From the Department Head

Charting the Future

Three years ago, we had a dream to become the best known quality program in the country. This dream is becoming a reality.

The American Council for Construction Education has accredited our program for six more years. We have a new state-of-the-art building where students are working in teams and using the same technology and processes our industry uses. Two major construction firms have sponsored faculty scholars to work in the field to help improve processes and bring this knowledge and experience into the classroom. Our program is attracting high-caliber students who are playing an active role in their education, and our faculty are excited to be working with students who are so eager to learn. Also, our Professional Advisory Development Board is providing industry input that helps prepare students to excel in their careers as soon as they graduate.

Now we’re asking: What else can we do to advance the future of our program, construction education nationwide, and our industry?

Two faculty task forces have begun to integrate sustainability and Building Information Modeling into our curriculum, and we are also developing an emphasis in residential construction. We’re close to announcing the Heavy CM Endowed Chair. We are striving to address our industry’s current and future needs while also creating a dynamic curriculum that will allow students to focus their education on the type of construction that most interests them.

Moving forward has not been easy. Construction education demands the latest technology, highly qualified faculty, and experiential learning, which fortify educational experiences for our students. Given today’s economic climate and University budget cuts, our department needed to secure additional funding to continue our drive and commitment to our students and industry.

This year, we spoke candidly with students about the department’s need for an instructional fee to ensure that our students receive quality advising, internships, and career placement; work with leading technology; have access to scholarship support; and have the opportunity to interact with national industry leaders. The students led the effort to write the petition to institute a CM student fee and, within two days, collected more than 300 signatures. That kind of engagement in decision making and problem solving allows us to create a culture of leadership.

In June, the Board of Governors approved the new fee.

During these last three years, we have built a strong foundation for our program. Now we must hone our ability to innovate and consistently deliver quality graduates with the ability to lead and serve the construction industry and the nation. I request your participation in writing a new chapter in the history of construction education at Colorado State University by working with faculty and students, injecting your ideas and experience into the program, and supporting students, faculty, research, and key initiatives.

Like any successful business, we are creating a family environment where leadership exists at every level and where every member has a voice.

This is your program. This is our future together. Only with your friendship, engagement, input, and support will we be able to realize our dream of making a difference – among our faculty and students, in our community, and in an industry that contributes so much to enhancing people’s lives.

Mostafa Khattab, Department Head
Program Receives Accolades and Six-Year Reaccreditation From ACCE

SU’s Construction Management program met, and in some areas exceeded, the standards necessary to qualify for six more years of accreditation. The 2009 accreditation visit was the program’s fifth accreditation since 1985.

Last October, the American Council of Construction Education visiting team spent several days on campus interviewing faculty, staff, administrators, students, and industry partners. The team praised the program, its leadership, and the support of the administration, faculty, industry, and students. They also identified concerns and areas of undeveloped potential.

Leadership was cited as one of the department’s major strengths and was seen as the key factor in the program’s improvement over the last three years. The team’s report noted that this improvement was evident in students’ excitement to be accepted into the program, renewed industry support, limited enrollment and higher admission standards, the emphasis on research and the provision of resources to support that research, and the department working together as a team to achieve shared goals and objectives.

“Faculty members overwhelmingly support Dr. (Mostafa) Khattab and the vision and direction he provides to the program,” the report continued. “They appreciate the transparency from the administrator’s office and feel they know exactly where they stand. Faculty and students consistently discuss the department’s family atmosphere where they feel supported and sustained.” As well, the team found that the Professional Advisory Development Board supports Khattab as the department head and is excited about what is happening in the department.

The team was particularly impressed with the new Preconstruction Center, computer labs, and classrooms. They wrote that the new facilities “are a great asset to the construction management program and set a standard for other programs in the nation.” Also noteworthy is the program’s creativity in receiving support from the construction industry. Examples included the $5 million industry contribution of time, expertise, labor, and materials that led to the renovation of the Industrial Sciences Building as the Preconstruction Center; the Wall of Honor, which allows alumni to display their business cards for a nominal fee; and corporate sponsorship of rooms, labs, and hallways.

The team saw the many construction project photos, company logos, and exposed systems displayed throughout the Preconstruction Center and Guggenheim Hall and commented, “We were impressed with the construction feel these photos and displays created in the facilities.”

One major concern is the number of faculty who are on nonbudgeted funds and in nontenure track positions. Of the 18.3 full-time-equivalent faculty slots, including special appointments and adjunct faculty, only 8.45 are tenure- or tenure-track positions. “If economic conditions worsen and finances are strained, the nontenure track positions could be eliminated, putting the program in a position of high risk,” the evaluators noted. This problem could be resolved, they said, if the special appointments had the potential of becoming tenured or if more of the positions were tenure-track.

The department has received three new tenure-track positions, which will be filled in the near future, yet funding for additional tenure-track positions is still a concern and a high priority.

Evaluators also cited several undeveloped potentials including creating more quality lab space in the Preconstruction Center, getting more faculty research published, and realizing the full potential of the Professional Advisory Development Board. “The members of this board are anxious to provide additional assistance to the students and the program in general,” the team noted.

Key Strengths

- Leadership
- Enthusiastic support of the administration
- Department-wide shared vision for excellence
- Support from all sectors of the construction industry
- Student qualifications exceed those in other areas of the institution
- Curriculum responsive to the needs of industry

CCA Meets in Preconstruction Center

The Colorado Contractors Association Board of Directors held its March meeting at the CM department’s new Preconstruction Center, providing an opportunity for the board to tour the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art facility. CCA Executive Director Tony Milo says the meeting location also allowed the board to “learn more about the great progress the CSU CM program is making in helping develop industry professionals, many of whom will one day work in the heavy/highway and civil construction industry.”
Career Fair Connects Companies With Interns, Employees

Employers seeking interns and employees can gain great exposure for their companies by participating in the CM department’s Career Fair. Each fall and spring, more than 70 construction companies nationwide send representatives to interact with the department’s 1,000-plus students.

Kim Abeyta, human resources manager with Pinkard Construction, has been participating in the Career Fair for the last four years. “Being at the fair gets our company in front of the students and allows us to see who the up-and-coming graduates are,” she says. CSU graduates comprise approximately 25 percent of salaried employees at Pinkard, whose work is concentrated entirely along Colorado’s Front Range.

Tom Kirkjian, recruiting officer for Shimmick Construction Co. in Oakland, Calif., says that Colorado State’s Career Fair “is extremely well organized, and it provides an opportunity for our company to speak to a large number of strong candidates from one of the more respected construction education programs in the country.” This summer, three CSU interns worked for Shimmick, and of the five interns who were at Shimmick last summer, three now work for the company full-time.

The next Career Fairs will be held Sept. 14, 2010, and Feb. 22, 2011. For more information, visit the Careers and Internships page on the CM website at www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu or call (970) 491-4610.

Preconstruction Center Source of Pride for Department, University, Industry

Approximately 200 people attended the unveiling of the CM department’s Preconstruction Center on Jan. 27. The facility is a $5 million restoration of the former Industrial Sciences Building, one of the oldest buildings on campus.

The project was the collective work of Colorado construction firms, industry organizations, and student groups that donated funds and in-kind support to refurbish the building.

“It’s impressive that 170 companies and so many people saw a common need to preserve this space and make it beautiful and useful to our faculty and students once again,” said University President Tony Frank. “Their support and collaboration is more than just an investment in a building – it’s an investment in the long-term competitiveness of one of the nation’s top academic programs in construction management.”

To view the event video, go to www.cahs.colostate.edu/news/Item/?ID=711.

PADB Aims to Realize Its Full Potential

Members from all sectors of the construction industry comprise the CM department’s Professional Advisory Development Board. Over the last year, the PADB has activated four committees that are addressing the program’s needs in the areas of internships and careers, curriculum, research and outreach, and professional development.

“We’ve been very supportive of the department’s initiatives, and we’re excited that the University has approved the department’s proposal to institute a CM student fee,” says PADB chair Darrell Eastwood. “The new CM fee will enable the department to keep up with and ensure that students enter the workplace with the skills they need.

“One of the department’s greatest strengths is its very strong relationship with a broad spectrum of the construction industry,” he continues.

“The department has done a great job of integrating diverse construction knowledge and applications into the program.”

The accreditation team saw the tremendous impact the board has and recognized its potential to do so much more, Eastwood adds. “Our challenge now is to realize that untapped potential.”

A major PADB goal is to involve more alumni and industry in giving back through such means as:

• Financially supporting the department in general or through scholarship funds, student and faculty professional development, endowed chairs, educational programs, or any other area of the donor’s choice.
• Sponsoring any of the department’s student teams as they participate to compete regionally and nationally.
• Teaching a class, being a mentor or a guest speaker, inviting students to participate in a company or site tour, helping with club activities, and engaging in student-initiated fundraising events.
• Hiring students for internships and/or permanent positions once they graduate. This year, more than 260 students will graduate, and 210 students will be seeking internships required for graduation.

“We all have busy lives, but just a little of our time and effort can mean so much,” Eastwood says. “It’s fun to be involved. It’s really a joy to see the great things happening in this program.”

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Industry Partners
Faculty Scholar Program Connects Department With Industry

The CM department’s new Faculty Scholar Program is building a bridge between industry and the department. Caroline Clevenger and Farook Hamzeh, the first faculty scholars selected, have received funding from well-established construction companies to do applied research that will help the sponsoring companies improve processes and will generate new knowledge for the classroom.

Mortenson Construction Faculty Scholar
CM Assistant Professor Caroline Clevenger is the 2010 Mortenson Construction Faculty Scholar. An immediate focus of this collaboration is to develop pilot teaching modules highlighting the power of Building Information Modeling to improve and enhance the building delivery process and integrating these modules into the department’s core curriculum.

Working with Mortenson Construction is an ideal fit, says Clevenger. “My background is in sustainable design, Mortenson is a leader in Building Information Modeling and sustainability, and the department wishes to increase its capacity in both of these areas. I’m using this opportunity to work with other faculty members to create a curriculum-wide initiative to teach students about BIM, both as a tool (individual software packages) and as a method (a different working process) and to promote educational exchanges between education and industry,” Clevenger says.

Tom Gunkel, president and CEO of Mortenson Construction, says the company chose to sponsor faculty development because “we recognize how critical it is to reward and recognize high-quality faculty, and we’re aware that flexible spending dollars are very limited in most academic settings.”

The company’s gift of $20,000 for each of the next three years will allow the faculty scholar to interact with Mortenson’s field and management teams to bring practical experience to the CM classrooms. Mortenson provided an additional $30,000 to support department initiatives.

To date, Clevenger has worked with other faculty to coordinate the development of BIM-enhanced curriculum and graduate students to upgrade the Sustainable Design and Construction course work. New content includes looking at energy modeling from a CM value-engineering perspective, integrating LEED into sustainable project management, and providing better real-world case studies, including those from Mortenson Construction.

The next steps are to initiate an exchange between Mortenson and the department, including lunch-and-learn events, assess collaborative opportunities, conduct direct research to support some of the company’s needs, and execute a plan.

“I’m very grateful to Mortenson,” says Clevenger. “Our common interests have created a synergy, and a clear path is emerging for future research activities and collaborations.”

Students, faculty, and industry all stand to benefit from direct research that is aligned with the company’s objectives, Clevenger adds. “We’ll produce better job candidates for them to hire, they’ll receive an outside assessment, and the curriculum will stay up-to-date with industry best practices.”

Haselden Construction Faculty Scholar
Farook Hamzeh, assistant CM professor, hopes to turn Haselden Construction from a learner of lean construction into a leader of the customer-needs-based practice that aims to minimize costs and maximize returns.

Waste is a big concern in the construction industry, notes Hamzeh, and the best way to get the industry lean is to develop a superb company that succeeds in increasing productivity and decreasing waste, and that will become a leader for
Faculty Members, Student Win ASC Awards

CSU’s Construction Management team earned a number of recognitions and awards at the 2010 Associated Schools of Construction Conference, held last April in Boston. Former CM Department Head Larry Grosse was presented with the association’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Faculty members Scott Glick and Angela Guggemos received the Best Conference Paper Award for their work, “Increasing Water Supply for Residential Growth Through Greywater Use.”

Scott Glick and Ron Holt each won a National Teaching Award recognizing their respective contributions to construction education, excellence in teaching, and commitment to the construction profession.

Francois Jacobs, Ph.D. student and graduate teaching assistant, received the Best Poster Award for “Review of Lean Construction Research Literature Themes and Relationship to the Toyota Production System Framework.”

Mary Nobe was selected to a third year as chair of the research committee. She also coordinated this year’s poster session. Scott Glick was selected as the new ASC Region 6 assistant director.

Faculty Scholar Program continued from Page 5

Scott Hamzeh believes that Haselden Construction has the structure and interest to become a leader in lean construction. It is a midsized company that emphasizes innovation and maintains close relationships between top- and middle managers. It has a philosophy of excellence and relentless drive toward customer satisfaction. Recently, Haselden demonstrated its willingness to pave the way for the industry’s future by being the lead company to propose and support a University-industry collaboration to build Colorado State’s new Preconstruction Center.

Since being named Haselden Construction Faculty Scholar last fall, Hamzeh has developed a three-day training program to be implemented with Haselden’s executives. The content includes lean principles such as the last-planner system, which empowers front-line workers to have a voice in project planning and execution. Trainees also learn about reducing and eventually eliminating wastes, and tapping into unused employee creativity.

The training reinforces lean concepts by showing examples of businesses that have successfully put them into practice. Sessions also include games that simulate actual construction situations, to help participants understand and apply what they’ve learned.

Implementing what they’ve learned on a Haselden pilot project is the next step. This will involve creating a nucleus team that will focus on changing the ways in which this small group manages a project. “The idea is to start with a small success and then incorporate lessons learned into the next project,” Hamzeh explains. “Each time, you involve more and more people, and eventually things will change.”

Hamzeh hopes that through this collaboration with Haselden, the company’s executives will see the value in becoming lean and will want to work toward that. Key elements of the training and lessons learned from the pilot project will be incorporated into graduate and undergraduate classes.

Hamzeh sees the whole notion of lean as exemplifying responsible citizenship. “You’re using the best things available in the best way you can,” he says. “You’re delivering what the customer wants, with no excessive time and no leftover inventory.”

Research Awards

Scott Shuler received a $51,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to research the use of roofing shingles, reclaimed asphalt pavement, and ground tire rubber in asphalt pavements. Shuler is also PI of a $60,000 Colorado Department of Transportation study to develop specifications for using scrap rubber in asphalt for paviing Colorado roads.

Scott Glick is the co-PI of a multidisciplinary study on safety in construction, funded by a $750,000 NIOSH grant.

Carla Lopez del Puerto is co-PI on a $15,000 research project, “Safety Culture and Risk Perception Differences between Latino and Non-Latino Construction Workers,” funded by the College Research Council in CSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Working with co-PI David Gilkey, associate professor in the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences, Lopez del Puerto will survey 300 Latino and Non-Latino construction workers on their perceptions of safety and risk.
CM Family Highlights

In January, the College of Applied Human Sciences held a farewell reception for Dean April Mason as she embarked for her new position as provost and senior vice president at Kansas State University. Her presence in the College will be sorely missed.

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has named CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab a Fulbright specialists candidate. This designation places Khattab on the Fulbright specialists roster, which is a list of all approved candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright specialists. “I’m excited about receiving this designation and the opportunity it provides to strengthen the international dimension of our program,” says Khattab.

Associate Professor Scott Shuler has received tenure. Shuler joined Colorado State’s CM faculty in 2003 and has been developing the department’s course work and research activities in heavy construction management. Additionally, Shuler chaired the Second International Symposium on Asphalt Research at the 36th Annual Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show, held in Aurora, Colo., last February.

CM Assistant Department Head Angela Guggemos is a new associate editor of the Associated Schools of Construction publication, International Journal of Construction Education and Research.

The U.S. Green Building Council selected Professor Brian Dunbar to help design the curriculum and teach a pilot course for the council’s LEED Building Design and Construction Rating System workshop, to be offered worldwide. Dunbar also was invited to teach the pilot course of the workshop last March, to design and construction professionals at the USGBC LEED Platinum headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Professor Carla Lopez del Puerto received Designated Design-Build Professional certification and is now recognized as a professional in the design-build field.

Associate Professor Bolivar Senior is the new adviser for Colorado State’s Kappa Chapter of the Sigma Lambda Chi Honor Society.

Assistant Professor Mehmet Ozbek has been selected to serve on ASCE’s Management Practices in Construction Committee.

Adjunct Professor Carol Dollard was involved with Colorado State’s new solar plant project from start to finish. One of the largest solar plants on a U.S. university campus, CSU’s plant, which was dedicated in January, will help Colorado meet renewable energy goals and keep the University’s utility rates affordable.

Assistant Professor Caroline Clevenger was named TILT Teaching Fellow for the 2010-2011 academic year for The Institute for Teaching and Learning at Colorado State, for her proposal to integrate Building Information Modeling into the CM curriculum.

CM Key Adviser Kristin Haller attended the National Academic Advising Association Region 10 Annual Conference in Colorado Springs last March. More than 180 academic advisers from across the Rocky Mountain region attended the event, which was themed, “Flourishing in Tough Times: Implementing an Advising ‘Stimulus Package’ on Your Campus.”

The department is pleased to welcome Natalya Weisgerber. Weisgerber began with the department as an administrative assistant earlier this year and now serves as assistant to the department head.

Congratulations to Dionne Douglas, former assistant to the department head, and Anna Fontana, coordinator in the Phelps Placement Office, who both gave birth to healthy babies this past spring.
Delgado Receives National Scholarship
CM senior Maria Delgado was one of four recipients nationwide to be awarded the 2009 Construction Management Association of America National Scholarship. Delgado received the prestigious award during the CMAA National Conference in Florida last October. “I was very honored to represent Colorado State University in a national conference,” says Delgado, founder and president of the CMAA student chapter at Colorado State.

New Student Chapters Formed
Two new student chapters, the National Electric Contractors Association and the Colorado Contractors Association, have been established. The CCA Club focuses exclusively on the heavy civil, industrial, and municipal sectors of construction. In association with the NECA Rocky Mountain Chapter, the NECA Club provides students with many opportunities to participate in educational seminars and industry-sponsored events, better preparing them for a career in the electrical construction industry.

Green Building News
In October, Brian Dunbar, CM professor and director of the Institute for the Built Environment, and CM graduate student Helene Gotthelf led a design charrette workshop for civil engineers, landscape architects, landscape contractors, city planners, and public officials from Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, Windsor, and Larimer County, Colo.

International News Brief
Faculty and students from Egypt’s Helwan University and Alexandria University are partnering with Colorado State University’s CM department to create a sustainability center in Egypt.

Douglas Leaves CM Department to Pursue Other Goals
Filling the shoes of Becky Bell, former assistant to CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab, was no easy task, but Dionne Douglas embraced the challenge and executed her responsibilities with professionalism, competence, and grace.

On Aug. 20, the department bid farewell to Douglas. “It is with bittersweet emotions that I am leaving the department to take care of my 5-month-old daughter, Imani Rose, and complete my master’s degree,” says Douglas.

Douglas has been with the CM department for nearly three years. Prior to that, she worked in health and project management as a research officer and, later, as a coordinator on the building of an oncology center and program in Trinidad and Tobago, where she is from.

In her most recent position, Douglas was responsible for assisting the department head with administrative and special projects; supervising the front office staff; chairing the social committee, which includes planning and organizing departmental events such as the CM awards banquet and department retreats and meetings; chairing the communication committee; providing administrative support for tenure, promotion, evaluation, recruiting, and hiring processes; and coordinating the department’s recognition program.

“Dionne has been a great asset to our team and the University,” says Khattab. “She was instrumental in establishing our monthly newsletter, the online version of our annual newsletter, updating our website, coordinating the department awards banquet, and, above all, marketing our program. She will be greatly missed.”

Douglas says, “This has been the best work experience of my life! The CM department truly is a family environment where people care about each other and are connected to the bigger purpose. I’m honored to have had this opportunity to work with such a diverse and motivated group of people, and I wish the department continued success.”

Former administrative assistant Natalya Weisgerber is now serving as assistant to the department head.

Sustainable Design Class Held in Costa Rica
In January, CM faculty members Brian Dunbar and Caroline Clevenger teamed up with University of Costa Rica Professor Alejandro Ugarte to teach a sustainable design and construction class in Costa Rica.

The three-credit course focused on the major components of sustainable design and construction, including energy, healthy buildings, cultural and natural resource use, and other environmental and economic issues of sustainable built environments. Students attended lectures and interacted with the environment in 14 different classrooms, including outdoor spaces. Classes were held all day, and students worked in groups of three on sustainable design projects. Despite the long days in class, students still found time to hike, snorkel, boat, and dance.
Student Teams Excel in 2010

This year, 10 different Colorado State University student teams competed against teams from other top construction management and engineering programs nationwide and brought home eight awards.

22nd Annual Associated Schools of Construction Competition; Sparks, Nev.

More than 1,200 students from 40 universities competed, making this the largest ASC competition ever. The challenge: intense problem solving based on a project problem presented to some teams before the competition and to others at an “owner” briefing on the first day. Additional kudos: First place went to Jordan Heberlein, CSU senior, in the Alternate Competition Team Event, and Mark Rieffenberger, CSU senior, was named Most Valuable Presenter in the Mechanical Competition.

Commercial Team, First Place, ASC Regionals (from left): Evan Petkash; Mike Hamline; Brian Rankin; Bolivar Senior, Coach; Luis Covarrubias; Andrew Ellis; and Daniel Kalb.

Heavy Civil Team, Third Place, ASC Regionals (from left): Chad Lanker; Joseph Houtz; Jeb Bair; Scott Shuler, Coach; Tannmer Khattab; Ryan Mazur; Patrick Barnett; and Jordan Heberlein. (Not pictured: John Anest.)

LEED Team, Second Place, ASC Nationals (from left): Daniel Hanavan; Cal Houston; Fonda Budai; Scott Glick, Coach; Michelle Meis; Aaron Knerr; Gabe Dunbar; and Craig Jeffrey.

Mechanical Contractors Association of America, Annual Convention; San Francisco

Out of 26 teams, the CSU Mechanical Team placed second in the Nationals. The challenge: develop a proposal for a two-year, five-phase renovation of the 41,000-square-foot cafeteria at the Denver Health Medical Center.

Mechanical Team, Second Place, MCAA Nationals (from left): Kyle Anderson; Mark Rieffenberger; Brian Woodard; Mostafa Khattab, Coach; Tammer Khattab; Ryan Mazur; Patrick Barnett; and Jordan Heberlein.

Preconstruction Team, Second Place, ASC Nationals (from left): Kyle Rader; Jeffrey Speer; Peter Martinez III; Ryan Chilelli; Farooq Hamzeh, Coach; Joshua Gradie; Beruh Taylor; and Curtis Bunker.

CCA Members Work With At-Risk Teens

Since November 2009, several members of the Colorado Contractors Association 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 Colorado State’s Occupational Therapy Garden. The goal of the project was to teach the Centennial students construction basics and technical skills, fostering within them a sense of self-satisfaction and pride in workmanship.

“The most rewarding part has been seeing their interest grow,” says Joe Houtz, CCA student chapter president. “The Centennial students have been very involved in this project, and some have expressed a desire to pursue a career in engineering.”

Student Club Participates in Make a Difference Week

Last fall, the Construction Management Association of America student chapter at CSU participated in Make a Difference Week. Over the Oct. 23-24 weekend, more than 25 students built and installed a fence around the children’s playground at Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center, a nonprofit organization serving low- and middle-income families in Larimer County. The fence provided safe boundaries for the kids’ outdoor classroom.

The following semester, some of the students returned to Teaching Tree to install cabinets inside the child care center.
Outstanding Senior Working With Tribally Owned General Contractor

Last spring, Terrance Unrein graduated with honors and received the 2010 College of Applied Human Sciences Outstanding Senior Award, in recognition of his many leadership contributions, including serving on the Dean’s Leadership Council.

While serving as president of the CM Student Board of Directors, Unrein promoted interactive workshops on campus, pioneered department open forums for students with the department head, oversaw the development of the CM student club website, and secured $9,000 from the Associated Students of Colorado State funding board to bring a three-day Dale Carnegie Immersion Seminar to campus.

Unrein also spoke to the graduating class at the College’s commencement ceremony, focusing his comments on the passion that students from the College’s eight academic units share for helping people. “We’ve all learned to help people in different ways: CM graduates may build hospitals, and students from other majors will become teachers, nurses, social workers, physical therapists, and more,” Unrein said. “Each major has its own specialties, and all are geared to helping society.

“Align your career with your passion. If you do that, you’ll be compensated for it in many ways,” he added.

Today, Unrein is an assistant project manager with Tepa, LLC, a full-service, tribally owned, shared services organization headquartered in Colorado Springs and serving clients nationwide. Unrein is working in the company’s general contracting area on several government contracts at the Fort Carson military base in Colorado Springs.

Unrein says he appreciates the technical skills he learned in the classroom, and the people and hands-on skills he learned outside the classroom while at Colorado State.

He particularly applauds the internship experience, which he says allows students to apply and develop what they’ve learned and helps them discover what they like to do. Unrein learned that he likes to administer projects. He thinks he may eventually go into business or real estate development.

He advises new students in the CM program to “excel both in the classroom and out, by participating in any of the tons of activities the department offers to be involved with industry.”

He thanks the department’s Professional Advisory Development Board for helping to stimulate the industry’s significant participation in the program.

“The department has 11 student clubs, and each club has a list of companies they can call for ideas and help,” Unrein says. “It’s a win-win situation. Companies get their name out there and familiarize students with what they do. And students benefit from the wealth of real-world knowledge the companies provide.”

Recent Graduates Sponsor Scholarship

Spring 2010 CM graduates Jeb Bair, Terrance Unrein, and Brady Babbitt (pictured above, from left) have established the CM Board of Directors Student Leadership Scholarship. As former officers of the CM Board of Directors student club and members of the College of Applied Human Sciences Dean’s Council and CM competition teams, Babbitt, Bair, and Unrein know the importance of participating in leadership activities while in school.

“We have seen the positive impact and benefits of student leadership activities, and we want to give other students the ability to pursue them as well,” says Unrein, past president of the CMBOD.

“Because of our involvement, we have received amazing employment opportunities to work internationally. We want to start a tradition of support coming directly from past student leader alumni to current student leaders in the CM department.”

The purpose of the scholarship is to lift some of the financial burden of paying for college from students, so they can participate more fully in leadership and extracurricular activities, says Unrein.

The scholarship will provide an annual award of approximately $1,500 to a CM student who maintains a GPA of at least 3.0 and has a proven track record of strong student leadership outside of the classroom.

He has seen the positive impact and benefits of student leadership activities, and we want to give other students the ability to pursue them as well,” says Unrein, past president of the CMBOD.
Ben Farrow Takes Helm as CMBOD President

This fall, Ben Farrow replaces Terrance Unrein as president of the student-run CM Board of Directors. Farrow, a CM major and business minor, entered Colorado State University’s program last year. He earned his associate’s degree in construction management from Montgomery College in Rockville, Md., where he served as treasurer and president of the college’s Student Construction Association. Farrow offers the following comments about the board’s goals for the coming year:

“My goal, like Dr. (Mostafa) Khattab’s, is to provide the construction industry with the top CM students in the country. To achieve this goal, the CMBOD will be a liaison between students and the department, providing students’ input on curriculum changes and emphasizing to students the importance of being active participants in any of our 11 student clubs and organizations and 10 competition teams.

“Colorado State’s CM students understand the need to set themselves apart from the competition. Our student clubs focus on various sectors of the construction industry, host guest speakers, participate in site visits and company tours, and sponsor training sessions taught by industry personnel. The industry provides our department and especially these clubs with feedback on the areas in which Colorado State’s CM graduates need more knowledge. They come to CSU and train our students in these areas to better prepare them for the real world.

“My main goals are to enhance collaborations among students, faculty, and industry; promote green building; and ensure that students have a firm grasp of technology and proficient communication and interpersonal skills. I also think it’s important that students have knowledge of all the trades, and I’d like to bring tradespeople into the classroom, to bring us up-to-date field knowledge and teach us the tricks of their trade.

“The CMBOD officers also want to fuel a better partnership between related programs, such as interior design and engineering. We believe that the more these three disciplines understand each other and work together, the better a project will turn out.

“Our program breeds top-notch CM graduates who become company executives. Being successful isn’t about settling for what is. It’s about always striving to learn more and deliver a better product. It starts with a strong faculty and a strong curriculum. Real-world learning comes from participating in abundant extracurricular activities that the board, the industry, and our department make available to our students.”

A Matter of Degree

Fall 2009
Total number of Construction Management degrees conferred: 144
Bachelor of Science degrees: 139
Minors in Construction Management: 9
Master of Science degrees: 5
Average GPA: 2.899
Graduated with distinction: 1 magna cum laude, 1 cum laude

Spring 2010
Total number of Construction Management degrees conferred: 144
Bachelor of Science degrees: 137
Minors in Construction Management: 9
Master of Science degrees: 7
Average GPA: 3.005
Graduated with distinction: 1 summa cum laude, 2 magna cum laude, 3 cum laude

Summer 2010
Number of students intending to graduate: 18
Anticipated number of Bachelor of Science degrees to be conferred: 10
Minors in Construction Management: 2
Master of Science degrees: 6
Calling All Alumni!

You can help foster connections among students, faculty, alumni, and industry by hosting a Colorado State CM alumni meeting in your area. Opportunities for bringing members of the CM Family together include:

- regional competitions being held in your area;
- Colorado State Rams athletic events;
- company and project tours.

But you don’t need a special occasion to plan a gathering where alumni can socialize, reminisce about their days at Colorado State, network about projects and career opportunities, and brainstorm ways to be involved with students and faculty in the CM program today.

Please contact CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab directly if you can help with a particular activity or would like ideas on ways you can help. Send your queries and/or ideas to Mostafa.Khattab@colostate.edu or call (970) 491-6808.

Alumni

Beeble Receives College’s Honor Alumnus Award

In April, the CSU Alumni Association presented John Beeble with the College of Applied Human Sciences’ prestigious Honor Alumnus Award.

Beeble, a 1982 CM graduate, is president and chief executive officer of Saunders Construction. Beeble’s career has involved estimating, business development, and management in the Colorado construction and real estate industries. Saunders Construction has consistently ranked as a top contractor in the region and, in 2008, was honored as the top contractor by revenue in the state. Beeble is a founding member of the Citadel Group, a national contracting group comprised of best-in-class contractors from across the country. He serves on the boards of several organizations, has participated in university advisory boards and career boards, and provides internships to Colorado State University students.

Wood Named ‘Rising Star’ at Las Vegas Awards Luncheon

Dax Wood, ’04 CM, was recognized as one of 10 up-and-coming business professionals named the Rising Stars of 2010 by the Las Vegas Business Press. In March, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman presented awards to the business stars at an awards luncheon held at the Hard Rock Café.

Wood shared the stage with other young professionals including attorneys, managers, a marketing director, a public relations manager, and a spa operations manager.

As a project manager with P1 Group in Las Vegas, Wood oversees projects outside Southern Nevada, including federally funded work on military bases. Since graduating from CSU, he has been involved in projects with other companies including the Student Recreation and Wellness Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the MGM Mirage’s 600-foot-tall glass high-rise known as the Aria.

Wood credits much of his career success to his desire to work in construction since he was a child and to everything he learned while obtaining his degree.

“I am where I am today because of the construction management program at CSU,” he says.

CM Alumni Head South

Several CSU graduates, including alumni of the CM department, are working with the United States Antarctic Program at the South Pole. Andrew Williams, ’03 CM minor, and Ron Carpenter, ’74 CM, are among the researchers working on USAP’s research goals of understanding the Antarctic region and its ecosystems; understanding its effects on and responses to global processes such as climate; and using the region as a platform for upper atmosphere and space study.

Chris Wilson, ’05 CM, also is at the South Pole, working to install a webcam overlooking the Ross Island Wind Farm construction site on Crater Hill, Antarctica. This is a joint effort between Antarctica, New Zealand, and USAP to install three 330-kW Enercon wind turbines. When there is wind, turbines will supply all the power that Scott Base needs and will help supplement some of the electrical needs for the U.S. station, McMurdo.
Banquet Celebrates Partnerships, Accomplishments, Excellence

Last fall, recognizing that it takes a team to succeed, the CM department hosted a new annual event celebrating the strength of the partnership between the department and industry and recognizing future leaders of our industry. At the 2010 CM awards banquet, held on Sept. 9, Department Head Mostafa Khattab presented awards and recognized those who have contributed to high standards in the construction industry and in construction education and who have helped advance the department’s goal of becoming the nation’s highest-quality construction education program. The event also recognized the outstanding accomplishments of faculty, students, and student teams.

Over the summer, under the creative direction of CM Assistant Professor Ron Holt, the department redesigned the walls inside Guggenheim Hall to create a place to prominently and permanently recognize award recipients. Following are the newest additions to the walls of honor.

CM HALL OF FAME

Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors

This year, the Department of Construction Management is honored to induct the Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors into the department’s Hall of Fame. Individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Colorado State’s CM program are considered for induction.

Realizing the need to invest in education and participate in educating the future leaders of the mechanical contracting industry, CAMPC has gifted the department with $100,000 for five years. These funds pay the salary for an industry professional to teach an upper-division class in mechanical contracting and also help support the department’s CAMPC student chapter. Two years ago, CAMPC made an additional donation of $800,000, which was instrumental in completing the mechanical work in the new Preconstruction Center.

At the awards banquet, Khattab presented David Davia, CAMPC executive director, and Tom Stone, president, with the Friend of the Department Award, which they accepted on behalf of the association.

HARD HAT AWARD

Becky Bell

A year ago, longtime Colorado State employee Becky Bell retired from her position as assistant to CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab. This year, she returned to campus to accept the department’s esteemed Hard Hat Award.

During her Colorado State tenure, Bell received several recognitions and awards for her tremendous compassion and drive and for going beyond the call of duty to serve students and respond to requests from faculty.

Khattab says Bell was a valuable asset to him and the department, because of her comprehensive knowledge of the University and, above all, her passion and commitment to advance the program. Always willing to accept new challenges, Bell fulfilled her responsibilities with courtesy, proficiency, and a smile. She served as much as an ambassador for the CM program as an employee of the University.

“I knew I could always count on Becky, just as many other people counted on her, and when she left the department, I really felt that I was losing my right arm,” says Khattab. “For her loyalty, commitment, and support of the department, I am very pleased to present Becky with the 2010 Hard Hat Award.”

Students Graduating With Distinction

Fall 2009
Brian Boydstun, cum laude
Anthony Ray, magna cum laude

Spring 2010
Andrew Ellis, summa cum laude
Mark Rieffenberger and Terrance Unrein, magna cum laude
Maria Delgado, Jonathan Moffitt, and Brian Rankin, cum laude
Also, Brady Babbitt, Jeb Bair, and Terrance Unrein were named 2010 Outstanding Graduates of the College of Applied Human Sciences.

Scholarships Awarded

For FY 2010-2011, the CM department awarded 39 scholarships totaling $65,420.
Heavy CM Endowed Chair Initiative Close to Reaching First Phase Goal

This year, the department looks forward to celebrating completion of the first phase of a two-phase plan to establish a strong heavy construction management emphasis in the Department of Construction Management. Reaching the first-phase goal of $1.5 million will enable the department to appoint a part-time faculty member to strengthen the department focus in heavy civil.

“The CM team is committed to achieving excellence in construction education. Our drive to become the highest-quality program in the country draws key strengths from our industry and its support, friendship, and engagement with our program. Achieving our second-phase funding goal is critical to our ability to serve our heavy civil industry and students,” says Department Head Mostafa Khattab.

Since initiating a heavy CM emphasis in 2003, the department has hired Scott Shuler to develop the curriculum and a research laboratory. The department’s Colorado Asphalt Paving Association Asphalt Laboratory – the only lab of its kind in Colorado – was dedicated in 2006 and has since been supporting heavy/highway lectures and sponsored research projects aimed at improving paving materials and processes. To date, Shuler has developed two courses that educate students about roadway planning and development.

The endowment will provide a permanent emphasis in heavy construction management at Colorado State. The chair holder also will serve as a liaison between the industry and the CM department, inspire and lead students to choose heavy construction as a career choice, and maintain a partnership with the College of Engineering.

QuickPen Donates Software

In May, QuickPen – a software engineering company specializing in software for HVAC, mechanical construction, and the plumbing industry – donated software to the CM program, which was installed in the Preconstruction Center computer labs in time for fall semester.

Using the software’s AutoBid Mechanical program, contractors can quickly generate and manage accurate and flexible piping and plumbing bids. The extremely fast Graphical TakeOff allows estimators to spend more time on their final bid numbers, making them competitive. AutoBid provides greater flexibility to make last-minute changes to bids and still remain on track for the most aggressive deadlines. Estimators also can share their data using the Data Export Wizard feature.

QuickPen donated 12 sets of the software valued at more than $120,000. This generous contribution will help students stay current in the latest technologies serving the construction industry.

Giving

How Can You Be Involved in the CM Program? Let Us Count the Ways

1. Serve as a guest lecturer on campus or as a mentor for a student, club, or team.
2. Lead a group of students on a tour of your company or a job site.
3. Host a Colorado State CM alumni event in your area.
4. Provide internships for students.
5. Add your business card to CM’s Wall of Honor, $100.
6. Sponsor a booth at the CM Career Fair, $425-$600.
7. Sponsor an interview room in the department’s new Recruitment Center, $1,500-$5,000.
8. Contribute to a student scholarship or create a new one, $1,500 and up.
9. Sponsor a student competition team, $7,500.
10. Supply survey equipment for classes, approximately $10,000 per set (10 sets needed).
11. Support the Faculty Scholar Program, $20,000.
12. Name a room in the new Preconstruction Center, $150,000.
13. Support the Road to Excellence Fund for faculty and staff development, any amount.
14. Advance the Heavy CM Endowed Chair Initiative toward its $3 million goal.
15. Contribute to any of the department’s programs, disciplines, facilities, or initiatives.

Visit the “Support the Department” page on the CM website to make a donation and/or tell us how you’d like to engage in the education of today’s CM students, your future employees. Or to discuss these or other support ideas, contact Mostafa.Khattab@colostate.edu, (970) 491-6808.
Industry Invited to Sponsor Rooms Built by CM Students

Over the last year, more than 200 students enrolled in Construction Field Management (CON 351) classes, instructed by Kevin Jones, turned a former, third-floor attic in the old Industrial Sciences Building into a beautiful, new Recruitment Center, capping off the building’s renovation as the Preconstruction Center.

The project gave students hands-on experience building an area that now includes private interview rooms, a staging area, and a conference room for recruiters and students to use when meeting to discuss internship and employment opportunities.

The students’ work included layout, installing steel stud framing, and hanging drywall. In some areas, they left exposed some original architectural elements, including a 100-year-old brick wall and arched windows. CM Assistant Professor Chuck Smith completed the mechanical work.

The Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors donated the furniture for each of the gabled interview rooms, and South Valley Drywall donated the drywall finish work.

“The project gave the students a sense of satisfaction and giving back to the department,” says Jones. “When they go in for their interviews, they’ll be able to say, ‘I participated in the construction of these rooms’.”

Smith says the students did a great job on the project. “Basically, they took a sow’s ear and turned it into a silk purse.”

A plaque displayed at the entrance to the Recruitment Center acknowledges the students who did the work and the companies that donated materials and services.

You Can Sponsor an Interview Room

Sponsors of interview rooms in the CM department’s new Recruitment Center will receive a company plaque outside their respective room and two 22” x 28” glass frames inside the room. Nine rooms are available for sponsorship at $1,500 per room for one year and $5,000 per room for five years. For more information or to sponsor a room, contact Anna Fontana at (970) 491-4610 or Anna.Fontana@colostate.edu.

Kiewit and PD Restoration Contribute Time, Expertise to CON 101 Classes

Last spring, employees from Paul Davis Restoration and Renovation and Kiewit shared valuable information with Construction Management (CON 101) students, advancing their knowledge in several different areas.

Greg Makowski, Ron Carr, and Curt Comba from Paul Davis talked about their work on multiple restoration projects around the state. The company’s focus is on rehabilitating homes and buildings after they have been damaged by fire, flood, tornadoes, hail, vandalism, and other circumstances.

Eight presenters came from Kiewit, one of the largest construction and mining organizations in North America, to interact with the CON 101 students. The two-hour presentation addressed three topics – construction layout and quality control, design-build, and contract administration – and provided students with real-life applications of information they had learned in class.
CM students again captured the attention and votes of spectators with their 2009 Homecoming float. Floats created by CM students consistently receive top awards in the parade each year. Tying to the parade theme, “Celebrating the Past and Building the Future,” the 2009 float melded old materials and methods with innovative new construction technologies in one vertical structure. On the float were iron workers on a steel beam displaying safety equipment from the past and present. While the float traveled along the parade route, the iron workers animated the display by putting finishing touches on the structure using both old hand tools and new pneumatic equipment.

You Can Help CM Chart the Future

Your support will help the Department of Construction Management reach its goal of being the highest-quality construction education program in the country.

Enclosed is my/our check for a gift of $__________ (made payable to CSU Foundation).

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