

### **Young Constructor's Forum**

The Alabama AGC started its Young Constructors' Forum in 1997 and the YCF has since developed into an integral part of the association. This year we gave a YCF member a non-voting spot on our Statewide Board of Directors. With more than 90 members statewide, the YCF's main mission is to recruit young men and women to enter the construction industry, both as professionals or skilled craftsmen. Through its work with high schools and the Auburn University student chapter, the YCF constantly promotes the benefits of the construction industry.

The Alabama AGC YCF also is heavily involved in important aspects of the association operation, helping to handle research for the internet plan room and other technology projects. The young constructors were the first to see the need for the internet plan room and spearheaded the effort to move the Alabama AGC into cyberspace.

Our YCF members also have brought national attention to the chapter with their commitment to community service and public relations. In 1999 they built an addition to the Bethel AME Church in Ensley, garnering a national AGC public relations award. In 2001 they traveled to work at Ground Zero and in 2002 they built a Habitat for Humanity house in three and a half hours, breaking a world record previously held in New Zealand. That project attracted the attention of not just all local media, but CNN and USA Today as well as Dixie Contractor and other trade publications. A representative of New Zealand Habitat was even on hand to congratulate the new record holders.

And, of course, Alabama AGC's YCF is deeply involved at the national level. Milton Smith and Carl McKinney both serve on the National AGC YCF Steering Committee and 10 Alabama YCF members attended the fall Working Weekend in Atlanta.

Our YCF members realize the importance of the AGC and in particular the YCF. They know that relationships are key to business success and the YCF is one of AGC's key ingredients to building those relationships among young industry professionals.