Letter from the Chair

It has been another great year for the Construction and Facilities Management program at BYU. We hosted the International Conference for the Associated Schools of Construction in April of 2016. We also restructured of the Facilities Management Industry Advisory Council. Below are other notable items.

**Faculty**
Mike Bown joined the faculty. His background is in facilities management and he has experience from around the globe. His last assignment was in Singapore, where his responsibilities were around Southeast Asia. He is currently teaching Intro to Facilities Management (CFM 110), Mission Critical Facilities (CFM 400), and Commercial Real Estate (CFM 420).

**Graduate Program**
The graduate program is doing well and the students are producing great research. Please read the graduate program update by Brother Farnsworth in the newsletter on page six.

**Student Competitions**
I would like to thank all the students who participated in the student competitions this past year. At the World Workplace conference sponsored by IFMA, the BYU student chapter won Chapter of the Year. Senior Andrew Steele won the e-Poster competition at World Workplace and he also won the Student Essay at the International Real Estate Management conference. At the Associated Schools of Construction competition, the Determining Project Risk team took first place, and the Commercial Construction and the Mixed Use teams both took third. At the Associated Builders and Contractors competition in San Diego, the BYU team took second place in the safety category. At the International Builders Show in Las Vegas, the NAHB team placed third.

**Undergraduate Program**
The enrollment numbers in our program are increasing – the undergraduate student population for construction management is over 200 students and for facilities management there are over 60 students. Students are receiving multiple job offers and all students are having success in finding employment.

**New Engineering Building**
As many of you are aware, the university has been raising funds for a new engineering building and a groundbreaking will be occurring in the near future. While the CFM program will remain in the Snell Building, we may be allocated additional space in the new building as well the opportunity to remodel portions of the existing building. Stay tuned.

Kevin Miller
*Department Chair*
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Weekly Seminar

Each Thursday, CFM students hear from industry professionals about the breadth and depth of Construction and Facilities Management. Many students have said that once they attended seminar, they knew this was the major for them. Industry professionals talk about their day-to-day tasks and how they creatively solved problems they have faced. Each week features a different speaker that presents on a project they have worked on, discusses how to develop the soft skills needed for the industry, or inspires students about the major.

While some speakers are industry professionals working in the FM or CM fields, the speaker can come from any field as long as they provide a valuable learning experience.

These 30-40 minute presentations are for the students because they provide a window into real world problems and solutions that they might face after graduation. Students have discovered where they want to work or what field they would like to pursue by listening to these speakers and networking at the lunches afterwards. “Many of my career aspirations have been formed from attending seminar throughout my college career,” said M. Forrest Hendrickson, a senior in CM.

Topics include the development of interpersonal skills of communication, character, ethics, people management, leadership, personal habits, and other traits essential to success in a management industry. Speakers come from all over the country and positions have ranged from CEOs to city planners.

If you, or someone in your organization, are interested in being a speaker for our weekly seminars, then please tell us what topic you would be willing to teach and your availability by filling out this short survey: https://tinyurl.com/CFMseminar.
At A Glance
Program Statistics

Facilities Management

- $55,000 average starting salary
- 19 undergraduate degrees awarded
- 89% Job Placement upon graduation

Construction Management

- $66,000 average starting salary
- 27 undergraduate degrees awarded
- 89% Job Placement upon graduation

Our graduates work all over the world!

90% student involvement in clubs and activities

28 students for every 1 professor

IFMA Student Chapter of the Year 2015

$70,000 awarded in scholarships

5 awards from construction competitions 2015-2016
Have you ever considered getting a graduate degree? If you answered “yes,” then we encourage you to consider pursuing the Construction Management master’s degree. It is a great way to enhance your resume, sharpen your skills, and, for many, fulfill an inner desire to obtain as much education as possible. By furthering your education, you just never know what additional doors may be opened up to you.

While the undergraduate degree focuses on preparing students to manage construction projects, the graduate program has been tailored to prepare and strengthen individuals in managing construction companies. Required coursework includes construction company human resources, managing risk in construction, construction company financial management, construction company development, technology leadership and trends in managing construction. These courses are similar to the type of material that a student would receive in an MBA program, but with content specific to construction companies. Graduate students also have the opportunity to take at least six elective credits from other places on campus, with most students selecting classes from the business school.

CM graduate students also have the opportunity to participate in meaningful research. Our graduates often note that working on research and writing a thesis are some of the most valuable experiences they receive from the program. The thesis experience involves students in defining and solving real world problems that occur within the construction industry and then sharing that knowledge by publishing their findings.

We congratulate Evan Danforth, George Williams, and Brian Childs for completing their theses and graduating this past year! Their thesis topics included:

• “Organizational Learning in Commercial Construction, Lessons Learned from the 2007-2009 U.S. Recession”
• “Assessing the Repercussions of a Mass Departure of Building Inspectors from the Code Professional Industry in Utah”
• “Use of Personality Profile Assessments in the Construction Industry”

For more information about the Construction Management graduate program at BYU, please check out our graduate brochure on our website (cm.byu.edu). When many of our students graduate with their bachelor’s degree, they tell us that they will be back in graduate school someday. If this was you, we look forward to hearing from you!

-Clifton Farnsworth

For More Information
visit cm.byu.edu
email cmmasters@byu.edu
call 801.422.2021
Michael Bown grew up in the San Fernando Valley, north of Los Angeles, and studied engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He transferred to Brigham Young University for a year before leaving to live in Mexico and Germany for a total of eight years. During this time, he played French horn in the Mexican national opera and for two large German opera houses. Afterwards, he and his family returned to California where Bown attended California State University to receive a bachelor’s degree in Linguistics. He then received two master’s degrees in both engineering and business from the University of Michigan in 1989.

Bown has lived overseas for a total of 35 years. After his time as a musician, he worked for Procter & Gamble in Germany and Switzerland as an engineer, and later as a facilities manager. After this, he began working for CB Richard Ellis, the world’s largest real estate services firm, in London, Qatar, and Switzerland, before transferring to Singapore, where he began working for Jones Lang LaSalle.

Bown did not originally plan a career in facilities management. While living in Germany, he was initially a manufacturing engineer for Procter & Gamble. His job as an engineer was to make sure that the machines ran correctly and without product defects. He did this until discovering facilities management. While in Germany, Procter asked him to move to Frankfurt on an assignment to fix their facilities management department.

“Many people were retiring, and the FM department was kind of a mess,” Bown said. “This was back before FM was well defined.”

This was Bown’s first experience in facilities management, and after stabilizing the department in Frankfurt, he was sent to Switzerland to start up a new regional headquarters site. After these experiences in facilities management, he decided not to return to engineering and ventured into this new career path.

Bown also managed the creation of the Nestlé account for CB Richard Ellis. Nestlé was one of the biggest companies in the world, and he was hired to run CBRE’s account for Nestlé globally. He spent three years working on this massive first-generation outsourcing project.

Currently, Bown is a new faculty member of the BYU Construction and Facilities Management program. He teaches Fundamentals of Facility and Property Management (CFM 110), Mission Critical Facilities Management (400), and Commercial Real Estate Management (420).

“My favorite part about teaching is seeing the students’ eyes widen when suddenly the penny drops and they understand a new concept,” Bown said.

He loves to see the students go through the learning process and figure out how facilities management works.

When asked why he wanted to become a professor, Bown said, “I decided it was time to turn around and share my knowledge with the next generation.”

Bown served in the Canada Montreal Mission from 1976 to 1978 speaking French. He met his wife Marsha on his mission while they served together. They have been married for 36 years. He has three sons who have all attended BYU, one of whom recently graduated with a degree in Facilities and Property Management.
Leaving a Legacy

The eighth annual CM Alumni and Friends Dinner was Oct. 1, 2015 in the Cougar Club Room at LaVell Edwards Stadium. More than 300 alumni, students, and spouses attended, making it the best attended dinner event so far.

Shane Sterr, a senior from Logan, Utah received the Outstanding Student Award for his dedication and service he has given as a student in the program.

Paul Magleby was awarded the 2015 Jay S. Newitt Award for his influence in the residential building industry. Magleby has been involved with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and the Home Builders Association of Utah (HBA). He has been on the NAHB National Board of Directors for over 20 years and was named the first National Custom Builder of the Year in 2007 by the NAHB. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the HBA in 2014. Magleby attributes his success to his association with the NAHB and counseled attendees to get involved with the community and industry.

Chad Hymas was the keynote speaker for this event. In 2001, Hymas was left quadriplegic after a 2,000-pound bale of hay shattered his neck. This life-altering accident inspired him to motivate others, and Hymas has become an internationally recognized speaker and author. He was named one of the 10 most influential people in the world by the Wall Street Journal and is the youngest person ever to be in the National Speakers Association. His presentation at the Alumni Dinner was on “Leaving a Legacy.” During his speech, he gave three important points of advice: (1) get rid of the “I,” (2) demonstrate that you care, and (3) go proactively find someone and serve them. Those in attendance were inspired and uplifted by Hymas’ story and enthusiasm for life.

The CM Alumni and Friends Dinner was a great opportunity to renew friendships, create new contacts and connect students with alumni. Next year’s CM Alumni and Friends Dinner will take place on Sept. 28, 2016. We look forward to many more alumni in attendance and hope to see you there!
IFMA World Workplace

Facilities Management students and faculty attended the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) World Workplace located in Denver on Oct. 7-9, 2015. This conference is the world’s largest facilities management conference and exposition, and industry professionals from over 105 countries travel to attend the event each year.

At the event, senior Andrew Steele was awarded an IFMA Foundation Scholarship. He presented on his research on the life-cycle costing for light bulbs, which resulted in a win for the Student e-Poster Competition.

"The most beneficial part of the conference for me was networking," said Steele. "Because of my presentation, professors came up to me and talked to me about my research. I was also able to build a relationship with my scholarship sponsor, which gives me possible leads on future job positions because they were able to see my potential."

Brigham Young University received the 2015 IFMA Student Chapter of the Year award for the twelfth time. This award is given to the chapter that best demonstrates a commitment to build the future in the facilities management industry. Kyle Jardine, the former FM president of the Facilities and Property Management Student Association (FPMSA), accepted the award on behalf of the school.

When asked about the award recognition, Jardine said, "For us, this is extremely important for the exposure for the program and the industry relationships… It is fulfilling to see all the hard work and effort of our team be recognized."

This year's IFMA World Workplace conference will take place in San Diego on Oct. 5-7, 2016.

IREM Fall Leadership Conference

During the Fall semester, 30 students attended the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) Conference in Salt Lake City at the Grand America Hotel. The Conference was held from Oct. 20-24, 2015 and the students were able to attend several classes and presentations offered by industry professionals from all over the country. This was a wonderful networking opportunity for the students as they had the chance to learn from many experts in the facilities industry.

BYU was well represented as Hayden Carter, a junior in FM, was awarded a scholarship from IREM to attend the event. "Joining IREM is an investment worth making," said Carter.

Senior Andrew Steele was named the winner of the IREM Student Essay Competition. Several students were invited to the gala dinner held during the conference where they were able to meet with industry professionals.

This year's IREM conference will be held in San Diego, California, on Oct. 18-21, 2016.
Making Connections


14 organizations represented a wide variety of industries, including residential property management, healthcare facility management, and consulting. Each company was given a designated booth; students were able to freely visit each area and learn about career opportunities.

Over 40 students attended and were able to build relationships and network with industry professionals.

“The Networking Night was great because it brought diverse organizations within the facility and property management industry into one room,” said senior Kyle Hinton, FPMSA president for this past school year. “It allowed me to learn about each business through one-on-one interaction with them.”

Anthony Criddle, the vice president of operations at Conrac Solutions and the company’s representative for the FM Industry Advisory Council, opened the event by talking about the FM program.

“Facilities management is a growing industry and the classes at BYU consistently provide students with great experience and knowledge about facilities and property management.

This year’s Networking Night was an overwhelming success based on the feedback from the companies that attended. The program anticipates more companies and more alumni attending next year.

The FM Networking Night for this year will take place on Sept. 22, 2016 from 7-9 PM. If you or your company are interested in participating, please contact Mike Bown at bown@byu.edu.
In Sept. 25, 2015, BYU Construction Management hosted their annual mentoring golf tournament. This year's tournament was at Cedar Hills Golf Club. There were 31 foursomes that competed and teams consisted of a mix of students and construction management professionals. It provided an opportunity for the CM students to get to know professionals in the industry while participating in friendly competition.

This event is becoming a tradition that students and companies look forward to each year. Hole sponsors provided games and raffles. Food and awards were provided at the end for all to enjoy.

CMSA president Ashley Ehardt said, “The most rewarding part of the tournament was seeing the interaction between students and industry professionals.”

All participants enjoyed their time at the event, and look forward to the continuing tradition.

*This year's golf tournament be on Sept. 16, 2016. Both companies and individuals are welcome to participate and mentor the students. If you are interested in attending, please email Justin Weidman at justinweidman@byu.edu.*

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**HOLE IN ONE**

**Facilities Management**

BYU Facilities Management hosted its first annual golf tournament on Sept. 25, 2015 at the Spanish Oaks Golf Course. Several companies such as Peg and Hensel Phelps were present at the event and were able to play side by side with the students as they were grouped into teams of four. This provided a great networking opportunity for the facilities management students as they were able to interact with these industry professionals in a more relaxed environment.

The event was held in scramble style, with each team playing their best shot. The winners of the tournament were a team of students and professional facility managers who oversee various church and temple buildings. They won first place with an incredible score of 18 under par.

Jason Facer, a senior in the program from San Clemente, California, organized the tournament for Facilities Management.

“The most enjoyable part of the event was coming together as a major with all of the support of the students,” said Facer. “Everyone loved it, and they want this to become an annual event.”

*Next year's tournament will be in Mar. 2017. If you are interested in participating, please email Justin Weidman at justinweidman@byu.edu.*
Hutch’s 10th Annual Alumni and Friends of CM Fly Fishing Reunion, held in Island Park, Idaho last July, was another success. Our featured guest was internationally known fly fisherman, author, and TV personality Phil Rowley. Because only had two cabins were available last summer, the group was limited to 14 attendees. We enjoyed classes on still-water techniques taught by Phil, along with several days of fly fishing. Two full days were spent on Sheridan Ranch with its 400-acre lake and five-miles of spring creek. The weather was beautiful, and Sheridan Ranch’s private waters yielded some very nice trout. Everyone had a great time. Each attendee also had the opportunity to receive personal on-the-water instruction from Phil.

Highlights from past reunions have included presentations by the following internationally recognized fly-fishing personalities: Mike Lawson, an acclaimed expert on the Henry’s Fork River and owner of Henry’s Fork Anglers (September 2013); Phil Rowley (July 2015, July 2014, October 2012); Bill Schiess, author of Fishing Henry’s Lake (June 2012); Dr. Riley Nelson, world-renowned entomologist (July 2014); Don Allphin, fishing editor for The Daily Herald (October 2014), and several local and regional fly-fishing guides who have shared some of their secrets to success in the Island Park area. Maybe the most important part of any of our reunions has been the chance to make new friends, visit and network, eat together, and share a lot of good-old fashioned fishing tales. Just as ‘me ole pappy’ used to say, “We don’t let the truth get in the way of a good story!”
Also, be sure to mark your calendars for Hutch’s 11th Annual Friends of CM and CM Alumni Fly Fishing Reunion. Due to popular demand, Phil Rowley will return as our featured guest instructor. As an added bonus, Pete Erickson, Phil’s good friend and a former member of the United States Fly Fishing Team, will fish with us and will provide instruction on techniques for moving waters (streams and rivers). Pete is a passionate fly fisherman and has placed as high as 12th in the Fly Fishing World Championships. We will once again meet in Island Park, Idaho and will spend the majority of our fishing time on the Sheridan Ranch waters. This year I have reserved three cabins and plan to host about 20 attendees; however, as usual, a number of those spots have already been spoken for.

For information on this year’s fly fishing reunion scheduled for Oct. 5-8 this coming fall, feel free to call me at (801) 422-6489 or (801) 592-4524, or send an email to mark_hutchings@byu.edu. As always, I am looking forward to more great fly-fishing adventures with veteran reunion attendees, and hopefully with some of you who are just starting out. May you always dream of large fish!

-Hutch

Industry and Student Mentoring Retreat

Thanks to generous donations by Hughes Contractors, Dale Barton Agency, W.W. Clyde, and Holland & Hart, a handful of lucky CFM students enjoyed a one-day guided fly-fishing adventure last September at Falcon’s Ledge, an Orvis fly fishing destination, located on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains near Altamont, Utah. The location provided a beautiful setting for this fourth annual Industry and Student Mentoring event where students had a chance to rub shoulders with successful industry professionals from the sponsoring companies. All of the industry mentors love to fly fish, and everyone who attended had an opportunity to get to know each other while enjoying a wonderful day on the water.

One of the unique things about this past year’s Industry and Student Mentoring event is that in order to be invited to attend, students first had to submit a short response to an essay question. Male students had to describe a date that would involve fishing to convince their girlfriend to marry them. In reverse, female students had to describe what it would take for their boyfriend to win their heart by taking them on a fishing date. Both situations had a maximum budget of $100 for the date.

Last year’s winners were selected by a panel of industry members and CFM secretaries. Questions from previous years include: “How do we know that Peter was a fly fisherman?” “How is fly fishing like missionary work?” and “How is dating, courtship and marriage like or unlike fly fishing?” A number of industry sponsors have already signed up to continue this annual activity with BYU CFM students.
Thirty-five students participating in seven teams represented BYU Construction Management this year in various construction competitions across the country. These national competitions are designed to help students practice the skills they have been learning in a real-life situation. BYU is a top competitor in these events, and this year they returned to Provo with five trophies in hand.

BYU returned to the Associated Builders and Contractors trade association’s competition (ABC) in San Diego and placed second in the safety category. The students competed against 23 other teams from around the nation in developing a proposal for a Discovery Museum in Fort Collins, Colo.

Gregory Schmidt, a senior in Construction Management, said, “These competitions are the closest to a real-life situation that we can get as students. Along with being an amazing experience, the competitions are a great way to network with industry professionals and acquire internships and future employment.”

This competition provided an opportunity for students to gain experience, as well as network and find potential job opportunities for the future.

Students also participated in the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Residential Construction Management competition at the annual International Builders’ Show in Las Vegas. A five-person team of students placed third against 34 other universities from around the country. Senior Joe Denker said, “the reputation and intensity of [the competition] spoke for me in some regard. I can’t tell you how close the project actually comes to real-life.”

Three teams were awarded at the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competition in Sparks, Nev., placing first in Determining Project Risk, and third in both Commercial and Mixed Use.

“We are able to put everything we have learned into play. The learning curve is huge,” said Amy Umstead, a senior who participated in both the ASC Mixed Use team and the ABC team.
The second annual FM Alumni and Friends Dinner held in the Blue Zone Room at LaVell Edwards Stadium on Mar. 25, 2016 was a great success. The event included an award presentation and a keynote speaker.

Brad Randall, an alumnus of BYU FM and the chair of the Industry Advisory Council, was the host of the evening. He introduced Dr. Jeff Campbell, who recently retired as a professor from Facilities Management, to present the Industry Recognition Award. Dr. Campbell was the first to be presented this award at last year’s event, and it was his privilege to continue this new tradition. This year’s award was presented to Howard Simmons. Simmons is currently the district manager at Sodexo Education Services in Rochester, New York. He has done much to support BYU FM, including helping many students receive internships and gain experience at Sodexo. He was honored to receive this award, and gave the students additional advice pertaining to how they can be successful in their future careers. Read more about Simmons on page 18.

The events concluding speaker was Val White, facilities manager of the Provo City Center Temple. White is an experienced facilities manager in the Church, having done work on the Oakland and Draper temples before the Provo City Center Temple. He spoke on how facilities managers can support the construction of buildings. It is their job to pay close attention to the details and find solutions to problems that will enable the temple to be high functioning and maintain its beauty for years to come.

This was a wonderful evening spent amongst friends of BYU FM. Next year’s dinner will be held on Mar. 23, 2017, in correspondence with the Advisory Council meetings. We look forward to another increase in attendance and hope to see you there!

“I look forward to the alumni dinner to celebrate another successful year with people in the industry and my fellow students.”
- Mitch Larson, student
Mykola Dogadailo, from Mariupol, Ukraine, is graduating with a Construction Management emphasis in June 2016. As a young child, his father and siblings passed away and he worked as a welder to support his mother and himself. Before leaving on his mission, his mother became ill and passed away.

“I always dreamed about getting a good education, and I needed something that would provide means for me and my family,” he said.

Mykola served in the Moscow Russia mission from 2007 to 2009, where his mission president helped him figure out his post-mission plans. Before being admitted to a BYU school, Mykola needed to know English and attend an English learning school. After learning English, he then had to pass an English efficiency test. With a huge leap of faith, he started school at BYU Hawaii in April 2010 to take general education classes. In 2012, Mykola learned that he had been admitted to BYU in Utah. He used all of his money to move to Utah and began working for the grounds crew on campus.

Mykola was introduced to Construction Management by a few friends and appreciated the great placement and practical skills provided by the major. He enjoys his classes because he is constantly learning new concepts. He found the environment in the CFM program collaborative because students and professors are always willing to help.

“‘It has been very hard, between the language barrier and the learning a new measurement system, but with the help of other people it is not as difficult,’” Mykola said.

Adjusting to life in the United States has not been easy because the way of life is very different here than it is in Ukraine.

“I had to learn how to respect other cultures, but also preserve my own,” he said.

After graduation, Mykola is joining the Army reserve and will be moving to South Carolina for basic combat training. After he is granted citizenship, he hopes to get a job in business or in the construction field.

“Mykola is the most honest, humble, and diligent student that I’ve known.”
- Brian Capt, CFM Professor
Senior Spotlights

Ashley Ehardt

Ashley Ehardt, from Colorado Springs, CO, has always had a love for design and an interest in residential architecture. When she first came to BYU, she began to explore majors and decided to give Construction Management a try.

“As soon as I got into the first class, I knew that I had found what I wanted to pursue,” she said.

While being in the program, Ehardt has noted that it is very important to get to know people and network. She gives much credit to her fellow students and the CFM faculty for the great strides she has made in her education.

“Getting to know as many people as possible makes you more knowledgeable and an all-around better person,” said Ehardt.

Some of her favorite memories from the program are from her participation in the ASC and ABC competitions. She was able to compete at these events, and placed second in safety for ABC and third overall in commercial for ASC this year. As the president of the Construction Management Student Association, she was directly involved in coordinating activities for the major, as well as running last year’s golf tournament.

After graduation, Ehardt will be working as an estimator for Jacobsen Construction in West Valley, UT. In the future, she would like to pursue a master’s degree and stay involved with different organizations such as AGC and ABC. Most of all, she wants to give back to the program by repaying her scholarship and representing BYU and the CM program throughout her career.

Stephen Clawson

Stephen Clawson, from Provo, UT, has always been fascinated by the “build” environment, and had a desire to be a part of the CFM program.

Clawson said, “FM literally fell into my arms when I caught a football at a major fair freshman year. The football said ‘fpm.byu.edu’ and I never looked back!”

While being in the program, the most valuable lesson he has learned was to take risks and make sacrifices to gain relevant experience. Clawson has been a great mentor to his fellow students as he has actively participated in the program and networked throughout his college career. He will miss the culture created here at BYU, the countless hours and several all-nighters spent in the Snell Building computer lab over the years, and the NFMT Conference in Las Vegas.

After graduation, Clawson will be working in Fairfax, VA at Facility Engineering Associates (FEA) as a staff professional. FEA is a facility engineering and management consulting firm that helps facility managers improve the way that they manage buildings. Eventually, Clawson hopes to either specialize in FM consultancy, develop and market a new FM product, or become a facility executive.

Ultimately though, Clawson said, “when people ask what I want to be when I grow up, I tell them I want to be happy.”

Clawson hopes to give back to the CFM program in the future by coming back and speaking at seminar and recruiting to help mentor the rising professionals in FM. He wants to always remember the culture of the major and how it invited friendly competition, and had a heavy emphasis on teamwork.

Daniel Kiser

Daniel Kiser is an Oregon native from McMinnvile. He has always aspired to be an architect and to attend BYU. He chose to join Construction Management because he knew it would provide a solid foundation for him to study architecture.

Kiser has an eye for design, and the most valuable thing he has learned from CM was how to develop his Revit skills.

Kiser said, “the Revit classes helped me build my portfolio and get a job as an architectural designer at Ezra Lee Design + Build, where I have led the design of three high-end custom homes.”

While at BYU, Kiser co-founded the first Architecture Club. Students can learn from local architects that present to the club. On average, 20 students have attended the club meetings, and the numbers continue to grow.

After graduation, Kiser will be attending the University of Notre Dame for his Masters of Architecture degree. Notre Dame is the preeminent architecture school for traditional and classical design. After focusing on technical skills in CM, he is now excited to develop his artistic skills.

Ultimately, Kiser’s goal is to own an architecture firm that specializes in the design and historic restoration of high-end custom homes in Southern California. One day, he also hopes to give back to the CFM program by being a mentor to students interested in architecture.

Kiser said, “architecture is not an easy path and I wouldn’t be where I am if it wasn’t for the help of passionate and supportive mentors.”
Howard Simmons has been a stalwart friend and contributor to BYU FM for many years. Since graduating with a degree in Physical Plan and Administration, now referred to as Facilities Management, from BYU in 1988, Simmons has continued to give back to the school and facilities industry. Simmons, one of Sodexo’s district managers in the universities division, is primarily responsible for the company’s facilities business in Western New York. He has played a major role in the recruitment of BYU students into internships and entry-level management roles for the past 22 years. Simmons continues to support the efforts of students and the university with his participation with the Industry Advisory Council (IAC).

Simmons has been a member of Sodexo’s team since his graduation from BYU, comprising 27 years with this company. His long-time employment has helped him to achieve the status that he has today as he has worked diligently in the facilities management field. Recently, Simmons has taken on additional responsibility with the oversight of dining services leadership roles at some of the facilities campuses that he manages. His current responsibility allows him to handle a day-to-day role of people management, along with everything to do with facilities on a university campus.
Simmons’ love for people has allowed him to excel in the industry as he continues to strive to achieve his career goals. He has served on the IAC committee for more than 10 years, providing support and resources to FM. During his time with Sodexo, more than 100 interns have been invited to participate in Sodexo’s Future Leaders Program; over 50 graduates have been hired into various entry level management roles within Sodexo. Simmons has been greatly beneficial in helping students prepare themselves for the future as various internship and career opportunities have been provided. He truly enjoys helping others to reach their potential.

BYU’s motto is “Enter to learn, go forth to serve,” and Simmons has continued to follow the path that the University has helped him to establish. He noted that each student at BYU comes here and leaves this campus with an interest and a spirit to go out and help the communities that they will live in.

“During life’s journey as a student at BYU, and with the particular jobs and church callings we have during that short timeframe, we live within a very tight nucleus of membership and participation in campus and church activities,” Simmons said. “As that moment in time ends at BYU, we go out into the world, carrying on and serving others, hopefully taking along the values and life lessons that have been learned.”

“It’s a privilege as an alum to come back to this campus and to see the growth of the institution, the commitment the Church puts into education to support campus programs and facilities, all for the growth and development of the students. Coming and being a part of this campus, bleeding blue in a sense, is a nice thing to be a part of.”

“You go into the world, carrying on and serving others, while taking along the values and life lessons that you’ve learned here on campus.”

- Howard Simmons
Brad Cowley is a regional facilities manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has been extremely involved in the Construction and Facilities Management program, both as a student and now as an alumnus.

Cowley grew up in Houston, Texas and attended Texas Tech University for a year before serving a Spanish-speaking mission in Sacramento, California. After returning home, he transferred to BYU with plans to earn a degree in business. Part way through the business program, Cowley felt a strong desire to add some technical expertise to the business concepts he was learning and found Facilities Management to be a perfect fit. He graduated with a BS degree in Facilities Management and a Minor in Business in April 2001.

“BYU Facilities Management is the perfect mix of technical and managerial skills,” he said. “At first I wasn’t exactly sure how to add technical skills to my business studies, but within the first few weeks I knew this program was right for me.”

After graduation, Cowley entered a Management Training program with United Parcel Service (UPS) and worked as an industrial engineer. Cowley enjoyed his experiences over the years with UPS, but as his responsibilities grew and his positions demanded more time, he began to reconsider what was most important in his life. He had a young family and his position required constant travel. While he believes he could have made it work if there were no other options, he felt that his education and experience were valuable to many employers and began to look at other opportunities.

During this time, Cowley received a phone call from a friend and former classmate at BYU letting him know that he was transferring from Salt Lake to New York with the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As Cowley learned about the position his friend was vacating, he expressed interest and was encouraged to apply. After several rounds of interviews, he began working as an account manager in the Physical Facilities Department of the Church.

“My family and I could have made [my job with UPS] work if we had to, but with my education and experience, I knew there were a lot of other opportunities,” Cowley said. “I have had a fascinating career with the Church and have been able to maintain a good work-life balance.”

Cowley has been with the Church since 2004 working in the Physical Facilities, Welfare, and Information and Communication Systems departments. In his current assignment, Brad manages 15 direct reports who work with their staff to oversee the operations and maintenance of 640 Church owned or leased properties along the Wasatch Front, Summit County, and Western Wyoming. While the majority of these buildings are meetinghouses, some built by the first pioneers to settle the Salt Lake Valley, Brad is responsible for a wide variety of other properties including: retail space, educational facilities, food processing and manufacturing plants, warehouses, office space, residential buildings, and mountain recreational properties. Other than temples and the buildings managed by staff at the headquarters campus, if the Church has a facility in Cowley’s region, he and his team are involved.

“While I spent several years as a frontline facilities manager, my current job focuses on developing people and leading our team to accomplish the organization’s goals. A highlight for me is helping facility managers become experts and have successful careers,” Cowley said.

“There are significant responsibilities in this role, but for me it is a sweet spot. I am a business manager who gets to work
with incredible people and still have my hand in the technical work.”

Cowley is responsible for the performance of employees, budgets, development, and maintenance of those buildings in that area.

“Right now my job is building people. I’m taking facilities managers…and helping them become experts and more successful in their careers,” he said. “A highlight for me is actually helping them move onto other opportunities that they want to do.”

Cowley’s degree in facilities management has been crucial to his career.

“The classes I took in this program, both construction and facility management courses, are all applicable to the work I do today,” said Brad. “I talk to a lot of people that don’t use what they studied in their day-to-day jobs, but for me, my degree was essential and prepared me to take a leading role in our company.”

Because he still lives in Utah and is close to BYU campus, Cowley is still able to participate and be involved with the program. He has been able to speak in weekly seminars, host students in Salt Lake for job visits, and serve on the Industry Advisory Council. Cowley also taught classes for several years in BYU’s Construction and Facilites Management program as Adjunct Faculty and received the 2011 Alumnus of Year award from the Facility and Property Management Program.

“IT’s been a lot of fun being close to BYU. I really enjoyed coming back and sharing what I’ve learned with the students,” he said. “This is a great institution and I’m privileged to continue to associate with it.”

Cowley has two pieces of advice for current students. The first is to make the most of your time at BYU by building relationships with fellow students and creating a love of learning.

“Give your best effort to the assignments you are given and the classes you have,” he said. “I know it seems like classes will never end, but they do and it happens way too fast. You have access to so many resources at BYU to enhance your learning. Be a sponge while at school and soak it up. Take the time to really connect with classmates and teachers while you are there. Get to know people. Be a friend. The career I have today is a direct result of building relationships while I was at BYU.”

His second piece of advice is focused on family.

“Enter to learn, go forth to serve. All of this – an education, a career – is to prepare us to bless those around us. Those closest to me, my family, have been blessed because of my education and career. It’s easy to get caught up in working and chasing career goals. Don’t forget that the whole point is to bless your family, those in your sphere of influence, and future generations. That’s the end result of all of this.”

Brad Crowley lives in Riverton, Utah with his wife and four daughters.
Alumni Spotlight

Njeri Ngaara

Njeri Ngaara currently works in Dubai, United Arab Emirates at the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre with EC Harris. Her position involves the creation of Project Management Office structure and governance. She maps out processes, identifies inefficiencies and mitigates redundancies in the Project Management Information System.

Ngaara was born and raised in Kenya. As a child, Ngaara was more interested in playing with LEGO bricks instead of dolls. Her father was an entrepreneur and built houses, and his career path inspired her to consider a degree in architecture studies. After arriving at BYU for her undergraduate degree, she spoke to Professor Leon Rogers, a professor in CM. He suggested that Ngaara pursue a degree in Construction Management instead of architecture.

“The skills from CM are transferable to architecture, in addition to the managerial skills gained and better job prospects,” she said.

While at BYU, Construction Management became her home away from home.

“The professors have an open-door policy and genuinely care about the students,” said Nagaara. “[They] were so passionate about what they did, and you could walk into their office and sit down to talk about life.”

Ngaara participated in the NAHB competitions and learned a lot from the industry professionals that visited each week during Seminar.

“‘The most valuable thing I learned at BYU was to work hard,’” she said. “‘There are no shortcuts in life, and you won’t wake up one day and be where you want to be without working hard to get there.”

Ngaara finished her degree in December 1999 and began her career as a project engineer for Greyhawk North America. While at Greyhawk, Ngaara worked in New York City to coordinate the asbestos and lead abatement in NYC public schools and various on-site inspections. This responsibility ensured improved air quality so that classrooms were safe for occupancy.

“‘It was a humbling experience to walk on Ground Zero after the attacks,’” Ngaara said. “We had to wear masks because the air was so bad.”

Her other projects with Hill International include the Comcast building in Philadelphia, which is the tallest building in the city, and public schools in the area, including West Philadelphia High.
Ngaara earned a master’s degree in business administration from Villanova University in 2012 and then moved to Chicago to work for Arcadis, a design, engineering, and management consulting company. Her first assignment involved discovery work for potential software implementation, where she learned many of the skills necessary for her current position with EC Harris, a subsidiary of Arcadis. “When I graduated from BYU, I never thought I would be doing this,” Ngaara said. “One thing I’ve learned is to just be flexible and never say no, because every opportunity, from different assignments to new locations, is a learning experience.”

Ngaara advises current students to be willing to experience new things as well. “People don’t like change and they don’t like to try new things because they are afraid to fail,” she said. “Don’t be afraid to try new things, because if it works, then fantastic! If it doesn’t, then you’ll know that you’ll never want to do that again.”

“EVERY OPPORTUNITY... IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE.”

– Njeri Ngaara