One of the Construction Management program’s own students, Terrance Unrein, gave the student commencement speech at the ceremony held for the College of Applied Human Sciences on Friday, May 14. Before a crowd of hundreds of graduates, family and friends, Unrein shared thoughts and experiences of college life and related them to his and his peers’ future endeavors.

Unrein began by pointing out how, regardless of major or path chosen by students of the College of Applied Human Sciences, one common trait adopted by each graduate is passion. This passion, he said, involves “improving the quality of life for people... our efforts and future endeavors will come down to one simple, fundamental concept: applying our passion to helping people.” Unrein used examples of how several of his fellow graduates will continue on to apply their degrees to this passion, and he included his own next step of moving to Libya, Africa to aide in the country’s improvement of its infrastructure and economy.

Unrein also thanked the families and supporters in the audience and asked for their patience and support as he and his fellow graduates pursued their new lives. “Your sons and daughters will soon be making a series of lifelong decisions,” he said. “We will face various challenges and make some decisions that might not seem logical to you. But we ask for your patience and friendship. Keep in mind that we will continue to learn and grow and we will always be guided by the principles you instilled in us.”

Overall, Unrein noted that while some of his fellow graduates knew their next steps, others may still be undecided as to the road to follow. He stressed his confidence that as long as his peers followed their passions, they would lead the lives they desired most and achieve all their dreams.

The Department of Construction Management is very proud of all its graduates and wishes them the best of luck as they pursue their dreams.
Ozbek Appointed to ASCE Journal Editorial Board

CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek has been appointed to the editorial board of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Journal of Construction Engineering and Management. He will help with the managing of the review process for the manuscripts in the contracting specialty area.

The Journal of Construction Engineering and Management is one of several publications coordinated by the ASCE. It publishes quality papers that aim to advance the science of construction engineering, harmonize construction practices with design theories, and further education and research in construction engineering and management. Many of the topics addressed in the journal include construction material handling, equipment, production planning, specifications, scheduling, estimating, cost control, quality control, labor productivity, inspection, contract administration, construction management, computer applications, and environmental concerns.

CM Faculty on Panel for TILT Summer Conference

CM faculty members Scott Glick and Caroline Clevenger were members of a panel held during the Summer Conference on Learning, Teaching, and Critical Thinking conducted by the Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) on May 19. The conference, Integrating Critical Thinking into Your Courses, included a series of workshops and panel discussions for CSU faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants.

Glick and Clevenger were involved in the Supporting Critical Thinking in the Social and Applied Sciences workshop. They, along with faculty members from Sociology and the School of Education, presented ideas and insight relating to how critical thinking can be implemented and utilized in classes in the Applied Human Sciences curriculum.

The first Summer Conference was held in 2008 and the focus of each has been the importance of providing opportunities for students to think critically about the information, ideas and discussion they encounter in the classroom.

Lopez del Puerto to Assist on Safety Research Project

CM faculty member Carla Lopez del Puerto will be the co-principle investigator on a pilot project headed by Dr. David Gilkey, a professor from the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences. The proposal was approved mid-May by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences’ Research Council and assigned a budget of $15,000 for the next fiscal year.

The project, “Safety Culture and Risk Perception Differences Between Latino and Non-Latino Construction Workers,” will benefit greatly from Lopez del Puerto’s expertise. She teaches the Spanish in Construction as well as the Safety courses at CSU, and in the past has taught a course on Hispanics in Construction. Her past experience as an on-site supervisor for construction projects will also be beneficial to the project’s research goals.
QuickPen Donates Software to CM

QuickPen, a software engineering company that specializes in software for HVAC, mechanical construction and the plumbing industry, donated software to the CM program in May. The College of Applied Human Sciences IT department is currently working to get the software installed in the Preconstruction Center computer labs and ready for the Fall 2010 semester.

The software, AutoBid Mechanical, allows contractors to quickly generate and manage accurate and flexible piping and plumbing bids. The extremely fast Graphical TakeOff allows estimators to spend more time on the final bid numbers and keep them competitive. AutoBid also allows greater flexibility to make last-minute changes to bids and still remain on track for the most aggressive deadlines. Estimators can also share their data using the Data Export Wizard feature.

The CM program received 12 seats of the software valued at over $120,000. This generous contribution will allow students to stay current in the latest technologies available in the construction industry.

Kiewit and PD Restoration Visit CON101 Classes

CON 101 (Introduction to Construction Management) students had several guest presenters from two companies visit their classes in May. Employees of Paul Davis Restoration and Renovation visited on Monday, May 3rd and Kiewit Companies presented to the students on Wednesday, May 5th.

The presenters from Paul Davis (Greg Makowski, Ron Carr, and Curt Comba) talked about their work on multiple restoration projects around the state. Their primary focus is on rehabilitating homes and buildings after they have been damaged by fire, flood, tornadoes, hail, vandalism and other circumstances.

Eight presenters came from Kiewit, one of the largest construction and mining organizations in North America, to interact with the CON 101 students. The visit was a two hour presentation split over three topics: construction layout and quality control, design-build, and contract administration. Students spent between 30 and 50 minutes with each topic, learning more about the real-life applications of information they had learned in class.

Kiewit Companies employees interacting with students from CON 101 classes. The presentations allowed students an opportunity to observe real-life applications of construction concepts.

Submit your articles or comments to:

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