

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

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Buzz & Brenda: Buzz drops by the BC booth at the Facilities Expo in Atlanta and visits with Brenda Morris, the Program's Graduate Recruiter.

Project Spotlight: Eco Showcase Home

By the fourth grade, undergraduate BC student Matt Hoots had already decided on a career. Though his science project building a solar house earned him recognition from teachers, it also set the groundwork for a career combining his love of building with his passion for the environment.

Today, Hoots is the owner and founder of The Hoots Group, an Atlanta-based builder and remodeling company specializing in green construction practices. The company offers complete home performance testing and efficiency problem audits, installs energy-efficient appliances, and builds and designs custom homes using energy-efficient, environmentally responsible building techniques.

The Hoots Group was selected to build the Showcase Home for the Southern Building Show June 11-13, 2008. The 2008 Showcase Home, EcoLumina, is the first Southern Building Showcase Home which will be LEED-certified.

Since 2005, the showcase homes have been visited by hundreds of building industry professionals. This single family home will highlight the South's best in Green Building, architecture, innovation and new products.

Throughout the building process, Hoots has turned the construction site into a working laboratory for local college and high school students, providing them with a unique behind-the-scenes perspective. After the Building Show in June 2008, the owners will continue to open the house to trade, consumer and legislative groups in order to further their dedication to green building education.

Hoots said he too is committed to furthering training in this field. "My ultimate goal is to go back to graduate school and work on a master's degree in green building," said Hoots, who is enrolled in the BC Program. "I want to be able to educate the next generation of builders think about sustainability."

(Below) Matt Hoots leads BC students on a tour of the EcoLumina Showcase House

