Alumni Spotlight:

Dr. Mark Smith has lived and worked around the globe for over 25 years serving in a multitude of key construction consulting positions for some of the world’s largest professional services firms. His consulting work has taken him to over 60 countries and a variety of far flung mega infrastructure projects.

After receiving a bachelor’s and master’s degree in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University, Mark received his PhD degree from UT-Austin’s CEPM program in 1983. His graduate dissertation was an empirical study on cost and schedule impacts caused by early project decisions on large industrial projects and was directed by Dr. Richard Tucker. The research study was funded by Texaco Inc. and was an early precursor to the formation of the Construction Industry Institute (CII). After graduating from UT-Austin, Mark became an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland. He was instrumental in creating the university’s first ever Construction Engineering and Program Management course of study. In between teaching and research, he began to dabble with professional consulting.

During an exciting consulting assignment with the retired US Army Chief of Corps of Engineers on the Three Gorges river dam in mainland China, he was hooked on being a full time consultant. Over the next 22 years, Dr. Smith led the development and growth of Ernst & Young’s (EY) global real estate and construction consulting practice. He was based in several locations in the U.S. such as New York City, San Francisco and Washington DC and then on to an international posting in Shanghai, China. Following his tenure with EY, he joined the world’s largest consulting firm, Deloitte Consulting, and relocated to East Africa to lead the firm’s Infrastructure and Capital Projects practice for Africa.

Mark is a registered professional engineer and a certified public accountant. He is also a distinguished Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. He currently lives in Nairobi, Kenya with his wife Jody and Marlie, his 12 year old daughter who attends the French International School.

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Support CEPM

Support the CEPM program by donating to:

a) the Richard & Shirley Tucker Endowed Excellence Fund,
b) CEPM (program funds), or
c) the (new) Borcherding Fund!!

Learn how to donate by contacting Dr. Bill O’Brien at (512) 471-4638 or emailing him at: wjob@mail.utexas.edu
Borcherding Excellence Fund

Established

The long-term contributions that Dr. John Borcherding has made to the CEPM program are recognized through the newly endowed Borcherding Excellence Fund. He joined the UT faculty in 1972, making important contributions to the fields of construction safety and productivity. He was awarded the prestigious ASCE Huber research prize in 1976. In his forty-three years on faculty, Dr. Borcherding has supervised 16 PhD students and 129 MS students. Nearly every graduate of the CEPM program has had a class with him.

Dr. Borcherding teaches construction productivity and human factors at the graduate level, and contracts and ethics at the undergraduate level. The CEPM family is happy to honor Dr. Borcherding for his long-standing service to the program and the profession, where he continues to serve on the CII Research Committee and engage the industry in productivity improvement initiatives. The endowment was initiated by contributions from the faculty, CII, his early students, and Dr. Borcherding. Resources from the fund will support CEPM students. The fund is open to additional contributions from those who wish to recognize Dr. Borcherding for the positive influences he has made in the lives of students.

New CEPM staff: Kris Powledge

Kris Powledge joined the CEPM group as a Senior Administrative Associate in May 2014. She has the privilege to help us keep on track when it comes to our travel and financial needs in addition to helping plan meetings, conferences, and outreach so we can better share our on-going research with colleagues and supporters. Her experience includes working with research faculty in the areas of transportation and environmental engineering; providing a wide knowledge base to offer to the research faculty in CEPM.

Please send alumni updates to: Fernanda.Leite@utexas.edu

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Update

Late Fall 2014, the GSO organized a field trip to the Mopac Improvement Project Site, one of CH2M-HILL’s transportation projects in Austin, TX.

CEPMers at Mopac Improvement Project Site Visit

For Spring 2015, the GSO organized and will continue to organize academic and social events for students to interact with members from the construction industry and academia. The GSO had the honor to host guest lectures from various industry professionals, including: Rich Hoffer (Chevron), Don Hurley (Zachry Industrial), Roger Smith (Zurich Services Corporation), Larry Green (BP), Emmitt Nelson (National Academy of Construction), to discuss Construction Safety; and Jessica McClarty and Jonathan Kortz (JQ Engineering), Thomas Hook and Matthew Reyes (Linbeck Construction), and Christine Massoud (Rogers-O’Brien Construction) to discuss Building Information Modeling (BIM) implementation in the construction industry.

Several CEPM students also attended this year’s Expo UT-Austin’s student-run career fair hosted by the Student Engineering Council.

The GSO has also been busy planning a series of social and academic events for the Spring semester, including happy hours, a kayaking outing, a bowling tournament, and a farewell barbecue (Friday, May 08). A new GSO event will be the CEPM Conference (Friday, April 17), during which CEPM graduate students will have the opportunity to share their research with faculty and other graduate students within the program. Awards will be given to outstanding student research.

Fall 2014 Graduates

Varad Pramod Kelkar (MS), Ambareesha Nittala (MS), Bharathwaj Sankaran (MS), and Dan Seedah (PhD).

GSO Officers

President- Nour Bouhou
Vice President - Ignacio de Sande
Treasurer - Nassim Hamed
Secretary - Sara Al Kayali Al Alam
Director of Social events - Robert (Lincoln) Grody
Director of Communications - Anthony Daou
Fundraiser - Ashish Gupta

Spring 2015 The University of Texas at Austin