



Construction Management

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2010-11

Overview

This year the Department of Construction Management continued to make noteworthy accomplishments as in the previous years. The department graduated a record number of 166 students, and continued to secure research funding from NSF as well as the Florida Department of Transportation. The Department has been allocated funding to develop its planned construction process laboratory; the construction will begin in Fall 2011. The Department also completed developing a 650 square feet space for its MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) studio. The Department added a new tenure-track assistant professor to its faculty. Dr. Youngcheol Kang will join the department in August 2011. Dr. Kang is a registered professional engineer and a recent Ph.D. graduate from the University of Texas at Austin in Civil Engineering.

Highlights

The Department of Construction Management and the college's Division of External Program took initiatives to launch two overseas programs to offer the Masters in Construction Management (MSCM) degree program in the Dominican Republic and in Panama. The program in the Dominican Republic will be offered in collaboration with Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic, and the program in Panama will be offered in collaboration with the Quality Leadership University (QLU) in Panama City, Panama. Both programs will begin in 2012.

In addition, a professional MSCM program is currently under review. This program is planned for the executives in the industry, and courses will be offered on Saturdays.

The department organized the sixth conference on Construction in the Twenty First Century (CITC VI) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in July 2011, in collaboration with East Carolina University and UiTM of Malaysia. More than 130 individuals participated in this conference. The department also organized the ASCE Conference on Computing in June under the leadership of Dr. Yimin Zhu. The conference was held in Miami and drew a significant number of participants from across the country.

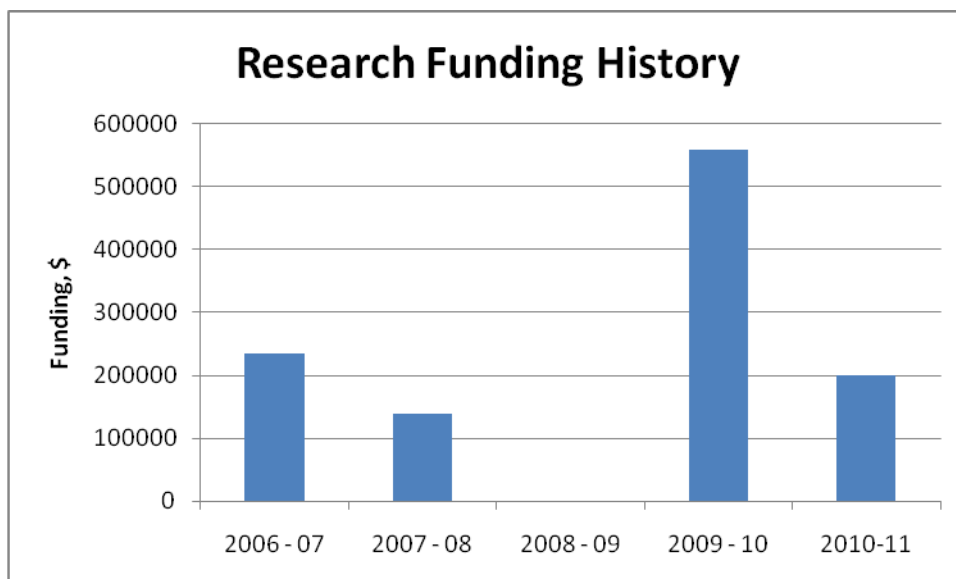
The Department was allocated funding to develop its planned construction process laboratory. The laboratory will be an open-air yard-like facility and will have an overhead crane for demonstration purposes. The laboratory is intended to provide students hands-on demonstrations on real-life construction processes, construction materials, components and their assembly. Half-built walls, steel structural joints and samples of various construction components will be the features of this laboratory.

In addition, the Department completed a 650 square feet space to build its MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) studio on the second floor of the Engineering Center Building. This lab is

equipped with HVAC, electrical and plumbing appliances/fixtures for demonstration to students, and computer hardware and software for instruction and training.

Research and Funding

The Department did very well this year in external research funding, thanks to Dr. Yimin Zhu and Dr. Bayraktar. Currently, Dr. Zhu is working on three National Science Foundation grants. Dr. Bayraktar received a research grant from Florida Department of Transportation. As in the previous years, a number of research proposals were submitted to various funding agencies, a number of which are pending.



Construction Management faculty members were active in publishing their research findings in reputed construction journals and conference proceedings. Collectively, the Department faculty published three books, twenty two journal papers, four research reports and fifteen conference proceedings papers.

Overseas and Professional Programs

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In addition, a professional MSCM program is currently under review. This program is planned for the executives in the industry and courses will be offered during the weekends.

Conferences

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Events

- ABC Golf Tournament was held on March 25, 2011 At the Miami-Melreese Golf Course for raising funds to support the FIU ABC student team for participating in the National Construction Management Championship competition held in San Antonio, Texas.
- The department organized its regularly held Career Expo on February 8, 2011. Eleven major construction companies including ANF, Arellano, Facchina, GSD, Hensel Phelps, Link, Moss, MCM, Odebrecht, Skanska, and Turner participated.
- Donor Thank you Event – Held on October 12, 2010 at Presidential Gold Suite, FIU Football Stadium to thank all CM emergency industry fund donor of 2010-11 year.
- CM Industry Advisory Council Meeting and Holiday Luncheon – Held on December 10, 2010 at GC Ballroom.
- FIU construction projects workshop - Held on April 29, 2011 for the south Florida construction industry, sponsored by south Florida ABC. John Cal, Associate Vice President, Facilities Management, Bob Griffith, Director of Planning and Real Estate Development, and Sylvia Berenguer, Director, Minor Projects, were the speakers.
- On April 26, 2011 the 2nd Annual FIU-Construction Management Alumni Chapter Dinner Forum was held at the GC Ballroom. More than 100 alumni attended. A panel discussion followed the dinner to discuss next five years economic outlook in the south Florida construction industry.

Faculty

The department currently has 10 fulltime faculty, including a new member joining this fall, and employs anywhere between 10 to 14 adjunct faculty members every term. Faculty members are involved in various research areas, including, risk management and decision-making, sustainability and green construction, information and communication technology, infrastructure systems and management, safety and health, and construction education.

Dr. Irtishad Ahmad is serving as one of the executive members in the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Management in Engineering* published by the American Society of Civil Engineers. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of *Leadership and Management in Engineering* published by American Society of Civil Engineers.

Dr. M. Emre Bayraktar is serving as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Management in Engineering* published by American Society of Civil Engineers.

Dr. Youngcheol Kang, our newest fulltime faculty member will join the department this year. Dr. Kang, P.E. a recent PhD in civil engineering from University of Texas at Austin, will join the department in Fall 2011 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor.

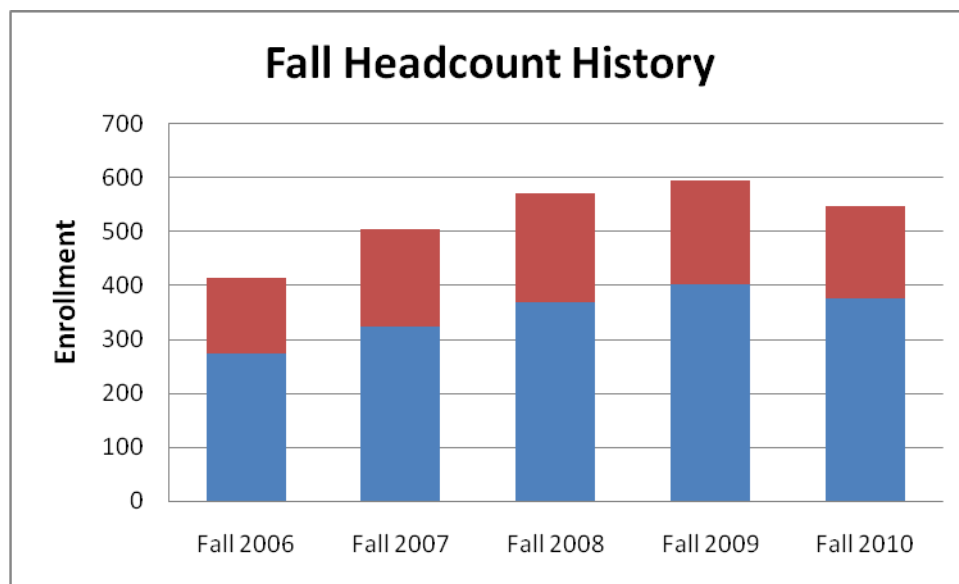
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Online Masters Program

The department began offering graduate courses online for its Masters students in 2004. Two sections for each online course are offered, one for the in-state students and the other for the out-of-state students. Fee structures are different. FTE credits of out-of-state students are not credited to the department. Sufficient courses are offered within a four-semester cycle enabling students to graduate by taking all courses online. The enrollment is on the rise as can be seen from Tables 4 and 5 and Figure 4. At present, approximately a total of 180 students enroll in online classes in a typical term. About 110 of them are in-state and 70 out-of-state. Currently, the college charges in-state students a plus fee of \$299 per course and out-of-state graduate students a flat fee of \$1,599. The department's total revenue in the 2010-2011 academic year was close to \$450,000.

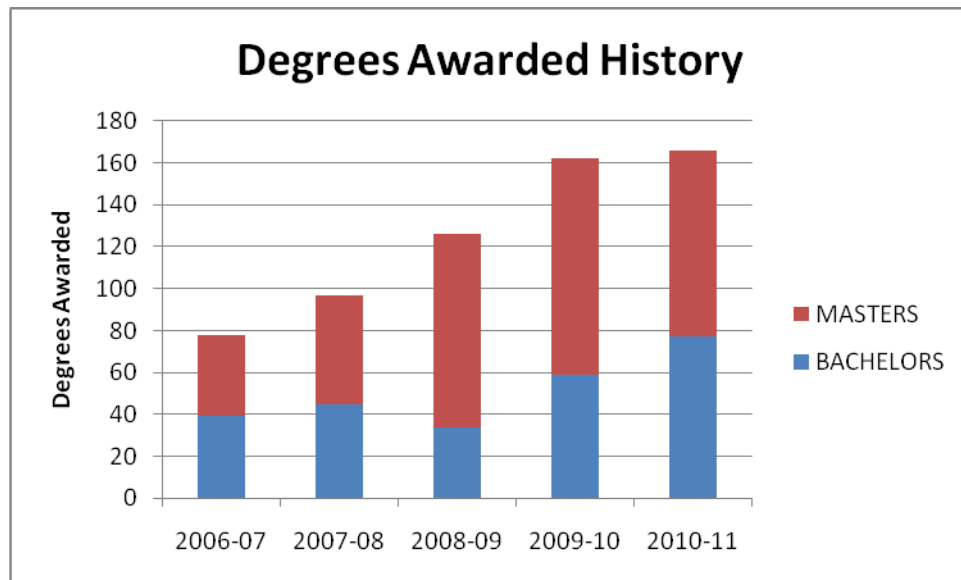
Enrollment and degrees awarded

After a steady growth over the last six years, this year for the first time, the fall enrollment declined slightly, by nearly 8 percent, from 594 to 546. The undergraduate enrollment declined from 402 to 375 and graduate enrollment from 192 to 171.



Fall Headcount History

The department awarded degrees to 166 students last year. This is an all-time high number in the history of the department.



Degrees Awarded History