

CASF Celebrates its Platinum Anniversary

What began in 1950 as an effort by a handful of forward-thinking industry leaders has flourished over 70 years to become CASF, the most widely recognized association representing the commercial construction industry in South Florida.

Through seven-decades, the organization has updated its name, realigned missions, relocated HQs and rebranded. But one thing has remained constant, CASF's unwavering commitment to serving the contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and associates that make up its membership.

"The leadership of CASF is always looking for ways to grow and innovate our offerings," said Board of Directors President Sid Miller. "It's our goal not just to keep pace, but to be at the leading edge of the tremendous changes in our industry and our region."

Since 1950, Florida has experienced the second-highest rate of growth among all states. The lion's share of that expansion has occurred in South Florida's tri-county area. Today, Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-West Palm Beach is the nation's seventh-largest metropolitan area.

The region's construction industry, and CASF, have been at the heart of this tremendous growth.

"I grew up going to CASF events," said CASF director Harley R. Miller. "Commercial construction and CASF are synonymous in my mind. And now as a Board member, it's a thrill to be expanding the tradition of the great companies and individuals who helped build the South Florida skyline we see today."

In honor of its long history in South Florida, CASF has created a commemorative 70th Anniversary logo. The mark will be used as an adjunct to its regular logo for the remainder of the year. Members who wish to display their CASF affiliation can request a copy of the 70th anniversary mark or the CASF logo here:

[Click to download the 70th anniversary logo](#)



CASF Awards Construction Scholarships to students at FIU and UF

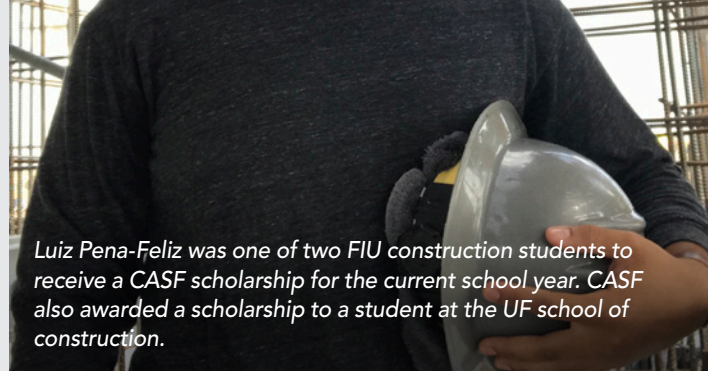
For the 18th consecutive year, CASF has awarded scholarships to students in construction-related studies at Florida International University (FIU) and the University of Florida (UF).

At FIU, Luiz Pena-Feliz and Andrew Capellini each were awarded a \$2,000 CASF scholarship. At UF, Brady Baldree was awarded a scholarship to help complete his senior year at the M.E. Rinker, Sr., School of Construction Management.

"I was honored to learn I was selected for this scholarship and am thankful for your commitment to students in the construction industry," Baldree wrote in his thank you letter to CASF. "This will give me the peace of mind to focus on my schoolwork and do the best I possibly can. I've found your generosity to be inspiring and I hope to be in the position one day where I will be able to give back to students who are also in the field I am so passionate about."

To be eligible for the CASF scholarship, students at both UF and FIU submit an extensive application and essay outlining their interest in the construction industry. The universities' respective construction schools vet the applications and select the awardees. CASF presented its first scholarships in 1992, giving one scholarship each to a UF and FIU student. In the early 2000s, CASF established an endowment with each university to create perpetual scholarships in CASF's name. With \$100,000 divided between the two endowments, CASF is able to present as many as four to five scholarships per year to deserving construction students at UF and FIU.

"CASF has presented dozens of scholarships over the years," said CASF Executive Director Remy Mackowski, "including one in 1998 to Jeff Slade, who last year became president of our Board of Directors. And last year, we created a foundation with the mission



Luiz Pena-Feliz was one of two FIU construction students to receive a CASF scholarship for the current school year. CASF also awarded a scholarship to a student at the UF school of construction.

of expanding our commitment to attracting young people to South Florida's construction industry. We're in the middle of a 2020 feasibility study to help us determine the best way to expand our endowments with UF and FIU, and possibly establish additional endowments at other construction-related institutions before the end of this year."



CASF Kicks Off 2020 with Events Throughout South Florida



JAN 16
Approximately 80 people heard a diverse panel of local experts tackle key issues in South Florida construction, from changes in development, design and financing to code updates and technology advancements. The panel discussion was held at the Boca Raton Marriott.



JAN 23
More than 175 people heard about nearly two dozen new and upcoming projects at the John Moriarty & Associates of FL networking breakfast, held at Shula's Hotel & Golf Club in Miami Lakes. Moriarty Vice President and longtime CASF BOD member Rick Schuenger delivered the presentation, followed by key Moriarty executives meeting directly with attendees.



JAN 30
More than 200 CASF members turned out for the year's first social networking event at Walk On's Bistreaux & Bar (formerly Champ's), at the Cypress Creek Plaza just off I-95 in Ft. Lauderdale. The Walk On's chain is co-owned by future Hall of Fame quarterback Drew Brees and was recently voted the No. 1 Sports Bar America.



Vasile Elevator sees its fortunes rise

Vasile Elevator has been designing, manufacturing and installing elevator interiors since 1999, when it was founded in South Florida by Vasile Burca.

Vasile Elevator initially worked directly with elevator companies, such as ThyssenKrupp and Schindler. After developing a reputation as a dependable and quality subcontractor, Vasile Elevator expanded into the sub-construction market, forming relationships directly with South Florida's general contractors and architects.

Working in new construction enabled Vasile Elevator to offer its expertise to help contractors and architects better deliver on their design intent and cost structures. Today, Vasile Elevator collaborates with architects to ensure building codes and specifications are met. Vasile Elevator also regularly provides general contractors with fully rendered, value-engineered alternatives for their designs that exceed budget. Vasile Elevator has even begun to offer pre-designed elevator-interior packages with predetermined price points to take the guesswork out of both design and cost.

One of the key dates in Vasile Elevator's evolution is January 2011, when Nathan Hall joined the team. Hall brought with him years of experience in large-scale



Nathan Hall (standing, second from left) poses with members of the Vasile Elevator team at the 2019 CASF Bowling Challenge.

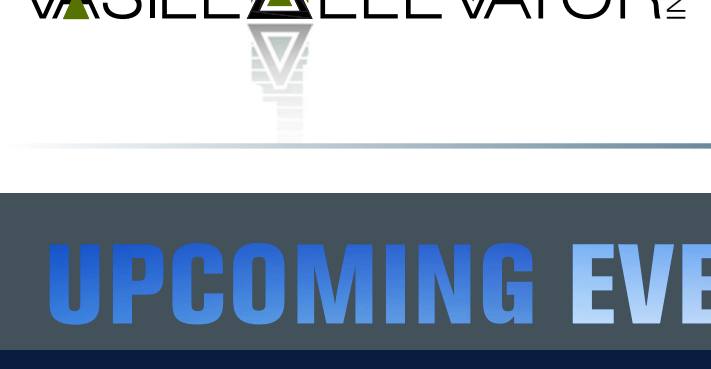
manufacturing and an intuition the company had the potential to do more than elevator interiors.

Hall soon received the green light to begin the research and testing process needed to manufacture elevator equipment. Today, in addition to servicing the new-construction market, Vasile Elevator manufactures and provides related products to their customers in South Florida and beyond.

In addition to growing Vasile Elevators' portfolio of products and services, Hall has helped the company expand its networking efforts. As an active member of CASF, Hall credits the association with helping Vasile Elevator make its mark on the industry.

"In a word, it's relationships," Hall said. "Being a CASF member has helped our team gain a greater understanding of the industry and opened doors to get better acquainted with our customers."

With a growing number of new business relationships and an expanding array of services, it would appear Vasile Elevator is poised to go nowhere but up.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CONSTRUCTION NIGHT AT THE PANTHERS

BB&T Center, Sunrise
Thursday, February 13, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Verdex Construction Networking Breakfast

Marriott West Palm Beach
Thursday, February 20, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Learn About Upcoming Broward County Schools' Projects

CASF Office, Ft. Lauderdale
Tuesday, March 3, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

MILLER GLASS & GLAZING OPEN HOUSE

Miller Glass HQ, Pompano Beach
Thursday, March 5, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

10TH ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYSHOOT TOURNAMENT

South Florida Shooting Club, Palm City
Friday, March 13, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Meet the GCs — West Palm Beach

Marriott West Palm Beach
Thursday, April 23, 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)