

# SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

# GROUNDBREAKER



SPRING 2016

## Building a career with a strong foundation— FOR 50 YEARS!

*Respect for the Past—Pride in the Present—Vision for the Future*

Join us as we celebrate 50 years of the School of Construction Management, from Northeast Louisiana University—NLU—to the University of Louisiana Monroe—ULM—on April 8, 2016.

**Respect for the past:** We will honor *Thurman Potts*, who was the first director of the School of Construction and also, as a founding member, proposed the name of the professional organization, the American Institute of Constructors (AIC). With his capable leadership, ULM's School of Construction Management became the first accredited program of the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).

**Pride in the Present:** We will honor our first recipient of the national construction certification, Associate Constructor *Meredith Scelfo*, a recent graduate of our program. The AC certification program is sponsored by the American Institute of Constructors and requires that applicants meet certain



education and/or experience standards, then pass the CQE Level 1 examination.

Curriculum changes, classroom renovations, and a hands-on Construction Practices Lab are more reasons for pride in our program—NOW!

**Vision for the Future:** The *Don Beach* Entry Hall will be a fitting tribute to a great leader in the industry and a display area for plaques recognizing winners of

the Endowed Scholarships, Certified Constructors, Distinguished Alumni Awards, and the Constructor of the Year Awards.

More future projects worth celebrating include a 2-story-high bay wing Construction Practices Lab and the renovation of all mechanical systems as well as the Construction Management offices and other public areas.

**IN THIS EDITION:** > Inside pages: past, present and future accomplishments > Back cover: letter from Ed Brayton, director of School

University of  
**LOUISIANA**  
Monroe

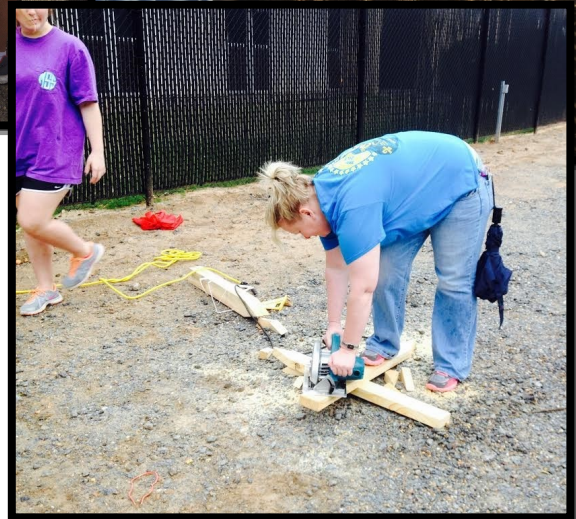
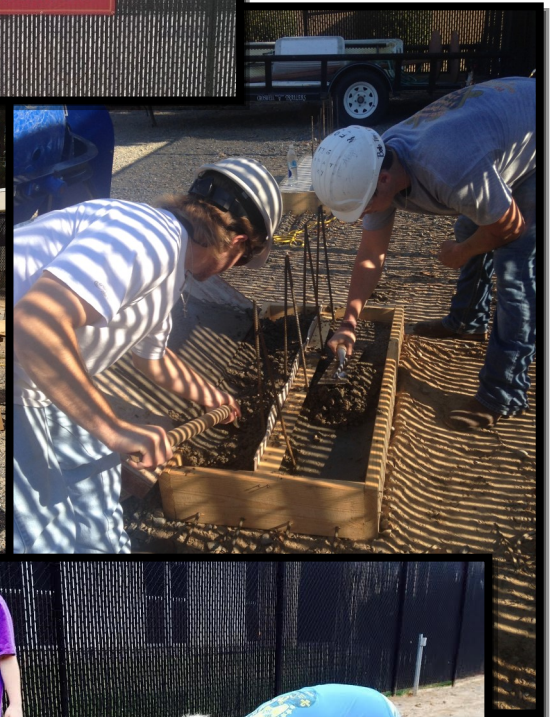
**ULM Construction Management Program**  
College of Business and Social Sciences, Hemphill 100  
700 University Avenue, Monroe, LA 71209





One of the four newly renovated classrooms, complete with SmartBoard, thanks to IAC—before (left) and after (above).

New outdoor Construction Practices Lab, built just south of the classroom building, in use since September 4, 2014. IAC funded.

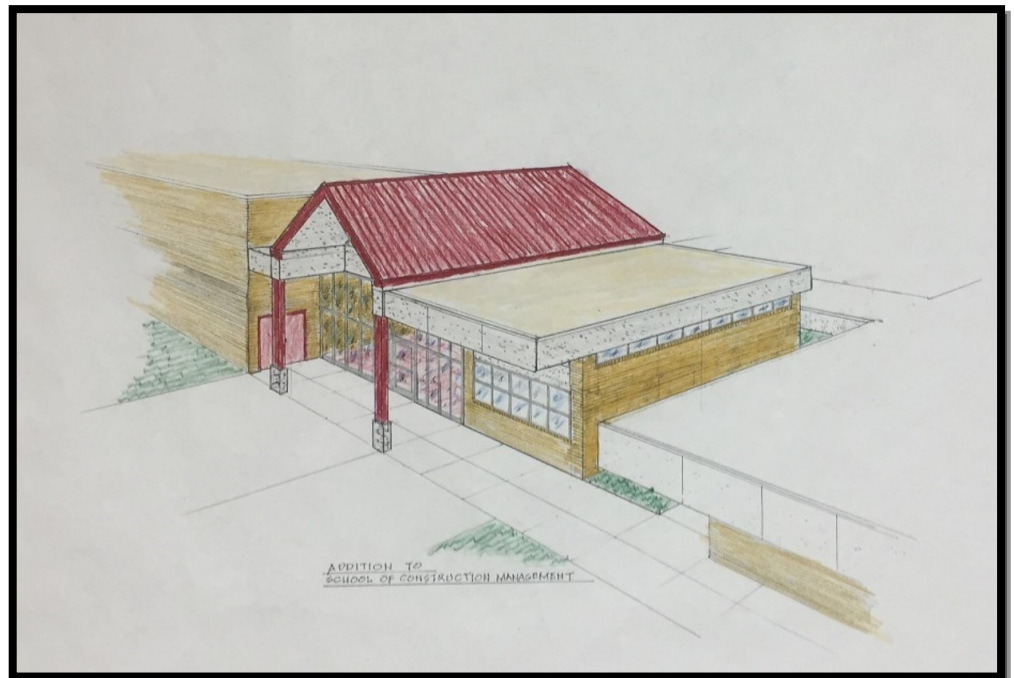






The Structural Steel Teaching Sculpture, installed April 28, 2015, was donated by Steel Fabricators of Monroe, led by graduates John Hunter, Jane Brown, and Joe Tannehill, founded by Don Beach.

**Sketch of planned Entry Hall:**  
The new entry will be named for Don and Fran Beach, who have donated \$200,000+ toward the project. This Hall will contain displays honoring recipients of Endowed Scholarships, Distinguished Constructors and Alumni Hall of Fame, as well as future Associate Constructors. The Hall will include a reception/work area, the Director's office, and a conference room for guest meetings. Additional donors are welcome and encouraged.



**Sketch of planned two-story-high Construction Practices Bay Wing:** This facility will expand the hands-on opportunities of the Construction Management students so they will be able to experience projects like placing concrete forms, installing rebar and pouring concrete for footings and walls using job-built forms. They will also be setting up Simon Concrete forms, and in the future they will be erecting structural steel for a 1 ½-story building.

*Thurman Potts*, the original head of the School of Construction Management at ULM, then NLU, set the tone for 50 years of success for our students. In the beginning, when construction management was just starting out as an academic discipline, Thurman was at the meeting of contractors and proposed the name *American Institute of Constructors (AIC)*, which was adopted for the professional organization. The original two aims of the group were to design curriculum standards for construction education programs and to recognize those who, through education, experience, and a national examination process, become certified professional constructors. The AIC instituted the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) to establish standards for the accreditation of programs. Under Thurman's leadership, ULM (NLU) became the first nationally accredited program.



*Don Beach* is a longtime and generous supporter of ULM's School of Construction Management. He and his wife Fran have given generously to help the School become what it is today—a launching pad for very successful careers in the field. Due to his loyal support, the new School of Construction Management entry hall will be named the Don Beach Entry Hall.

A leader in construction education, Don is a lifetime member of ULM's Industry Advisory Council. He is the founder of Steel Fabricators of Monroe.

*Meredith Scelfo*, a December 2015 graduate of the ULM Construction Management program and now an employee of DeAngelis Diamond Healthcare Group, became the first student to earn the Associate Constructor certification, having fulfilled the academic and professional requirements and then passed the examination. She was also one of the first to take the new AC exam preparation course. She speaks highly of the entire Construction Management program:

*The Construction Management program at ULM gave me so many opportunities to be successful during my years at ULM and after graduation. I was able to experience invaluable, real-world lessons about the construction industry through competitions, conventions, and networking opportunities put on by the Construction Management department. I was also able to secure a competitive edge in my job search because of the credentials and experiences I gained from this program. All in all, the faculty and alumni of the Construction Management program at the University of Louisiana Monroe gave me incredible opportunities and helped to shape me into the successful person I am today.*





## Curriculum Innovations

Upon recommendation from the Industry Advisory Council, ULM's Construction Management degree program created these new required courses in fall 2015:

- Construction Contracts
- Digital Site Management
- Construction Administration
- Associate Constructor (AC) Exam Prep
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Plan Reading

In addition, the program made the following changes:

- A Materials Lab was added to the Construction Materials course.
- The Soils and Testing course and lab was moved to the second year.
- The software requirements for Construction Scheduling were updated.
- Mechanical and Electrical courses were added as part of MEP Systems.
- The OSHA 30-hour card was restored as part of the Construction Safety course.



**Materials and Soils Lab, before....**



**Materials and Soils Lab, after clean-up and \$10,000 new equipment, thanks to IAC**

## ULM Construction Management Program Earns Accreditation Renewal



Recently, the ULM Construction Management program earned its renewal of accreditation from the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). The accreditation process includes a thorough peer review of curriculum, faculty credentials, student support, financial resources, industry engagement, and physical resources.

Dr. Ron Berry, Dean of the College of Business and Social Sciences stated, "It is rewarding to see the efforts of our construction faculty and the quality of our construction management program recognized by this accreditation renewal. I sincerely appreciate the work of the faculty, support of the administration, and engagement of the Industry Advisory Council that led to the renewal."

Dr. Ed Brayton, Director of the School of Construction Management, also praised the Industry Advisory Board members and



the faculty, saying, "ULM has a long history of excellence in Construction Management, with exceptional support from industry. We also owe the faculty, both current and past, who helped build and maintain the program our thanks for their efforts toward this accomplishment."

The mission of ACCE is to be a global advocate of quality construction education programs. Organized in 1974 by the American Institute of Constructors, the constructors' professional organization, ACCE enjoys the support of the principal building and contracting national associations and academic institutions seeking to satisfy the need for well educated and trained entrants into the construction profession.

## Demand Grows for Construction Management Grads

It's no secret that the construction industry took a big hit during the Great Recession of 2007-09 and continued through 2014. As a result of a scarcity of jobs, many construction professionals left the industry and haven't returned to the field.

Now, with the economy on the rebound, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics points to a big upswing in the demand for experienced, qualified constructors over the next decade. In fact, the numbers indicate that there will not be enough Construction Management graduates to meet the expected growth. Through the year 2024, the predictions are that 1,028 positions will go unfilled each year.

(source: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/construction-managers.htm>)



### **Greetings, NLU/ULM Construction Management Alumni:**

Welcome to the redesigned *Groundbreaker*, which coincides with our newly created ULM Construction Management brand. Thanks to the Industry Advisory Council, which funded these changes through the Thurman Potts Fund.

Furthermore, we are having our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Construction Management program on April 8, 2016, and we have invited Thurman Potts to be present for the occasion. We have also done our best to get invitations to the first faculty, the first graduating class, and every class since 1966. *And* we have invited the first contractors from AGC who helped create the construction program here in Monroe, including some long-time supporters such as Don Beach, who will also be recognized at the event.

Thurman Potts, the founding Director of the School of Construction Management, was instrumental in starting the Construction program at NLU, which continues as the Construction Management program at ULM. Thurman was also a founding leader in naming the American Institute of Constructors (AIC) and helping create AIC's mission of accrediting Construction Management programs while also certifying individuals as either Associate Constructors (AC) or Certified Professional Constructors (CPC). Thurman's efforts led to our Construction program's being the first program accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). This year is our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the first ACCE-accredited program. Best of all, in July 2015 we received notification that we have been reaccredited for another six years.

Continuing Thurman's tradition of providing visionary leadership to the CM program and AIC's Constructor Certification programs, I am the founding chair of the Constructor Certification Examination Committee, a Certified Professional Constructor (CPC) and a member of AIC. Coincidentally, this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AIC Constructor certification.

I followed Thurman Potts' career mostly from his work with the AIC while he was at NLU, and I am proud to support the Industry Advisory Council's (IAC) strategic vision to reestablish that legacy which NLU, now ULM, created over the past 50 years. Following that vision, since July 1, 2014, the IAC has supported these projects

- Created an outdoor Construction Practices Laboratory (south of building)
- Renovated the classrooms using only IAC funds
- Installed Smartboards in the classrooms, funded by a grant from the Contractors' Education Trust Fund
- Installed the Structural Steel Teaching Sculpture, funded by Steel Fabricators of Monroe and alumni contributions

Furthermore, with the support of the IAC, the School of Construction Management realigned the curriculum and added courses in Contracts, Digital Site Management, and Associate Constructor Exam Preparation. (On an inside page of this issue the first ULM graduate who received the AC designation, *Meredith Scelfo*, is featured.)

The IAC "2020" strategic plan also calls for a new entry hall, which will display the names of the fifteen recipients of our Endowed Scholarships. The entry hall will also include display walls for the Distinguished Constructors, Alumni of the Year, and the names of all future students who pass the Associate Constructor examination.



This 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary *Groundbreaker* issue includes renderings of the proposed entry hall and the proposed 2-story-high bay Construction Practices Laboratory, which will allow our students to get hands-on construction experience installing forms, forming rebar and pouring concrete. In addition, this proposed structure will allow the students to set a 2-story structural steel inside the laboratory.

These are just a few of our visions for the future, building on a strong past and a vital present.

Breaking ground together,

Ed Brayton  
Director of the School of Construction Management

- ◆ *Respect for the Past*
- ◆ *Pride in the Present*
- ◆ *Vision for the Future*

University of  
**LOUISIANA**  
Monroe