

# NEWS FROM THE TTC

by Dr Tom Iseley and Saleh Behbahani, TTC at LA Tech

It's a busy year at the LA Tech TTC, which is in the process of upgrading its asset management training course, continuing its successful exchange program with Hong Kong Polytechnic University and developing the Barbera Underground Infrastructure Research and Training Facility.

## FOCUSING ON BURIED ASSETS

Earlier this year, Great Southern Press (GSP) Publisher Annie Ferguson spoke to the Buried Structures – Rehab and Management class at Louisiana Tech University (LA Tech), where she introduced the students to the importance of B2B media and its role in the Trenchless Technology industry.

This course, which is graduate level and managed by LA Tech's Trenchless Technology Center (TTC) on behalf of the Buried Asset Management Institute – International (BAMI-I) and led by TTC Associate Director of International Operations Dr Tom Iseley, focuses on Buried Asset Management.

BAMI was established in 2003 in the Department of Watershed Management (DWM) for the City of Atlanta by Mayor Shirley Franklin and DWM Commissioner Jack Ravan, before transitioning to non-profit organisation BAMI-I in 2004.

BAMI-I launched the first Certificates of Training in Asset Management (CTAM) course in 2010, which is now offered online and per request in classroom format, with the program consisting of four online courses plus a two-level certification program.

So far, more than 1,000 individuals from 15 countries have enrolled in the CTAM program, with 110 Associate Water Asset Manager and 12 Professional Water Asset Manager certifications already awarded.

The course provides a comprehensive introduction to asset management principles and concepts with special emphasis on their application to buried assets associated with water and sewer systems.

The initial success of the CTAM 100 course created awareness of the need to broaden its scope and provide more detailed training in an expanded sphere of utility



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A: GSP Publisher Annie Ferguson speaking to the Buried Structures – Rehab and Management class at LA Tech.

B: Dr Iseley conducts a presentation about the CTAM program.

system concerns, including the release of CTAM 200, 300 and 400 course levels. These levels focus on the development, management and funding of asset management plans.

In November 2017, Dr Iseley was contacted by Director of Education and Training for RCAP Solutions Inc.

Sukhwinder Singh and invited to give a lecture on the CTAM program during the RCAP National Conference.

CTAM 100 is currently under revision to be updated. The TTC would like to invite individuals from industry to help in this process. ❶

For more information, contact Dr Iseley at [dtiseley@latech.edu](mailto:dtiseley@latech.edu)

## TTC STUDENT RESEARCH EXCHANGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Over the past 30 years, the TTC has maintained strong international leadership in developing, maintaining and managing buried assets. In 2016, Dr Iseley established an exchange internship program with Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), with two PolyU exchange students assisting TTC in the Utility Investigation School (UIS).

TTC says the program was made possible through the support of Vic Weston, who secured financial support from the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors.

In the summer of 2017, TTC sent two construction engineering technology students – Destiny Raney and Jackson Little – from LA Tech to Hong Kong PolyU, and hosted two PolyU students.

The two students attended the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Pipeline 2017 Conference and made a presentation on their program at PolyU during the ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI) Risk Management Division Executive Committee meeting.

In 2017, City of Ruston Public Work Director Darrell Caraway and Dr Iseley agreed that TTC would do a pilot utility locating project, which the exchange students also had the chance to work on. TTC has selected the candidates for 2018, marking the third year that the exchange program will run.



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A: (Seated, left to right) Dr Wallace hosts TTC students Destiny Raney and Jackson Little on the 2017 exchange.

B: Dr Iseley and 2016 PolyU exchange student Oliver.

## TTC ESTABLISHES THE BARBERA UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND TRAINING FACILITY

As the founding director of TTC in 1989, when Dr Iseley returned in 2014 after 20 years away, he became concerned that the auger boring sector of the trenchless industry was not receiving the recognition that had been so visible in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Even though the trenchless industry has been very dynamic and expanded rapidly, he believes that the basic capabilities of auger boring are the foundation for much of the trenchless industry. Under Dr Iseley's leadership, the TTC team made a commitment to reunite the auger boring industry by developing the third Auger Boring School in the new Barbera Auger Boring Training and Research Facility at LA Tech. So far,

TTC has held the five-day auger boring school twice. The new facility, which honours the contributions of the Barbera family (Leo and Jim) to the trenchless industry, will be available for research, development and training for the entire trenchless technology industry, including TTC Specialty Schools.

The new facility will also be available for international equipment and material manufactures, as well as technology providers for research and technology validation, replacing the facility previously used for the auger boring school. A climate-controlled enclosure will facilitate year-round use, as well as an advanced smart sound system to enhance the learning experience.

This project will be on a fast track for the inauguration ceremony during the next TTC Auger Boring School taking place on 12-16 November 2018. TTC would like to invite industry organisations to visit and see how this facility and the National Trenchless Technology Research Facility can be used to assist their mission.

TTC has believes that it important to forge collaboration between leaders with a vision for the industry and the TTC, and is offering a range of sponsorship opportunities for the new facility. All sponsors will be recognised on the entrance monument at this world-class research and training facility.

For more information visit [www.ttc.latech.edu](http://www.ttc.latech.edu)