UAFM is working with graduate and undergraduate students in the College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) on a Design-Build Project renovating the west entrance to their building. Educational Design-Build (EDB) projects provide valuable hands-on experience for undergrad and grad students. EDB Projects occur in Application Studio courses involving 4th-5th year undergraduates and 2nd-3rd year graduate students. Because students are in the final 2-3 semesters of their professional degree programs they have experienced the full breadth of the curriculum and are prepared to step beyond the theoretical and hypothetical, and into application.

CAPLA Professor Chris Trumble, the Application Studio instructor, describes the project as follows:

“The CAPLA West Face project is an initiative to re-conceive the main entrance and forecourt of CAPLA WEST and is to include a gridshell structure. It will be delivered through two sequential studios with the same student team. The first studio was dedicated to predesign, schematic design, design development, and permit/construction documents. The second studio (fall 2015) is dedicated to delivery and construction.”

A model of the finished project is shown in the photo above. This is the first project of such scope on campus, and is a cooperative effort between CAPLA and UAFM.

Professor Trumble continues:

“In short, we had an opportunity and funding to design and construct a small gridshell pavilion in Southern Arizona. This is a great opportunity for us as a school, to do what we do, in a celebrated way on campus and to do it better by working with the support, guidance and supervision of UA FM, RMS and PDC.”
Several weeks were spent preparing the site, including demolition of existing hardscape and landscape, re-grading, and digging footing trenches. UAFM heavy equipment operators Robin Reed and Jerry Ehrsam did the major grading, and students did most of the shovel-work, and built concrete forms and steel reinforcement grids.

The first concrete pour was completed Tuesday October 13, 2015. Leonard Escalante and his crew (Jerry Ehrsam, Robin Reed, Joe “Chino” Villegas, and Gene Kiley) worked alongside the students, showing them how it is done and coaching them as they performed the bulk of the work. The pictures on the following pages show some of the hard work and fun shared by the students and UAFM employees.
“100% Engagement” is a University of Arizona commitment to offer all students a chance to engage in hands-on experience relevant to their field of study before they graduate. Engagement activities must emphasize one or more of the following Engagement Competencies:

1. Diversity and Identity
2. Global and Intercultural Comprehension
3. Innovation and Creativity
4. Interdisciplinarity
5. Professionalism
6. Sustainability
7. Civic and Community Responsibility

Engagement activities must also offer students the opportunity to develop one or more of the following Engagement Skills:

1. Academic & Non-Academic Career Preparedness
2. Collaboration/Teamwork
3. Communication
4. Problem Solving/Critical Thinking
5. Project Management
6. Reflection and Application

Professor Trumble says, “I think our design build projects are the quintessential student engagement experiences. This one, for example, simultaneously addresses all seven competencies for all participating students. It also requires that some students develop abilities in each of the six skill areas, but that all students develop abilities in four of the skills (2, 3, 4, and 6).”

UAFM is delighted to have this opportunity to share the vast knowledge and skills of our dedicated employees with this wonderful group of UA Students, giving them “hands-on” experience that will make them more competitive in the career market.
WEEK IN REVIEW

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Thank you,
Chris Kopach