The first place team from the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) Regional competition visited Washington on November 4 for an all-expense-paid trip to the DBIA National Conference. The team, consisting of Ben Farrow, Reese Lasley, Bradley Meyer and one of their coaches, Ron Holt, attended classes and presentations by over 150 suppliers and contractors from major corporations from across the nation.

The team earned this opportunity by participating in the regional competition. Their project involved creating an office space for a construction company. The team had one week to design the building and create an estimate, schedule and plans for the project using only the budget and specifications provided to them. According to Holt, the student team members “impressed the companies with their knowledge” as they described the project, presenting copies of their work to the company representatives.

The students returned from the trip with several new contacts and offers from some of the companies present at the conference; Bradley Meyer alone returned with seventeen business cards!

Congratulations to the team for their outstanding performance at the regional competition and at the national conference!
Dr. Scott Shuler Awarded Grant to Research Eco-Friendly Asphalt Pavements

Scott Shuler was awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) for $51,000 for the next 12 months to research the use of roofing shingles, reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and ground tire rubber in asphalt pavements.

CDPHE is promoting research in recycling and this grant is in direct response to this goal. The focus will be on the use of waste products that currently are not routinely recycled, namely roofing shingle waste and old tires. Although RAP materials have been recycled back into new pavements for more than 30 years, the percentage of RAP used in each ton of asphalt pavement could be higher.

Three experimental pavements will be constructed along the Front Range in 2010 to demonstrate the utility of the process.

Dr. Mehmet Ozbek Publishes Paper on DEA Model

Dr. Mehmet Ozbek, along with two professors from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), has published a paper entitled, “Data Envelopment Analysis as a Decision-Making Tool for the Transportation Professionals” in the November 2009 issue of the ASCE Journal of Transportation Engineering.

The paper outlines the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) mathematical model and how it is used to assess an organization’s efficiency. The paper also highlights the usefulness to transportation engineers while acknowledging limitations and need for caution when reviewing results.

The article concludes, “DEA proves to be a powerful decision-making tool that can be used by transportation professionals and managers in an effort to assess and consequently improve the efficiency of processes, including construction, maintenance, operation, transit, or any other transportation-related service.”

Dr. Scott Shuler Presents Research Findings on Crack Sealants

On November 29, Dr. Scott Shuler presented the findings of his on-going research on The Performance of Crack Sealants and Installation Techniques at the Colorado Association of Roadway Supervisors and Engineers, Colorado Counties, Inc. semi-annual meeting in Colorado Springs.

The experimental locations included US Highway 151 near Chimney Rock, US Highway 285 south of Saguache, and US Highway 350 northeast of Trinidad. Shuler presented the preliminary results of the research project funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation to determine the performance characteristics of three pavement crack sealants, installed using three different techniques on three separate pavements in southern Colorado.

After two years of performance measurements, results indicate all three sealants tend to re-seal after the first year in service. This was not unexpected, but the level of ‘healing’ for some of the applications was greater than expected and one of the application methods performed much better than anticipated. “The audience was pleasantly surprised that one of the crack seal application methods studied was performing so well, especially since this application was the least costly and time consuming of the three methods evaluated,” said Shuler.
Celebrating CM Student Leadership

On November 11, Department Head Dr. Mostafa Khattab and his wife Hoda, hosted a dinner at their home to celebrate the achievements of the student leadership in the Department of Construction Management. Attendees included the president and other officers of some CM student clubs. The event provided an opportunity to build stronger bonds between the club leaders as well as celebrate their achievements.

Maggy Smith, president of the Women in Construction Club, thoroughly savored every aspect of the event. “I especially enjoyed getting to know the new Board of Directors officers. I feel very fortunate to be working with such a motivated group of individuals. I am now even more excited to see how the Construction Management Department will continue to improve the quality of students’ education, and provide us with new and exciting opportunities.”

Smith also praised the hosts for their hospitality and commitment to the CM department. “I enjoyed chatting over dinner with Dr. Khattab and hearing more about his life and the journey he made to become head of the Construction Management Department. His story was intriguing and heartfelt. I am very grateful to have such an inspiring person as the head of our department. It was also wonderful to meet his wife. They prepared a delicious meal, and provided a very enjoyable environment for the dinner.”

CM Faculty and Advisors Attend Graduate School Workshop

The CM Department, in conjunction with Cindy Befus and Debbie Shaeffer of the Graduate School, administered a workshop for faculty advisors and graduate coordinators on November 20. The purpose of the workshop was to update attendees on the processes and policies necessary to assist students in navigating their graduate studies.

Topics included forms review, distinguishing between theses and professional papers, selecting and participating on defense committees and how a thesis is “preliminarily reviewed” by the Graduate School. The new Graduate School website was highlighted including key navigation features such as tracking advisees online.
Four CM students were selected for Kiewit Corporation’s 2nd Annual Women’s Construction Leadership Seminar: Maria Delgado, Leslie Hainsworth, Jordan Heberlein, and Magdalena Smith (unable to attend). This prestigious event was held in Omaha, Nebraska from November 12-13. The students were flown to Omaha by the Kiewit Corporation and enjoyed the company’s generous hospitality for the duration of their stay.

The seminar offered presentations and educational sessions that provided the students with valuable tools for success in the construction industry. One session was presented by keynote speaker Vernice Armour, the first African American female combat pilot in the United States Marine Corps, who, according to Delgado, “offered inspirational experiences from her past.” The students also had the opportunity to tour the jobsite for the Nebraska Hospital and see firsthand the tremendous opportunity that the construction and mining industries has to offer.

Kiewit Corporation hires top talent from around the country, including CSU. “We believe the Women’s Construction Leadership Seminar is a great opportunity for students to learn about leadership from a leader within the construction industry. With the demands and challenges of an ever-changing industry, we are proud to serve as an opportunity for students to learn and develop their skills outside of the classroom,” said Tim Dorn, Corporate Recruiting Manager.

“The conference gave us tools to enhance our leadership skills in both scholastic and real world settings. It’s encouraging to know that industry invests in our potential as both women and future leaders of the professional construction industry,” said Delgado.

Guest Speaker Brett Brown Talks Contracts

The Pre-Internship Seminar class welcomed guest speaker Brett Brown from Dohn Construction for a presentation on contracts and change orders. The presentation, which took place on November, 11 was one of many hosted each semester to provide students preparing for their internships with an opportunity to ask questions and receive valuable insight from industry sector representatives.

Brown’s presentation involved different forms used by contractors on the job, including Transmittals, Requests for Information, and Submittals, and how these forms are used to plan and implement a construction project. The students learned how to obtain and use contract information when communicating with project owners throughout the project.

Brown is Dohn Construction Company’s Safety Coordinator and has 15 years experience in his field. He has a B.Sc. in Construction Management from CSU and received a Certified Professional Contractor certification from the American Institute of Contractors.
Students in CON571 Facilities Planning and Management, co-taught by Brian Dunbar and Bill Franzen, former director of facilities and operations for the Poudre School District, participated in a service learning project with students and faculty from Kinard Middle School in Fort Collins. The goal of the Sustainable Operations, Maintenance, and Occupant Behavior project was to increase student awareness, participation, and conservation of resources at Kinard, a green school built in 2005.

CM graduate students and faculty collaborated with Kinard students and faculty to inventory current practices and identify potential opportunities for increased energy efficiency, water and electrical conservation, waste recycling and composting, and other sustainable practices. While Kinard is one of the most energy efficient schools in Colorado, students in the “Kinard CARES” (student organization focused on community and environment) are interested in having the lowest environmental footprint in the state and creating higher awareness and learning about energy, waste, water, and related community and environmental issues. The CM graduate students compiled the ideas and results of the project into a report and PowerPoint which was presented on campus to the Kinard CARES students and faculty advisors, along with representatives from the school district’s facilities office.

Results of the project were organized into leadership, motivation, and communication recommendations to be implemented by Kinard CARES and will become part of a national pilot study effort organized by the U.S. Green Building Council and their LEED for Existing Schools Operations and Maintenance program. Chris Bergman, advisor for the Kinard CARES group remarked that, “It was wonderful to see the positive interactions between CSU students and our eighth graders. Having the university engage us in a process that can contribute to a better performing facility and increased awareness of the ways we can teach and learn from our school building is something we’ll refer to for years to come.”

CM Alumnus Works on Antarctica Wind Farm Project

Chris Wilson, a 2005 alumnus of the CM program and Project Specialist with Raytheon Polar Services Company, is currently working with the US Antarctic Program to erect wind turbines on the world’s southernmost wind farm on Crater Hill, Antarctica. The goal of the project is to produce enough energy to power two nearby bases, New Zealand’s Scott Base and the American base, McMurdo Station.

The company behind the project, Meridian Energy Limited, is New Zealand’s largest state-owned utility generator. The company prides itself on generating all its electricity from renewable resources. The project begun in mid-2008. The long-term benefits of the wind farm include a reduction in fuel consumption on the bases, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and the ability to keep electricity running in such a remote location.

According to Wilson, “There have been a few other CSU alumni involved with this project and several others down here in Antarctica.” The wind farm is scheduled to be completed and supplying electricity by February 2010.
Fall Open Forum Presents New Ideas for CM Department

The CM Board of Directors Student Club (CMBoD) held the biannual Fall Open Forum in the new Preconstruction Lecture Hall on November 4, 2009. The Forum provides the opportunity for students to give direct feedback to the Department Head regarding the CM program. Attendees consisted of CM faculty, staff and students. After a presentation by Department Head Dr. Khattab outlining departmental goals, the session was opened for student’s questions and comments.

Several excellent suggestions were made regarding the CM curriculum, extracurricular activities, and other opportunities for CM students. Students felt that the curriculum available is well-structured, but they would like to see more learning pathways as part of the requirements for graduation. As for extracurricular activities, most agreed that there is a broad range of activities available and even more interest could be generated by emphasizing the activities of the many CM competition teams and by adding more study abroad options. Suggestions were also made to better utilize the new club website and to create additional opportunities for students to interact with CM alumni and industry representatives.

Following the event, Terrance Unrein, President of the CMBoD, said that the Open Forum served as an ideal opportunity to assist the CM Department in initiating necessary changes to better serve students and the construction industry. Unrein stressed that “the faculty and student communication that occurs at these events is crucial and this creates a truly collaborative environment in our Department that is not commonly seen in other academic entities. The vast array of responses and ideas presented throughout the evening suggest that the CM students want the best education they can receive, and the student leadership is confident that the Open Forum session will continue to increase in popularity” as more students take an active role in their academic success.”

Fall 2009 Students Graduating With Distinction

Two CM undergraduate students will graduate with distinction at the Fall 2009 Commencement Ceremonies on December, 18. Brian Boydston and Anthony Ray are both receiving their Bachelor of Science in Construction Management degrees with the cum laude honor.

A total of 143 CM majors are expected to graduate this fall. Congratulations to our graduating class. We wish you best of luck in your future endeavors!