

October 2017

the

CM alumni newsletter

Missouri State University

Reconnect
Support
Build

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As another school year gets underway, the Construction Management program is excited to share with you the stories, the successes, and the possibilities for what is on the horizon. This publication marks the second of our semi-annual CM Alumni Newsletter and we hope that you enjoy seeing familiar places and reading about some familiar faces. The Technology and Construction Management Department has seen a lot of change and growth over the past decade, and we welcome this new initiative to reach out and share this information with our former students.

In this issue, we introduce you to one of our new faculty members - Dr. Aaron Sauer. Arriving to our campus from the University of Central Missouri, Dr. Sauer brings years of industry experience and a mindset of improving construction education that will lead the program to new heights. We also highlight Mr. Dylan Weddle, a senior CM major, who gives insight into what being a student in the program looks like right now. Lastly, we highlight four graduates of the program to see

what they are working on and what they have learned since leaving campus.

Throughout the newsletter, you will see opportunities to get involved and give back to the program. Whether you are sharing your successes in the newsletter, volunteering to speak in the classroom, partnering with students/faculty on a service project, attending an alumni event, or making a charitable contribution to the program, we always look forward to having you stay connected. In addition, if you or your company is interested in becoming involved in the Construction Management Advisory Board, contact us using the information on the last page of this mailing.

Again, enjoy this issue and consider sending us a story to share in the next one. As always, we love to hear what you are up to and can't wait to see where those maroon hard hats have taken you! We want you to reconnect, support, and help us to continue to build the next generation of construction management professionals.

-Dr. Richard Gebken, CM Program Coordinator

Stay Connected

Upcoming Events

Homecoming Tailgate - Oct. 28th, 2017

Missouri State Homecoming Weekend is coming up! It is October 27th - 28th. On Saturday, the MSU Bears will play the Indiana State Sycamores. The TCM Department will be tailgating in their famous tailgating trailer at BearFest Village from 9am - 2pm and will be cooking up some great food - free to our department students and alumni! If you plan on coming into town for the weekend, make sure you stop by to say hello to fellow alumni, current students, and faculty members! This is a great chance to reconnect with the department! We hope to see you cheering on the Bears with us!



MSU Basketball Game - Jan. 14th, 2018

Over the last couple of years, the TCM Department has hosted an Alumni social at a men's basketball game in the Prime Overtime Club at JQH Arena. For Spring of 2018, the TCM Department, in collaboration with the CMAB Alumni Committee, would like to invite you to attend the Men's Basketball game on Sunday January 14th versus Indiana 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 arena 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 ball game. We hope to see you there!



Construction Club

News and Updates

The Construction Club continues to be one of the most active academic student groups on campus. From field trips to guest speakers, and from service projects to tailgates and socials, the club is working towards making the CM student experience the best on campus.

In April 2017, a group of 20 students took part in what has become an annual tradition for the club - the CM Spring Trip. Students toured six projects in St. Louis and Nashville, TN. The total contract value of the projects visited surpassed \$1 billion, and the students were witness to an amazing learning opportunity that very few people get the chance to see first-hand. This type of event is at the heart of the club's "Build Your Future" motto that helps our students and graduates excel in the industry. A big thanks to ACW Alliance, McCarthy, SM Wilson, the Walsh Group, Hoar Construction, and JE Dunn for hosting our group on these amazing sites including: the Washington University and BJC Healthcare Project; the Gateway Arch Renovation and Grounds Project; the Ladue High School Addition; the 505 Tower; the M Tower; and, the 222 Office Tower.

In addition to the traditional Construction Club events, students in the program also started a new organization focusing on specialty contracting. The Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) Club hit the ground running by sending a small group of students to San Diego to attend the week long Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Annual Convention. As a premier event focusing on developing trade partners, students and industry professionals attended educational workshops, riveting special sessions, supplier/manufacturer exhibits, student chapter competitions, and social functions. On the last day of the conference, the students were recognized for creating a new student chapter and were brought up on-stage to receive their new Chapter Charter plaque in front of 4,000+ attendees.





Student Spotlight:

Dylan Weddle

Dylan started off his college career at Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, Missouri. After talking to a couple of friends that were majoring in Construction Management, he decided it would be good fit. Dylan began looking for colleges with a strong Construction Management program, and after a campus tour, he decided Missouri State was the place for him. After two years at Longview, he transferred to MSU and took his first couple of construction classes. That's all it took to realize that he had made the right decision. It took him about a year to start getting involved in the department but once he did, everyone became like family. He really enjoys how involved the professors are by commenting, "They go out of their way to insure a student's success." He has been involved in multiple competitions through the department and has participated in several service opportunities. Last semester, Dylan and a few of his peers founded the MEP Club under the department's Construction Club. The new club has opened up many opportunities for student trips and competitions. Dylan is currently the Vice President and is looking forward to a growing interest in the Specialty Contracting fields. Some of Dylan's personal hobbies include hunting, backpacking and fishing.

Dylan's experience in the construction industry started with a position at Rich Kramer Construction as an ironworker, and later as a carpenter. He has seen how the hands-on experience that he gained continues to pay off in his internships. Currently, Dylan has an internship at Q and Company, in Springfield, MO. Some of his job duties include document management, subcontractor relations, and estimating. The most important lesson he has learned is that you can never ask too many questions. Dylan commented, "Everyone I have met in the construction industry is more than happy to share their knowledge with you." After graduation in May 2018, Dylan plans on moving back to Kansas City and starting a career for a commercial general contractor. "I am excited to enter my career and continue to learn more about the construction industry," he said.



Alumni Spotlight: Casey O'Donnell

Casey is from Kansas City, MO and he graduated with his B.S. in Construction Management in May 2016. He works for Whiting-Turner in Orlando, FL. For Casey, an average day starts off with catching up on e-mails and meeting with subs to discuss what is to be done that day. He spends the majority of his time out in the field coordinating trades and dealing with any issues that come up including design changes, quality control, and lack of detail in drawings among other things.

The project he finished up last was the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, MO. Currently, he is quietly working on a "confidential" project for Disney at Hollywood Studios in Orlando, FL.

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

- 1) Your reputation is everything, the decisions you make and the way you treat people will follow you through life.
- 2) The effort, intelligence, and ethics that you look for in others must be no less than what you do and put forth yourself.
- 3) You can never document anything too much.
- 4) Spell check is your best friend.
- 5) Everyone has a purpose.

What have been some keys to success since leaving MSU?

Success is largely a personal thing. I believe that regardless of industry, a person with "grit" will rise above the rest, whether they are making widgets or building rockets. I do my best to read anything and everything that I can get my hands on, as well as listen to a number of podcasts related around the idea of success. Anyone who is reading this, I suggest giving a listen to Andy Frisella's MFCEO podcast (Founder of 1st Phorm) and evaluate what you are doing to meet your goals. My career goal is to be an Executive at Whiting-Turner and that will not happen if I don't try to kill each and every day. And lastly, whatever your passions are, follow them down every rabbit hole that they take you to. We are as valuable as the knowledge we share, and the value we create.

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

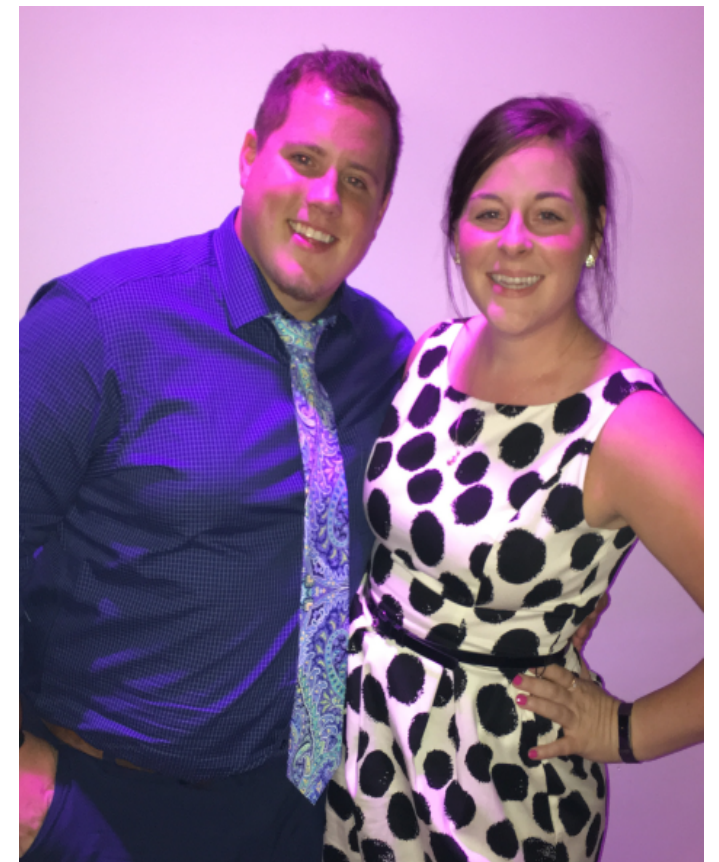
A leader is someone who makes an immediate decision and is sometimes right. Take ownership of a situation and lead your group to a solution. The second best piece of advice that I've been given is that you're not as special or as smart as you think you are. I try and remember this when I am critical of others or when I start mounting my own high horse of judgment.

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

Firstly, never be the second hardest worker in the room. The value that you create will be your best asset to yourself, your company, and your family. After that I would suggest finding a company that matches your values and beliefs.

Why do you love the construction industry?

My family has been in construction for generations and this is in my blood. Some people are made to be rock stars, others accountants, but for me I always felt that I was put on this earth to build things. My day will never be the same as long as I am working in this industry, and I will never have to be trapped in a cubicle watching a clock tick down to 4:30.



CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

BIG changes have been happening here at Missouri State, and if you haven't been on campus within the past few years, you may not recognize the place! From renovations to new buildings, here is a sneak peak at what is new and what is in the works!



Recreational and Athletic Fields

The athletic and recreation fields across campus have undergone some transformational changes in the past few years. Funded in part by a student-approved fee, construction work included the renovation of the Robert W. Plaster Stadium, the new Betty & Bobby Allison Track & Soccer Complex, the new Betty & Bobby Allison North Stadium (home to Lacrosse and Field Hockey), and the new Betty & Bobby Allison Sand Volleyball Complex. These projects totalled more than \$27 million and were completed in September 2014.



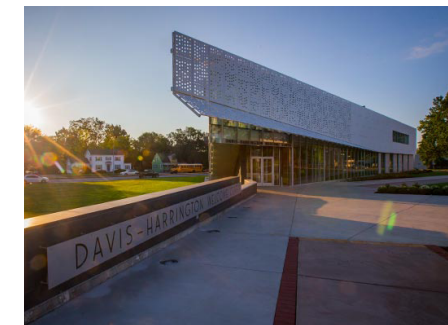
Robert Gourley Student Success Center at David D. Glass Hall

Glass Hall, home to the University's College of Business, is currently under construction. The project scope includes a complete renovation of the interior and exterior of the existing building while adding approximately a 37,000 SF addition to the east. Highlights of the new space include additional executive classrooms, a state of the art Board Room, a full service café, a finance and trading lab, corporate interview rooms, an advertising agency lab, a production studio, and entrepreneurship and sales labs. The total project cost is in excess of \$27 million. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held Thursday October, 26th and the open house will be Saturday 28th.



Pummill Hall

The renovation of Pummill Hall was completed in November 2015 at a project cost of nearly \$7 million. It is currently the home to the School of Social Work, the Department of Hospitality and Restaurant Administration and the student-run Carrie's Cafe. The project included a full remodel of the interior and exterior creating a more sustainable building.



Davis-Harrington Welcome Center

The Davis-Harrington Welcome Center is a new addition to campus. It is a brand new Student Admissions & Welcome Center that sits at the corner of National Avenue and Bear Boulevard. This project cost about \$6 million and was finished in July 2015.



Ellis Hall

Renovation work on Ellis Hall wrapped up at the beginning of October 2017. With a cost of \$14 million, the building's interior and exterior were fully remodeled in order to create a more open and light-filled space while improving overall energy efficiency. Ellis Hall is home to the Music Department.

Health & Wellness Center

The new Health & Wellness Center is currently under construction and is set to be completed in December of this year and open for Spring 2018. When completed, the brand new HWC will be a 3-story facility with a drive-thru pharmacy, a Women's Health Clinic, spaces for health and wellness classes, a Student Counseling Center, and free specific testing for students. The project costs is approximately \$10 million.



O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center

Completed in October 2015, this new addition to campus is the third teaching/learning facility serving the College of Health and Human Services. It houses undergraduate and graduate curriculum in occupational therapy, nursing, nurse anesthesia and physician assistant studies. This project cost was \$19 million.



Alumni Spotlight: Stacie Ramos

Stacie is from DeSoto, MO and she graduated in May 2014 from the CM program with her B.S. in Construction Management. Stacie has as been a Project Estimator for Springfield Builders in Springfield, MO for 2 years now. On an average day she reviews plans, answers design questions from subs, contacts owners regarding their project, and submits bids. Some projects she has been working on are Dollar Generals and O'Reilly Auto Parts all over the Midwest. Recently, she worked on a campus remodel and a large-scale retail development site improvement as well.

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

To be organized and focused. Too many people allow the distraction of a phone call or e-mail to set them up for failure with a deadline. Prioritize your schedule and make sure to keep that schedule moving. Calls can be returned and e-mails will wait (unless they are urgent); but closing those items off and away from view will help you be successful and hit your deadline every time.

What are some of your keys to success since leaving MSU?

Networking, volunteering, and being involved. Take those three and repeat them as often as possible.

What is the best advice you have been given?

Take it one day at a time. A large project or impending deadline can seem overwhelming with the pace we often move at in construction. But remember to take it piece by piece and chart your progress through goal setting tools that work well for you.

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

Investigate your interests, your skill sets and your potential employers. There is value to an employee that is certain about their commitment and has a long-term plan with an organization. Companies can be very generous and teach a lot of information to new employees if they believe the investment will see a return. Both sides will benefit and your experience will be fun and fulfilling.



Why do you love the construction industry?

I love the construction industry, and what I do. I share my passion for my job with anyone who will listen and I think we all should. Construction has been an age-old tradition that has stood the test of time. Construction is tangible and rewarding; you see your work put into effect every day. It is exciting; you talk about new projects, see plans for owners that have new vision and design, change the landscape of towns across America and abroad. It never gets old!



A Tradition of Service Continues

On September 7th, 2017 the 10th Annual Chicken BBQ was held to benefit the Springfield Contractors Association (SCA) and Construction Specification Institute's (CSI) scholarship endowments. The event included a scrimmage by the Springfield Rugby Club and cornhole tournament. This year was the biggest year in terms of attendance, sponsorship and funds raised - clearing over \$15,000.00. MSU's Construction Club students once again helped set up and cook chickens. The club's cornhole team, CM Baggers, made up of Ben O'Dell and Payton Meeks, won the tournament and took home the traveling trophy which will be displayed in Kemper Hall for the next year. If you are a CM alumni that worked the Chicken BBQ you will remember to:

- Wear long pants around a 100' long grill;
- Clamp the grates while flipping so no chickens drop; and
- Sprint into action when "Flipper and Dobbers" are called.

CM BearWear



Black Full Zip Fleece (Men & Women sizes) \$55.00



Men's 1/2 Zip Jacket (Unisex sizes) \$65.00



Black Full Zip Jacket (Men & Women sizes) \$70.00



Maroon Polo (Men & Women sizes) \$50.00



Are you looking for a way to support the MSU Construction Club and look good in some new "BearWear" at the same time? The Alumni Committee of the Construction Management Advisory Board would like to encourage you to add one of the following options to your wardrobe to help support students in the Department. All clothing will feature the Missouri State Construction Management logo. If you'd like to place an order, please contact MissouriStateConstructionAlumni@hotmail.com

GO BEARS!



Grey Full Zip Jacket w/ fleece inside (Unisex sizes) \$80.00



Alumni Spotlight: Nick Lange

Nick, a Marthasville, MO native, graduated with his B.S. in Construction Management in December 2011. He has been with Alberici Constructors since graduation. He also spent his summer before graduation interning with Alberici. Currently, Nick is an Estimator and an average day for him consists of: reviewing plans and specifications; extracting quantities and details to price up the work; as well as, calling subs and suppliers to coordinate information to help them price their work. He does a lot of collaboration with his estimating team to make sure all aspects of the estimate are covered. Projects that he currently has been working on are a \$60M design/build pursuit for MoDOT's US 54 Champ Clark Bridge over the Mississippi. He previously estimated and was awarded a \$63M MoDOT Replacement Bridge in Washington, MO. "There is nothing more rewarding than being part of a project that my family will use everyday, along with my kids' children and their children," he said. Nick spent some time in the field as a Project Engineer working on: an outage on Unit 2 for an Electrostatic Precipitator Upgrade; a New Cryogenic Gas Plant in Ohio; and a new Aluminium Shredder Line and Building in Wentzville. "The variety and magnitude of the projects that I have been exposed to at Alberici is next to none," he commented.

What are some of the most valuable things you've learned on the job? The importance of communication, whether you're relaying a safety message, a scope of work to a sub, an e-mail to a client, or leading a meeting. Good communication saves time, money, and quality of work. It also allows for a fun work environment.

What have been some keys to success since leaving MSU? Believe it or not, but after graduating I didn't know everything about the construction industry. Much of my success thus far has been my willingness and desire to learn new things and initiate to take on new challenges.

What's the best advice you've been given? As a child, and to this day, my father has always reminded me of how important it is to treat others the way you want to be treated, no matter how they treat you. The construction industry is built on relationships, and the reputation you gain will be based on life's golden rule which affects the bottom line.

What advice would you offer to soon-to-be-graduates? Act like a sponge, soak up as much information as you can, in the classroom and on the job. You will not believe how much of what you learn today will help you in the future, so pay attention and when things get tough, keep pushing forward.



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Aaron Sauer

Dr. Aaron Sauer is a newest addition to the Department of Technology and Construction Management. This fall will be his first semester as an Assistant Professor with the program. Dr. Sauer has a B.S. in Construction Science - Management Technology and a M.S. in Industrial Technology with a Construction Emphasis from the University of Central Missouri. He received his PhD in Technology Management with a Construction Emphasis from Indiana State University.

After graduating with a B.S. in Construction, he went to work for Septagon Industries, a design-build general contracting firm in Columbia, MO. He spent ten years with the firm, starting out as an estimator and then working into entity management. When he left in 2004, he was the President of Septagon, and after leaving, he started to work on a Masters degree while running his own business. Then, after completing a Masters degree he went into teaching full time. He has taught for ten years in the Construction Management program at the University of Central Missouri. Soon after he started teaching, he completed a PhD from Indiana State University. Dr. Sauer chose to make the move to Missouri State for a lot of reasons. He says, "The CM program is very highly regarded and when I came to campus I could see that the students and advisory board were very engaged. Springfield is also a great town and close to family." At Missouri State, he will be teaching Statics, Estimating, Structures, and Equipment Management. In addition to teaching, he will be coaching the ASC Design-Build team and looks forward to getting involved with the Springfield Contractors Association and the student organizations in the program. His goal as a professor is to deliver a high quality educational experience for his students. This includes sharing his industry experience and education to help give students a strong foundation to start their career.

In his free time, Dr. Sauer enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters. His wife teaches theatre at a performing arts center and his daughters are both in high school. The four of them enjoy travelling together and spending time at the Lake of the Ozarks. They are also active in their church and Dr. Sauer has been a member of the Rotary for many years. Dr. Sauer stated that, "Although I am new, I have enjoyed my time here. The students have a lot of school spirit and the CM students are really engaged. The tailgating trailer is a great "space" for students to rally around and is something to be proud of."



Alumni Spotlight: Keenan Kness

Keenan, a St. Charles native, graduated with his B.S. in May 2015. He has been with Kiewit Building Group since graduation and worked as both an office and field engineer in their Omaha office from June 2015 to November 2016. After that, he moved to Kiewit's Denver office and is currently an estimating engineer. Currently, his average day consists of takeoffs, outreach to subs to get them interested in bidding their work, as well as comparing quotes and preparing estimates for final proposals.

What are some projects you've worked on?

My first job was as an office engineer for a temporary housing structure for The Salvation Army in Omaha, NE. After that, I was a field engineer running self-perform concrete work for a Kiewit Corporation-owned training facility in downtown Omaha, Nebraska. I currently am estimating several large developments that will be built in Denver, CO.

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

Don't feel rushed to react or respond to something you don't understand fully. Take your time and use all the resources you have to fully comprehend what is being asked of you.

What are some keys to your success since leaving MSU?

Do not be afraid to move where the work is. Although there are plenty of opportunities in the construction world, they don't always arise where you want them to.

What's the best advice you have been given?

Don't just learn 'How' but understand 'Why.'

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

Focus on people skills. How you treat coworkers, subcontractors, architects, and owners are some of the most valuable skills in the construction industry.



"The quality of education and opportunities MSU students have here are second to none. As a member of the CMAB, I am very proud to be part of a group of industry professionals that is helping to support and shape the future of construction education."

- Doug Fronick, APAC

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO STAY INVOLVED OR GIVE BACK TO THE CM PROGRAM?

Join the Missouri State Construction Management Advisory Board



Shape the future of construction education, tap into a pipeline of quality talent and make a difference in the lives of tomorrow's industry leaders. Missouri State University hosts one of the top Construction Management programs in the country. This success is evident in the quality of its graduates, the growth of its enrollment, and the educational opportunities it provides to students and industry. The Construction Management Advisory Board (CMAB) supports these efforts through a strategic partnership with the Technology and Construction Management Department, focusing on advocacy, development, and engagement. CMAB members receive numerous benefits while simultaneously making lasting impacts on the lives of the industry's next leaders.

Access Rising Talent

- CMAB Members receive premier placement as well as waived registration fees to recruit at the Business Career Fair each fall.
- Members engage with student leaders in monthly student organization events/meetings.
- Members gain mentoring opportunities and increased visibility through a CMAB resource display in Kemper Hall.

Shape Construction Education

- CMAB members have the opportunity to influence the construction curriculum through regular course review and feedback.
- Members provide guidance on how CMAB funds should be used to enhance the CM program.
- Members are able to provide opportunities for short-term faculty externships.

Network and Develop

- CMAB members can network with elite peers and Missouri State alumni through active participation in regular board meetings and ongoing working committees.
- Members receive exclusive access to ongoing education and development programs through the Center for Project Management Innovation and Excellence.
- Members serve as advocates for the CM program, TCM department and the University.

For More Information

Contact either:

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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 (e-mail, address and phone) so that we may include you on future newsletters and Advisory Board news!



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