ASC Competition Success

The days leading up to Wednesday, February 4, were wrapped in a tense and excited atmosphere that permeated the halls of Guggenheim and Preconstruction Center. More than 60 students prepared for the Associated Schools of Construction regional and open problem competitions taking place in Sparks, Nev., February 4-6, and when it was time to showcase their talents, they did not let the Colorado State University community down.

All eight teams from CSU demonstrated why they claim to be among the best in the nation as they presented their problem solutions to the judges in their categories. “All of our students exhibited professionalism, dedication, and commitment in their work,” said CM department head Mostafa Khattab. “We are very pleased and proud of their achievements.”

In the ASC Region Six categories, the Design-Build team earned first place and the Heavy Civil team earned second. In the open problems, which are for all ASC-member schools, the Mechanical, Sustainable Design and LEED, and Preconstruction Services teams each earned second place. Some CSU students even earned individual recognitions for their work. Sean Howell on the Preconstruction Services team earned the Most Outstanding Student award from PCL Construction Services. Two alternates, Terry Williams and Wes Shaffer, earned second and third place respectively in the alternates competition.

“I had a great time,” commented Silas Dwyer, a member of the Virtual Design and Construction team. “I attended as an alternate in 2013 and competing in the full competition this year was well worth the time and energy involved. I believe this experience is very rewarding and recommend that all students in CM participate at least once.”
CSU Team Takes First in Inaugural Roofing Competition

Even in brand new competition arenas, CSU students prove to be the best of the best. A team of students travelled to New Orleans, La., for the first competition held as part of the Roofing Industry Alliance for Progress’ recent partnership with three universities. The students pitted their skills against those of students from Auburn University and the University of Florida, and returned home with the top prize.

The competition challenged students’ roofing knowledge, construction management skills, time management, and organizational and presentation skills. Teams were presented with a problem statement and required to research the project, review the plans, and assemble a full estimate and proposal to submit a qualified bid package. They made oral presentations at the 2015 National Roofing Contractors Association annual conference February 24 to a panel of industry judges.

CSU’s team brought home a trophy, a $1,000 award, and will be recognized in various media produced for the roofing industry.

Another Sold Out Career Fair Comes and Goes

The semi-annual CM Career Fair took place on February 24 at the Hilton Hotel in Fort Collins with 94 companies in attendance to meet with students and alumni for post-graduation careers, internships, and work experience opportunities. More than 20 companies ended up on the wait list as booths for the Fair sold out about two weeks prior to the event.

Members of Sigma Lambda Chi construction honor society helped students prepare for the Career Fair by hosting a resume critique on February 11. Representatives from Brinkman Partners, Dohn Construction, FCI Constructors, Hensel Phelps Construction Company, Neenan Archistruction, PCL Construction, and The Weitz Company attended to assist students in one-on-one sessions reviewing and revising their resumes. SLX plans to offer this event each semester prior to the Career Fair.

Chats with company representatives at their booths during the fair revealed their pleasure with how well the students were dressed and prepared to speak with them. Many expressed an interest to return again to the Fall 2015 Career Fair, the registration for which will open this summer. More information can be found at http://www.cm.chhs.colostate.edu/careers-internships/phelps_industry/career.aspx.

First Pillar Contributions to CM Cares Received

The new sustainable funding source for CM Cares is off to an excellent start as the first contributions from two pillar sponsors were received. Swinerton Builders, the first Gold Pillar Partner sponsor, pledged $100,000 to the CM Cares Endowment and contributed its initial $20,000. The first Silver Pillar Partner at $50,000 pledged, Associated General Contractors of Colorado Future Leaders Forum, has contributed its initial offering of $10,000.

The goal of the CM Cares Endowment is to generate a dependable budget for all future CM Cares endeavors and improve students’ ability to make a difference in the lives of others while putting their classroom skills to work in real-world projects. Once fully funded, the $1 million endowment will provide approximately $45,000 per year to alleviate some of the financial needs of the program. For more information and to learn how you can become a pillar sponsor, visit www.cm.colostate.edu/cm-cares/endowment.aspx.
A Message from PADB Chair, Rick Tucker ('90)

“As incoming Chairman of the Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB), I want to extend one more sincere note of appreciation to our Past Chairman, Doug Finley ('88). Doug showed great leadership and demonstrated extreme valor during his tenure. I also want to welcome Chairman-Elect Brett Brown ('98) to his duties supporting me through my tenure.

“An additional note of appreciation needs to be passed on to every individual and company who has continued to support the CSU Construction Management (CM) department. It is truly inspirational to see so many actively supporting the CM department. Whether it is a scholarship, competition team, interns, Boot Camp, CM Cares effort, class participation, or PADB, they are all equally appreciated. Each of these efforts helps to achieve the main goal of providing the best educational experience for the talented group of CSU students. CSU CM cannot be what it is today without each of you and your company’s assistance. Thank you all for your continued support.

“PADB is the venue for the CM Program and industry to share current thoughts and ideas. This relationship ensures the graduating students have the educational background necessary for the current construction market. Likewise, PADB is a forum for the CSU CM team to seek industry support for new ideas and efforts. Having an industry relationship is one of many requirements for the accreditation of the CSU CM program with the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). Did you know, CSU Construction Management is the ONLY ACCE accredited program in the State of Colorado? TRUE!

“I am proud to declare the CSU Construction Management program as one of the best in the United States. This has been due to the diligent efforts of many, but it really starts with the CM department head, Mostafa Khattab, and the exceptional CM faculty and staff. The entire CM Department has displayed abounding energy to outdo themselves each and every year in order to stay on the cutting edge and be one of the best.

“The proof of being one of the best is demonstrated by what others are trying to duplicate from the CSU CM program. There are many attempts across the nation to replicate the unique aspects of the CSU CM program.

“So – what is the next move to continue being the best? That is where each of your efforts comes into play. Get involved. Remember, no matter where you are on the way to the top, every single step moves you towards the top. Participate as much as you can.

“I look forward to PADB continuing the efforts to educate the young students about great careers in CM, exchanging ideas about program enhancement, curriculum refinement, and celebrating the continued successes of the CSU Construction Management program. If you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

“I am proud to be ‘Ram Built!’

Tucker joined Hensel Phelps in 1991 and is the executive vice president and oversees the Plains, Southwest, and Western districts of the company, as well as the Corporate Program Development based in Greeley, Colo. Giving back is an important aspect of his life and he is actively involved in supporting local, regional, and national organizations, including American Cancer Society, United Way, and Colorado Youth Outdoors. The CM program looks forward to working with him as the chair of the Professional Advisory Development Board.

Rocky Ford Students Visit CM

On February 18, 35 students from Rocky Ford Junior-Senior High School travelled four hours up I-25 to visit with the CM program and spend some time on the CSU campus. For many of these students, this was their first visit to a major college campus. The group spent the day touring CM facilities and participating in various group activities that exposed them to the possibilities of a career in Construction Management.

This visit was part of the Alliance Partnership through CSU’s Access Center. Rocky Ford is one of ten high schools in Colorado specifically chosen to collaborate with CSU to promote education beyond high school and send a greater number of students to college. The Alliance Partnership was created in 2006 to unite students, families, high school personnel, and the CSU community in the common goal to elevate the expectation of students and their families regarding the importance, access, and attainability of higher education.

The students from Rocky Ford participate in a BIM activity led by assistant professor Jeff Wilkes during their visit to CSU
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RAM BUILT NEWS
Industry Enhances the Classroom Experience

Guest lectures from industry are a portion of nearly every CM course, but in the case of CON 371, Mechanical and Plumbing Systems, industry members are teaching all the material covered during the 16 weeks of this spring semester. Thanks to insight and partnership with the Mechanical Contractors Association of Colorado, the CM program is taking advantage of mechanical industry expertise to give students the best possible instruction for their future careers.

Doug Becker (’03), a senior project manager at Murphy Company, covers the first half of the semester and topics ranging from HVAC fundamentals to energy recovery and natural ventilation. His own career involves leading Murphy’s regional operating group in northern Colorado, establishing the operating plans and overseeing project management of mechanical installations for various projects, all of which lends a valuable industry perspective on the material taught in the course.

John Thomas, director of special projects at Swanson Rink in Denver, has nearly 30 years of experience in the mechanical industry and covers the second half of the course, instructing students on topics including mechanical plans and specifications, piping equipment and systems, and plumbing plans. Swanson Rink led the movement to 3-D design more than 15 years ago, and Thomas’ work in this area will prove particularly beneficial in keeping CM students on the cutting edge of technology and procedures.

Assisting in the coursework is Dennis Pettitt, retired chief operating officer of Trautman and Shreve, Inc., who has taught CON 471, Project Management for Mechanical Systems, at CSU since 2012.

Former CM Staff Member Returns

It’s always a treat when a well-remembered face returns, and the CM program is pleased to welcome back a dear friend. Becky Bell, former assistant to the department head, has joined the department on a part-time basis to assist with industry and alumni relations.

Bell was a valued member of CM from 2002 until her retirement in 2009, but she had worked for CSU in various capacities for nearly 23 years. She was a recipient of CSU’s “Everyday Hero” award and the Superior Staff Service Award from the College. Her new role in CM involves working closely with the department head on development and industry relations, alumni networking, and assisting department offices with various initiatives. Industry liaisons may reach Bell at 970-491-1502 or becky.bell@colostate.edu.

SLX Installs New Members

On February 18, Sigma Lambda Chi construction honor society installed nine new members in a ceremony that utilized the entire Industrial Sciences Lab building. The inductees are Mary Connell, James Dumanovsky, Madison Gerecke, Chris Gibbens, Sam Schneider, Dylon Tomlinson, Harrison Tucker, and Richard Varney. The ceremony included an honorable recognition for Professor Ron Holt as well. “We are proud to recognize these individuals for their hard work and dedication to their education, campus, and community,” said SLX president Silas Dwyer.

Companies and students participating in the resume critique held February 11, one of many events hosted by SLX throughout the semester
Upcoming Events

2015 Green Energy Challenge
Following an excellent performance in the 2014 Green Energy Challenge hosted by ELECTRI International, a group of CM students has signed up to compete in the 2015 contest. They are seeking input and guidance from members of the electrical construction industry. If you or your company are interested in lending a hand, please contact Brent Sigmon at brent.sigmon@colostate.edu.

Spring 2015 PADB Meeting
The spring 2015 PADB meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 25, at 1:30 p.m. in the Preconstruction Center at CSU. If you are interested in becoming a member of CM’s Professional Advisory Development Board, visit http://www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/member-info.aspx.

Annual CM Golf Tournament
Don’t miss this annual classic! The CM Golf Tournament will take place on Friday, April 24, 2015, at 8 a.m. at the South Ridge Golf Course in Fort Collins. Students wishing to participate must register in the CM Front Office (102 Guggenheim Hall) no later than Wednesday, April 8. Companies interested in joining the fun may contact CMBd director of operations Jennifer Hansen at jhansen297@aol.com for information.

Dine Out to Benefit CM Cares!
Eat lunch or dinner at Chili’s restaurant and support the CM Cares Spring 2015 projects at the same time! The kick-off date for the Chili’s CM Cares Give Back program is Wednesday, March 25, between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. at either the Fort Collins or Loveland locations. Extra dates include Monday, March 30; Thursday, April 2; Monday, April 6; and Thursday, April 9!

Simply present the flyer located at www.cm.colostate.edu/cm-cares by paper or on your phone at either location and 15% of your tab will go to CM Cares. If you forget the flyer, just mention CM Cares and that works, too!