

Missouri State University  
the  
*Bear Print*



Reconnect  
Support  
Build

Fall 2023

# Contents

## Alumni Events

Page 4: Past Events  
Page 20: Upcoming Events

## Alumni Spotlights

Page 5: Brandon Olson  
Page 7: Aaron Cave  
Page 14: Darren Beck

## Student Spotlights

Page 6: Sabrina Pavlova  
Page 6: Travis King  
Page 10: Lindsey Sanderson

## ASC Competition

Page 12: 2021 Competition  
Page 15: 2022 Competition

## Student Org. Updates

Page 8: Construction Club  
Page 11: MEP Club and MSWIC  
Page 13: Sigma Lambda Chi

## Facility Updates

Page 13: Kemper Lobby Update  
Page 18: Kemper Hall Addition

## Department Updates

Page 4: CM Bear Wear  
Page 16: Faculty Spotlight  
Pages 17 & 19: Graduating Seniors



## Building Back Bigger and Better

As we embark on another academic year, I am thrilled to reflect on the remarkable strides our Construction Management program has taken. The challenges of the past have only fueled our determination to build back bigger and better, forging ahead with innovation, dedication, and a renewed sense of purpose.

The pages of this newsletter are brimming with stories of triumph, resilience, and growth. Our students have not only navigated the complexities of construction education, but they have also shown excitement about their future careers. From accolades in student competitions to thriving student organizations and enriching industry experiences, their achievements continue to inspire us.

Our alumni stories stand as a testament to the enduring impact of our program. From managing multi-million-dollar projects to leading construction firms, their journey is a testament to the knowledge and skills honed within these walls. We take immense pride in their accomplishments.

The heart of our program lies in our amazing faculty members who pour their expertise and passion into bridging classroom learning with real-world application. As we introduce new faculty members like Mrs. JaLynn Hill, we reinforce our commitment to providing students with the most dynamic and comprehensive education possible.

Amidst all these accomplishments, we recognize the importance of continuous growth and evolution. Our upcoming project, supported by the MOExcels Workforce Initiative, embodies our dedication to expanding our facilities and capabilities. This construction education and training hub will not only facilitate hands-on learning but also foster collaboration with industry partners, cementing our role as a cornerstone of workforce development.

Thank you for your unwavering support as we propel our Construction Management program to new heights. Here's to a year of growth, learning, and endless possibilities. Together, we are building more than just structures – we are constructing futures, forging careers, and enriching lives.

Warm regards,

Dr. Richard Gebken, TCM Department Head

*Need to update your mailing or e-mail address? Scan the QR code on the right to update your contact information and ensure that you keep receiving these alumni newsletters.*



## Hands-On Labs Learn by Doing

One characteristic of the construction management program at Missouri State University that sets it apart from many other CM programs in the country is the quality and variety of hands-on laboratories for our students. From freshmen through senior year, students get the opportunity to build projects and systems that they will see again in their internship and professional careers. In addition, students continually comment that they not only enjoy but also learn best through experiential learning.

From concrete to masonry, from mechanical to electrical systems, and from framing to finishes, our lab facilities are unique across the country. In fact, the opportunity for hands-on learning is continually growing on our campus. This past year, Senior Instructor David Joswick added a steel erection component to his TCM 121 course. Students rotated through multiple stations where they were able to operate a crane, work a tag line, and receive/bolt up steel while elevated off the ground.

The electrical lab gave students the opportunity to install conduits and pull wires while the soils and structures labs were focused on providing students with practical applications for engineering-based concepts. "Our labs are one of many pride points for our program. It is one of the factors that attract prospective students and one of the things that help ensure our students are well prepared after graduation," said Mr. Joswick.



▲ Top: Students learn skills to bend conduit and pull wire in the electrical lab.

▲ Middle: Freshmen students work through structural systems including concrete, masonry, and steel in TCM 121.

▲ Bottom: The "winning" team from TCM 122's mock-up build was an MSU-themed sports bar.

◀ Left: New for this past academic year, students get hands-on steel erection experience.

# Alumni Events

## Catching Up with Friends Old & New

After a brief hiatus due to the global pandemic, the CM program returned to hosting its annual summer alumni events. The CMAB alumni committee helped host several events across the region. A unique twist to the traditional summer events was the addition of invites for summer interns working in area. Whether it was the chance to see fellow alumni, the invitation for interns to network with other Bears, or just an excuse to grab a drink with friends, the turnout was amazing!!!

While the St. Louis alumni base continues to have the strongest showing, the Kansas City group is quickly catching up. Attendees included recent and long-time alumni (one from more than 30 years ago), current interns, and construction faculty as well. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Be on the lookout for future alumni events on our social media accounts. Please help us with one of the most difficult parts of planning these events by updating your contact information using the online form (see table of contents page for a QR code to the site) or by sending an email to Dr. Gebken (richardgebken@missouristate.edu).



# Alumni Spotlight

## Brandon Olson

*What have you been up to since graduating?*

It has been over five years since walking the campus at Missouri State. For the first three years of my career I was helping the Walsh/Consigli joint venture project team in Poughkeepsie, New York build the new 750,000 SF hospital (roughly \$500M). The project is now complete and includes a new emergency department with 64 exam rooms, 3 trauma rooms, and 5 bay ambulance garage. Also, this facility has 30 critical care rooms, 15 operating rooms, 264 private patient rooms, a new sterile processing department and a central utility plant which services the new and existing facility. On top of all that, there is a helipad on the roof that will allow the facility to be a level 5 trauma center.

Since starting on this project as a Project Engineer, I have been promoted to Assistant Superintendent and earned the responsibility of all things level 2 of the hospital which includes the Critical Care Unit, Operating Rooms, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, and Phase 2 Recovery Unit (roughly 112,000 SF). I have gained more knowledge on this project than I ever thought I would.

Since completing the project in New York, I have moved to Dallas, TX with my girlfriend Michelle and our dog Duke. Here in Texas I completed a new four story Medical Office Building with an eight story cast-in-place parking garage (roughly \$40M). This project allowed me to take a larger role overall from start to finish. I am currently in-between projects, but look forward to whatever challenge comes next.

*What are some of the most valuable things you've learned on the job?*

Learn to chase down answers like you're chasing down your paycheck on a Friday afternoon.



*What have been some keys to your success since graduating?*

Do the hardest things first. Be up front and honest with open communication between all parties involved whether you're speaking with co-workers, superiors, subcontractors, owners, or architects. When you make a mistake, own it, learn from it, and do better.

*What do you do in your free time?*

I enjoy spending time with family around Texas BBQ and cold beer. I am involved heavily in the fitness community through on-line personal training. And love spending time out west each September elk hunting with my dad.

*What's the best advice you've been given?*

This was given to me from an older superintendent, but most people don't respond well to yelling and screaming. The more you control your emotions and deal with the facts, the more you will accomplish.

*What advice would you offer to soon-to-be-graduates?*

Take ownership and provide as much value to the project team and company that you can. Don't be afraid to take the lead on certain aspects of whatever project or work you're doing. Ask your superiors how you can help.



## CM BearWear

After a few years of trying to get an online store up and running for all your CM merchandise needs, we have finally done it! Do you need a new polo to show off your MSU Bear Pride at work? What about a Carhartt hoodie to keep you warm next winter? Check out our online store at Squad Locker (use QR code on the left) and find something that will make you look like the sharpest one in the office or at the project site.



In this year's newsletter, we are spotlighting two special individuals. Sabrina Pavlova and Travis King are this year's CMAB Scholarship recipients.



## CMAB Scholarship Recipient Sabrina Pavlova

Sabrina Pavlova was born in Portland, OR and spent the first 6 years of her life there before moving to Springfield, MO. Growing up, she would fly back to Portland almost every summer. She still considers Portland to be her home away from home. Before she started in the CM program at Missouri State, she was an accounting major and realized that it was not her passion. She wanted a career that allowed for more creativity. She learned about the interior design program and transferred to MSU in the summer of 2019.

One day after one of Mr. Joswick's freshman intro classes, Mr. Joswick pulled her aside to discuss what a career would look like in the construction industry and introduced her to the idea of switching her major. She's very thankful for that talk because she said, "it has been the best decision I have ever made." Sabrina is very involved in the CM program and keeps very busy. Currently, she is President of MSWIC, a VP in Construction club, she's VP of both ASID and SDA, Historian of Sigma Lambda Chi, and she's also a member in MEP club. Outside of all of her club participation, she is also involved in both the MCAA competition team and ASC Design-Build team. She says, "this has been the busiest yet most fulfilling academic year I've ever had."

She gained some memorable experience this past summer working for Springfield Engineering Company (SECO), local mechanical contractor. She had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects including Greene County Jail and the local Sheriff's office. When asked what her dream project to build would be, she says, "I grew up with a love for historic buildings, specifically churches and mosques, so my dream project would be to work on the completion and/or restoration of a church such as the Basílica de la Sagrada Família or Notre-Dame de Paris.

Sabrina graduated from the program in the Spring semester of 2022 and now works as an estimator for Springfield Engineering Company (SECO). Sabrina is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Project Management degree from Missouri State.



## CMAB Scholarship Recipient Travis King

Travis King is a local from Springfield, so choosing Missouri State was an extremely easy decision for him. He says that from the universities he was interested in that offered CM degrees, MSU's reputation was second to none and he heard great things about the program's extra curriculars. He also wanted to stay close to home, which made MSU the perfect choice.

Travis is very involved in the program as well. He has held multiple leadership roles in the department including the Construction Club and Sigma Lambda Chi. Outside of the department, he is involved in MSU's Greek Life. He's a member of the Zeta Chi chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha and has served multiple terms as the VP of Membership Development.

For his first internship while in school, Travis worked for a local custom home builder - Doug Pitts. Travis said he spent the majority of his time on site and in the field. He elaborated, "I learned more than I could've asked for in the residential field, which I'm currently most interested in." After his field experience, he said he spent the remainder of his time attending both meetings and phone conferences with Owners. He said these meetings were rather frequent and very detail oriented because most Owners change their mind during the construction process when building a custom home. During his second internship experience, Travis worked with Nabholz Construction where he was able to see the incredible differences in scale between residential and commercial construction.

When asked what his dream project to build would be, he said since he's a huge NFL fan, he would like to build a professional sports stadium. He said, "every time a new stadium is built, their concepts become more and more complex and interesting."

Travis graduated in May 2023, and works on the corporate development team for Andy's Frozen Custard in Springfield, MO. Congratulations to Travis and we wish him the best as he starts his new career with a unique twist from the owner's perspective.

## Alumni Spotlight Aaron Cave

Aaron graduated with his B.S. in Construction Management in December of 2004. He has worked as a Construction Manager in Kansas City, Missouri at JE Dunn for the last 17 years. As a Construction Manager, he has been fortunate to work on a very diverse collection of projects throughout the years ranging from schools, high-rises, large complex data centers, movie theaters, historical state capital remodels in Kansas and Wyoming and has even had the opportunity to help with the remodel of the iconic United States Air Force Academy Chapel Repair project.



isn't a better way to gain integrity and respect from your peers than to step up and tell the truth no matter what, good or bad.

*What is the best advice you have been given?*

I think the best advice is family comes first. Next to that, follow your heart, give kudos to everyone you work with when they deserve it.

*What are your interests outside of work?*

I love to spend time with my family, coaching baseball for my son, or playing with my one year old daughter. Camping with my family is one of our favorite things to do up in the mountains of Wyoming.

*What is one of the most important things you have learned since being in the industry?*

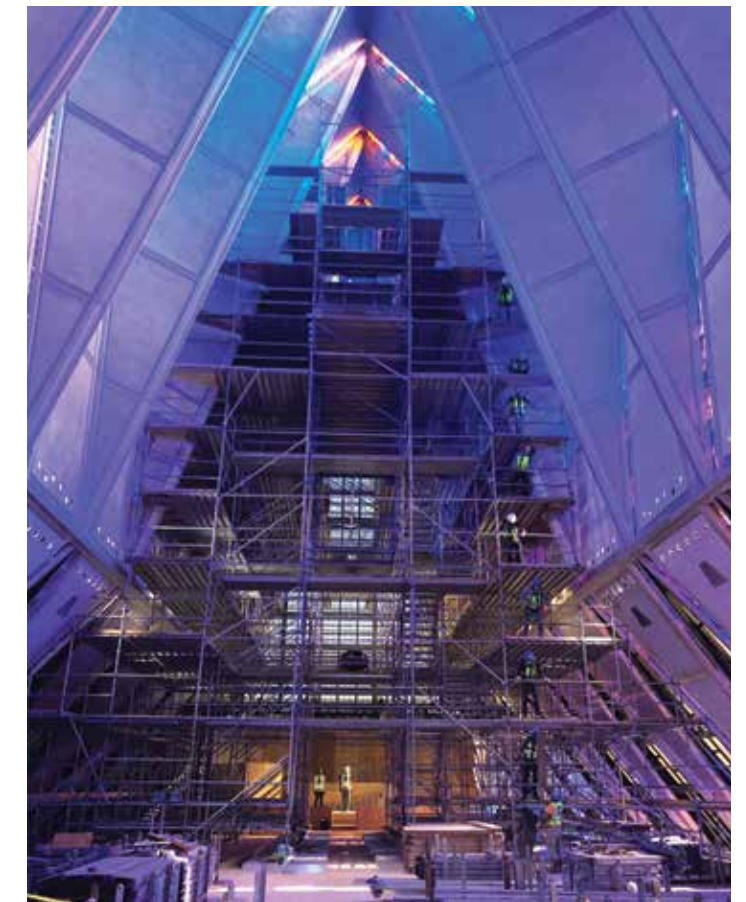
I think one of the most important things I've learned is communication; both explaining and listening to people in and out of the industry. Being able to explain a situation or issue, whether good or bad is key to success. Also, being patient with yourself and others is another valuable trait to practice and perfect. Being in a leadership position requires both of those and you have to be able to connect with everyone from architects and engineers to owner representatives and the person that has been in the trades for the last 30 years or to the new tradesmen that is their first day on the job.

*What have been your keys to success since leaving MSU?*

Some of the keys to my success are my personality and ability to communicate. Like I said, as a leader you have to be able to listen, be sincere, humble and hungry all at the same time.

*What advice would you offer to soon-to-be graduates?*

My advice is to get your hands dirty and get out in the field and learn from those more experienced. Never be shy about asking questions and always tell the truth. There



# Construction Club

## News and Updates

As always, the Missouri State Construction Club has tried to stay busy and engaged with educational, service, and social activities throughout the school year. Whether it was bringing company speakers to monthly membership meetings, building a tiny home, visiting job sites around the region, or simply finding an excuse for a tailgate party, the construction management student organizations provide as many opportunities as possible to get students involved outside of the classroom.



▲ Construction Club students pose with Boomer Bear at a home football game tailgate in 2022.

Despite these efforts, the club has encountered new post-pandemic challenges that include rebuilding many of the traditions that had been carefully built over the years prior to COVID-19. Dr. Richard Gebken, the faculty advisor to the MSU Construction Club, commented, “There has been a real challenge getting

prior to the pandemic and the difficulty of communicating the significance and sense of community these types of activities have on a student’s personal and professional life.

Nevertheless, the construction management program

**“The Construction Club has not only given students the ability and tools to connect with industry professionals but also help us prepare for our future careers.”**  
**- JT Schuman, Senior**

students to reengage not only with the Construction Club but also with all student organizations across campus following the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions. Our student leaders are working twice as hard right now to get student engagement numbers back to pre-pandemic levels.” Dr. Gebken believes that much of the cause lies in the experience gap between those students who were here

and its student organizations are pushing ahead full steam to continue the good work and growth opportunities for students at Missouri State University. The club upheld its tradition of monthly industry speakers who addressed topics ranging from evaluating job offers to the latest on machine control. The club also participated in several service activities throughout the year including



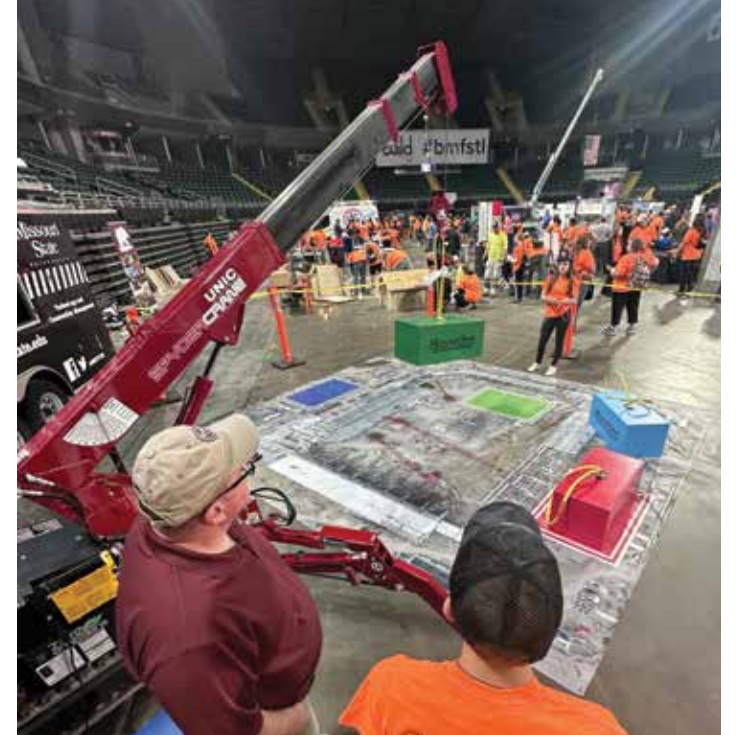
▲ One of several collaborations with the Springfield Contractors Association, Grant Shelton, Jacob Jones, and Henry Albarracin volunteer at the 7th Annual Bass Bash.

◀ Bottom: Speakers from Nabholz Construction Company visit with Construction Club students about MEP coordination using BIM.

maintaining South Freemont Avenue through the City of Springfield’s Adopt-A-Street program, filling shoeboxes with gifts for Operation Christmas Child, and constructing an overnight shelter for the homeless as part of the Revive 66 project in northwest Springfield.

The club also participated in student competition events (see later articles in this issue on the ASC and MCAA competition teams), performed outreach to high school students at multiple events across the state, and continued hosting the best tailgate experience for MSU home football games. One particular point of pride for the club this past spring was the reintroduction of the “spring trip”. The club visited NW Arkansas in late April to see two projects at the Walmart Home Office complex, a Hilton Hotel, Project Peloton, and the expansion of the Crystal Bridges museum.

The construction club would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the individuals and companies who donated their time and/or funds to make all of these events possible. We are excited about next year’s plans!



▲ Top: Todd Forshee, TCM Lab Technician, works with high school students on using the department’s Spyder Crane at a recruiting event outside of St. Louis, MO.



◀ Middle: Construction Club officers Hunter Myers, Grace Gundelfinger, and Hunter Loftin drop off more than 200 boxes to for Operation Christmas Child.



▲ Middle: MSWIC and Construction Club students attend a jail tour with JE Dunn and the Springfield Police Department. Hopefully, they don’t make a return visit soon!



◀ Bottom: Some of the more than 50 students who helped volunteer at the Build My Future pose with the PVC Bridge that H.S. students get to build as part of the event.



# Student Spotlight Lindsey Sanderson

Lindsey Sanderson is a VERY engaged student! Within the department, she has held officer positions within the AGC Construction Club, the MSU Women in Construction student organization, and the American Society of Interior Design. Outside of the department, she has served in many other capacities to make MSU a better place. Examples include leadership roles for the URSA experience, the Traditions Council, the Homecoming Committee, the Student Activities Council, and the Diamond Girls Dance Team.

In addition to her extracurricular involvement, Lindsey has been an invaluable asset to the MSU Construction Management Advisory Board

(CMAB). For the past year, she has held the role of CMAB Student Worker. Her responsibilities include engaging with company executives, reaching out to alumni, and maintaining multiple publications streams - both print and digital.

Some of her accomplishments include the CMAB Scholarship, the Springfield Contractors Association Scholarship, the E. Ray Love Memorial Scholarship, the Marcia Rackley Memorial Scholarship, Aaron Joel-Smith Memorial Scholarship, and the MSU 2020 Star Award for outstanding sophomore. Most notably, Lindsey received the University's highest student award, the Citizen Scholar Award. Solicited and selected by the MSU Board of Governors, the Citizen Scholar Award recognizes students for their stellar achievements with academics, community engagement, and leadership.

*What has been your favorite part of being in this program and how has it helped you reach your goals?*

This program has provided me with many opportunities to grow in my career. The professors are amazing resources and genuinely care about their students.

*What got you interested in construction?*

For my first internship, I was in Kansas City at the Blue River Commerce Center working with Centric Construction. I was able to get hands on experience and learn what it takes to grow relationships on the job site. That was the internship that first developed my love for construction. After that, I was able work for JE Dunn at both the Kansas City Zoo and the University of Iowa Health Care (UIHC) project which both furthered my passion for building big unique projects.

*Why do you love the construction industry?*

I love how each day presents a new set of challenges and tasks. This keeps me on my toes and excited to come into work every morning.

*What goals do you have for yourself for the rest of your time here at MSU?*

I want to continue to grow within my career and find new ways to get involved with the TCM department. Overall, I am very eager to see what the industry has to offer.



# Student Success Continues in Specialty Construction

The Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) Club has continued its success in developing student interest and activity around specialty contracting. One of the signature events for the organization is competing in the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) student competition. Over the last three years, the group has twice earned a coveted spot in the top six who present at the annual convention. In 2021, the team placed third overall and received a \$2,500 cash award. In 2022, the team received second place and a cash award for \$5,000 in the international competition which had almost 30 teams participate. The 2022 team likes to point out that they were "first in the U.S." that year!

During the school year, the MEP Club works in conjunction with the MSU Construction Club to bring in industry professionals as guest speakers. Murphy Company, a mechanical construction and engineering company headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, presented on mechanical equipment replacement at the Enterprise Center in St. Louis. The MEP Club also traveled to the MCAA Great Futures Forum which helps students from MCAA chapters across the country connect with employers for both full-time and internship positions.

The MEP Club extends its gratitude to the Mechanical Contractors Association of Greater Springfield and the Construction Management Advisory Board for their consistent support in advancing specialty construction education at Missouri State University. Furthermore, the MEP Club wishes to express their appreciation to Mr. Jacob Nelson for his dedicated service to the club, playing a pivotal role in its accomplishments!

# Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) MEP Club



# Missouri State Women In Construction

Each year, the CM program continues to see growth in the percentage of female students who decide to pursue a career in Construction Management. To support that growth, the Missouri State Women in Construction (MSWIC) Club was formed to provide resources and a network of peers to help these students succeed. In just two years, both the number of members and the activities hosted by the group have doubled.

This MSWIC executive board was led by Sabrina Pavlova, Carly Hendrickson, Landrey Miller, and Lindsey Sanderson. Their main goals were to both improve the sense of community within the club and increase access to industry professionals. Highlights from the year's meetings included social events like axe throwing, a tour to the Greene Country Jail and Sheriff's Office (led by JE Dunn Construction), and a presentation on impressing employers (conducted by Brittany Emmons from Clayco). The MSWIC Club is excited to continue the growth and looks forward to starting more outreach activities in the coming year to further increase the representation of females in the construction industry.

# 2021 ASC Region 4 Student Competition

In October 2021, Missouri State University students from both the construction management and interior design programs competed in four of the five divisions of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 4 Student Competition. Luckily, this was an opportunity for students to return to an in-person event following COVID-19. The event which featured schools from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota was held in Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Students were given a problem statement at the end of September and had until the middle of October to complete their Request for Qualification (RFQ) packet. After arriving at the competition site, students had 17 hours to complete their Request for Proposal (RFP) packet which included project schedules, budgets, safety plans, and project execution strategies. Competition teams presented their solutions to panels of industry judges on the following day.

Missouri State brought six teams this year to compete in the five competition divisions which included two divisions focused on commercial construction and one division each on design-build, heavy/civil construction, and specialty contracting.

For the first time in school history, three teams placed 1st place in their respective divisions. Both commercial teams placed first within their divisions. Amazingly, the MSU design-build placed both first and third in the same division (we were the only school to send two teams within one division). The specialty construction team placed second. Given these results, Missouri State was the top school among all those within the region.



◀ **1st Place Commercial 1:**  
Trey Ziegenbein, Cabriah Hillman, Ryan Sweeney, Lily Quitno, Trevor Buchanan, Lagan Riley, and coach Dr. Gebken (not pictured)



▶ **1st Place Commercial 2:**  
Joe Thomas, Brison Smith, Alex Bjorlin, Carson Herring, Lindsey Sanderson, Trey Przybysz, Evan Deveney, and coach Mr. Joswick (not pictured).



◀ **1st Place Design-Build:**  
Sabrina Pavlova, Josh Scheuermann, Dylan Haley, Jordan Choate, Madison Teague, Luis Elivo, and coach Dr. Sauer.



▶ **3rd Place Design-Build:**  
Grant Shelton, Ryan Geisz, Kit Putnam, Nick Crenshaw, Jake Jones, George Green, and coach Dr. Sauer.



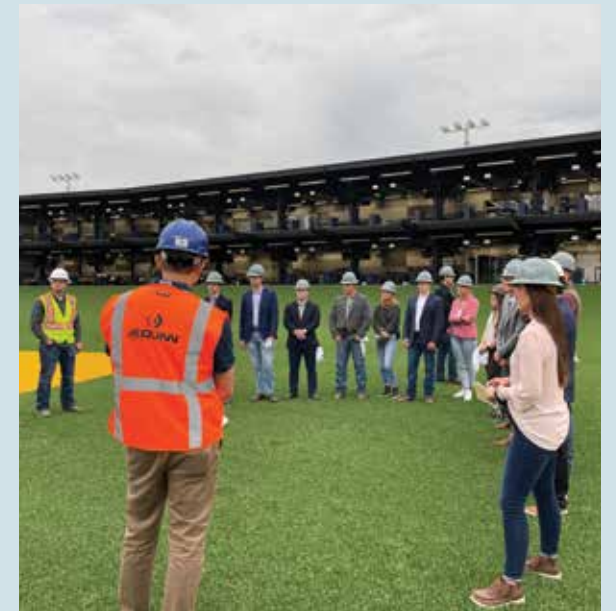
◀ **2nd Place Specialty:**  
Stewart Hopkins, Kayla O'Toole, Colton Ellens, Tanner Westbrook, Caleb Horton, Nathan Bextermueller, and coach Mr. Nelson (not pictured).

▶ All six teams, 36 students, pose for a victory photo outside the Lied Lodge on a rainy Awards Banquet morning.



# Sigma Lambda Chi INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX) is the leading international honor society for construction. It gives students both the academic recognition they deserve and serves as a platform for providing service opportunities to their major field of study. Missouri State's chapter, Upsilon IV, is proud to uphold these tenets as it continues to achieve the Gold Award year after year. The Gold Award status is awarded to chapters for being exceptionally involved in the chapter's academic institution and the local community. Several initiation ceremonies have been held for the Upsilon IV chapter of SLX since the last newsletter. One of the highlights of the induction is the participation of both alumni and industry professionals in the ceremony. Information about Sigma Lambda Chi and a listing of all members can be found on the international organization's website at [www.slc-intl.org](http://www.slc-intl.org).



▲ Alumni and industry professional both joined the induction at Big Shots in North Springfield.

# A Successful Campaign Making Kemper Hall A Better Home



Kemper Hall is the home of the Construction Management program. From classrooms to construction and computer labs, students pursuing a CM degree at Missouri State University spend countless hours learning and working in Kemper. Over the last decade, the program has worked to update the building through renovation projects including select classroom remodels and a computer laboratory overhaul. If you have not been to Kemper Hall in the last four years, you may not even recognize some of the spaces. However, the main entryway to the building has remained virtually unchanged since the building was built. This area is the space in which new and prospective students get their first impression of the program. It is also a key intersection and gathering point for occupants of the building. During the summer of 2021, the department set out to raise funds to help improve this space. Through a crowdfunding campaign with the Missouri State University Foundation, the program was able to obtain matching grants from the Construction Management Advisory Board and the College of Business to raise over \$100,000 for the renovation efforts.



The space is currently being designed in tandem with an new addition to Kemper Hall. This addition, which is made possible by a MOExcels grant from the State of Missouri, Missouri State University, and the College of Business, is highlighted in a separate article in this newsletter. While the crowdfunding campaign and the MOExcels are separate efforts by the TCM Department to improve Kemper Hall, it makes natural sense that these projects share similar design aesthetics. The pictures to the right, while not the final rendering of the space, help highlight the feature the crowdfunding campaign will support. This includes a larger and more modern awards display case, increased digital signage, better lighting and expanded electrical outlets for device charging, donor recognition wall, branding of space to better highlight the TCM department, and improved seating/gathering space in the "sunken area" near the main stairs.

Thank you to all who supported this effort, especially Kathe Kristek who helped create the design for this space. Please keep a lookout for project developments in the coming months!

# Alumni Spotlight Darren Beck

Darren is originally from Ellington, MO, and graduated with his B.S. in Construction Management in December of 2002. He has worked as a Construction Manager at Q & Company, LLC in Springfield, MO for the last 10 years. As a Construction Manager, he has an opportunity to be involved with most of the projects that Q & Company is involved with on the front end either with pre-construction services, project estimates, or assistance with land selection or existing building evaluations. Following the project award, he also has had the opportunity to be involved with project management duties and correspondence with the entire project team throughout the project lifecycle.

### What brought you to Missouri State? What led you to the Construction Management program?

First, my parents were the driving force behind my decision to continue my education. Without their advice and direction, I know that I would not be where I am today. I'm sure I was like most people in that I was not 100% sure of what direction I wanted to go following high school. I have always enjoyed construction - both the people you get to work with and the idea of a challenge. So, with my parents' help, I began researching the best places to continue my education. I attended Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff, MO for two years while completing my B.A.S in Pre-Civil Engineering & Construction Management. After touring the MSU campus and the construction management program and talking with the staff at Three Rivers, I knew Missouri State (SMSU at that time) was the place for me.

### What have you been up to since graduating?

Following graduation, I went to work for Walton Construction in Springfield, Missouri and was able to work with some great people and learn a lot of processes from an ENR top 100 construction company. After eight years with Walton, the opportunity to work with Q & Company became available and I was able to apply some of the knowledge that I gained from a large construction company to a smaller company with large experience. While gaining professional experience, I also was lucky enough to meet my wife, Jodi, start a family, and begin to grow roots here in the Springfield area.

### What have been your keys to success since leaving MSU?

Align yourself with honest people and show both integrity and a good work ethic. In my opinion, so much of this business, and any business for that matter, revolves around



being honest and transparent with all stakeholders. We have to push through the hard times together to solve problems as a team. With a great team pulling in the same direction, it is amazing what the people in this industry can and will do to achieve success.

### What advice would you offer to soon-to-be graduates?

Honestly, you can do this. There is a wealth of knowledge in the construction industry. There are a lot of people who want to teach/mentor you so that you can achieve success. It may not always be evident though. You must prove that you are willing to show up each day eager to learn, work hard, and be a good team member. Many seasoned industry professionals want to make sure that they know your merit before they take you under their wing. My advice is to always be willing to roll your sleeves up and help people in the industry. The right people are going to notice, and they will quickly get you on their team.

### What is the best advice you have been given?

Say what you are going to do, and then do what you say. That is a phrase that our boss, Rick Quint, uses around the office often to avoid potential issues before they are a problem. One of the keys to a successful project is clear, concise communication, followed up by reliable and consistent work plans. So often issues boil down to a lack of communication, the lack of follow-up, or everyone on the team not holding each other accountable. This business can be hard, and it becomes much harder without good communication and team or personal accountability.

### What are your interests outside of work?

My wife, Jodi, and I have a son and daughter in elementary school, so we really enjoy spending time together as a family. Spending time outdoors, bouncing around with youth sports, work, school and everyday life keeps us busy enough that "free time" is a myth!!

# 2022 ASC Region 4 Student Competition

October 2022 included another successful trip to Nebraska City, NE for the annual Associated Schools of Construction Region 4 Student Competition. Unique to this year's event was the introduction of a Skills Summit which invited underclassmen from around the Midwest region to compete in a mini-competition event sponsored by Lithko Construction. Five MSU students participated in the event which divided up each school's participants across four different teams.

In addition to the Skills Summit competition, Missouri State also brought five other 6-person teams to compete in the traditional competition event which included divisions in general contracting, construction management at risk, design-build, heavy/civil construction, and specialty construction. This year's event was sponsored by industry partners McCownGordon Construction, Turner Construction, GE Johnson Construction, Kiewit, and the MCA of Kansas City. Missouri State students placed first in the general contracting division that examined a 38,000 SF recreational sales/ service center on 12 acres. The heavy/civil team, which placed second overall, planned out a highway DOT project which focused on the phased reconstruction of existing roadways and the replacement of existing steel plate girder bridges and retaining walls. The second-place specialty construction team worked on the replacement of a steam/hot water heating system inside an existing healthcare facility. Lastly, the design-build team, who also placed second in their division, developed design drawings and an execution strategy for a 170-room hotel in downtown Kansas City. Missouri State will compete in the 2023 competition in late October, so keep an eye on our social media for the latest results.



► **1st Place Commercial 1:**  
Coach David Joswick, Lindsey Sanderson, Matt Garnier, Brison Smith, Alex Bjorlin, Trey Przybysz, and Jessica Looney.



► **2nd Place Heavy/Civil:**  
Joe Dale, Jacob Johnson, Will Seibert, Bryson Trogdon, Ben Kirse, Wil Ghan, and coach Dr. Richard Gebken.



► **2nd Place Design-Build:**  
Olivia Penniman, Travis King, Josh Scheuermann, Kit Putnam, Luis Elivo Jerez, George Glenn, and coach Dr. Aaron Sauer.



► **2nd Place Specialty:**  
Lee Leuker, Hunter Myers, Carson Albers, Hunter Loftin, Kody Anderson, Landrey Miller, and coach Dustin Steiro.



► **Skills Summit:** Travis Peaslee, J.D. Hunt, Emma Mnaga, Shyla Horgan, and Grant Pellham.



► **Commercial 2:** coach JaLynn Hill, Ryan Sweeney, Asa Wilson, Micheal Enlow, Grace Gundelfinger, Carly Hendrickson, and Lagan Riley.



# Faculty Spotlight:

## JaLynn Hill

**M**rs. JaLynn Hill arrived in the fall of 2022 as an instructor for the Department of Technology and Construction Management at Missouri State University. She is a graduate of Missouri State University, with her bachelor's in construction management, and earned her master's at the University of Arkansas in Operations Management. JaLynn has experience in general contracting and mechanical construction and teaches plan reading, construction leadership, project administration, and heavy equipment management. Previously, she was a project manager for a local mechanical company Gold Mechanical.

JaLynn came back to teach at the department due to the experience she had as an undergraduate. Dr. Gebken and Mr. David Joswick were a few of her instructors as she spent her time at Missouri State University. She is married to another TCM alumni, Nate Hill, who works for Crossland Construction's Concrete Team. They have a three-year-old son who also has a huge passion for construction equipment and terminology. In their free time, they enjoy gardening, attending baseball games, and playing outside.

Over the years, JaLynn has worked at Kennedy Space Center in the Vehicle Assembly Building, Orlando Airport Expansion on Terminal C, Universal Studios Adventura Hotel, University of Arkansas Pomfret Dining Hall Remodel, Drury University C.H. "Chub" O'Reilly



Enterprise Center, and many local high school renovations and additions.

JaLynn is involved within the community outside of Missouri State as well, she is a member of the Springfield Contractor's Association Generation Next organization and is the treasurer for ASHRAE's Ozark Chapter.

This past fall she coached the ASC Region 4 CM at Risk Commercial Competition team, advised the Missouri State Women In Construction student organization, organized the 2-day spring trip for the Construction Club, and attended most construction club events including meetings, tailgates, service projects, and fundraisers. JaLynn's goal for the program is to bring real-life construction experiences and innovative technology to the classroom. She also has a passion for creating a personal connection with each student and helping them find their passion in the construction industry. Be sure to follow her academic adventures (@constructionwithmrshill) on Instagram!



# Missouri State Construction Management GRADUATES



**May 2021:** Ethan Adams, Henry Albarracin, Nathan Baum, Hayden Bender, Stephen Buechler, Jacob Burlison, Ryan Davidson, Cole Eiler, Charles Fix, Evan Fullerton, Davaughn Grandberry, Samuel Hale, Nathan Hamilton, Nicholas Hansen, Tanner Hartman, Luke Hoback, Kallie Jones, Lathan Kerans, Nicholas Lantz, Grant Latham, John Leavitt, John McKenna, Trey Mellon, Sheldon Meyer, Mark Nelson, Zane O'Bryan, Andrew Schaumburg, Spencer Owens, Carl Paetow, Ethan Scheffler, John Stob, Chase Unger, Erica Vaughn, Tate Vickers, Kyle Weber, Cedric Williams.



**December 2021:** Davaughn Allen, Kaleb Bishop, Daniel Cuddy, Evan DeGreeff, Matthew Dickus, Tabor Gooch, Dylan Haley, Cabriah Hillman, Garrett Juergens, Chadwick Karrer, Levi Lappe, Brandon Lefresne, Ian Meyer, Allison Muehlfarth, Lily Quitno, William Ramage, Spencer Sallenbach, Joseph Schartz, Joseph Schuman, Kaitlyn Swanson, Joseph Thomas.



**May 2022:** John Ankrom, Nathan Bextermueller, Bradley Brandes, Tristan Buss, Jordan Choate, Nicholas Crenshaw, James Daidone, Brett Davis, Alexander Deblasi, Evan Deveney, Colton Ellens, Samuel Elliott, Adam Filbeck, Ryan Geisz, Lucas Harris, Carson Herring, Stewart Hopkins, Caleb Horton, Keagan Hosman, Jacob Jones, Conor Kelly, Austin Klaesner, Kyle Knauer, Jaxon Krueger, Wyatt Larson, Matthew Lober, Carter Lynn, Jakob Mattox, Samuel McClure, Cameron Nelson, Sabrina Pavlova, Rose Pavlovec, Riley Rathbun, Jacob Russell, Brandon Sadl, Ryan Sauvage, Grant Shelton, Benjamin Siems, Jeremy Taylor, Riley Thomas, Zachary Trokey, Tanner Westbrook, Bradley Williams, Cameron Woods.

# Creating a home for students: Kemper Hall Addition

The Construction Management program, working closely with the university's central administration, submitted and was awarded a multi-faceted grant proposal for FY 2024 from the Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development. The proposal, which aims to address the workforce challenges of the construction industry, was submitted in response to the MOExcels Workforce Initiative - a state-funded program to help fund facilities development and expansion of employer-driven education and training programs and initiatives to substantially increase educational attainment.

The primary goal of the grant project is to create a construction education and training hub for Southwest Missouri by renovating and adding a collection of educational spaces and hands-on laboratories to Kemper Hall. The grant also looks for ways to increase industry & community partnerships that will help develop the skilled construction workforce of the future. Ultimately, the CM program hopes to 1) increase the number of individuals who will earn various credentials related to the construction industry; 2) create a space where individuals can gain hands-on exposure to and experience with construction equipment and tools

(especially important for historically underrepresented populations where both the emphasis on and the access to construction and other fabrication activities in secondary education settings is decreasing); and, 3) help support the need for continuing workforce development needs by creating a space where regional training efforts can be housed, especially those that require a physical demonstration component.

The University selected Trivers out of St. Louis, Missouri, as the architect of record, and the project is scheduled to bid in September 2023 with an award date of October 2023. Additional design consultants for the project include Civil Design Inc., KPFF, and Smith-Goth Engineers Inc. The project will include a high-bay

space for use as a training lab, a lobby/pre-function space, collaborative spaces for student use, restrooms, storage, student study lounge, and second floor computer lab. Funds for the project will come from a collection of sources including the MOExcels grant, Missouri State University, the College of Business, and other private funds. Construction is anticipated to be completed in December 2024. Stay tuned for more information and construction photo updates on our social media accounts.



▲ An overall view of the exterior addition at the northwest corner of Kemper Hall. The exterior facade includes several materials including a translucent wall system which will allow natural light into the high-bay training space.



▲ A view into the second floor of the new addition. This space will include a large computer lab/training room, student lounge, and collaboration suites. An add alternate for the project includes an occupied roof terrace.



▲ An interior view of the new high bay area. The new 3,000 s.f. space will enhance opportunities for hands-on training and can accommodate a fully loaded concrete truck inside through large overhead doors.

## Missouri State Construction Management GRADUATES



**December 2022:** Kody Anderson, Benjamin Busken, Kevin Carpio, Cameron Chambers, Colton Cooper, William Diekemper, Oryan Downey, Ramo Husic, Dennis Jenkins, Jacob Johnson, Michael Kraus, Lee Lueker, Benjamin McAuliffe, Kayla O'Toole, Jonathan Putman, Lucas Robben, Brison Smith, Timothy Steiniger, Jacob Streib, Graham Sudduth, Jesse Wallen, Cameron Wegener.



**May 2023:** Zachary Aswegan, Keishawn Baucom, Alexander Bjorlin, Eddie Bohn, Richard Boyer, Christopher Deatherage, Ring Deng, Michael Enlow, Matthew Garnier, Gage Gronberg, Madison Hartenbach, Christopher Hellebusch, Carly Hendrickson, Logan Kertz, Travis King, Benjamin Kirse, Garrett Koob, Jacob Kopp, Emerson Krause, Christian Mesias, Landrey Miller, Hunter Myers, Collin Nelson, Quinton Poepsel, Derrick Poindexter, Cameron Pope, Trey Przybysz, Joshua Reed, Michael Reid, Lagan Riley, Trevor Rock, Trey Simpson, Riley Sullivan, Ryan Sweeney, Noah Wagner, Austin Wegener.

## Construction Management Advisory Board

The CMAB helps support Missouri State's Construction Management Program through advocacy, development, and engagement. We are proud to spotlight our current leadership team and appreciate all their support. Are you or your company interested in joining the CMAB? Contact CMAB President Ryan Lane at [ryan.lane@pcg.com](mailto:ryan.lane@pcg.com) for more information.



Please welcome our newest members of the Construction Management Advisory Board.

Missouri State University

# Bear Print

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 below. Find out about the current events at the TCM Department website or by following the TCM Department Twitter or Instagram accounts. We also ask you to send us your current contact info (e-mail, address and phone) so that we may include you on future newsletters and Advisory Board news!

## Looking Ahead & Upcoming Events

### **CM Cornhole Fundraiser/Mixer**

**September 12, 2023**

The CMAB in coordination with the TCM Department will be hosting its annual cornhole/career fair mixer fundraising event in September. This event will help support student activities and scholarships while allowing industry partners to connect with students the evening before the fall career fair. For more information, email Ryan Lane at [ryan.lane@pcg.com](mailto:ryan.lane@pcg.com).

### **Technology and Construction Management Career Fair**

**September 13, 2023**

Be sure to sign up early for the TCM Career Fair. This is the premier event where companies recruit students for both full-time and internship employment. See the article inside for more information. Register as early as July 2023 by visiting <https://business.missouristate.edu/Fairs.htm>.

### **2023 ASC Region 4 Student Competition**

**October 22-25, 2023**

After last year's stellar performance, our TCM students and coaches are gearing up for another repeat performance. Are you willing or able to help us prepare for this year's event? Email Dr. Aaron Sauer ([asauer@missouristate.edu](mailto:asauer@missouristate.edu)) to see how you might help us improve.

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us online

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Social Media: @MSUTCM

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