BIM-CAVE
Department unveils computer-aided virtual environment facilities
• Read story — Page 15

Francis Hall
Department raising funds to ready new central campus headquarters
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“We are supporting the program because we like the end product: energetic, well-trained, and knowledgeable graduates who are increasingly tech-savvy; the perfect recipe for improving the construction process.”

— George Pontikes, president
Satterfield & Pontikes Construction Company
On support of Francis Hall Building Campaign
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Howdy,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the president of the finest industry advisory board in the construction industry for 2010 and 2011.

Among the many highlights I have enjoyed during my tenure have been the opportunities to represent the Texas A&M Construction Industry Advisory Council at annual national industry advisory board conferences sponsored by the American Council for Construction Education. The conference attendees from the top programs of construction education in the country were eager to learn about our work advancing the facilities, scholarships, research, faculty, students and curriculum at Texas A&M University. We can take pride in the fact that CIAC has had an impact in all 20 of the ACCE’s benchmarks for construction industry advisory boards excellence.

I am especially grateful to our member companies that remained active in various CIAC events, such as semi-annual and summer meetings, career fairs and the annual awards banquet, during a challenging time with increased competition for work and tightened budgets. Our refinement of the curriculum and enhancement of the program contributed to a very successful reaccreditation review in 2011, which acknowledged that the CIAC was a primary strength of the overall program of construction education at Texas A&M University.

As we move into 2012, we are seeing some increase in membership and participation at all levels. The timing could not be better as the next two years holds the prospect of a new home for construction education at Texas A&M with the renovation of historic Francis Hall. Our individual and corporate marks on this significant achievement will help ensure that future graduates will benefit from a state-of-the-art facility.

In closing, I commend CIAC Executive Committee members for their leadership of the various committees that ensured the council’s critical business was addressed in an orderly, effective manner. Without their dedication and commitment of time, our full execution of each meeting agenda would not have been possible. As Richard Palmer assumes the reins of leadership for 2012-2013, a smooth and professional transition is assured with his dedication to and knowledge of CIAC objectives gained from his years of service as vice-president and as chair of the budget and curriculum committees.

Thank you for your outstanding support of one of the finest programs of construction education in the nation, which will undoubtably continue to produce graduates destined to assume leadership of a dynamic and important industry.

Jerry Hoog
President
During the challenging years of tight budgets and increased demand for effectiveness and accountability in graduating students in a timely, quality manner, the dedication and commitment of our industry partners remains this program’s greatest asset. CIAC members can take pride that their activities were noted as a strength in the American Council for Construction Education assessment of our program after their 2011 reaccreditation visit. CIAC’s semi-annual meetings produced tangible results addressing important program, curriculum and research issues related to ACCE’s academic standards.

Texas A&M’s construction education program is in an excellent position to enjoy unparalleled growth and enhancement as a result of CIAC’s 2010-11 accomplishments. The assignment of historic Francis Hall to the Department of Construction Science will provide a larger, state-of-the-art home for construction education at Texas A&M in a more visible central campus location. Programming for the specific layout and functional use of the 35,000-square-foot building is under way, with input provided by CIAC industry partners, faculty and students. Capstone classes are focusing on a viable renovation plan for Francis Hall.

A major step in preparing for the move was the 2011 ribbon cutting for our new Building Information Modeling (BIM) Laboratory and Computer Aided Virtual Environment (CAVE). These facilities enhance our program’s leadership role in BIM research while training students in the application of this important emerging technology. Our graduates currently fill key BIM-related positions in CIAC-member companies and demand is increasing for young professionals with BIM expertise.

The strong sponsorship of our capstone classes by CIAC-member companies has enhanced our preparation of students for leadership roles in the construction industry. Students rate these classes among our best and most demanding.

Engaging in construction industry projects with subject matter experts from the industry provides scenarios that challenge students to apply their acquired knowledge, problem-solving skills and communication abilities, while benefitting from critiques from practicing professionals.

As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2012-13, we want to ensure that each of our industry partners continues to enjoy priority access to our students and graduates by participating as competition team sponsors, field trip hosts, career fair attendees, internship providers, specific course sponsors and guest speakers in classes. The important roles that each of you play in the success of our program cannot be over emphasized. On behalf of our faculty and students, I sincerely thank each of you for your interest and support.

Joe Horlen
Department Head,
CIAC Executive Director
New Home for Department of Construction Science

The Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M University has launched a $5 million campaign to adapt and renovate Francis Hall, one of the most historic buildings on campus, as the state’s first facility dedicated to construction teaching, research and industry service.

Located in the heart of campus near the Evans Library, the building will serve as academic headquarters for the department’s 700 students and 30 faculty. Once renovated, it will house state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, as well as faculty offices, conference rooms, study lounges and meeting space for student organizations.

“Construction is one of the largest industries in Texas and Texas A&M is home to the largest, most influential construction science department in the state,” said Joe Horlen, department head. “It’s fitting and deeply satisfying that our Francis Hall Construction Science Center will be Texas’ first stand-alone education and research facility devoted completely to the discipline.”

The $5 million building campaign was launched after The Texas A&M System Board of Regents green-lighted the project at its Feb. 9, 2012 meeting in Corpus Christi.

Boosting the initiative, Horlen said, is $1.7 million in private donations already committed toward the goal. Funds raised by the campaign, he said, will supplement $4.5 million provided by Texas A&M University for remediation and renovation of the 94-year-old structure, which originally housed the university’s veterinary medicine programs.

“We are supporting the program because we like the end product: energetic, well-trained, and knowledgeable graduates who are increasingly tech-savvy; the perfect recipe for improving the construction process,” said campaign contributor George Pontikes, president of Satterfield & Pontikes Construction Company of Houston.

Other contributors to the Francis Hall Construction Science Center building campaign include: the Department of Construction Science’s Construction Industry Advisory Council,
James R. Thompson ‘68 of Kaufman, Glenn and Helen Keaton ‘85 of San Antonio, Ronald Gafford ‘72 of Dallas, George Eustace ‘77 of Bryan, Clark Construction Company of Bethesda, Maryland, Alpha Building Corporation of San Antonio, Friends of John A. Harris ‘54, Tom Owen ‘73 of Houston, James Buie of Ross, California, Jerry Lea of Richmond, and James H. Greer ‘47 of Houston.

The campaign, Horlen said, reflects a true investment partnership between the university, the private sector and our former students for the future of the construction industry. “We graduate more than 175 students each year and a recovering economy is creating an even greater demand for our graduates,” said Horlen. “This new, state-of-the-art education and research facility will give us much needed room to grow and prepare a new generation of highly trained and uniquely able construction professionals.”

The Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M prepares students for leadership positions in one of the nation’s largest industries. By integrating principles of architecture, technology, engineering, business and project management, its programs ready graduates to effectively manage all aspects of the construction and project delivery process.

For more information on the fundraising campaign contact Joe Horlen at 979.458.3477 or visit the Francis Hall Building Campaign website: http://cosc.arch.tamu.edu/francis-hall.
About the Construction Industry Advisory Council

Students in George Eustace’s Construction Estimating class reference plans for a local bank to perfect their skills in reading construction drawings to develop a list of required building materials. Enhancing students’ abilities to read construction documents was identified as a critical skill by CIAC members who helped review the construction science curriculum.

Objectives

Since its January 1998 inception, the Construction Industry Advisory Council has maintained a commitment to the objectives contained in its by-laws and has been an integral part of the Department of Construction Science at Texas A&M University.

A key contribution of the industry professionals in CIAC is the real-world experience they bring to the program, which enhances all aspects of teaching, research and service, making the department a national leader among an elite group of outstanding schools of construction higher education.

Through their myriad contributions, CIAC members sustain a strong, mutually beneficial partnership enabling the construction education program at Texas A&M to better educate and train highly sought, competent young professionals to fill industry positions.

Council members’ involvement in the academic process was evidenced by the large number of guest speakers, class sponsors, internships, field trips and scholarships provided throughout 2010-11. The frequent presence of council members on campus creates opportunities for an open dialog, cooperation and coordination between members, faculty and students that advances the quality of the classroom education and internships.

CIAC By-Law objectives include:

1. Promoting and improving the construction profession by education and development of the body of construction knowledge.

2. Advancing and supporting the highest quality faculty, educational facilities and undergraduate and graduate programs for the students enrolled in the Department of Construction Science.

3. Providing liaison between the construction industry and the Department of Construction Science.

4. Developing and implementing innovative programs benefitting the Department of Construction Science, its students and the construction industry.

5. Offering advice and counsel and providing vision for the Department of Construction Science through the active participation of the construction industry.
Governance

CIAC is governed by a set of by-laws that were reviewed and updated October 2008. This document clearly defines principles, policies and procedures that guide this organization made up of over 80 business entities and 50 individual members with an annual budget of over $300,000.

A copy of the by-laws is available on the Construction Science Department’s web site at:
http://cosc.arch.tamu.edu/industry.

CIAC conducts the majority of its affairs and business through standing committees whose members are appointed from the council membership by the Executive Committee.

The president presents the slate of chairs of each committee for the next two calendar years at the fall meeting of each odd numbered year for council approval. The chairs serve for two years beginning January 1 of the next year. The following standing committees are appointed:

1. **Budget:** The purpose of this subcommittee is to prepare the proposed annual budget for consideration by the full membership. This committee also monitors expenditure of funds from the CIAC account to insure that expenditures are in accordance with approved budgets.

2. **Research and Studies:** The purpose of this committee is to determine the priorities for spending CIAC funds on research and studies to further the CIAC objectives. The council sets goals in this area with the input of research faculty members who are funded by and report to CIAC on an annual basis.

3. **Membership:** The purpose of this committee is to promote and solicit CIAC membership, and to develop and manage a CIAC awards program providing appropriate recognition for students, faculty and CIAC individuals and corporations.

4. **Curriculum:** The purpose of this committee is to provide continuous review of the department’s undergraduate and graduate curriculum and to foster changes where needed to promote constant improvement.

5. **Development:** The purpose of this committee is to support and promote the fund-raising activities of the Construction Science Department.

The Executive Committee of the CIAC may appoint task forces from time to time for special purposes with time limitations as set forth by the Executive Committee.
Membership Opportunities

Memberships

CIAC By-Laws provide four categories of membership: business entity, emeritus, association, and individual.

- **Business Entity Members**, “Partners for the Future,” are industry sponsors who pay annual dues of $2,500. In turn, the companies are entitled to designate two representatives of the business entity to participate in the council’s activities. Business Entity Members are listed on Pages 27-32.

- **Emeritus Members** are constructors who have distinguished themselves in some aspect of construction and whose expertise and participation are valuable assets to CIAC membership. This is a special category of membership that is approved by the Executive Committee to recognize these very experienced individuals. The member is invited and encouraged to participate in all council activities. Emeritus Members are not required to pay dues, and are non-voting members of the council. Emeritus Members are listed on Page 33.

- **Association Members** are representatives of professional industry organizations (AGC, ABC, TCA, TEXO, MCA, etc.) that are invited by the Executive Committee to be members of CIAC and participate in council events. Association Members, in deference to their significant association contributions to the Department of Construction Science, are not required to pay dues, but may vote on CIAC issues. Associate Members are listed on Page 32.

- **Individual Members** are construction industry representatives who desire to support the department and participate in CIAC activities and meetings. Although many are graduates of the Department of Construction Science, membership is open to non-graduates. There are three levels of Individual Membership. While all Individual Members are invited to participate in CIAC activities and meetings, only Lifetime Members may vote on CIAC matters. Individual Members are listed on Page 33.

For additional membership information or to join, contact the Department of Construction Science at 979.862.7345 or by mail at: Construction Science Department / Industry Relations Office – CIAC / 3137 TAMU / College Station, TX 77843-3137.

Web: http://cosc.arch.tamu.edu/industry

The CIAC conducts its regular business meetings each fall and spring semester in College Station, Texas. An agenda for each business meeting is prepared with a full slate of events for the discussion of important funding, curriculum, development, membership and research issues. The Executive Committee, consisting of the president, vice president, committee chairs, executive director, industry relations coordinator and past presidents, meets the day prior to the full membership meeting to review the agenda to ensure all important pending issues would be effectively addressed.

Summer informational meetings are held in Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio to update members on the status of strategic plans, academic performance and key assessment factors.
Executive Summary

Subsequent to each Executive Committee and CIAC meeting, the minutes of each meeting are recorded and distributed to the membership.

A meeting agenda is also prepared and provided to the membership prior to each meeting. A summary of the issues addressed in the full council meetings during 2010-2011 follows:

**April 2010** — The primary work during the April 2010 meeting included industry-student working groups that developed recommendations on improving the students’ abilities to interpret construction plans and contract documents, provision of more field trips and guest speakers, continued emphasis on writing and communications skills, and enhancement of the academic advising support that is available. Professor Daigneault briefed the members on the upcoming fall 2010 combined study abroad and internship in the United Kingdom.

**October 2010** — The emphasis during the October 2010 meeting was on faculty presentations and industry reviews of ten courses in the Construction Science curriculum. There was strong industry support for inclusion of building information modeling (BIM) and leadership in energy and environmental design (LEED) into various levels within the COSC curriculum. Improvement in the manner in which construction safety is taught was noted with the need for safety to continue to be a prerequisite to the professional internship.

**April 2011** — Industry recommendations on the ways to improve the department’s recruitment process for new students in order to attract more and better students with wider diversity were developed during the various committee working sessions of the April 2011 meeting. In addition, each committee was provided internet access to the department’s revised website and tasked to review the content and presentation of information. Particular attention was given to the site’s “Prospective Students” page. The results of the initial offering of an internal student team competition on professional ethics in construction were presented. The membership was briefed on the accreditation process and the various opportunities for CIAC member participation as a member of the visiting team and as guests at a dinner event with the visiting team. An assistance fund for COSC students was established.

**October 2011** — The October 2011 meeting allowed the membership to participate in the initial programming requirements for Francis Hall as the new home of the Construction Science Department. Each committee was asked to develop a list of ideas on how best to utilize the increased amount of available classroom, laboratory and office space, and identify requirements to enhance the educational process for future students. A faculty member and a student from the capstone classes were assigned to each committee to answer questions on the building’s layout and construction. One of the teams from the capstone classes presented their work on the layout, estimate, and schedule for renovating Francis Hall. The membership toured Francis Hall. Jerry Hoog of Bartlett Cocke General Contractors closed the meeting by thanking the assembled group for their hard work and dedication throughout his tenure as president, and stated that the CIAC is what makes the overall program of construction at Texas A&M one of the best in the nation.
Budget Committee

The Budget Committee was chaired by Richard Palmer of Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc. who also served as CIAC vice president.

CIAC funded many programs unique to the Department of Construction Science that would not have otherwise been possible. The annual budgets for 2010 and 2011 are provided on Pages 35 and 36.

The primary issue of concern during 2010-2011 was how slow economic conditions in the construction industry would affect membership. A positive trend in the number of business entity members was experienced in 2011 with a growth to 84 members.

The budget committee approved the transfers of $10,000 in 2010 and 2011 from the CIAC’s Foundation Account to the $75,000 CIAC Endowed Account that was established in 2009. The interest accrued from the Endowed Account is available income for the council’s annual operating budget.

CIAC also pledged $250,000 towards the construction of the “CIAC Industry Relations Suite” in Francis Hall.

Expense line item funding was established in accordance with CIAC By-Laws for the major program areas: student enrichment, scholarships, research and studies, departmental support, and CIAC operations.

Student Enrichment

Student enrichment funds were provided for student competitions, graduation events, awards banquet, career fairs and the associate constructor exams.

The department fielded student competition teams each year with financial support from the CIAC. The Commercial Building Competition Team competed in the Associated Schools of Construction competitions with a third-place finish in 2010 and a second-place finish in 2011. CIAC member, Joeris General Contractors, Inc. sponsored the team.

Additional teams competed in the ASC Heavy Civil/Highway competition, Associated Builders and Contractors competition, National Association of Home Builders competition, and the Construction Management Association of America competition.

In addition to these external student competitions, an internal student competition was started spring 2011 with the establishment of COSC 381 – Ethics in the Construction Industry class. Four person teams presented their analysis of an ethical scenario to a panel of industry professionals using the American Institute of Constructors Code of Ethics. CIAC members Larry Fickel, David Fleming of Sundt and Helen Keaton of Joeris General Contractors, Inc. served on the industry panel.

Prior to graduation each semester, a hard hat ceremony is held to honor the graduates with the presentation of a personalized “Aggie Constructor” hard hat. Those students earning department-level awards for leadership and academic excellence were recognized with the presentation of a watch.
and their name on a permanent wall plaque. The award winners for 2010 and 2011 are provided on Page 20. The graduates select a guest speaker from among the faculty. This honor was extended to Professors Robert Segner and Ron Workman in 2010 and 2011.

The annual Spring Scholarship and Awards Banquets were held April 8, 2010 and March 31, 2011 at the College Station Hilton. Each business entity member is entitled to a table for four at this event. The guest speaker for the 2010 banquet was Raleigh Roussell, executive director of the TEXO Construction Association, and for the 2011 banquet was Dr. Marianne Jennings, a member of the Department of Management in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and a professor of legal and ethical studies in business.

The first scheduled career fair each semester is reserved for CIAC member firms only in keeping with the entitlement of our industry partners to priority access to our students and graduates. Student participation in these events averaged over 300. The CIAC career fairs are the largest department level career fairs held on the Texas A&M campus.

Beginning with the 2010 budget, the CIAC annually set aside funds to encourage graduating seniors to participate in the American Institute of Constructors Associate Constructor exam by assisting with the exam registration fee. As a result, the level of student participation in this national exam increased from 33% to 60% percent.

For a class exercise, third year Texas A&M construction science students grappled with industry ethics issues then faced a panel of industry professionals and a nationally renowned business ethics expert who peppered them with questions about their responses to ethical quandaries.

Initially working on the assignment in teams of four, students in a Construction Industry Professional Studies class identified and developed responses to ethical predicaments presented in a hypothetical scenario. The team reports were reviewed and ranked by construction science faculty members Melissa Daigneault, Debra Ellis, George Eustace and Jim Smith, who selected the top eight reports for oral presentations on March 31 to the panel of experts.

Ethics panel participants were:
- Marianne Jennings, professor of legal and ethical studies in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University and author of “The Seven Signs of Ethical Collapse: How to Spot Moral Meltdowns in Companies … Before It’s Too Late” and other books on business ethics;
- Construction industry veteran Larry Fickel of MWH, a former CIAC president;
- David Fleming, vice president of Sundt; and
- Kim Kobriger, managing partner, Lewis Realty Advisors.

The student team garnering top honors in the exercise included Matthew Crane, Scott Beatty, Robert Shields and Christine Nguyen.

Jennings, a highly sought speaker on business ethics, also delivered the keynote address at the Department of Construction Science Spring 2011 Awards Banquet held that evening at the College Station Hilton.
The annual budget provides funds for various scholarship programs each year. The first budgeted amount is for the Individual Freshman Scholarship that provides a $1000 scholarship to encourage a student to accept their admission into the Construction Science program. Special attention is given to first-generation college students. The numbers of scholarships awarded to incoming freshmen were 12 and 15 respectively in 2010 and 2011.

The second scholarship expense is for the Endowed Matching Scholarship that provides a $10,000 match for a CIAC member that pledges $15,000 for a $25,000 named scholarship. Donations can be made over a period of time, up to five years, to achieve the minimum funding.

Five new endowed matching scholarships were added in 2010-2011 bringing the total number of scholarships to 66 with an endowed value of $2,640,497 at the end of 2011.

New scholarships were established by:
• the American Subcontractors Association in Houston,
• Keith and Debra Ellis,
• Helen and Glenn Keaton,
• Ledcor Group of Companies, and
• The Beck Group Aggies.

Additionally, Larry Fickel added to his existing endowed scholarships with a new gift.

The scholarship presentation ceremony is held each year at the College Station Hilton. The ceremony is planned and conducted by the Sigma Lambda Chi Honor Society. A representative from each scholarship provider presents their scholarship certificate to the deserving student and shares a reserved table at the banquet event that follows.

The number of scholarships and the total values awarded during the scholarship ceremony were 123 students for $176,500 in 2010, and 143 students for $211,500 in 2011.

The financial support provided to these appreciative students enhances their opportunities to pursue degrees and further the department’s reputation for excellence within the industry.

To encourage participation in the Summer 2010 Study Abroad Program, the Construction Industry Advisory Council funded individual scholarships that helped defray the students’ travel expenses.
After a steady annual increase of approximately $200,000 over the 10-year period from 1999 to 2009, the rate of annual growth slowed with the weaker 2010-2011 economic conditions. The decrease in the total value of the scholarship endowment is attributed to the lower market prices for the investments currently held since new endowed matching scholarships were added to the portfolio.

Over 300 students compete each year for college and department endowed scholarships from external professional organizations, individuals and private companies. Applications are accepted in the January – February timeframe each year. A scholarship committee made up of faculty members review and rank the applications. The award of individual scholarships is based on the ranking, and the specified criteria set forth for the scholarship by the donor.
Departmental Support

The budgeted funds for departmental support are used to supplement public funding for program enrichment and faculty development for such items as administrative supplies, equipment, travel, professional certifications and conference fees.

One of the newer uses of the departmental support funds was faculty fellowships for new tenure track faculty. During the fellowship, a new faculty works directly with a CIAC member during a summer term to be exposed to industry techniques and activities.

In summer 2010, Satterfield & Pontikes Construction Inc. provided a faculty fellowship to Dr. Zofia Rybkowski. Faculty fellowships during the summer of 2011 were provided by Vaughn Construction to Dr. Miro Escamilla, and by the Texas Department of Transportation to Dr. Kunhee Choi.

Progress towards setting aside the dollars for an endowed matching professorship was made in 2010 and 2011 by encumbering a total of $60,000 towards this important faculty development objective.

CIAC Operations

The budgeted funds for CIAC operations are used for meeting expenses associated with the spring, summer and fall meetings. The spring and fall meetings are held in College Station. Summer informational luncheon meetings are held in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin. Tailgate events are scheduled in conjunction with the fall full council meeting.

The 2010 and 2011 budgets included the transfer of $10,000 each year from the CIAC’s Foundation Account to the $75,000 CIAC Endowed Account that was established in 2009. The interest accrued from the Endowed Account is available income for the council’s annual operating budget.

The highly coveted, personalized “Aggie Constructor” hard hats, here readied to be awarded to graduating construction science students at semester’s end, are paid for by CIAC funds.
Department unveils BIM-CAVE, BIM Lab immersive visualization facilities

In a darkened room on the fourth floor of Texas A&M’s Langford Architecture Center, construction science students using Building Information Modeling software can navigate through the bowels of a virtual building while visually immersed amid an array of 12 46-inch monitors.

Unveiled at an Oct. 10, 2011 ribbon cutting event, the Department of Construction Science’s newest facility, the “BIM-CAVE,” provides a unique high-tech vantage point for viewing details of an imagined building and its infrastructure, including heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, plumbing, electrical and other systems. “BIM CAVE” is an acronym for “Building Information Modeling Computer-Aided Virtual Environment.”

Texas A&M University President R. Bowen Loftin attended the BIM-CAVE unveiling, which included a demonstration of the innovative immersive visualization technology by Julian Kang, holder of the History Maker Homes Endowed Professorship. The event also featured a discussion on the application of BIM technology in the construction industry by George A. Pontikes Jr., president and CEO of Satterfield and Pontikes Construction, Inc., and a client perspective on BIM by Vergel L. Gay, then director of facilities and planning for the Texas A&M University System.

Following the presentations, Kang led tours of the BIM-CAVE and lab, located on the 4th floor of Langford A.

The new facility allows viewers to immerse themselves in multiscreen BIM simulations powered by three powerful computers using standard BIM software, such as Revit. Potential image distortion on the left and right banks of the viewing array is controlled by software developed by civil engineering graduate students Adithya Ganapathi and Hussam Nseir with guidance from Kang.

The new 12-display array, realized by a $50,000 gift from the Department of Construction Science Industry Advisory Council, is the second version of the immersive visualization system. The first iteration, a three-screen setup, was created with discretionary funds from the College of Architecture.

Kang said the new facility has already captured the attention of two construction companies engaged in campus building projects that wish to use the BIM CAVE for coordination meetings with subcontractors.

“This will give us a good chance to see how the CAVE can be utilized by industry,” said Kang.

Among Kang’s research objectives, he said, is to understand how a virtual environment can enhance the decisions of construction professionals.

“Aided by this technology,” he said, “I believe their decision making will be a little bit different than if they were working in a real environment.”
Curriculum Committee

The curriculum committee was chaired by Helen Keaton of Joeris General Contractors, Inc.

During the fall 2009 and 2010 CIAC meetings, faculty members gave presentations to the committees on their syllabi, schedules and learning objectives for all undergraduate construction science classes.

Following the faculty presentations, the committee members participated in open question and answer sessions with culminating closed sessions. The lists of questions and recommendations developed by the committees were provided to the department for consideration and response. An executive summary of the curriculum reviews was presented to the membership at the spring 2011 meeting.

This proactive effort to obtain the industry’s perspective on current and emerging needs as they relate to the current coursework was a very important step in both the improvement of the program and the preparation for the reaccreditation visit in October 2011.

In conjunction with the industry review of the current slate of classes, the membership was briefed on the curriculum changes that would take place with the fall 2011 semester. The curriculum changes made in response to the industry's input concerned oral and written communications, reading construction drawings and contract documents, computer graphics and interdisciplinary studies.

Development Committee

The development committee was chaired by Bob Flowers of JE Dunn Construction Company.

The committee’s efforts on programming for the design and construction of a new academic building for the construction program at Texas A&M were on hold due to the economic climate in 2010 and 2011. With the assignment of Francis Hall to the department in July 2011, the work of the development committee will be the programming of requirements and support of the capital campaign to be initiated in 2012.

Research Committee

The research committee was chaired by Richard Booher of Alpha Building Corporation.

The committee reviewed research grant proposals from the construction science faculty during their fall meetings, and received research progress reports during the spring meetings. One proposal is selected and funded each year with funding up to $25,000.

During the spring 2010 meeting, the final product from the 2009 research grant to Dr. Boong Ryoo’s development of “Primavera Scheduler/Microsoft Of-
office Project Training Videos (DVD) and Workbooks for Construction Schedulers” in the form of multimedia-based training videos and workbooks were delivered and made available to all CIAC members. Various industry professionals have found this tailored training program very helpful. Requests for copies of the program can be made to the Industry Relations Office.

The research committee continued its sponsorship of the Research Road Tour in 2010 with presentations in Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio.

The 2010 research grant was awarded to Dr. Jose Fernandez-Solís during the fall 2009 meeting. Dr. Fernandez-Solís’s proposal was “An Understanding of Quantifiable Waste in Building Construction Planning from the Metrics of the Last Planner® System”. An update on the status of the research was delivered during the spring and fall 2010 meetings. Dr. Fernandez-Solís concluded his research work with a final report at the end of 2011.

The committee reviewed two research proposals during the fall 2010 meeting for the 2011 research grant. The 2011 grant was awarded to Dr. Zofia Rybkowski for her proposed “Guidebook of Lean Construction” that includes Target Value Design and Integrated Project Delivery (TVD/IPD). The grant funded the work of three graduate student research assistants, Joshua Hullum, Manish Munankami and Aditi Kulkarni, and summer research salary for Dr. Rybkowski. It has enabled collaboration with Darren Smith, CEO of IPD Assured (CIMA Strategies), as well as trips to Dallas for observation of TVD exercises for Cook’s Children’s Hospital by Linbeck.

Preliminary teaching methods and materials were field-tested by Texas A&M students in a classroom setting during the spring 2011 semester, at an Executive CEO workshop for the Sisters of Charity Leavenworth Healthcare system in April 2011, and at a Lean Construction Institute meeting in Houston in June 2011. During April 26-28, 2012, a more comprehensive version will be field-tested at the Penrose/St. Francis Health Services owner-architect-general contractor-trade partner stakeholder team meeting. Milestone deliverables include three Masters-level theses with the final deliverable being a field-tested workshop guidebook on TVD/IPD. An update on the status of the research was presented at the fall 2011 meeting and the date for the final report was extended to June 2012.

The committee reviewed two research proposals during the fall 2010 meeting for funding in 2012. Dr. Kunhee Choi proposed research on construction labor productivity and Dr. Boong Ryoo for applications of portable technologies for site project management. The committee voted to award a $25,000 research grant to Dr. Ryoo.
Awards

Membership Committee

The membership committee was chaired by Keith McCoy, Jeremy Clary and Jake Sally, all of Balfour Beatty. The committee’s work included planning for the tailgate events each fall to encourage individual memberships, development of a slate of candidates for the executive committee, and identification of candidates for the Constructor Hall of Fame.

During their 2010 and 2011 meetings, the committee identified a need to have CIAC representatives at all ABC and AGC functions to support and encourage CIAC membership.

Individual memberships by former students that work for construction and construction-related companies were promoted. Former students working for the top 125 construction companies were invited to join CIAC and contribute to its impact on the construction education program at Texas A&M.

The committee recommended extending associate membership status to various professional and trade associations in the state. In order to advance the goal of increasing the level of interdisciplinary participation in CIAC, the committee also recommended reaching out to invite the participation of architects and engineers within the construction industry.

Awards

• The Constructor Hall of Fame Award, established in 2001, honors non-alumni who have made a difference in the industry and have helped advance the Construction Science program at Texas A&M. During the fall 2011 meeting, the CIAC membership voted to accept the membership committee’s recommendation to open nominations to Texas A&M alumni.

The 2010 recipient was George Pontikes, Jr. president of Satterfield & Pontikes Construction Inc. Mr. Pontikes has been an enthusiastic contributor to the department’s building information modeling program by providing equipment funds, and sponsoring the building information modeling class project.

In 2011, the award was presented to David Harvey, president of D.E. Harvey Builders Inc., a charter member of the CIAC, a strong supporter of the internship program and a major employer of Construction Science graduates.

• Educator of the Year Awards went to David Bilbo in 2010 and David Bilbo, James C. Smith, and Bob Segner in 2011.

• Student Advocate of the Year Awards were presented to Bob Segner in 2010 and Debra Ellis in 2011.

• Excellence in Scholarly Work and Research Awards were presented to Julian Kang in 2010 and Boong-Yeol Ryoo in 2011.
2011 Educator of the Year Awards went to, from the left, David Bilbo, Bob Segner and James Smith. Bilbo also received the same award in 2010. Presenting the award, at right, is Jim Elsner, a construction science student.

2010 Student Advocate Award recipient Bob Segner, left, with student presenter Mustafa Khan; and 2011 Student Advocate Debra Ellis, right, with student Valerie Krchnak.

Excellence in Scholarly Work and Research Awards were presented to Julian Kang in 2010, second from left, with student Harsh Rebello, and Boong-Yeol Ryoo in 2011, far right, with student Aneesh Bhallero.

Gene Murphree – AGC Medals were presented, clockwise from top-left, to Brian Smith (Fall 2010) with Joe Horlen, department head, Ashley Shaw (Spring 2010), Douglas Doucette (Fall 2011), and Mustafa Khan (Spring 2011), pictured with Bob Segner, professor of Construction Science.
Three student excellence awards are presented at the end of each semester.

- **Gene Murphree – AGC Medals** were presented to Ashley Shaw (Spring 2010), Brian Smith (Fall 2010), Mustafa Khan (Spring 2011) and Douglas Doucette (Fall 2011).

- **Cumberland Craftsman Awards** went to Clayton Turner (Spring 2010), David Burkett (Fall 2010), James January (Spring 2011), Ron Johnson, Jr., (Fall 2011).

- **Outstanding Graduate Student Awards** were presented to Harsh Rebello, (Spring 2010), Navaneethan Rajan (Fall 2010), Chris Kiss (Spring 2011), and Abhijeet Singh (Fall 2011).

**Cumberland Craftsman Awards** went to, from the left, Clayton Turner (Spring 2010) with Bob Segner, David Burkett (Fall 2010), with Joe Horlen, and Ron Johnson, Jr., (Fall 2011), with Bob Segner. Not pictured, the late James January (Spring 2011), who was honored posthumously.

**Outstanding Graduate Student Awards** were presented, clockwise from top-left, to Harsh Rebello (Spring 2010), pictured between Julian Kang and Joe Horlen; Navaneethan Rajan (Fall 2010), with Joe Horlen; Chris Kiss (Spring 2011), with wife, son and Jim Smith; and Abhijeet Singh (Fall 2011), with Bob Segner.
Job Placement

The Department of Construction Science conducts the largest department-level career fairs of any program on the Texas A&M campus. Four career fairs are held each year with two of the events dedicated to members of the Construction Industry Advisory Council.

The number of participating companies in the career fairs increased from a low of 71 in spring 2010 to a steadily increasing high of 92 companies in fall 2011. Construction Industry Advisory Council members accounted for 80% of the industry participation in the career fairs.

The department is unique in requiring students to complete an internship, making students available during the 15-week spring and fall semesters. The required professional internship program in the construction science curriculum is highly dependent on the participation of our industry partners with Construction Industry Advisory Council members providing 68% of all professional internships. Many member companies use the career fairs and internships as a primary staffing and recruiting strategy.

CIAC member companies continue to be the primary employers of Texas A&M Construction Science graduates with 70% of the reported accepted job offers upon graduation being provided by CIAC members.

Job placement rates increased from a low of 51% in 2010 to 68% for spring 2011 and 73% for fall 2011 graduating seniors. The increased placement rates were matched by increases in the average starting salaries with an average of $54,375 being reported by fall 2011 graduates.

A summary of employment for 2010 and 2011 Bachelor of Science Construction Science graduates is provided in Attachment B, “Hiring Data,” on Page 34. A senior exit survey is conducted three weeks prior to graduation. The actual placement rates at graduating in higher since some students have job interviews and job offers pending at the time of the survey.

Superlative department support earns Smith top college honor

Lauded as “an indispensible asset” and “a shining example of dedication and commitment to everything that encompasses the College of Architecture,” Shelley Smith, an administrative coordinator at Texas A&M’s Department of Construction Science, was honored with the Linda J. Todd Outstanding Support Staff Achievement Award.

“She goes above and beyond the call to make sure tasks are done right,” said Leslie Feigenbaum, assistant dean for academic affairs at the College of Architecture. “As members of the faculty and staff, we appreciate Shelley’s dedication in helping the department be one of the best of its kind.”

Smith was instrumental, said George Eustace, industry relations coordinator in the department, in the planning and execution of every departmental event. “The planning for and participation in these events extended beyond the normal business hours of the office,” said Eustace. “She is reliable and can be depended on to do more than is expected.”
New Faculty

Dr. Edelmiro Escamilla, Jr. joined the Texas A&M faculty in Fall 2010 as a visiting assistant professor of construction science and became assistant professor of construction science in fall 2011.

He holds a doctorate in architecture with an emphasis in construction science as well as a Masters of Architecture and Bachelors of Environmental Design, all from Texas A&M University. While pursuing his Ph.D., Escamilla earned graduate certificates in historic preservation and facilities management.

Prior to joining the Department of Construction Science, Escamilla worked as project manager in the Physical Plant, Engineering and Design Services at Texas A&M University. His professional experience includes architectural design, beginning with architectural internship at 3D/International in San Antonio.

Escamilla is a member and past president of the Professional Hispanic Network and the Mexican-American Latino Faculty Association at Texas A&M. His research interests center on project management, project performance, interdisciplinary design, site logistics, alternative delivery systems and historical preservation. He teaches Construction Project Management, and Methods and Materials I and II classes.
Dr. Kunhee “K.C.” Choi joined the Texas A&M faculty September 2010 as an assistant professor of construction science. He holds a doctorate in civil and environmental engineering from University of California at Berkeley, with advanced degrees from Texas A&M University (M.S. Construction Management) and Korea University (B.E. Architectural Engineering).

Prior to joining the Department of Construction Science, Choi was a field engineer for two years in the residential construction sector after serving in the Korean Army for 27 months. He has worked closely with state transportation agencies in California and Texas.

Choi has a broad background of industry experience in the areas of improved project delivery and contracting systems. He has working relationships with major contractors and state transportation agencies across the nation that includes gathering and analyzing information about their project performance — schedule, cost, change, quality, risk, benefits, etc. He has conducted federally funded research work on several major projects and has specific experience in productivity enhancement.

Dr. Choi’s research interests are integrated/improved project delivery systems, infrastructure sustainability, transportation construction management and automation and innovation in construction. He teaches the Structures I class.

Ben Bigelow joined the faculty in August of 2011 as a visiting assistant professor. He earned a B.S. in Construction Science at Texas A&M, and a M.S. in Construction Management at Arizona State University and is currently working on a Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

During his time here and while at Colorado State he has taught Estimating I, Estimating II, Materials and Methods, Commercial Capstone, Residential Aging in Place and Green Building, and Residential Capstone courses.

His research interests are generally related to affordable and sustainable residential construction, student competitions, undocumented workers and students in construction.

Bigelow holds the professional designations of: Associate Constructor (AC) from the American Institute of Constructors, Certified Green Professional (CGP) from the National Association of Home Builders, Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) from the National Association of Home Builders, and Residential Construction Superintendent (RCS) from the National Association of Home Builders.

Bigelow serves as the NAHB student chapter’s faculty advisor and competition team coach. He served in the same capacity for the past three years at Colorado State University. He is a member of the NAHB student chapter advisory board, and has been nominated to the NAHB education committee.

He spent three years building homes with Centex Homes in Arizona and Texas, and has over 10 years experience as a remodeling contractor.
The depth of instructors available to present various courses in the construction science curriculum increased in 2010-11 with the addition of three outstanding young professionals who are pursuing doctoral degrees at the Texas A&M College of Architecture.

**James P. Smith** joined the Texas A&M faculty as a doctorate student in September 2010 and serves as a graduate assistant.

He earned M.S. and B.S. degrees in Construction Management from Brigham Young University.

Smith has six years of work experience as a senior project manager with Silver Creek Development Group, and was a senior manager of customer relations for Pulte Homes. His research interests include lean construction, project management, sustainable buildings and processes.

He teaches classes in materials and methods, introduction to the construction industry, and computer graphics. He also serves as the assistant coach of the NAHB competition team.

**Manish K. Dixit** joined the Texas A&M faculty as a doctorate student in August 2009 and serves as a graduate assistant.

Dixit has a M.S. degree in Construction Management from Texas A&M University, a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India, and a B.Arch. from Madhav Institute of Technology and Science in Gwalior, India.

He has nine years of experience as a landscape and senior architect and six years of teaching experience at the collegiate level.

Dixit’s research is directed at developing methods for determining embodied energy of high use building materials. He is a member of the Council of Architecture and Indian Society of Landscape Architects in India, the Post Graduate Built Environment Research (CIB) Chapter, ASHRAE Student Branch, and International Facility Management Association Student Chapter at Texas A&M University.

Dixit has earned LEED Accredited Professional and OSHA-30 hours Safety Certifications. He teaches classes in construction graphics.

**James E. Hogan** joined the Texas A&M faculty as a doctorate student in August 2011 and serves as a graduate assistant.

He has M.S. and B.S. degrees in Construction Management from Eastern Michigan University and worked as an assistant professor at Weber State University for two years before coming to Texas A&M. He also taught at Eastern Michigan University and Florida International University.

Hogan has 13 years of work experience as an owner’s representative, consultant and senior construction manager in the construction industry. He serves on the executive and development committees of the American Council for Construction Education and is a member of the American Institute of Constructors and Associated Schools of Construction.

Hogan’s certifications and licenses include LEED Green Associate, Certified Professional Constructor and Constructor. He teaches introduction to the construction industry and capstone courses.
Melissa Daigneault has a passion for studying abroad, stemming from her time traveling across Europe after graduating from college.

“I gained so much self-confidence during that trip that I understood how much it would benefit my students to have that kind of empowering experience while still undergraduates,” explains Daigneault, who teaches at Texas A&M University.

That’s why Daigneault, a lecturer in the construction science department in the College of Architecture, says she was thrilled when she was offered the opportunity to be the faculty advisor for the semester-long, study abroad and internship program, “Wingtips, Work Boots and Wigs.” The program, which began in 2010, provides up to 20 upper-level undergraduate construction science students the opportunity to spend 19 weeks in London studying construction law and risk management.

What makes this program so unique is that many of the students are able to graduate a semester early, which helps justify the costs involved with the program, especially with parents. The students earn up to 15 credit hours while fulfilling not only their departmental internship requirement but also their semester away requirement for the College of Architecture.

“Because it is such an intense semester, as well as a costly one,” Daigneault says, “I feel a tremendous responsibility to provide these students with an academically challenging and meaningful experience, to maximize the budget and the time, both during my preparation and while we’re there.”

Kirby Miller, a senior from Houston, says she was originally hesitant about going.

“But after listening to Professor Daigneault and feeling her passion about study abroad, I was in. She did a great job of balancing classroom time with learning through experiences. She coordinated so many interviews with people and companies and organized trips which were all academically enriching. I honestly believe I learned more studying abroad than I had in my previous two years of sitting in a classroom,” Miller says.

“It’s a lot of extra work, but it’s definitely worth it,” says Daigneault. “It’s a unique opportunity for a faculty member to engage in high-impact teaching on a daily basis with a small class of students. It’s amazing to see them work as a group and ask truly thoughtful questions. You can see that there’s problem solving and critical thinking happening that you might miss teaching a large class on campus.”

“Not only that,” she continues, “but what you can teach about construction science when you’re standing on the Tower Bridge becomes a more organic, meaningful experience. The students can tie in their experience with their class work and that makes for great discussions. The students also write and blog extensively about what they are learning because it’s so

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stimulating to them.”

Everything becomes a learning experience, Daigneault says.

“When my students go out in the evening, they are exposed to a broad range of ideas . . . from the political to the social,” she adds. “It challenges them to consider other options and broaden their horizons. It also makes them appreciate being Americans.”

As Adam Cashner, a senior from Conroe, says, “The study abroad experience not only gave me better knowledge in my field of construction, but it also broadened my view of other countries’ customs and environment. The greatest part of the study abroad experience was being out of your comfort zone, because that is where you’re tested.”

The second component of “Wingtips, Work Boots and Wigs” is an internship. Daigneault explains that students are placed with the help of the department of construction science’s Construction Industry Advisory Council.

“The advisory council has member companies with offices in the U.K., such as Balfour Beatty, which took on five Aggie interns,” she explains. “Our visa sponsor placed the remaining students in various companies in London where they worked in such areas as property development, facilities management and industry-related research.”

As senior Jared Caskey from Irving points out “The work experience is great, but that can be obtained anywhere. The experience and understanding that comes from spending that much time in a foreign country is priceless.”

“So many of these students have never left Texas, much less the country,” Daigneault adds. “They might work with barristers and solicitors rather than ‘attorneys,’ and there’s more emphasis on historic preservation and respecting the sightlines for various monuments but basically, the practice of construction law and risk management is very similar in both countries. That makes London a perfect place for our students to do an internship.”

Kirby elaborates, “Experiencing other cultures, different cuisine, vibrant atmospheres, walking everywhere and anywhere, touring unbelievable ancient architecture, accents, royal history and fantastic public transportation and experiencing all of this on your own without the comfort of family close by, with friends, new and old, is something so empowering, inspiring and exciting that words cannot even come close to describing it.”

“It means they’re forced to figure it out for themselves, because they can’t just turn the car around and go home,” says Daigneault. “Going to college is a step out of the nest, although for many students that’s still only 60 or 90 minutes from home. Studying abroad is a much bigger step, one that builds self-confidence and makes a huge difference in the lives of my students.”

Nancy Pena, a senior from Edcouch, Texas, agrees.

“I know that in order for companies in Texas and the U.S. to be contenders in this ever-expanding world market, it is vital that our students understand the different cultures and practices of the world,” she says. “No textbook or classroom can show you what another culture is really like. I can honestly say that what I learned from this experience has broadened my outlook on the world and will affect my decision-making for the rest of my life.”
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## Attachment B

**Summary of employment for 2010 & 11 Bachelor of Science Construction Science graduates.**

<table>
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<th>SUMMER 2010</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>$ 90,000.</td>
<td>$ 70,000.</td>
<td>$ 109,000.</td>
<td>$ 89,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$ 53,262.</td>
<td>$ 55,808.</td>
<td>$ 54,375.</td>
<td>$ 54,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>$ 45,000.</td>
<td>$ 35,000.</td>
<td>$ 30,000.</td>
<td>$ 36,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Information on starting salaries for all majors within the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University is available at:**

** [http://careercenter.tamu.edu/guides/reports/WhoHiresMyMajor/ArchitectureIndex.cfm](http://careercenter.tamu.edu/guides/reports/WhoHiresMyMajor/ArchitectureIndex.cfm)
TAMU Foundation Construction Industry Advisory Council 2010 Budget

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010

Retained Earnings ..................................... $ 84,355.04

Income

Corporate Membership Dues ................................ $ 200,000.00
Individual Membership Dues ................................ $ 2,500.00
Interest ................................................. $ 3,407.15
Interest CIAC Endowment ................................ $ 4,146.59

Total Income ......................................... $ 210,053.74

Total Available Funds .................................. $ 294,408.78

Expenses

Student Enrichment

Student Competitions .................................... $ 20,000.00
Graduation Event ...................................... $ 1,000.00
Annual Awards Banquet .............................. $ 15,000.00
Career Fair .......................................... $ 6,000.00
AIC Certification Exam ................................. $ 5,000.00

Scholarships

Individual ............................................... $ 12,000.00
Endowed Matching ..................................... $ 60,000.00
Study Abroad .......................................... $ 5,000.00

Research Studies ...................................... $ 8,000.00

Departmental Support

Endowed Matching Professorship ...................... $ 30,000.00
Program Enhancement ................................ $ 45,000.00

CIAC Operations

Meeting Expense ....................................... $ 15,000.00
Former Student Tailgate ............................. $ 2,000.00
CIAC Endowment Fund ............................... $ 10,000.00
Development Fee ..................................... $ 10,125.00

Total Expenses ....................................... $ 244,125.00

Balance .............................................. $ 50,283.78
TAMU Foundation Construction Industry Advisory Council 2010 Budget
January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

Retained Earnings ..................................... $ 49,058.29

Income

Corporate Membership Dues ........................................................... $ 200,000.00
Individual Membership Dues ............................................................ $ 2,500.00
Interest ............................................................................................... $ 3,400.00
Interest CIAC Endowment ................................................................. $ 4,200.00

Total Income ....................................................................................... $ 210,100.00

Total Available Funds ........................................................................ $ 259,158.29

Expenses

Student Enrichment

Student Competitions ......................................................................... $ 6,000.00
Graduation Event ................................................................................. $ 1,000.00
Annual Awards Banquet ...................................................................... $ 15,000.00
Career Fair .......................................................................................... $ 5,000.00
AIC Certification Exam ......................................................................... $ 3,000.00

Scholarships

Individual ............................................................................................ $ 15,000.00
Endowed Matching ............................................................................ $ 60,000.00

Research Studies ................................................................................ $ 15,000.00

Departmental Support

Endowed Matching Professorship ....................................................... $ 30,000.00
Program Enhancement ....................................................................... $ 45,000.00

CIAC Operations

Meeting Expense ................................................................................ $ 15,000.00
Former Student Tailgate ..................................................................... $ 2,000.00
CIAC Endowment Fund ....................................................................... $ 10,000.00
Development Fee ................................................................................. $ 10,125.00

Total Expenses .................................................................................... $ 232,875.00

Balance ............................................................................................... $ 26,283.29