

Degree goals (examples)

- Increase my marketability to large construction companies
- Get a jump start toward an executive level position in a large firm
- Learn about important problems the industry is facing so I can start my own consulting business
- Develop my IT skills using cutting edge tools to help my company upgrade its current practices
- Explore a problem important to me using academic research to see whether I want to pursue a Ph.D.
- Get some teaching experience to see whether I might want an academic career
- Learn techniques for managing projects to face new challenges posed by the changing economy

New skills and capabilities developed

Semester	Skill/Capability	Description/Reason	Evidence
F16	Presenting as part of a group	In BC 4444, presented to the industry board as part of a group. Helped design and develop the slides, and presented the section on cost estimating.	BC4444PresVideo.mp4
Su16	Conducting waste audits	During internship, was responsible for regular waste audits on job site	MeInDumpster.jpeg
S16	Research proposal writing	Required for CNST 5084 and to prepare for my thesis	Proposal.pdf
F15	Revit	Required for BC 5984	Examplermodel.rvt

Individual products and deliverables

Semester	Title/Citation	Reason/Type	Role(s) played	Evidence
F16	Dent, S. (2016). <i>Quantifying drywall waste in commercial retrofit projects</i> . M.S. Thesis, Department of Building Construction, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.	Final thesis defended on October 12 and submitted to ETD.	Principal investigator	DentThesis.pdf

S15	Dent, S. and Mills, T. (2015). "Waste management for sustainable recovery of usable resource flows: A retrofit case study." Proceedings, Engineering Sustainability Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, April 7-8.	Presentation and extended abstract	Lead author and presenter	DentAbstract.pdf DentPresentation.pdf
F15	Dent, S. (2015). <i>Individual Leadership Plan</i> . CNST 5214: Leadership in the AEC Industry, Myers-Lawson School of Construction, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.	Final report for Leadership class.	Author and developer	LeadershipPlan.pdf

Contributions to team products and deliverables

Semester	Title/Citation	Reason/Type	Role(s) played	Evidence
F16	Dent, S., Smith, A., and Harper, Q. (2016). "Sustainable Riverfront Development: West End Destinations". Presentation to Radford City Planning and Parks & Recreation Commissions, Radford, VA, November 21.	Presentation of team project for BC 5144.	Led the economic analysis portion of the project and presented the team's funding plan.	https://docs.google.com/presentation/d...
F16	Pearce, A.R. and Students of BC 5144. (2016). <i>Sustainable Riverfront Development Plan for Radford, VA</i> . BC 5144: Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.	Final report for term project, BC 5144.	Contributed as a member of one of four teams developing the report.	https://docs.google.com/document/q...

Relevant activities or duties without specific deliverables

Semester	Activity	Reason/Type	Role(s) played	Evidence
Su16	Intern at Taylor Hollow Construction	Summer internship as site superintendent assistant for Prices Fork Elementary conversion	Assisted project manager in reviewing subcontractor submittals; coordinated LEED documentation for IEQ and MR credits.	PricesForkLEEDCredits.pdf

F15-S17	Constructor's Consortium	Student organization	Member; served as secretary for AY 16-17	Photo.jpg
S16	Teaching Assistant, Department of Building Construction	Half-time TA (10 hours per week) for BC 1224 (Prof. Yvan Beliveau, 80 students)	Grading submittals; holding office hours; developing assignments; providing guest lectures	BeliveauEvaluation.pdf
F15	Teaching Assistant, Department of Building Construction	Half-time TA (10 hours per week) for BC 4434 (Prof. Walid Thabet, 60 students)	Attending class; taking attendance; reviewing student work products and providing feedback; maintaining course Canvas site	ThabetEvaluation.pdf

Reflections on personal growth

My personal goals for last semester included getting better at confronting under-performing team members when problems start to become apparent, rather than waiting until the end of the semester or compensating for bad work with my own efforts. This semester, I had the chance to practice these skills with my teammates in BC 4444. While the final report produced by the team was not as good as I would have wished and we were not selected to present our work to the Industry Board, I found that I could live with the results and had a better relationship with my teammates as well as a better work-life balance.

Objectives for the next reporting period

This is my final semester in the M.S. program. I have obtained a full-time job as a Project Manager with Taylor Hollow Construction operating out of Radford, VA, based on my internship last summer. My career goals are to work as a project manager with THC for the next few years while gradually increasing my responsibilities until I enter a leadership role within the company. I'm especially excited to help the company implement BIM as part of their project management process.

Comments (optional)

My original goal following graduation was to pursue an international position in a large city. However, I recently got married and have decided instead to live with my family in the local area. My job with THC last summer introduced me to historic renovation and the ways in which projects can be creatively financed using historic tax credits and affordable housing subsidies, and I would like to gain expertise with my company to become an expert in this area.