

# Ryan Matthew Johnson

*Written by: Kira Gangbin*

Ryan is an alumnus of Fresno State who graduated in 2014 with a B.S. in Construction Management. He started his CM adventure with Joe Pickett at Pickett and Sons Construction as a Project Engineer. He has recently moved to Arizona and accepted a position as a Project Engineer for Caliente Construction.

**Kira Gangbin:** What have you enjoyed most about the Construction Management Department?

**Ryan Matthew Johnson:** I have enjoyed the opportunities and relationships that I have developed through the Fresno State Department of Construction Management. I think that by being fully engaged in the student programs (SIC, SLC, CMAA, ASC Competition, CM Day, Hog's Breath, etc.) allowed me to meet a wide variety of peers, clients, and potential employers. I am proud to tell people about Fresno State Construction Management and that I am a graduate.

**Kira:** What experiences, knowledge, or skills have you learned/ been able to apply in a professional work setting coming from this department?

**Ryan:** I think that the most important skill that I have learned through the CM Department is to be determined and to follow through. Relationships are important in the construction industry, and people want to be able to count on you. The easiest way to earn that trust is to be honest and to do what is right.

**Kira:** What is your favorite memory from the Construction Management Department?

**Ryan:** My favorite memory was watching the ASC competition in Reno where my classmates took first place. It was a great achievement for the individuals, but an even greater achievement for our Department.



**Kira:** Who was your favorite professor?

**Ryan:** That's a tough one. I would say it's an even tie between Lloyd Crask and Brad Hyatt. Both Professors are able to teach construction concepts in unique ways that resonate with me.

**Kira:** Did you do an internship? If so, where? Also, what advice do you have regarding internships?

**Ryan:** I was able to obtain an internship with Rudolph and Sletten over the summer of my junior year on a Hospital project in the Bay Area. It was a great experience and it helped me understand a lot of the concepts that I was learning in the classroom. My advice to any student is to be a sponge, absorb as much of what is going on around you, and add that knowledge to your student toolbelt!

**Kira:** Have you pursued a Master's degree, or plan to?

**Ryan:** I do not have a Master's Degree, but I have considered pursuing one. I have a few other academic related goals right now, and I will evaluate what my next steps are when they are completed.

**Kira:** Do you have any friends or family attending the Lyles College of Engineering, or in the Construction Management Department?

**Ryan:** I do not currently have any friends in the CM Department, but I think my father is still on the Geomatics Industry Advisory Board.

**Kira:** What was your job title when first starting your Construction Management career? How far has your career grown?

**Ryan:** I started my career working for Joe Pickett at Pickett and Sons Construction as a Project Engineer and I really enjoyed working there. Joe taught me a lot about construction and I was able to be involved in some really cool projects. I recently moved to Arizona and accepted a position as a Project Engineer for Caliente Construction. I am hoping to get promoted to Project Manager in a year or two.

**Kira:** Who inspired you to pursue this career and why?

**Ryan:** My father was a major sphere of influence and was the first person to tell me about Construction Management. I had always been torn between Civil Engineering and Business Management, and CM is a combination of both! I love the variety of projects that I get to work on, and I really enjoy all of the aspects of my job.

**Kira:** What did you want to be when you were little? Has it always involved Construction Management?

**Ryan:** I don't remember ever identifying a job when I was a kid, but if you asked my mother she would tell you that I wanted to be a soldier. I enlisted in the Army when I was 18 and I am glad that I served my country in my younger years.

**Kira:** How have you seen Construction Management grow? Where do you think it will be in the next 10 years?

**Ryan:** Construction Management is a continuously evolving industry and I don't think that it will ever cease to exist. I believe that we will see continued growth both in the public and private sectors as the population continues to increase and many structures need to be renovated or modernized.

**Kira:** What is your favorite part of the job?

**Ryan:** My favorite part of the job is obtaining Certificate of Completion and turn over. It can be a little hectic at the end of the project, but I enjoy the challenges and overcoming them.

**Kira:** Are you a father with a family, how do you manage your work-life balance?

**Ryan:** I am a father and it takes a lot of teamwork with my girlfriend to keep things going in the right direction. We communicate often and it takes a lot of coordination to keep the household in order. I am blessed to have her!

**Kira:** Is there anything about your Fresno State experience that makes you stand out?

**Ryan:** I was nominated as the CM selection for the LCOE Dean's Medal (2014) and was the Student President of Sigma Lambda Chi (ETA II Chapter). I am also a U.S. Army combat veteran.

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Throughout his time at Fresno State, Ryan was an exceptional student who brought his bright personality to every class. As he transitioned to the workforce, his employers said he was an "exceptional team player with detail-oriented skill sets". As a Project Engineer, Ryan often has the tasks of estimating, scheduling, subcontract negotiation and procurement, development of MOP plans, project quality control and documentation, distribution of meeting minutes, submittal tracking, and more! Before working in the field of Construction Management, Ryan served in the U.S. Army for eight years. Ryan has a 4 year old daughter, two dogs, one cat, and a Japanese fighting fish. In his spare time Ryan likes to hike, fish, target shoot, camp, and relax with his family.