CM Associate Professor Bolivar Senior co-authored a new finance and accounting textbook specifically for the construction industry. The book was written in partnership with Daniel W. Halpin, Professor Emeritus and former head of the Division of Construction Engineering and Management at Purdue University.

The book, released last September, is a compact summary of the basic financial skills that a construction professional must have to be successful in the management of a construction company and its projects.

The book addresses many of the questions that any construction administrator will face, such as: how to organize and use a company’s financial reports; what amount of cash must be made available to the contractor to complete a project; why the early payment of supplier invoices can enhance profitability; how to quantify the time value of money in financial decisions; what tax amount is owed by a company and how it impacts the bottom line; how to control project costs; and what financial sources are available to a construction contractor for capital expansion.

The text is written for students of construction management and engineering, as well as professionals who need a quick refresher when dealing with cost control analysis and other financial issues. Included are financial concepts specific to the construction industry, including business taxation, project control, engineering economy, and financial forecasting. There are numerous worked examples, plus end-of-chapter review questions and exercises.
Mehmet Ozbek and J.M. Garza recently presented a paper at the Transport Research Board’s 8th National Conference on Transportation Asset Management, held October 19-22 in Portland, OR. The paper was titled “A Comprehensive Evaluation of Virginia Department of Transportation’s Experience with its First Interstate Asset management Contract.”

The presenters discussed their research on using performance-based asset management contracting for highway maintenance, and whether it is beneficial to inform transportation agencies of the potential value of using performance-based asset management contracting.

The audience for the presentation session was mainly practitioners in the transportation industry, as well as academicians with an interest in asset management research.

Dr. Mehmet Ozbek was selected to serve on the American Society of Civil Engineers Infrastructure Systems Committee. The purpose of this national committee is to study, evaluate and report on current practices and promote new developments in the science of infrastructure management.

The committee’s focus is on broad infrastructure related practices such as planning & development, operations & maintenance, and improving infrastructure management strategies as they relate to transportation, public works, and parks and recreation infrastructure systems.

Scientific and civil engineering disciplines include inventory management, condition assessment, deterioration modeling, evaluation of impacts of deteriorating infrastructure, decision making, and financing strategies. The committee’s activities include the promotion of new and cross-cutting technologies such as computer-aided decision support, the development of analytical models, automated data collection techniques and other products via specialty conferences, web pages, white papers and other special projects.

On October 21, Professor Brian Dunbar taught a LEED for Building Design and Construction workshop to the Army Corp of Engineers, Omaha District. Sixty CM professionals learned about integrating sustainable site, water conservation, energy efficiency, sustainable materials, quality indoor air, and natural day lighting techniques into projects. Professor Dunbar also led a Sustainable Sites Design Workshop for Northern Colorado on October 18. The 35 workshop participants included civil engineers, landscape architects, contractors, city planners, and public officials from Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, Windsor, and Larimer County.

Helene Gotthelf, graduate student documented the proceedings of the charrette for the U.S. Green Building Council, Northern Colorado branch. The proceedings will become available to Northern Colorado design firms and municipalities interested in integrating more sustainable strategies into their policies and practices.
Student Board Organizes Dale Carnegie Presentation Series

The Department of Construction Management Board of Student Directors (CMBoD) secured funding from ASCSU to organize the first ever Dale Carnegie Three Night High Impact Presentation Series. The interactive seminar series was instructed by Russell Jenson, Pam Jenness, and Cheri Vargo of the Dale Carnegie Training Institute, one of the nation’s top training organizations.

Topics covered during the series included: Planning Presentations and Present to Inform, Vocal Skills and Body Language, and Team Presentation Critiquing. The presenters highlighted specific strategies such as audience analysis, impactful openings and closings, and team presentation structure.

The series, held on the nights of October 26, 27, and November 9, was attended by over 100 CSU students, faculty and staff. Jeb Bair, a student who attended the series, said that this presentation was beneficial because “my competition team was able to be critiqued specifically on the delivery style of our presentation.”

Student Club Participates in Make a Difference Week

On Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24, CSU’s Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Student Chapter participated in Make a Difference Week.

Over 25 students were involved in a project for the United Day Care Center in old town Fort Collins. The students built a fence around the children’s playground at the day care, which provided kids with safe boundaries to play and learn.

As a delightful thank you, children at the daycare ages 1-3 created cards that were colored “in and out of the lines” for the CMAA volunteers.
Last summer, Alex Beckman, a CM senior, was one of two students who participated in an eight-week internship program at NAHB in Washington, D.C. The NAHB Residential Construction Leadership/Internship Program, funded by the National Housing Endowment, is in its second year and Beckman was one of only two students selected for the summer program. During the internship, Beckman learned about legal, legislative and regulatory issues that affect the building industry. He also learned about building products and management best practices while interning for a week at the NAHB Research Center. Part of the program involved Beckman working for six weeks with two builders in the Washington, D.C. area. Beckman said that he learned enough about residential construction during the program to enhance his career and help him take a stronger first step into the industry.

Now that the internship is over, Beckman said he looks forward to taking what he learned over the summer and helping his classmates during the annual NAHB Student Chapter Residential Construction Management Competition at the 2010 International Builders’ Show in Las Vegas on Jan. 19-22. “I cannot wait to share some of the information I learned this summer with my peers. I have handouts for the team from my time at NAHB, and will bring real life experience from working alongside project managers during the course of my internship,” Beckman said.

Felicia Watson, of NAHB and a coordinator of the internship program, said that NAHB was able to offer the internship program during one of the worst economic downturns this county has experienced in years because of the support and assistance of the National Housing Endowment and several NAHB members.

Four graduate students were selected by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) – Colorado Chapter to present their Green Schools case study research at the 2nd Annual Green Schools Summit held in Denver on October 1. The four students, all part of the Sustainable Building emphasis of the Construction Management graduate program, performed the research as part of their CON 576 Sustainable Technology in the Built Environment coursework.

Brian Dunbar, who teaches the course, introduced the students to the conference gathering of over 200 school designers and builders, facility managers and school district officials. The selected students were: Farah McDill, for her Aspen Middle School case study; Erik Bergstrom, for his Palmer Ridge High School case study; Jonathan Noggle, for his Chipeta Elementary case study; and Justin Walsh, for his Bethke Elementary case study. The case studies will be integrated into developing the Green Schools manual being created by the Green Schools Advocacy Committee of the USGBC-Colorado Chapter.
CMAA Students Organize Lean Construction Workshop

The Construction Management Association of America student chapter organized a successful hands-on workshop attended by more than 100 Construction Management students.

The Chapter flew Baris Lostuvali, Senior Project Manager, and Andy Sparapani, a Virtual Design and Construction Specialist, to Colorado for the workshop. The two are current leaders in the construction of the Cathedral Hill Hospital, a billion dollar project in San Francisco, California.

The speakers introduced CM students to Lean Production. Their engaging presentation demonstrated how Lean Methodologies saved 12 million dollars off the original budget and could further reduce the price of the hospital by up to 15 percent.

Students also had the chance to participate in the Airplane Game which was facilitated by Assistant Professor Farook Hamzeh. The renowned game, conducted worldwide, teaches lean techniques and gives individuals a visualization of how lean practices can increase productivity and eliminate waste in the construction of a project.

CM Interns Featured in Kiewit’s Safety First Bulletin

CM student interns Kyle Colman, Todd Goodman and Shadrach Roundy were featured in Kiewit Pacific Company’s Safety First Bulletin - 2009 Summer Annual Intern Edition.

Last summer, Kyle Colman interned on a project constructing two box girder bridges in the middle of South downtown Seattle. One of these bridges would be used as an overpass from the I-90 off ramp while the other would be used as a pedestrian/vehicle overpass spanning eight sets of rail road tracks. Kyle was extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Kiewit, “After having completed this internship with Kiewit, I have a whole different perception of the construction world, especially safety...”

On the same project, Todd Goodman interned as an estimator and safety coordinator. “Though I started out estimating, it was still evident in our planning that Kiewit put a great deal of emphasis on safety,” Todd said.

Shadrach Roundy interned at the Brightwater Pump Station in Bothell, WA. Shadrach learned about several principles while on internship. “The idea that a project or activity will be completed safely, on schedule and within budget, maintaining the Three Legged Stool, has been most interesting to me,” he said. Shadrach was able to see how this idea was used to track safety, quality and production on the project.

“The idea that a project or activity will be completed safely, on schedule and within budget, maintaining the Three Legged Stool, has been most interesting to me.”
ACCE Team Reviews CM Program

In October, the CM Department participated in the undergraduate program review by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) accreditation team. In addition to meetings and interviews with CM faculty and staff, the visiting team met with President Tony Frank, Dean April Mason, members of the Advisory Board and faculty from the College of Business.

The mission of the ACCE is to be a leading global advocate of quality construction education; and to promote, support and accredit quality construction management programs. The results of the Department’s new accreditation status will be announced at the ACCE Mid-Year Meeting in February 2010.

The Department of Construction Management at Colorado State University is the only accredited construction management program in Colorado. The Department has been accredited by the ACCE since 1985.

Six Nominated for College Awards

The CM Department nominated six outstanding persons for the 2009 College of Applied Human Sciences Awards.

Submit your articles or comments to:

Dionne Douglas
Assistant to the Department Head
Department of Construction Management
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523
970 491-0435 (office)
970 491 2473 (fax)
ddouglas@cahs.colostate.edu
www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu