Luis Rangel is a civil engineer with over twelve years of experience in multiple fields of civil engineering and management. He obtained his bachelor and graduate degrees in civil/structural engineering from the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1998 and 2000, respectively. He completed his Master’s Degree in Construction Engineering and Project Management at the University of Texas at Austin in December 2002 under the supervision of Dr. Richard L. Tucker. Luis was a recipient of the “Richard and Shirley Tucker Scholarship in Construction Engineering and Project Management.”

After graduating from UT, he worked as a Project Engineer and Construction Manager in Pasadena, California. In 2004 he joined a consulting engineering firm in Austin, Texas where he was involved in agricultural and water resources engineering systems. In 2007 he joined the Onshore Downstream Civil/Structural department at Mustang Engineering in Houston, Texas, a consulting engineering firm in the fields of petrochemical, oil and gas.

In 2010, he joined the Pipeline Engineering department at Mustang Engineering where he was initially responsible, as a project engineer, for leading and coordinating project activities throughout various engineering disciplines: instrumentation, civil/structural, mechanical, electrical, pipeline construction, hydraulics and automation, with strong focus on technical considerations. He has been involved with a similar multi-project program with Shell as a civil/pipeline lead engineer.

Luis has accepted a position to be the lead pipeline engineer for a project located in West Africa with Chevron Corporation. He will be supervising the design phase for two subsea pipelines (gas and oil) that interconnects several platforms. He is planning to start with these duties by the end of spring 2012.

Last year, Luis was accepted in the Executive MBA program at Rice University in Houston. He plans to start that program in the summer of 2012 and focus his studies on Leadership and Management. Luis and his wife Virginia have been married for 5 years and have a 7-month old baby boy, Francis. Virginia is finishing her doctoral dissertation from the University of Texas at Austin in Educational Policy from the Educational Administration Department. Luis’s oldest son, Luis Francisco, is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin in the Music department, where is pursuing a music performance major in Classical Guitar. Outside of work, Luis enjoys running, cycling, and playing classical guitar.
“What starts here changes the world.”

That slogan is important to The University of Texas and reflects our core values and ambition. It is my pleasure to let you know some of the wonderful things going on in the CEPM program. First and foremost, our students continue to amaze in the classroom. Students come from around the world and recent graduates have taken employment in leading companies in Texas, the nation, and abroad. In recent years we’ve continued to innovate in our teaching despite the economic downturn. CEPM is fortunate to have hired Drs. Fernanda Leite and Mike Blackhurst who bring capabilities in BIM and sustainability to our program. Fernanda’s BIM classes are very popular with the students and have helped us forge closer ties with local companies who provide examples and guest lectures. Mike is teaching life cycle assessment this spring and will offer a class on sustainable construction practices next fall. The Construction Industry Institute (CII) has for the past few years taught a seminar course that brings in industry leaders to lecture on “best practices” topics such as Front End Planning and Safety. This course is hosted at UT and last fall was broadcast to nine other universities with 164 total students.

Research is an integral part of the graduate student experience. Students in recent years have been involved in projects on productivity, modularization, work packaging, and safety, among others. We’ve been advancing the state of the art in autonomous safety monitoring with sensors on the job site while supporting transportation projects with 3D/4D analysis for better communication to the public. Dr. Carlos Caldas is working on a multi-year productivity analysis project with colleagues at two other universities – this work was featured in an Engineering News Record cover story (Rethinking Wrench Time, June 6, 2011). We are fortunate to have CII as a research partner and are working on new collaborations with the FiATECH consortium.

Looking forward, the future is bright for CEPM. We are proud of our students and alumni and hope you enjoy keeping up with the program. We want to hear from our friends and family – please drop us a note!

Dr. Bill O’Brien
Area Coordinator, CEPM

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Update

This semester, the Graduate Student organization (GSO) was proud to welcome 12 new Masters students, as well as 3 new PhD students. In August, the GSO hosted a welcome BBQ for old and new students to get acquainted with each other and the CEPM faculty. Additionally, the GSO hosted several guest speakers, including Jason Choisy and Christian Dowell (DPR Construction) and Dennis Lerdahl (Get the Point, Inc). Many GSO officers also lent a hand to the creation of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) chapter here at The University of Texas at Austin, a chapter spearheaded by Chris Bilich with HNTB. The GSO looks forward to hosting its Annual Golf Tournament this spring, as well as participating in several UT community outreach events, such as Explore UT.

Class of 2011 Updates

Ankit Bhatia (M.S.) is working for Worley Parsons in Houston. Dogan Eralp (M.S.) graduated this past December. Luis Gotelli (M.S.) moved back to Lima and is working with Cosapi S. A. Felipe Guerra (M.S.) graduated this past December. Dae Young Kim (PhD) stayed in Austin and is working as a Research Fellow for the Center for Transportation Research. Elizabeth Kincaid (M.S.) is working in Washington D.C. with Hensel Phelps. Karl Kluever (M.S.) is now working for Bechtel in Houston. Rachael Love (M.S.) is working for the Coast Guard as a Civil Engineering Program Manager in Washington D.C. Sarah Meeks (M.S.) is now working for ExxonMobil in Houston. Konstantinos Mouratidis (M.S.) graduated in December.

GSO Officers

President - Adrienne Goetz
Treasurer - Vijaya Shah
Director of Communications - Anup Sasturkar
Director of Social Events - Chris Kekicheff

Please send alumni updates to:
fernanda.leite@austin.utexas.edu

Spring 2012

The University of Texas at Austin