Alumni Spotlight

Steve Thomas Ph.D. 1996

Dr. Stephen R. Thomas has had a prolific and long-standing career in both the military and the world of construction engineering. Dr. Thomas is the former Associate Director of Research for the Construction Industry Institute (CII), the nation’s largest supporter of university research in construction, at the University of Texas at Austin.

Additionally, Dr. Thomas was a Research Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at UT Austin where he taught Quantitative Methods for Project Analysis, Probability and Statistics for Engineers, and Project Management and Economics.

Throughout his time at the university, he co-supervised 17 Master’s theses and 13 Ph.D. dissertations in the Civil Engineering Department.

Prior to his academic endeavors at The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Thomas had a career of more than 20 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. During his time with the Corps of Engineers, he commanded U.S. Army engineer troops in both Korea and Europe. While there, he also managed civil works construction, engineer plans and services, and facility master planning.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1971. He later received his Master of Science in Architectural Engineering and his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from UT’s CEPM program in 1984 and 1996, respectively. While at UT, he studied under Dr. David Ashley for his Master’s degree and under Dr. Richard Tucker for his Ph.D.

During his military career and prior to working at CII, Dr. Thomas directed the Engineering Management program at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and while there, also taught in the Systems Engineering Department.

During his time at CII, Dr. Thomas was not only responsible for a multi-million-dollar research program, but also administered and developed the construction industry’s largest public database that consisted of over 1,500 projects that were valued at more than $150 billion.

Dr. Steve Thomas is married to Odette J. Thomas and they have two sons and three grandchildren. One of his sons, interestingly enough, received his B.S in engineering from UT the same day his father received his Ph.D. from the CEPM program.
CEPM News

New Adjunct Professor in CEPM
While he’s no stranger to CEPM, we are pleased to announce that we will be having Mr. Anthony Gonzales join us as a new Adjunct Professor in the CEPM program.

He is a Longhorn through and through having earned both his B.S. in Architectural Engineering and M.S. in CEPM here at the university. His areas of specialization include activity and resource management, network scheduling, and cost loading.

Additionally, Mr. Gonzales most recently taught Project Controls here in Fall of 2016, a course which covered the fundamentals of planning, scheduling, and cost management of projects.

Mr. Gonzalez is also the current Managing Principal of Spire Consulting Group. In this position, he has offered his expertise on construction engineering consulting on over 200 projects that spanned 15 countries. Furthermore, he has also taken part and testified in litigation, mediation, and arbitration proceedings both nationally and internationally.

CII’s New Sector Committees Launch
The Construction Industry Institute (CII) has launched a new structure, including five sector committees. Each sector will develop research ideas and fund research projects independently. We are proud to announce that CEPM has faculty representation and involvement in four of the five sector committees. CEPM involvement in the industry sectors include:

- Power, Utilities, and Infrastructure Sector: Dr. Bill O’Brien will serve as the academic administrator in this sector.
- Downstream and Chemicals Sector: Dr. Carlos Caldas will be the academic administrator in this sector.
- Healthcare and Facilities Sector: Dr. Fernanda Leite will contribute as a member in this sector.

Annual Golf Tournament
The annual CEPM Golf tournament is being revamped with the Tucker 9 Hole Tourney that is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st.

The tournament will have a 9 a.m. tee time on the nine-hole course at the Hancock Golf Course near campus.

The tournament is open to CEPM alumni and friends alike and will be a great opportunity for current and former CEPMers to come together.

Keep an eye out for the evite announcement that will have more details on the event!

Fiatech Transition
In an effort to provide greater collaboration between organizations, CII and Fiatech have begun merging their research efforts in the area of research and development of technology for capital projects.

As part of this integration, Dr. William O’Brien has begun acting as Transition Manager of Fiatech. His long-standing participation in both CII and Fiatech activities makes him an ideal candidate for this role in fostering and strengthening the collaborative activities of these organizations.

The continued vision of this re-organization is to focus on the people, processes, and technologies needed to deliver business results that will deliver a successful future to both groups.

Previously Featured Alumni

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