CSU CM Students Once Again Earn Top ASC Finishes

Nine student teams from CSU attended the 2011 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Regions 6 & 7 Student Competition in Sparks, NV February 16-19. Over half returned with placing finishes in their categories. This was also the first year an electrical team from CSU attended the competition, and all the teams represented the department well as they worked on and then presented their projects to the competition judges.

In the regional competitions, CSU teams earned first place (Design-Build), second place (Heavy Civil) and third place (Commercial). According to the team coaches, all of the regional competing teams exhibited serious determination and teamwork to achieve all three placing finishes in the competition. Some even continued team-building after the presentations were finished. Bolivar Senior, one of the CM faculty coaches, said, “The Commercial team created the tradition of meeting after their presentation at a hamburger joint near the hotel. It has been a great tool for de-compressing and keeping the spirit de corps. This year it was a challenging proposition since there had been snow and especially low temperatures, but the tradition was kept and hopefully will remain part of the strong ties that the team members usually develop.”

Nationally, the CSU teams earned first place (BIM), third place (Mechanical), and the Graduate team earned an Honorable Mention. This is the first time the BIM team has placed in the competition, let alone managed the top honor, but team coach Caroline Clevenger is not surprised. “The BIM Team’s success is a great example of how CSU’s students benefit from industry and academia working together,” she said. “We could not have accomplished what we did without industry support. Specifically, Alan Fordham of Weitz Construction worked via web-conference several times during the fall semester with our students to teach them the hands-on skills of BIM. At the competition, the ASC judges commented on how impressed they were with our students, (Continued on page 3)

Spring Career Fair Another Success

The Spring Career Fair was held on Tuesday, February 22 at the Hilton in Fort Collins, and this year saw an increase in recruiter attendance since 2008. Sixty companies had booths at the fair and sent over 150 recruiters to talk with CM and engineering students. Approximately 500 students took advantage of the opportunity to present themselves to potential job prospects and learn more about the companies for whom they may eventually work after graduation.

The Fall 2011 Career Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20. Registration will open in May.
Ozbek Presents at International Conference

On February 8, CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek delivered a presentation entitled “A Multi-metric Performance Measurement Framework for Transportation Projects” to the 2nd International Transportation Construction Management Conference in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of this presentation was, by using an example application, to illustrate to transportation and construction management professionals the use of a powerful framework for project performance measurement and benchmarking. This framework can measure the overall performance of transportation projects by combining multiple metrics (such as safety, cost, schedule, quality, impact on public during the project, end-user satisfaction, etc.) into a single efficiency measure that can be used to identify what practices lead to good overall project performance.

Dunbar Appointed to Chair USGBC Committee

On February 16, CM faculty member Brian Dunbar was nominated and appointed to Chair the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED Faculty and Education Partners Advisory Committee. The committee, comprised of selected USGBC Chapter Executive Directors and national LEED faculty members, was established to be a communication link between the USGBC LEED Faculty, Education Committees, Chapter Delivery Partners, national and international USGBC Curriculum License Holders and USGBC staff on current and future paths and issues related to USGBC national and international Education, Curriculum, and Teaching.

CM Faculty Attend RM Asphalt Conference

Scott Shuler and Carla Lopez del Puerto, CM faculty members, presented at the 2011 Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show (RMACES) February 23-25. Kevin Jones, also CM faculty, attended the conference with several of his students from the Intro to Road Construction (CON270) class to allow them to witness professional asphalt pavement owners, contractors and scientists in action.

Lopez del Puerto presented the topic “Understanding and Working with the Hispanic Culture,” while Shuler presented several papers, including “Preventing Bumps Under Thin Asphalt Overlays Due to Crack Sealer”, “Bullet-Proof Chip Seals”, “Asphalt 101: An Introduction to Hot Mix Asphalt Materials”, “Practical Research on the Use of Recycled Roofing Shingles in Asphalt”, and “Asphalt 104: An Introduction to Hot Mix Asphalt Materials”.

For over 30 years, contractors, suppliers, governmental agency representatives, and consultants from the Rocky Mountain West have met at the annual RMACES in Colorado to discuss new developments and quality advancements of asphalt pavements. Attendees interact with national and international speakers on topics as diverse as the importance of a safety culture in the workplace to the latest asphalt pavement structural design theories.
CM Highlights

CSU CM Students Earn ASC Top Finishes (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

particularly without the support of formal coursework.” Brett Hanneman, BIM team member, said, “Our BIM Team was not on any of the 14 other schools’ radars as a threat, but when we were awarded First Place and became the National Champions, we showed everyone what could be accomplished from CSU students’ hard work and personal dedication. The ASC Student Competition was hands down the greatest experience of my collegiate career.” Jordan Heberlein, a member of the Mechanical team, agreed with those sentiments and expressed her opinion that competing with the CM teams is something every CM student should try. “The ASC competitions in Reno have been the best experiences that I have had, aside from internships, in college. I feel that the competitions helped prepare me more for the situations that I could encounter in the industry once I graduate. I really encourage all the new students in the Construction Management Department to get involved with the competitions.”

Following the competition presentations and judging, the CM Department held the first annual open house at the hospitality event hosted by ASC. Representatives from the department networked with industry members and representatives from other educational institutions and presented programs that CSU’s program is pursuing, including the CM Cares program and leadership course, the new service-learning and NAHB courses, and the internship program.

The CM Department is proud of its students’ achievements and looks forward to next year’s competition!

Holt Appointed to DBIA Committee

CM faculty member Ron Holt was appointed to the National Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) Education Committee. The purpose of the Education Committee is to assess and identify potential shortfalls in DBIA’s existing education program at both the regional and national levels. The Committee then makes recommendations on ways to improve processes and course objectives with the help of other DBIA committees, such as the Policy and Standards Committee. Along these same lines, this group provides insight on how to most effectively market and expand DBIA education.
CM Faculty Celebrate Service Milestones

The CM Department is proud to recognize the service milestone achievements made by two of its faculty in 2011. Mike O’Reilly, instructor for the Structures courses, has been at CSU for 10 years. Mike Cole, who teaches the construction surveying courses, has 20 years of service to his credit. Congratulations to both of these esteemed faculty! The CM department and the university look forward to working with you for many more years to come.

Upcoming Events

Spring PADB Meeting

The Spring Professional Advisory Development Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in 221 Guggenheim Hall.

FasTracks Tour (sponsored by CMAA)

The CM CMAA student chapter is hosting a tour of Union Station and light rail projects in Denver on Wednesday, April 6. The tour is open to a limited number of CM students, so sign up in the front office today!

ABC Competition

The ABC team will be competing in the Student Chapter Construction Management Competition at the ABC 2011 Edcon & Expo in San Antonio, TX April 12-15. The competition is designed to challenge construction knowledge, organization, time management, and presentation skills. Good luck, Team!