Awards Banquet Recognizes Donors, Excellence

The CM program looks forward each year to the opportunity to recognize and thank all the generous donors who contribute to its students’ successful completion of their degrees. On September 11, CM hosted its annual Awards Banquet at the Hilton in Fort Collins and invited scholarship and award recipients, donors, and industry guests to participate in celebrating the year’s achievements.

This year, the department awarded more than 40 scholarships totaling more than $60,000. The scholarships come in many shapes and sizes and include industry awards for students pursuing various sectors of the industry, memorial awards commemorating the lives of successful CM students and industry members, and endowments funded by agencies that promote collaboration among contractors and specialty companies. The student recipients of these awards attended the event to personally thank their donors and enjoy an evening of celebration with them.

The Awards Banquet is also an opportunity to showcase the hard-working individuals who help to boost the CM program to be one of the best in the nation. CM students vote each spring for the faculty and staff members they wish to recognize for their contributions to the program’s success. This year’s Faculty Member of the Year is Loren Funk, professor of the capstone course and CM Leadership course whose good humor and history in the construction industry makes him a particularly knowledgeable asset to the program. The Staff Member of the Year for 2011-2012 is Natalya Weisgerber, the special projects coordinator for the department who handles communications for the program and works closely with the various CM student chapters on publicizing and organizing their semester events.

Also presented at the Awards Banquet is the Ram Built Hard Hat Award. First awarded in 2004, it recognizes members of the Colorado State University community for their invaluable contributions to construction education. The 2012 recipient of the award is the Facilities Management department at CSU for its efforts and engagement in the mentoring and education of CM students through the internship program. Mike Davis and Tony DeKrey in the Remodel and Construction Services unit were recognized in particular for their leadership in hiring and mentoring CM student interns. Steve Hultin, director, and Mike Rush, assistant director, were also invited to accept the award on behalf of the entire Facilities Management department.

Overall, attendees appreciated the efforts made by the department to recognize its generous donors and other individuals that lend to the success of the CM program at CSU. All look forward to continuing the tradition next year.
Lopez del Puerto Receives DBIA Award

CM faculty member Carla Lopez del Puerto learned in September that she is the faculty recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Design-Build Leadership Award. These national awards from the Design-Build Institute of America are presented to individuals who demonstrate leadership in the advancement of best design-build practices and promote design-build as the choice project delivery method. There are several categories for the award, including faculty, student, legislator, industry professional, and owner. The faculty nominees are judged by the overall impact of their research and teaching in terms of furthering design-build as a delivery method. Lopez del Puerto is being recognized for her research and influence on future generations of design-build practitioners. She will receive her award at the 2012 Design-Build Conference and Expo in New Orleans, La., November 7-9.

Ozbek Awarded WYDOT Grant

CM faculty member Mehmet Ozbek was awarded a $173,452 research grant by the Wyoming Department of Transportation. The 2.5-year long study’s objective is to develop an efficiency-based performance assessment system to identify the overall performance of Wyoming Highway Patrol’s different divisions in the presence of multiple performance measures. This system will perform comparative performance assessment of the 18 divisions of WHP using data from a multi-year period and its results will enable benchmarking. The study’s direct outcome will be organization-wide performance improvement for WHP with respect to the performance measures outlined in its Balanced Scorecard, which includes items like safety and customer service, that will ultimately enable WHP to utilize its resources more efficiently and thus provide cost savings for the organization.

Industry Excited for CM Career Fairs

CM students and alumni descended upon the Fort Collins Hilton for the Fall 2012 Construction Management Career Fair on September 25. Seventy-three companies hosted booths at the fair, a three-year high, and several company representatives expressed their opinions that CSU’s career fair is among the best. “The quality of candidates has improved year after year since I began attending these events in 2006,” said Ed Cunningham, director of human resources at Clark Construction Group. “CSU provides a recruiter experience that should be emulated by other universities.” Others noted how graduates of CSU’s CM program tend to top their list of recruits. “When looking for the best CM students in the country, CSU is the first stop for Haselden Construction,” said Kyle Mathes, HR generalist at Haselden. “We have had great experiences with interns from CSU and they often find themselves in full-time positions upon graduation. Our relationship and commitment to CSU and its students creates a cycle of greatness that impacts our local communities and will do so for decades to come.” The next CM Career Fair will be on February 26, 2013.
ABC, Industry Host Football Tailgate

On September 8, the Associated Builders and Contractors student chapter collaborated with Mortenson Construction and Greiner Electric to host a tailgating event prior to the CSU Rams taking on North Dakota State at Hughes Stadium. The event included a barbecue, lawn games, and opportunities for students to network with industry members in a relaxed environment. “We had a healthy turnout,” said Matt Mizell, ABC chapter officer, “and everyone had a great time.”

Industry companies are hosting tailgating events throughout the semester. Haselden Construction and Barton Malow hosted one on September 22, and the Construction Management Association of America student chapter is hosting one on October 27 with Jacobs Engineering Group, LS Gallegos and Associates, and Triunity Engineering and Management.

CSU Teams Take Top Spots in DBIA Competition

The two CSU teams that participated in this year’s DBIA Rocky Mountain regional competition finished in first and second place. The first-place proposals from all nine regions will be submitted to the national judging panel who will then select three teams to participate in the DBIA national competition.

For the regional competition, the teams were presented with a Request for Proposal from an owner that asked them to design, estimate and schedule a building being sent out for bids. The students were placed in teams of three and given a budget and some guidelines on what the owner wanted included in the building. These may include square footage, number of stories, specific rooms or occupancy loads, site requirements, and LEED certification level. The students had one week to completely design the structure, provide a preliminary estimate and schedule, and prepare a professional qualification packet that explains their design and how it meets or exceeds the owner’s expectations.

The first-place team included Andy Wood (captain), Brian Derkash, Megan Miller, and Alex Stein. The second-place team members were Zach Belsey (captain), Zach Hoover, Tyler Van Eeckhaut, and Sean Williams.

Lipton Wins Grant to Attend Conference

CM senior Rachel Lipton has won the Construction Management Association of America contest to attend the CMAA National Conference in Chicago October 21-23. Lipton earned a $1,000 grant to attend the conference and will participate in the Rising CM presentations that highlight exceptional CMAA student chapters from across the country.

Lipton is a non-traditional student in the CM program who credits CMAA with helping her build relationships with classmates that she may not have otherwise achieved. “The CMAA chapter is a great organization to be involved with,” she said, “and this is just one example of the opportunities we members receive.” Lipton has been a member of CMAA since January 2012 and currently holds the officer position of Secretary for the club.
Students Learn From Campus Projects

As part of the Estimating I course, CM students visited the Braiden Hall Renovation project on September 27 and 28. The scope of the project involves adding a 4th floor to each of the four wings of the residence hall, along with additional community and academic support spaces. The tour was organized by Assistant Professor Rodolfo Valdes in collaboration with Craig Jeffrey, a project manager with Kiewit Building Group.

The tour provided students the opportunity to learn how construction processes affect the cost of a project and to identify energy-efficient features in the new addition's design. In addition, students were able to network with possible future employers. Blaine Fanning, a CM graduate student, noted that one of the most interesting aspects of the tour was the care that is taken in asbestos abatement. "I was impressed with how Kiewit handles the removal process," he said, "particularly wrapping the pipes with two separate bags and the monitoring of them until they reach the final destination for disposal."

Students in several CM classes take jobsite tours like this throughout the semester to gain some field experience with their classroom training. If your company would like to host a jobsite tour to benefit your future employees, please contact the CM department.

Upcoming Events

Fall 2012 PADB Meeting
The PADB Meeting for the fall 2012 semester is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 1:30 PM in room 221 Guggenheim Hall on the CSU campus. We look forward to seeing our PADB members there!

Annual CM Clay Shoot
The annual Clay Shoot is scheduled for Friday, October 26, at Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Bennett, Colo. Cost is $35 for students and $75 for industry members. Lunch, T-shirts, awards, and raffle prizes will be provided after the shoot. Registration forms are in the CM Front Office in Guggenheim Hall, or contact Andi Lewis at andi.lewis@rams.colostate.edu for a form. All registrations are due by Friday, October 19, at 5:00 PM.