CSU Teams Successful at ASC

After weeks of preparation, juggling homework and study time with the extra work necessary for success in the competition arena, the 60 students involved in the Associated Schools of Construction Regions 6 and 7 competitions returned with several more awards to add to the trophy cases in the CM department. “Every student that participated worked very hard for their team’s success and we are very proud of their commitment and achievements,” said CM department head Mostafa Khattab.

The annual competition involves member schools of the Rocky Mountain and Far West regions of ASC and is held each year in Sparks, Nev. CSU sent nine teams this year and returned with first place in the commercial and mechanical categories, second place in design-build and heavy civil, and third place in virtual design and construction. Ellen Ford of the Mechanical Team earned the Best Presenter Award, and Zach Hoover was a member of the team of alternates that placed second while Sean Hammer was a member of the one that placed third.

After the presentations were submitted, CSU staff members Anna Fontana and Khristy Preston hosted a meet and greet opportunity for industry attendees to talk with the teams, faculty and alumni present. Here, again, the students excelled as companies jumped at the opportunity to converse more closely with them. “The industry members were very excited to talk with our students,” said Preston. “We saw several company representatives stay the entire time to ensure they talked to every student possible. The students really impressed them and it seems many good connections were made.”

Congratulations to all the students who participated, and thanks to those who helped the students prepare.
ABC Continues Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

Members of the Associated Builders and Contractors student chapter at CSU take particular pride in devoting time to the local community. On February 16, members of the organization headed to Loveland, Colo., to assist Habitat for Humanity with a project in the area. "We originally had asked for a handful of individuals to help us with the work," said ABC president Stephenie Beal, "but our ABC members showed up in full force! We had 12 individuals show up for the build."

Thanks to the extra available hands, the student volunteers were able to finish hanging drywall, completed the screw checks, and painted a porch on one of the houses. "It turned out to be a great morning to give back to the community," said Beal. "We would like to thank Habitat for Humanity for letting us continually come and help."

Upcoming ABC events include a trivia night with industry members on April 11 and a presentation by Keith Meyer of the Mason Corridor Project on April 17.

CMBoD Encourages Student Participation Through Event

Students new to CSU and their degree programs may wish to get involved in program initiatives, but they do not always know where to start. The Construction Management Student Board of Directors, in an effort to provide this information and engage new students in CM extracurricular activities, hosted an information session on February 27 for students enrolled in the basic beginner courses, CON 101 and CON 151. "The attendance was great with a good mix of students both from Construction Management and Interior Design," said CMBoD president Steve Kenyon.

Officers of several CM student organizations, including Associated General Contractors, Colorado Contractors Association, and U.S. Green Building Council, attended to educate students on each club's activities and missions. Members of some of the competition teams, particularly the commercial, design-build, heavy civil, preconstruction, and virtual design and construction teams, provided details on the competition arena and its benefits in supplementing classroom education.

CM Cares proved to be a well-received and popular avenue for involvement. The applications available that night for the community service initiative were snapped up in no time as students clamored to get involved. Following the presentation, most of the students remained to continue networking with CMBoD members and other presenters to obtain even more information.
Students Attend RMACES for Hands-On Experience

Hands-on learning from experts in the field is a great asset to students, and there is arguably no better way to obtain a well-rounded learning experience from several experts at once than through attendance at a conference or exposition. Approximately 30 students in heavy civil-focused courses in the CM program attended the 40th annual Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show in Aurora, Colo., sponsored by the Colorado Asphalt Pavement Association. Contractors, suppliers, governmental agency representatives, and consultants from the Rocky Mountain West region meet at this annual event to discuss new developments and quality advancements of asphalt pavements and road construction.

The students in attendance were particularly struck by the amount of information available and the quality of the presentations. “I learned so much at this show,” said Cody Stoltenberg. “I especially enjoyed getting to look at and learn about all the different kinds of equipment that were there.”

Aaron Rieger truly appreciated the opportunity to see in person the equipment mentioned in class. “It was a good opportunity to see all the different companies that are working in heavy civil and the kinds of equipment that are available,” he said. “I learned a lot and what stuck out the most was really the large selection of equipment. The cost of this equipment was also a real eye opener.”

Faculty Publish on Sustainability Education, Service-Learning

Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek published an article in the International Journal of Construction Education and Research that details the success and engagement of integrating service-learning in construction education to teach sustainability. The article, “Teaching Sustainability Through Service-Learning in Construction Education,” used the inaugural offering of the service-learning course in spring 2011 as a case study to examine successful strategies and potential barriers to implementing a service-learning aspect in a construction education curriculum.

The service-learning course presented in the article involves the collaboration of CSU CM students, a local design professional, and at-risk high school students on the sustainable design and construction of a small community-based project. The class in spring 2011 worked to construct two sustainable dog houses for Rocky Mountain Great Dane Rescue. According to the article, this initial offering of the course met with significant success and recognition awards by the University. The findings published in the article suggest that this particular service-learning course has the potential to meaningfully engage students and increase interest in sustainability and community cooperation.
Upcoming Events

Spring PADB Meeting

Thursday, March 28, 2013, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM in 221 Guggenheim Hall. PADB members, the Spring Meeting is coming up quickly! The invitation and agenda have gone out, so be sure to RSVP by Friday, March 22. Questions? Contact us at (970) 491-7353.

Spring Break March 18-22

There will be no classes held during Spring Break. CM students, have a safe and fun Spring Break and we will see you back on March 25!

CM Senior Photo April 16

CM Seniors graduating in Spring, Summer and Fall 2013! The 2013 CM Senior Photo will take place on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, on the steps of the Administration Building at 2:45 PM. If you have not yet done so, be sure to register with the Front Office for your personalized Ram Built hard hat! See the e-mail sent March 5 for details.

CM Golf Classic April 26

The annual CM golf tournament is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2013, at South Ridge Golf Course in Fort Collins. Cost for students is $35 and registration forms are available in the CM Front Office (102 Guggenheim Hall). Forms must be submitted by Friday, April 12. Cost for industry players is $200. Contact Jonny Hendricks for more information at jonny.hendricks1@gmail.com.