CM Ramps Up Recruitment

Over the summer, CM staff spent countless hours developing a recruitment plan to increase awareness of the CM program among high school students and college transfers. Top quality marketing materials were developed and an open house for prospective students was planned to introduce interested applicants to all that CSU’s CM department has to offer.

Twenty-five CSU students, faculty and staff volunteered as group leaders for the 9th annual Colorado Construction Career Days on October 4 and 5 at Adams County Fairgrounds. The annual event, hosted by the construction industry, is for high school students to explore all areas of construction, including engineering, architecture, building and heavy civil. Nearly 1,700 students attended and participated in various hands-on activities that provided students with a glimpse into the wide range of careers available in the construction industry.

Members of CM leadership, including department head Mostafa Khattab, assistant department head Angela Guggemos, faculty member Kelly Strong, and staff member Anna Fontana, attended the VIP breakfast along with industry leaders, educators, legislators and professionals.

The first CM Open House, held on October 8, provided an opportunity for prospective students to explore the construction management major and potential career paths. The event included an open discussion with industry representative Rick Tucker of Hensel Phelps Construction Company and senior CM student Ben Farrow. CM faculty members Mehmet Ozbek, Caroline Clevenger and Mike O’Reilly presented on various topics of study in the program, and CM staff hosted tours of the program’s classrooms and labs. Attendees participated in a matchstick structure building and burning activity that promoted team building.

“Our first Open House was a successful event,” said Anna Fontana, CM staff member. “We look forward to hosting it again in the future!”

CM Float Wins First Place Again

For the fourth consecutive year the CM department’s float for the CSU Homecoming Parade has won a first place prize. This year’s entry followed the theme of “Get Your Green On” by featuring methods utilized by the construction industry to maintain sustainable structures and the materials used were 100% recycled. The float was even pulled by a tractor powered by biodiesel fuel and driven by CM faculty member Scott Glick. For their efforts, the students involved in the build earned top honors as the Overall Sweepstakes winner and the Most Green – Sustainability award.

To see videos of the float’s construction, visit http://www.youtube.com/user/CSUCAHS
On October 20, Darrell Eastwood, ’74, Executive Vice President and COO of Saunders Construction, conducted his final meeting as chair of the CM Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB) after serving in the role for three years. Eastwood became chair of the board at a time when the CM program faced several challenges, including high student numbers, too few faculty, and the threat of losing its accreditation. Eastwood took charge and rallied the industry to support the program and institute changes that improved the program’s status and continued its push to become the best in the nation. Here, in his own words, are Eastwood’s reflections on his time spent as the head of the CM PADB:

“It was the fall of 2008 and the economy was cooling off but had not yet seen the crevasse it would soon fall into. I had gotten to know Dr. Khattab during his transition as Department Head and he graciously asked me to consider serving as Chairman of the PADB. I was honored and, as a graduate of the program and recruiter of CM students over many years, accepted in hopes of giving something back to the school that had given so much to me.

“The remodel plans for the new Pre-Construction Center were under way and I took great pleasure in being actively involved with fund raising and serving as principal in charge of the coalition of contractors that donated their time and money, fulfilling the vision of a CM facility fostering the Pre-Construction aspect of our business. This facility is one that we are all proud of and will serve the department well, for years to come.

“The department faced numerous challenges over the past three years: going through the accreditation process with ACCE, setting a cap on enrollment, adding faculty, implementing a student fee and finding internships for a growing number of students in a shrinking economy. It has been a joy collaborating with Dr. Khattab and the construction industry to find innovative solutions to these issues. When ACCE issued its accreditation report, it said that the PADB and the department’s relationship with the construction industry are an undeveloped potential. I’m proud to say that the PADB has been there every step of the way supporting the department on each of these issues.

“The mission of the PADB is to ‘promote and improve the construction profession by education and development of a body of construction knowledge; advance and support the highest quality faculty, educational facilities, and undergraduate and graduate programs for the students enrolled in the Construction Management major; provide a liaison between the construction industry and the Department; and develop and implement innovative programs which will benefit the Department and the construction industry. Through the active participation of the construction industry, the CM PADB shall offer advice, counsel, and provide vision for the Department.’ I hope in some way that I was able to advance this mission, as the interdependence between education and industry is clear. The construction industry depends on the quality of the education and students produced by the CM department and the department depends on industry to recruit and hire their product of well trained CM graduates that are the future leaders of our industry.

“It has indeed been a pleasure to partner with a passionate, yet humble, department head who always places the quality of the program first. Many thanks to Dr. Khattab for his exceptional leadership and friendship. The future of the program is in good hands and I promise to stay connected and offer industry perspective in coming years.”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to work with a great leader,” said CM department head Mostafa Khattab. “Darrell is driven by his passion and commitment to construction education and the CM program at CSU. As chair of the PADB, he was instrumental in addressing critical challenges facing our program. I have no doubt that he will continue to support the advancement of our program.”

The new chair of the PADB, Doug Finley, ’88, GE Johnson Construction Company, will preside over his first meeting in March 2012.
CM Faculty Present Research Findings to CDOT

CM faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek completed a research project entitled “Evaluation of Environmental Commitment Tracking Systems for Use at Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)” and submitted the final report presenting their findings, as well as delivering an executive-level presentation to environmental managers working in CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The purpose of this project was to review existing Environmental Tracking Systems (ETSs) used by other select state Departments of Transportation (DOTs), as well as the existing Environmental Commitment Tracking System (ECTS) currently in use by CDOT in an effort to determine which system would be the most beneficial for long-term implementation at CDOT.

Over the course of this project, six research tasks were performed to evaluate existing ETSs from eight state DOTs as well as CDOT’s existing ECTS. These tasks involved conducting interviews to get a better understanding of the features that CDOT prefers to have in an ECTS, developing metrics based on the ECTS currently used by CDOT to evaluate ETSs used by other state DOTs with respect to those features, assigning weights to those metrics to establish the importance of each feature by using the Analytic Hierarchy Process, performing a qualitative evaluation of CDOT’s ECTS and other existing ETSs, performing a quantitative evaluation of CDOT’s ECTS and other existing ETSs, and performing a cost-benefit analysis.

For the findings of the project and to access the final report, please visit: http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/research/pdfs/2011/envtrack.pdf/view.

CAMPC Signs Scholarship Endowment

At the Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB) meeting on October 20, Dave Davia, Executive Director of the Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors (CAMPC), signed the paperwork to establish a $25,000 endowment for a Mechanical Construction Management Scholarship fund. The endowment will fund a scholarship that benefits full-time CM students with sophomore, junior or senior standing with at least one full year of undergraduate studies remaining. Applicants must be members of the Rocky Mountain student chapter of Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) and demonstrate an interest in the mechanical industry by writing a statement describing their interest in the field and their service in the MCAA student chapter.

SLX Inducts New Members

On October 10, the CSU chapter of Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX) International Construction Honor Society held its fall semester installation ceremony. To be an eligible member of the society, candidates must have a 3.5 GPA or higher, demonstrate accomplishments in leadership and be sponsored by a CM faculty member. Seventeen new members were inducted into the society during the ceremony: Shawn Bagg, Mark Boland, Erika Civils, Jessica De Luca, Jon Elliott, Kristen Gropp, Adam Jorck, David Kiekhaefer, Ryan Lewers, Miranda Lewis, Logan Magnuson, Mitchell McCoy, Joseph Ostroski, Kyle Snow, Sarah Tough, and Andrew Wood.

SLX is the only internationally recognized construction management honor society. CSU’s chapter runs a popular tutoring program for CM freshmen and sophomores and is working on several projects related to academic and leadership excellence.
Students Attend MCAA Summit

Members of CSU’s chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA) attended the 2011 MCAA Student Chapter Summit in San Francisco, Calif., October 6-8. The summit consisted of educational sessions, networking opportunities and tours of current construction sites in the area, including the $320 million renovation-reconstruction of the University of California-Berkeley’s Memorial Stadium. Attendees also received the rules and guidelines for the 2011-2012 student chapter competition coming up in the spring.

While at the summit, students participated in a mini competition in which they were challenged, in less than one day, to analyze, plan and prepare a presentation on a project. The CSU team, led by Tammer Khattab, earned a second place finish in the contest. “We have hit this year’s competition hard and are looking for a first place finish at the national competition to beat last year’s second place,” said Khattab.

CM Clubs Volunteer Time for Good Causes

Members of CSU’s student chapter of Associate Builders and Contractors (ABC) spent Saturday, October 1 volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Loveland, Colo. Five students began the day at 8:30 in the morning with a brief introduction to their tasks for the day before splitting into groups to work on two different job sites in the area.

One site was a completed home that just needed a final cleanup before the keys could be turned over, so one crew took care of that while the other group cleaned up another site by picking up trash, pulling fence posts and nailing down plywood around doors and windows to prepare for inspection. When the groups came together in the afternoon, they finished the sheathing work on one of the houses. “By 3:30, we were all exhausted,” said Stephanie Beal, ABC member, “but we felt we accomplished a lot. It was a great time and we are looking forward to doing it again in the spring!”

Members of the CSU chapter of Women in Construction (WIC) rolled up their sleeves and got to work helping various community service agencies around Fort Collins. On October 1, members joined those of CSU’s ABC chapter to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Loveland. Several others volunteered their time and energy to a trail clean-up at Larimer County’s Running Deer Natural Area. “These events are hosted by WIC but open for participation by any CM student,” said WIC president Jessica De Luca. “We hope to host more opportunities similar to these in the spring and really get the students involved in the community.”

Upcoming Events

Fall 2011 Commencement

The College of Applied Human Sciences’ commencement ceremony will take place on Friday, December 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Moby Arena. For more information, visit http://commencement.colostate.edu.

Save the Date:
⇒ Spring 2012 Career Fair is Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the Fort Collins Hilton
⇒ Spring 2012 PADB Meeting will take place in April 2012; check back to future issues of the CM Highlights for more details