

Schipper ShopTalk



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Winter 2006



The Team at Frank Schipper Construction Co.

*wishes you and yours a joyful holiday season
and prosperous 2007!*



Laguna Blanca

Frank Schipper Construction began renovation on 3 new classrooms in the Art & Music departments at Laguna Blanca school this past June. The rooms had to be torn down to the bare shell, then structural steel framing installed in order to begin the renovations. The project is due to be finished by the end of December.

FSCC Wayne Motyer would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the school for being so good to work with and patient with the changes that occurred during the beginning of the job.



Before



After

Skip's Corner

Our industry had an historic opportunity on the November ballot, to put \$500 million toward the revitalization of Career Technical Education. (Vo. Ed/"Ship Classes") which have teetered on the verge of total extinction for the last 20 years. At a time when California has a record high enrollment of students in the K-12 system of public education, Career Technical Education (CTE) enrollment is at an all-time-low with another 40,000+ fewer students this year.

Governor Schwarzenegger has taken a sincere interest in rebuilding the system which was designed to provide both the necessary rigor and relevance to keep students interested and engaged and to prepare our youth for gainful employment regardless of their post high school endeavors.

California Education Code (51228(b) guarantees every student the right to a course sequence in career technical education. Yet the California department of Education recognizes that 75% all career-tech courses have been dismantled in the past decade alone. The long history of UC/CSU bias against CTE courses is partly to blame for the always "unintended consequences" to CTE as school board members and administrators, pressured by low API test scores, drop-out rates and the UC/CSU achievement gap, erroneously put all of their eggs into the "core curriculum/college-prep" basket. Though CTE courses may have a rightful place in our Education Code, they ultimately face a difficult, if not insurmountable political challenge.

The Associated General Contractors of CA and the California Construction Education and Research Foundation (CCERF) has been a leading advocate for career-tech programs since 1998. Our staff and Board members have worked tirelessly and creatively to help educate elected officials, parents and students about the vital role and lucrative opportunity that career technical education provides for a balanced and healthy economy.

As a member of the CTE Advisory Group, I have personally witnessed the passion and commitment of many teachers and professionals who have been meeting for nearly 5 years, and who finally created uniform standards for rigor and relevance in career technical education. The creation of this document was an important first step toward putting career-tech courses on equal footing with other academics, and it will surely help all students in their effort to learn the core curriculum. The State Board of Education adopted the CTE *Standards ("the what")* in May of 2005 and is expected to adopt the final CTE Frameworks ("*the how*") this November.

The infrastructure bond, Measure 1D, passed by 56.4% of the vote, there is now a tremendous window of opportunity for our industry, and we must be prepared for it. Besides creating about 10.4 billion worth of potential projects for our industry, we now have \$500million for Career Technical Education programs at the K-12 Schools.

Each and every one of us in the construction industry should be reaching out to local shop teachers, forming partnerships and be ready to help them secure their piece of the \$500 million dollar pie for CTE facilities and equipment. Let's get involved and use these monies wisely! And if you can't find a local shop teacher, you might consider being one.

Frank Schipper
Chairman, California Construction Education and Research Foundation
Treasurer, Tradart Foundation
Member, CTE Advisory Group

2006 FSCC Holiday Celebration!

The 2006 FSCC Holiday Celebration was held at the Santa Barbara Yacht Club on December 12th this year.

Guests were asked to bring canned foods to benefit the Foodbank of Santa Barbara. Last year the Foodbank distributed nearly 6 million pounds of food, including 750,000 pounds of produce to over 100,000 families and individuals, with 43% of those served under the age of 18.

The party was a great success—The buffet had a fabulous selection of seafood, salads, prime beef, and delectable deserts.

Paul Wieckowski and Suzanna Savage-Raftican emceed the annual "White Elephant" gift exchange that rivaled any Comedy Store routine.

ESOP Plan Growing

Schipper Construction handed out \$300,000 total in the ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) program at the November 16th staff meeting. Schipper said we had a very good year and expects to do at least as well in the coming year.

New Faces @ FSCC

Please help us in welcoming some new faces to the Schipper Construction family:

- ◆ **Alexandra E. Lynch**, *Staff Accountant, Subcontractor Administrator*, comes to us from Ty Warner Hotels and Resorts. As an Assistant Project Accountant she was involved with the Four Seasons Biltmore Coral Casino and San Ysidro Ranch.
- ◆ **Darleen Murray**, *Administrative Assistant*, was hired as a temporary employee and came on board as a permanent FSCC staff member in November.
- ◆ **Heath Therion**, *Project Manager*, has been hired as a new Project Manager with FSCC. A native of Massachusetts, Heath earned a BS degree in Civil Engineering then headed west to Arizona where he was a Transportation Designer for Aztec Engineering. His largest and most exciting project there was the 100 million dollar Phoenix Metro Light Rail.
- ◆ **Nicolas Gatti, Cesar Ramos and Steve Jamerson** all joined the field crews of Schipper Construction in October of this year.

Shop Talk Spotlight

Shannon Schwarz



Shannon came to work for Schipper Construction in August of this year.

Shannon comes from a background in restaurant management, (including opening two new restaurants), administrative assistant and office manager, purchasing and e-commerce for 4 years.

Shannon met her husband Brian shortly after moving to Santa Barbara from Northern California. They have been together 11 years, and married for 7 years and have two beautiful children: a 7 year old son, Tristen and a 10 month old daughter, Dakota. Their 11 year old dog Coors completes the family.

Her hobbies include camping, scrap booking and she enjoys photography.

She is currently updating FSCC's HR, the 401K plan, ESOP, and the health benefits plan. She is also responsible for our computer and phone systems.

Shannon says she really enjoys the environment, people, and challenges here at Schipper Construction.

A Safety Tip From Suz

Before You Use It,
Read The Label!



- ◆ Always follow the instructions on cleaners and other toxic materials.
- ◆ Keep the number for the Poison Control Center by every phone.
- ◆ Consult MSDSs if uncertain about the safe use of any work materials.

Remember if an accident or injury happens on the jobsite, it is your responsibility to report it immediately to your jobsite superintendent so an accident report can be filed with FSCC's office within 8 hours of the occurrence!



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EDITORS
NOTES



PICNIC

The Annual Company Picnic was held on July 22nd at Tucker's Grove in the Kiwanis Meadow this year. Fun was had by all and the food was delicious!



Shannon DeSilva and her husband Eldon moved to Phoenix Arizona last month to persue new opportunities and look for a new home. Schipper Construction and it's employees will miss Shannon's great attitude and excellent work ethic, and we wish Shannon and her family all the best in their new adventures.

Boyz in the Field

Santa Barbara Historical Museum is currently undergoing a renovation of it's courtyard on De La Guerra Street. Schipper construction is a subcontractor on the project under URS. URS is doing the excavating, and Schipper Construction will be adding flagstone pavers, a new fountain and working on the landscaping. Seth Perkins is the Project Manager and Charlie McCoy is the Superintendent for this project.

Santa Barbara Hospice

Hospice of Santa Barbara has recently leased the first floor of the new Brooks Hall building FSCC is currently completing for The Towbes Group. FSCC Superintendent, James Tooley and Sr. Project Manager, Suzanna Savage-Raftican are proud to be a part of giving this invaluable non-profit community a new home. Executive Director, Gail Rink and Lana Hester, Director of Operations are excited about the move and are anticipating occupancy soon after the first of the new year