A Letter from the REA President

For the past semester, it has been my privilege to serve as the Real Estate Association Student President. This semester has been far from mundane with the excitement from pursuing jobs and internships, the witnessing of a strengthening in the real estate industry, and the retirement of an MRE legacy: Dr. Richard “Dick” Haney. Although his leaving equates to the absence of a rite-of-passage, we can all agree that Dr. Haney’s course has provided us with valuable knowledge of the industry. I am optimistic that the MRE will continue to flourish under the caring and dedicated eyes of the MRE Faculty and Staff. Their behind-the-scenes work is integral to the success of not only the Program, but to the individual success of each student. As we embark on our internships or begin our full-time employment, remember the help and guidance that was provided in order to propel us to where we are today, and do not take lightly the fact that each and every one of us is employed. I encourage you to find an opportunity to express your thanks to them.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow REA Executive Students who also made my presidency so easy and enjoyable: Josh Parulian, Ryan Holliday, Dillon Mills, Brady Lick, Brandon Peck, Art Ferris, Colt Kokel, and Lonna Dorman. I could not have done it without you all.

Thanks and Gig’ Em,

Gary Stephens ‘14
CREW Shadow Program and Roundtable Event
by Lonna Dorman

The UCREW Shadow Program allows students the opportunity to 'shadow' a professional in their field of interest for a day and learn more about different commercial real estate professions. After shadowing, students attended the monthly CREW networking luncheon where we were able to listen to Ric Campo speak. Mr. Campo personally pitched Houston’s bid to NFL owners and now chairs the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee. We were able to view the actual video that was used to pitch this bid. MRE Students Lonna Dorman, Weston Eubanks and Josh Parulian shadowed Lori Mohr at Camden Properties.

Competitive Case Competitions

Each year, MRE students participate in numerous case competitions at both the educational and professional levels. Some of the case competitions that students participated in this year were MIT, NAIOP and the MRE Annual Case Competition.

MIT
Participants were: Blake Ferguson, Josh Roberson, Drew Stewart & Josh Parulian

NAIOP
Participants were: Chase LaFrano, Colby Whitehead, Carla Mendoza, Sarah Beth Davis and Evan McAnulty.

CASE COMPETITION Winners: Cameron Rose, Harrison Hunt, Jered Groner and Blake Ferguson

Students always depend on the superior and professional guidance from industry professionals such as our Roundtable Members and Finance Faculty. Though we did not place in any national competitions this year, all participants state that it was one of the more paramount learning experiences in their education.
Job Placement

The economic recovery nationally and the strong Texas job market resulted in another year of 100% job placement before graduation. In fact, we have more employers than ever trying to vie for the attention for our students. Several firms have indicated that TAMU is their first stop for recruiting. Most gratifyingly, one hiring manager expressed that our students "really understand the underlying reasons for value and are not just relying on fancy excel models". The composition of types of firms as illustrated by the chart is nicely diversified. This year we also saw some placements in Chicago and New York Area at the venerable firms of LaSalle and MetLife.

Scholarships

Drs. Ivan W. and Luanne Schmedemann Endowed Scholarship
Lindley Cohen, Colt Kokel, Aaron Mader, Josh Parulian

Valero Energy Corporation Endowed Scholarship
Garrett Decell, Duke Dennis, Art Ferriss, Blake Ferguson, Blake Gaddy, Josh Parulian, Gary Stephens

Alvin B. Wooten Scholarship
Rebecca Bundren, Weston Eubanks, Katie Mason, Clay Paschall, Joshua Roberson, Caroline Weathers

David B. Hendricks II Scholarship
Aaron Mader, Blake Ferguson

Plum Endowed Scholarship
William Frazier, Ben Green, Jered Groner, Harrison Hunt, Chase LaFrano

Virgie D. and O.N. Mitchell, Sr. Scholarship
Wayne Day, Blake Ferguson

Lorraine and Ed Wulfe Scholarship
Joshua Roberson

Steve DuPlantis Scholarship
Samuel Evans

MRE Scholarship
Dillon Mills

Roy G. Martin, Jr.
Michael Oberrender

CREW Scholarship
Lonna Dorman
Katie Mason

ULI Scholarship
Katie Mason
As we approach the end of the semester, we also come to the end of an era as another longtime figure to the MRE program and Texas A&M University—Dr. Richard Haney—closes the teaching chapter of his life and opens the door to new and exciting adventures in retirement.

For students, it means saying goodbye to a professor that has meant a great deal for many people. Dr. Haney’s Real Estate Development Analysis and Real Property Finance courses have always been considered a “rite of passage” for MRE (past LERE) graduates. Real estate professionals all over Texas and throughout the United States still enjoy swapping the “war stories” and the sometimes ‘difficult’ material in Dr. Haney’s courses; yet they all seem to end with the same conclusion; they use nearly all of the information learned in his classes every single day in their current work environment. That is a profound declaration to place on a professors teaching career, and a compliment indeed.
“I use the skills and concepts I learned from Dr. Haney on a daily basis in my career. He was always tough, but fair and worked diligently to prepare students for the real world. I wish him the best in his retirement.” - Clint Cooper, MRE ’06

“Dr. Haney’s influence was one of the primary factors in my decision to pursue a career in real estate. I would like to thank him for all he has done for me.” - Matthew Ledlie, MRE ’13

“Thank you Dr. Haney, for your above and beyond dedication to the Texas A&M MRE Program.” - Natalie Davis, MRE ’10

“I wish Dr. Haney all the very best and many more adventures!” - John T. Baker, II, MRE ’12

“If I can thank Dr. Haney for one thing it would be for teaching me the importance and value of "lunch money". Thank you for all you have done for us Dr. Haney and for the legacy you are leaving behind!” - Blake Farrar, MRE ’09

“The fact that 20 years down the road, former students still have stories they remember about his class is what made him such an impactful educator. He is unforgettable.” - Daniel Parulian, MRE ’13
Let's Tie One On, a program started by Ed Elmore and the Brazos County Bar Association, has been providing local area high school seniors with ties to wear to graduation ceremonies for the past five years. The association, now with help from groups such as the Bryan Rotary Club and the Mays Business School, collected hundreds of ties for graduation ceremonies held over the past few weeks.

Elmore started the project by pulling ties out of his own closet. Once he expanded the project to Bryan-College Station, he needed reinforcements. "When you're out 150 ties at a whack, all of the sudden you kind of clear out your closet," he said.

Elmore now donates ties to schools such as Bryan High, Bryan Collegiate and A&M Consolidated, as well as surrounding schools such as Caldwell, Calvert, Hearne, Iola and Somerville high schools. Since the boys don't have ties of their own, they receive the ties as gifts, Elmore said. "I have ties I don't wear that much, so why not take the ties that I don't wear and give them to someone who needs one? It's really a win-win," he said.
In other news, Lois Carter, another well-known face in the MRE Office, was recently promoted to Associate Director of Graduate programs. Lois now serves as the main advisor to both the MRE and the newly "re-structured" MS Finance program. She will oversee the degree plans and professional development of students in both programs, as well as serving as Admissions Chair for applications to each program.

Congratulations Lois!

Roundtable Competition

Tim Stoner, Malcom Stewart, David Williams, EJ Huntley, Peter Barnhart, Laurie Dotter and Brad Freels

Roundtable members Nick Gonzales and Darrell Betts

Doyle Graham and Ted Brooks

Runners up in the Case Competition: Art Ferris, Josh Ray, Weston Eubanks and Taylor Green