

MCAA Team Places 2nd in National Student Competition

CM's Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) student team placed second in the MCAA Student Chapter national competition. The announcement was made at the MCAA Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA, March 28 – April 1.

This year, 26 teams competed by submitting proposals which were then evaluated by judges from the MCAA Career Development Committee to determine the top four finalists. Each proposal was evalu-

ated based on overall quality, feasibility of conceptual design and proposed project schedule, and the accuracy and completeness of project costs. The project on which the proposals were based is a two-year, five-phased renovation of the 41,000 square foot cafeteria at the Denver Health Medical Center.

The four finalists this year were from CSU, Oregon State University, University of Washington and University of Wisconsin-Stout. CM Department Head and

team coach, Dr. Mostafa Khattab, said that the team is very proud of its accomplishment. "This is a proud moment for our team. We achieved this recognition because of the continued support of our program by MCAA. Our students met the challenge presented to them and performed brilliantly," said Khattab.

Congratulations to the team on another stellar performance and we look forward to another great achievement next year!

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MCAA Team at the MCAA Annual Convention in San Francisco.

Mehmet Ozbek Publishes Papers on Infrastructure Maintenance Efficiency



Dr. Mehmet Ozbek,
CM Faculty

CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek published two papers in the March issue of the *ASCE Journal of Infrastructure Systems*. Both papers focus on the efficiency measurement of the maintenance of roads and bridges in the United States, particularly in Virginia.

One paper, "Data and Modeling Issues Faced during the Efficiency Measurement of Road Maintenance using Data Envelopment Analysis," examines the problems Departments of Transportation (DOTs) encounter when trying to efficiently and effectively maintain existing road systems

throughout the country. The goal of the research performed by Ozbek and his co-authors is to develop and implement a framework for measuring the overall efficiency of road maintenance operations, taking into account environmental and operational factors that affect this efficiency. The paper introduces the framework and addresses the data and modeling issues faced during the early stages of implementing the idea on a case in Virginia.

The other paper, "Efficiency Measurement of Bridge Maintenance using Data Envelopment Analysis," is a companion

piece to the other and presents the core implementation stages of the proposed framework as applied to bridge maintenance operations in seven counties in Virginia. The research tries to identify the relative efficiency of each county, the benchmarks that pertain to the most inefficient counties, and the effects of environmental and operational factors on each county's efficiency. Together, both papers present a method of understanding why some counties are more efficient than others in their road maintenance practices.

Kristin Haller Attends Advising Conference in Colorado Springs



Kristin Haller,
CM Key Advisor

CM Key Advisor Kristin Haller attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 10 Annual Conference March 3-5 in Colorado Springs. The event was held at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort and included over 180 academic advisors from more than 30 institutions across the Rocky Mountain region. The theme this year was "Flourishing in Tough Times: Implementing an Advising 'Stimulus Package' on Your Campus."

NACADA is an organiza-

tion that "promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students." Over 40 professional development sessions were presented during the three-day conference, covering topics that ranged from advising students during the critical sophomore year to advising for student athletes and their intense schedules. Haller attended workshops on working with international students, preparing for

and working with active military and veteran students, strategies for working with students on probation, distance advising, and developing living-learning communities.

Haller hopes to use everything she learned to improve the advising standards in the CM department. "I look forward to developing new resources and programs for students based on the ideas that were presented and shared by other academic advisors," she said.

CCA Hosts Board Meeting in Preconstruction Center

The Colorado Contractors Association (CCA) Board of Directors held its March meeting at the Preconstruction Center on March 31. The CCA represents nearly 400 companies throughout Colorado that construct most of the

state's public works projects and support the industry statewide.

The meeting was held at the Preconstruction Center to provide an opportunity for the Board to tour the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art facility.

Tony Milo, Executive Director of the CCA, said the meeting location also allowed the Board to "learn more about the great progress the CSU CM program is making in helping develop industry professionals, many of whom will one day work in the heavy / highway and civil construction industry."

Topics covered at the meeting included issues that impact the construction industry statewide, especially ballot measures currently proposed for the next election, Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61. Also on the agenda was the funding of the Heavy Highway En-

dowed Chair for the CM program. According to Milo, "The CCA Board has helped to raise about \$1 million so far and is determined to raise the additional \$500,000 needed to begin the Heavy Highway Endowed Chair at CSU."

Following presentations by CM faculty about the Chair position and the advances the CM program has made, the Board expressed its confidence in the program's direction. "The CM representatives at the meeting all did a great job and the Board was very excited about the progress CSU's CM program is making," said Milo.



Dr. Angela Guggemos, CM Faculty, presents at the CCA Board meeting

Brian Dunbar Helps Design Workshop for USGBC

CM faculty member Brian Dunbar was selected by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) to assist with the curriculum design of the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Building Design & Construction Rating System workshop to be offered throughout the United States and around the world. Dunbar was also invited to teach the pilot course of the workshop on March 3 to design and construction professionals at the LEED Plati-

num headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The new workshop was created in response to the release of LEED 2009, the USGBC's recently instituted updated version of its LEED Rating Systems. It is designed for professionals and students who are interested in sitting for the new LEED Green Associate exam and learning more about how to implement the LEED Building Design & Construction system into various construction projects. The workshop high-

lights many certified projects across the nation, including Bethke Elementary in Timnath, CO, the LEED for Schools Gold certified project coordinated by the Institute for the Built Environment at CSU, of which Dunbar is the executive director. Professionals in real estate, engineering, construction, architecture, planning, and facilities management attended the pilot workshop.

When asked about his role in helping to develop the workshop's curriculum,



Brian Dunbar, CM Faculty

Dunbar said, "It was an honor to be asked to develop and teach the new workshop. The curriculum will now be offered to universities, design and construction firms, and professional associations throughout the United



Dax Wood,
2004 CM Alumnus

CM Alum Named One of Nevada's Rising Stars of 2010

Dax Wood, a 2004 graduate of CSU's Construction Management program, was one of ten up-and-coming business professionals named the Rising Stars of 2010 by the Las Vegas Business Press. The awards were presented by Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman on March 19 at a luncheon held at the Hard Rock Café on the Las Vegas Strip. Wood shared the stage with other young professionals including

attorneys, managers, a marketing director, a public relations manager and a spa operations manager.

Wood is currently a project manager with P1 Group in Las Vegas and oversees work occurring outside Nevada, including federally funded work on military bases. Since his graduation from CSU, he has been involved in projects with other companies including the Student Recreation and Wellness Cen-

ter at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the MGM Mirage's 600-foot-tall glass high-rise known as the Aria.

Wood credits much of his career success to his desire to work in construction since he was a child and to everything he learned while obtaining his degree. "I am where I am today because of the Construction Management program at CSU," he said.

CMAA Members Tour Turbine Blade Manufacturing Site



CMAA members at Vestas facility

On March 2, members of CSU's Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) student chapter visited the Vestas Blade Manufacturing Facility in Brighton, Colorado. They were hosted by Joseph Culkin and his team from Nolte and

Associates, Inc.

Vestas produces blades and other components for wind turbines installed around the world. Nolte performs design and agency oversight of the manufacturing facility and its many general contractors. The students were able to tour each manufacturing facility after being

briefed on the site layout, work completed, and projected work. The chapter's faculty advisor, Mehmet Ozbek, said, "It was a wonderful experience and a perfect opportunity to learn firsthand how 'grey' the lines of responsibility can get. It was a rare opportunity of insight into the construction industry."

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Scott Glick Publishes Article in CSU AlumLine

CM faculty Scott Glick was asked by the CSU Alumni Association to write an expert article on the topic of home remodeling for the e-newsletter, AlumLine. The article appeared in the March 2010 issue and is a good resource for the first-time remodeler to learn where to start and what to do when hiring a contractor.

The main focus of the article is the importance of the homeowner doing research before tackling the project. "One of the best defenses the homeowner can initiate is knowledge," says Glick. He also mentions that any references the homeowner can get on a contractor should not only be recent but include information on work performed one or two

years ago to ensure the quality of the work has not altered over time. And finally, be sure that all intentions and promises made are put into the work contract. "If all else fails ask an attorney for advice; protect your investment so you don't end up on TV as an example of what not to do."