

EGCA AWARD RECOGNIZES ARRIETA FAMILY

Tom Shaddox, of Hazard Construction Company, presented the 2009 EGCA Scholarship Honoree Award to the Arrieta Family—John and the late Manuel—“For a lifetime of outstanding achievement and contribution to our community and the construction industry.”

Tom said:

“Manuel Arrieta was born in 1917 in Los Angeles California. The son of Spanish immigrants, Manuel’s father was a laborer for the Bock Company in Los Angeles.

“After graduation from high school in 1935, Manuel owned and operated his own service station. He later sold the station and started his career in construction by going to Costa Rica and working on the Pan American Highway project. He returned to the United States and married his high school sweetheart, Betty Brenner. Then along came Linda and John, their two children. Manuel spent time in the Army and supervised combat engineers in the Pacific Theater, building airfields and other infrastructure projects. Then back to the Los Angeles area and a job with Radich and Ferguson, a contractor in Burbank.

“On the wall of John’s office today hangs a picture of Manuel from this



TOM SHADDOX PRESENTS AWARD

period of time with a pay stub dated in 1950 from Radich and Ferguson. During that week in 1950, Manuel worked 40 hours and grossed \$97.20. His total withholding from that check, including state unemployment insurance was \$9.23, or 9-1/2%. Compare that with a typical equipment operator today who sees 30% of his check go to deductions. As one of the candidates from last year’s election was fond of saying, “That’s change you can believe in.”

“But I digress!

“In 1952, Manuel bought a D-8 dozer and became an owner-operator. Soon he added a trencher to the mix and was keeping busy working for general contractors. He started doing work in the San Diego area and soon partnered up with Esby Young. During the years that followed, they bid and joint ventured as “Young and Arrieta” and constructed major infrastructure work in San Diego. They performed the earthwork on the original construction of Highway 125 from Lemon Grove to Grossmont and then in 1956 built the original Grossmont Summit project on Interstate 8 from Baltimore drive to El Cajon for the state Department of Highways (which later became Caltrans).

“Esby and Manuel continued to work together until 1962 at which time Manuel formed “Arrieta and Son” and started performing strictly underground work. John joined his dad in the business after he graduated from Helix High School in 1962. John and I were in the same class at Helix and would have graduated together except the school board decided that it would be best if I finished my senior year at Grossmont Continuation School—but that’s another story for another time.

“They started in 1962 doing underground storm drain systems for the construction of Interstate 5 and 805 near what is now called the “Y.”

“They moved on to construct sewer systems all over Calavo Gardens for the Otay Water District in the ‘70s on the eastern slope of Mount Helix. I was working for the district at that time and the thought of that work conjures up memories of 20-foot wide streets, 20-foot deep trenches and solid rock. A very nasty piece of work, something that Arrieta and Son would become known for.

“They went to North Island for the Navy and constructed wastewater and stormwater disposal systems and the pump stations to service them known as the “Ship to Shore” System. This took waste from the large ships docked at North Island and transported it to treatment facilities. The work was wet and deep and in soil influenced by tidal flow.

“Manuel was an innovator. They took a job for a 48-inch trunk sewer on Harbor Drive from the National City limits to the vicinity of 5th and Harbor. Again deep and wet. In the 25-foot deep stretch



Among those at the Arrieta table are, from left: Tony White, Vic Fejeran, Danell Fejeran, Shawnell Muñoz, David Arrieta, Joani Ehly, Ray Ehly and Sheryl Norris.

EGCA AWARD

of the project, shoring the trench, dealing with other utilities in close proximity as well as traffic, was a problem. Manuel, with input from John and their in-house engineer, designed a trench shoring box that pushed and pulled itself hydraulically through the trench without the aid of cranes or excavators to propel it. When it was no longer needed, instead of using giant cranes and other equipment to extract it from the trench, they simply designed a way for it to push itself right out of the ground.

“From there, they went on to construct the Ocean Beach Trunk Sewer. It was 25 feet deep and ran from Rob Field to the Sports Arena. Again deep and wet.

“They constructed a force main from the Pt. Loma Treatment Plant to Fiesta Island. A portion of this force main crossed under the San Diego River and flood control channel. Are you starting to see a pattern here? “Deep and Wet.” The City of San Diego used this force main to pump sludge from Pt. Loma to Fiesta Island for decanting and disposal and would reverse flow in the main to return decant water back to the Pt. Loma Plant.

“Water, sewer and storm drains for the Convention Center and the Intercontinental Hotel were also thrown into the mix. Next to the bay, sometimes below the water table and always in sand, made for interesting problems and challenges for this company.

“And the jobs go on, too numerous to mention them all, but each with their own problems and quirks, which is really what attracted Arrieta and Son to bid them. They became known in the industry for the type of work they did. The work was difficult, wet, deep, rocky jobs. Often requiring innovative methods of construction, sheet pile, trench boxes, pumps, working with tide tables dictating your work shifts—the kind of things that make ordinary contractors shrug their shoulders and pass up bidding. These are the things that Manuel and John made a career of and built a business out of doing. They carved a niche for themselves in this industry, doing work that their competitors either didn’t want to tackle or couldn’t figure out how to do.

“They operated a true family business with Manuel’s wife, Bettye, keeping books in the 60s and later, John’s sister, Linda, keeping books and doing payroll in the office while John and his dad worked together in the field. John’s wife, Barbara, has also worked in the office. Linda and her husband, Don Sorantos, worked in the business until they retired. Today, John’s son, David, works for him.

“The engine that drives this country and its economy is the entrepreneur and businessman who is willing to work, take risk, and strive to be successful on his own merits; who asks for nothing in return but the reward of accomplishment, the ability to make an honest profit on his investment and risk and the appreciation of a job well done when it is merited. Certainly, Arrieta and Son are the epitome of this description.

“At this time, it is an honor for me to introduce to you a man whom I deeply respect personally as well as professionally, Mr. John Arrieta. John please come to the podium. On behalf of the EGCA Foundation, I proudly present you with this Lifetime Achievement Award.”



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EGCA's 2009 Scholarship Committee

Rodger Fosbinder, who for the past three years has served as chair of EGCA's Scholarship Committee, introduced his committee members as part of the awards presentation, explaining how the committee met on a monthly basis to come up with the rules for the competition, formulated the essay questions, reviewed and short listed the applications, and conducted the finalist interviews, giving up a portion of one or two weekends to do so.

Rodger's committee consisted of:
John Anderson, Vadnais Corporation
Gene Brokaw, Premier Pipeline Construction
Jim Burk, Sunstate Equipment
Kathy Columbus, Traffic Control Service
Debbie Day and Netty Mansollilo-EGCA
Jason Donnelly, Trench Shoring Company
Tom Hogarty, Hogarty Communications
Scott Johnson, B&B Heavy Equipment Rentals
Tony Mitchell, Bejac Corporation
Rocky Qualin, KPS Insurance Services
Mark Sjobom, Traffic Control Service

In addition, Rodger thanked three men not formally on the Scholarship Committee but who participated on one or both of the Selection Committees: Arrieta Construction's John Arrieta, Mike Shaw and Ken Walsh, San Diego State University Professor, College of Engineering.

Saluting Our 2009 Scholarship Winners

Five worthy students received a total of \$25,000 from EGCA's 2009 Scholarship Program.

Trench Shoring Company, host of the June EGCA General Membership Meeting—which included EGCA's annual presentation of scholarships—provided the presenter for both the \$10,000 and \$5,000 scholarships to students now enrolled in or about to enter San Diego State University's Construction Engineering and Management Program. The man of the hour was Trench Shoring's Jason Donnelly.

\$10,000 AWARD

Jason presented the \$10,000 Scholarship award to José Bojorquez, whose scholarship application essay is reprinted on page 12.

José is an incoming freshman enrolled in the San Diego State University Construction Engineering and Management Program and a graduate of Construction Tech Academy, where he took several elective classes that pointed him toward a career in the construction industry. After school, he mentored some of his fellow Construction Tech students.

His dad was a construction laborer, and José knew at an early age that construction was a career path he intended to follow. His student background prior to Construction Tech was at Kearny High School, where he was active on several school committees.

José promised to “work hard to make your organization proud of having chosen me as a scholarship recipient,” saying that being able to pursue the SDSU course in construction management is the fulfillment of a dream he has nurtured for years. He is the first member of his family to graduate from high school and attend a university.

\$5,000 AWARD

Jason awarded the \$5,000 scholarship to Elias Espino, who who entered military service after high school instead of heading straight to college. Elias is now enrolled in San Diego State University's Construction Engineering and Manage-



EGCA's 2009 scholarship winners with members of their families and members of the Scholarship Committee. Winners, holding the “checks,” are from left: Thomas Gillum, Travis Hanson, Elias Espino and José Bojorquez.

Awards Invocation

Our Heavenly Father:

We honor this year's Scholarship Award winners this evening and pay tribute to the guidance and direction offered them over the years by their parents, teachers, and mentors. May each student continue to have the spirit of involvement: Involved with their families, their communities, and their world.

Also, Lord, last weekend we observed the 65th anniversary of D-Day. We remember how former British Prime Minister Tony Blair responded when asked why he believes so much in America. His answer: “Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you. One was Jesus Christ, and the other the American GI. One died for your soul, and the other for your freedom.”

Lord bless those here with us this evening as well as those in uniform whose commitment is to keep us free.

Amen



Above, José Bojorquez with his \$10,000 “check,” presented to him by Jason Donnelly, Trench Shoring Company. Left: Jacob Linford, winner of EGCA’s \$4,000 scholarship award. Below, Jason helps Elias Espino hold the \$5,000 “check” Elias received. More photos on pages 12-14.



ment Program. He has worked as a surveyor apprentice for the San Diego County Department of Public Works and has been active as secretary and newsletter editor of the SDSU student chapter of AGC. He also has pursued internship opportunities and is a member of the university’s veterans’ society.

In his acceptance, Elias, who has maintained a 3.07 GPA throughout his college career, thanked his mom, Rosa Gomez, and his sister, Kelly Espino, “for their unwavering support. Without their support, I would not be here today.” He thanked EGCA for its “generous support and investment in my career. May this moment be shared by many other students for many years ahead.” (His scholarship essay is printed on page 12.)

\$4000 AWARD

Jacob Linford, the recipient of EGCA’s 2009 \$4,000 scholarship—awarded to an EGCA member, their employees, or their immediate family members who seek a higher education—was not able to attend the June awards ceremony. However, he had a good excuse: He was graduating from high school that very evening.

In his absence, Scholarship Committee member Rocky Qualin, of KPS Insurance Services, read a letter from Jacob, thanking EGCA for the award.

DIESEL TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

Scholarship Committee member Kathy Columbus, of Allied Trench Shoring Service, presented Palomar College Diesel Technology Associates Degree scholarships—\$3,000 each—to Travis Hanson and Thomas Gillum. “Both men are equally dedicated to the construction industry and have exhibited the same drive and determination,” Kathy said.

Thomas is a 2008 graduate of Valley Center High School who maintained a high GPA throughout high school. His father, a bodywork mechanic, inspired him to get involved in diesel technology as a career path. In accepting the award, Thomas said he considers EGCA as “more than an organization. It is a family, and I am really glad to be a part of this family.”

Travis, who completed two tours of duty in Iraq as a sergeant in the US Marine Corps, has attended Palomar College for the past two years and has a 3.9 GPA. His work on the family farm has inspired him to pursue a career in diesel technology. In thanking EGCA for the award, Travis said it “presents a real opportunity for me to pursue a career as a diesel technician.”

Congratulations to all 2009 winners!

EGCA Scholarship Program Founders

At this year’s Scholarship Awards Ceremony, EGCA immediate past president Gene Brokaw, Premier Pipeline Construction, recognized the EGCA Diamond Donors, those firms and individuals who donated \$10,000 or more to launch EGCA’s Scholarship Awards Program.

They are:

4 Point Construction, Rich Bowen
 Clairemont Equipment, Ron Zagami
 D³ Equipment, Chris DeNardi
 Hawthorne Machinery Co., Tom Hawthorne
 Hazard Construction Co., Tom Shaddox and Dave Randall
 Red Mountain Machinery, Owen Cowing

The Scholarship Awards application from the eventual \$10,000 recipient, José Bojorquez

As a senior in the Construction Tech Academy, I have chosen the construction management career path because I enjoy working in construction; I would love to wake up every day knowing that I am heading to work at a construction company. Since I was a young kid, construction has been my career dream.

Attending Construction Tech Academy has proved to me that construction management is the career for me. The elective classes and the extracurricular activities CTA provides taught me what construction management is and the education and skills I need to be a successful construction manager. These elective classes include Construction 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Auto CAD drafting 1-2, 3-4 and Revit. My favorite project from the construction classes was a two-bedroom house I designed and framed to scale. This was my favorite project because at the same time we were working in the project at school, I was helping my father frame a storeroom on the weekends. I remember clearly framing a window in the project the same way we framed the window in the storeroom. Many of the skills I have learned at CTA I have applied on the job sites with my father on the weekends.

I have also taken advantage of extracurricular activities at CTA, including the ACE mentor program. ACE mentor program is a club after school where students design a project with the guidance of professionals from the construction industry. ACE also provides field trips to the job sites where we continue to learn about the construction field. One of my favorite field trips we had this year was to the site of the addition to University of San Diego. This was my favorite field trip because we learned facts such as what facilities are included in the building. Two of these included faculty/staff lounge and a student game room/lounge. The lounge was to include a Wii station, pool tables, foosball, ping pong, big-screen TVs and interactive touch-screen computers. They also gave us information about the construction cost, which was \$34,000,000. And best of all is that in a couple of years, I can go back to USD and see what the outcome of this project is. My favorite office field trip was one with Llan, a structural engineer working for KPFF. I also learned about some of the fun parts to her job. For example, she showed us around the office and we had the opportunity to see what projects they were working on. The field trips and the mentors have inspired me to become a construction manager. They have shown me that this is the best career for me—that I would enjoy waking up in the mornings to do this work.

Growing up, I was always exposed to construction due to my father being a construction laborer. My father has various abilities in construction, from framing to electricity, to plumbing, etc. I have been working with my father since I was 12 years old. I started by picking up trash and now when my father takes me with him, he lets me interact with the clients by explaining to them what we are going to do. By working with my father, I have learned useful construction skills. I have also learned to work hard and most importantly, to work safe. One of the projects that I think has been the most complex was a house we constructed in Alpine. We did everything from footing to roof and all the inspections. My Dad was the project manager for this project. Through him I experienced the inspection process, and also I had the chance to see what it took to deal with other laborers on the job site. I used to stay with him late some days and arrived early other days. My Dad has been my role model. When I was a little kid, I use to think my Dad could build everything in construction and that he was the best construction laborer there was. I have always wanted to be like him. He had minimum education

Continued on next page

The application from the eventual \$5,000 award recipient, Elias Espino

My interest in the field of engineering comes from a very young age. As a child, I used to play with Tonka trucks in my back yard, designing and constructing roads in my miniature cities. A child's imagination is unrestrained and not subject to the constraints that an adult encounters. My imagination took me places that I had not seen before. My road designs were simple, their concept deliberate; I considered slopes and the proper drainage of water to minimize erosion in every one of my designs, even installing PVC piping to act as storm drains. Water only flowed during rains, so I had ample time to construct my edifice before the next rainfall. Sometimes my designs would fail, fueling a desire to improve upon my designs in every regard. Although the beginning of my initial interest in engineering may be unimportant, I believe that it shows an affinity to engineering and construction from a very early age.

Fast forward 15 years: I find myself midway through my third year of studies at San Diego State University, majoring in Construction Engineering and Management. My journey toward this degree is unique. Upon graduation from high school, I enlisted in the United States Navy as a means to serve my country, improve my character, and learn the value of sacrifice in order to achieve common goals. These are lessons not every adolescent experiences early; lessons that I learned every day during my enlistment. The experience was rewarding and something that I am proud of.

Serving in the Navy allowed me to work with people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, and ideologies in order to accomplish the task. The journey was not easy. Failure sometimes confronted my endeavors; however, I was able to improve myself and gain valuable skills to overcome obstacles. I apply these skills

Continued on page 14

\$10,000

Continued from previous page

(stopping elementary school to work and help to bring food to the table). When I tell him that I want to be like him, he tells me, "No, you have to be better than me." That is what I desire and intend to do.

I believe I am a deserving candidate of the scholarship for which I am applying because I have worked hard to find my career goal. I have worked hard to keep my GPA and participate as a leader in extracurricular activities and sports.

My resume from these past four years alone includes president of the Council of ASB Presidents, Kearny ASB president, Kearny ASB vice president, Kearny Track & field captain, cross country team, Circle of Friends Club, Fellow Christian Athletes Club, CTA ambassadors, ACE mentor program, JROTC squad leader (Cadet of the Year). These extracurricular activities I participate in have all made me into a responsible proactive leader.

I am looking forward to attending San Diego State University to pursue a construction management degree. I want to go to San Diego State University because it is close to home. Staying close to home will allow me to help my parents financially, and I will be able to mentor my younger brothers. I deserve this scholarship because I need financial help. I have worked hard these four years in high school to go to college. This scholarship will be of great help to me and will help me achieve my goals.



Thomas Gillum and Travis Hanson, who were the \$3,000 scholarship winners, are pictured with EGCA Executive Director Debbie Day and Tom Hawthorne.



From left: Sheryl Norris and Ray Ehly Sr. with ECA's Jim Burton; Gene Brokaw, Premier Pipeline Construction; and Judy and Bill Young, El Cajon Grading & Engineering.



Left, Chris Hinman of Video Fact Documentation Services and Chris Malicki of Pacific Safety Council.



EGCA President Mike Shaw, right, of Perry & Shaw, thanks Trench Shoring's Don Herring for hosting the General Membership Meeting which included the Scholarship Awards presentation.

**Photos
By
Tom
Hogarty**

\$5,000

Continued from page 12

towards the pursuit of my first college degree: commitment, discipline, courage, and sacrifice.

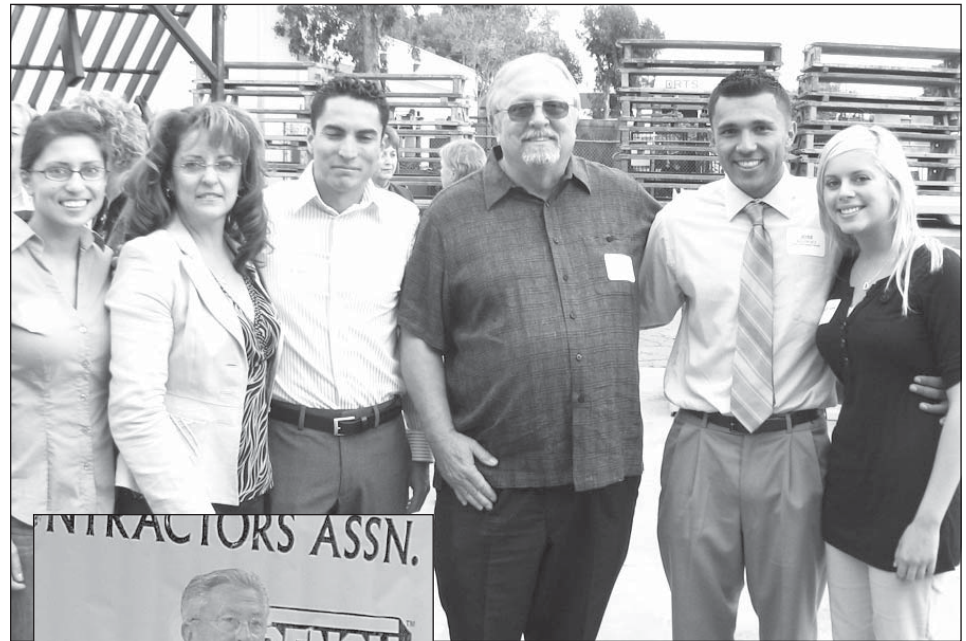
In order to achieve a goal, it is necessary to have the discipline to stay committed to the cause; courage to recognize, confront, and overcome obstacles; and sacrifice in order to make the best informed decisions.

Engineers solve problems. It is critical for an engineer to develop the right work ethic in order to succeed in this highly competitive field. Engineers are charged with a noble task to keep people safe, and the right discipline is required for such an undertaking. I believe that I have developed the right work ethic to get me this far; however, there is much more to learn before I consider myself a successful engineer.

I am currently employed in the Field Surveys Division of the County of San Diego Department of Public Works. I have learned to work as a survey apprentice, assisting the professional land surveyor in work related to construction, boundary, topographic, and GPS surveys. My experiences in this aspect of construction have made me realize the importance of practicing effective communication skills, both written and oral. In a construction project, errors should be minimized and mitigated through the use of proper communication channels by all interacting individuals.

Practicing surveying has helped me academically, and I expect to receive the Associates of Science Degree in Surveying from Cuyamaca College, in May 2009. I seek this degree in order to fulfill personal ambitions and to satisfy my desire for greater knowledge in all things construction related. My experiences gained while practicing surveying will help me better manage time and resources as a construction manager by knowing the true scope of quality survey work

While studying at San Diego State, I have been accepted to, and been a member of, Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, since 2006. I am also a member of the Association of General Contractors (AGC), and am acting secretary of the San Diego State Student Chapter. As an officer of this organization, I feel that I am an ambassador to other students and the



Above, Kelly Espino, Rosa Gomez, \$5,000 scholarship winner Elias Espinosa, EGCA Scholarship Awards Chair Rodger Fosbinder, \$10,000 scholarship winner José Bojorquez, and Shelby Ann DeLellis. Left, Gene Brokaw, Premier Pipeline Construction, EGCA immediate past president, at the podium.

public, and act accordingly during personal interactions with other individuals. I provide students with weekly newsletters about the Student Chapter and related events, including internship opportunities, career fairs, and social events with the local construction industry. I have volunteered with San Diego AGC and Rescue Task Force, helping build care packages for wounded veterans several times. Some veterans have given all they have serving our country, and I consider it an honor to be able to dedicate my time in order to help a worthy cause.

I may not know the caliber of the candidates who are applying for this scholarship, or their academic achievements, but I do know that I am an individual who seeks excellence in all that I do. The college road so far has been difficult; sometimes I have been disappointed in not achieving a desired grade, sometimes I have given in to fatigue and not pursued my studies with due diligence but, I believe that my hard work will pay off soon. The transition from the Navy to the university has been complex and, at times, overwhelming, but like any well

designed building, I have established the right foundation to support me throughout my career.

The future of engineering is developing in classrooms at San Diego State. Although we students may come from diverse backgrounds and cultures, different academic standings and ideologies, we all seek success in engineering. It is important to foster a sense of teamwork in engineering; no single engineer ever built a bridge or dam. The classroom environment should be one that promotes this teamwork that is vital to our field. As a current student, I am developing the skills necessary for success in engineering. I believe I have a solid foundation to continue through this field of study.

Fast forward 15 more years: I see myself as a practicing licensed professional engineer, continuing my education because there is always so much more to learn. Through my continued education, I may one day find myself instructing future engineers about the intricacies and nuances of engineering in a classroom at San Diego State. These are my goals and aspirations that, through commitment, discipline, courage, and sacrifice, will soon become reality.