

SoEAlumni

Engineering Grads Help Reshape Campus

By Gillian Hodgen and Lance Aleksiewicz

Engineering alumni working at BVH Integrated Services, Inc. in Bloomfield, CT are truly building on what they learned at the University of Connecticut to improve the campus. The structural engineers who were instrumental in the design of the new Information Technologies Engineering (ITE) Building are all graduates of the School of Engineering.

"It's rewarding," says senior engineer, Mark Allyn, P.E. "You show your professors that you are using what they taught you and you help reshape the campus."

BVH also provides civil, mechanical and electrical engineering for UConn construction projects, but it's the structural department that has a strong, personal connection to Storrs. The department is led by BVH Vice President Karl F. Frey, P.E. (B.S. Civil Engineering '83) and includes Mr. Allyn (B.S., M.S. Civil Engineering '96, '98), Lance Aleksiewicz (B.S. Civil Engineering '00), Cathleen Borden (B.S. Civil Engineering '98), Rachele Clark (B.S. Civil Engineering '02), James Fox, P.E. (M.S. Civil Engineering '03), and Douglas McGough, P.E. (B.S. Civil Engineering '94). BVH Vice President Tom St. Denis, P.E. (B.S. Civil Engineering '83) heads the civil engineering department.

The team finds its work at UConn to be rewarding and challenging. For example, the ITE Building structure posed a unique challenge requiring ingenuity to solve. The architect, Burt Hill Kosar Rittelmann Associates, designed a 350-seat auditorium for the building with a clear span of 76 feet that had to be buried underground, a structural feat. The new auditorium is beneath the courtyard formed by the ITE building, Homer Babbidge Library, and the new School of Business.

"The design preserves the courtyard view from the library but also meets the capacity of the engineering program," says Mr. Allyn.

The BVH team also keeps close ties to the School of Engineering by speaking in their former professors' classes. Mr. Allyn draws on his UConn experience for his speaking material. "I try to talk about what I was curious

about when I was a student," he says. During a BVH visit to Dr. Gregory Frantz's concrete class, students saw how their class material would apply to their careers after graduation. "We talked about certain engineering parameters we use every day and Dr. Frantz had just given a lecture on one of the same topics," says Mr. Allyn.

The alumni from BVH also take undergraduates on site tours of UConn construction projects and offer students the chance to visit BVH and experience the daily workings of an engineering firm. "It's been great working with UConn Architecture and Engineering Services, the department that oversees all of these projects. They fully support the student site tours," says Mr. Frey.

BVH structural designer Lance Aleksiewicz had internships with BVH during his junior and senior years, and he is now pursuing his M.S. in engineering at UConn while working full time. "During my internships I got to work on several UConn projects in the early stages of design. Since joining BVH full time I've participated in the final design of several UConn projects," he says.

BVH's other structural engineering projects at UConn include the South Campus Parking Garage, the current Student Union renovation, and Rentschler Field. The BVH team celebrated the opening of the new stadium by going to the Boston College game as a group in September. For any structural engineer, a 40,000-seat stadium is an accomplishment. These engineers, however, share a connection to the home team that makes them even more proud to see their efforts enjoyed by the UConn community.

Mr. Allyn agrees, "It's great to give back to the University."



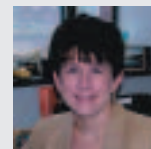
Top Row from left to right: Jim Fox, Karl Frey, Rachele Clark, Mark Allyn, Tom St. Denis. Bottom Row from left to right: Cathleen Borden, Lance Aleksiewicz, Doug McGough

Promotions and Tenure Decisions

The University's Board of Trustees has approved the following promotion and tenure recommendations for Engineering faculty. Congratulations to all!



Luke Achenie, associate professor of Chemical Engineering, approved for promotion to full professor.



Lisa Aultman-Hall, associate professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Director, Connecticut Transportation Institute, approved for award of tenure.



Bi Zhang, associate professor of Mechanical Engineering, approved for promotion to full professor.

Winter 2004 Issue Correction

In our last issue (p. 25), it was erroneously reported that **Sylvia S. Zajac**, who received the prestigious Eisenhower Fellowship and will enjoy three years of support during her Ph.D. studies in transportation engineering, is the daughter of Computer Science & Engineering professor Lester Lipsky. She is the daughter of Sue M. Lipsky (M.S. Computer Science '89 and Gerald E. Zajac (B.S. and M.S. Electrical Engineering '68 and '70). Ms. Zajac was one of just 20 students selected nationally for receipt of the award. We applaud her and apologize for the error.

