Preconstruction Center Formally Unveiled

On January 27th, the CM department hosted a dedication ceremony to unveil the new Preconstruction Center to the public. The ceremony recognized the 170 donors who contributed to the $5 million renovation of the old Industrial Sciences building and the state-of-the-art technology available to students in the new facility.

Special guests of the ceremony included the major donors to the project, especially Ed Haselden of Haselden Construction, who contributed the initial donation to renovate a classroom and laboratory space in the building. The room is now named in his company’s honor. Other esteemed donors include Saunders Construction, PCL Construction, Hensel Phelps Construction, G.E. Johnson, Gerald H. Phipps, and Kiewit Companies. Representatives from each attended the celebration.

Pride glowed on every face as CSU President Tony Frank and CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab recognized the individuals responsible for the renovation project. Everyone present expressed their fondest hope that this new learning space would grant students access to the best educational environment possible to prepare them for the challenges they will face in an ever-changing and expanding industry.

Bookstore Awards Gift Certificates to CM Students

Five CM students were selected to receive $100 gift certificates to the CSU Bookstore for the purchase of textbooks this spring semester. The CM department strives each semester to submit textbook adoptions for classes as early as possible to ensure the best buyback prices and the most used books available for students to purchase each semester. The Bookstore appreciates this commitment and is pleased to offer the awards.

The recipients were Kelly Aceves, Patrick Ennes, Michelle Meis, Trevor Prophet, and Jade Wilson. Each student expressed their appreciation for the award and its assistance in purchasing materials for classes.
Dr. Mehmet Ozbek was selected to serve on the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Management Practices in Construction (MPIC) Committee. The mission of this national committee is to help the ASCE Construction Institute (CI) membership compete in the marketplace by providing timely, high quality construction management knowledge.

The MPIC Committee surveys the CI membership on a regular basis, identifies their needs, and develops construction management related conference specialty sessions and publications to meet those needs. The Committee continuously recruits new members, both individual and corporate, to stimulate thought and promote creativity. MPIC also creates working relationships and links among construction managers, engineers, architects, universities and constructors.

MPIC Committee activities result in the CI and ASCE becoming the premier association in the construction industry, thereby increasing revenues of the organization. The Committee’s leading edge seminars, conference sessions, and publications result in high value events with an innovative approach and enlightening nature.

Sustainable Design and Construction Class Held in Costa Rica

While most students were enjoying a Winter Break away from class, several CM students joined those from the University of Costa Rica’s School of Architecture for study in Costa Rica. CM faculty members Brian Dunbar and Caroline Clevenger teamed up with University of Costa Rica professor Alejandro Ugarte to teach the class in Costa Rica January 5th through 15th.

The three-credit course focused on the major components of sustainable design and construction, including energy, healthy buildings, cultural and natural resource use, and other environmental and economic issues of sustainable built environments. The students attended lectures and interacted with the environment in 14 different classrooms that included outdoor spaces. Classes were held all day and students worked in groups of three on sustainable design projects. Despite the long days in class, students still found time for extracurricular activities including hiking, boating, snorkeling, and dancing.

Clevenger and Dunbar were particularly excited to be involved with the students. Clevenger mentioned that, “The course, primarily made up of students from both the United States and Costa Rica (with a few additional nations represented) provided an exciting multi-cultural, multi-discipline learning environment. Students and faculty alike were motivated and inspired by the class. It was particularly meaningful to learn about the built environment in the context of another country and culture.” Dunbar added that, “Students from Costa Rica and Colorado all meshed right from the start and created friendships that will likely continue for many years.”

Students returned from the course with valuable knowledge and experience. CM graduate student Peter Watson stated that he could not “think of a better place to study sustainability than a wildlife preserve in Costa Rica. There were no TVs, phones, radios or newspapers; just our class in a remote, natural setting.” John Keller, also a CM graduate student, described the course as “a semester’s worth of education along with spiritual revitalization. I gained a wealth of knowledge, and came home recharged and inspired to use it. I recommend this course to students from any discipline.”
MCAA Team Finalist in the Student Chapter Competitions

On January 13th, a panel of judges sat down to evaluate 26 bid proposal entries from the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Student Chapter team from across the country. CSU’s own MCAA team placed among the top four finalists with the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and Oregon State University. The judges evaluated each written proposal for overall quality, project management and organization, feasibility of construction and project schedules, and accuracy/feasibility of conceptual costs. The project this year involved the five-phased renovation of a 42,000-square-foot cafeteria serving Denver Health Medical Center in Denver, CO. This is based on an actual project performed by Braconier Plumbing & Heating Company in Englewood, CO.

Each of the finalists will now go on to conduct oral presentations of their proposals for a new panel of judges on March 29th at the MCAA Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA. The teams will have 20 minutes to present their proposals to the judges and will be evaluated according to the overall quality of the presentation, the feasibility of the project management, organization and schedule, accuracy and completeness of project costs, and answers to the judges’ questions.

We wish our team the best of luck in the upcoming Finals!

Former CM Graduate Student Publishes Post-Disaster Reconstruction Article

Former CM graduate student Jonathan Noggle (’09) had an article based on his professional paper published in the October 2009 edition of Monday Developments Magazine. The article, “Recycle the Rubble: The Benefits of Using Recycled Concrete Aggregate,” discusses the benefits of recycling concrete and other materials when rebuilding after a natural disaster, including sustainability, economic and environmental impact and future markets for reusing concrete.

The magazine targets international development and nongovernmental humanitarian organizations that operate in every developing country. Noggle’s article emphasizes the idea that reusing available materials is not only cost effective, but can generate real profit to those seeking the opportunity. “While writing my paper, I had one goal in mind: to correlate the relationship between rapid reconstruction and a returned profit,” Noggle said. “My paper serves as a stepping stone for entrepreneurs pursuing this type of for-profit venture.”

Noggle also notes that governments lacking the funds to rebuild using fresh materials can benefit greatly by using debris already at hand at the reconstruction site. “As recently seen in Haiti, disasters cause significant damage to infrastructure and human dignity. There exists a great need to rebuild quickly and as sustainably as possible. My paper suggests utilizing local concrete debris for reconstruction efforts.”
CM Faculty Presents on Performance-Based Contracts in Road Work

CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek presented his paper, “Implementation of the Performance Measurement Framework for Performance-Based Road Maintenance Contracts,” at the Transportation Research Board’s (TRB) 89th Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., January 10-14. The paper outlined research involving road maintenance in Virginia and the use of performance-based contracts to guarantee the quality of work done on the state’s highways.

When asked about the presentation’s significance, Ozbek noted that, “This paper’s purpose is to present, to the transportation agencies, the steps performed to implement the level-of-service effectiveness component of a systematic and comprehensive framework used to measure the performance of performance-based road maintenance contractors. Even though the framework is developed and implemented for one particular state DOT, it can be adopted by any other transportation agency and adapted to meet its own needs.”

The audience of this well-attended presentation session was mainly the practitioners in the transportation industry from both the national and international arena as well as the academicians with an interest in asset management research.

CM Alumni at the South Pole

Several past CSU graduates, including two alumni of the CM department, are currently working with the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) at the South Pole. Andrew Williams (CM Minor, 2003) and Ron Carpenter (CM, 1974) are among several researchers working on the USAP’s three research goals: to understand the Antarctic region and its ecosystems, to understand its effects on and responses to global processes such as climate, and to use the region as a platform for upper atmosphere and space study.

ABC Team Raises Money Through Dessert Auction

The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) student club’s competition team used sweets to raise money for the 2011 competitions. The auction was held January 21st at the Lakewood Country Club with several ABC members in attendance.

The auction sold desserts ranging from CSU cakes to decadent cheesecakes. Purchasers included Spacecon Specialty Contractors; Duro Electric Company; LPR Construction Company; Greiner Electric, LLC; Matsuo Engineering; Hensel Phelps Construction Company; MTech Mechanical Technologies Group; Lockton Companies; Milender White Construction Company; Bauerle and Company, PC; Encore Electric, Inc.; Willis of Colorado, Inc.; FCI Construction Company; and Shaw Construction. The auction raised over $12,000 for the competition team and to support the student club.

The club’s faculty advisor, Mary Nobe, said it was “a wonderful way to raise funds. It was especially nice for the students and myself to hear and feel the support of the ABC members for the CSU ABC Chapter and Team. I would like to thank the attendees and the bidders of the dessert auction.”
Beginning this semester, the student-run Construction Management Board of Directors (CMBoD) student club will have a new president. Former president Terrance Unrein is passing the torch on to Ben Farrow to lead the Board through 2010.

The CMBoD president’s responsibilities include developing and implementing administrative and operational procedures for the 11 student clubs in the department; organizing, funding and operating various department-wide student events; serve as the main student liaison between faculty, staff, the student population and the construction industry; uphold a common goal and vision for the student clubs; and work with the CM Administration to continue the program’s progression toward being the best CM program in the nation.

Unrein, president of the Board during 2009, knows the weight of this responsibility and the challenges Farrow will face, but he is confident in the future success of the Board under Farrow’s leadership. “As I pass the torch of the leadership to new incumbent CM BoD officers I hope that they continue to operate on 3 instrumental principles: innovation, collaboration, and unobstructed motivation. With the responsibilities entailed with the CM BoD, the officers must possess and practice a great deal of innovation to create new opportunities for our student body. And in order for them to accomplish this, a collaborative team must be forged where students, faculty, staff, our whole college, and the construction industry come together to execute new events and continue the progression of our Department. But none of this can be accomplished without a strong foundation of motivation. These positions are very high demand and stressful at times. So I hope that our new leadership can uphold a strong level of energy and motivation throughout the entire student body.

In the past years, the CM BoD has grown to become a high performance executive student organization with limitless boundaries of opportunity. I am confident that Ben Farrow and the other new officers will continue to take our Department’s student body to new heights.”

For his own part, Farrow is eager to set his plans for the CMBoD into motion. “My main goal as President of the BoD is to increase student involvement in clubs, along with achieving larger student turnout for CM events. Another is to increase collaboration between students in the CM department and students in departments such as Interior Design and Engineering.” When asked about his philosophy regarding the Board and its functions, Farrow’s response proves that the future of the BoD is in good hands: “My philosophy for CM Clubs is their continued effort of supplementing student’s education through information sessions and networking opportunities sponsored by industry members, which enhances our knowledge based on their experiences in the real world.”

CAHS Says Farewell to Dean Mason

On January 4th, the College of Applied Human Sciences held a farewell reception for Dean April Mason as she embarked on her new position as Provost and Senior Vice President at Kansas State University. The College put together a memory book with photos taken during her time with the University and presented it to her at the reception. Her presence in the College will be sorely missed, but we wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors!
After three years of hard work and collaboration among many different entities, one of the largest solar plants on a U.S. university campus is now housed at CSU. CSU worked with a private developer and the local electric utility to construct a 2,000 kW ground mounted tracking solar electric array on the Foothills Campus. The two megawatt solar power plant, housed on 15 acres, will generate more than three and a half million kilowatt hours of clean electricity annually. This is enough to meet more than 10 percent of the electricity consumed by the CSU Foothills Campus.

CM Adjunct Professor, Carol Dollard, was involved with the project from start to finish. “In some ways it is really miraculous that such an outstanding project finally came to be,” she said. “There were so many hurdles to clear along the way: the crash of the financial markets, the legal contractual, and design issues on this project, the construction phase was relatively straightforward. Not to say the construction was without challenges. Almost 3,000 piers had to be drilled in sometimes rocky soil, tracker hardware had to be installed in very close alignment in order for the system to operate properly, and almost 8,700 solar panels had to be installed and wired. In addition, the abundance of rattlesnakes on the site gave the contractors a few more challenging moments.

As the site host, CSU’s role in this project includes leasing the land for the solar plant and purchasing the power generated from the plant. This is a wise investment for CSU as the costs of traditional electricity will rise while the cost of power from this plant will remain consistent. This is also a step in contributing to Colorado’s “New Energy Economy”. The $10 million project added $1.7 million in labor, subcontracts and materials to the local economy.