

FCC Provided a Bridge of Opportunity for Young Engineer's Career

"Frontier Community College has always put students first," stated Adam Steury, a 2006 Frontier Community College graduate. When reflecting back on his college experience, Adam is grateful for the strong footing that FCC provided and being instrumental in building a bridge that led him from high school to a career as a civil engineer.

Attending FCC was a logical choice for Adam. He was the first child in his family to attend college, so choosing a college close to home was important. Adam was awarded the President's Waiver from FCC in addition to the Coin Club scholarship, and the college was somewhat familiar territory with having taken a high school dual-credit class on campus. "I took multiple dual-credit courses but one that sticks out was CISCO (computer networking systems). Fairfield Community High School (FCHS) actually bussed a few other students and I out to FCC's campus to take the course. It was taught by Jeff Cutchin who was an awesome instructor."

As a student at FCC, Adam was involved in the TRiO program and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Knowing that he was leaning towards engineering, his college courses at FCC were heavy in math and science. "There was one particular occurrence when only a handful of students needed to take Calculus," recalled Adam. "We preferred to take it at FCC; however, there was not an instructor for the course. FCC's administration reached out to FCHS and Mrs. Linda Monge graciously taught the course for us. FCC has always put students first. The college strives to bring any course to campus for which a desire exists." Adam picked up a few courses at the other Illinois Eastern Community Colleges sister schools. "I took Chemistry at Wabash Valley College, and Calculus II and Physics at Olney Central College. I could have taken some of these courses online; however, I have always felt that I receive more from



Adam Steury and his wife Ashton

a lecture if I am in the room with the instructor." Adam graduated from Frontier Community College in May 2006 with high honors and an Associate in Science degree.

Adam transferred to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE) to study Civil Engineering. While attending SIUE, he was a member of Chi Epsilon. At the encouragement of a professor, Adam applied for an internship with

a local consulting firm, which he received. Over the next two summers (2007, 2008), Adam interned with Lochmueller Group. He graduated in December of 2008 magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a minor in mathematics. He continued his education at SIUE and completed a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a structural emphasis in August of 2011.

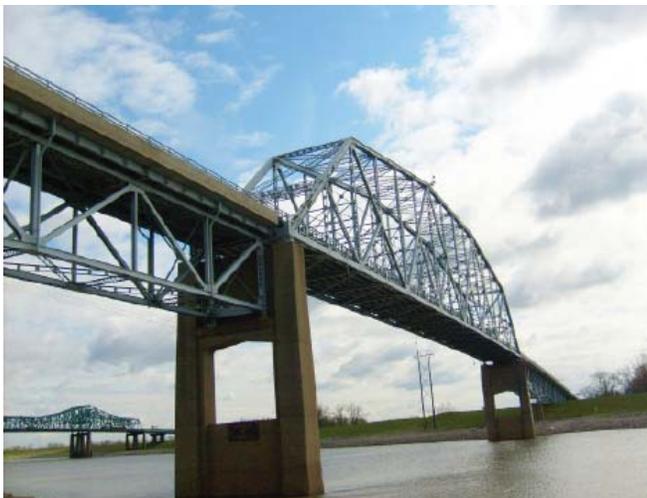
Adam joined the Lochmueller Group, Inc. full-time in 2009. Most of his work is in bridge design, though he has also been a team member on multiple bridge inspections. A notable project that may be recognizable to most of the readers is the I-57/70 corridor reconstruction in Effingham, IL. Adam was the lead designer on the Fayette Avenue Bridge over I-57/70 and involved with the design of most of the bridges affected in the corridor reconstruction which included the pedestrian bridge pictured below.



As a team member on multiple bridge inspections, one in particular that was memorable to Adam was the multi-year inspection of the Old Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge in Madison, IL. The bridge was a total of 2,285' long with a 465' main span through truss. An aerial man lift and under bridge inspection vehicle was used to complete the inspection. An underwater inspection was also accomplished using sonar. Sonar was used to map the contours of the canal floor around the bridge piers to determine if any scour was present.



Adam inspecting the top of the Old Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge



The Old Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge, Madison, IL

When joining Lochmueller Group., Adam worked at the Maryville, IL, branch until July 2013 when he relocated to Evansville, IN, and began working at their corporate office. Adam received his Professional Engineering license for Illinois and Indiana in early 2014. He plans to sit for the two-day Structural Engineering licensing exam in 2015.

“I feel extremely grateful to have had an opportunity to attend FCC and its IECC sister schools and to gain a strong foundation in my endeavors at SIUE and beyond,” stated Adam. “I am also grateful to have been able to take so many dual-credit classes while attending Fairfield Community High School. There appears to be an excellent relationship between FCHS and FCC, and I hope that it continues to grow in further preparing students for future college courses.”

Adam’s wife, Ashton (Taylor), is also a Frontier Community College graduate. She graduated with high honors in 2008 with an Associate in Science and Arts degree, just one year following her high school graduation. She transferred to the University of Southern Indiana and graduated in May 2010 with a bachelor’s in Business Administration. After relocating to Evansville, Ashton was employed by Lochmueller Group to work within in their accounting department.

Having Frontier Community College close to home has been valuable not only to Adam but to the Steury family. Adam is the oldest of four children. His younger brother Ethan Steury is a 2010 FCC graduate. His two younger sisters, Kristin & Mikayla Steury, will most likely attend FCC in the future. Adam is the son of Edgar and the late Diana Steury.

