



Nieri Family Department of
**CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE
AND MANAGEMENT**



SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



From the desk of
MIKE JACKSON
Department Chair and Professor

Dear Alumni, Friends and Partners of the Department,

It is with great pride and gratitude to our Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management (NFCSM) faculty, staff and students that I am able to report that we survived the global COVID-19 pandemic, and even thrived in some ways. During the 2020-21 academic year, our department continued with our sustainable quality growth plan (280 students). We graduated 51 new CSM majors, 12 Master's degree recipients, and 2 new PhD's; Dr. Bob Coffey and Dr. Tanin Haidary. This year's undergraduates may have actually been one of our most impressive groups yet, competing virtually in numerous student competitions, and coming in first place in the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) competition, first place in the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) national competition, second place in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC), Region 2 Commercial Concrete competition, and in the top third among the National Home Builders Association (NAHB) virtual competitors.

As we cautiously returned to face-to-face activities on campus, our CSM Alumni put together what has been reported to be our best ever Alumni Golf Tournament and Senior Dinner. The weather was perfect, and it was wonderful to see, and shake hands with many of our alumni, friends and supporters for the first time in over a year. The leadership of Clemson University, and the enduring spirit of this amazing construction industry truly converged to solve one of the greatest challenges of our times. We thank you for staying with us throughout this past year, and so look forward to working with you all going forward as we reimagine the world of construction, one student-one internship at a time.

We continue to be grateful for all that each of you are actively doing to make our department better. Because of you, Clemson's future is bright with opportunities, and the NFCSM department continues to prosper. We look forward to meeting each of you again in person in the Fall. We have a full agenda of live events scheduled, including our Fall Industry Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting and Construction Career Fair on October 7 at Clemson's Madren Center; and our 6th Annual Construction Symposium at the Marriott in Greenville on October 14. We hope to see you all at both of these highlight events, if not before. In the meantime, **Go Tigers!**

Sincerely,

N. MIKE JACKSON, PH.D., P.E.
DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND PROFESSOR

CSM graduates gather after the May graduation ceremony



OUR MISSION AND GOALS

The Mission of the Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management (NFCSM) is to offer a comprehensive program of education, service and research activities consistent with the Mission of Clemson University and the Strategic Plan of the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities (CAAH), for the purpose of improving the quality of the construction industry and thus the built environment. To realize this mission, the department has the following major goals: Excel in the education of NFCSM majors through a vigorous program of academic learning designed to produce motivated, well-educated, responsible citizens with the management and technical skills requisite for leadership positions in the construction industry; Provide meaningful and relevant education in all construction courses for other undergraduate and graduate students at Clemson University; Foster Clemson University's service mission by providing outreach activities for the construction industry and public, both nationally and internationally; and Assist in attaining Clemson University's funded research goals by conducting and disseminating the results of research and development and/or conduct educational courses for the construction industry.

To realize this mission, the department has the following major goals:

1. Excel in the education of Construction Science and Management undergraduate and graduate students alike through a vigorous program of academic learning designed to produce motivated, well-educated, responsible citizens with the management and technical skills requisite for leadership positions in the construction industry.
2. Foster Clemson University's service mission by providing outreach activities for the construction industry and public, both nationally and internationally.
3. Assist in attaining Clemson University's funded research goals by conducting and disseminating the results of research and development and/or providing other educational opportunities for the construction industry.



ON THE COVER

J Davis Construction brought construction equipment to our XL Yard this semester for students to practice on. The equipment made it possible for us to install a new retainage area with check dams, install silt fencing, and install a rain garden at the XL Yard. (Pictured: CSM student Fernanda Zambrano)

OUR HISTORY

The first courses in the undergraduate building construction program at Clemson University were offered by the School of Architecture in the 1963-64 academic year. This program was initiated in response to the demand by the South Carolina construction industry for individuals educated in the special technological and managerial skills of the construction profession. The first degrees from this initial program were awarded in May of 1966.

In 1971, the Department of Building Science became one of the original four departments of the College of Architecture. This department was a charter member of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) and actively participated in the formation of the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).

The name of the department was changed to Construction Science and Management (CSM) in 1991. In 1986 the department received approval and began to offer the Master of Science degree in Construction Science and Management (MCSM). In 1992 the department also received approval to offer its MCSM degree via distance learning.

The Undergraduate and Graduate degree programs are accredited by ACCE. In 2004, the CSM Department, in collaboration with the School of Architecture and the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture initiated a PhD Program in Planning, Development and the Built Environment (PDBE). The department was officially endowed as the Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management (NfCSM) in the Fall semester of 2019. Both the undergraduate BS CSM and graduate MCSM degree programs were approved by the South Carolina Committee on Higher Education as STEM designated degree programs in 2020.

The NfCSM Department currently consists of ten (10) full-time faculty lines, including the Department Chair; seven (7) part-time faculty; and four staff positions. Since its inception, the department has awarded approximately 1981 bachelor's degrees (BS) and 282 master's degrees (MCSM) (through the 2020-2021 academic year).

FAST FACTS FOR 2021

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT - 280

2021 GRADUATES - 65

TAKING THE LEAD

Competition time is always a challenging, educational and a fun experience for our students. This year added additional external challenges for students while in hybrid mode, but our students were able to come out on top in several competitions.

The Roofing Alliance, the foundation of National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), awarded the L.B. Conway Construction Management Student scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 for winning 1st place nationally in the Roofing Alliance Construction Management Student Competition. The team had to compile a complete qualifications package for Las Vegas Raiders Practice Facility that included project management plan, estimating, scheduling, safety plan, and quality control / assurance plan. We would like to thank Allison O'Toole, Declan Fay, Hannah Smith, Luke Skertich and Hendrix Smith for participating in this competition.



Our ABC student group was the overall winner for ABC Construction Management Competition in Project Management.

Special thank you to Professor Vivek Sharma for leading this group and also Gavin Axson from Brasfield and Gorrie for providing valuable support throughout the preparation period.



We had two teams compete and place in the 2021 ASC Division II Student Competitions. Our Concrete team placed 2nd overall and our Heavy Civil team placed 5th in the competition. We would like to thank Patrick Bell, Trent Burrows, Nicholas Clary, Rhett Cox, Sam Diestler, Jacob Fournier, James Hunt, Sam Kollitz, Daniel Kuhar, Collin Pavlock, Fuller Smoak, Chris Whitley, Steven Risi, Kevin Holley, and Austin Ferguson for participating in this competition. The concrete competition was a remodel and addition to a casino in North Carolina, and the Civil competition was a pump station on Lake Okeechobee in Florida.



Our NAHB Competition Team placed in the top third this year in the National Residential Student Competition. Thank you to Jason Lucas for leading this team!

Thank you to America's Home Place for treating members of the NAHB competition team to lunch and for providing a generous gift to support the competition team travel and NAHB student chapter activities.



NEW OUTDOOR LAB ENHANCES HANDS-ON LEARNING



Students in the Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management have a new 3-acre site where they will gain hands-on construction experience.

The Experiential Learning Yard, located at the Clemson University Ravenel Research Center, provides space for students to construct full-scale structures.

“It’s really our outdoor laboratory for construction,” said Mike Jackson, chair of the department.

The XL Yard, as it is informally known, includes the John B. Nieri Construction Learning Center. The 1,800-square-foot classroom was donated by Michael Nieri ’86, the founder and president of Great Southern Homes in Columbia, in honor of his father.

The new site fills a longtime need for the department, which hasn’t had a permanent location for outdoor construction activities.

Since his arrival at Clemson three years ago, Jackson has raised funds to make possible a permanent facility for outdoor construction activities.

All of the department’s students — more than 250 — will take classes at the site, including a safety course and a construction science workshop.

Richard Gauthier, the department’s experiential learning program coordinator, describes the workshop he offers as “a class where we actually get the students’ hands dirty, where we have them build things or tear things apart.”

Jackson said many future courses could be offered at the site. The classroom and yard also will be used for guest lectures by construction professionals.

“They’ll bring their expertise to the classroom,” Gauthier said. “Some will also bring equipment to work with in the yard.”

Construction science and management students are required to complete 800 hours of internships prior to graduation. Students are eager to learn even more.

“In surveys of interns, one thing many said is that they’d like to have more hands-on experiences,” Gauthier said. “That’s what prompted this whole thing.”

Plans call for some structures — such as tiny houses and gazebos — to be built and auctioned off to support future projects at the XL Yard.

Until now, construction science and management students have gained hands-on experience by working on initiatives with such organizations as Habitat for Humanity.

One longstanding project is the Habitat house students build on Bowman Field each fall in connection with homecoming at Clemson University. Those houses, built in merely a month, are transported to sites in Pickens County where they are occupied by homeowners. That time-honored project will continue in the future.

Michael Nieri’s \$100,000 donation of the John B. Nieri Construction Learning Center continues his legacy of support for construction science and management education in the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities. In 2019, Nieri and his wife Robyn donated \$5 million to the department that now carries his family’s name, the largest gift to date in the department and College.

Chris Moore with Carolina Power donated \$100,000 to purchase and install a new ‘Carolina Power Environmental Systems Lab’ at the space as well.

Additional construction industry partners helped launch the XL Yard through cash and in-kind contributions.

At the \$25,000 level are Fluor Corp and Kattera, while \$10,000 donors include CF Evans, Choate Construction, Holder Construction, Hood Construction and Patuxent Materials.

“Our corporate partners have been very generous,” Jackson said. “We are very blessed to have such a wonderful group of industry supporters at Clemson and in the Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management.”

Gifts in-kind for the XL Yard were provided by Capitol Construction (grading), Carolina Power (power and hook-up), Jet Commercial Plumbing (water lines), Freeland Engineering (survey and inspection), Lake Murray Environmental (erosion control), Bunnell Lammons Engineering (testing), Metrocon (concrete materials), Baker Concrete (concrete labor), Zorn Construction (bollards and striping), and Reeves Young, Choate Construction and Brasfield & Gorrie (shipping containers).

Jackson is particularly pleased with the outstanding project management support provided by Steve Foushee of P+F Construction.

“Our corporate partners have been very generous,” Jackson said. “We are very blessed to have such a wonderful group of industry supporters at Clemson and in the Nieri Family Department of Construction Science and Management.”

Congratulations to our Ph.D. graduates!



**DR. BOB COFFEY
AND
DR. TANIN
HAIDARY**



"My time as a CSM student gave me life long friends, dedicated professors that gave and continue to give me countless resources and advice, and a degree that is recognized throughout the country. I was challenged inside and outside of the program and was able to be as involved in clubs such as the Constructor's Guild and Habitat for Humanity. I grew tremendously during my time as a CSM student in confidence, communication, and critical thinking skills. Though I'm sad my time is over as a student, I know my fellow classmates and professors

are always a call away and the program prepared me to continue to learn and grow even more in my career. I'm excited to begin my career working for one of CSM's Corporate Partners, DPR in Greenville, SC."

Marissa Bishoff '21, President of Clemson University Construction Women and Homecoming Build Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity

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Sam Villeneuve was awarded the Carolinas AGC Citation for Merit Award for 2021. The Carolinas AGC Foundation awards the merit award in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, good character and professional promise.



Molly Dortch was awarded the Carolinas AGC Citation for Achievement Award for 2021. The Carolinas AGC Foundation awards the merit award in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement, good character and professional promise.



Robert Crates was selected as the 2020-2021 recipient of the ABC of the Carolinas Roger Liska Student Scholarship Award.



Julia Seppala was selected as the 2021 recipient of the NFCSM Industry Advisory Board Student Internship Leadership Award.



Congratulations to **Heath Pratt** of Fort Mill, South Carolina for being commissioned on May 5, 2021. He was appointed as a Second Lieutenant in the US Air Force ROTC. The newly appointed lieutenants participated in a Silver Dollar Salute on Clemson University's Military Heritage Plaza. The ceremony marks the first salute received by the officer from an enlisted member.



2021 James L. Allhands Essay Winner

The Board of Directors of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) Education and Research Foundation selected **Rhett Cox** as the third-place winner of the 2021 James L. Allhands Essay Contest.

"Rhett's essay was original and well-researched. It was a fine example of the type of writing regarding the construction industry that exemplified the work of Mr. Allhands." - AGC Board of Directors



Shreyas Bipinbhai Patel selected as the 2021 recipient of the Ralph E Knowland Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Jacob Fournier has been awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the CAGC Foundation for 2021.

Fulton Garner was selected as Clemson University's recipient of the Retail Contractors Association 2021 Scholarship Award.



Al Boulding joins the NFCSM department in July as our new Professor of Practice. Al joins us thanks to the generous Nieri Family Endowment. We look forward to working with Al to expand our hands-on engagement with current students and outreach to prospective students at the XL Yard. Al received his B.A degree in Construction Management from Rowan University, his MCSM degree from Clemson University, and is currently pursuing the Ph.D. in Planning, Design and the Built Environment (PDBE) at Clemson. He is experienced in construction leadership, classroom organization, helping students develop real life problem solving skills, field/site management, employee mediation, mechanical HVAC estimating, equipment purchasing, HVAC, and MEP trouble shooting.



Sigma Lambda Chi 2021 Inductees: Marissa Bischoff, Hallie Bowers, Brandt Clark, Rhett Cox, Robert Crates III, Molly Dortch, Jacob Fournier, Fulton Garner, Matthew Grant, Curtis Kubacka, Ben Lady, Olivia Looper, Laura Manning, James McDowell, Patrick McLeod, Peter Miller, David O'Haren Jr, Allison O'Toole, Austin Poore, Hannah Smith, Fuller Smoak, and Sam Villeneuve



Go Tigers!



CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT ANNUAL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT



"Thanks so much to everyone who was able to attend the 2021 Clemson CSM Alumni Golf Tournament! We hope the nice weather and great atmosphere was enjoyed by all. We could not have held this tournament without each golfer and all the sponsors who were able to donate. We are excited to begin planning the 2022 Clemson CSM Alumni Golf Tournament and will be issuing details later this Summer!" - CSM Alumni Planning Committee

Michael Henry, Jesica Johnson, Brad Hutto, Jeremy Clarey, Steve Foushee, and Leslie Armstrong



Thank You CORPORATE PARTNERS

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- Choate Construction Co
- Clayton Construction
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- Contract Construction Co.
- Danis Construction
- DPR Construction
- Edcon General Contractors
- Eldeco, Inc.
- Evans General Contractors
- Fluor Corporation
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- Greystar Development and Construction
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- Guy Roofing
- H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc.
- Harper Corporation
- Hogan construction group
- Holder Construction Co
- Hood Construction, Inc
- IES Commercial & Industrial
- J Davis
- JE Dunn Construction
- Juneau Construction Company
- KATERRA
- Kiewit
- Lithko
- LMC (Lennar Multifamily Builders)
- Loveless Commercial Contracting Inc.
- M.B. Kahn Construction Co., Inc.
- Mashburn Construction Co., Inc.
- McCrory Construction
- McGillicuddy Concrete
- Metromont Corporation
- Moss & Associates
- Myers & Chapman
- New South Construction
- Network Controls
- Patuxent Materials, Inc.
- Reeves Young, LLC.
- Robins & Morton Group
- Rodgers Builders
- Ryan Homes (NVRINC)
- Sherman Construction
- SteelFab of South Carolina
- Superior Construction
- Swinerton Builders
- T. D. Farrell Construction, Inc.
- The Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.
- Thompson Construction Group, Inc.
- Topcon
- Trident Construction
- Turner Construction Company
- United Rentals
- Walbridge Southeast
- Waldrop Mechanical Services
- WBG Mechanical Const. & Engrs



BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

Clemson's NFCSM Corporate Partners include a group of leading construction companies that, collectively are dedicated to enhancing the educational experience of the NFCSM students at Clemson. Representatives from each member firm work with the department's faculty and staff to ensure that Clemson's NFCSM students have access to the best construction education possible and have the opportunity to contribute to the construction industry at the highest level possible upon graduation. It is because of this generous support that the Clemson NFCSM department is consistently recognized as a national leader in Construction Management education – currently ranked #6 among 2020's Best Construction Management Colleges in the U.S.

By introducing new technology to the faculty and students, sharing industry experiences in the classroom, and providing financial resources to the program, Clemson's NFCSM Corporate Partners are helping to strengthen the foundation for the future of the construction industry.

For more information on how your company can become a NFCSM Corporate Partner, please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Leslie Armstrong, NFCSM Corporate Partner Program Coordinator at 864-656-9588 (ARMSTR3@clemson.edu).

SAVE THE DATE

SIXTH ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION SYMPOSIUM

2021

OCTOBER 14 | 9 AM - 5 PM | GREENVILLE MARRIOTT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
WILLIAM TIMMONS
United States Representative

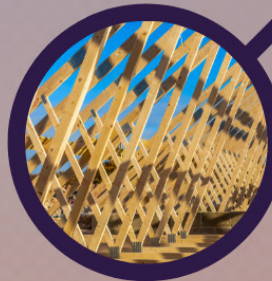
FEATURED SESSIONS

2022 CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIC FORECAST
Ken Simonson, AGC National Economist

STEEL JOIST AND LUMBER MARKET TRENDS
84 Lumber and Vulcraft

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER IN THE SOUTHEAST REGION
Dr. Vivek Sharma & Dr. Dhaval Gajjar

CONSTRUCTION AGENCY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Panel Discussion - ABC, AGC, and NAHB



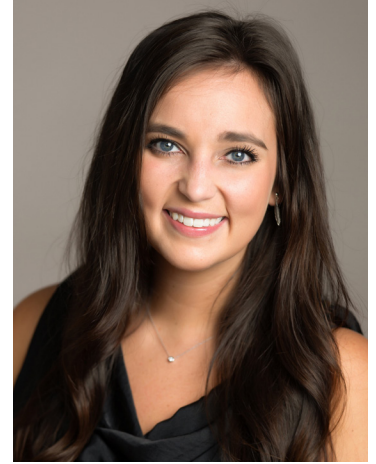
This year's event promises to be another information-packed, one-day program that's expected to draw a cross-section of attendees from across the region — facility owners, construction companies, specialty contractors, designers, vendors and other construction industry service providers.

SCHEDULE

8:00 am	REGISTRATION
9:00 am	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS Mike Jackson Chair, Neri Family Department of Construction Science & Management
9:30 am	SESSION ONE Ken Simonson AGC National Economist 2022 Construction Economic Forecast
10:20 am	NETWORKING BREAK
10:30 am	SESSION TWO Steel Joist and Lumber Market Trends 84 Lumber and Vulcraft
11:20 am	NETWORKING BREAK
11:30 am	SESSION THREE - KEYNOTE SESSION US REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TIMMONS SC 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
12:30 pm	BUFFET LUNCH
1:30 pm	SESSION FOUR Workforce Demographics and Knowledge Transfer in the Southeast Region Dr. Vivek Sharma and Dr. Dhaval Gajjar
2:20 pm	NETWORKING BREAK
2:30 pm	SESSION FIVE Construction Agency Workforce Development Initiative Panel Discussion - ABC, AGC, and NAHB
3:20-3:30 pm	THANK YOU WRAP UP Bradley Robinson
3:30-5:00 pm	NETWORKING SOCIAL <small>*SCHEDULE TIMES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.</small>



100% OF OUR MAY GRADUATES WERE HIRED BEFORE GRADUATION



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