

## WELCOME

Convocation was held on Aug. 24, where students were reminded of the program's ultimate goal – to be innovative leaders in construction.

BCS now has a first-year studio, and Professor Chris Cospser is keeping these students busy with site visits and even a recent tour of the Columbus Brick Company.

The Brasfield & Gorrie Student Design Competition was completed. **Read more from the winners on Page 3.**

Third-year studio students just got back from their trip to New York with Professor Tom Leathem. **See photos from the trip on Pages 4-5.**

*David Lewis, Ph.D*  
*Interim Director*

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### First-year BCS students tour Columbus Brick Company

The Building Construction Science first-year studio students went to Columbus on Sept. 5 to tour the Columbus Brick Company with Professor Chris Cospser, AIA, LEED AP. **Read the full story and see photos from the tour.**

## PROGRAM NEWS

### Building Construction Science program holds convocation

Convocation for Building Construction Science was held on Aug. 24 in the Harrison auditorium in Giles hall.

David Lewis, associate dean for the College and interim director for BCS, kicked off Fall Convocation by talking to students about his background in Greek architecture history and how it relates to the program.

He posed a question to students, "Without modern technology, how would you lift a 14-ton piece of very rare marble into the air?"

He also discussed the difficulties laborers once had to overcome when constructing a building such as the Parthenon – difficulties including three different languages and measuring systems.

Dr. Lewis then introduced faculty and discussed the words that are the foundation of the program: mutual respect, honesty, integrity, excellence, democracy and accountability.

"Our goal is to be innovative leaders in construction," said Lewis.

### Members from Hoar Construction visit BCS program

Two staff members from Hoar Construction in Birmingham recently spent an afternoon talking about contemporary applications of computer modeling and information management with BCS students in their studios in Howell Hall.

Aaron Wright, BIM director, and

Tristan Morgan, estimator from Hoar, explained how the firm applies Building Information Modeling (BIM) to construction projects and the ongoing developmental work within the firm to see it used more broadly for estimating and project management.

# STUDENT NEWS

During Fall Convocation, a few students discussed some of the work they did as interns over the summer.

Adam Trautman, fourth-year, worked in Starkville for American Glass Co. Inc., based out of Columbus, on the South Residence Hall project.

“It was a really educational experience,” he said. “Something to look into.”

Trautman said fellow fourth-year classmates Trey Jacobs and Mason Phillips, who interned for Harrell Contracting Group LLC, also worked on the project.

Luke Stoker, fourth-year, interned with a group of contractors out of Memphis as an assistant project manager. He said he ended up teaching someone how to use professional software and had a leg up on his peers.

Adam Moore worked in the Southaven office of FL Crane and Sons Inc. Moore said he was able to sit in on several meetings and even discussed BIM and Revit with the company’s president.

Devin Compher, third-year, had an opportunity to intern with a custom home builder in Alabama.

“I got to have a part in every aspect of the company,” she said.

She was able to use Revit to remodel a bathroom, which she said really impressed both her boss and the client.

Finally, Trey East, third-year, discussed his work at McConnell Airforce Base for Applied Research Associates in Wichita, Kansas.

Below, two students describe their experiences and how the BCS program prepared them for the hard work.



JOSHUA MOORE

Joshua Moore worked on the new football facility this summer. This picture was taken from a lift above the roof where the fitness center will be located.

## Joshua Moore Third Year Glass Inc.

*“This summer I was privileged to have the opportunity to intern with the glazing contractor on the new football facility here on campus.*

*My responsibilities consisted of measuring and installing the curtain walls around the exterior of the building as well as glazing after the frames were prepped.*

*It was a great experience because I was exposed to numerous disciplines in the subcontracting industry, and I was able to see the coordination between these companies in action. It was also nice to see concepts introduced in the classroom in real-world situations.*

*I definitely encourage all underclassmen to pursue an opportunity as an intern with interested companies.*

*Also, I can always say that I had a part in recruiting the players that won MSU an SEC championship (hopefully). HAIL STATE!!”*

## Brice Marks Fourth Year Brasfield & Gorrie

*“I interned with Brasfield & Gorrie over the summer at the IGCC Kemper County Power Plant in De Kalb. The plant was overseen by Southern Company and Mississippi Power.*

*Brasfield & Gorrie was one of the largest general contractors on site with about 500 employees. There were approximately 2,500 workers daily. The job was originally estimated at \$2.6 billion, but the job was tracking at \$3.2 billion over the summer.*

*Brasfield & Gorrie had the contract for the concrete and underground utility mechanical/electrical.*

*My main responsibilities included:*

- 1. Create and distribute drawing packages.*
- 2. Distribute and update revised drawings.*
- 3. Update logs.*
- 4. Track material delivery and installation.*
- 5. Create BIM model shots for field personnel.*

*The BCS program definitely prepared me for operating Autodesk Navisworks (BIM Software). I was able to easily navigate through the program to get the necessary model shots for field personnel. The organizational skills I learned in the program helped me manage my time more efficiently to complete the work I was assigned. Also, the accountability that is expected of us in the BCS program was very similar to the work on the job site. I had to meet strict deadlines every week in order to keep the job on schedule.*

*In conclusion, the BCS program was crucial in providing me with the essential tools to be successful at my internship with Brasfield & Gorrie.”*

## BCS student winners discuss Brasfield & Gorrie Competition

The Brasfield & Gorrie LLC Student Design Competition is an annual interdisciplinary design competition composed of student teams studying Architecture, Interior Design and Building Construction Science. The goal of the competition is to expose students to an interdisciplinary project delivery system (IPD) to facilitate the design of a structure that incorporates sustainability, innovation, and LEED construction principles.

This year, each team collaborated on ideas for the renovation and redesign of the MSU Aiken Village Family Housing complex into a new “eco-village” for future student housing and other development.

The competition started on Aug. 20 with student teams researching the site.

On Aug. 22, representatives from Brasfield & Gorrie presented topics to help students with their proposed design and construction solutions.

Russ Gibbs, an architecture graduate from Auburn University employed by Brasfield & Gorrie, gave a presentation on Building Information Modeling (BIM).

Another representative from Brasfield & Gorrie, Ashley Colburn, who has been in the construction industry for about 16 years, discussed Lean Construction.

Gibbs was also present to help select the winners, and the top three teams were announced on Sept. 10. Rob Robison, also with Brasfield & Gorrie, and Tim Muzzi and Jeremiah Dumas, representatives from MSU’s Facilities Management administration, also helped choose the winning projects.

Mark Simpson was the BCS representative on the winning team, with which he will split a cash prize of \$1,000.

His team compared the project to



Bo Walters, Mark Simpson and Mason Phillips were represented Building Construction Science on the top-three teams for the Brasfield & Gorrie Student Design Competition.

the human body. “The Biodynamic Community” consisted of four systems working together – structural, circulatory, respiratory and nervous.

Simpson said the project would be divided into three phases – asbestos removal, demolition and construction – and would cost around \$46 million.

Mason Phillips represented Building Construction Science on the second-place team, which won \$600 overall.

His team, “Back to OUR Roots,” had a goal for the village to get back to a simpler way of life and had a set of seven solutions to accomplish their goal.

Bo Walters was a member of the third-place team, which split \$400.

The “Aiken Eco-Village” project included a modular idea, proposed extending a road to the west, renting out spaces for commercial use and bringing in fruit trees. They also envisioned an open-air market among other ideas.

All three of the BCS winners said the key to their success was working together well as a team. Each said they allowed team members to present ideas and made final decisions as a team.

They all admitted it wasn’t always easy working together but was crucial to their success.

“The hardest part about IPD is being able to humble yourself enough to know that your weaknesses are another teammate’s strengths,” said Phillips.

Walters added that time management and effective use of time was another difficulty of the project in working as a team. He said BCS is more about time management and efficient use of time, while Architecture and Interior Design tend to be more worried about design.

Mason said BCS also tends to be more worried about cost and therefore consider time as money.

Overall, the students said it was a good experience to work with and learn about the other disciplines.

“Someone in Architecture or Interior Design might point out something I didn’t think about,” said Phillips. “It was an eye-opening experience.”

Click below to read more, see photos:

- [Story on MSU website](#)
- [Winners announced](#)
- [B&G lectures](#)

## Third-year students ‘pack it in’ on New York trip

Twenty-one students in their third-year of study in the Building Construction Science program recently took a weeklong field trip to New York, N.Y., with Professor Tom Leathem.

Leathem was lucky to have help in coordinating site visits from Barry Lipsky, an MSU Alumnus, who owns Lipsky Construction Company Inc. in Bayport, N.Y., and is a member of the program’s advisory council. Barry’s efforts were a major contributor to the success of this trip.

In total, the group was able to see six construction projects, which is quite impressive considering the drive to the city ate up a large chunk of their time.

“The students got great exposure to cutting edge construction practices in those three-and-a-half days,” said Leathem. “Along with just experiencing the local culture,” he said.

Students did manage to squeeze in some fun by going to a Yankees game, along with a few of the other “musts” a tourist in New York should experience.

Jim Durkin of Tishman Construction led the BCS group on a three-hour site tour of the World Trade Center project, which consists of five buildings.

The students even got to visit the 39th floor of the Freedom Tower. Leathem said, to his knowledge, they are the only student group that has been allowed such access to the site.

Students also got a visit the \$40 million historic preservation project going on at the Old Andrew Carnegie Mansion, which is operated by the Smithsonian Institution. The project involves 21st century systems installations, façade overhaul and cataloging of construction



Students were excited to get the opportunity to visit with Barry Lipsky, a BCS advisory council member, at his construction company in New York. Lipsky helped coordinate site visits for the group and was key to the trip’s success.

materials and preservation storage.

The building is the first residence in New York to be built with a steel and concrete frame structure, and it was built exactly the same way the subway systems are built. With its ornate, hand-carved wood and plaster finishes, Leathem explained the project is something many in the program will likely never be exposed to again.

Students were also able to fit in one day on Long Island visiting sites.

Howie Rowland with E.W. Howell Construction led the group on a tour of the Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the group was able to learn about construction of an electron storage ring, the first of its kind in the U.S.

The students were also excited to see the construction of an experimental laboratory building under construction for a Nobel Prize winning scientist to study nanomaterials.

The facility will house high-pow-

ered microscopes that are so delicate they must be placed on a “floating concrete slab.” Leathem explained that the slab is completely independent from the rest of the building and is supported by air in such a controlled fashion that the slab cannot move.

Before the trip was over, the group visited Lipsky Construction and viewed the project that won a Build NY Award.

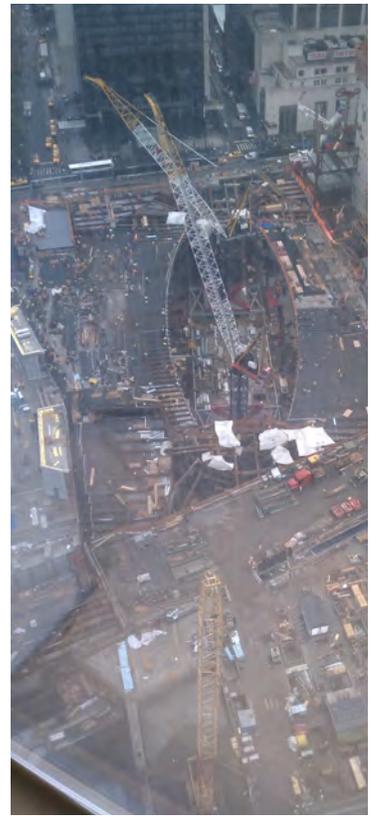
For many of the students, the trip was an eye-opening, once in a lifetime experience.

“Before travelling to New York, I only thought of construction as ‘work,’ but seeing so many people who are so passionate about construction opened my eyes up to the beauty of it,” said Kyle Smith. “Construction is an intricate art, and I have a deeper appreciation now more than ever.”

**See more photos on the next page.**  
[Click here to see more photos and video from the trip on our website.](#)



Jim Durkin with Tishman Construction, right, tells the BCS group about the World Trade Center project.



A view of the World Trade Center Construction project from the 39th floor of the Freedom Tower.

The group in front of the World Trade Center project site.



KYLE SMITH

Students had a chance to see a lot of the city, including the Statue of Liberty.



Professor Leathem and students ride the ferry.

Devin Compher stands in front of the World Trade Center project site.



The BCS group stands outside the Carnegie Mansion with Howie Rowland (third from right) and others from E.W. Howell Construction.



Students toured several projects at the Brookhaven National Laboratory with E.W. Howell Construction.



A view from the ferry of the city.

ANDREW HICKS



Students tour the 39th floor of the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center project.



BCS students take some time to enjoy a Yankees game.

# BCS students learn about stadium expansion

The student chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc. (ABC) recently arranged for the senior project manager of the Mississippi State Stadium Expansion Project to speak to students in the Building Construction Science program.

Casey Rogers began the presentation by telling students a little about his background. He graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in December 2004 and worked for Robins & Morton out of Birmingham for a while, travelling and building hospitals. About four years ago, wanting to get closer to home, he started working for his current company, Harrell Contracting Group.

Since then, he has been working at The University of Mississippi building dorms and recently finished a large project that included 826 beds in about 13 months.

Rogers, the senior project manager for the \$65 million stadium expansion, said when he was first assigned to the stadium project he was a little intimidated because he is a young guy overseeing such a large project.

He went on to say he realized that in construction, “It’s kind of nuts and bolts.” Whether it’s a house, shopping center, or \$65 million stadium, it’s all basically the same, he said, explaining that all those projects need a schedule, budget and plan.

Rogers said time has flown by since he was handed the project on Aug. 20, and he described this phase as “the fun part of construction ... trying to figure it out.”

“There is no one right answer,” he said, explaining that what’s really important is having a plan and being confident when presenting that plan to older supervisors. “Because if you don’t, they are going to eat you alive,” he said.



PHOTO BY ADAM TRAUTMAN

Casey Rogers, project manager with Harrell Contracting Group, explains the stadium expansion project to students in the Building Construction Science program.

Rogers said one problem has already come up; the soil on campus is hard at 12 feet deep, what he referred to as blue clay. Bits have been breaking on the boring machine, and contractors have only been able to drill at a pace of 105 feet per hour –half the original goal of 200-250 feet per hour. To help speed up the process, the work is now being done around the clock.

The senior project manager then explained the various phases of the project and showed students some of his plans, logs and models.

The West Concourse is set to be ready by next football season, and he said they have set a goal to have the South Elevator Tower open by then as well.

After the presentation, students were curious about several aspects of the project.

One topic they were curious about was where the materials for the project were being stored. Rogers explained since they don’t have a lay-down area, the solution is scheduling tight deliveries.

“Excel becomes your best friend,” he said, saying that he creates logs to keep up with all the deliveries.

Students were also curious about the difference on the bids for the project, and Rogers said it was only \$300,000.

One student wanted to know if they were expecting any issues with the West Concourse Phase of the project. Rogers said he thought that phase would be relatively straightforward because they have a wide area to work in, but said, “The things that trip us up are the things we don’t know about.”

Bo Walters, the president of the student chapter of ABC, thanked Rogers for his visit and presented him with a gift from the group.

Watch video clips by clicking on the links below.

- [Contracts](#)
- [Cranes](#)
- [Confidence](#)