

CONSTRUCTION INNOVATOR

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT | COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN | CAL POLY | WINTER 2012



**Mentors
& Mentees**

CAL POLY GRADS TEAM UP

“GET INVOLVED in as many departmental activities as you can – as soon as you can.” That’s the “how-to-succeed” advice the 2011 CM Senior Award winners want new students to hear. And who better to dispense advice on succeeding than the outstanding seniors! The six award winners follow in alphabetical order.

Greg Amon
Service to the Department

While a senior at Mountain View High School, Greg applied to 17 U.S. colleges, unsure where he wanted to study. Once he learned Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department accepted him, the choice was easy. “Cal Poly had the best reputation among everyone I asked,” he declared.

A stellar student who made the Dean’s List “most quarters,” he was also an involved student, winning first place in three Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competitions, staying active in clubs, and serving as an advocate of the CM program.

He founded Cal Poly’s Emerging Green Professionals (EGP) student chapter and served as its first president. EGP is part of the U.S. Green Building Council.

He and fellow award winners Ryan Brown, Reid Etcheverry and Bryan Fairbanks, plus some 20 other CM students, spent five weeks over the summer with Professor Hal Johnston in Prague in the Czech Republic. When he returned to the States, he began working as a project engineer with DPR Construction in San Diego.

Greg Amon hikes in San Luis Obispo.

Reaching Great Heights

Six exceptional CM seniors win recognition for their service, contributions and leadership





Ryan Brown
Service to the Department

Ryan – or “RB” to his friends – traces his interest in construction to his second year of high school in Walnut Creek. “I liked the idea of working hard and ending up with something tangible,” he explained.

Ryan started and ran the Cal Poly student chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) for a year and a half. He also served on the board of EGP and was a member of the student chapter of the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM). “The department gave us so



Tim Dieu (above) and
Ryan Brown (left)
Reid Etcheverry
(opposite)

many opportunities, I wanted to give a little back,” he stated.

Ryan especially liked participating in the ASC Reno competitions. “My second year, I shadowed the Heavy-Civil Team, which won first place in regionals and nationals,” he said. “My third year, I captained the Heavy-Civil Team, winning first place. My fourth year, I co-captained the Commercial Team and won another first place.”

The eight-time Dean’s List recipient was surprised he won the Service to the Department Award. “I didn’t think I was going to get any awards,” he said. “It was nice to know that people went out of their way to recognize the work I had put in over the years.”

After his five-week stint in Prague, Ryan traveled throughout southern Europe and the United Kingdom before starting work at XL Construction in Milpitas, Calif.

Tim Dieu

Exceptional Contribution

Tim came to Cal Poly at 18, fresh out of Clovis West High School, with an interest in construction that began with his involvement in SkillsUSA, an organization that helps students prepare for technical and trade careers.

In addition to studying – Tim made the Dean’s List “pretty much every quarter since sophomore year” – he worked for three years as a student technician in the CAED Support Shop. “I like to repair and restore old equipment, rather than have it end up in a dump,” he said.

He enjoyed the Construction Service Learning class so much, he took it twice. The first year, he helped build a pizza oven for Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery. The next year the class built a 20-foot by 14-foot tool shed for the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens. “It was a detailed project, and the students pretty much did it all, from start to finish,” Tim said.

He landed a job as a project engineer with Jacobs Engineering in Bakersfield.

Reid Etcheverry

Outstanding Leadership

Bay Area native Reid always liked taking things apart to see how they were built, so it’s no surprise he wound up studying construction management. It’s also no surprise he chose Cal Poly. “It is the greatest school in California for construction management,” he said.

College didn’t always come easy for Reid, who had some trouble initially. He credits Professor Paul Weber for giving him opportunities to exceed and excel. “Paul introduced me to ASCM, and I eventually became president,” Reid said. “He gave me the opportunity to attend the ASC Reno competition, which started my run with the Heavy-Civil Team. He has always supported me.”

Reid served as a shadow, team member and captain of the Heavy-Civil Team at ASC Reno competitions. “The team won first place when I was a shadow and team member and third when I was captain,” he said.

His leadership roles included serving as ASCM president and department liaison. “I was honored to win the Outstanding Leadership Award,” he said.



Bryan Fairbanks **Outstanding Senior**

In addition to his Outstanding Senior award, Bryan was recognized for having the highest GPA in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. He earned his degree in a record three years, making straight A's while also serving in several leadership roles. And still he found time to play percussion in the Cal Poly Arab Ensemble.

Bryan, from Southern California, served as president of Cal Poly's chapter of the Sigma Lambda Chi International Construction Honor Society, organizing community service activities for Habitat for Humanity. "This was a great way to incorporate Cal Poly's Learn by Doing philosophy into activities outside of school," he said. He also served as vice president of the student chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America.

In 2010 and 2011 he was on the BIM (Building Information Modeling) team at the ASC Reno competition. "It was a powerful teaming exercise," he said. "We were stuck in a single room for 24 hours and forced to work together under pressure to produce BIM models, estimates and schedules."

In September Bryan began work on a master's degree in construction engineering and management at Stanford University.



Joe Field-Bell **Outstanding Leadership**

Joe has always known he would work in the construction industry. "I never wanted to do anything else," he said. And he got an early start. At 13, he went to work for his uncle, a contractor.

Joe, from Sebastopol, was part of the six-member Marine Construction

Team that competed at the ASC Reno, Nev., competition in February 2011, winning second in the region and in the nation.

"We had a great team and a fantastic opportunity to work hard and educate ourselves," he recalled.

A big fan of the Construction Service Learning course, Joe was part of the team that built a brick pizza oven for Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery, a nonprofit that helps emotionally troubled teens and young adults. The oven is the centerpiece of its healing garden. Seven students worked on it for an entire quarter, donating some 450 work hours.

He demonstrated his leadership ability as a board member and president of ASCM and as a board member for the College-Based Fees Advisory Committee. Joe also demonstrated a solid work ethic, cleaning El Corral bookstore every morning at 5 a.m. as a freshman, then working as a handyman for a property management firm.

Bryan Fairbanks (above)
and Joe Field-Bell (left)



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A MILESTONE TO CELEBRATE

June 2011 construction management graduates continue the "hard-hat" tradition, making our department stand out at every commencement exercise.

Jenay Reynolds (above, center), CM Department administrative assistant, celebrates with the graduates.

If you are hiring your next generation of corporate leaders, call us to get in touch with these and other recent graduates!

2011 CM grad Crosby Lovell (left)