CSU Team Excels in Green Energy Challenge

CSU, along with much of the nation, is focused on going green and finding new or innovative methods to do so. A group of CM students focused on one particular method by designing an energy renovation of CSU’s Hartshorn Health Services building as part of the Green Energy Challenge sponsored by ELECTRI International and the National Electrical Contracting Association. On July 15, the group received notice that it was selected as one of three finalists to compete in the competition’s final stage at the 2014 NECA convention.

“I speak for myself and everyone on the team in saying we are very proud of this year’s product,” said Dan Proud, CM senior and the group’s project manager. “After three long months of hard work and dedication, we have delivered a top proposal that we are confident will even be partially utilized by CSU in the future.”

Members of the team are now preparing for the electrical competition held at the Associated Schools of Construction competitions held in Reno, Nev., in February. They are also recruiting for the next Green Energy Challenge.

Team members Proud, Luke Fang, Mike McLain, Richard Simmons, Owen Thurston, and Trevor Vance travelled to Chicago, Ill., at the end of September to compete against the other finalists from Iowa State University and San Diego State University. Each team received 15 minutes to present the highlights of their proposal before industry judges from across the nation. CSU’s team earned third place.

“This competition provided us with a great opportunity to get exposed to the electrical industry and to practice our professional skills that we will use upon graduating from CSU,” said Thurston. “We had a great experience with the Green Energy Challenge and the NECA convention and are proud to have our chapter recognized at a national level.”

Gina Cullen, vice president of Dynalectric Colorado, praised the team for their efforts. “These guys did a great job! We were happy to assist with their proposal and proud to have this team represent our region in the competition. They are a good looking team and we wish them the best of luck in their future.”

Team members pose with industry helpers who guided the team on their project submission.

Renderings of the proposed photovoltaic system (above) and gazebo (below) from the project report.
CM Hosts Sixth Annual Awards Banquet

Education is important, but sometimes the means to acquire knowledge are not easily accessible. This hurdle, however, is overcome thanks to the generosity of scholarship donors, and on September 10, the sixth annual CM Awards Banquet took place at the Hilton in Fort Collins as a celebration of the commitment of those donors and the achievements of students.

This year’s celebration included the recognition of two new scholarship awards. Susan Stefanich-Stevens, a 1990 Industrial Science and Technology alumna, established the John Joseph Stefanich, Sr., Scholarship to honor her father. Stefanich was a Colorado native who, after retiring from a career as a U.S. postal clerk, engaged in community activities and Master Gardening classes at CSU. He was a carpenter, engineer, project manager, and had many other talents that included fixing and building anything. According to Stefanich-Stevens, her father was always there to help others and to take care of the ‘underdog.’ Her message to recipients of her scholarship is, “I hope you will work hard not only for yourself, but for your family and others. Be that smile and helping hand that someone else may need.”

Phil Stupp, president of the fabrications segment of Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company, worked to establish an award named for the company’s foundation to support CM and civil engineering students at CSU. Stupp credits his CSU education with giving him the knowledge and skills to not only join his family’s business, but to lead the company’s expansion and growth. Created in 2013, this is the first year this award has been presented.

This is also the first year that the CM Cares Exceptional Service Achievement Award was presented in recognition and appreciation of a student’s outstanding commitment to service of the community and exceptional dedication to the CM Cares initiative. Mark Norin, a CM senior, received the award for his outstanding volunteer work on several projects since CM Cares began in 2011. “When I came to CSU in 2011, I wanted to volunteer and make a difference,” said Norin. “I had building abilities and tools and thought I would be a good match for what CM Cares was doing. While using my skills, I am improving someone else’s life with like-minded volunteers. It has encouraged me to give back to make a difference in our local community and I have much to give.”

Jim Young’s Faculty Member of the Year award went to Jon Elliott, while the Staff Member of the Year went to academic advisor Terry Richardson. Both awards are presented based on a tally of student votes.

Boos Honored with Distinguished Alumni Award

Passion about service to others led Kayla Boos (’14) to serve on multiple community service projects and in several volunteer capacities while working on her CM degree. This desire to make a difference in the world has earned her the Albert C. Yates Student Leadership Award as part of the CSU Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni recognitions.

“Kayla has strong leadership ability, which is consistently demonstrated through her extensive participation in several extracurricular activities,” said former CM faculty member Caroline Clevenger. “For years she has been heavily involved with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Her career aspirations are to continue such work in a non-profit or community capacity, and it is refreshing to see such a talented student seeking such opportunities.”

“Kayla has made significant strides as a student leader, and her graduation from CSU means we will have an enormous void to fill in terms of student engagement,” said staff member Anna Fontana. “She had proven to be a motivated, passionate, and responsible student representative of our department.”

To read Boos’ biography and for more information on other Distinguished Alumni Awards recipients, visit http://www.alumni.colostate.edu/Alumni/DistinguishedAlumniAwards/tabid/103/Default.aspx
Ozbek Selected as a University Speaker

Colorado State University’s dedication to research excellence and outreach has been enhanced with the recent establishment of the CSU Speakers Bureau. This group of scholars and professionals from all across campus is grouped into a searchable framework that allows the public to access expertise in a particular area of interest.

CM’s own associate professor Mehmet Ozbek is among those listed as an accessible source of information. His research expertise in topics such as highway safety, project delivery, sustainable infrastructure, construction contracts, and others could be utilized for opportunities including media inquiries, peer discussions, speaking engagements, public educational opportunities, and service on boards or committees.

Ozbek received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Middle East Technical University in Turkey and his M.S. and Ph.D, both in Civil Engineering with a focus on Construction Engineering and Management, from Virginia Tech. He has been very active in state and federally funded projects related to transportation.

Valdes-Vasquez Awarded SoGES Grant

In August, faculty member Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez was awarded a Sustainability Education Improvement grant by the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at CSU. These funds allow faculty to develop courses with a sustainability perspective and to bring sustainability focus into existing courses. Valdes-Vasquez, along with the two faculty from other CSU programs to earn awards, will have the opportunity to discuss goals and strategies at a CSU-sponsored workshop and then attend the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, or AASHE, conference in Portland, Ore., in October.

The goal of SEI grants is to support faculty in developing courses that can become endorsed by SoGES to possibly contribute to the SoGES minor available to students. The Global Environmental Sustainability minor, an interdisciplinary program, includes courses that educate students on various aspects of sustainability.

McEwen Featured in NAHB Newsletter

Thanks to a recommendation made by faculty member Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez for a Homebuilding Education Leadership Program grant, CM senior Liz McEwen earned the opportunity to attend the National Association of Home Builders Residential Construction Student Symposium during the summer. This week-long event allows students to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn about all aspects of the NAHB.

While in attendance, McEwen was interviewed about her long-term goals as a woman in the construction industry. The article that appeared in NAHB’s newsletter can be found here: http://nahbnews.com/nahbwc/issues/2014-07-22/2.html.

McEwen (center, seated) poses with members of her group to present the bicycle they built during the 2013 Kiewit Womens Conference.
CM Participates in Key

Key Communities at CSU are diverse first- and second-year learning communities designed to assist students with their transition to and through the University. Key aims to increase retention and academic performance of participants through interdisciplinary classes, service-learning, academic and career exploration, undergraduate research and leadership development, as well as encourage campus and community involvement and promote diversity awareness.

CM established its own Key course, Breaking Ground: Building Future Leaders, for fall 2014 to allow students to explore team-building, leadership, and management principles as they relate to construction management and the built environment. Students are challenged to improve their skills in the areas of collaboration, public-speaking, and problem solving through active learning of hands-on activities and field trips.

The students participating learn self-discovery by focusing on the skills and strategies that shape management and leadership styles and drive leading building practices in the United States and around the world. The underlying goal of the course is to engage and support each student in his or her pursuit to physically improve the community and build a better world.

USGBC Chapter Volunteers for Green Apple Day

Every September, the U.S. Green Building Council and the Center for Green Schools hosts a nationwide volunteer day called the Green Apple Day of Service. This event gives teachers, students, companies and local organizations the opportunity to transform schools into healthy, safe and productive learning environments through local service projects.

This year, the CSU’s USGBC student chapter volunteered at the Fort Collins Sustainable Living Fair for their community service project. The Sustainable Living Fair offers a weekend of solution-based, interactive, family oriented events designed to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about renewable energy, alternative transportation, sustainable and local agriculture, green building, natural health, environmental and social responsibility, local economies, and much more. The Fair features acclaimed keynote speakers, 200 exhibitors, 75 workshops, and hands-on experiences that focus on energetic, solution based approaches to building and enhancing communities and human connections to a vibrant, healthy future.

The Green Apple initiative is powered by volunteers who participate in community-based efforts and is promoted by media partners, like-minded non-governmental organizations, and high-profile ambassadors. It is funded by corporate partners.

Key students engage in a Lego activity that demonstrates leadership skills in small groups

The Key students were grouped by differing personality traits to build something utilizing teamwork and leadership skills

The Key students came up with their own float concept for the 2014 Homecoming Parade; details in next issue of Ram Built News
SLX Chapter Hosts Resume Critique

On Tuesday, September 16, CSU’s chapter of Sigma Lambda Chi Honor Society hosted a resume critique clinic for CM students prior to the Career Fair on September 23. Ten industry representatives from local companies including Dohn Construction, Drahota, FCI Constructors, Neenan Archistruction, and PCL Construction, reviewed the resumes of more than 60 students and provided feedback. “The industry members were honored to support the CM program and are seeking more opportunities to support our students in the future,” said SLX president Silas Dwyer. “Thank you to everyone who participated in the event and best of luck at the career fair and beyond!”

Upcoming Events

Fall 2014 PADB Meeting

PADB Members, the next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2014, in 122 Preconstruction Center. An invitation and the meeting agenda have been sent to members. For information on the PADB, visit [www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/about.aspx](http://www.cm.colostate.edu/industry/about.aspx).

Annual Clay Shoot

The annual CM Clay Shoot will take place on Friday, October 24, 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 Kayla Boos at kjboos@rams.colostate.edu for more information.

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