In December 2011, the first of three pledged payments was made by Dennis ('69) and Lynda Conway of Commercial Roofers, Inc., to name the conference room in the Preconstruction Center. On February 4, the Conways visited CSU for the Donors Luncheon and a tour of the building. Their pledged gift, totaling $150,000 over the next three years, will be used to equip the room with state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment to accommodate professional development activities and collaborations with industry and other education programs.

Conway purchased Commercial Roofers, Inc., in 1996, and the company has since been a major contributor in the construction of many of the larger resorts in Las Vegas. The largest roofing and waterproofing contractor in southern Nevada, Commercial Roofers specializes in new construction, roofing remodels, and emergency repairs. The company has won several awards and was ranked for two consecutive years as one of the fastest growing private companies in America by Inc. 5000.

Conway has been a donor to CSU for several years, particularly contributing to the CM program, and is a member of the CM Professional Advisory Development Board. He has served two terms on the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) and Western States Roofing Contractors Association boards, and he is a member of the board of the Las Vegas chapter of Associated General Contractors. Conway is currently serving a two-year term on the NRCA’s Executive Committee.

Spring Career Fair Sees Higher Numbers

On February 21, representatives of 64 construction industry employers, a slight increase over the last event, set up booths in the main ballroom of the Hilton on Prospect Road in Fort Collins for the Spring 2012 CM Career Fair. Nearly 400 students and over 30 alumni attended the career fair to network and learn about the companies’ past and present projects and open positions. The CM Career Fair is held every semester and is a perfect opportunity for students to research internship and career options open to them in their chosen fields.
CSU Students Perform Well At ASC

The Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6 and 7 competitions took place February 8-11 in Sparks, Nev. CSU sent nine teams to the competitions, all of whom performed admirably in pursuit of the top places in each category. Though not every team achieved a placing finish, all the students returned proud of having done their best and once again setting the bar high for teams from other schools to compete against.

The Heavy Civil team from CSU placed second in its problem category. The project, selected and sponsored by Kiewit Infrastructure Group, encompassed multiple aspects of Heavy Civil construction, including excavation and embankment, shored excavation, wall and bridge construction, cast-in-place concrete, reinforcing steel, and asphalt paving. Teams needed to utilize their knowledge of quantity take-offs, cost estimating and pricing, problem solving, scheduling and quote analysis to prepare a top notch presentation for the judges.

The Electrical team’s project involved designing the lighting and electrical systems for seven dwelling units, as well as a partial estimate, of Trinity Plaza, a 418-unit residential high rise located in San Francisco, Calif. Though the team did not place in the competition, team member Jessica De Luca received the 2012 Electrical Best Presenter Award from the category’s sponsor, Cupertino Electric.

Skanska USA Building recognized the LEED team’s efforts in its proposal and therefore awarded the CSU students with a Best Presentation Award in their category. The BIM team was awarded Best Presentation by Webcor Builders. Alexa Johnston, the Commercial team captain, was recognized by the judges with the Best Presenter Award, as was Allie Parker of the Mechanical team.

Teams Prepare For Big Competitions

February is normally seen as the big competition month for CM teams with the ASC competitions taking place, but there are several other events throughout the year at which teams from CSU demonstrate their prowess in fields such as estimating, scheduling, and problem solving. These contests, sponsored by major organizations in the construction industry, provide an excellent venue for students to showcase their talents and gain valuable experience outside the classroom.

A team of CSU students is currently preparing for the competition hosted by Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) at the 2012 Edcon and Expo in San Antonio, Texas, in April.

The contest will focus mainly on skills in the areas of estimating, project management and safety, so the team is working particularly hard on these areas as they practice.

The 2012 Green Energy Challenge is currently underway, hosted by National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and ELECTRI International, and the electrical team is hard at work on its project proposal. Students are evaluating the Conference Services Building located at 645 South Shields Street in Fort Collins for current energy consumption and will propose multiple energy efficient upgrades. Proposals will be judged on technical analysis, including lighting retrofit, energy consumption audit/retrofit, and proposed alternative energy. The competition deadline is April 15, and placing teams will present at the 2012 NECA Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., in October.

One team that already submitted its project before the New Year did so for the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) student chapter competition. While the team did not place in the Final Four this year, it did place in the top ten and will therefore travel to the MCAA National Convention in Orlando, Fla., at the end of March to receive recognition for their achievement.

Other organizations that host competitions include the Rocky Mountain chapter of Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) and National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). Competitions for these organizations have already passed this year. For information on the DBIA team results, see the Fall 2011 edition of CM Highlights. The NAHB team performed admirably at the contest in Orlando, Fla., in February, placing 14th out of 36 teams in a national competition that was extremely competitive.

Stay tuned to future issues of CM Highlights for the results of the contests yet to be determined!
Khattab Elected To Serve On MCERF Board

CM department head Mostafa Khattab has been elected to serve at the US Educator Member of the Mechanical Contractors Education and Research Foundation (MCERF) Board of Trustees. MCERF was founded by the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) to provide necessary education and research programs that MCAA cannot undertake. The foundation funds the mechanical industry’s most critical research needs and supports activities that allow mechanical professionals to succeed in their businesses.

The MCERF Board of Trustees is comprised of ten volunteer members including contractors, manufacturer/suppliers, local affiliates and an academic representative. The Board oversees the operation and industry interactions of MCERF to ensure adherence to the foundation’s mission.

WIC Hosts Fundraisers

CM’s Women in Construction (WIC) student club is not funded by a construction trade organization, but that doesn’t stop them from finding fun activities to raise funds for their initiatives. On February 20, WIC members hosted a 1970s themed skating night at Rollerland in Fort Collins, but the most successful fundraiser so far has been the bake sale held February 24. Members of WIC provided tasty treats for sale in the Preconstruction Center, and Jessica De Luca, president of WIC, said that students bought everything up. “People love their goodies,” she said. WIC plans to hold another bake sale on Thursday, March 22 in Preconstruction.

Students Attend RMACES

Over 25 students from various sections of the Construction Equipment and Methods (CON366) course attended portions of the Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show in Denver February 22-24. This was the 39th year for the conference, all three days of which were packed with information sessions, demonstrations and off-site tours that helped to expand students’ knowledge of asphalt and heavy construction technologies.

CM faculty member Scott Shuler hosted a special session, “Annual Flexible Pavement Research Symposium,” on February 22 that presented the latest advances in asphalt technology. Overall, students found the conference particularly engaging and informative as a supplemental learning experience outside of class and encourage future students of the course to attend next year.
Upcoming Events

Spring 2012 PADB Meeting
The PADB Meeting for the spring 2012 semester is scheduled for Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 1:30 PM in room 221 Guggenheim Hall on the CSU campus. We look forward to seeing our PADB members there!

2012 Senior Photo
Attention CM seniors graduating in spring, summer, or fall of 2012!
The 2012 Senior Photo is scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 3:30 PM on the steps of the Administration Building. Along with the Senior Photo, pre-registration for your personalized Ram Built hard hats will also begin. Be sure to watch your e-mail for further details.

CM Golf Classic
The annual CM Golf Classic is set for Friday, April 27, 2012 at the SouthRidge Golf Course in Fort Collins. Shotgun tee time is 8:00 AM. For more information, contact Andi Lewis at lwandi3@rams.colostate.edu or Zach Belsey at zbelsey@gmail.com.

CM Student Board of Directors Apparel Sales!
Two new colors are available for polo shirts, and drink koozies have been added to the inventory! All industry alumni interested in purchasing Ram Built gear should contact Jenna Merritt. Quantities may go quickly, so order now!

If you are participating in the CM Golf Tournament, be sure to purchase a polo and be the best looking golfer on the course!