



For Fernando Magisano, it makes sense that Bruce Armstrong received the Bleeds Black Award despite Armstrong's own doubts about his deservedness. "I want to thank Darcy personally for starting the nomination process and reminding us all of Bruce's longstanding dedication," Magisano says. "Bruce Armstrong certainly does bleed black."



## Donn Bernal

It is literally true that Donn Bernal was the last person to know that he had won the Bleeds Black Award. "I was attending the Fall Asphalt Seminar using my smartphone and I was in a poor reception area," Bernal explains. "I didn't hear the award video on my phone, so I texted someone to ask, 'Who won the Bleeds Black Award?' They texted me back, 'You did!' And I'm like, 'Yeah, right! So who won?'"

Once he accepted that he had indeed won the award, Bernal says that he was "very surprised and very honoured. It means a lot when you get

this type of appreciation from your industry peers."

That Bernal 'bleeds black' was never in question for Kourtney Adamson, Sales Manager with Yellowline Asphalt Products Ltd., who nominated him for this award. "Donn has done every single part of the job — mix designs, field testing, you name it," says Adamson. "I think he dreams about asphalt at night. Honestly, he is so passionate about asphalt and he wants to make our industry so much better."

Donn Bernal entered the asphalt pavement industry in 1998 as an assistant laboratory supervisor at Ashwarren Engineering Services. He then moved up through the ranks, eventually serving as general manager for asphalt plant operations for Lafarge Canada, Oxford Sand & Gravel Ltd., and Aecon Group Inc.

When Yellowline Asphalt Products Ltd. was formed as a joint venture company between Aecon Construction Materials Ltd. and Dufferin Construction Company in 2013, Bernal became its general manager. He has since become principal of his own consulting firm, Corfinium Solutions Ltd., specializing in business development and environmentally-responsible asphalt solutions to help the industry go green.

Throughout his career, Donn Bernal has maintained a passion for all things asphalt. "It's a job where you get to see the final product of your efforts," he says. "You see and drive on it every day, which I find very satisfying."

Asked when he became passionate about asphalt, he replies: "It all started when I began working in the industry as a third-year summer student. Having a career to go to after I graduated in Civil Engineering was a big deal to me. Then when I moved from quality control to asphalt plants, this added another new learning component to my experience."



From that point on, Bernal has embraced every step of his asphalt industry journey, acquiring more skills, achieving new successes, and bringing young talent into the industry along the way. "Every year we hire summer students and when the summer students come on board, Donn spends a lot of time with them," says Adamson. "He makes the asphalt industry so exciting that I don't think we've ever had one that didn't want to come back."

Bernal's passion also extends to giving back to the industry, which is why he has played an active role in advancing its interests. His contributions include serving as OHMPA president in 2016 and on the OAPC Marketing Committee today. Bernal is also the current vice chair of the OAPC Environment Committee.

"I've known Donn for about 15 years. In that time he's become a confidante, a co-worker, a fellow board member and a friend," says Mike Deckert, Vice President of FLO Components Ltd. and the other of Bernal's Bleeds Black Award nominators. "He accepted the role of president a year earlier than actually planned. He knew that he was stepping up into the amalgamation and he navigated both OAPC and ORBA through the whole amalgamation of the associations. He didn't shy away." Meanwhile, Bernal's willingness to share his expertise in all things asphalt — from mix designs and product analysis to small/large-scale plant operations — has made him a well-known and respected industry advisor.

Today, in his new role as a private consultant, Bernal remains passionately committed to the asphalt industry. "I started Corfinium Solutions Inc. to stay in the asphalt industry because I do love it," he says. "It allows me to do different things and help companies grow using the experiences that I have had."

"I am also happy to mentor individuals because there's a big gap between those veterans who are retiring and those just starting out," Bernal adds. "There's about a 20-year knowledge gap between these two groups based on experience. I want to help companies who need someone to fill in that gap for them." ■