Alumni Spotlight

Richard D. Cantwell is President and CEO of Odell International Inc. since founding the company 2000. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the United States Military Academy in 1975 and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from University of Texas in 1983. His work has taken him to over 85 countries with work for the Special Operations Community and Global Clients in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. Rick is a well-regarded Industry Leader for over 40 years with respect to Program Management, Security, Counter Terrorism, and Veterans Initiatives. He is recognized worldwide within his industry and a passionate Speaker, Trainer and Mentor on these subjects.

Rick began his career in Europe as a Combat Engineer with the 547th Engineer Battalion in Darmstadt Germany. His first Company won the Itschner Award as the Best Engineer Company in the United States Army. He received his Professional Engineer’s license in 1979 while attending the Engineer’s Advance Course in Fort Belvoir. After commanding two Engineer Companies at Fort Lewis, Rick attended the University of Texas under Dr. Richard Tucker and worked standing up the Construction Industry Institute (CII). After receiving his MSCE, Rick was assigned as the first Engineer for the National’s Counter Terrorism Unit.

Rick was selected to be the Major Command Engineer for the United State Army Special Operations Command overseeing critical projects for the Army’s Special Operation Forces. He was responsible for the Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution of all facilities and was accountable for briefing and defending this program before the US Congress. He was accountable for the Long Range Planning, Environmental Assessment, and Facility Assessments for over 35 sites under his jurisdiction as well as several undisclosed international sites. He was selected to Command the 44th Engineer Battalion in Korea in 1992 and saw their conversion from a Construction Battalion to a newly formed E-Force Battalion in support of the 2nd Infantry Division. He concluded his military Career in Joint Special Operations Command.


Rick Lives in Mooresville, North Carolina with his wife Becky, married for 40 years. He has three kids and seven grandkids. Two of his kids work with him in Odell International and to his pleasure, all seven grandkids live in North Carolina.
**Dr. Jim Broaddus elected to NAC**

Alumnus Jim Broaddus (PhD 1991) has been elected into the National Academy of Construction (NAC). His election was founded on Dr. Broaddus’ distinguished careers as a military officer, public servant and owner of a firm providing facilities planning, project management and construction, Broaddus & Associates, based in Austin, TX.

**New Faculty Member**

Dr. Kasey M. Faust joins the faculty from Purdue University in Indiana, where she completed her Ph.D. Civil Engineering. Her Ph.D. research focused on coupled human and water sector infrastructures and interdependencies in cities experiencing urban decline. During her graduate studies, she also completed a master’s in Industrial Engineering to bring systems level analyses and optimization into her research. Her work is among the first to evaluate the impact of underutilization on infrastructure networks, operations, and management alternatives. She plans on extending this work to evaluate how population dynamics and human interactions impact infrastructure planning, operations, management, and interdependencies for informed decision-making. Other interests of hers include construction safety, communications, and how humans interact with the built environment throughout the entire lifecycle. She would like to bring human component of civil engineering into the classroom through system analyses that consider different dimensions constraining our built environment, including aspects such as, ancillary benefits and policies. She would also like to expose our students to other modeling tools that can aid in decision-making such as, system dynamics, agent based modeling, and econometric and statistical modeling. Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, she pursued construction engineering due to the immense possibility for social impact in the context of the built environment that provides critical services to the community.

Please send alumni updates to: Fernanda.Leite@utexas.edu

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**Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Update**

It has been a very exciting time for GSO since the last issue of the newsletter. On the 17th of April, 2015, the GSO had its first conference, where CEPM students presented their research to faculty and peers. The research topics presented were very interesting and diverse, ranging from the Successful Delivery of Megaprojects to Decision Support Tools for Project Delivery Methods. Awards were given to Ashish Gupta for Greatest Contribution, Pamela Torres for Most Innovative Research, and Ryan Griego for Best Presentation. The event is pictured below.

In Fall 2015 semester, the GSO organized a welcome gathering for new CEPM students as well as our traditional GSO Fall Barbeque. GSO plans to host additional social events throughout the semester including guest lectures, happy hours, dinners, field trips, a bowling competition, and a sports competition.

**Spring and Summer 2015 Graduates**

PhD: Nadia A. Al-Aubaidy, Nour el Imane Bouhou, Jung Yeol Kim
MS: Ignacio De Sande Palma, Ashish Gupta, Seungheon Han, Piyush Jaipuria, Mayra Soledad Martinez, Bijen Babu Malia, Trevor Ammon Bingham, Harsha Babu Shetty, Steven Robert Bischak, Juan Sebastian Gutierrez, Matthew Campbell Winkler

**GSO Officers**

President: Sara Alkayali Alalam; Vice President: Elie Mouannes; Treasurer: Akshaya L. Iyer; Director of Social Events: Sherif Koyess; Fundraiser: Katayoun Mokhtarzadeh; Communications: Raghav Prakash; Secretary: Yuan Yuan He; Sports Director: Carlos Alvarez

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Fall 2015

The University of Texas at Austin