CIM Matters:

A Word from the Program Coordinator:

It has been a great pleasure to serve as the Program Coordinator since August 2015. I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with CIM Faculty and Staff, great Industry Patrons and Alumni to improve the CIM Program at Chico State, and to better serve our students. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for our Patrons and their continuous support of the program.

We are all excited that the CIM Program at Chico State is growing at its fastest rate to date, thanks to our Administrative Coordinator, Amanda Muller, our Student Ambassadors, and Patrons. Currently, the program has 70 majors, and we are expecting at least 30 incoming freshmen and transfer students this coming Fall 2016. With 100 majors enrolled in the program next semester, we are ultimately hoping to grow to 150 students in the next couple of years. Aside from increasing student enrollment, our priority has been enhancing and improving the curriculum in order to best prepare our students for their future careers.

German Fuentes decided to make the switch from nursing to CIM last year and is currently a junior in the program. Coming from a family with concrete construction interest, German brings a strong background of hands-on experience to the program. He has been actively involved in CIM recruiting efforts as well as community service projects. He also received the first Arthur Maher Scholarship: selected among four students from other CIM Programs across the country.

“This major has been a second home and family, and I am more involved in school and the community than I ever thought I would be.”

Student Spotlight:

German Fuentes
Claudia Martinez

CIM Junior, Claudia Martinez, has been awarded the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. She was the only Chico State student and one of the 23 CSU system students to receive this award. Claudia has also received the Dean’s Excellence Scholarship from the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management. In addition to this, she was also awarded two other scholarships this year, one from Women In Mining, CA Chapter, and one from ICRI. Claudia has been an active student in the CIM Program and has helped recruit several students to the major.

Joanne O’Hara

Joanne O’Hara, CIM Senior, received the Chico State Outstanding Student Service Award for the 2015/2016 academic year for her excellent record of on-campus and community service. She was one of four students campus-wide to be selected for the award. Joanne has been an active research assistant in CIM, as well. She and her teammate, Henry Freimuth, were selected in the top 10 undergrad student researchers at Chico State this Spring. Joanne has also been active in student recruitment and student club activities.

Community Service Projects:

CIM students worked on several community projects during the 2015/2016 academic year. We worked and established relationships with Habitat for Humanity, Beale Air Force Base in Marysville, and, the largest of the projects, the Sierra View Elementary Courtyard Renovation. Our students and faculty, along with our friend, Ricardo Carrillo, put in 300 voluntary hours, combined with more than 30 years of experience, to complete the school courtyard. It was a great opportunity for our students to give back to their community and to apply what they have learned in their CIM courses: ultimately showcasing their capabilities as CIM students.

Active Students of the Year:

Aaron Bacon
Hayden Kaae
Joanne O’Hara
German Fuentes
Michael Wilmerding
Claudia Martinez
Henry Freimuth
Jeremy Feske
Cesar Rodriguez
Sara Luther
Christopher Yang
Karen Romo
I’m very happy to report that the CIM Patrons are still in place, secure and continuing to grow. We celebrated our 10th year as a 401(c)3 educational foundation last December and held our 21st Board Meeting and Founders Dinner on April 24th. We celebrated the completion of our 10th Academic Year with graduation held on May 20th, making it our 7th graduation.

We are beyond happy to share lots of great news with you. Our progress is now on secure ground and we have solid footing going into our second decade. We are extremely happy with our new Dean of Engineering, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez, and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival our new University President, Gayle Hutchinson. Our previous Dean of Engineering and good friend, Dr. Mike Ward, is acting as Interim Provost of the University and we have just completed and dedicated the first phase of the Concrete and Materials Lab total renovation project. This is the first of three phases which will more than double our old lab, resulting in a modern state-of-the-art facility: serving both teaching needs and space for student projects and research. All of which is necessary to serve our now rapidly growing enrollment! Many thanks to you and your generous donations for making this possible.

Thank You Dr. Tanya Komas

Dr. Tanya Komas has retired from her position as Associate Professor of the CIM Program. Dr. Komas served as the Director of the CIM Program for 8 years before stepping down in 2014. Her tireless work and dedication has made the CIM Program is what it is today.

We would like to extend our thanks to Dr. Komas for everything she has done for our students and for the program at Chico State!
The CIM Program was featured in three news articles in INSIDE Chico State. One of the articles, A Perfect Mix, published in October 2015, highlighted the uniqueness and the success of the CIM Program at Chico State. It outlined tremendous opportunities for students, and 10 years of successful academia-industry relationships. There is no doubt that our success at Chico State is a direct result of our close relationship with our Patrons and their generous donations. We truly are “a perfect mix.”

“Is Rice Nice for Concrete?” was the second article published in INSIDE Chico State, highlighting program research accomplishments. CIM Students, Joanne O’Hara and Henry Freimuth (shown below), were selected within the top 10 student researchers campus-wide, and were invited to present at the California State Competition. They have been helping Dr. Feraidon Ataie, with his research on utilization of rice straw fibers in concrete.

The third article highlighted our students’ hard work and dedication to our community service project at Sierra View Elementary School in Chico, CA.

Meet Our Recruiting Team

Our Student Ambassadors, along with our Program Administrative Coordinator, Amanda Muller, have done a fantastic job in recruiting students in the program. We have also had other CIM Students and Patrons who have helped us in our recruitment efforts. Many thanks to all of them!

Faculty Search

The CIM Program has begun the search to hire a new tenure track faculty member. The program is looking for an individual who holds a Ph.D in Civil Engineering, has successful research accomplishments in concrete materials, and is dedicated to student success.

Contact Us

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