Ribbon-Cutting Officially Opens CVDC Lab

Following months of coordination, renovation, and technology and furniture selection, the new Mortenson Center for Virtual Design and Construction officially opened to students with a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 11. The new space, housed in 118 Guggenheim Hall, provides interactive equipment that allows students to work more effectively with building information modeling technology. Currently, the CM Boot Camp courses are using the space to best facilitate collaboration on projects and assignments. The eventual goal is to have BIM integrated throughout the CM curriculum to allow students to stay current with trending processes and technologies utilized in the construction industry.

Attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony included Clay Benson (*83), director of design phase management at Mortenson, who oversaw the entire renovation process from the early conversations on the scope of the project to troubleshooting and completing the final details. Also in attendance were Bob Hansen, Denver vice president of Mortenson, and several employees of Mortenson and Encore Electric.

MCA of Colorado Expands Commitment to CM

A mechanical focus for the undergraduate degree has been a goal of the CM program for some time and the engagement of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Colorado has been critical to the success of the endeavor. Dave Davia, CEO and executive vice president of the association, officially announced in September the MCA Board of Directors approval for a renewal of its commitment to CSU’s CM program with a $100,000 gift over the next five years, similar to a contribution made in 2008. These funds will be used to boost mechanical instruction in the curriculum as well as support the MCAA student chapter, which also earned the 2012 Chapter of Excellence grant from the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation.

This pledge by MCA of Colorado brings the total contributions to the CM program to almost $300,000. When coupled with the support of its contractor members for the renovation of the Industrial Sciences Building, the total contributions from leaders in the mechanical industry to the CM program during the past 10 years is nearly $750,000. “Our industry’s support and commitment to the CM program is important to our members,” said Davia. “Our collective contributions would not have been possible without the reforms made by the department and University to greatly improve the quality of students' experience. It is truly a great partnership, and our sincere thanks go to the students for demanding a top-notch education, and to department head Mostafa Khattab for making the vision a reality. We look forward to working more closely with the College’s new dean, Jeff McCubbin, and University President Tony Frank to continue on this path of excellence.”
Celebrating Award Recipients and Donors

On September 11, CM hosted its annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet to celebrate the generosity of donors, the successes of students, and the support of industry and CSU. The annual event, once again held at the Hilton in Fort Collins, welcomed guests for dinner and a presentation and the opportunity to celebrate the year’s achievements.

This year's festivities included recognition of three new awards given for the first time. The Rachael Finley Memorial Scholarship is a one-time award established by the CM Professional Advisory Development Board’s Executive Council in memory of the daughter of Doug Finley, a longtime friend of the CM program and current chair of the PADB. Finley’s daughter passed away unexpectedly in February and his colleagues and friends supported the award in an effort to honor her memory and express their gratitude for all that he has accomplished through his support of the CM program.

The Jeni Geal Scholarship in Construction Management honors the memory of Geal ('00), an employee of GE Johnson Construction Company who passed away in 2011 following a courageous battle with cancer. GE Johnson established the award with the support of Geal’s family. Her father and brother attended the CM Awards Banquet as the representatives of the award.

The third new award benefits the Faculty of the Year as voted on by students of the program. Jim Young, a former faculty member of the CM program for nearly 20 years until his retirement in 1992, established an award as an extra recognition for the individual voted by students as the best faculty member of the year. Young and his family attended the banquet and were on hand to congratulate this year’s tying recipients, Kevin Jones and Mehmet Ozbek.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, the CM department awarded more than 40 scholarships totaling approximately $75,000. The program also presented the 2013 Ram Built Hard Hat award to emeritus faculty member Chuck Smith for his 32 years of service as an assistant professor in support of construction education at CSU. Mortenson Construction was presented with the 2013 Friend of the Department award for its continued commitment to providing support and insight to the program, especially with its recent contribution of the Mortenson Center for Virtual Design and Construction in Guggenheim Hall.

The evening concluded with remarks by donor Greg Kushner ('07) and student recipient Austin Shreve. The department is proud to have the opportunity of recognizing the generosity of its scholarship contributors and the stellar achievements of its students.

SLX Installs New Members

On September 19, in a ceremony that took place in the Industrial Sciences Lab building, the Sigma Lambda Chi construction honor society inducted new members into its ranks. Twelve students became the newest members of a group comprised of the top 10 percent of the CM class. SLX members are also heavily involved in student organizations and other extra-curricular activities and are considered leaders in the program.

SLX is an international honor society whose purpose is to recognize outstanding students earning degrees in construction management programs and showcasing their academic accomplishments.
Company Attendance Up for Career Fair

On September 24, students set aside their t-shirts and jeans for suits and skirts in order to make an impression at the 2013 CM Fall Career Fair. Held every semester at the Hilton in Fort Collins and coordinated by the Phelps Placement Office in the CM program, the career fair is an opportunity for students to explore career and internship possibilities with companies across the country and establish connections with potential employers.

This semester, students had a much larger pool of options available to them with 85 companies and organizations represented. “This is the most companies we’ve hosted at the Career Fair since Fall 2008,” said Phelps Office coordinator Anna Fontana. “We’ve seen a resurgence in recruiting efforts by companies, and we’ve welcomed a few new recruiters from sectors we haven’t had join us for a few years.”

This renewed interest in hiring is a sure sign that the construction industry is booming and seeking new talent to lead it into the future. These companies are particularly interested in students with degrees from CSU which is a testament to the department’s commitment to excellence in education and its quality relationships with members of industry.

Connecting with High School Students at CCC Days

For the third year in a row, staff members of the CM program have participated in Colorado Construction Career Days at the Adams County Fairgrounds. On September 24 and 25, nearly 1800 students from 30 school districts across the state attended the event where they participated in hands-on activities that gave them a glimpse into the multitude of career opportunities available in the construction industry.

Volunteers from CSU lead group tours and Anna Fontana, internship and outreach coordinator in the Phelps Placement Office, participated on the panel during the VIP Breakfast taking place alongside CCC Days. The panel’s program, “It Takes an Education to Build,” discussed workforce challenges currently affecting students, companies, and the state as a whole, and noted various opportunities and resources available to individuals pursuing careers in construction. The VIP group then toured the CCC Days events to see high school students participating in the activities spread out across the fairgrounds.

CCC Days is hosted by Associated General Contractors of Colorado in association with sponsorships by various construction companies and organizations. The event was created by the construction, engineering and architectural industries to introduce high school students to careers and professionals in the field of construction.

Ozbek Selected for TRB Committee

Faculty member Mehmet Ozbek was selected to serve on the Transportation Research Board’s Maintenance and Operations Management Committee. This particular committee, one of many chartered to support the mission of TRB, is concerned with all aspects of managing the maintenance and operations of highway transportation facilities.

TRB is a national organization with the mission to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. In an objective and interdisciplinary setting, TRB facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners; stimulates research and offers research management services that promote technical excellence; provides expert advice on transportation policy and programs; and disseminates research results broadly and encourages their implementation.
CON 476 Visits Co-Housing Community in Fort Collins

As part of Sustainable Practices in Design and Construction, or CON 476, students toured the Grey Rock Community in west Fort Collins on September 23. Faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez visited with their students and encouraged them to identify key features typically found in co-housing projects, such as the physical design of the homes that allows for both social interaction and individual space. The tour was hosted by Karen Spencer and CM faculty member Mike O’Reilly, both residents of the community.

Founded in 1997, Grey Rock is a small community of 30 homes of various sizes with a community house for social gatherings and communal garden space. The community is laid out to maximize living space while encouraging communal gathering and reducing energy consumption. “To my amazement, the development of the whole community stemmed from a group of core residents who wanted to build a cohesive, cooperative community based on respect, responsibility, and shared human and material sources,” said graduate student Sereyrithy Chhun. “I learned a lot from this tour; not only about the sustainable design aspects but also how one group of people turned its initiative into a reality regardless of challenges faced before, during, and even after the development of the project.”

“Caroline and I want to publicly express our gratitude to the Grey Rock Community residents for hosting the class,” said Valdes-Vasquez. “This community is a great example for many of the concepts the faculty teach and the students really liked visiting the site. Congratulations on the sustainable accomplishments at Grey Rock!”

USGBC Hosts ‘Green Apple Day of Service’

The U.S. Green Building Council student organization hosted its national Green Apple Day of Service on September 28 in the courtyard behind the Preconstruction Center on campus. SolarCity, a national leader in clean energy services, gave a solar power demonstration and Colorado’s “Worm Man” talked to students about composting. Tours of some of the LEED buildings on campus were available, and free snacks and chalk were provided for kids.

Green Apple gives parents, teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform all schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects. The initiative is powered by volunteers who participate in community-based efforts and funded by corporate partners. The USGBC’s Center for Green Schools is behind the movement, working to ensure that every student has the opportunity to attend a green school.

Touring Future of Denver Transportation

On September 19, faculty members Caroline Clevenger and Mehmet Ozbek, along with graduate student Blaine Fanning, met with industry professional and CSU CM alumnus Sean Vonfeldt ('89) of Triunity Engineering & Management, Inc. / RTD to tour the Denver Union Station and the adjoining bus box project. The tour, led by John Harwell of RTD, consisted of accessing the pedestrian bridge over the new platforms that will be used by commuter rail and Amtrak trains, and then walking through the new 1,000-foot bus box.

“This facility will be an amazing asset to Denver and surrounding commuters,” said Ozbek.

This meeting and tour was the final step in concluding the successful industry internship and partnership in which Fanning took part to further his research on a project titled, “The Impacts and Benefits of Building Information Modeling for Transportation Infrastructure.” Through this collaboration of industry and academia, Fanning worked for Triunity as a program support consultant intern. His main task was to research and develop a BIM implementation plan for RTD to manage its transportation infrastructure.
Building for the Green and Gold  Story by Katie Brayden, CHHS Development

“It’s been a 33-year journey to get back on Colorado State University’s campus,” says Shaun Yancey, president of U.S. operations at PCL Construction, Inc., as he sits among the many vivid job site photographs inside the PCL-sponsored classroom in the Department of Construction Management’s renovated Preconstruction Center building. With dust on his boots from a morning spent on the job site at CSU, he adds, “We are really excited to be back and building. We are very proud.”

For Yancey, a 1980 graduate of CSU’s construction management program and former student assistant in the residence halls known as The Towers, “back” comes with an extra dose of pride.

Last year, the company won a highly-competitive bidding process for the Laurel Village North project, a residence hall and living-learning community slated to open in Fall 2014. “Not only am I excited to see that CSU is finally adding new residence halls,” Yancey says with a chuckle, “but I’m glad to have the opportunity to take CM students through the building process and help further their education in the real world.”

The Laurel Village North job site is on the southwest corner of Laurel Street and Washington Avenue. The residence halls are targeting LEED® Gold certification and the common area, known as the pavilion, will be vying for the prestigious LEED Platinum certification—a testament to CSU’s commitment to sustainability. Yancey is joined by fellow construction management alumnus and Colorado native, Trey Nobles, PCL’s vice president and district manager in Denver. “I feel like I grew up here,” explains Nobles, whose mother worked at the Lory Student Center on campus for 28 years before retiring.

Both Yancey and Nobles found CSU’s CM program during their freshmen years. For Yancey, it was a unique blend of construction, engineering, architecture, and business that drew him in. Nobles was steered to the program for its hands-on nature by a counselor in CSU’s Career Center.

Now, the pair shares a nearly 50-year collective career at PCL, an employee-owned company, and together they have celebrated the successes of large and small projects. One at the top of their list is Denver International Airport, not only because of its unique complexity and the large role PCL played in the construction of the terminal and parking garages, but also because it is where Yancey and Nobles first met.

“Shaun was the first person from PCL to welcome me to the family,” explains Nobles.

And family it is. Both men attribute their long and successful careers at PCL to the importance the company places on each of their families. “This is a fairly nomadic lifestyle, and the company is sensitive to that and the impact to families,” says Yancey. “Family always comes first.”

Joining Yancey and Nobles in the PCL family are 36 other CSU alumni employees and two interns. “We come to CSU first,” explains Nobles, on their recruitment strategy. “CSU graduates come well-prepared and enthusiastic about learning and they understand the business.” Yancey echoes this sentiment by affirming, “Without a doubt, CSU’s CM program is at the top among universities in both the U.S. and Canada. The program’s leaders listen to the industry and are committed to partnering.”

Beyond recruiting students and completing their current job on campus, PCL’s partnership with CSU includes 19 years of philanthropic support for construction management education, competition teams, service-learning projects, and much more. “Because of the caliber of graduates that step in and make an impact for us, we want to continue supporting the department,” says Nobles, who notes with pride that PCL has built a culture of philanthropy into its strategic plan. “We want to do our part to give back and build community,” adds Yancey.

The two agree that their support for CSU and desire to compete for projects on campus will continue. “By having our presence on campus, we can show students that we are one of the best places to build a career,” explains Yancey.

FORTUNE magazine agrees. For the past eight years, PCL has been ranked on its list of “100 Best Companies to Work For.” PCL is one of the few Colorado-based companies who repeatedly earn this distinction.

“Companies don’t develop solutions. People do. We are more than builders.” These words from PCL’s website have been put into practice through the company’s dedication to campus and providing opportunities for tomorrow’s industry leaders. “Education is an integral part of our corporate commitment,” Yancey says. “It’s easy to get excited about CSU.”

WIC Hosts Coffee Talk with Members of ISEC, Inc.

On September 19, members of Women in Construction brought together CM students and employees of ISEC, Inc., for a great networking and mentorship opportunity. This Coffee Talk event focused on preparing students for the CM Career Fair held on September 24 and served as an opportunity for industry members to mentor students with their own experiences and advice. “It was a fun event,” said WIC president Liz McEwen. “Everyone learned a lot and I am glad that students took advantage of this awesome opportunity to learn and network. Not to mention the coffee!”
Upcoming Events

**Annual Clay Shoot**
The annual CM Clay Shoot will take place on Friday, October 18, at 8:00 AM at Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Bennett, Colo. This 100-clay tournament is an excellent opportunity for students and industry to network and enjoy a day of shooting. Cost for students is $35 and registration forms are available in the Front Office, 102 Guggenheim Hall. Lunch, T-shirts, awards and raffle prizes will be provided following the tournament.

Industry members interested in participating can contact CMBoD director of operations Jonny Hendricks at jonny.hendricks1@gmail.com for more information.

**Fall 2013 PADB Meeting**
The next PADB meeting will take place on Thursday, October 24, from 1:30 PM until 5:00 PM. The location of the meeting will be in Guggenheim Hall or Preconstruction Center. Details and an agenda will be sent to PADB members within the coming weeks.

Following the PADB Meeting, WIC is hosting an industry mixer in Preconstruction Center from 5:00 until 6:30. Any PADB members wishing to stay and participate are welcome!

Interested in the CM PADB? Information on membership and initiatives can be found on the CM website: [www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/about.aspx](http://www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/about.aspx)

**Explore CM! Open House**
CM is excited to host its 3rd annual Explore CM open house on Friday, October 25, at 3:30 PM in 122 Preconstruction Center (251 W. Laurel Street). All prospective students, including transfer students, those wishing to change majors, and high school students, are welcome to attend to gain insight into construction management as a major and the career possibilities that come with the degree. This informational and fun event includes information on the major and careers as well as topic presentations, a tour of the program’s facilities, and activities.

Interested attendees can register at [https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/cmopenhouse/](https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/cmopenhouse/) by Wednesday, October 10. Event details including an agenda, driving and parking directions will be sent to registered guests the week of the event.

High school seniors may also want to take advantage of the Showcase Colorado State Visit Day during their visit to Fort Collins. More details on the CSU event can be found at [admissions.colostate.edu/showcasecoloradostatevisitday](http://admissions.colostate.edu/showcasecoloradostatevisitday).

Anyone unable to attend the event but interested in the CM program may contact a CM Advisor at (970) 491-7354 for more information.