Several CM faculty and students attended the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) 46th Annual International Conference hosted by the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA April 7-10. The conference has been held annually since ASC’s formation in 1965 and provides an opportunity for members to network and share research and ideas regarding the advancement of construction education.

Several faculty members who attended the conference received awards. Ron Holt and Scott Glick received ASC National Teaching Awards, recognizing each professor’s contributions to construction education, excellence in teaching, and commitment to the construction profession. This is Glick’s second award in two years.

Several faculty members submitted papers for review, and Scott Glick and Angela Guggemos received the Conference Proceedings Best Paper Award for their work titled “Increasing Water Supply for Residential Growth Through Greywater Use.” The paper outlines a two-pronged approach to meeting water needs in an ever-increasing population by retrofitting existing structures and incorporating greywater systems into new structures to decrease cost and time necessary to create new water treatment systems. One hundred forty-four papers were submitted and evaluated for this prestigious award.

Francis Jacobs, a Ph.D. student and CM graduate teaching assistant, received the Best Poster Award for his work titled “Review of Lean Construction Research Literature Themes and Relationship to the Toyota Production System Framework.” The poster outlined Jacobs’ research involving a comparison of lean practices between construction companies and manufacturing companies and how the difference is due to each industry’s operating platform.

Also of note, Mary Nobe, who coordinated the Poster Session during this year’s conference, was selected to a third year as the Chair of the ASC Research Committee. Scott Glick was selected as the new ASC Region 6 Assistant Director.

Overall, the CM department achieved grand recognition at this year’s conference while the faculty and student attendees enjoyed several informative workshops and sessions. The department looks forward to next year’s conference and the opportunity to share new ideas with other construction institutions and industry members.
Ozbek Researches Privatizing Workers’ Comp Funds

CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek submitted a research report entitled “A Study of the Privatization of State-Chartered Workers’ Compensation Funds.” The study was funded by the Associated General Contractors of Colorado (AGC), Colorado Association of Home Builders, Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors, the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation.

The study was aimed at identifying the efforts of privatizing state-chartered workers’ compensation funds across the nation. In the report, a general discussion on the state-chartered workers’ compensation fund concept is provided, as well as a detailed discussion on the experiences of a number of states with respect to the privatization of their workers’ compensation funds. The report also performs an analysis of the issues that need to be considered when contemplating the privatization of a state-chartered workers’ compensation fund.

CMAA Hosts Construction Industry Consultants

The Construction Management Association of America’s (CMAA) Student Chapter hosted an interesting and informative panel discussion on “Construction Industry Consultants” on March 31 in the Saunders room of the Preconstruction Center. The panel consisted of Annette Stelmack, Founder and Principal of Inspirit LLC; Joseph Culkin, Vice President of Nolte Associates, Inc.; Mitch Arndt, owner of Summit Program Management; and Todd Mohr, Managing Director for FTI Construction Services.

Topics of discussion included how each of the panelists began their careers, and how they rose to their current positions. Local, national, and international industry trends were also examined. Students learned from the panelists’ collective 90+ years as professionals in the construction industry with expertise in areas ranging from owners’ representatives, risk management and legal issues to sustainable building and interior design.

Most of the attendees agreed that the best part of the discussion was hearing the panelists give personal advice about how to successfully pursue a fulfilling career in the construction industry. This aspect of the discussion carried over into the reception following the formal panel. Everyone enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to network as well as ask the panelists individual questions not addressed in the formal discussion.
CCA Members Work With At-Risk Teens

Since November 2009, several members of the Colorado Contractors Association (CCA) student chapter have been involved in a volunteer project dubbed the “OT Shed Project.” The CM students teamed up with at-risk students from Centennial High School to build a shed for the CSU Occupational Therapy Garden. The goal of the project involved teaching the Centennial students the basics of the construction process and some technical skills and allowing them to attain a sense of self-satisfaction and pride in their completed work.

At the start of the project, CCA members worked with three CHS students to design the shed in Google SketchUp, which involved teaching them how to use the program, basic construction concepts, lean material use and how to apply problem solving skills. In January, construction began with the students from the CHS shop class. CCA members took on separate phases of the project’s construction and provided the instructions for completion of each phase to the one to three CHS students assisting them.

Joe Houtz, CCA student chapter president, said that the project allowed him to apply his construction management and business skills during the design, purchasing and planning processes.

“But the most rewarding part,” he said, “is being able to teach these high school students and see their interest grow. These students have been very interested and involved in this project and some have expressed their goals to pursue a career in engineering.” Houtz also emphasized the importance of volunteer work as an integral part of education. “Volunteering is one part of education that not only helps the surrounding community, but also teaches students the lessons of self sacrifice and how to use their talents and education to help others. Projects such as this shed exhibit the lessons that our CM students learn outside of the classroom and CCA looks forward to seeing these kinds of achievements in the future.”

The shed is scheduled to be placed in the Occupational Therapy Garden on May 10.

Students put up the shed cladding.

Student preparing materials for wall studs.

CCA CM student Tyler Rue (right) helps layout floor joists.
Spring 2010 Graduates with Distinction

The following students are graduating with distinction this Spring from the Construction Management program: Maria Delgado (cum laude), Andrew Ellis (summa cum laude), Jonathan Moffitt (cum laude), Brian Rankin (cum laude), Mark Rieffenberger (magna cum laude) and Terrance Unrein (magna cum laude).

Brady Babbitt, Terrance Unrein and Jeb Bair have also been named as Outstanding Grads for 2010. "We are very appreciative of this honor," said Unrein. "Recognition like this makes our efforts more than worthwhile."

Congratulations to each of you and to all our graduates! We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors!

CM Students Enjoy Food and Fun

The Construction Management Student Board of Directors (CMBoD) hosted an informal barbecue on April 23 to celebrate the close of another school year. CM students were invited to indulge in burgers and beans and just enjoy a chance to relax and mingle with fellow students and CM faculty.

The event was held inside the IS Lab building due to inclement weather, but that didn’t dampen the spirits of the attendees. Games were set up and everyone enjoyed the chance to wind down after classes. "This is great," commented one CM student. "I get free food and a chance to talk to my professors about something besides class."

Submit your articles or comments to:

Dionne Douglas
ddouglas@cahs.colostate.edu
Natalya Weisgerber
nrweisge@cahs.colostate.edu

Department of Construction Management
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1584
Office: 970-491-7353
Fax: 970-491-2473
www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu