Direction of the Program

2016-2017 MARKED ANOTHER YEAR OF CHANGE for the Construction Management Technology Department at Weber State University.

We have moved forward educating students for the regional construction and facility management industry by revising existing curricula, adding new coursework and incorporating technology into our programs. We have added a new computer lab to our facilities at the Davis campus, and a new member to our full-time faculty. (See Ash Grove Cement Company and Sunderland Foundation, and Russel Butler in this issue.)

Last November, the Parson Construction Management Industry Advisory Board approved the program curriculum changes recommended by the regional construction industry in the spring of 2016. The department faculty, shortly after the change recommendation, began reviewing, updating the program curriculum; changing, updating nineteen existing program courses, and adding six new courses to the program curriculum. The Facility Management Program has also updated their curriculum as well based upon recommendation of the Facility Management Industry Advisory Board this past fall. These changes included the revision of lower division CM course requirements, the combining of upper division FM coursework and the addition of business and human resource courses. The University Faculty Senate subsequently unanimously approved these changes at the February Senate meeting for both programs.

Both program Industry Advisory Boards have been active this year. They continue to review the programs curriculum and are actively involved in program student recruitment.

Membership of these advisory boards have provided critical review of our programs and provide key suggestions for our program development. These committees have supported the department in the development of new recruitment videos and assisted our programs with funding and industry/program development recommendations.

Our students continue to participate in regional and national competitions. Such extracurricular activities aid our students in industry relations and program support. The competition teams are issued real world problems, are required to review and investigate the problem, develop solutions and present their alternatives to professional industry representatives who have solved the problem in the field. Our student teams continue to place in these competitions and new teams plan to continue to participate in these activities in the future.

As we approach the end of this academic year, the department plans to complete a preliminary Self-Study Report for accreditation of our construction management program with The Applied Science Accreditation Commission, (ABET), under the criteria for accrediting “Applied Science Programs.” The department will complete its readiness report and submit the study to the “Applied Science Accreditation Commission,” in the fall of 2017. Based on their review, the department will then complete a complete “Self-Study Report” for review in the fall of 2018. Our FM program also moves forward with the program accreditation with the International Facility Management Association (IFMA). Like ABET, IFMA brings to the program and the students specific accreditation for their studies.

Our outlook for the department is very bright. We are working with the junior and applied colleges developing pathways for new students in both programs. Working with the program advisory boards and alumni the department is developing program marketing and student recruiting programs that will serve the department well. We have had a great year as a department, and we look forward to having another successful year during 2017-18. We look forward to working with the University Development Office improving our outreach and industry involvement in all areas of our department.
The Facilities Management Program
Weber State University: a 2017 status report

Five and a half years ago, the FM program at WSU started out as a seed, not yet a seedling. With care and attention, it has now developed into a tree that can actually be seen from a distance—surviving some struggles along the way. It is maturing slowly but steadily, and its future looks promising. Since its inception, the program has been declared as an emphasis by over three dozen students. The program has successfully graduated more than ten of them. It has been encouraging to see some of the graduates finding promising positions in this field. It was also a small surprise to learn of several students who had not yet graduated enjoying career advancement—in part because they were doing so well in the program.

To further enhance the value of the program to the prospective student, as well as to enhance its marketability, several improvements are being implemented or contemplated. The newest version of Cat Tracks stipulates a requirement for students to take at least nine hours of business/management courses. Facilities management is a business even more than it is a collection of technical skills. This requirement was achieved by synthesizing the previously required classes into fewer hours, fewer classes. Furthermore, there are efforts underway to have the program evolve into its own bachelor’s degree, moving on from being an emphasis within Construction Management department. Additionally, discussion with the College of Business are underway with the hope that FM can succeed as a minor to Business Administration majors—and perhaps also vice versa. The expectation is that the FM Program will then be able to float on its own bottom, while still maintaining a necessarily close relationship with Construction Management classes. In the meantime, FM courses are being migrated to a hybrid format which should ultimately make them more accessible to our typically non-traditional student.

We feel that all these measures, strengthened by eventual accreditation by IFMA (the International Facilities Management Association), will help this program evolve into a fully grown tree, strong as a maple, but supple as a willow.

Alumni Golf Tournament

The Annual Golf Tournament was held on June 6th at the Hill Air Force Base Hubbard Golf Course. We had 148 golfers that supported this event. Our gracious major sponsors were Parson, FFKR Architects, Morgan Asphalt, R&O Construction, and Wadman Corporation. Cobb Strecker Dunphy & Zimmerman(CSDZ) provided the breakfast.

The following were our awesome hole sponsors for the tournament: ABC, AGC, Creative Times Inc., Elkhorn Construction, Elwood Staffing, Kozco Mechanical Inc., Granite Construction, Layton Construction, Okland Construction Spindler Corporation, Midwest D-vision Solutions, WSU Facilities Management, Sure Steel Inc., and Ash Grove Cement. Several of the hole sponsors were able to join the event and network with leading construction management companies. R&O Construction sponsored the lunch for the event. We are grateful for their continued support for the event and for the Parson CM program. The program is grateful for all those who provided prizes for the tournament. Next year we will be holding this event on June 5th, 2018 again on the Hubbard Golf Course. Proceeds from the event help with the Alumni Scholarship fund and student activities.
The Facilities Management Program
Weber State University: a 2017 status report

Ash Grove Cement Company and Sunderland Foundation

This fall we were pleased to receive funds from Jeff Guy who represented Ash Grove Cement Company and the Sunderland Foundation. These funds have enabled a new computer lab for our department providing current industry software to our students using current state-of-the-art technology. The Ash Grove Cement Company Computer Lab will be located in room 146 in building D-3 on the WSU Davis Campus.

The creation of the Ash Grove Cement Company Computer Lab will help further the Parson Construction Management Program’s goal to be the premier CM program in the state of Utah and the nation. With this new lab, students graduating from the Parson CM program at WSU are able to enter the construction industry and make an immediate impact due to the strong foundation acquired from their education coupled with their real-world experience in the industry.

Through Ash Grove Cement Company and the Sunderland Foundation, the investment in this new computer lab will:

- Provide Opportunity: ensuring that all students get a chance to make their educational dreams come true at WSU
- Advance Knowledge: providing our outstanding faculty and staff with tools, technology and training they need to keep their instruction current and engaging
- Enhance Campus: investing in modern facilities that match the aspirations and expectations of our students, faculty, staff and community.

“Fortunately, we have amazing board members who are willing to step up and go the extra mile when called upon.”

Industry Advisory Board

As the snow melts and the trees and flowers begin to take on new life, we are greeted with a welcomed change in the seasons. Like the seasons, our Industry Advisory Board also experienced an internal change a few months ago. At the end of 2016, Chris De Herrera from the ABC Utah Chapter finished her term as Chair of the IAB. She will remain a member of the board and will continue to be an integral part of what we do. During her time as chair, Chris was instrumental in establishing a strategic plan and updating the bylaws of the board as well as getting many influential individuals in the industry involved in the charter of the board. We are grateful for her service and on behalf of the IAB, we want to thank her for the time and passion she dedicates to our board and our industry.

As the new Advisory Chair, I am excited for the direction that the IAB is headed. We are building upon the foundation that was created by the previous leadership to help enhance the learning environment for our students and to create opportunities of growth for them as they advance through the program and begin their careers. To help guide the board in this effort, I have two wonderful individuals that are willing to serve. Todd Laker with LafargeHolcim is now Vice-Chair and Michael Allison from Big-D has accepted the role of Secretary. Todd, Michael and I, are graduates and alumni of the Weber State Parson CMT Program and intimately understand the value that comes from the education provided by the program. We will lean on this experience to help make the best decisions for the program and for the industry as we lead the board over the next 2 years.

We have identified 4 key areas of focus for the program and are working to develop strategies to support these efforts. They include Enrollment & Marketing, Curriculum & Accreditation, Fundraising & Scholarship, and Student Placement. We have created committees to focus on each area and our board members are engaged in the work needed to accomplish our goals. These key areas support our mission statement and we feel strongly that the work the IAB will put into these efforts will directly benefit the program.

The IAB has accomplished many things over the years but there is still a lot of work to be done. Fortunately, we have amazing board members who are willing to step up and go the extra mile when called upon. Our hope is that this passion and excitement will carry over into the CMT Program and that we can help the program flourish as we move into the future.

Many challenges lie ahead but we look forward to an exciting and productive year!

Sincerely,

Matt Brower
Advisory Chair

Ash Grove Cement Company and Sunderland Foundation

This fall we were pleased to receive funds from Jeff Guy who represented Ash Grove Cement Company and the Sunderland Foundation. These funds have enabled a new computer lab for our department providing current industry software to our students using current state-of-the-art technology. The Ash Grove Cement Company Computer Lab will be located in room 146 in building D-3 on the WSU Davis Campus.

The creation of the Ash Grove Cement Company Computer Lab will help further the Parson Construction Management Program’s goal to be the premier CM program in the state of Utah and the nation. With this new lab, students graduating from the Parson CM program at WSU are able to enter the construction industry and make an immediate impact due to the strong foundation acquired from their education coupled with their real-world experience in the industry.

Through Ash Grove Cement Company and the Sunderland Foundation, the investment in this new computer lab will:

- Provide Opportunity: ensuring that all students get a chance to make their educational dreams come true at WSU
- Advance Knowledge: providing our outstanding faculty and staff with tools, technology and training they need to keep their instruction current and engaging
- Enhance Campus: investing in modern facilities that match the aspirations and expectations of our students, faculty, staff and community.
Russell Butler

Russell grew up working construction since age 15 taught by his father and grandfather who were excellent craftsmen, superintendents, estimators, and project managers. He worked in every capacity from laborer to carpenter’s helper to carpenter, concrete finisher, foreman, Superintendent, and Project Manager in the field and scheduling, estimating, & Project Management in the office.

He and his wife Jan have 4 daughters and 2 sons ages 17 – 34. He received a degree in CM and MBA from BYU. Worked on coursework for PhD at Colorado State. In the 15 years prior to beginning at WSU fall 2016, he taught construction management at BYU and worked as a PM for Okland Construction and Westland Construction on projects in health care, higher education, secondary education, and courts. Russ loves working with the students and sharing his industry experiences and knowledge with them in the same way his father and grandfather took the time to share their experiences with him.

He is a life-long golf fan and active participant and proponent of the values it teaches. Russ sings bass in the Millennial Choirs & Orchestras—a 3,500+ member organization. He is a strong advocate of a humanistic style of management and that ALL people should be treated with respect. “I think that the manner in which you treat those who can do nothing for you tells a lot about your character. I believe in the Harry S. Truman quote “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit,” and I think that it takes great effort as a manager to identify the people working in that manner and not simply those who are the loudest. I am really happy to be a part of the Parson CM program at WSU.”

Austin Anstoetter

Austin Anstoetter has been a wonderful asset to the Weber State Construction Management Program. He is a transfer student from Iowa. He has become an important leader and has been a key student organizer for the ASC (American Students of Construction) competition teams. The last two years he has demonstrated leadership in organizing and assisting students with logistics and encouraging the other captains to compete. The faculty and staff appreciate his core values and expect to see him excel in his career.

Austin is close to his family and he likes deer hunting back home in Iowa. He is a die-hard Iowa State fan (yes we will forgive him for that), and is a Broncos fan, and just all around sports fan. We are fortunate that he chose to receive his degree from Weber State University.

Austin completed two successful internships with McCarthy Building Companies and Granite. He is now employed with Granite Construction. We as a department wish him the best of possibilities and thank him for his service to the Parson Construction Management Program.