



Sign In

+



### Eighth Grader Stars in Film as Calatrava Bridge "Student Engineer"

2/1/2012

Eighth grader Kalen Beacham was among twelve students selected to become an "engineer-for-a-day" and star in a world premiere film, *Calatrava Student Constructors*. The 20-minute educational outreach film, created by Emmy award-winning producer Judy Kelly, followed local public and private school students who were selected to construct a 20-foot long replica of Dallas' Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge at The Trinity Trust office where actual models and maps reside.

On January 23, more than 200 people attended the film premiere at The Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff.

Watch a segment on [Good Morning Texas](#) and read more about it in the [Dallas Morning News!](#)

The project began in May 2011, when Ms. Kelly first documented the students' visit to the bridge site. They met with City of Dallas Trinity River Project Director Rebecca Rasor, and VSL's Cable Installation Manager Jim McTaggart. Upon their return to The Trinity Center, David Abbondanzio, Managing Director of the Study Center, taught the students using a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) framework.

Ms. Kelly said, "The classroom and the model construction processes were captured in the film in the hope that students throughout the DFW area could learn how the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge works. The most dramatic moment came when the false work was removed and the finished model, complete with the 8 foot high signature arch piece and all 58 cables, floated on its own—an engineering marvel."

In between film screenings, an esteemed panel of engineering and construction representatives who built the actual Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, answered questions and provided insight as to its architecture and construction.

Melanie Ferguson, director of outreach and development for The Trinity Trust, moderated the panel discussion. She asked each of them their highlight of the project, some of whom have been working on it for more than a decade.

Bill Doreen, Williams Brothers Construction, said, "One of the emotional highs was the day when Cimolai (Italian steel company that fabricated the steel and welded most of it) dropped in the center section of the arch. When you think about it, 500 feet off the floor in 15 minutes, it was a testimonial to the Italian fabrication and engineering."

L.C. Tubb, MICA Corporation, said, "My high was when we turned all the lights on that brought together the 5 or 6 years of work. It gave you a rush when you could look at the bridge at all angles and see it lit up. It's going to be a wonderful view for Dallas."

The Trinity Trust presented *Calatrava Student Constructors* in partnership with SMU's Summer Youth Program of the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, SMU's Talented and Gifted Program and The Study Center, Inc.

Additional sponsors of the film premiere included American Council of Engineering Companies of Dallas, Dallas Architectural Forum; SEARCH... y of

Architects/AIA; West Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

*The "star" students included:*

Roland Baumann, Dallas International School

**Kalen Beacham, Greenhill School**

Simon Cohen, W.B. Travis Academy

Ali de Jong, Ursuline Academy

Star Jackson, North Mesquite High School

Jaylin Knight, Agnew Middle School

Ricardo Mojica, Conrad High School

Gabrielle Munoz, The Hockaday School

Rubi Perez, Irma Rangel YWLS

Claire Richey, North Hills Prep

Angelica Sanjuan, Townview School of Science and Engineering

Rachael Shima, Bishop Dunne Catholic School

For those interested in sponsorship or underwriting the Calatrava Student Constructors film for educational distribution, contact The Trinity Trust at 214.740.1616.

***About the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration, Bridging The Trinity For The Love Of The City:***

The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, artfully engineered by world-renowned architect Santiago Calatrava, is transforming our relationship to the 20 mile green space that belongs to Dallas' citizens and is known as the Trinity River Corridor. The bridge's signature arch and 58 cables mesmerize as they span the Trinity River and connect West Dallas with the heart of downtown. The Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge joins over a dozen downtown bridges, all overlooking the Trinity River that runs beneath them.

Bridges reinforce connectivity between neighborhoods and over rivers. The Trinity Trust hosts the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Celebration Bridging The Trinity For The Love Of Our City, March 2-4, 2012. More information can be found at [mhhbridgecelebration.com](http://mhhbridgecelebration.com)

Once the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge opens March 2012, the adjacent Continental Avenue Bridge will be transformed into a pedestrian plaza and park space connecting West Dallas with the Design District and downtown. The Margaret McDermott Bridge, replacing the I-30 Bridge, begins construction in 2012 as does the new Sylvan Bridge.

**[BACK](#)**

4141 Spring Valley Rd. • Addison, TX 75001 • 972-628-5400

Copyright © 2012 Greenhill School. All Rights Reserved.

[View Privacy Policy](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[DIRECTORY](#)

[EMPLOYMENT](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[DIRECTIONS](#)