MCAA Team Brings Home Second Place

The Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) student chapter team from CSU brought home a second place finish from the Final Four competition at the MCAA Convention in Maui, HI March 6-10. Mark Boland, Andrew Carter, Jordan Heberlein, Tammer Khattab, Allie Parker and AJ Sonnenberg, along with CM faculty coach Dr. Mostafa Khattab, worked very hard to earn a spot among the three-way tie for second place behind first place finisher Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Heberlein stated that the finish was “not bad for a group of students that only take one HVAC course. This was the third time in four years that the CSU MCAA team made the final four, and each year we get closer to the number one spot. We are really making a name within the MCAA as a team to watch and try to beat. It will be hard for us to continue to make the top four at the MCAA, but I am confident in the talent that we have within this department, and will not be surprised to see a first place trophy sitting in the trophy case in the near future.”

The team would like to thank Dave Davia, Executive Director of the Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors (CAMPC), John Marlow and Jason Ranz of US Engineering, and their coach, Dr. Mostafa Khattab, for their invaluable assistance as the team prepared for the competition.

CM Student Recognized As NAHB Outstanding Student

CM student Brandon Schelling has been recognized as the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Outstanding Student at CSU. He first learned of his nomination and win at the 2011 NAHB International Builders Show in January while the NAHB team was participating in the student competition. Schelling was “surprised and excited” as his name was called and he went up on stage to be recognized as the nominee for CSU. Shortly after this surprise, the NAHB learned of their sixth place win in the competition.

The NAHB Outstanding Student Award recognizes student members of NAHB for their work with their student chapter and/or state and local HBAs. One student per chapter is nominated and evaluated on three factors: GPA, involvement in the NAHB student chapter, and interest in pursuing a residential building career.
Khattab Asked To Help Found New CMAA Council

CM department head Dr. Mostafa Khattab has been asked to serve as a founding member of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) College of Fellows Academic Council. The Council will serve to strengthen the relationship between CMAA and construction education programs across the nation.

Though the Council has barely been formed, Dr. Khattab already has a few proposals to present to members. The agenda includes establishing a student internship program with CMAA membership, annual research funding for faculty, additional support for CMAA student chapters, and national faculty recognition at the annual CMAA conference. He will also share the successes of CSU’s Industry Faculty Scholar program.

Regarding the request to serve as a founding member, Dr. Khattab said, “This is indeed a great recognition for our program and our hard work and commitment. I want to thank Mehmet Ozbek (CM faculty) for establishing the CMAA student chapter and his engagement with the local and national office. I am truly excited about the prospects the Council has for strengthening the relationship between construction education and CMAA.”

NECA Prepares For Competition

The National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Club will be competing against other universities in the Green Energy Challenge sponsored by NECA and ELECTRI International (EI). This year’s challenge requires teams from NECA chapters across the country to conduct an energy audit and provide solutions to implement the use of renewable energy and reduce the overall energy consumed in a campus dormitory.

Based on their energy audit findings, teams then submit a preliminary design of an energy retrofit for the building that could include alternative energy sources. Presentations must also be prepared in which the teams’ efforts are reported from the perspective of a design-build contractor. The CSU team has chosen to take a closer look on campus at Braiden Hall, located near Morgan Library, to see what energy saving methods and products could be used to reduce the energy consumption. According to team member Michelle Meis, “The team has been working hard to make sure that all avenues are being looked into and weighed against one another to produce the best product.”

Pre-proposal statements and assessments were due in March, and the full proposals must be submitted in May. A panel of industry judges will select the top three finalists to travel to the NECA Convention in San Diego and present to judges and interested contractors. “The CSU team would not be able to participate in this competition without the generous support of its sponsor, Sturgeon Electric,” said Meis.

“Sturgeon has proven to be a valuable resource in assisting not only with the Green Energy Challenge Team but also with the Electrical Team that competed for the first time in Reno this past February at the Associated Schools of Construction Competition.”

This year’s Green Energy Challenge Team is made up of the following individuals: Jason Parliament, team captain, document coordination & review; Jessica De Luca, photovoltaic/wind system designs, roofing; Dusty Duncan, other efficiency upgrades; Callie Gabelman, lighting & building renditions; Michelle Meis, LEED, student awareness, marketing; and Jason Summers, existing building & proposal.

AGC Club Hosts Bowling Tournament

The CM Associated General Contractors (AGC) student club worked with AGC Colorado to host their annual bowling event March 2 at the north College location of Chipper’s Lanes in Fort Collins. The event was organized as an opportunity to promote relationships and connections between industry members and CSU CM students. In attendance were the premier sponsors, AGC Colorado and the Future Leaders Forum, as well as representatives from other sponsoring companies including Consolidated Electric, Dohn Construction, Flood and Peterson Insurance, Hensel Phelps, Terracon, and US Engineering. Luke Payne, AGC club president, said, “Over 35 students attended and the general consensus was that it was a great event enjoyed by all!”
Guggenheim Walls Spruced Up

The walls of Guggenheim Hall, the home of the Department of Construction Management, are seeing some aesthetic upgrades. Two new murals have been created in the hallways on the first floor to convey to students and visitors the dedication of CM’s industry supporters and department leadership to build the best construction education in the country. Utilizing base ideas from CM department faculty and staff, Interim Endowed Phelps Chair Ron Holt spent several weekends painting the murals and arranging photographs to create the visually stunning works of art.

The first new addition, located in the west hallway outside room 118, is dedicated to Friends of the Department. “Simply stated, without ‘Friends’ from the industry, those who have gone above and beyond to make our program the best, we would not exist,” said Holt. “Our purpose is to create new industry leaders, students who will fill the positions that make our industry so great!” The mural basically depicts the construction industry and includes scenes of homes powered by wind turbines, a bridge extending from a tunnel bored into a mountain side, and outlines of industrial buildings. The center of the design contains silhouettes of construction men and women collaborating on the future structures of the world. In the foreground on the right is the “Industry Express”, a train with cars titled Leadership, Commitment, and Passion, traits that department “Friends” continuously display. According to Holt, when viewed as a whole, “the mural shows that we receive support from every area of the construction industry. It is a way of showing how greatly it is appreciated.”

The second mural, located in the east hallway outside room 107, is titled “Department Leadership: The Road to Excellence”. The display includes photos of the CM department’s leaders over the years and images of various construction projects around campus that industry has participated in that helped build the road to excellence. The road depicted in the mural winds through mountains and climbs higher with each curve, symbolizing the department’s continuous drive for excellence in construction education that continually, through great department leadership and visionaries, climbs higher each year. The quote at the bottom by John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, sums up what CM department leaders have done and why they are called leaders: “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

“It has been my desire through these murals to give our students a visual representation of not only the greatness of support we receive, but the impact that true leadership from industry and from our own department has made in their lives through the continual striving for excellence,” said Holt. He goes on to note that these artistic additions to Guggenheim are just like any other construction project. “Construction is an art form. Each project is a vision created by someone for someone. Through the creative construction process each vision becomes a three-dimensional reality. Our students become a guiding force in this creative process by bringing all elements together in a cohesive manner to complete the artistic process in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner. The end result can then be enjoyed by all.”
BIM Workshop A Great Success

CSU Facilities Management sponsored an introductory lecture on Building Information Modeling (BIM) and a three day BIM and Revit/Navisworks Training Seminar presented by SHP Leading Design in March. The training seminar was attended by 9 CM undergraduate students, 8 CM graduate students, and 8 Facilities Management personnel.

The seminar, consisting of three days of actual training in the use of Revit and Navisworks, was designed to provide Construction Management students the skills necessary to create and navigate a Revit model and mine it for data in support of any number of specific construction needs. The three day session included two and a half days of focus on Revit 2011 and a half day focused on Navisworks.

The training session allowed participants to learn the principles and skills necessary to construct models with database driven parametrics. It also taught specific skills associated with: quantity take-offs and accessing data in support of estimating and/or cost verification tasks; building systems access and/or study for the purpose of developing construction coordination and sequencing studies, demonstrations, and/or scope reviews for on-site erection teams and tradespersons; spatial visualization; integration, extraction and/or placement of Revit and other data sources inside a Navisworks environment; construction of scope of work applications and construction sequencing depictions for use in owners meetings, design team meetings and construction team meetings.

Reaction to the training session was very positive according to comments made by participants afterwards. There was also vast interest in the course as evidenced by the need for a waiting list and inquiries about available seats hours before the seminar began.

CM Graduate Student Teaches One-Day Residential Course

CM graduate student Cody Farmer presented a three-hour class on high-performance residential construction Saturday, March 5 in the Preconstruction Center. The class, called “The Big 90”, demonstrated how the Passive House Methodology reduces residential building energy usage by up to 90%. Farmer conceptually conveyed how the current housing stock must be changed in order to meet the specific and significant energy demand reduction that Certified Passive Houses require, which is equivalent to heating or cooling an occupied house with 15,000 watts. Passive House standards reduce CO₂ emissions in alignment with the 2030 challenge and are proven throughout Europe with over 25,000 existing Certified Passive Houses already built.

Among the 30 attendees was Lance Wright, the room’s only certified Passive House Consultant, and fellow Passive House consultants in-training Lisa Farmer, PE; Mark Benjamin, PE; Brian Fuentes, AIA; and Francisco Reina. Farmer credited the ability to bring such cutting-edge building science information to the class via CSU’s independent study program, which allows students to create coursework not found at CSU. The Passive House methodology brings with it new modeling and verification requirements, new materials just sprouting in the US, and attention to detail such as that found in the earlier days of the craftsman.
Upcoming Events

Graduate Student Forum
The Graduate Student Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Preconstruction Center room 122.

Competition Team Meeting
Students interested in participating in next year’s competition teams are encouraged to attend this informational meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Preconstruction Center room 122.

BIM Training Workshop
Hosted by WIC and Saunders Construction
Do you have an interest in learning Building Information Modeling? Women in Construction and Saunders Construction, Inc. will be hosting a BIM Training Workshop on Thursday, April 28 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in room 226 Guggenheim Hall and the Preconstruction Lab. This event will be focused on the basics of Revit-Architecture 2011 software and its uses in practical construction applications. Registration for this event closes April 25th and SPACE IS LIMITED! Interest is very high, so sign up immediately to assure your seat is reserved. This event will also be utilized as a recruiting opportunity for next year’s BIM Competition Team, so if you are interested in joining the team, your attendance is highly recommended.

For more information please contact:

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Spring Commencement
Commencement for undergraduate students in the College of Applied Human Sciences is Friday, May 13, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in Moby Arena. Graduate School commencement is also Friday, May 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in Moby Arena. Information on the commencement ceremony and regalia acquirement can be found at:
http://commencement.colostate.edu/.