



Elder-Jones  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR

# Construction Communicator

FALL 2023



Brian has served as Vice President of Operations at Elder-Jones since 2000

## Vice President's Corner

### SAYING GOODBYE, FROM BRIAN PERKKIO

My career at Elder-Jones started on May 29, 1990, at \$36,000/year, and I was beyond thrilled about the salary. The fax machine was new technology and we used an antiquated computer program called TinyTERM to track our projects costs. There was a receptionist at the front desk answering phones, leaving pink message slips in our cubes, and typing bid breakdown sheets. The bid sheets were handwritten, and an adding machine was used to tally the bids.

We still use the same bid sheet today except they are now on an Excel spreadsheet. Emails and texting did not exist; we picked up the phone and talked to people. When I travelled to a project site, I would call the office to get my messages, hand write the message information, then use a calling card on a pay phone to return the calls.

Our Field Superintendents carried pagers.

Our jobsites had hardwired phones. Supers would overnight a roll of film to the office. The film was processed with a one hour service to develop the pictures and then the Project Manager would overnight the pictures to the client. Pre-stamped envelopes were sent to the Superintendent so they could mail in their expenses and reports to the office. Payroll checks were mailed to the employees. Boy, those were the days!

The first project I built as an E-J Project Manager was a Hal's Store in the Rushmore Mall in Rapid City, South Dakota. I think the contract amount was around 25k and E-J made about 2k on the project. Not much to write home about, but my first completed project was in the books. Some clients I worked with while at E-J include General Nutrition, Garden Botanica, Linens 'N Things, Disney, Zales, Berman Buckskin, Lerner, and Musicland.

Elder-Jones is a place most employees do not leave. The E-J workplace culture was already in place when I started over 33 years ago. Over the years, I have seen people leave E-J and then return and work here. Is it because of the great pay? The great benefits? Our game room? The gym? The unlimited PTO? Nope, it is because of the positive, nurturing work environment,

familyfirstattitude, lack of micromanaging, and allowing employees do their job. The atmosphere at E-J is unsurpassed. I cannot imagine working anywhere else.

I will miss all the people at E-J. The people of E-J make it the best place to work. Who could forget the boot hockey games, Canadian fishing trips, office pranks, pumpkin carving, Ort Fort, holiday celebrations, results and injury reports from the E-J basketball and softball teams, birthday cakes, and everyday camaraderie.

The prospect of retirement is bittersweet. My wife, who is also retiring, and I have plans to travel, volunteer, and enjoy our home in northern Wisconsin, but I will dearly miss everyone at E-J.

~Brian Perkkio, Vice President, Operations

## WHO ARE WE

Elder-Jones, Inc. is headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota, and provides nationwide general contracting services in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Our Bloomington office also serves as headquarters to our associated companies: Elder-Jones Building Permit Service and Elder-Jones Construction of Canada, ULC.

Providing Uncompromised Service Since 1971

# Connecting With New Talent

This past fall, Elder-Jones attended the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Built Environment Career Showcase and the University of Minnesota Built Environment Career Fair.

Both career fairs were thoughtfully planned events that offered a great opportunity to connect with students who are majoring in construction management. We were fortunate to meet many enthusiastic students who are actively seeking summer internships as well as full-time employment after graduation.



Payton Oestreich, Kelli Jerstad, Mason Bender, and Nathaniel Mlinar at Mankato



Jake Murphy, Kelli Jerstad, and Tristin Sao at the U of M

# Happy Retirement, Jay!



Jay, Justin Elder & Sara Elder

We recently celebrated Jay Saterbak's retirement from Elder-Jones with a fun happy hour and dinner at the Crave restaurant in Edina, MN. Jay's milestone retirement is certainly worthy of celebration.

Jay came to Elder-Jones in the mid-1980s as a young carpenter from La Crosse, Wisconsin. Despite being a Green Bay Packers fan, he was hired anyway. Jay began his career doing carpentry work on Radio Shack projects across the country. He quickly showed his leadership capabilities and soon became a superintendent, working in the field for a handful of years. Over time, Jay eventually became a project manager and later director of business

development. He apparently brought in more work than the company could handle, as capacity made it a necessity to get him back into project management. Here he spent the final 18 years of his career.

Jay's tenure at Elder-Jones is marked with the many relationships he built. He fostered countless long-term, loyal connections with clients, many of whom we still do business with today. He is a dear friend to everyone in the office, and his daily presence is going to



Jay with (most of) his past assistants!

be missed. We wish him the very best in retirement, where he plans to spend time with family, sail his newly acquired sailboat, and continue to work in his position as city councilman in his local township.



Jay serving as camp cook on the recent E-J fishing trip



Jay in his early years with Elder-Jones

Thank you for everything Jay, you're one of the best.



# Fishing in Sioux Lookout, Canada



A fine group of Elder-Jones' project managers and management returned to Sioux Lookout, ON, Canada for their biennial fishing trip. Winoga Lodge played host to the group, and an estimated 700 walleyes were caught over the course of 4 days. Recently retired E-J alumnus Jay Saterbak was along for the trip, but his fish catching skills were no match for his fish frying skills. Although the guys could not eat all 700 walleyes, Jay's delicious recipe and attention to detail made them wish they could. Save for the first day of cold and a little drizzle, the weather then fully cooperated with a few days of early fall sunshine and perfect temperatures. Great fishing, quality time outdoors, and lots of laughs made it a perfect break from the usual fast-paced work weeks. It was certainly a memorable trip, and the group is eager to return in a couple years.



# 2023 MSU Scholarship Recipient



Each year, Elder-Jones provides a scholarship to a student in the Construction Management program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. We have had a long relationship with MSU, and we are so proud to be able to reward a deserving student who is enthused about dedicating themselves to our industry. This year's recipient is Eddison Saywon. We wanted everyone to get to know Eddison in a short Q & A. Congratulations, Eddison, and we wish you all the best.

**Where are you from and what year are you at MSU?** I am originally from Liberia, West Africa, and currently in my junior year at MSU.

**What got you interested in the construction management program?** My interest in the construction management program stems from a lifelong association with the construction industry, cultivated alongside my late father. Upon my enrollment at MSU, my awareness of the program deepened through my friend who is affiliated with the Construction Management Women's Association. As I delved into

the program, I realized its potential to propel me into a comprehensive exploration of the construction industry.

**What activities/groups/clubs are you involved in at MSU?** I am actively engaged as a committee member for the alumni division of the Construction Management Student Association (CMSA), hold membership in the International Student Association (ISA), and contribute to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?** My most recent proudest achievement is the successful completion of a six-month co-op and mentorship program with Braun Intertec. This experience has not only fostered innovation but has also equipped me with invaluable skills to navigate the intricacies of the construction industry.

**What do you hope to do with your degree?** My academic credentials will be used to serve and actively contribute to the advancement of infrastructure development. However, I pledge a commitment both to myself and my father, and that pledge is that my educational attainment will be dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for my family.

**Anything else you'd like to add?** I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Elder-Jones team for their invaluable support and significant contributions to my education at MSU. Once again, I am genuinely appreciative of the support you have provided.

# Get to Know Elder-Jones

It is important to know who you're working with, so we are once again helping you "get to know" a few of Elder-Jones' finest.



## KIM EYVINDSSON – IT ADMINISTRATOR

Kim has been the IT administrator at Elder-Jones for just over one year. She works onsite to help with various technological needs for both E-J and SMC/RRAM. She tries to keep things running as smoothly as possible on a day-to-day basis as well as doing what she can to future-proof the company.

Kim was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and grew up in Richfield, Minnesota. She went to school for Digital and Fine Art. Kim's dad immigrated from the Westman Islands in Iceland, and she has one older brother and three nieces.

In her spare time, Kim is an avid birdwatcher and general animal/nature lover. She has volunteered at the University of Minnesota's avian nursery where her duty was to hand-feed crows! She has one dog and three cats (two of which are seven month old kittens!) that keep her plenty busy outside of work! Kim also has a side gig 'cartoonifying' people's pets in Procreate on her iPad.

## DOUG GURHOLT – FIELD SUPERINTENDENT

Doug has been a jobsite superintendent with Elder-Jones since February of 2022, although he's been a part of the Elder-Jones family for many years, as his wife Anni and son Zach both also work for E-J. He has worked on projects for Ulta Beauty, Outdoor Voices, and OVME. His favorite job was the Ulta Beauty store in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, because he got a chance to work with Zach. He said it was pretty cool to have a chance to work with your son and to see him in action. Proud moment!

Doug grew up in New Hope, Minnesota, and graduated from Cooper High School. He has been married to Anni for 32 years and together they have one son, Zach, two daughters, Lizzy and Claire, and a new daughter-in-law, Mel. They also have a springer spaniel named Finley.

Doug and Anni currently live in Shakopee, Minnesota, and outside of work Doug enjoys camping, golfing, and spending time with his family. Doug is quite the golfer and has made TWO holes in one!





## TRISTIN SAO – ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER

Tristin joined Elder-Jones in November of 2021 as an assistant project manager, working most closely with project manager Zach Gurholt and primarily on projects with Ulta Beauty and Affordable Dentures. Tristin’s unofficial position at the E-J office is full-time mail room operations manager where he spends his time proudly packaging and sending the tidiest packages that come out of the E-J office.

The recent Ulta Beauty store in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, is Tristin’s favorite project. This was the first project that he was able to help on through the entire process, from bidding, to pre-construction, all the way until the final punch and turnover. Not only was he able to help out with these processes, but this was a local job so he was able to get on-site and see how the project progressed.

Tristin grew up in Faribault, Minnesota, and graduated from Faribault Senior High School . He is the oldest of four siblings and his sister and her fiancé, Jake, blessed him with the two most beautiful nieces (Tinley & Emery), and another (Rowyn) due in April, who he can’t wait to meet!

Tristin currently lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and in his free time he likes to spend time with his family. He has a large family that is very close, so they like to get together most weekends to BBQ, have a bonfire, sing karaoke, or play bean bags. He also likes to spend time with his girlfriend golfing, traveling, discovering new places to eat, going to shows/concerts, or just hanging out at home with their dog Nori.

Since he started working at Elder-Jones, Tristin has also been enrolled full-time at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. He can proudly say that in a few short weeks (who’s counting?!), he will finally be graduated, having earned a bachelor’s degree in construction management. He looks forward to finally having more free time to enjoy the hobbies/interests mentioned above.

## DONNY HERPEL – FIELD SUPERINTENDENT

For over 15 years Donny has been a jobsite superintendent with Elder-Jones. His very first job all those years ago was a Johnston & Murphy store. He’s since worked on projects for Apple, Garage, and Spectrum, among many others.

Donny grew up and went to school in West Virginia. In the late 1980s he moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he met his wife. They have two daughters and one grandson, who Donny said is, of course, the head of the family!

In his spare time, Donny enjoys attending his grandson’s sporting events, fishing, grilling, and smoking food. And most definitely eating the food as well!



# Elder-Jones Across the Nation

Recently completed projects from around the country.



**ALO YOGA** McLean, VA  
Superintendent: Thomas Darby  
Project Manager: Jason Ash  
Assistant Project Manager: Payton Oestreich



**ULTA BEAUTY** Cottage Grove, MN  
Superintendent: Doug Gurholt  
Project Manager: Zach Gurholt  
Assistant Project Manager: Tristin Sao



**GOLF GALAXY** Vernon Hills, IL  
Superintendent: Rich Carlton  
Project Manager: Chris Bonello  
Assistant Project Managers: Nathaniel Mlinar & Ron Finch



**LOVESAC** White Plains, NY  
Superintendent: Shawn Kelly  
Project Manager: Ryan Callahan  
Assistant Project Manager: Andrew Stanek



**APPLE STORE BREAKROOM** Bellevue, WA  
Superintendents: Bill McKnabb & Daniel Bisinger  
Project Manager: Colton Remakel  
Assistant Project Manager: Grant Martinson



**INSOMNIA COOKIES** St. Paul, MN  
Superintendent: Roger Roenfanz  
Project Manager: Nathaniel Mlinar



**GARAGE** Pittsburgh, PA  
 Superintendent: Donny Herpel  
 Project Manager: Jason Ash  
 Assistant Project Manager: Payton Oestreich



**LOVESAC** Huntington, NY  
 Superintendent: Shawn Kelly  
 Project Manager: Ryan Callahan  
 Assistant Project Manager: Andrew Stanek



**BEST BUY** Greenfield, WI  
 Superintendent: Troy Williams  
 Project Manager: Drew Hirsch  
 Assistant Project Manager: Ron Finch



**MN VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB** Bloomington, MN  
 Superintendent: Wade Arms  
 Project Manager: John Lundebrek  
 Assistant Project Manager: Mason Bender



**BUCKLE** Bristol, TN  
 Superintendent: Keith Kersey  
 Project Manager: Ryan Callahan  
 Assistant Project Manager: Andrew Stanek



**MIZZEN+MAIN** Southlake, TX  
 Superintendent: Jeff Welch  
 Project Manager: Matt Huhner

# E-J on the Diamonds and Greens

This fall many from the E-J office took on the softball diamond for a fall league, playing double-headers on Tuesday evenings. There were a few home runs, a couple pulled muscles, and a couple wins, but the camaraderie was next level! It's all about the journey, not the outcome, right?

And we were able to hit the greens for our 11th Annual E-J Golf Scramble at Lost Spur Golf & Event Center. Teams enjoyed 9 holes of best ball, followed by dinner and prizes for the winning team, longest putt, longest drive, and closest to pin!



Most of the softball team!



Our very own roaming photographer, Kristi Wiederholt



The winning team! Mason Bender, Mike Gunderson, Doug Gurholt & Greg Lucivansky



Drew Hirsch, Tristin Sao, Ron Finch & Kelli Jerstad



E-J president, Justin Elder, rounding 3rd base!



Chris Bonello, Payton Oestreich, Justin Elder & Kim Eyvindsson



Nathaniel Mlinar, Ann Gurholt, Brian Perkkio & John Lundebrek



Andrew Stanek, Brie Gunderson, Grant Martinson & Trevor Schuster

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