CM students from CSU and 40 other universities competed at the 22nd Annual Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Competition February 10-13 in Sparks, Nevada. Over 1200 students were involved, making this the largest ASC competition ever.

CSU performed brilliantly, presenting eight teams and bringing home seven awards, including the regional first place award in the Commercial category and third place in Heavy Civil. Nationally, CSU was awarded Second Place in the LEED, Mechanical, and Preconstruction categories. Additionally, Jordan Heberlein, a CSU senior, won first place in the Alternate Competition Team Event, and Mark Riefenberger, a fellow senior, was awarded Most Valuable Presenter in the Mechanical competition.

The competition consisted of 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. After the briefing, students spent 14-20 hours creating a realistic schedule, producing an estimate, logistics, plan and any other information an owner would require for their project. After turning in their solutions, the teams spent the remaining time preparing for their presentations for the following day.

On day two, the teams presented their solutions, schedules, estimates, safety programs, past work history, and other documentation to a panel of judges made up of industry representatives who actually worked on the projects being presented. The judges awarded the top three teams in each category that presented the most accurate, professional, and feasible solutions.

Berah Taylor, a CM senior, said that the key to the group’s suc-

The Department of Construction Management is pleased to announce that it has secured a six-year accreditation renewal from February 2010 to February 2016 from the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). The official announcement was made February 20 at the ACCE annual mid-year meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

ACCE is a leading advocate of quality construction education programs around the world. It provides accreditation to colleges and universities that request the evaluation and meet the standards set forth by the Council. The program must demonstrate exemplary curriculum, faculty and facilities to provide the best and most current education possible to students.

CSU’s Construction Management program clearly met all the standards necessary to achieve accreditation, but it was not an easy feat to accomplish."In preparing for the ACCE visit, our team of faculty and staff worked on addressing several challenges that were threatening the accreditation status of our program,” said Dr. Mostafa Khattab, head of the Construction Management Department. These included instituting the undergraduate admission cap, hiring...
CM Professor Plays Role in Asphalt Research

Associate Professor Scott Shuler chaired the 2nd International Symposium on Asphalt Research at the 36th Annual Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show in Aurora, Colorado on February 24 - 26. The conference and show presented information on asphalt pavements of interest to every professional in the industry, including laborers, company owners, public works officials, engineers and managers. The event hosted seminars and conferences discussing emerging topics ranging from practical solutions to everyday asphalt paving problems to the most cutting edge subjects relating to asphalt rheology, such as using 3-dimensional finite element analysis. The symposium at the start of the conference highlighted the newest developments in asphalt research from industry leaders.

Only in its second year, the symposium has grown to be one of the most popular events at the conference. Shuler has been involved with the conference since 1981. This year, he delivered four presentations: A Quantitative Method for Determining when Binder Adhesive Strength is Adequate for Resisting Vehicular Damage in Emulsified Asphalt Chip Seals, Asphalt and Modified Asphalt Materials, Asphalt Mixtures and Mixture Design, and Preventing Bumps over Crack Sealants in Thin Overlays.

Thanks to the support and planning committees from the department of Construction Management at CSU, the conference and equipment show is recognized as the nation’s second largest event on asphalt pavement technology.

AGC Holds Northern Colorado Event at Preconstruction Center

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Colorado hosted its Northern Colorado Education Seminars at the newly remodeled Preconstruction Center on February 18th. The purpose of the event was to provide training and development sessions on various topics for construction industry members. Sessions covered topics including negotiating skills and tactics, safety on the job site, LEED for commercial buildings, job costs management and BIM case studies.

When asked why AGC chose CSU to hold the event, Kim Gill, Director of AGC Membership, said that AGC’s initiative includes targeting Northern Colorado members and the CSU AGC student club membership.

“AGC is well-established in the Denver area, and we want to reach out to our Northern Colorado members and get more students to attend.” About 65 people pre-registered for the event and many more, including several CM students, attended.

Bohren Teaches Class at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Lenora Bohren, Director of the National Center for Vehicle Emissions Control and Safety (NCVECS) and Director of Research at the Institute for the Built Environment (IBE), and Bill Parton, Senior Research Scientist and Professor in the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory (NREL), conducted a course entitled “Global Environmental Change: Problems and Solutions.” The course took place this spring at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU.

Together, Bohren and Parton addressed how human activities have altered the earth’s climate system and discussed ways to minimize their impact by using biofuels, reducing fossil fuel consumption, using energy more efficiently and altering the consumption of natural resources. They also utilized the expertise of several guest speakers to emphasize the topic. The four week course had 25 participants and was held in Routt Hall on the CSU campus.
Bi-Annual Career Fair Held at the Fort Collins Hilton

The bi-annual Department of Construction Management Career Fair was held on February 23rd at the Hilton in Fort Collins. Despite the current economic climate, the fair was considered a great success with 60 companies in attendance to meet with the CM students. Over 500 students attended the fair and spoke with over 160 company representatives. Most companies attended with the intent to hire interns and/or full time employees.

The CM Department is fortunate to hold its own independent career fair twice a year, separate from the CSU-wide fair. It is a unique opportunity for students to really concentrate their job-search efforts in their own designated field of study. It also gives them an opportunity to network directly with many industry professionals. The department is so grateful to have had so many companies attend and support the Construction Management program.

LCI Student Chapter to be formed at CSU

On February 26, Assistant Professor Farook Hamzeh participated in the formation of the Lean Construction Institute-Colorado chapter. The LCI, a non-profit corporation, was founded in August 1997 and sponsors research regarding project-based production management in design, engineering, and construction of capital facilities.

According to Hamzeh, the goal of the chapter 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. He hopes that the chapter will help motivate students to continue the tradition of leadership and success in Construction Management.

New Scholarship Sponsored by Graduating Students

Graduating seniors Brady Babbitt, Jeb Bair, and Terrance Unrein have decided to sponsor a scholarship for future CM student leaders. As officers of the CM Student Board of Directors (CMBoD) 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 acquiring an education.

“We have seen the positive impact and benefits of student leadership activities, and we want to give other students the opportunity to pursue them as well,” said 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 three seniors hope to name the scholarship the 2009 CM Board of Directors Student Leadership Award. They expect the scholarship to be at least $1,500 per year, awarded annually through the formal CM scholarship application process. The tentative criteria for qualification include participation as a past or current CM club officer and/or participation in a CM competition team. Applicants must demonstrate a proven track record of strong student leadership outside of the classroom, in addition to holding at least a 3.0 GPA.

According to Unrein, the goal 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. He hopes that the scholarship will help motivate students to continue the tradition of leadership and success in Construction Management.

The new Colorado chapter will aim to create a community of lean practitioners in Colorado who share knowledge and advance lean practices in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry. This approach maximizes value for the customer while minimizing waste.

As a founding member of this chapter, Hamzeh plans to follow up by starting an LCI student chapter at CSU that will be affiliated with the parent chapter. Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to join. There are no prerequisites other than a passion to learn and share knowledge of lean construction thinking and practices. Members of the student club will have special privileges to participate in LCI events in Colorado and nationally.
“I’m really proud of everyone on the team. They all did a fantastic job.”

Mark Rieffenberger, describing the Mechanical team’s specific project, said they were required to propose material handling, scheduling, storing, logistics, and safety strategies for the HVAC, plumbing, and piping of a twenty-six story high rise in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. “The open problem was equivalent to the CM capstone course condensed into fifteen hours,” he said. Regarding the competition itself, Rieffenberger added that, “This experience allowed us the opportunity to network with fellow students and industry members from across the country. Being rewarded for all of our hard work and dedication has to be the highlight of this great experience. Our team really worked hard and it paid off.”

Ron Holt, CM faculty member and coach of the Design-Build team, said, “We are extremely proud of all who participated and thank our team coaches and donors for their assistance in the ASC competition.”