CCA Students Host Kiewit CEO Visit to CSU

On November 3, 2011, the Colorado Contractors Association (CCA) student chapter hosted a visit by Bruce Grewcock, CEO of Kiewit Companies, to the CSU campus where he delivered a speech to construction management, engineering, and business students in 104 Yates Hall. Following a brief tour of the CM student facilities, including the newly installed Soils Lab sponsored by Kiewit Companies, Grewcock was greeted by a standing room only crowd in the lecture hall.

Grewcock’s speech emphasized the importance of business ethics and what it takes to be a successful leader in the construction industry. He stressed the importance of utilizing soft skills in construction business, particularly emotional intelligence and effective interpersonal communication. He then transitioned into Kiewit’s roles in overseas operations as well as the economic challenges and effects of performing work so far from home, and described some of his personal experiences at Kiewit, especially how the factors he had mentioned influenced his decision-making as he made his way up in the company.

Students seemed eager to hear from this prominent and successful leader in the industry. “It was great to hear what characteristics the CEO of Kiewit looks for in future graduates out of college,” said CM senior Mike Anest. “Mr. Grewcock gave an interesting inside perspective of the challenges and changes in the construction industry.” Ben Farrow, another CM student, said, “I thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Grewcock’s presentation. I attend most of the extracurricular events sponsored by the various clubs in the CM department and Mr. Grewcock’s was one of the best. Not only was it well attended by our student population, but his discussion of ethics, a topic not often emphasized, was excellent. It was also refreshing to hear from a guest speaker who was genuinely honest and didn’t read from his slides. I believe it speaks highly of our department’s vision to become the best construction management program in the country that we are able to provide our students the opportunity to listen to one of the most successful businessmen in the nation.”

“We are pleased Mr. Grewcock was able to accept our invitation and share his advice and experiences with the student body at CSU,” said Sam Bouchard, president of the CCA chapter at CSU. “The officers of CCA devoted considerable time and effort to prepare for this prestigious event.” Former president of the CSU CCA chapter, Mike Schram, was also pleased by the success of the event. “Having the CEO of a company such as Kiewit come to our department for our students really says a lot about the industry and how they care about the education we receive in the CM department,” he said. The CSU CCA student chapter is exceedingly grateful to all of the Kiewit personnel who made this event possible and would like to thank the CM department and all its students for their assistance and participation which made this event so tremendously successful.
Shuler Assists CEMML with Road Improvements

Scott Shuler is assisting the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) at CSU with the rehabilitation of 36 miles of deteriorated fire roads at the U.S. Army Pohakuloa Training Area between Kona and Hilo, Hawaii. The area is an operating gunnery range for artillery practice by the U.S. Army and, consequently, fires occasionally are inadvertently started in the dry underbrush. Shuler spent two days at the site driving the deteriorated road network to create a GIS survey of the damaged areas to create a construction contract specification for prospective bidders. Return trips are planned to conduct a preconstruction conference and to supervise construction.

CM Faculty Publish Proceeding on Service-Learning

CM faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek, along with CM graduate student Dan Reaves, published a proceeding titled “Service-Learning for Sustainable Construction” based on the presentation they delivered on November 4 at the 11th Annual International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) in Chicago, Ill. The presentation and proceeding discuss the lessons learned from an experimental service-learning course, Applied Sustainable Project Delivery, created and offered for the first time at CSU in spring 2011. Clevenger and Ozbek collaborated with a local design professional and high school to offer the course, which engages at-risk teens within the local community and empowers construction management university students to be leaders, stewards and mentors through the completion of a small community-based construction project. The course met with significant success and several participants received University awards. Initial findings presented indicate that such a service-learning course has the potential to meaningfully engage both university and at-risk high school students and to increase their interest in sustainability and service.

Electrical Team Receives Funding for Competition

On November 11, members of the electrical team presented a funding request to the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Rocky Mountain chapter at their annual board meeting in Denver. The team crafted a presentation that requested the $7,500 in support necessary for the team to compete in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) regional and national competitions in Reno, Nev., in February 2012. “Minutes after our presentation, I received a call from Rory Berumen, one of the lead negotiators for NECA,” said Callie Gabelman, president of the CSU student chapter of NECA and a member of the electrical team. “He told me we answered every board member’s question flawlessly and, because of that, we received the funding!”

The electrical team would like to thank NECA for its generous contribution, and the team members plan to work hard and hopefully bring home a placing finish in the competitions.
New Students Appreciate First Year Mentoring Program

CM’s Pre-Construction Management First-Year Mentoring program concluded in November, and the response from student participants was especially positive. This is the first year that the CM department has participated in the university’s First Year Mentoring Program (FYMP), a non-credit opportunity for first-year students that focuses on assisting them in their transition to the university. FYMP allows students to make an immediate connection with a faculty/staff member, an upper-class Peer Mentor, and other new students with similar interests, passions or identities to help build a small community of support as they transition into university life.

The Pre-CM FYMP consisted of weekly meetings coordinated by CM Key Advisor Steve Gaisford and CM senior Allie Parker. The group met to discuss topics ranging from academic success and student club involvement to career development. Students were also invited to participate in a job site tour, a student panel Q&A session, and a presentation by an industry representative. “Some of my favorite activities included the job site visit and the guest presentation,” said Scott Peterson, Pre-CM freshman participant. “The people involved were great, and Allie and Steve created a well-organized program. I felt I had a better understanding of the CM department due to the mentoring program.”

Shawn Heikens, another Pre-CM freshman, stated that the FYMP fueled his involvement within the CM program. “Our first meeting, we took a tour of the classrooms and different labs within the CM program, and this really got me excited for my future classes,” he said. The program also encouraged his involvement in the Associated General Contractors (AGC) student chapter at CSU. “With resume workshops, guest speakers, and a bonus of early registration for advising appointments, you truly have an advantage over students not involved in the FYMP. I highly recommend the Pre-CM FYMP to future students; it’s a great way to get involved and interact with faculty and friends in a non-binding and fun atmosphere.”

CMAA Accepts Award and Hosts Distinguished Speaker

The student chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) maintained a very busy schedule throughout the month of November. Chapter officers Seth Batson, Eli Schutz, and Robert Wikoff, along with member Andrew Fillion and faculty advisor Mehmet Ozbek, traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend the CMAA Annual Conference and Trade Show November 5-8. While there, the group accepted the 2011 National Student Chapter of the Year award (for more details on this exceptional accomplishment, see the September 2011 edition of CM Highlights). The CSU students were also selected to present their chapter’s organizational structure and best practices to an audience of other students and young professionals as part of the inaugural Rising CM Conference.

On November 14, the CMAA student chapter hosted its annual distinguished speaker event with Chris Reseigh, former president and COO of Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services, Inc., as well as fellow and current board member of CMAA. He is also a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and serves as the chair of the Construction Committee of the ASCE Construction Directorate. Reseigh’s presentation, “Working in a Global Industry,” touched on the many aspects of what makes a good construction manager and provided multiple examples of the projects across the globe in which he had been involved throughout his career. He answered audience questions at the conclusion of the event, and even remained on campus to answer additional individual student questions over coffee.
LEED Team Reaches Out to Community

Members of the CM department’s LEED competition team don’t simply spend their time preparing outstanding project presentations for the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) competitions in February. They also participate in outreach activities that benefit the community and share the students’ knowledge of LEED practices.

On November 5, the team assisted Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver with a home project that benefits a family of seven. They performed exterior work on the home, including painting, caulking, roof trim, and distributing topsoil throughout the yard space. Cheryl Hoffman, a lead estimator for Hensel Phelps Construction Company involved in the project, coordinated the manpower for the build that day. “I can’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday,” she said, “helping out the community, building sustainable homes, and spending time with the next generation of builders on a beautiful Colorado November day. These are all things that are important to Hensel Phelps as a company and to each of us as individuals.”

On November 28, the team presented on the basics of LEED building to a 9th-grade interior design class at Mountain View High School in Loveland. The students used the new Fort Collins Museum and Discovery Science Center project, of which Hensel Phelps is the general contractor, as an example for the presentation. “It was a great opportunity for the LEED team to bring awareness of sustainable building to a younger audience so that they can make more educated choices for their futures,” said Sarah Tough, a CM senior and member of the LEED team. “Our presentation made them aware that buildings in our community, such as the Discovery Center, are focusing on designing and building with an environmental conscience.”

Upcoming Events

CM Career Fair

You are invited to participate in the Spring CM Career Fair at Colorado State University on February 21st, 2012.

Visit our website for more information cm.cahs.colostate.edu.

Register on-line now!

Must register by February 8th, 2012. Space is limited, register early!

Call to reserve your room for our recruiting events! Interview rooms are available after the Career Fair. Contact Khristy Preston to reserve.

Senior Recruiting

**PADB Platinum Priority Recruiting:**
**February 27th - March 2nd**
Recruiting: March 5th-9th & 26th-30th
Contact: Khristy Preston
Khristy.Preston@colostate.edu
(970) 491-1060

Internship Recruiting

March 19th - 23rd
Contact: Anna Fontana
Anna.Fontana@colostate.edu
(970) 491-4610

CM Career Fair

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