CMAA Student Chapter Gives Back

During the last weeks of the semester, the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) student chapter kept busy giving back to the local community and to the organization the chapter represents. CMAA at CSU is committed to helping those less fortunate in our community, so the chapter participated in CSUnity, a charity event sponsored by CSU that helps Colorado residents in need. Chapter members and CM volunteers were responsible for cleaning the yard of an elderly resident, including raking leaves, trimming trees and shrubs, and moving heavy items into the resident's basement. CMAA's efforts produced over fifty bags of yard waste and two large piles of branches. According to students, the resident was very pleased with CMAA's efforts and grateful for the help.

Officers of the CMAA student chapter attended the third annual CMAA Colorado Owner's Night 2011 at the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center in Denver on April 21 to assist presenters and guests with registration and raffle ticket sales. Owner's Night is an opportunity for professionals from the design, construction and consulting sectors of the industry to meet with owners regarding their staffing needs and projects. With the CMAA chapter's help, over $500 was raised through raffle ticket sales for the CMAA scholarship fund.

CM Hosts Second Annual Graduate Student Forum

On April 19, CM held its second annual graduate student forum, an informal opportunity for graduate students to ask questions, voice concerns, provide feedback and suggest ideas for improvement of the graduate program. Members of the CM Graduate Committee were in attendance to listen to the students' feedback and use it to develop a plan to address any issues brought up by the students.

Student feedback from last year's forum has been utilized to make a few changes to the program, including changes to the prerequisite requirements, improvements to the graduate student work area in Spruce Hall, and advancements toward offering more graduate courses with the goal that each CM faculty will offer a course based in his or her expertise/research area. This year, students made it a point to highlight many positive aspects of the department, especially this effort to take suggestions from students for program improvements. They also appreciate the department's good connections with industry, the ability to take elective courses outside the CM program, the acceptance of students from backgrounds other than CM, and the opportunities for graduate assistantships.

The CM Graduate Committee will use the feedback from this year's forum to work on other suggested improvements in the CM program, including possible re-establishment of the CM Graduate student club and improvements to communications with the department.
The mission of the Department of Construction Management (CM) is to advance the knowledge and practice of construction management for the betterment of society through teaching, applied research, and service to local, national and global communities. The newly developed CM Cares program plays a major role in accomplishing this mission by providing CM students the opportunity to serve their communities through projects that apply their classroom skills to real-world situations.

CM Cares, established in spring 2011, is a service learning program sponsored by the CM Department to infuse the traits of community service, leadership, team building and ethics throughout the culture of the CM program through construction-related community service projects. The program includes a Construction Leadership course involving guest lectures from industry leaders on the non-technical aspects of running a successful business, such as leadership, ethics, team building and creating company culture. Students from this course serve as leaders of the various CM Cares projects and work on identifying community service agencies in need, fundraising, matching volunteers from specific CM classes to the projects’ needs, and mentoring and organizing the volunteers.

Currently, there are five projects in Colorado being undertaken by CM Cares student volunteers. Non-profit organizations, school districts and individuals in need are all benefitting from the time and commitment of CM students invested in their communities. Each project relies on donations of funds and materials to succeed, and industry and community members have proven their dedication to the program through generous contributions.

**Alternatives Pregnancy Center (APC)**

This project involved the design and construction of a remodeled client bathroom, conference room base cabinet and a wall closure feature for a staff person’s office at the APC Denver headquarters. The volunteer group raised over $1,300 for the project, including materials donations from Ace Hardware and Fastenal in Fort Collins, and monetary contributions from Mortenson Construction and Goodell Machinery and Construction. When asked about the CM Cares program and its benefits to students and communities, CM student Bret Goodell said, “There are more things in life than a good job and nice car. To do service for other people you are giving more than just a material gift.”

**Amaro Project**

Volunteers are working on the completion of a two-bedroom addition to the one-bedroom home of a Lakewood grandmother raising four children, two of whom have special needs. The group overseeing the project raised $3,100 in donations: monetary donations from Denver Transit Construction Group, TIC, Western Summit Constructors and Bellview Community Church, and contributions of labor and materials from US Engineering, RG Insulation, Rocky Mountain Forest Products and Ace Hardware. All mechanical labor and materials were donated anonymously. Over 100 hours of work has been completed by CM Cares group members and volunteer CM students. "This group of students is not only helping meet the critical needs of this family but is making dreams come true.

CM Cares student Joe Houtz shows one of the Amaro children the progress made on the addition to their home.
It is one thing to have a vision and another to have the means and know-how to get it done," said Diana Martinez, an Amaro family friend and advocate.

**John Ray Memorial Greenhouse**

Bennett Elementary School in the Poudre School District asked CM Cares for help with the design of a greenhouse to benefit the school and its surrounding community. Construction will begin in fall 2011. The group began working on the plans for the greenhouse and discovered that building one requires the expert input of a horticulture professional, so CM Cares teamed up with CSU horticulture employee John Ray for assistance. Sadly, John unexpectedly passed away mid-semester, but not before lending valuable insight into the project’s design. The project was renamed the John Ray Memorial Greenhouse and is currently being re-worked for production on CSU campus before it is moved and set on site at Bennett.

**Noah’s Project**

Noah is a young boy with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) who lives with his family in Fort Collins. A group of CM Cares students is working on building him a bedroom, handicapped accessible bathroom and caregiver bed area addition onto the first floor of his family’s home. The project involves a site survey, planning, design, permits, utility locates and HOA approval in addition to the actual construction. The students raised over $2,100 comprised of monetary contributions from donut sales fundraisers, McNevin Company, Colorado Machinery, Lockton Companies, Mortenson Construction, Saunders Construction, Bob Roby, Joseph Rader, Bob Utter and Nicci Hyatt. Labor and materials donations have been promised from Lafarge, Baker Concrete Construction, Foothills Landscape Maintenance, and Corcoran Company. CM Cares has also secured the support of Mortenson Construction as the general contractor to work on the project during summer, donating materials and labor to the effort. “The value of this project has been life changing for our whole family,” said Kristy Preston, Noah’s mother. Noah’s Project is still underway and the fall 2011 CM Cares class will continue work through December 2011.

**Save Our Youth (SOY)**

The SOY Mentoring Project in Denver required help with the demolition of a wall dividing offices from an open area in the lower level of the corporate offices. There was also need for new partition walls, interior windows, minor electrical work, and help with permits, plans and specifications. Students raised over $1,400 in monetary donations from Saunders Construction, A and A, Pawnee Station Restaurant, Frank and Lane, Albert and Karen Kester, Pat Woods, Dennis Kugler, Rich Harms, Rick Harvey, Susie Kester, Joyce Woods and April Reis, and materials donations from Mawson Lumber. “It is challenging for non-profit organizations to get things done these days and we want to thank these students for helping us,” said SOY employee Trudy Swain. “They have boosted our employee morale by coming in and accomplishing what they have. We are very appreciative.”

Every project undertaken by CM Cares has one aspect in common: the students are driven to make the program succeed. “We created a vision in the department for CM Cares, but we also needed a champion,” said CM department head Mostafa Khattab. “We needed the students’ motivation to make it happen.”

All of these projects commit to the goal of CM Cares to team CM students, faculty and industry members with local agencies or individuals in need of construction services to improve the quality of life in their communities. As the program continues to expand, the CM Department will also consider international service learning options in which students can participate. In the meantime, local community service agencies can rely on the CM Cares team as a one-stop shop to meet their construction-related service needs.
CM Placement Office Keeps Busy Over Summer

Summer time does not mean down time for the Department of Construction Management, particularly for Anna Fontana and Khristy Preston in the Phelps Placement Office. Over 170 new interns start at over 115 companies this May and 40 are currently on 6-month internship since January, so intern assignments will be coming in throughout the summer months. These, along with other projects, will keep the placement staff very busy in the office.

Fontana and Preston will also be travelling around Colorado throughout the summer months. The interns are participating in various projects across the state and they invite the Placement Office staff to visit the project sites to observe the work in progress and meet with supervisors. “We really enjoy these visits because they’re a great opportunity to see all the different types of construction work in progress around the state,” said Preston. “We’ve seen everything from mines to projects at the Denver Zoo. And the interns are always eager to show us around the job site and introduce us to their company representatives. It’s great to see our students enjoy their work and take pride in it.”

A site visit with CSU Facilities interns (L-R): Mark Austin, Rebecca McChesney, and Scott Beemer.

Announcements

Congratulations, Graduates!
The Department of Construction Management would like to extend a hearty congratulations to the more than 110 undergraduate and graduate students who received their degrees from the program this spring. The College of Applied Human Sciences commencement ceremony was held Friday, May 13, 2011 in Moby Arena.

Welcome New CM Faculty
The Department of Construction Management would like to welcome new faculty member Dr. Kelly Strong to the CM Family. Dr. Strong is joining us from Iowa State University and will begin teaching courses in the fall 2011 semester.