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ENGR 493 Presentations
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Presentation Summary:

Unfortunately I missed this class due to the fact that I had my AE senior thesis presentation the next morning. My final thesis report was broken down into three analyses. The first demonstrated my structural breadth knowledge, where I proposed to replace the existing deep micropile foundation system with an intermediate, Geopier-reinforced mat slab. Overall the proposed system costs \$500,000 more than the existing and is only feasible if subsurface issues become a problem at the site. The second is my electrical breadth study, where I examine the high voltage utility distribution plan for three current projects at the PSHMC campus and I perform cost analyses with respect to construction and energy losses. The last analysis is depth study, which looks at industry influences on subcontractor markups. This was a highly rewarding research topic that proved to be useful to the construction management industry.

Response:

My thesis presentation went very well, and I was asked by the faculty to present my depth study a second time at the PACE (Partnership for Construction Excellence) Seminar on April 25th. This was considered a great honor in that I was able to speak about the subject in front of 80 professionals, faculty, and students. The thesis presentation lasted about 15 minutes, whereas my PACE speech took about 10 minutes. I was able to expand more on my research subject in this second speech, and as a result I was much more comfortable the second time around.

Analysis:

I am a good public speaker, but it surprised me that I was better the second time around in front of a significantly larger crowd, which included two Vice Presidents from my future employer, DAVIS Construction. I guess the reason I was more comfortable speaking at PACE was that I didn't have as much of a time constraint, and I was speaking for a second time about a subject that I had done a great deal of research on. I was told that I looked as if I really knew the material, and thus didn't need to look at the powerpoint slides at all. Regardless, I am very happy with how it all turned out.

Sound-bite: Confidence shows.