



## 6 WELCOME HOME



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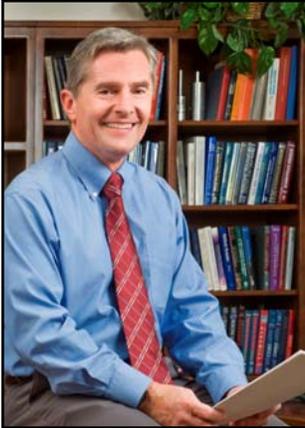
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## Message from the Dean Facing the Challenges of the 21st Century



*"It is time for us all to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever - the one who recognizes the challenges and does something about it."*

*-Vince Lombardi*

We don't have to look far to see the challenges before us, from our economic well-

being to the energy and environmental realities we face. Who among us will take the lead in addressing these challenges?

The Millennium Project, a think tank of futurists, scholars, business planners and policy makers founded in 1996 by the United Nations University, the Smithsonian, and others, has developed "15 Global Challenges," that frame the key issues facing the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The list includes such issues as energy, clean water, health, population, global convergence of IT, sustainable development, and climate change. Without question, every one of these issues touches our college disciplines in one way or another. They are issues that require multi-disciplinary approaches if we are to have any success in confronting them. At the same time, these global challenges are all interdependent - ones that cannot be addressed in isolation. From my perspective, the college is well positioned to prepare graduates who can work with other scientists, engineers, policy makers, and business professionals to develop innovative solutions to these complex problems. I am proud to say that our students, and our alumni have clearly distinguished themselves as "doers."

In this edition are stories that exemplify the character of our students and our alumni. Concrete Industry Management students helped build a memorial to the firefighter victims of 9/11. Construction Management students, Concrete Industry Management students and others, distinguished themselves by teaming with the City of Chico, local builders, and community service groups to build two LEED certified homes in 9 days in January. Several YouTube videos can be found that chronicle the amazing event. I know that for those involved it was a life changing experience.

I am also proud to help tell the story of Gene Keluche, our 2010 Distinguished Alumnus for the college. Gene, a native American (Wintun) who overcame great obstacles to attend Chico State College in 1950, studied Applied Engineering Science and went on to successfully found a number of commercial ventures in education, biotechnology, software, satellite imaging and economic development to name a few. He also served as a director of the U.S. Olympic Committee and co-chairman of the International Founder's Council of the National Museum of the American Indian. His story is truly inspirational.

I hope that you take pride in your affiliation with the college, and our programs, and I hope that we have contributed in some measure to your success.

Sincerely,

Michael Ward, Dean

*Let us know what you're doing! Send updates to [eccconnections@csuchico.edu](mailto:eccconnections@csuchico.edu)*

## Memorial Is A Concrete Experience



CIM students prepare to assemble the memorial.

Concrete Industry Management (CIM) students from Chico State created a memorial to three firehouses who lost companies in the World Trade Center attacks. The memorial will be placed in a memorial park across from the New York firehouses where the firefighters once worked.

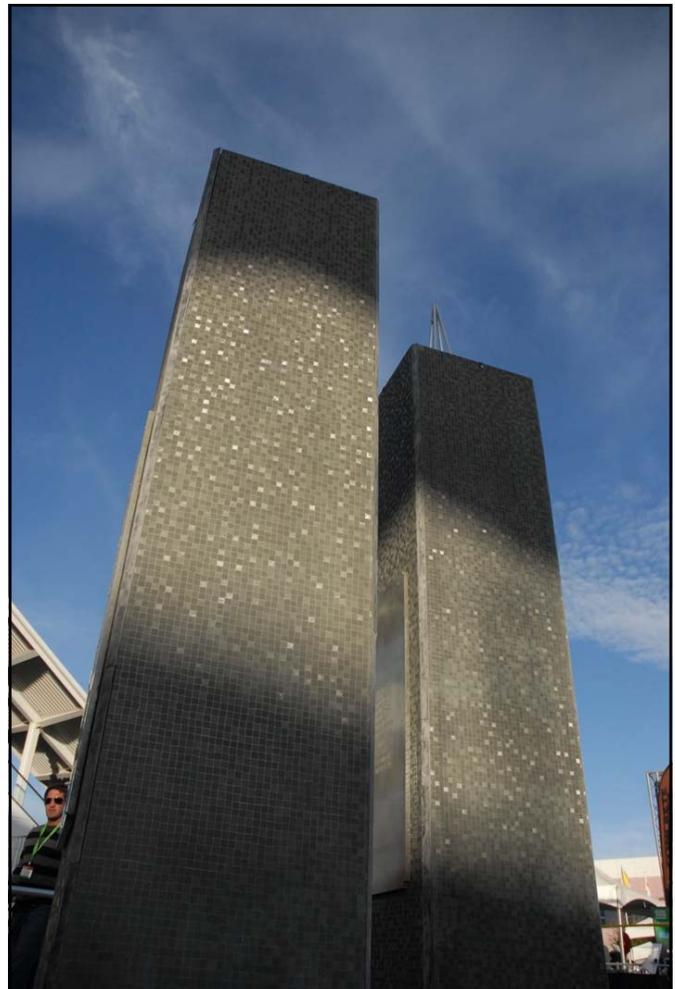
Students from Chico State and Middle Tennessee State University created the replica of the two towers at the World of Concrete in Las Vegas, Nev. The project required students to first learn about the special glass fiber reinforced concrete process before they traveled to Las Vegas. Once at the show, the students performed all the concrete work including forming, mixing and placing the concrete, erecting the completed panels and dismantling the memorial for shipping at the end of the event.

The simple design of two vertical forms representing the silhouette of the Twin Towers reflects light on the faceted surface etched with the names of fallen firefighters from three firehouses near Times Square in New York City. The idea for the concrete memorial began when retired New York City firefighter Ed Gruitzner, now an accomplished decorative concrete installer, and Mike Eastergard, a supporter of the CIM program, began talking about a memorial.

“They approached our program and Middle Tennessee State to do this work,” Tanya Wattenburg Komars, the director of the CIM program, stated. “They knew we could do this project based on the previous concrete work we’ve completed.”

The memorial was presented to the Captain of the New York firehouse on Feb. 4, 2010 at the World of Concrete.

“It was an amazing moment for the students who worked extremely hard on the project during that week,” Komars said. “We were all proud and honored to work on the memorial.”



The completed memorial at the World of Concrete.

## Alumni Highlights

**Peter Turk (ITEC 1980)** is currently working at Medtronic, Santa Rosa.

**Jason Rickard (ME 1998)** is currently working at Genentech, Vacaville.

**Corey Cole (ME 2004)** is currently working at Sunpower, Richmond.

**Matt Whalen (MFGT 2009)** is working at Northrop Grumman, Redondo Beach.

**Blake Heinlein, P.E. (ME 1999)** is the Project Manager at IEC Corporation in Sacramento.

**Tyler Foreman (EE 2000)** and **Jason Brown (EE 2000)** began a software company that was recently acquired by RedZone. Both men now work for RedZone.

**Jared Debrunner (CSCI and Mathematics double-major 2010)** was admitted into the Ph.D. in Computer Science program at U.C. Santa Cruz for Fall 2010 with a Regents Scholarship.

*Send an update today!*  
[eccconnections@csuchico.edu](mailto:eccconnections@csuchico.edu)

## Alumni Day

Approximately 30 alumni attended Alumni Day in the Classroom in February. Faculty were pleased to welcome the alumni who made technical presentations and answered questions in engineering classes. A diverse group networked with current students, faculty and each other.

If you are interested in participating in Alumni Day next year, please contact [krpetersen@csuchico.edu](mailto:krpetersen@csuchico.edu) with information about yourself including your current contact information and work history.



Faculty and alumni enjoy lunch and networking.

## Student Achievements

**ASC Regions 6 & 7** Student Competition teams won the following awards:

- National BIM Problem 1st Place
- National Marine Problem, 3rd Place
- Region 7 Heavy Civil Team, 3rd Place

**IOTA IV Chapter** of Sigma Lambda Chi received the High Achievement award for outstanding student chapter.

**The AGC** student chapter placed third for best chapter.

**Applied Computer Graphics** students won first and second place in the CSU Animation Festival.

**Ben McKay** was the top scorer of the Computer Science Major Field Test (MFT) for computer science. The test measures critical knowledge and understanding of major aspects of the computer science program.

## Generating Success

Spending much of his professional life working for prestigious corporations, Gene Keluche has a depth of experiences and interests that are difficult to match. His dedication not only to new inventions but also to his community earned him the title of ECC distinguished alum.

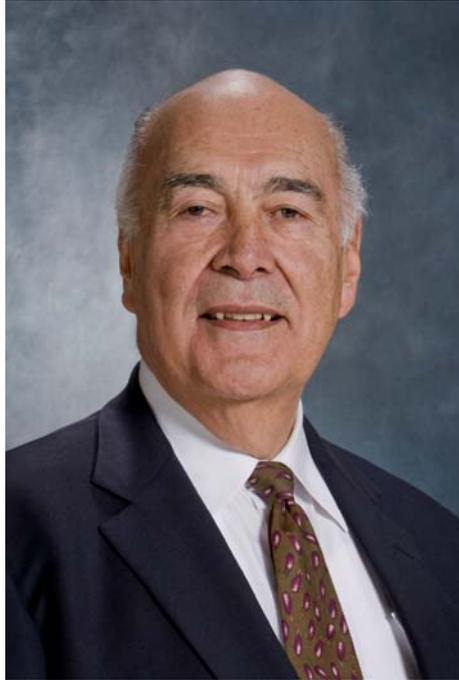
Since graduating from Chico State, he has worked for some of the top corporations in America and continues to gain recognition for his work in engineering and the environment. Keluche began his education in Applied Engineering Sciences at Chico State College, graduating in 1954.

“Dr. Hugh Bell gave me a challenge to succeed,” Keluche said. “I decided to take that challenge.”

Keluche studied engineering science and graduated from Chico State before the College of Engineering existed. With his engineering background, he was commissioned at the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. where he graduated in the top 2 percent of his class.

“I really developed a positive sense of teamwork when I was with the Navy,” Keluche said. “Collaborative activities are vital to my success.”

Keluche was the first Native American to graduate from the Harvard Business School with an MBA. After graduating from Harvard, he began working for some of the most innovative corporations at the time. Keluche worked as the CEO of International Conference Resorts, Inc., vice chairman of



Gene Keluche, College distinguished alum

Agrigenetics, executive vice president of Basic Systems, Inc., and the manager of Xerox Education Division's Industrial and Government Operations. Keluche credits his success to a strong support group and the opportunities he accepted in his life.

“I am blessed to have smart friends that let me ask questions,” Keluche said. “Friends are the best sources of information and referrals.”

Keluche continues his interest in creating and expanding technology.

“I always advise students to look for emerging technologies,” Keluche said. “Seek opportunities in these areas.”

Today, Keluche serves as a director of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research Foundation. The goal of this organization is to commercialize technology developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Recent research included wind energy models and the application of this technology to daily life.

Keluche's participation in natural resource management and technology is infused with his interest in the Native American community. In 2000, he created the Native Communities Development Corporation which is dedicated to assisting Native American communities to develop sustainable economic enterprises. In the ten years since the group formed, the NCDC has conducted several natural resources assessments and development studies, mostly related to renewable energy projects.

“In life, you need to know what you like before you set your course,” Keluche said.

# Welcome Home

Students and volunteers worked tirelessly in the harsh January rain to build two homes that will provide shelter for domestic violence victims. In only nine days, the two 840- square-foot homes were built, finished and keys handed to the staff at Catalyst, a domestic violence intervention service in Chico.

More than 200 students, faculty and community volunteers partnered with more than 40 suppliers, subcontractors and sponsors from the Chico Redevelopment Corporation to build the homes.

The community partnership began in Spring 2009 when students decided they wanted to work on a project in Chico. After completing service projects in New Orleans and Concow, the students looked within Chico and found that the Catalyst



Women's Center needed housing for victims of domestic violence. Faculty and builders in the Chico community assisted the students in determining what would be needed for the homes and the time it would take to build them.



Women and children seeking assistance for domestic violence often have few options for housing. As a result, safe housing options are a major part of the intervention plan. The two homes built for Catalyst benefit the programs Catalyst currently provides to numerous victims in Butte County each year.

After determining that the Catalyst homes would be built, students and faculty began raising money, awareness, and gaining donations within the



community. Plans were created for the two homes and donations from local companies were secured.

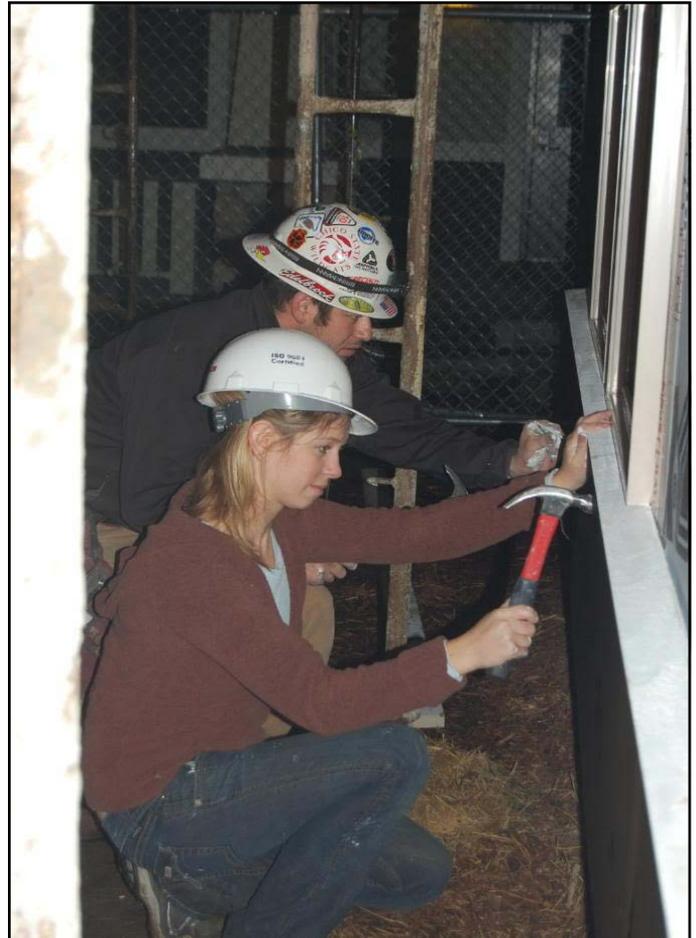
Coordination from several companies, faculty, students and community volunteers was essential. The houses, located in Chico on Ivy Street, required the same city and county approvals and permits as any new construction. The process was a great learning experience for many students.

When the project began, a winter storm brought inches of rain each day. For nine days, students, volunteers, community leaders and professionals worked at the project site to complete the two homes despite the downpour.

The frames were created at the University Farm Pavilion while other students, faculty and industry professionals worked to prepare the building sites. Once the frames were delivered, the electrical and plumbing was completed. Working quickly, the houses were quickly enclosed so that the interior work could continue. Concrete Industry Management students completed a decorative concrete floor in the homes while other students painted, installed lighting fixtures, and cabinets. Community professionals added extra experience to the project.

Food for those working on the project was provided by nutrition and food science students and engineering student groups. Once the homes were finished, a celebratory dinner was held and Catalyst staff received the keys to the homes.

Community service projects in the College of ECC have a strong history. Students and community members worked to rebuild homes in New Orleans, created storage sheds for the victims of the Concow fire and most recently worked to build homes for Catalyst in Chico. Popularity of the projects spread and the number of participants has grown from fewer than 100 to more than 200 in three years.



## MidPac 2010 Conference Hosted by Chico State

Bridges, canoes, concrete bowling balls and water purification systems were tested on the Chico State campus in April. Students from 12 universities attended the Mid-Pacific Regional Conference hosted by Chico State. The annual regional American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) meeting included several favorite competitions and entertaining mini-competitions based on the conference theme of sustainability.

Each year, students work tirelessly to compete in several engineering competitions. Winners at the regional conference compete nationally. Students design and build 20-foot steel bridges,

concrete canoes or water purification systems based on specifications determined by ASCE. The projects provide an opportunity for students to apply their textbook engineering knowledge in a

competitive, fun environment. A paper presentation is also necessary for any team entering the competition and has been part of the conference since the 1940s. This year, the mini-



Students at the steel bridge competition add weight to the bridge.

competitions included concrete bowling, canoe tug-o-wars, volleyball, twister and recycled steel horseshoes. Each mini-competition utilized excess materials from the main competitions.



The Chico State water purification system is tested on the lawn outside Glenn Hall.

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[http://www.csuchico.edu/advancement/make\\_a\\_gift.php](http://www.csuchico.edu/advancement/make_a_gift.php)

and select the tab for the college.