CM Cares Wraps Up Another Successful Semester

The festive atmosphere was certainly appropriate as the students in the Construction Leadership course prepared to present on their CM Cares projects on May 2. Community members involved in the projects, as well as industry and student volunteers, attended the event in CM’s Guggenheim Hall to celebrate the success of the semester’s work.

Each group centered their presentations on their gratitude to the generous donors whose contributions ensured the success of each project. They also presented their project’s objectives, successes, and challenges encountered while highlighting valuable lessons learned from the real-world experience. Members of the Crossroads Safehouse project, who constructed an external staircase enclosure for the property, gained valuable experience from expert volunteers on the site. “We learned a lot about framing and other carpentry skills from Mike Norin, a carpenter who helped with our project,” said Lee Mathers, CM senior.

Above all, the students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate in such an exciting and rewarding initiative. Michelle Meis, a leader of the Kennedy Project that constructed a portable ramp and step stools for a young boy with Epilepsy, spoke in high regard of what the initiative taught her about community. “I didn’t know what to expect in this class, but I knew I’d enjoy it,” she said. “I learned about who people are as humans, and it’s great that the department supports this type of development for students.”

Mark Taylor, a CM graduate student who was in the service-learning course that partnered with Centennial High School students to construct music stands for a local elementary school, echoed these sentiments as he spoke of the impact he felt CM made in the community. “We worked with the high school students to develop trust and a bond while we taught them skills and service,” he said. “Hopefully, we opened their eyes to opportunities for changing their future lives.”

For more details on the 2012 CM Cares projects, check out the CM annual newsletter due out later this summer!
CM GTA’s Paper Wins Award

Jon Elliott, a PhD student who has served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) in the CM department for the last several semesters, published a paper in the 2011 Journal of Facilities Management that has received an honor from Emerald Literati Network. Elliott’s paper was selected as a Highly Commended article in the Outstanding Paper category of awards given by Emerald Group Publishing.

The article, co-authored by CM faculty member Angela Guggemos, is titled “Validating Electric Use Intensity in Multi-Use Buildings” and is a report on research conducted by Elliott on two high schools in Fort Collins. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the electric use intensities (EUI) between two similarly constructed buildings, one that is sustainable, LEED-Silver and Energy-Star certified and one that is not. Both buildings were divided into workspaces for which workspace-specific EUIs were calculated and compared. These included HVAC, lighting, plug load, food service and residual energy components. The study found that overall EUIs were better suited to comparing energy performance of buildings dedicated to single uses, such as office space, but buildings with multiple floor space uses (e.g. high schools) required workspace-to-workspace comparisons for improved energy performance indicators. In this case, one building did perform better in HVAC and lighting, but it was worse than the other building for plug load electricity consumption.

The papers that receive the Emerald Literati Network awards are chosen by the editors of the various journals, many of whom are prestigious academics and managers in their fields. Each selected article represents the best and most impressive pieces of work the editorial team sees in a year.

Ozbek Receives Two Awards

CM faculty are consistently recognized for their excellence and commitment to construction education, so the department was not surprised to learn of the awards presented to Mehmet Ozbek in April. The first was the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Teaching Award, an honor presented annually to untenured faculty to recognize their contributions to construction education, excellence in teaching, and dedication to the construction profession. Ozbek received the award at the 48th Annual ASC Conference in Birmingham, England, where he also presented a paper discussing the findings from a case study evaluation of a project that utilized a co-location office in conjunction with Integrated Project Delivery.

Ozbek also received Virginia Tech’s Vecellio Construction Engineering and Management Program Outstanding Young Alumnus award for his contributions with respect to teaching, research, and service in academia. He traveled to Blacksburg, Va., to accept the award at the Myers-Lawson School of Construction Annual Awards and Recognition event on April 26.

CM Faculty/Staff Serve Up More Than Education

On April 19, faculty and staff set aside their lecture notes and donned aprons and gloves to serve up some tasty food to over 100 hungry CM students in an effort to celebrate students’ achievements throughout yet another successful school year. Setting up in the courtyard behind the Preconstruction Center, faculty members Chuck Smith and Kevin Jones manned the grills to cook up some juicy burgers that were then served by other staff volunteers. “The students enjoyed the free food and the opportunity to take a break from studying to mingle with other students and faculty,” said Andi Lewis, a CM senior. “It was a good turnout; this wasn’t the first CM Social and it certainly won’t be the last!”
UIA Faculty Visit CSU

As part of the grant awarded to CM for a program titled “Promoting Opportunities for Development, Education and Resilience (PODER): Green Construction Institutional and Human Development,” three faculty members from the Universidad Iberoamericana (UIA) Tijuana campus visited CSU April 2-9. Dr. Torres Góngora, Mtra. Cynthia Paz Rodriguez and Mtra. Magdalena Sánchez González came to Fort Collins as part of an exchange program that provided them an overview of how green construction is taught at CSU and the educational models and tools to support the potential development of a similar program at UIA.

The group started their visit by meeting with several faculty and graduate research assistants to discuss the grant’s project and their goals for the exchange program. They met with several staff and administrators to learn about the goals and structures of the internship, certificate and degree programs offered in CM at CSU. And to obtain a full understanding of the sustainable construction courses at CSU, the visitors discussed the Sustainable Design and Construction (CON 476), Sustainable Technology in the Built Environment (CON 576), and Applied Sustainable Project Delivery (CON 580A2) courses with CM faculty member Caroline Clevenger.

While in Colorado, the UIA faculty were able to meet with a CM graduate student and tour his research site in Rocky Mountain National Park where he is studying waste management practices in the park’s campgrounds. They also visited Mi Casa Resource Center in Denver, which is committed to increasing the employability, education, knowledge and life skills of Latino individuals through programs in career, business, and youth/family development. The UIA visitors met with Mi Casa program coordinator Adrienne Crowson to discuss their green construction program and experiences working with at-risk youth.

After the week of meetings, classes and site visits, the UIA faculty headed home with materials to support a range of educational models, sustainable construction classes, and academic research related to sustainability in the built environment. “The UIA faculty are excited to take back the ideas and material given to them on their visit,” said CM faculty member Carla Lopez del Puerto, who is the principal investigator for the PODER grant. “They are eager to incorporate all they’ve learned into their existing curriculum and discuss with school administrators the possibility of starting a diplomado and a master’s degree in Sustainable Construction at UIA Tijuana.”

WIC Hosts Another Successful Natural Area Clean-Up

Members of the CSU chapter of Women In Construction (WIC) partnered with Bennett Elementary School to host a restoration project at Gustav Swanson Natural Area in Fort Collins on April 14. The goal of the day was to help restore and preserve a natural area so that it remains to be enjoyed by future generations.

The project consisted of painting the lower regions of native cottonwood trees with an abrasive paint to protect from damage by beavers, leaving the non-native trees to be thinned out naturally over time by the animals instead. A Master Naturalist was on hand to educate the participants on Fort Collins’ unique mixed ecosystem and the importance of volunteer work for natural area restoration.

WIC would like to thank Catherine Dillon of Larimer County Natural Areas for providing all the materials and equipment for the project. For more information on upcoming WIC/Larimer County restoration projects, contact WIC president Jessica De Luca at jhdeluca@rams.colostate.edu.
CM Faculty Receive Provost’s Award

On April 24, CM faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Scott Glick received the 2012 Provost’s N. Preston Davis Award for Instructional Innovation. This award is presented to University faculty in recognition of the use of technology to further or significantly encourage instructional innovation. It is named in recognition of the over four decades of service by N. Preston Davis, who retired from CSU in 1992.

Clevenger and Glick successfully teamed up to introduce several on-going innovations to the CM curriculum leveraging Building Information Modeling (BIM). They piloted a 3D model interactive homework assignment in CON151, Construction Materials and Methods, and then created assessment tools, analyzed the results, and published the findings in three conference proceedings and two journal articles. “The 3D models generated using BIM software provide an enhanced opportunity to teach and communicate,” said Clevenger. “A primary challenge for educators using such techniques is the logistics of introducing, implementing and maintaining software platforms in the CM classroom.”

CM Cares Helps PCL with Habitat Build

On Friday, May 4, PCL Construction invited CM Cares staff and student volunteers to participate in a build day to benefit Habitat for Humanity. As part of the company’s commitment to community, PCL is sponsoring an entire home for a deserving family in Aurora, Colo. The work of the CM Cares group advanced the progress of the project to ensure it meets the completion deadline later in June.

PADB Platinum Member Spotlight: Hensel Phelps

HENSEL PHELPS CELEBRATES 75TH YEAR

Everything we do depends on people. No building ever had an idea or built a relationship. As an employee-owned company, Hensel Phelps culture is based on dedication and commitment to our clients and employees. This year we celebrate our 75th year in business and a 54 year partnership with CSU dating back to 1958. Having successfully completed 27 projects on campus, and employed more graduates from this Construction Management program than any other program in the nation, CSU remains a large part of who we are. To learn more about Hensel Phelps, or how you can become one of our next generation of leaders, visit our website at: www.henselphelps.com.

54 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH CSU

“Hensel Phelps culture of training and employee development is simply unparalleled in the industry. As a 2009 graduate of CSU’s Construction Management Department, it is a pleasure to work alongside the quality people who comprise our employee-owned company.”

Ashleigh Morton

Hensel Phelps Construction Co.
USGBC Brings Renowned Architect to Campus

On April 25, the CSU chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) hosted award-winning architect Bob Berkebile as a distinguished speaker on campus. Over 130 students and community members packed into room 222 of Johnson Hall to hear Berkebile’s discussion of topics that included student impact on construction and design, the importance of sustainability in design and construction, and the impacts/standards of social, ethical and environmental behavior.

The USGBC chapter worked hard to bring Berkebile to campus, drafting both a written and an oral presentation to the Associated Students of CSU and holding fundraisers to raise the 10 percent matching requirement to pay for the speaking engagement. Berkebile also limits his speaking engagements to 40 per year, and there is a two-tier selection process for requests prior to his final decision to accept. The students are understandably proud of their success in being awarded one of these coveted engagements.

A founding member of the USGBC and the American Institute of Architects’ National Committee on the Environment, Berkebile has helped pioneer the sustainable design movement over the past 30 years. He helped introduce the LEED standard to the industry, and he received a Heinz Award in 2009 for his role in promoting green building design and his commitment to restoring social, economic and environmental vitality to American communities through sustainable architecture and planning.

Beavers Boosts Scholarship Endowment

On March 29, Dave Woods, executive director of Beavers, Inc. and Beavers Charitable Trust, visited CSU to present a contribution for the Beavers Heavy Construction Scholarship endowment. The $77,000 contribution brings the endowment funds to $100,000. Students who wish to apply for the scholarship must be junior, senior, or graduate level and write a paper outlining their reasons for choosing careers in the heavy construction industry.

Established in 1977, the Beavers Charitable Trust is a non-profit organization that generates scholarship grants to assist students entering the heavy construction industry. The grants are funded through contributions made by members of the Beavers, Inc.

CMAA Hosts DIA Site Tour

The CSU chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) hosted a site tour that allowed students the rare opportunity to see much of the inner workings of Denver International Airport (DIA). The visit began with an exclusive tour of the airport’s air traffic runway system, during which students viewed DIA’s snow removal facilities, construction lay down area, and concrete recycling program. The group then proceeded to the south end of DIA’s main terminal to view the excavation work in progress for the Westin Hotel construction, as well as the airport’s impressive baggage handling system.

At one point, students were able to view and learn more about challenges encountered with the construction of the switch for the tramline that runs throughout the airport. The tour concluded with a DIA-sponsored working lunch and a presentation covering future construction plans for the airport. CMAA faculty advisor Mehmet Ozbek felt the entire experience was extremely worthwhile for the students who participated. “CSU CMAA would like to thank Mr. Dave Rhodes as well as the other DIA personnel for their time and efforts in making this a very beneficial and fun learning experience for our students,” he said.
CM Annual Golf Tournament Another Success

The CM student Board of Directors (CMBoD) hosted its annual golf tournament on Friday, April 27, at the Southridge Golf Course in Fort Collins. Over 100 golfers attended, both students and members of industry, and even Jeff McCubbin, Dean of the College of Applied Human Sciences, joined in the fun. The winning team included CM students Scott McGrady and Tyler Ausheraman and two members of Turner Construction Company.

“CMBoD would like to thank all of the industry that attended the tournament,” said CMBoD member Andi Lewis, “especially those companies that sponsored things like food and t-shirts, including Kiewit, DeAndrea Coring and Sawing, GE Johnson, ISEC, Adolfson and Peterson, Swinerton, Lockton, Hensel Phelps, URS, Mortenson, and MWH Constructors. We can’t wait to do it again next year!”

CON366 Students Take Learning Outside the Classroom

Students in the Construction Equipment and Methods (CON366) course were treated to two off-site learning experiences in April. On April 17 and 18, the City of Fort Collins Streets Department set up an equipment orientation that gave students the opportunity to get up close and personal with various pieces of heavy construction equipment, including graders, backhoes, compactors, milling machines and heavy dump trucks. Students were allowed to experience limited operation of these machines under the close supervision of the city’s experienced operators.

On April 30 and May 1, Connell Resources, Inc., hosted a site visit of its North College Avenue Improvements project. Students had the opportunity to speak with three Connell employees who are CSU CM alumni while they observed paving operations, utility work, and drainage improvements. “This was an excellent chance for the students to learn outside the classroom,” said Cam McNair, Heavy Civil Endowed Chair and instructor for the course. “All agreed that this beats looking at PowerPoint presentations in the classroom!”

Volunteers From CM Help Construct ‘Box City’

Many children love to build things, and American Institute of Architects (AIA) Colorado annually provides the perfect opportunity for them to construct their own cardboard city. AIA Colorado North hosted this year’s Box City event on April 28 at the Youth Activity Center in Fort Collins. Box City incorporates phases of the design and construction industry, from requesting permits and ordering materials to designing and constructing the actual buildings, into a learning event for kids.

A few members of the CM program volunteered for the event, including CM staff member Anna Fontana and students Drew Davis, Trevor Nau and Brent Traver. Volunteers acted as building permit officials, sketching supervisors, hardware store clerks, city planners and construction supervisors, and worked with the young builders to ensure the buildings were constructed “up-to-code” with doors and windows and other architectural features.