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New Auburn Man Honored as Construction Management Educator

"Men admire the man who can organize their wishes and thoughts in stone and wood and steel and brass." Acclaimed poet and thinker Ralph Waldo Emerson makes a valid point—one which especially applies to Dr. James Young, both a long-time New Auburn resident as well as CSU retiree in the Department of Construction Management.

This past March, Young was honored at the Associated Schools of Construction's 50th anniversary conference in Washington, D.C. Young was among the 12 original forefathers of the organization, which strives to promote and develop construction education. Once representing a meager eight universities, the association now boasts membership of over 140 construction management programs.

"In early years, interaction with students was vital," said Young, "[in] 'selling' the need for CM and its recognition as a viable academic program and a program where stimulated students could be successful after graduation."

At the conference, Young was recognized not only for his involvement within the ASC, but also for his investment of nearly 25 years teaching construction management and his establishment of the American Council for Construction Education, an organization whose mission is to authorize and encourage construction education programs at the postsecondary level.

Young's enduring heart for building and construction were instilled in him from an early age. Both his grandfather and father were skilled carpenters, and paired with a visionary mind, Young was destined for a life of hands-on creation. From the stick model airplanes he made in fourth grade to the full-size canvas sail boats he crafted in senior high, Young was in constant building-mode. These passions led him to pursue schooling in industry and architecture, eventually graduating from UW-Stout and landing a job with a lumber firm before moving onto employment within an architectural company where he worked for six years. It was at this point in Young's life that he moved to Colorado and established himself as a valuable faculty member within Colorado State University's construction management program.

After nearly a quarter century of teaching at CSU, Young once again returned to the New Auburn area—where he graduated high school and has a strong network of friends—and is now nestled happily with his wife in a home he designed and built himself.

To add to his numerous life accomplishments, Young has shown himself to be a strong presence and active member within the community. In 1998, Young served as a head representative in the renovation of the New Auburn school, a 4.4 million dollar project that required large-scale remodel and addition. The retired professor even volunteers his time monthly to prepare the school newspaper for distribution and is a highly-involved member of the town's United Methodist Church. Recently, Young also received his "20 year" pin recognition for membership in the American Legion, Post 267, New Auburn.

In addition to his ardent community participation and service, Young's woodworking and construction skills are constantly put to use as he continues to do projects for the church, school, friends, and neighbors.

That is why today, more often than not, you'll find Jim in his natural element: tooling away in his self-made woodshop, hammer in hand and the surrounding local oak, maple, birch, and aspen forever at his disposal.