Alumni Spotlight:

Egidio Torre Cantu was sworn in as Governor of Tamaulipas, Mexico in January 2011 for a single six-year term. A life-long Tamaulipero, Governor Torre built and grew a successful engineering and construction business before entering politics. His academic background laid the foundation for a successful professional career. After earning a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey and a master’s in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin (MS CEPM 1981, advised by Dr. Calin Popescu), he managed the construction of government buildings, large hydraulic projects, tourism infrastructure, and urban and industrial development projects. He also taught architecture courses at Universidad La Salle, in Ciudad Victoria. He entered public service in 1982 and was also active in state and local politics, serving as advisor to several electoral campaigns for his political party, the PRI. He is deeply committed to transforming Tamaulipas and raising the standard of living for its citizens. Upon taking office, Governor Torre instituted a State Development Plan based on four pillars: public safety, economic competitiveness, social development and environmental sustainability. Governor Torre was recently elected to the CAEE department’s Academy of Distinguished Alumni. The Academy was established to recognize the professional achievements and contributions of our graduates. The members of the academy also serve as leaders and role models among alumni and students. Each active member holds a B.S., M.S., or Ph.D. from the department and is outstanding in his or her field, a leader of community affairs and worthy of emulation.

Previously Featured Alumni in CEPM Newsletter


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Support the CEPM program by donating to:

a) the Richard & Shirley Tucker Endowed Excellence Fund,
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**UT CEPM and the National Academy of Construction**

The National Academy of Construction was established in 1999 and is headquartered at the University of Texas at Austin. It is the most exclusive organization in the construction industry. Membership is by invitation only and each new class results from a year-long process involving a high level of effort by its Membership Committee and extensive participation from the entire membership. Typically, only about 10 percent of the prospects are elected to membership. The basic criteria for election is a lifetime of industry contributions and likelihood of continual contributions, to the industry rather than only a member’s organization. Election to the NAC will likely be the highest career honor for most members, and not their first national honors.

The NAC is headquartered at UT Austin, and is affiliated with the CAEE Department. Dr. Richard Tucker is its General Secretary, Sandra Pittman is the Program Coordinator and Pamela Torres is the Student Senior Associate. It has a high level of volunteer member involvement with its officers and committee chairs from industry. Richard Tucker will retire in October 2015; a search committee is expected to select his replacement within the next few months, but the headquarters will likely remain in Austin.

One of the unique aspects of The NAC is its broad membership representation. There are five categories of members, reflective of the eclectic nature of the industry: (1) Owners/User of Facilities, (2) Project Managers/Designers, (3) Construction Managers/Constructors, (4) Suppliers/Consultants, and (5) Academia/Research.

The CEPM Program at UT Austin is well represented in the Academy.

**Of the 29 members in the Academia/Research category, 15 have had affiliations with the UT CEPM program.** Several others have had CII affiliations and other UT connections. Several have given lectures to CEPM classes. A listing of those with the closest CEPM affiliations is given below.

- Stuart Anderson, Phd, CEPM
- David Ashley, former CEPM Faculty
- John Borcherding, CEPM Faculty
- Wayne Crew, CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- Ken Eickmann, former CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- Edd Gibson, former CEPM Faculty
- Carl Haas, former CEPM Faculty
- Ed Jaselskis, PhD, CEPM
- Bob Jortberg, former CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- Chuck McGinnis, former CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- Jim O’Connor, CEPM Professor
- Steve Thomas, CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- Richard Tucker, CEPM Professor Emeritus
- Han Van Winkle, former CEPM Adjunct Faculty
- John Van den Bosch, Former CEPM Adjunct Faculty

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**Dr. Richard Tucker receives ECC Achievement Award**

Professor Emeritus Richard Tucker received the Engineering & Construction Contracting Association (ECC) Achievement Award, the group’s highest honor. The award was presented to Richard on September 4 during the ECC 46th Annual Conference.

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**Dr. Jim O’Connor elected to the NAC**

Professor Jim O’Connor has been elected into the National Academy of Construction (NAC). His election was founded on Dr. O’Connor’s widely-used contributions to the establishment and implementation of best practices in the construction industry.

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**PhD Student Li Wang receives Fiatech CETI Award**

CEPM recent PhD graduate Li Wang was selected to receive the Fiatech CETI Award for Outstanding Student Research Project. The award was presented at the Celebration of Engineering and Technology Innovation (CETI) Gala on April 1, 2014. Li, who was advised by Dr. Fernanda Leite, graduated in August 2014. She joined Austin Commercial as a Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) Coordinator this fall.

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**Drs. Wang and Leite at the 2014 Cockrell School Commencement**
Drs. Caldas and Leite reunite with CEPM alumni around the world

Dr. Carlos Caldas visited South Korea on August 2014 to attend research meetings with CEPM alumni Professor Changwan Kim and his team at the Advanced Construction Technology Laboratory, Department of Architectural Engineering Chung-Ang University. He has been collaborating with Dr. Kim and his student Ms. Hyojoon Son on the project “Automated As-Built Plant Information Modeling for Plant Construction, Operation, and Maintenance”. During his visit, Dr. Caldas also had the opportunity to meet with other CEPM alumni, including Dr. Hyoungkwan Kim (Professor, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Yonsei University), Dr. Soonwook Kwon (Professor, School of Civil and Architectural Engineering, Sungkyunkwan University), Dr. Seokho Chi (Assistant Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Seoul National University), and Dr. Youngcheol Kang (Assistant Professor, Department of Global Construction Management, University of Seoul).

Dr. Fernanda Leite attended the NSF-sponsored North America-East Asia Workshop on Big Data Analytics for Infrastructure and Building Sustainability and Resilience Research, in Beijing, China, along with several CEPM alumni, including Drs. Yong Cho (PhD 2000, now at Georgia Tech), Jie Gong (PhD 2009, now at Rutgers), and the workshop co-chairs Oswald Chong (PhD 2005, now at Arizona State) and Pin-Chao Liao (PhD 2008, now at Tsinghua).

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Update

For the Fall 2014 semester, the GSO organized and will continue to organize academic and social events for students to interact with members from the construction industry and academia. The GSO will have the honor to host guest lectures from industry, including Nathan Wood from DPR Construction, Thomas Hook from Linbeck Construction, and Patrick Glasgow from Turner Construction to discuss company-wide BIM implementation. In addition, the GSO invited CEPM students to attend meeting organized by AACE International (Texas Chapter), discussing multiple project controls topics, including risk management, cost estimating and scheduling. These meetings were a great opportunity for CEPM students to interact with industry professionals interested in project controls company wide implementation. GSO also held their traditional Fall semester BBQ at the Creekside Hall Lawn where current CEPM students and faculty members gathered to welcome the new incoming students. The GSO will organize several social events during Fall 2014 including happy hours, and trips to surrounding cities, and prepare for Spring events, such as Explore UT and the CEPM golf tournament.