

January 2017

the

# CM alumni newsletter

Missouri State University



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**A**s you may be aware, Missouri State University has interacted with the Construction Management Advisory Board (CMAB) since the early 2000's. The Advisory Board has been involved in the past with supporting the department and its students. Over the past year, the Board has updated its purpose and what the CMAB can do to continue to better support the Department of Technology and Construction Management. Over the course of several meetings, the board developed and approved a new mission statement identifying the core purpose of the organization as supporting the Construction Management Program through **advocacy, development, and engagement**. This core purpose is in keeping with the values of the TCM department and the College of Business.

The board has also set goals using the "SMART Goal" process and created working committees. Our goals are broken up into four key groups/committees: Students, Faculty/Program, Alumni, and Industry/Community.

Over the course of future alumni newsletters, we'll update current events of each committee and opportunities for involvement. If you would like to become engaged with the CMAB or a specific committee, please reach out to the following:

**CMAB Chair**  
Doug Fronick, APAC - [Douglas.Fronick@apac.com](mailto:Douglas.Fronick@apac.com)

**Students Committee Chair**  
GR Stovall, Branco - [grstovall@branco.com](mailto:grstovall@branco.com)

**Faculty/Program Chair**  
Tim Smith, Killian Construction - [tsmith@killco.com](mailto:tsmith@killco.com)

**Alumni Committee Chair**  
Donnie Volentine, Larry Snyder & Company - [d.volentine@lscinc.com](mailto:d.volentine@lscinc.com)

**Industry/Community Chair**  
David Atkisson, JE Dunn - [david.atkisson@jedunn.com](mailto:david.atkisson@jedunn.com)



# Stay Connected

## Upcoming Events

### MSU Basketball Game - Feb. 15, 2017

Over the last couple of years, the Technology and Construction Management Department has hosted an Alumni social at



a men's basketball game in the Prime Overtime Club at the JQH Arena. This year the TCM Department, in collaboration with the CMAB, would like to invite you to attend the Men's Basketball game on February 15th versus Illinois State. This is a great time to

network with former Alumni and reconnect with the Department and Advisory Board. If you haven't been, JQH Arena is a beautiful venue and the Prime Overtime Club gives you a superb view of the ball game. Please RSVP to Emily Bozarth (bozarth814@live.missouristate.edu) if you'd like to attend the ballgame. We hope to see you there!

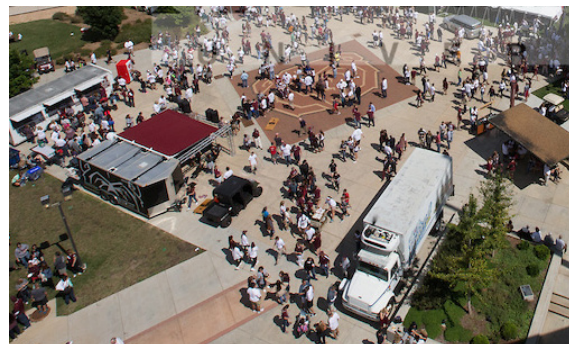
### Construction Club Golf Outing - May 12, 2017

Over the last 15 years, the Construction Club has hosted an annual golf tournament for students, faculty, alumni, and industry. This year's golf tournament will be held on May 12th, 2017 at the Hidden Valley Golf Course in

Clever, MO. Attendance continues to grow each year. This is another great event to catch up with fellow alumni while supporting the Construction Club and meeting many of the outstanding students in the department. Please



contact Construction Club President Cory Wickersham at Cory92@live.missouristate.edu for more information.



# Tailgating with the Construction Club



Have you been to a Missouri State Football Bears game lately? The Construction Club leads the pack when it comes to tailgating during football games. The Construction Club has a tailgating trailer with a fold out awning that parks in the common area on campus just to the west of Carrington Hall near the north end of the football stadium - also

known as Bearfest Village. As part of the tailgating experience, the Construction Club fires up the grill, serves tasty BBQ, and plays music that leads the Bears on to the field at each home game. This year for the Homecoming game versus Western Illinois, the Construction Club smoked up over 50 pounds of pork for the game. The tailgating experience is put together each

and every week by the students of the construction club with support from TCM faculty. While the Bears narrowly lost the game against WIU, the Construction Club won over many with their tailgating experience! Make sure you stop by and visit with fellow alumni, faculty and students at the next Missouri State football game in the fall of 2017!



## Student Spotlight:

Amber Struempf



Amber first got involved in Construction Management at MSU after a majors fair where she ran into then department head Dr. Shawn Strong. She was undeclared at the time and was interested in the industry, initially in architectural engineering and architecture. After taking her first Construction Management class (materials and methods) she was hooked. She declared her major and has developed a strong passion for construction since then. Amber's favorite part of the program is how unique the department is as a whole and how great her experience has been in it. She highlighted that through her experience, she has made strong friendships with some amazing people, had instructors who are always ready to help with anything, enjoyed tailgates, completed service opportunities, and participated in multiple competitions. These are the things that make the department unique to her and on campus. Some of her extracurricular involvement includes being treasurer of the Construction Club, president of Sigma Lambda Chi, and philanthropy chair of her sorority. While being involved on campus, she also worked throughout the school year at the Meek's Design Center. On a more personal note, a little known fact about Amber is that she loves to cook and bake!

Amber's experience in the construction industry includes an internship at JE Dunn where she was part of the estimating department. While there, she worked on several projects including a school, medical facilities at an Air Force Base, and a hotel. The most important lesson learned from the internship was that you should always ask questions! There is still a lot to learn after you graduate and the people you work with are usually excited to teach others what they are doing. After graduation in December of 2016, Amber will be taking a position at McCown-Gordon Construction in Kansas City as an Estimator. Her career goal is to be a Preconstruction Manager and she is excited about the path she will be on getting there.



## Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Richard Gebken



Dr. Gebken is an Associate Professor for the Department of Technology and Construction Management and started teaching at Missouri State in 2006. Dr. Gebken has a B.S. of Building Construction, a B.S. in Civil Engineering and a M.S. in Architecture all from Virginia Tech. Dr. Gebken received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Gebken challenges all of his students to reach their highest potential and encourages them to be engaged in student organizations and their studies. He also strives to be a great mentor to his students. Dr. Gebken, along with other faculty of TCM, has an active involvement in the Construction Club, Construction Management Advisory Board, and ACCE Accreditation.

Dr. Gebken has taught numerous courses within the department primarily in upper division and graduate-level classes. Some examples include construction contracts, specifications, & law, electrical systems for buildings, construction project administration, cost management, surveying, and project management. Dr. Gebken's research and professional interests include effective dispute resolution in the construction industry, innovative construction contracting practices, mobile computing technology for construction field management and construction management teaching pedagogy. Dr. Gebken has also earned several awards during his career at MSU. In 2011, he was awarded the Missouri State University Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2010 he was awarded the Associated Schools of Construction National Teaching Award, and 2007 he received the NAHB Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.

When Dr. Gebken is not on campus, he can be found with his wife, April, watching their two boys play in soccer, baseball, and basketball. He also enjoys leading his older son through scouts. If you'd like to reach out to Dr. Gebken and offer support for the department, please contact him at [RichardGebken@MissouriState.edu](mailto:RichardGebken@MissouriState.edu).



# 2016 Associated Schools of Construction Region 4 Competition

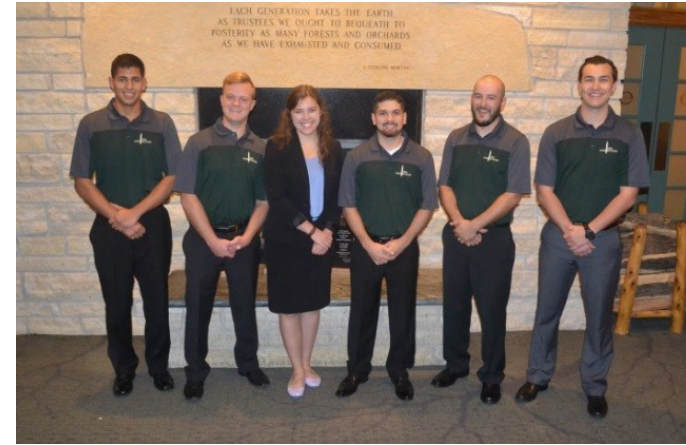


For more than 20 years, the ASC Region 4 Competition has been held in Nebraska City, NE. This year, the MSU contingent came back with a table running performance.

The Missouri State University Construction Management Program entered five teams into the annual ASC Region 4 competition during fall 2016. These teams included Commercial, Heavy Civil, Design-Build and two Specialty (Mechanical Systems) teams. The competition was held in Nebraska City, Nebraska from October 26-28 and consisted of a diverse group of students and schools from across the upper Midwest. MSU's teams included some newcomers to the

competition along with students who are veterans to the event.

At the end of a long, competitive, and intense three days, the Construction Bears had their most successful year at ASC yet. They brought home placing in almost every division including a first, two seconds, and a third. Several students already plan to return to Nebraska next year. They have started preparing in an effort to defend their titles and to continue their tradition of winning.



**1st Place Heavy Highway Division**  
 Juan Trujillo, Brandon Steffens, Jordan Ford, Ronald Antonini, Brandon Belt and Ben Street



**2nd Place Commercial Division**  
 Tayler Briggs, Aaron Parkhurst, Cody Stout, Brandon Olson, Cory Wickersham and Amber Struempf



**2nd Place Specialty Division**  
 Jacob Nelson (coach), Matt Anderson, Wyatt Rapp, Jeff McLaughlin, Emily Bozarth, Brian Chastain and Ben Howard



**3rd Place Specialty Division**  
 Connor Kennedy, Alejandro Esteban, Dylan Weddle, Terry Miles, Justin Hawkins and AJ Bartlett



# Alumni Spotlight: Doug Fronick

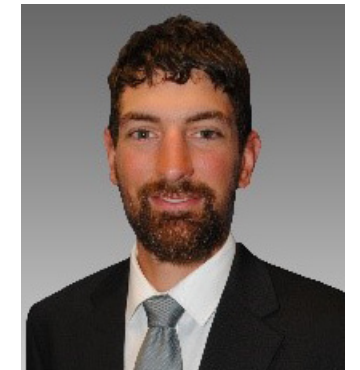
**D**oug Fronick is a December 2002 graduate of the program. Both his professional and personal roots are tied directly to the program. While in college Doug started as an intern with APAC in Springfield and is currently celebrating fifteenth year with the company. The first ten years he spent estimating and managing DOT projects in Southwest Missouri. Most of the projects consisted of asphalt overlays, highway widening, interchanges and intersections. The last five years he has served as the estimating manager for the Springfield office. In his personal life Doug has been married for eleven years to his wife Michelle. Doug met Michelle on the roof of one of the Habitat for Humanity homes the MSU Construction Club was helping build. They have four children; Gabe (8), Andrew (6), Johanna (3) & Samantha (3). They live east of Springfield outside of Strafford, MO.

Since graduation Doug has stayed connected with the program in many ways. He has served on the Springfield Contractors Association's (SCA) Scholarship Committee for the past eleven years giving scholarships back to MSU CM students, served as chair of the SCA Chicken BBQ for the past eight years that raises funds for the scholarship endowment, helped mentor MSU ASC Heavy Highway teams for their competitions and is the current Construction Management Advisory Board Chair. Doug has been instrumental with re-invigorating the CMAB involvement with the TCM Department. He has been a great leader in keeping all involved and the CMAB focused on the committees and goals. Doug was an 2015 honorary inductee into MSU's Sigma Lambda Chi Upsilon IV chapter.

At APAC, Doug and his employer have been able to facilitate valuable internships for MSU students. APAC regularly employs interns throughout the year and provides students with invaluable industry experience that will help them start off their careers. Doug also takes pride and excitement in the accomplishments that interns within APAC have achieved. Just this past year, APAC's intern, Chase Ekstam, received the national HCSS Intern of the Year Award. Doug's and APAC's involvement in the program have helped make the Department of Technology and Construction Management a leader among colleges!



When Doug is not working at APAC, he spends a lot of time with his kids helping coach sports teams and keeping up with their school activities. This will only increase as his kids get older and more involved. Doug and Michelle have spent the last several years fixing up their 108 year old farm house that sits on twenty acres. They enjoy growing a productive garden and raising a few steers each year. Doug finds peace after the kids go down to bed by building wood and metal projects in his shop.



# Alumni Spotlight: Austin Leonard

**A**ustin graduated from Missouri State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management in December 2013. For the past three years he has worked for Hensel Phelps in Florida and is currently a Project Engineer.

Austin began his career with Hensel Phelps on the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) Phase 1 Expansion project in Pensacola, Florida and has recently been assigned to the Navy Federal Credit Union Phase 2 Expansion project. The \$526 million NFCU Phase 2 Expansion project consists of two seven story office buildings, a three story amenities building, and two six story parking garages. It also includes additions to the existing Central Energy Plant and associated connecting bridges, roads,

walking paths, storm water retention and infrastructure. The gross square footage of the project totals more than 2.7 million square feet of work.

As a Project Engineer, Austin is in charge of the onsite project administration of the contracts to which he is assigned. He is highly skilled in cost control, submittal coordination, MEP coordination, expediting material deliveries, subcontractor management, negotiating changes, scheduling, and general administrative operations. Recognized in the industry for his ability to isolate and resolve various design and compliance issues early in a project's evolution, Austin's aptitude and expertise are evidenced in the successful projects that he has been involved with at Hensel Phelps.



## Visit or follow us online

Email: [MissouriStateConstructionAlumni@hotmail.com](mailto:MissouriStateConstructionAlumni@hotmail.com)

Facebook: Missouri State Construction Management Alumni

Twitter: @MSUTCM

Instagram: @MSUTCM

Web: [build.missouristate.edu](http://build.missouristate.edu)

## Find out more

Looking for a way to get involved with the Construction Management Advisory Board? Have any articles or possible features for the next newsletter? Contact us using the information above. Find out about the current events at the TCM Department website or by following the TCM Department Twitter or Instagram accounts. We also ask for you to send us your current contact info (email, address and phone) so that we may include you on future newsletters and Advisory Board news!

A photograph of two men in hard hats and safety glasses reviewing blueprints on a construction site. The man on the left is wearing a blue hard hat with an American flag sticker and a white polo shirt. The man on the right is wearing a maroon hard hat with a logo and a dark polo shirt. They are standing over a large rebar structure. The background shows a construction site with various materials and structures under a blue sky with light clouds.

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