

WELCOME

Building Construction Science is preparing for another great semester. Convocation is set for August 24 at 3 p.m. in the Harrison Auditorium in Giles Hall.

The annual Awards & Recognition Banquet was held in May, and it was great to spend time honoring our talented students and faculty.

We are also very excited to announce David Lewis as Interim Director for the program. Dr. Lewis is currently serving as the Associate Dean for the College of Architecture, Art + Design and looks forward to this new role.

CONTACT

Please send awards, honors, job openings, internship opportunities, or other items of interest to

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

In May, Dean Jim West appointed me Interim Director of BCS after Dr. Theo Haupt's resignation and imminent return to South Africa and private consulting. We wish him well in his future endeavors. Also in May Prof. Mark Kilgore, visiting assistant professor, left the program to return to industry.

We have been quite fortunate to hire two faculty to the BCS program. First is Tom Leathem, who recently graduated from Auburn University's Master of Integrated Design and Construction Program as well as who comes with twelve years of professional experience in Illinois. Prof. Leathem brings an extensive resume in scheduling and estimating. And, returning from his academic sojourn, we welcome back Chris Cosper. He recently completed his Masters at Harvard University in Critical and Strategic Conservation. Prof. Leathem will be teaching in the upper level studios, while Prof. Cosper in the new Foundation Studio.

This fall semester we will introduce the new curriculum that includes two studios in the freshmen year called Foundation Studios. These studios will be similar in scope to the present Studio 1 and 2, which allows us to further develop the later studios. In order to allow transfer students a smooth transition into the program, these foundation studios will also be taught in the summer sessions. The other significant change in the curriculum will be the integration of professional mentors throughout the four years. Members of industry have graciously agreed to provide brief lectures on subjects, assist faculty with projects, and participate in final project reviews. Personally, I am quite excited about the blending of the profession and academy. It should prove mutually rewarding.

Please know that my door and phone lines are always open for your questions, comments, and concerns.

*David C. Lewis, PhD
Interim Director, BCS
Associate Dean, CAAD*



CRISTEN BLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to the BCS Class of 2012. The graduates were honored and recognized during the Annual BCS Awards and Recognition banquet held at the Ritz Theater in West Point on Friday, May 11, 2012.

STUDENT NEWS

Awards & Recognitions Banquet

The Building Construction Science Program honored its second graduating class during its annual Awards & Recognition Banquet in May. Members of the senior class and their parents were invited to attend the banquet where the Director's Medallion and Student of the Year awards are announced.

The Director's Medallion is awarded to a member of the senior class that has shown leadership, participation, performed well academically and developed as a professional during his or her time in BCS program. The 2012 Director's Medallion was awarded to Wesley Rayner. He was selected by the BCS faculty and director to receive this honor due to his dedication to the program, and he possessed all the characteristics valued by the program.

Students earning the highest GPA from each class are recognized as Student of the Year in their class. The 2012 recipients were Wesley Rayner, senior, Adam Moore, junior, Devin Compher, sophomore, and Allie Salas, freshman.

The competition is just beginning for the 2013 academic year. Study hard!

The 2012 Director's Medallion was awarded to Wesley Rayner. David Lewis presented Wesley with the award at the annual Awards & Recognition Banquet.



CRISTEN BLAND PHOTOGRAPHY



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The 2012 Students of the Year were (left to right) Wesley Rayner, Allie Salas, Devin Compher, and Adam Moore. [See more photos.](#)

Class of 2012

Congratulations to the BCS graduating class of 2012.
We wish you great success in all your endeavours.

James C. Arnold
Benjamin G. Bennett
Joshua A. Boyd
Abbey L. Burnett
Johnny Lee Crane, III
Steven R. Dobbbs
Jeremy R. Doler
Jeremy G. Dunkerton
Matthew T. Dyer
Adam M. Fowler
Samuel D. Ginn
Jonathan M. Harrell
Michael J. Harris
Austin O. Holder
Jonathan M. Horton
Michael J. Kelley
Andrew C. Lewis
Brian D. Little

John T. Logan
Philip P. McManus
Mickey L. McReynolds
Ryan W. Monk
David B. Morrow
Jonathan M. Myrick
Jordan T. Perry,
Kaila M. Pope
Matthew W. Pringle
Christopher P. Ratzlaff
Wesley H. Rayner
Terrance O. Richardson
Justin K. Shorkley
Christopher E. Smith
Justin T. Smith
Michael H. Thomas
Trenton C. Walker
Michael D. Weldon

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$90,000 in scholarships have been awarded to students in Building Construction Science to date. For the 2012-2013 academic year, students received \$24,000 in scholarships.

Hearin Foundation Scholarships

\$5,000 per student
Savannah Harvey
Bryan Marble
Adam Moore
Allie Salas

Abbey Burnett Bridges Endowed Scholarship

\$1,000
Devin Compher

Associated Builders & Contractors Annual Scholarship

\$1,000
Evan Fuller

Kline Mechanical Systems Annual Scholarship

\$1,000
Robert Keifer

Chip & Jennifer Crane Endowed Scholarship

\$1,000
Joshua Moore

FACULTY NEWS

BCS is excited to welcome two new faculty to our program.

Tom Leathem

Born and raised in Midwest Illinois, Tom Leathem received a bachelor's degree in construction management from Western Illinois University in 1999. Upon completion of his degree, he spent 11 years in Chicago working in construction management positions ranging from assistant field superintendent to senior project manager and business owner.



The majority of Leathem's industry experience focused in commercial/industrial construction on project types including manufacturing, distribution warehousing, office, medical, retail, and municipal. Three of his eleven years were spent as a business owner focusing in residential remodeling.

In 2010, Leathem enrolled in the Master of Design Build program at Auburn University. Upon completing his degree in August 2011, Leathem worked as an Adjunct Professor in the McWhorter School of Building Science.

He and wife, Erin, will be moving to Starkville with their three children in August, where he will be joining the Building Construction Science department at MSU in the fall of 2012 as an Assistant Professor.

Chris Cospers

Chris Cospers, AIA, is a 1994 graduate of the MSU School of Architecture (B/ARCH) and a 2012 graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design (MDesS). At Harvard, Chris focused on Critical & Strategic Conservation, which is a new way of looking at historic preservation, adaptive reuse, and other conservation projects.



Chris is a Mississippi registered architect who holds a national NCARB certificate. With more than fifteen years of design experience, Chris has worked on a wide range of projects, including K-12 school buildings, university projects, commercial projects, and residential projects. His portfolio includes numerous renovation and adaptive reuse projects, including the Marks-Rothenberg Building (Riley Center) in Meridian. Chris also served as project architect for the new \$2.0 million SED Office Building in downtown Starkville.

Cospers's passion is teaching. He has seven years of teaching experience, including his coordinating the first section of BCS Studio VI and his designing the BCS Electrical Systems class.

In addition to his work, Cospers enjoys hiking, gardening, and reading. He and his wife, Denise, have two boys.

STUDENT NEWS

Spring 2012 Senior Field Trip

Throughout their academic career with the BCS program, students will go on local site visits and short field trips, exposing them to contemporary construction sites and job site culture. During their final year in the program, the senior class will visit a major metropolitan area, where they will visit national construction sites and corporate construction offices. This trip allows them the opportunity to see firsthand what their future as a Building Construction professional may include. The 2011-2012 senior class travelled to New York, NY, where they toured the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, Fulton Street Transit Center, Columbia University's Manhattanville Project, New York Public Theater and Atlantic Yards.



You can't go to New York and not visit the Today Show. The class waits to see if their construction gear will give them an advantage in earning some time in front of the camera.



With a busy schedule of site visits, the class quickly learned their way around Grand Central Terminal and the importance of being on time for the Metro.



And it worked! The BCS seniors got in their 15 seconds of fame with Al Roker. Watch the video.



During their trip to New York, the students were able to go on a site visit at the World Trade Center.



BCS students had the opportunity to tour construction sites in Brooklyn, New York City, and Manhattan. Pictured Left to Right: Jonathan Horton, Cole Walker, Wesley Rayner, Patrick McManus, Mike Thomas and Austin Holder.

ALUMNI NEWS

The Building Construction Science program would like to welcome Matt Harrell to our Advisory Board. We look forward to the contributions and insight he brings to the Board as a BCS alumnus and a project manager with Harrell Contracting and PIA Solutions. Harrell received his Bachelor of Science in May of 2011 after studying Building Construction Science at MSU. He is currently working to complete a Master of Business Administration from Millsaps College. See who else is on the Advisory Council.

Rayner: Internship experience helped get foot in the door

Wesley Rayner, a May 2012 graduate from BCS, is doing well and enjoying work as an assistant project manager for Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC in Nashville, Tennessee.

As soon as he came to Mississippi State four years ago, Rayner said BCS professors had stressed what a good company Brasfield & Gorrie was, so he decided to apply for an internship and landed it last summer.

“I was really excited about the opportunity to work with one of the largest contractors in the southeast,” he said.

Rayner was put to work for Brasfield & Gorrie in Kemper County doing field operations for the Kemper County IGCC power plant project. He did a lot of overseeing for the concrete work for the foundations and structures, including paperwork, pre-pour inspections, and scheduling the pours throughout the day.

“It was a really good experience,” he said. “I was able to work a lot of hours and gain a lot of experience in a short amount of time. I don’t know if I’ll ever be on a job as big as that again – that was a huge job.”

Rayner said the hard work was definitely worth it, though, and the internship probably helped him secure his current position.

“It definitely helps you get your foot in the door,” he said. “They actually have a face to put with your name.”



Wesley Rayner (second from left) interned with Brasfield & Gorrie last summer in Kemper County.

Rayner also gave credit to the Building Construction Science program for preparing him for his new job.

“I came in and started looking at the documents we use, and most of them were exactly what we used in school,” he said. “Especially the work we did during our senior year when we had the Capstone Project. I felt like the project was realistic, and it was able to prepare me for my career in the industry.”

Rayner is currently living in Nashville and working on a project in town. He will oversee his next project for a medical building in Nebraska from his office in Nashville with periodical site visits. However, in January, Rayner will move to New Braunfels, Texas, to help with a 360,000 sq. ft. hospital project, which is expected to take about two years.

“It’s exciting. I’m young, and I can go see a lot of new places I’ve never been before. If it wasn’t for this opportunity with Brasfield and Gorrie, I



Rayner now works in Nashville, Tenn., as an assistant project manager for Brasfield & Gorrie.

probably never would have ended up in Nashville,” Rayner explained.

In the future, the BCS graduate said he plans to keep working at Brasfield & Gorrie and expand his knowledge of construction.

When asked to give advice to others, Rayner encouraged students to do an internship and learn as much as possible from the experience.

“It will even make the classes easier because you’ll have the general construction knowledge and an understanding of where all the information you’re being taught is coming from,” he said.

We are proud of our alumni! Remember to send us any awards or honors you receive, so we can brag on you, too.