Inside This Issue:

Focus on Education, Training and Workforce Development
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded CalPortland Company the National ENERGY STAR® Award for Sustained Excellence in recognition of its continued leadership in protecting our environment through energy efficiency. CalPortland’s accomplishment over six consecutive years is a feat that has never been matched by any other U.S. building materials company.
AGC’s Continuing Commitment to Education, Training and Workforce Development

AGC of California has become even more focused on promoting careers in construction, training and professional development by introducing more quality programs and services tailored to fit the industry’s training needs. The AGC Construction Education Foundation expanded its outreach efforts to promote careers in construction among K-12 and colleges/universities. With the addition of Erin Volk, the new Director of the Construction Education Foundation, AGC will continue to develop new programs and services and improve upon those that the Foundation already provides. Erin and the Foundation Board have spent much of their time organizing and promoting the Construction Career Awareness Days held throughout the state in four main regions – Sacramento, Bay Area, Central Valley, and Los Angeles. These career fairs have had in excess of 7,000 high school and junior college students attend and provided students the opportunity to meet industry professionals, agencies, trade unions and employers to learn more about the construction industry and the volume of career opportunities the industry offers.

Continuing its focus on training and education, AGC has developed various programs to ensure that your employees are trained on the myriad of new regulations and has provided continuing education so they can achieve their individual potential as leaders. Through the focused efforts of our education committee and Ryan Famularo, Manager of Programs and Marketing, our training programs are tailored to meet the ever-changing regulations required for employers to succeed in the construction industry. AGC has been at the forefront of the rule making for new regulations, some of which are outlined in this issue. As a result, the association is perfectly situated to provide the training your employees require to make your firm profitable.

One new regulation growing in importance and with significant compliance requirements is the new storm water runoff construction general permit. This new regulation, which became effective July 1, 2010, requires monitoring of storm water pollution and changes the way contractors operate on each jobsite. In response to the new requirement, AGC launched a new California State Certified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Training. We are now offering Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) and Qualified SWPPP Developer Training on behalf of the California State Water Board. We encourage everyone to visit our website and the online training catalog for a full index of training courses available.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that AGC had a very productive legislative year. AGC’s State Board of Directors took formal positions to support the Open Primary Act (Prop. 14, passed in June), and the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act (now slated for November 2012), and oppose the California Fair Elections Act (Prop. 15, defeated in June). Along with these legislative wins, AGC supported and participated in drafting the “gas tax swap” legislation passed by the Legislature earlier this year. With the current state budget crisis, the availability to sell new transportation bonds would not be possible without the gas tax swap.

AGC also took positions on the following ballot measures that will appear on the November ballot: Support Congressional Redistricting (Prop. 20) and Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation (Prop. 22); and Oppose Increased Business Taxes (Prop. 24) and Changes to the Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass a Budget (Prop. 25). In addition to the many propositions, California voters will elect a new governor. I encourage everyone to get out and vote for the candidate who is good for the business community and for California’s economic recovery.

Thomas T. Holsman

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CONSTRUCTION

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Big Issues on November Ballot

By Dave Ackerman

Not only are you about to elect the Governor who will try to govern and lead California for at least four and possibly the next eight years – but your vote on a number of ballot measures will impact California for years to come and could impact legislation crafted and supported by AGC.

From “legalizing” marijuana to a decision on how to draw legislative district boundary’s, voters will leave a mark for decades – long after the current candidates are elected and leave office.

**Propositions 22 & 26** on the November ballot could have a significant impact on transportation funding. According to the State Legislative Analyst, both Propositions 22 and 26 will have the effect of voiding the “gas tax swap” that was enacted earlier this year. Under the “gas tax swap” approved by the Legislature earlier this year, the state eliminated the sales tax on gas and increased the traditional gas tax to replace the lost sales tax revenues. AGC participated in drafting the “gas tax swap,” which over time will generate several hundred million in additional revenues annually for highway construction.

Under this plan, the state shifted about $1 billion of annual transportation bond costs from the state’s General Fund to its fuel tax funds, helping the state balance its General Fund budget and providing a dedicated funding source for the transportation bonds not dependent on the state General Fund. Because the Legislature approved this tax change with a majority vote in each house, this law would be repealed in November 2011—unless the Legislature approved the tax again with a two-thirds vote in each house under Proposition 26.

Proposition 22 reduces or eliminates the state’s authority to use state fuel tax revenues to pay debt service on state transportation bonds and borrow or change the distribution of state fuel tax revenues. These restrictions sound good and continue a policy AGC has pursued for the last 20 years to protect highway revenues. However, Proposition 22 says the state could not use fuel tax revenues to pay for any bonds that have already been issued as well as new bonds. Given California’s current financial crisis, the State Treasurer may not be able to sell new transportation bonds if the gas tax cannot be used to cover the debt service because the state would need to pay about $1 billion of annual bond costs from its General Fund rather than from transportation accounts.

Both Propositions require any state law that is in conflict with the propositions provisions be repealed. This repeal in Proposition 26 would not take place, however, if two-thirds of each house of the Legislature passed the law again.

**Proposition 19** changes state law to legalize the possession and cultivation of limited amounts of marijuana for personal use by individuals age 21 or older. Proposition 19 states that no individual could be punished, fined, or discriminated against for engaging in any conduct permitted by the measure. However, it purports to specify that employers would retain existing rights to address consumption of marijuana that impairs an employee’s job performance, but it is unclear how the measure would impact existing drug testing programs and employer’s rights.

**Proposition 20 and Proposition 27** are two competing legislative redistricting-related measures. If both of these measures are approved by voters, the proposition receiving the greater number of “yes” votes would be the one to go into effect. Proposition 20 takes the responsibility to determine boundaries for California’s congressional districts away from the State Legislature. Instead, the commission recently established by voters to draw district boundaries of state offices would determine the boundaries of congressional districts. Proposition 27 returns the responsibility to determine district boundaries of state offices back to the Legislature and eliminates the commission recently established by voters to determine these district boundaries.

Both these measures will have profound impact on the make-up of future legislatures.

**Proposition 23** suspends the implementation of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, until the unemployment rate in California is 5.5 percent or less for four consecutive quarters. During the suspension period, state agencies would be prohibited from proposing or adopting new regulations or enforcing previously adopted regulations that would implement AB 32. Once AB 32 went back into effect, this measure could not suspend it again.

Under Proposition 23, AB 32 would likely be suspended for several years. Since 1970, the state has had three periods (each about 10 quarters long) when the unemployment rate was at or below 5.5 percent for four consecutive quarters or more. The unemployment rate in California for the first two quarters of 2010 was above 12 percent. Economic forecasts for the next five years have the state’s unemployment rate remaining above 8 percent.

**Proposition 24** repeals the business tax law changes passed in 2008 and 2009 allowing businesses net operating loss carryforward and carryback, multistate business tax benefits and the ability of businesses to share tax credits.

**Proposition 25** amends the Constitution to lower the vote requirement to pass the budget from a two-thirds vote to a majority vote necessary for each house of the Legislature. The lower vote requirement also would apply to “trailer bills” that appropriate funds and are identified by the Legislature as related to the budget in the budget bill. It is unclear if the majority vote authority would allow tax or other revenue increases to be enacted as part of the budget bill.

Take care as to how you vote – the impact will be felt for decades to come!
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For more information, contact LECET Southwest at 916-447-1874 or visit us on the web at www.lecetsouthwest.org.
AGC of California is calling for entries to the 2011 AGC Constructor Awards program, honoring outstanding California construction projects. The deadline for entries is Friday, January 14, 2011. All entries must be in AGC’s state office in West Sacramento by 5 p.m. that day.

Only projects completed or substantially completed in California in the calendar year 2010 by AGC member firms are eligible to compete in the 2011 Constructor Awards program.

Small and large projects are considered equally, and the sophistication of the presentation is not part of the judging; rather, it is the merits of the project that determine the winners of the coveted bronze “Constructor” statuettes. Only one entry per category may be submitted by each member firm. A project may be entered in up to two categories, but will be judged in only one. The Awards Committee will decide upon the category in which the project will be judged. Member firms are limited to two entries per year. There is a fee of $500 per entry.

There are seven categories for this year’s competition, including one all new “specialty contractor” category. They include:

- Excellence in Project Management – Projects $10 million or below
- Excellence in Project Management – Projects over $10 million
- Innovation in Construction Techniques or Materials
- Contribution to the Community
- Meeting the Challenge of the Difficult Job – Builder Classification
- Meeting the Challenge of the Difficult Job – Heavy Engineering Classification
- Meeting the Challenge of the Difficult Job – Specialty Contractor Classification

The Awards Committee will conduct first round judging early next year and will select finalists in each category and notify them of their selection in early March 2011. Judging of the finalists will then be undertaken by a panel of seven judges, consisting of the three AGC Division Chairs, three members of the Awards Committee and one individual from the public or private sector allied with the construction industry, as selected by the Awards Committee.

All finalists will be honored at the AGC Constructor and Achievement Awards Banquet to be held on Saturday evening, April 9, 2011 at the Fairmont Newport Beach. Winners will not be announced prior to the dinner program.

Entry forms will soon be distributed to all AGC members or can be obtained through AGC’s website at www.agc-ca.org. For more information, contact AGC’s state office at (916) 371-2422.
Nominations are currently being accepted for AGC’s annual Achievement Awards competition for 2011.

Each year, the association honors a Contractor, Specialty Contractor and Associate member for extraordinary service to the association. In addition, AGC periodically selects an individual from the public or private sector who has made an outstanding contribution to California’s construction industry to receive the S.I.R. Award.

Nominations for the Contractor, Specialty Contractor and Associate Achievement Awards can be accepted from an individual AGC member, a District Board, Division Board, Standing State Committee or the Executive Committee. Nominations for the S.I.R. Award can be accepted from a District Board, Division Board, Standing State Committee or the Executive Committee. Nominations must be made in writing, on one page that notes the various achievements of and reasons why the nominee merits consideration.

To be eligible for the AGC Contractor Achievement Award, a person must have worked in the construction industry a minimum of 25 years; be a member in good standing or member-in-retirement of the association; have made a significant contribution to AGC and the industry; and be held in esteem by his or her peers. Eligibility for the Specialty Contractor Achievement Award category is the same as above except the person must have worked in the construction industry a minimum of 15 years.

To be eligible for the AGC Associate Achievement Award, an Associate member must have been engaged in providing a product or service to the construction industry for a minimum of 15 years; be a member in good standing or member-in-retirement of the association; have made a significant contribution to AGC and the industry; and be held in esteem by his or her peers.

Nominations must be received in AGC’s Sacramento office no later than December 10, 2010. The presentation of these awards will again take place in conjunction with the Constructor Awards Banquet, to be held on Saturday, April 9, 2010 at the Fairmont Newport Beach. For more information, contact AGC at (916) 371-2422 or visit AGC’s website at www.agc-ca.org.
2010 Construction Career Awareness Days: Engaging the Next Generation of Workforce

By Tony Grasso and Erin Volk

More than 1,900 students from 16 school districts turned out for two Construction Career Awareness Days (CCAD) held to date in 2010, the first in Los Angeles on March 26 and the second in Fresno on April 30. Both events, as well as one planned in Vallejo this month, are part of a larger effort to develop the future construction workforce by the AGC of California Construction Education Foundation, which hosts, sponsors, and/or supports similar events each year in different locations across the state.

Each CCAD event has a host company or organization that takes on the bulk of the responsibility for the planning and implementation of their CCAD event along with the planning team they appoint. Although the events vary from city to city, the overall goal of Construction Career Awareness Days remain the same: to outreach and educate the next generation about the diverse and rewarding career opportunities available to them in the construction industry.

All totaled the events drew a diverse spectrum of participants from some 53 different high schools in the Los Angeles and Fresno regions. In Los Angeles, 96% of the students represented minority populations while 38% were female. At the Fresno CCAD, 50% were of minority background and 20% were female.

At both events, students spent the day meeting with construction professionals to experience first-hand the numerous career paths available in construction. Students experienced interactive exhibits from local area contractors, suppliers, labor unions, apprenticeship programs and education providers and institutions.

In total, both events hosted 93 exhibitors. For many students, the interaction with the construction professionals they met at exhibits and the equipment the exhibits showcased were by far the most impactful part of the events. As part of the post event evaluation, students from the Los Angeles CCAD were asked “What did you like most about the event?” Among the many responses were, “operating the crane!” and “learning about different construction companies.” One Fresno CCAD participant, Felipe Reyes, was intrigued by the information he got from various contractors and exhibitors, information he hopes will be helpful as he makes plans to attend college next year because he says he’s now sure that he wants to develop a career in construction.

In Los Angeles, students also participated in education workshops provided by industry leaders from construction companies, school districts, and apprenticeship programs. There were nine different workshop topics offered, including workshops on “BMI” and “Safety” presented by Turner Construction; one covering “Soft Skills” presented by Griffith Company; and Employment Development Department and “Women in the Trades” presented by PV Jobs. In their post-event evaluations, many students commented that the workshops were their favorite part of the event and provided much needed information. One student commented that the highlight of her experience was “the way sponsors and contractors explained the equal opportunities students have and learning that women are working with men and can do anything a man can do.”

Also at the LA CCAD, students also had the opportunity to hear directly from different companies offering internships, and as a result there were students who pursued and were offered internships after the CCAD events. LA CCAD event.
organizers are closely following these students to measure the impact of the Career Day event on their long-term goals and career development.

For the first time, in 2010 the Fresno Career Awareness event added a level of competition to the hands-on exhibits, which increased student participation. Students tested their skills and were timed manipulating the bucket on the backhoe, using hand tools for different tasks, assembling and tightening screws and bolts, and running obstacle courses with equipment in tow. All these activities were timed or scored for accuracy. Student scores were totaled by the school, the school totals were averaged, and schools with the lowest average times received awards. More than 300 students participated in the competition, and at lunch the awards were presented to Laton, Clovis, and Washington Union High Schools respectively, as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

David Costa, a teacher in charge of the ROP/Welding Department at Laton High School, has attended the Fresno Construction Career Day for three years running, and he said he felt this year’s competition added a level of interest for the students he had not seen in the previous years. “Kids really need hands-on experience to understand what the industry is all about,” Costa commented.

The success of both events will leave a long standing impact on the students who attended, specifically those who reported an increase in interest around careers in the construction industry and the community and industry members who organized the events and got reward from seeing the effect it had on the students. Coming together to provide career options for youth, specifically in these economic times, should be viewed and embraced as both a civic and industry obligation.

Along with exhibitors, sponsor organizations worked together to provide over $183,000 in in-kind contributions and direct funds for the Los Angeles and Fresno CCAD events – an overwhelming industry show of support for the cause of workforce development and providing students with career path options and information.

Following the successful Los Angeles CCAD event, the planning team and sponsors continued their mission of providing career/education options to youth and workforce development by awarding CCAD student participants with $7,000 in scholarships. The scholarships were made possible by generous donations from Turner Construction and Swinerton Inc. and were awarded at the Wells Fargo sponsored Appreciation Reception.

David Jones, AGC’s San Joaquin District Manager, was pivotal in planning of the Fresno CCAD. He commented, “The companies participating in CCAD are acutely aware of the workforce gap the construction industry is facing in the next several years and have taken a leadership role in volunteering their time and money to show the students the advantages that awaits them in this industry. In addition to laborers, equipment operators, and many positions in the construction trades, kids can consider positions as architect, engineer, draftsman, construction manager, bookkeeper, salesman, accountant, estimator, technician or business executive. This can be a very exciting time for students who are thinking about a career in the diverse construction industry.”

Students at LA CCAD express their gratitude for the event sponsors, exhibitors and planning team.

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Students are pictured at an Operating Engineers exhibit during the Fresno Career Day.
One-of-a-Kind Engineering and Construction Academy Celebrates Grand Opening in Stockton

By Carol Eaton

The grand opening of a one-of-a-kind, state of the art engineering and construction academy at Lincoln High School in Stockton last month offers tangible proof of what can happen when one dares to dream big.

In this case, the dream began with 2001 California Teacher of the Year Jeff Wright, who had a vision for an academy that would provide education opportunities for all students and fulfill the true spirit of the national “No Child Left Behind” mandate. Making that dream a reality took countless hours of hard work, planning and coalition building, bringing together literally hundreds of individuals and companies in both the public and private sectors to create a model Academy that is the first of its kind in the state, if not the nation.

As Wright tells it, the idea took root over a beer in a corner saloon in the little town of Clements, CA some 10 years ago. It was there that he met Ken Allen, a construction industry veteran who represented the local Laborers Union, and in the weeks and months to follow they began hashing out a plan. The original vision was to create a charter school that would provide hands-on learning for students wanting to enter the engineering and construction industries. Despite thousands of hours spent writing the charter and securing funding (including getting a Bill Gates grant, among other things), the charter idea ultimately had to be abandoned because of the negative financial impact it would have on the district and, ultimately, its students.

Prop 1D Paves Way

Despite several additional setbacks along the way, Wright’s dream to create an Engineering and Construction Academy was revived and gained real traction three to four years ago when he was invited to Sacramento to meet with several elected officials as well as then Caltrans Director Will Kempton and representatives from the state Office of the Secretary of Education, among others. There he learned more about California’s 1D bond money that voters passed in 2006, which specifically sets aside some half a billion dollars for comprehensive high schools to build Career Technical Education facilities.

Wright worked closely with grant writer Julie Hisaka and Dr. David Dabaco, another teacher at Lincoln High School who was instrumental in helping make the Academy become a reality. They ultimately secured some $8.5 million in mostly 1D as well as various other funding for the project, including approximately $750,000 in private sector donations over a five-year period.

Public/Private Partnership

“Our new Academy is a collaborative partnership between education and industry that is unparalleled in this country,” Wright says. “We have over 50 businesses and associations, contractors, and suppliers both union and non union on our benefactor list that have helped us in some way, whether it is in-kind donations, cash, brick and mortar, labor or equipment.”

Two key organizations that took a special ownership in the Academy were the Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association (SMACNA), led by the efforts of Matthew Smith, as well as the Sheet Metal Workers’ International Association. Wright also acknowledges the efforts of AGC member Teichert Construction, a key subcontractor on the project, as well as AGC of California itself which he says has been a “tremendous supporter of ours” over the years.

While the story of how the Academy blossomed from one individual’s dream into a thriving, functioning program that other school districts can now emulate is a remarkable one, Wright is the first to point out that the real success story is about the kids who participate in and are positively impacted by the program. There are currently nearly 500 students from Lincoln High School and surrounding schools enrolled in the Academy – a number is expected to grow each year.

From the outset, the kids took ownership in the project even before the first shovel hit the dirt. Students were involved with everything from helping name the student store (“The Construction Zone”), to designing logos for the Academy, to...
working on the building during construction. “We wanted it to come from the students, so they would take ownership in this Academy and feels some pride in what they’re doing,” Wright notes.

Cutting Edge Amenities

And what’s there not to be proud of? Take a look inside the gleaming new facility and it is clear that this not your grandfather’s shop class. A computer lab sports 32 brand new Dell computers. Three Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machining mills for fabricating and machining products out of aluminum and steel, a PlasmaCAM in the Mechanical class, an Epilog laser engraving machine, numerous other computers equipped with various programs including AutoCAD and 3D Studio Max and five high bay shops built for the classrooms are just a few of the state-of-the-art features that can be found in this facility that sits on two acres to the south side of Lincoln High’s main campus.

The focus of the program is to prepare students for the transition into adulthood with industry validated certifications and a four-year Career Technical Education (CTE) digital portfolio. Several of the CTE courses are articulated and sequenced with local community colleges as well as earning credit in the CSU / UC systems.

Three Career Paths

Students who enter the program chose one of three career paths. They include:

- Wood Products and Cabinetry, which provides hands-on project based learning for students interested in careers in cabinet construction, millwork, carpentry, masonry, concrete and asphalt;
- Mechanical Construction Path, which prepares students for careers in plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); and
- Residential and Commercial Construction Path, which provides hands-on, high-tech, project based learning for students interested in architecture, engineering, construction, and project management.

Bright Outlook

The Academy currently includes a total of four shop teachers as well as English and math teachers. They are all part of this program that is referred to as a “school within a school.” Statistics show that the outlook is bright and the graduation level extremely high – it has been estimated at 95% – for kids who participate in smaller programs such as the Engineering & Construction Academy.

Outside of the academics and hands-on learning environment present in the classrooms, students are encouraged to build their sense of community through membership in the “Future Builders’ Club” as well as participation in the statewide ACE Mentor program, which pairs private industry professionals with students studying the trades.

Dr. David Dabaco, formerly a foreign language teacher who years ago put himself through college working in construction, now teaches carpentry at the Academy. He became a key proponent of the Academy early on and partnered with Jeff Wright to help push through its development. Dabaco notes that the recent and current global economic crisis has highlighted the importance of programs such as these in the nation’s schools.

“Our current beliefs about good employment, or what kind of work is both secure and honorable, is more open to debate than ever before,” he comments. “For far too long, in our schools, the manual trades have been given little consideration or respect, and if there is one thing that this [current economic] crisis has shown, it is that in the current “technological revolution” you still can’t drive nails over the Internet. I believe that our new Engineering & Construction Academy is a positive step toward returning to a more democratic approach to education and solving much of the current confusion that surround our students’ future career needs and aspiration.”

Building Momentum

Substantially completed last May, 2010, the grand opening of the “Jeff Wright Engineering & Construction Academy” at Lincoln High School took place on September 9, 2010, approximately two years after construction broke ground by design/build contractor Clark & Sullivan Construction.

While the grand opening marked a major milestone for this one-of-a-kind project, Wright and others are now focused on the future as they continue to work to raise much needed funding from private and public sources to keep the program going strong. He hopes to see the success of this project replicated in other school districts across California and, indeed, across the country.

“We’ve got to keep the momentum rolling, to make sure this happens in other districts,” Wright says.

As for Lincoln, “sustainability is the key now to this academy,” he says. “We have to keep our industry partners involved. The support for this has just been phenomenal. People truly see the value in this. It is not only a success story for Lincoln High School, but really for the entire Stockton community.” 🏭.
AGC Scholarships Making a Difference

By Michelle Loveall and Alicia Irvin

The fabric of the industry is comprised of individual personal stories that are woven together into a cohesive unit; many share the same on-the-job stories with a different cast of characters, but what separates and defines us is the story behind why each one of us got into the industry.

Unfortunately, in such tough economic times, all too often we hear about the stories of people who can’t afford to pursue their educational or career goals, and those stories are equally important to us as an industry trying to develop a future workforce and leaders. The mission of the AGC Construction Education Foundation is to establish construction as a viable career option and to promote the development of construction careers. As part of realizing that mission, the Foundation awards “District Match” scholarships to students working hard to actualize their industry-based educational and career goals. In order to raise matching funds as well as provide additional scholarship opportunities, AGC Districts host golf and trap shooting tournaments, barbecues, and other great events throughout the year.

Sometimes, in all the hustle and bustle of getting the funds raised and the students checks, we forget to stop and take a moment to appreciate what these scholarships really mean to the students or the difference we’re making in our industry, one story at a time. This article gives us all the opportunity to do just that as it chronicles four such scholarship recipients: Jose, Kristin, Ed, and Garth.

Jose Buenrostro – Junior CSU, Sacramento Construction Management

John Cooper, Delta Sierra District Manager, described Jose as, “a scholastically high achiever with wonderful values and work ethics.” It was those qualities that drove Jose to pursue a career in construction rather than just another job. Jose was born to two migrant strawberry field workers in Watsonville, CA. Always advanced academically, Jose won a scholarship during his sophomore year in high school to take Pre-Calculus at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, completed Advanced Placement Calculus as a junior, and took Calculus II concurrently at a Hartnell Community College during his senior year. On the college track, Jose was forced to bypass UCLA for financial reasons and attend Hartnell.

During his first year in college, Jose and his girlfriend fortuitously welcomed a baby boy. Unfortunately, he dropped out of college for the first five years of his son’s life in order to work and support his family. Jose worked in the retail business until his father started his own construction firm in 2003, where he joined him as a laborer for four years. In his capacity as a laborer, Jose fell in love with construction; with his new wife’s encouragement, Jose returned to Hartnell, where he graduated with his AA in Construction Management in 2008.

In order to prevent an interruption in his son’s education, Jose had to temporarily live apart from his family in the fall of 2008 when he enrolled in CSUS’s Construction Management Engineering program; however he made the trek back to Carmel Valley to coach his son’s soccer team every weekend. Jose has been serving as a project engineer intern on the CSUS Recreation and Wellness Center Project. Additionally, Jose competed in the ASC Student Competition in 2009 and 2010. According to Jose, “the award has helped [him to further his education outside of his degree by taking] Building Information Management (BIM) seminars and becoming a LEED Accredited Professional.”

John Cooper summarized Jose’s story by saying, “He had every chance and reason to quit, but failure was not an option. His story is one of the American Dream.”

Kristin Akin-Zimmerman – Sophomore Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Architecture

Kristin developed a passion for architecture as an elementary school student when she designed and modeled her home as an end of the year project. While in high school, Kristin maintained her focus on architecture by taking two years of computer aided design (CAD) classes and metals and woodshop classes. To put her learned skills to use, Kristin took two mission trips to New Orleans to help rebuild the damage from hurricane Katrina. Kristin also attended the Cal Poly Architecture Summer Career Workshop for High School Students, a four week workshop where she received an in-depth view of the career through hands-on experience in studio design exercises, lectures, projects and field trips.

Resolute in her decision to become an architect, Kristin expanded her horizons to include a minor in Sustainable Environments, where she can integrate sustainable techniques in to traditional projects and provide shelter to those who cannot afford it. In Cal Poly’s Design Village 2010 Kristin designed a “Landfill Luxury” dwelling that she carried up a mile trail into a canyon, assembled it in 12 hours (without the use of plugged electricity), and lived in the structure for an entire weekend. The AGC scholarship that she received gave her “the opportunity to learn about a field that [she] is passionate about” as Kristen puts it.

Ed Dajani – Graduated CSU, Sacramento Construction Management May 2010

Ed grew up as the third child in a family of six children. He graduated from Windsor High School and attended Santa Rosa Community College before transferring into CSU, Sacramento (CSUS) as an undeclared major. The summer before transferring into CSUS, Ed worked as a...
Ed Dajani with AGC District Manager John Cooper

Ed Dajani is a laborer on a project where his neighbor was serving as a project manager. Periodically he would call Ed into the trailer to show him what he was working on and what being a project manager meant. From this experience, Ed recognized in himself that he “has the determination to achieve, the ability to withstand stresses and face challenges…and that is why [he] is passionate about the industry.”

While a student at CSUS, Ed was involved in the Construction Management Society of America (CMSA) student chapter, AGC student chapter and participated in the ASC Student Competition in Reno for three years. Ed credits the “Reno competition, along with his internship, in shaping him into an effective, ethical, and professional construction manager.” Ed served as an intern for two years under his mentor’s tutelage before being hired as a project engineer upon graduation. Currently Ed is working on the California Department of Corrections 64-Bed Intermediate Care Facility. According to John Cooper, “Ed is sharp, eloquent, a rising star and it is obvious that he is a true, hard worker.”

Garth Herrema – Senior Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Construction Management

Garth began his construction journey as an assistant to the project manager and the journeyman carpenter on his high school’s library/cafeteria remodel. After learning about Garth’s enthusiasm for construction, a close family friend suggested that he investigate the Construction Management program at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Garth continued his affinity for construction by becoming an apprentice for Carpenter’s Local Union No. 22 on the Infinity building at 300 Spear Street in San Francisco and serving as an intern on other local smaller projects where he would serve as an acting superintendent. Additionally, while in school, Garth served as the Chair for the Construction Management College Based Fees Committee, ASC Student Competition 2009/2010, Vice-President (co-founder) of the Emerging Green Builders USGBC – Cal Poly Chapter, Associated Students of Construction Management, and AGC Student Chapter. Upon graduation in December 2010, Garth would like to pursue international large scale construction.

Jose, Kristin, Ed, and Garth represent the future of construction. Tony Morelli, AGC Tri-Counties District Manager, captured why scholarship programs are so critical to our industry when he said, “The youth of today are our future of tomorrow. With teachers and counselors pushing students away from construction because they think of it as ‘only’ using a saw and hammer, it is more important than ever that all of us do what we can to and help develop the industry’s next generation.”

For more information on the AGC Construction Education Foundation, please contact Erin Volk, Director, at volke@agc-ca.org or Alicia Irvin, Program Administrator, at irvina@agc-ca.org.
New SWPPP Training Courses Offered

By Ryan Famularo

Over the last six months, the California construction industry has been inundated with talk about the new Construction General Permit (CGP). Starting in October, the AGC of California has partnered with a member firm in Southern California, Brash Industries, to launch the new California State Certified SWPPP Training on behalf of the California State Water Board. AGC will be offering the Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) training and the Qualified SWPPP Developer Training.

Effective July 1, 2010, any construction activity in the state of California resulting in a land disturbance of one acre or more, or less than one acre but part of a larger common plan of development or sale, must obtain coverage under the Construction Activities Storm Water General Permit (Order 2009-0009-DWQ or Construction General Permit (CGP)). To ensure that the preparation and implementation of the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is carried out, the State Water Boards of California have deemed that a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) are responsible for creating, revising, overseeing, and implementing the SWPPP plan. In order to provide guidance, the Water Boards created a training program that declares SWPPP personnel must attend a State Water Resources Control Board approved QSD and/or QSP training by September 2, 2011.

AGC’s official Trainer of Record will be Marvin Sachse. He has provided employee BMP/SWPPP certification programs for numerous developers, superintendents, and their trade partners, as well as on-site storm water sample collection training, storm water permit compliance training and storm water compliance audits for the construction industry. He has earned a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Engineering, a Master of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering, and an MBA in Marketing. Sachse is a State Licensed Professional Engineer, a Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ), a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), a Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI), a certified CPSWQ instructor, and a State of California QSD, Qualified SWPPP Developer.

AGC’s first official training will take place in Southern California on October 13-14, 2010 in Costa Mesa California. The Northern California training will take place on October 24-25 at the newly remodeled AGC Headquarters office in Sacramento. Call AGC or visit the website at www.agc-ca.org for more details.
A memorial was held last month for longtime industry leader, AGC member and philanthropist Ernest Eugene “Gene” Yeager, whose family construction business helped change the landscape of Southern California. Yeager died on August 12 at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, at the age of 85.

Yeager was one of three sons of Ernest Louis Yeager, who founded E.L. Yeager Construction Co. in Riverside in 1919. The company, which was purchased by Skanska and became known as Skanska Yeager in 2002 (later, all operations were renamed “SKANSKA”), grew to become one of the state’s largest civil engineering firms. The company undertook numerous major high profile projects that included a stretch of old Route 66 in Arizona, the entire road system around Hoover Dam, and major parts of Interstate 15 among countless other projects over the years.

Eugene Yeager spearheaded his company’s public works construction efforts. In addition to his work at his family’s construction business, Yeager was also a major contributor to philanthropic and political causes. He was named Citizen of the Year by the Great Riverside Chamber of Commerce, among other honors. Yeager donated $658,000 to Cal Baptist University to buy 15.5 acres adjacent to its Riverside campus, the largest donation the college had received to that date. He and his wife, Billie, also established a $1 million endowment to fund environmental research and scholarships at UC Riverside, among numerous other donations to community and educational organizations.

Yeager earned a bachelor’s in civil engineering from UC Berkeley in 1948 and then with his brothers went to work for the family business, E.L. Yeager Construction, in 1952. After growing the business to become a major player in the heavy construction industry, Eugene Yeager and his brother, Jacques, sold it to a group of senior managers in 1995, marking Eugene Yeager’s retirement. He went on to travel extensively with his wife in the years that followed.

In addition to his wife, Billie, Yeager is survived by sons Ken, of San Jose, and Tom, of Riverside; daughters Beth, of Norco, and Louise, of Newport Beach; stepchildren Terri, of Riverside, and Doug Moore, of Rancho Cucamonga; brother Jacques, of Riverside; nephew Jacques Jr., of Riverside; and 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

McCarthy Announces Promotion

McCarthy Building Companies Inc. recently promoted Scott Lawrence to business development director, healthcare services for its Southern California Division. In his new role, Lawrence is responsible for generating new and repeat healthcare building opportunities in Southern California.

Lawrence brings more than 13 years of construction industry experience, including eight years as a McCarthy employee, to the position. He previously served in positions such as project manager, assistant project manager and project engineer. Most recently, Lawrence was McCarthy project manager for the UCLA Olive View Medical Center Emergency Room replacement and Tuberculosis Unit project. A resident of Long Beach, Calif., Lawrence has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering/Construction Management from the University of Wisconsin.
AGC’s California Chapters Hold Joint Safety & Health Council Meeting

By Kate Smiley

On August 11, 2010, the AGC of California Safety and Health Council members joined their San Diego AGC counterparts for the Annual Joint Safety and Health Committee meeting. Hosted in the San Diego AGC facility, the event was well-attended and the agenda jam packed with heavy hitting presenters.

Capt. Mike Williamson, officer in charge of construction, Marine Corps Installations West, shared the Marine Corps Mission vision of “zero incidents.” He framed this view through his ideas expressed as “Safety is a Team Sport,” and “Safety 360” – both very easy ways to identify and recognize that everyone’s involvement is required for ZERO INCIDENTS success. Captain Williamson and his team at NAVFAC Southwest are engaged and have a great approach. With the volume of work to be put in place in California, the Marine Corps have the ability to influence and shape the future of safety for our industry.

Attendees were then introduced to Kathy Derham, the new San Diego District Manager of Cal/OSHA. She detailed the Division’s approach to enforcing the new Heat Illness regulations and gave out sample programs and offered many training materials.

Another speaker was Bill Jackson, Board Member, California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Standard Board, who discussed The Cal/OSHA Rulemaking Process. A long time safety leader and educator for the construction industry, Jackson is the Director of Safety at Granite Construction.

Sponsors of the joint safety meeting included Hensel Phelps Construction, Kugan and Associates, SMART Safety Group and Flatiron Construction.

The strength of our joint Safety and Health Council is in our people, and the annual joint meeting allows us to see this in action. Through the strength of this group, with expertise in legal, insurance and other construction safety related matters, AGC’s Safety & Health Councils influence legislation, regulation and safety culture throughout California and nationally each year.

AGC’s Fall Conference & Meetings: November 3-5

AGC of California will hold its annual Fall Conference and meetings in Indian Wells at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort & Spa November 3-5, 2010. This year’s event includes several informational seminars, forums and meetings as well as plenty of networking opportunities.

AGC will hold its Division meetings and several Committee and Council meetings on Wednesday, November 3. Thursday, November 4, will feature a special educational forum on Public-Private Partnerships; AGC’s annual Safety Awards Luncheon; and the Fall State Board of Directors and Annual meeting that afternoon. On Friday, November 5, there will be a seminar, “How to Bid an Abandoned Project.”

The conference will include several recreational opportunities, including the men’s and women’s golf tournament as well as croquet and bocce ball tournaments. The conference will wrap up with a special “Ocean’s 11” casino night reception dinner on Friday, November 5.

For more information, visit AGC’s web page at www.agc-ca.org and click on the AGC Fall Conference link for a complete list of scheduled activities for the conference. You can download the registration forms or register online.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Pam Gray or Nicole LaMont at (916) 371-2422.
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Announcing the AGC of California and McGraw-Hill Construction Market Builders Program

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## Top 10 Projects Awards

Following are the top 10 public project awards California last month, compliments of McGraw-Hill Construction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>Reported Low Bid Amount</th>
<th>Project City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Springs/San Andreas Transmission System Upgrade WD2601</td>
<td>Kiewit Pacific Company</td>
<td>$99,763,000</td>
<td>San Mateo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Union Expansion/ Renovation SJSU201</td>
<td>C Overaa &amp; Company</td>
<td>$63,852,000</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westlake Farms Composting Facility Phase I</td>
<td>SSC Construction Inc</td>
<td>$45,475,200</td>
<td>Stratford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled Water Advanced Treatment Facility WPCP - Phase II 91184008</td>
<td>J R Filanc Construction Co. Inc.</td>
<td>$42,388,000</td>
<td>San Jose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DOT New 4-lane With Hma &amp; Crp 11167894</td>
<td>Granite Construction</td>
<td>$29,508,262</td>
<td>Brawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Library and Courts Rehabilitation 120293</td>
<td>Arntz Builders</td>
<td>$27,960,000</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA/DOT Cold Plane - Place Rubberized Hma (gap Graded) 07253304</td>
<td>Chumo Const Inc</td>
<td>$22,318,065</td>
<td>Diamond Bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Galt Interchange Improvements 2010 STPL5293006</td>
<td>Teichert Construction</td>
<td>$20,938,093</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal Modifications 09-16 C51401</td>
<td>Proven Management Inc</td>
<td>$18,495,830</td>
<td>Alameda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harder Road Parking Structure (CCP007) CCP007</td>
<td>Howard S. Wright Construction</td>
<td>$15,903,451</td>
<td>Hayward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Calendar of Events

- **October 18-19**: CESSWI - Certified Erosion, Sediment, & Storm Water Inspector training in Costa Mesa
- **October 18-22**: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response: 40-Hour (HAZWOPER) training in Santa Ana and Anaheim
- **October 19**: Trench, Shoring and Excavation - Competent Person training in Santa Ana
- **October 20**: OSHA 10 - Hour Construction Safety Course at ECR, Sacramento, Confined Space Entry Training in Santa Ana
- **October 19-22**: HAZWOPER 24-Hour Technician Spill Response training in Anaheim
- **October 21**: Fall Protection Competent Person Level I in San Bernardino
- **October 25**: OSHA 10-Hour Construction Safety Course in Santa Ana
- **October 25-26**: SWPPP - Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) at the AGC Headquarters in West Sacramento
- **October 25-27**: OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety Course at Global Environmental Network
- **October 26-28**: OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety Course at JoshuaCasey Corporate Training
- **October 27**: Winning Cash Flow Strategies on Change Orders & Claims at the AGC Concord office
New Heat Illness Regulations Now In Effect

By Don Bradway

Summer 2010 may be over, but we know Summer 2011 isn’t that far away – and with summer comes the heat. And just as heat shows up with summer, so does the Cal/OSHA “heat sweeps” program. Employers should be aware that effective this October 2010, California has adopted revisions to its existing Heat Illness Prevention regulation.

Compliance officers will be visiting farms and other “outdoor” job sites to make sure employers are complying with Section 3395 of Title 8, “Heat Illness Prevention in Outdoor Places of Employment.” (http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3395.html)

There has been much discussion about this standard and the changes that have finally been implemented. The significant changes include:

- The standard now states that it applies to all outdoor places of employment.
  
  This includes: Agriculture, Construction, Landscaping, Oil and gas extraction and Transportation or delivery of agricultural products, construction materials or other heavy materials, except for employment that consists of operating an air-conditioned vehicle and does not include loading or unloading.

- Shade may be provided by any natural or artificial means that does not expose employees to unsafe or unhealthy conditions.
  
  Where the employer can demonstrate that it is infeasible or unsafe to have a shade structure, or otherwise to have shade present on a continuous basis, the employer may utilize alternative procedures for providing access to shade if the alternative procedures provide equivalent protection.

- Training for heat illness prevention is not required UNTIL it is reasonably anticipated that work will result in exposure to the risk of heat illness. Thus, you don’t have to hold heat illness prevention training in January (unless you’re south of the equator).

  Without restating the entire standard, outlined below are the crucial portions that each employer should be certain are in place.

  The biggest hit employers have been taking is failing to train their employees. (The standard now requires “effective” training, which seems like a no-brainer but…)

  • Employers must train their employees about:
    
    - Personal risk factors and the added burden of heat load on the body caused by exertion, clothing and PPE
    - Company procedures for complying with the standard
    - The importance of frequent consumption of water
    - Employees becoming acclimatized to the work area,
    - The different types of heat illnesses
    - Immediate reporting of possible heat illness in any of the workers,
    - The employer’s procedures for contacting emergency services/providers with clear and precise directions to the work site
    - Training also has to include the supervisors; they must know all of the above items, as well as how the supervisor will implement the standard on the work site and what procedures the supervisor will follow should an employee exhibit signs of heat illness. Employers must now train their supervisors to follow weather reports in order to respond to hot weather advisories. This could be the local TV weather person, the local newspaper or a weather-related web site. The important thing to remember is that the report is specific to the area where your employees are working!
    - It’s extremely important to have these procedures, and how the employer is going to comply with them, in a written form and available to employees.
    - Shade has to be available for employees; employers are now required to have it up once the temperature reaches 85 degrees and it has to be available and ready for use before the temperatures reach 85 degrees. Note that an automobile or truck isn’t considered “shade” if the engine and air conditioner aren’t operating. There must be enough shade to accommodate 25% of the employees on the shift at any time. Employees must be allowed access to this shade for at least five minutes, as often as they need it. Non-agricultural employers can use misting machines or other cooling devices in lieu of the shade but note that this is not the case for agricultural employers.

- Water is one of the most crucial aspects of heat illness prevention. It is almost impossible to consume too much water in high-heat conditions. Employers must plan to have enough water on site to allow each employee to have at least one quart of water per working hour. That’s a lot of water! A good test to determine whether employees have been drinking enough water is to find out how many times the employee has had to urinate over a certain period of time. An employee who hasn’t used the restroom within a 3-hour work period probably hasn’t been drinking enough water. Note that electrolyte replacement drinks such as Gatorade are not required and that sodas, coffee and other drinks are not considered good substitutes for plain water. Plus, the water should be of a quality that everyone will be willing to drink it and it never hurts to make sure the water is “cool” but Cal/OSHA will not be testing the water’s temperature.

- Cal/OSHA has said the individual 12-ounce bottles of water are perfectly acceptable for a company’s water supply because the bottles are a measured amount, can be kept clean (as opposed to a container such as an Igloo, which invites dirt) and are easily carried by an employee. Some of these bottles even have a space on the label where the employee can write his/her name.

  Remember that heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat syncope and heat stroke are all heat-related illnesses and the first three are precursors to heat stroke, which can be fatal. Don’t let your company and your employees become statistics next summer. Keep your employees and yourself well hydrated. The alternative is a killer.

Don Bradway is Safety Manager with Monarch-Kneis Insurance Services in Auburn, CA, and past Chair of AGC’s Safety & Health Council.
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