ABC Team Earns Awards In Competition

The CM Department sent a team of students with coach Mary Nobe to the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Construction Management Competition at the ABC EdCon & Expo. This year’s convention was held April 11-15 in San Antonio, TX, and the CSU team returned with third place overall and a second place finish in the Estimating category.

The competition centered on the students’ knowledge of estimating, project management and safety. It focused specifically on reading and understanding construction documents, conceptualizing and project planning, quantity surveying and cost estimating, site utilization and logistics, CPM scheduling, hazard analysis and safety plan development, time management, marketing and presentation skills, problem solving, written and oral communication skills, and teamwork. Awards were given for estimating, project management, safety, and overall performance.

The ABC team is understandably proud of their achievements during this competition and believe that future teams will certainly benefit from the experience. “I feel the knowledge I gained from the work on the project has put me ahead of my peers in school,” said Max Finster. “I learned about aspects from classes that I have yet to take and how good teamwork plays into the success of a project.” Jason Summers added that competing with the ABC team “was one of the best experiences of my college career. Preparing for the competition helped us capitalize on what we have been learning and also gave us the opportunity to collaborate with several members of industry. I strongly recommend that students get involved with competition teams and clubs in general because they can be very fun and provide great opportunities to students.”

The CM Department congratulates the ABC team on a job well done!

CM Graduate Student Earns NAEP Award

CM graduate student Andrew Fillion has been selected as this year’s Zirzow Student Award Recipient and was recognized at the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) conference luncheon on April 28. Fillion, nominated by CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek, received the award for the research he is performing under the guidance of Ozbek and fellow CM faculty Caroline Clevenger and sponsored by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The NAEP is a national organization, founded in 1975, whose mission is “to be the interdisciplinary organization dedicated to developing the highest standards of ethics and proficiency in the environmental professions”. The Zirzow Award was established in honor of Charles F. Zirzow, one of the founding members of the NAEP, who strongly believed that environmental education was a continuing and lifetime process.
This spring, the CM Department has offered an experimental service-learning class focused on sustainable design and construction entitled “Applied Sustainable Project Delivery.” This course, supported by a Service Learning Faculty Mini Grant from The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) at CSU, engages at-risk teens and the community through a hands-on service project and empowers CM graduate and undergraduate students to be leaders, stewards and mentors by managing a community project focused on sustainability. The course supports a broader initiative within the department called CM Cares, the main objective of which is to “infuse the traits of community service, leadership, teamwork, and ethics throughout the culture of the CM Program through CM-related community service projects that allow students to apply classroom skills in real-world applications.”

Assistant Professors Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek teamed up with Centennial High School and Unless Design Collaborative to have CSU students work directly with high school students in the shop for six weeks to build two sustainable doghouses to benefit and raise awareness for the Rocky Mountain Great Dane Rescue, Inc. (RMGDRI), a non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes Great Danes. Dustin Kalanick, co-founder of Unless Design Collaborative, a non-profit design services firm based in Loveland, Colorado, worked tirelessly in classrooms at both CSU and Centennial to design the doghouses and assist CSU students with creating lesson plans and teaching high school students about construction and sustainability. Jerry Kreisher, the trades shop class teacher at Centennial High School, supervised the students as they were working together in the shop. Together, along with CSU faculty, Kalanick and Kreisher provided the experience, support and confidence to help CSU students seamlessly transition to working with youth and were instrumental in facilitating a successful collaboration and learning environment. Both received the Exceptional Achievement in Service-learning Community Partnership Award given by the University at the Celebrate Colorado State Awards on April 26.

“It has been an amazing and rewarding opportunity to work on this project,” said Kalanick. “We are excited to see both the university and high school students empowered as leaders and teachers through their hands-on work that will benefit RMDGRI and the community.”

The sustainable doghouses were unveiled on April 11 at an all-school ceremony at Centennial High School. They were also showcased at CSU’s Sustainability Fair in Lory Student Center Plaza on April 20 and Fort Collins’ Earth Day celebration at Civic Center Park on April 23. At the Earth Day event, RMDGRI placed a record 6 dogs in new homes.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Dr. Ozbek, a Service-learning Scholar at CSU, said, “This course was very successful by many measures. We are particularly proud of our students, two of whom recently won awards for their work in the class.” These students were CM undergraduates Craig Everson and Juli-Anne Canterbury. They won high honors for their outstanding performance in the “Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase, 2011” and highest honors in the Service-Learning category.

Dr. Clevenger and Dr. Ozbek are excited to offer the class again next year and are appreciative of their students who were flexible and adaptable in meeting the inevitable challenges and opportunities of an experimental class. They also look forward to possibly seeing some of the students again in the coming semesters. One Centennial High School student said, “I learned a lot. I’ll be seeing you at CSU’s [CM Department] soon!”
Funk Earns Service-Learning Recognition

CM faculty member Loren Funk was honored with the Instructional Innovation in Service-Learning Award at the Celebrate Colorado State awards reception on April 26. This exceptional honor recognizes a CSU faculty member who demonstrates an innovative contribution to service-learning curriculum development and/or community outreach.

Funk insisted that recognition should go to more individuals than himself. “The success of this leadership course and the CM Cares program is due to a team effort among the CM students, faculty and staff and the donors that care about our projects,” he said. CM staff member Kristin Haller, on the other hand, said, “Loren’s passion and dedication to the students and the CM Cares program really drive the energy behind it. While it is a team effort for success, Loren is the glue that holds it all together.”

Held in April, Celebrate Colorado State is an annual opportunity to recognize the achievements of the campus community over the past year. Included are events honoring university employee years of service and retirement, outstanding alumni and university supporters, and all students, faculty, staff and researchers who have earned awards and acclaim throughout the year.

CM Faculty Attend Healthcare Construction Training

CM faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Farook Hamzeh attended a healthcare construction protocol workshop in Denver on April 22. Saunders Construction, Inc. hosted the workshop with industrial hygienist Dr. Cynthia Ellwood presenting.

The training session outlined how construction in a healthcare facility is one of the highest risk types because patient safety risks increase dramatically when the project compromises life safety systems or stirs up disease-causing contaminants. The purpose of the workshop was to provide information to help construction companies mitigate these risks and allow all workers to work safely and efficiently at the same time.

Most attendees of the workshop were from Denver Health. Each participant was tested on the subject matter and received a certificate for completing the course.

Shuler Conducting Pavement Research Over Summer

CM faculty member Scott Shuler met in April with Boulder County to coordinate the construction of a full-scale test pavement this June. This experimental pavement will contain ground, recycled roofing shingles obtained from residential roofs damaged by hail.

Shuler also submitted an application for a mini grant through the College of Applied Human Sciences (CAHS) entitled, “Investigating the Causes of Transverse Bumps in New Asphalt Pavements.” If funded, this research will design and construct a full-scale asphalt pavement to determine the cause(s) of transverse bumps and cracks that sometimes occur during construction of thin asphalt overlays.
CM was well-represented in the 2011 CSU Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase with four undergraduate students presenting two posters to their peers and faculty at CSU on Tuesday, April 19.

Michael Burrows and Drew McLeod developed and presented their poster entitled "Involvement of Electrical Contractors in Integrated Project Delivery (IPD)." This poster showcased the research sponsored by ELECTRI International, the Foundation for Electrical Construction, with CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek as the Principal Investigator. The purpose of this research is to identify the issues in integrating the electrical contractors with the IPD team and the risks for electrical contractors to participate in projects using IPD in an effort to provide recommendations to the electrical construction industry to address those issues and risks. An important component of this project is to promote interaction between the electrical construction industry and CSU’s Construction Management Department by engaging several undergraduate students, specifically the officers of the recently-established National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) student chapter at CSU, in this research. As such, Burrows and McLeod have contributed to this research as undergraduate students since August 2010.

Juli-Anne Canterbury and Craig Everson developed and presented a poster entitled "Applied Sustainable Project Delivery" which showcased the experimental course, Applied Sustainable Project Delivery, taught by CM faculty Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek in Spring 2011 (see page 2 for more information on this course). These students won 2 awards for their outstanding poster: High Honors in the general posters category and Highest Honors in the Service-Learning posters category.

CMAA Chapter Tours FasTracks

Members of the student chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) took advantage of an opportunity for a day-long tour of the Western Corridor and Union Station portions of RTD’s FasTracks project in Denver on April 6. FasTracks is currently the single largest Federal and State Funded project in the state of Colorado. It is a $6.7 billion comprehensive transit expansion plan to build 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail; 18 miles of bus rapid transit; 21,000 new parking spaces at light rail and bus stations; and enhance bus service for the eight-county Metropolitan area district.

The tour started at the Western Corridor, a 12.1 mile light rail transit corridor between Denver’s Union Station and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden. The enthusiastic Project Manager, John West of Denver Transit Construction Group, was gracious enough with his time to give the students a personal six-hour tour of their $600+ million portion of the project. The tour ended at Denver’s Famous Union Station where 750,000 cubic yards of concrete has already been poured for the future underground bus terminal portion of the expansion. Tour guides for this portion were CSU alumnus Jerry Nery, RTD Project Manager, and CSU alumnus Joe Christie, RTD Engineering Manager.