments

Drs. Caldas and O’Brien honored with 2009 CII Distinguished Professor Award

His 15 years of construction management experience have made Dr. Carlos H. Caldas an important addition to the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. His research interests are in the areas of information technologies, knowledge management, process improvement, and sensors for construction engineering and project management. In addition to introducing CII research topics to undergraduates, Dr. Caldas has conducted several research studies for CII and has taught various CII education modules through UT’s Center for Lifelong Engineering Education (CLEE). Congratulations to Dr. Carlos Caldas for being named 2009 Distinguished Professor.

As an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. William J. O’Brien teaches courses on project management and administration and engineering economy. He is an expert on construction supply chain management and electronic collaboration, and is especially interested in the use of information technologies. Dr. O’Brien has been active with CII since 2004. He has served on three research teams and currently serves as the academic administrator for the newly-formed Information Management Community of Practice. He has taught for the CII Continuing Education program, the Executive Leadership program, and he has participated in CII Performance Improvement Workshops and BOA programs. Congratulations to Dr. Bill O’Brien for being named 2009 Distinguished Professor.

Tucker’s Troops

Chanmeka Arpamart (Ph.D.) | Marcelo Azambuja (Ph.D.) – Marcelo is now an Assistant Professor at the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in the Department of Construction | Swapneel Bedagkar (M.S.) | Pierre Gau (M.S.) – Pierre is working in Paris, France at Sofregaz, a subsidiary of the Maire Tecnimont group. He works as a civil engineer on gas projects and he’s about to go to India for 6 months to work on a big gas project. | Daren Goldin (M.S.) | Jie Gong (Ph.D.) – Jie is also an Assistant Professor at the Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in the Department of Construction | Tiendung Le (Ph.D.) | Chris Majors (M.S.) – He recently started working for Anderson Group Construction Management performing Construction Management services for the Federal Government | Ziad Nassr (M.S.) | Laure Navarro – works in Paris, France at AREVA, in the Nuclear Plants Building Division. She is in charge of gathering and analyzing the Lessons Learned from previous and ongoing projects in order to optimize the construction methods so as to reduce the cost and/or shorten the construction schedule of future projects. | Tomas Rodriguez (M.S.) | Srivarat Thanyalakpark (M.S.) | Prakash Singh (M.S.) | Yoav Wolfson (M.S.)

Please send alumni updates to cepm@engr.utexas.edu

John D. Borcherding, Ph.D. 
Carlos H. Caldas, Ph.D. 
Fernanda L. Leite, Ph.D 
Stephen P. Mulva, Ph.D. 
William J. O’Brien, Ph.D. 
James T. O’Connor, Ph.D. 
Stephen R. Thomas, Ph.D. 

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