Eight Teams Compete at ASC

This year’s Associated Schools of Construction student competition took place February 5-8 at the Nugget Casino and Resort in Sparks, Nev. CM sent eight teams to compete and earned a few more awards and recognitions for the program.

After earning a second place finish in the past few years, the Heavy Civil team brought home the first-place trophy from this year’s competition. “We worked hard to earn this one,” said team member Connor Bidrowsky. “It’s great to see that in our trophy case this year.”

CM’s Mechanical team earned third place in their problem. Their entry involved the process piping for a two-story photovoltaic tool install project, including the connections of the piping from the tie-in points from the base scope of work to the new tools used to create solar panels.

The students who traveled to Nevada as alternates also did well in their competitions. Alternates from every participating school were divided up into teams, and Steve Kenyon and Joe Kennedy earned first place while Bethany Wolk participated on the third-place team.

“The ASC competition was an incredible opportunity for students to get to experience real-life construction projects and problem solving in an extremely short amount of time,” said CM senior Kayla Boos. “Both challenging and engaging, it is one of the most exciting events for CM students.”

On the Friday evening of the competition, CM’s placement office coordinators Anna Fontana and Khristy Preston hosted a Meet and Greet opportunity for the companies in attendance to chat with the students. “CSU does a phenomenal job of marketing its students, and this event was no exception,” said Boos. “It was so great to network with the companies, talk about the competition, and talk about the great things CM does!”
NAHB Team Places Fifth

While eight teams competed at ASC, a team of six students participated in the Residential Construction Management Competition hosted by the National Association of Home Builders in Las Vegas, Nev. Fifty-six teams representing universities, community colleges, high schools and career technical schools across the country participated in the event, and CSU’s team earned fifth place out of 35 four-year school teams.

The team consisted of six students: Tyler Nichols and Matt Willey of the Finance/Real Estate program in the College of Business, and CM students Garrett Von Feldt, Kyle Schwab, William Kline, and Jacob Schafer. The competition scope involved planning 60 acres of a 400-acre housing development in Aurora, Colo. “The success of the team highlights the competitiveness of CSU’s Real Estate and Construction Management programs,” said Bethany Geisert, administrative coordinator in the Everitt Real Estate Center at CSU. “It also acknowledges the success that comes from sharing interdisciplinary knowledge through teamwork.”

Haller and O’Reilly Earn College Awards

There can be no doubt that the faculty and staff of CM work hard to achieve the program’s great success. This year, two members of the department were recognized with awards for their efforts from the College of Health and Human Sciences and will accept these honors at the All-College Meeting on April 3.

Kristin Haller, assistant to the department head, earned the Superior Staff Service Award in recognition of her exceptional service and dedication to the program. “Kristin is the ‘go-to’ person in the department when anyone has questions about department, college, or University policies or information,” said staff member Anna Fontana. “She literally has her hands in everything the department does, more than anyone probably understands, and we are lucky to have her.”

Haller’s work ethic and experience have served the program well during her tenure, and her expertise and precision make her a valuable asset. “In addition to her strengths, Kristin brings to this organization professionalism, experience, and a ‘can do’ attitude,” said department head Mostafa Khattab. “She is committed to getting the job done and doing it right.”

Mike O’Reilly, an assistant professor in the program, will receive the Outstanding Teacher Award, an honor given to exceptional teachers who exhibit superior and sustained performance in teaching that impacts student learning. “Mike is an outstanding teacher and makes a continuous effort every semester to engage his students in each and every lecture,” said CM senior Steve Kenyon. “Students respect him for taking one of the ostensibly most difficult-to-teach subjects, Structures, and making it one of the most engaging subjects in the program. He is a true teacher, not by trade or course of study, but someone who can explain difficult concepts and processes easily and naturally by innate ability.”

“One will never see him reading off a Power Point presentation,” said CM senior Kayla Boos. “Rather, he uses scale models, samples of materials, short videos, and humorous analogies to demonstrate concepts in class. Professor O’Reilly is an educator of the highest caliber and demonstrates passion and commitment far beyond what is expected of him.”

CM is proud of the dedication and achievements of its faculty and staff and looks forward to honoring these award recipients and others on April 3.

To see recipients of past awards, visit the College’s award page at www.chhs.colostate.edu/faculty-staff/awards.aspx.
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Students Experience RMACES

Up close and personal is an ideal method for students to get acquainted with construction equipment and heavy machinery, and those enrolled in CON 366, Construction Equipment and Methods, were able to experience just that at the 2014 Rocky Mountain Asphalt Conference and Equipment Show in Denver February 19-21. More than 30 students attended the event and were able to see road construction equipment, in some cases for the first time, and interact with industry representatives and contractors in the heavy civil sector of the construction industry.

“I attended the conference and learned what different pieces of equipment look like,” said CM senior Lauren Pick. “For example, road brooms are a lot more complicated than they seem! It was cool to see everything up close and not covered in mud. I thought it was a good experience.”

“I learned that there is a lot of equipment used to construct roads and there are many processes used in the asphalt industry,” said CM senior Paul Nauss. “I learned why companies tend to rent equipment versus purchasing it, and that quality and high efficiency are key.

“I had a great time communicating with the vendors and would recommend the conference to all.”

Upcoming Events

Spring 2014 PADB Meeting

PADB Members, the next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Guggenheim Hall. An invitation and the meeting agenda have been sent to members. RSVP by March 19! For information on the PADB, visit www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/about.aspx.

Annual CM Golf Tournament

This year’s golf tournament will take place on Friday, April 25, at the South Ridge Golf Course at 5750 S. Lemay Avenue in Fort Collins. Cost is $30 for students and limited sponsorships are available. Shotgun tee time is at 8:00 AM.

Students: Registration forms can be picked up in the CM Front Office (102 Guggenheim Hall). All forms and payments must be turned in by Wednesday, April 9.

Companies: If interested in joining and/or sponsoring students, contact Kayla Boos at kjboos@rams.colostate.edu.

Connect with us!