Endowed Chair Honors Long Term Service of Hal Pritchett

CORVALLIS, Ore. — The College of Engineering at Oregon State University has received $1.1 million that will rename and almost double the endowment of an existing faculty chair, honor the founder of the university’s highly regarded Construction Engineering Management program and add faculty to the burgeoning program.

The funding includes a $300,000 commitment from an OSU engineering alumnus and a $500,000 grant from a national heavy construction engineering membership organization known as The Beavers (the name is not affiliated with the OSU mascot). These gifts are leveraging almost $300,000 in additional funds over five years from the OSU Provost’s Match Program, an initiative to encourage donors’ investments in endowed faculty positions that help advance priorities identified in the university’s strategic plan.

The new funding will bring the total size of an existing endowed faculty chair to $2.4 million. The chair, previously named the Construction Education Foundation (CEF) Chair, was originally funded by 120 OSU engineering alumni and industry partners. The CEF Chair will be renamed in honor of Hal Pritchett, a civil and construction engineering emeritus faculty member who founded the Construction Engineering Management (CEM) program at OSU. Endowed chairs play a critical role in helping universities recruit top faculty.

The new funding also frees up resources to hire an additional junior faculty member in the CEM program, which has grown so much in recent years that additional teaching capacity is needed.

“Our CEM program is one of the strongest in the U.S.,” said Scott Ashford, head of the OSU School of Civil and Construction Engineering. “This philanthropic partnership will help us enhance the quality of the CEM program while honoring its founder, Hal Pritchett, and his 45 years of service to OSU.

“I am grateful for the leadership of the Construction Education Foundation Board and the many donors to the CEF Chair, whose vision started this effort. I would especially like to thank Mike and Terri Phelps, whose generosity was key to this new, collaborative gift,” Ashford said.

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Greetings from the Construction Education Foundation

Dear CEM Supporters,

Greetings from the Construction Engineering Management (CEM) program at Oregon State University! It has been many years since we last distributed a CEM newsletter. OSU Building Together will now be published in the fall, winter, and spring terms. One of the strengths of the CEM program at OSU is our partnership with industry. As part of this partnership, I believe the CEM program needs to continue our strong communications with our partners. This newsletter should provide you with a better understanding of our construction engineering community and the exciting things that are happening in the School with our partners in industry. More importantly, we hope that the newsletter will strengthen our already strong relationships by highlighting both the strengths of the faculty and staff at OSU and the strengths of our industry partners. One of our first write-ups highlights a project where Prof. John Gambatese is working closely with industry partners to improve safety on construction projects. Partnerships like these provide significant value to the construction and engineering community, strengthen our relationships between the CEM program and our partners, and provides significant benefits in educating and training our future leaders for our industry. I see the newsletter as a great opportunity to increase collaborations. I hope you enjoy the new OSU Building Together and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

David Trejo, Ph.D

A message from the School Head

Dear Friends of CEM,

I have been very fortunate to be given the opportunity to join my alma mater and help lead the School of Civil and Construction Engineering. The construction and engineering industry is dynamic where change is inevitable - to be the best we can it is imperative that the School recognize and be proactive to these changes. Being proactive requires close collaborations with our industry partners and being at the forefront of changes occurring in education pedagogy. Because the business of a University is to educate and train the future leaders and innovators for industry, it is essential that we are in tune with our industry. The CEM program at OSU has been very fortunate to have a long history of strong industry partners. These partnerships have made the CEM program at OSU unique, strong, and one of the most sought after programs in the US. To better meet the needs of our industry partners, we are growing our faculty to increase the quality of our education; adding faculty allows us to reduce class size and offer courses twice a year for increased student flexibility. We have also instituted an Honor Code for CCE to clearly set the expectations for any student coming through our program. We are providing more opportunities for future leaders and innovators to earn an education but more importantly we are doing it with excellent educators, better facilities, and most importantly, with you, our partners. Change is occurring and I believe continuing and improving our relationships with our partners will make this change positive. I look forward to working with you in the future and I hope you enjoy our new newsletter.

Sincerely,

Scott Ashford, Ph.D, PE.
Professor John Gambatese and Vineeth Dharmapalan, MS Grad Student, in CEM are developing a new design rating system (similar to a LEED rating system) to evaluate the construction safety risk associated with a design. The rating system will have all of the components that make up a multi-story commercial office building (the foundation, framing, exterior, interior, and roofing), and the different design features that are used for constructing each component. As part of the research study, Vineeth is interviewing superintendents and safety personnel in different general contracting and trade contracting firms to get input about the safety risks associated with constructing different types of design features. The safety rating system, once developed, will be a useful tool for architects and engineers to make projects safer to construct.

The research project is expected to be completed in 2011.

Vineeth is interested in interviewing additional superintendents and safety personnel for the study. If you are available for an interview for the research study, please contact Vineeth at dharmapv@engr.orst.edu or Dr. Gambatese at john.gambatese@oregonstate.edu.

Vineeth presenting at Turner Constructions in the Portland district office. Turner Construction’s Guy Silvey, Tony Leon-Guerrero, Alan Blood, Greg Holloran, John Gonzales, Travis Harris, Eddie LaBerge (not shown in picture) participating in the research study.

The construction of the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Operations Center-Pacific site in the Port of Portland holds close ties to the CEM Program. Hal Pritchett, Professor Emeritus and founder of the CEM Program has been actively involved as a consultant and stakeholder. CEM graduate Joshua Dodson (‘99), Project Manager with CPM Services, reported great progress on the project. Recent setbacks have been alleviated by the conscientious work of Andersen-West Coast Contractors (AWCC). The Port of Portland announced this month that the project “looks good to finish within the in-water work window.” For more details on the NOAA MOC-P Homeport Project visit: www.noaa.gov
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Continued from front cover.

Mike Phelps, a 1976 OSU civil engineering alumnus and an executive vice president at Kiewit Construction Company, and his wife, Terri, made a $300,000 commitment that helped leverage a $500,000 grant from The Beavers Charitable Trust. The Beavers, a California-based membership association of heavy engineering construction companies and individuals, funds programs and scholarships that assist students entering the industry. The Beavers Charitable Trust maintains endowed scholarships for civil engineering and construction management students at 40 schools with a combined value approaching $4 million, as well as endowed chairs at three other schools.

Each year The Beavers honor outstanding individuals who have demonstrated particular skill, responsibility and integrity in the trade with the Golden Beaver Award, one of the highest honors in the field of heavy engineering construction. In 2003, Pritchett was selected to receive a Golden Beaver Award, only the third educator in the organization’s 45-year history to have been given the prestigious award.

“The objective of the Beavers Charitable Trust is to invest in future leaders of the construction industry. I am proud of the quality of the engineering education offered by Oregon State and pleased to make my personal investment as well,” said Phelps, who serves as president of The Beavers and has supervised Pacific Northwest construction projects for Kiewit that include the West Seattle Bridge and the third Lake Washington Floating Bridge. “The endowed chair is a wonderful tribute to Hal, who has had a tremendous impact on the industry and the lives of so many engineers.”

Prior to joining the faculty at OSU, Pritchett worked for the Bureau of Public Roads and the Army Corps of Engineers, and served in the U.S. Army in Japan and the Philippines. He holds a bachelor’s in civil engineering and a master’s in hydraulic engineering from OSU, and the degree of engineer in economic planning from Stanford. Pritchett served on the OSU faculty for 45 years before retiring in 2002 and has represented OSU on the Oregon Associated General Contractors Board of Directors.

He has received numerous honors, including the Oregon section of ASCE’s 1989 Engineer of the Year Award, and is still very involved at OSU.

Professor David Trejo, who was recruited to OSU from Texas A&M University in 2009, is holder of the existing Construction Education Fund Chair. He will be the first holder of the renamed Hal Pritchett Chair. Trejo’s research focuses on the design and development of materials and systems for efficient construction processes and products.

These gifts are part of The Campaign for OSU, the university’s first comprehensive fundraising initiative. Guided by OSU’s strategic plan, the campaign seeks $850 million to provide opportunities for students, strengthen the Oregon economy and conduct research that changes the world. More than $659 million has been committed to date, including gifts creating 35 endowed faculty positions out of OSU’s total of 81.

MEDIA CONTACTS:
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Scott Ashford, Head, OSU School of Civil & Construction Engineering, 541-737-4934, scott.ashford@oregonstate.edu
AGC Student Chapter at Oregon State University

The 2010-2011 AGC Student Chapter at OSU is off to an exciting year. Our membership has recently eclipsed 200 students and is continuing to grow. Our partnership with the local AGC Oregon-Columbia Chapter is stronger than ever. Support from our industry partners through hosted speaker meetings continues to be a success and many students have accepted offers for internships and full-time employment.

The AGC Student Chapter recently renewed its registration with the University as an official volunteer organization and have added three new officers to the student executive team. These new class representatives for freshmen and sophomores will focus on expanding our student involvement to all class levels. The AGC Student Chapter will continue to provide networking and enrichment opportunities as the school year moves into winter and spring. The ASC Competition in Reno, Nevada is just around the corner (Feb 16-19) along with Contractor’s Night (April 15) and the Annual AGC Student Golf Tournament (May 6). We hope to see you there. Go Beavs!

Check out our upcoming events at: http://groups.engr.oregonstate.edu/agc/events.html

Speaker Meetings

The AGC Student Chapter at OSU would like to give a special thanks to our industry partners who hosted a Fall 2010 / Winter 2011 Speaker Meeting. Your continued participation is critical to our future success!

These meetings continue to provide an important avenue for students to explore relevant issues in construction as well as to meet the critical partners in our industry and learn about current projects underway.

Speaker Meetings provide valuable name recognition to companies and exposure to many students. Many companies find qualified internship and full-time employment candidates through our speaker meeting forum.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a Speaker Meeting, please email Shaun Jolley or Kodi Long at: osuagc@gmail.com

Speaker Meeting Industry Partners

Fall 2010—Winter 2011

- Andersen Construction
- Anning-Johnson
- Fortis Construction, Inc.
- Hamilton Construction
- Hensel Phelps Construction, Inc.
- Hoffman Construction
- Howard S. Wright
- James W. Fowler Co.
- Kiewit Bridge & Marine
- Kiewit Underground
- McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.
- S.D. Deacon
- Shimmick Construction
- Skanska
- Temp Control Mechanical Corp.
- Traylor Bros., Inc.
- Turner Construction Company
- Walsh Construction
Meet the CEM Faculty

John Gambatese, Associate Professor has been with the University since 2000. He currently teaches a variety of courses covering concrete and wood design, temporary structures, contracts and specifications, and construction site operations and systems engineering. His areas of interest and expertise include: construction safety, sustainability, constructability, innovation, design-construction interface, lifecycle properties of constructed facilities, temporary construction structures, and construction engineering.

Jason Ideker, Assistant Professor and Kearney Faculty Scholar is an expert in innovative materials and has been with OSU since 2008. His areas of interest include concrete durability, early-age properties of cement-based materials and the pursuit of high-performance civil engineering materials. Dr. Ideker teaches a Green Building Materials course to undergraduate and graduate students in CCE as well as courses in Civil and Construction Engineering Materials and Advanced Concrete Properties.

Joe Fradella, Instructor is teaching courses on mechanical and electrical systems in buildings, construction scheduling, and construction management. Prior to joining the faculty, Mr. Fradella worked as a construction project manager in Israel for three years. He has a MS in Civil Engineering and his research interests include energy efficiency and design of healthy buildings.

David Rogge, Associate Professor is the most senior faculty member having been with OSU for 28 years. He has taught a wide range of courses relating to construction engineering and project management, and currently teaches estimating, project management, and project controls. Dr. Rogge’s areas of specialization in addition to those he teaches include construction labor productivity, construction project delivery, and construction project management.

Todd Scholz, Assistant Professor and Loosley Faculty Fellow is a graduate of the OSU Engineering Program; earning both a Bachelor’s and Master’s in Civil Engineering at OSU. Dr. Scholz areas of specialization include civil engineering materials, pavement design, mechanistic analysis of pavement structures, performance-related and performance-based specifications, warranties, quality control/quality assurance, pavement management systems, geographical information systems, life cycle cost analysis, Monte Carlo simulations, engineering software applications development.

David Sillars, Associate Professor has technical expertise and research interests in project risk management, inter-organizational relationships in the construction industry; cultural factors in project delivery; project delivery alternatives; and strategic organizational structuring at the project and enterprise level. Dr. Sillars is also Director of the Robert C. Wilson Program in Construction Engineering Management, a program designed to increase students’ knowledge of engineering and business in preparation for advanced positions in the construction industry. He researches and consults regularly in the highway, transit, and building construction sectors. He teaches building construction, project risk management, enterprise management and innovation. He has 28 years of industry experience and has been at OSU since 2002.

David Trejo, Professor, Construction Education Foundation Endowed Chair has been with OSU for one year. With 10 years of field experience, he brings real-life application to the classroom. His research expertise focuses on design and development of systems that allow for accelerated and durable construction. His teaching interests include heavy civil methods and processes, cementitious materials and systems, and durability and constructability of infrastructure systems.

cce.oregonstate.edu/cem/faculty
Beaver Happenings

Upcoming Events:
• ASC National Competition
  Feb 16-19, Reno
• Engineering Career Fair
  Feb 24, OSU
• Contractor’s Night
  April 15, OSU
• AGC Student Chapter
  Golf Tournament
  May 6, OSU Trysting Tree

Jan Strombeck: After 27 years working at OSU in the Construction Engineering Management program, Jan Strombeck is seeking new endeavors. Her hard work and dedication have helped make program what it is today. The School of Civil & Construction Engineering, faculty, staff, alumni and students wish Jan good luck in the years ahead. Go Beavs!

Welcome! Join us in welcoming Margie House, CEM Industry Relations Coordinator. A position funded primarily through the AGC Oregon Columbia Chapter. Margie joined the CEM as a Professional Faculty member in August 2010. A 2004 graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a degree in Communications, she brings 5 years of experience in program coordination and executive board management from her previous position at SmithBucklin Corporation in Chicago. She is excited to join the team and looking forward to working with the students.
For over 35 years OSU’s Construction Education Foundation has been supporting the Construction Engineering Management Program through dedicated funding. The funds raised support scholarships, job-placement assistance programs, professional associations and faculty endowments helping make our program one of the premier construction education and research resources in the Pacific Northwest.

Interested in helping support the CEM Program? Make a gift to the Construction Engineering Foundation:

101 Kearney Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331
Attn: Margie House