CM Celebrates Scholarships and Program Supporters

The CM department’s annual Awards Banquet took place on September 15 at the Marriott Hotel in Fort Collins. The celebration recognized the successes of the student recipients, thanked the generous donors, and commemorated the dedication of industry and CSU individuals who have made significant impacts on the program. This year, 30 scholarships were awarded totaling $48,250. Along with the scholarships, CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab presented two prestigious CM awards to three recipients whose dedication greatly influenced the success of the CM program.

The 2011 Friend of the Department award, an honor for those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable contributions in building industry-construction education partnerships that benefit the CM program, went to Darrell Eastwood, Executive Vice President and COO of Saunders Construction, Inc. Eastwood, an alumnus of the CM program and the current chair of the department’s Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB), spearheaded the efforts of the PADB to assist the CM program with challenges it faced during his tenure as PADB chair, including the accreditation renewal, setting an enrollment cap, hiring faculty, and placing interns in a struggling economy. His enthusiasm and constant commitment to the success of the program inspired the CM faculty and staff and led to the decision to present him with this award.

There were two recipients of the 2011 Ram Built Hard Hat award, which recognizes members of the CSU community that have made invaluable contributions to construction education. April Mason, former dean of the College of Applied Human Sciences, was instrumental in assisting the CM program with achieving critical goals during her tenure at CSU, including undergraduate admission control, securing new faculty positions, and meeting accreditation requirements. Her drive and commitment were her greatest contributions to the CM program, and the department was very pleased to present her with this award.

The other Ram Built award was presented to the CM student leadership responsible for taking their educations into their own hands and petitioning for a student instruction fee to help the CM program improve its facilities, technology, and faculty to provide the best instruction possible. These student leaders committed themselves to the drive to improve construction education and were successful in implementing the fee, and the CM department is proud to honor their commitment and determination.
CM Co-Hosts Real Estate Conference

Real estate and the health of the housing market are on many minds lately. A statewide survey coordinated by the Everitt Real Estate Center in CSU’s College of Business asked for the points of view on the real estate business outlook from three major sectors involved in Colorado’s built environments, including architecture, construction and commercial real estate. The results of this survey were revealed at the 15th annual Real Estate Rendezvous on September 27 hosted by the Everitt Real Estate Center, the CM department, and three of Colorado’s industry associations: American Institute of Architects, Associated Builders and Contractors, and Associated General Contractors.

Survey results indicate that while architects seem to have a less optimistic outlook for contractors and commercial real estate in 2012, respondents from commercial real estate seem fairly optimistic for the construction industry. All three sectors are concerned about the prospects for private funding of new development projects, and the increase in competition remains a major concern, although each sector is responding to these challenges.

The results of the survey were presented by Steven Laposa, Loveland Commercial Endowed Chair in Real Estate in the College of Business. Commentary and insights on the survey were provided by CM Assistant Professor Scott Glick and members of the three industry associations present. The keynote speaker for the event was Bob White, founder and president of Real Capital Analytics, Inc., and a noted authority on the real estate capital markets.

Lopez del Puerto Conducts ASCE Seminar in Texas

CM faculty member Carla Lopez del Puerto traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to conduct a continuing education seminar sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The course, Design-Build Contracting, took place September 22-23 and proved to be an excellent source of information for engineers and architects representing companies that would like to procure projects that utilize design-build.

Topics covered by the course included the typical types of risk inherent to the design/construction process, scoping a design-build project in functional terms, design-build proposal preparation, and the preparation and evaluation of design-build requests for proposal (RFP). Participants learned to select projects that potentially benefit from a design-build approach, how to optimize the balance between performance-specified requirements and method-specified requirements, how to avoid costly and time-consuming errors due to poorly written design-build RFPs, and how to develop definitive performance criteria and apply them to all aspects of a design-build project.

ASCE offers more than 300 continuing education seminars each year in cities across the United States. They cover a wide range of topics from construction, environment and hydraulics to structures, transportation and management.

CSU DBIA Team Brings Home First-Place Finish

A team of students from CSU’s CM program earned first place in the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) Rocky Mountain Region student competition September 12-16. The members of the team, Jasen Dill, Matt Druffel, and Ben Farrow, earned a trip to the DBIA Design-Build Conference and Expo in Orlando, Fla., October 19-21. They will travel with their coach, CM Assistant Professor Carla Lopez del Puerto, to attend the conference’s workshops, presentations and demonstrations, including a keynote address by Captain James Lovell of NASA. This event provides these students with the opportunity to network with other DBIA professionals from across the country and to learn about design-build projects and methods outside the classroom.
CSU Chapter Named Chapter of the Year

CSU’s student chapter of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) has been named the 2011 Student Chapter of the Year by the CMAA national office. With 35 student chapters currently in existence across the nation, it is a true honor to be selected among so many. Seth Batson, current president of the CSU chapter, will travel to the CMAA National Conference in Washington, D.C., in November to accept the recognition. Watch for the November edition of CM Highlights for all the details of the trip!

CM Student Receives Conference Travel Award

Elijah Schutz, a CM senior with a Business minor, was selected by the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Colorado Chapter as the recipient of a Conference Travel Award. CMAA hosts a competition each year, and only one student in Colorado wins the $1,000 award to support his or her attendance of the CMAA National Conference.

This year’s event is November 6-8 in Washington, D.C., and includes a trade show and more than 40 educational sessions covering topics from CM leadership in the 21st century to protecting owners’ interests by teaming with legal staff.

Schutz is an active member and Director of Communications of the CMAA Student Chapter at CSU, as well as a member of the 2012 Preconstruction competition team. After graduation, he hopes to work as a construction manager representing project owners or as a project manager on commercial projects.

Bookstore Award to CM Benefits Selected Students

Five CM students benefited from the department’s efforts to send textbook adoptions for the fall 2011 semester to the CSU Bookstore as early as possible. Jessica DeLuca, Matt Druffel, Delmar Grant, Ryan McCarty, and Chelsea Strang each received a $100 gift certificate to the CSU Bookstore funded by one of the Bookstore’s used book partners. “Early book orders helped provide students the highest buyback prices last May and helped provide the most used books for fall,” said Margaret Gearhart, Assistant Books Director at the Bookstore. “In short, receiving this textbook information has a very positive effect on our efforts to keep CSU students’ cost of textbooks as low as possible.”

Each of the student recipients expressed sincere appreciation for receiving the certificates. DeLuca, a non-traditional student balancing classes with a part-time job and raising two boys, is particularly grateful for the certificate. “This award will assist me in getting all my books and software access for the semester,” she said.

Druffel and McCarty noted that with the rising cost of tuition and textbooks, particularly in a difficult economic climate, every little bit that eases the financial burden is immensely helpful.

This is the second time in two years that the CM program has obtained this award for select students, and we hope to be able to do so again in the near future.
DBIA Students Tour Denver Construction Site

On September 23, members of the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) student chapter toured the Denver Housing Authority’s South Lincoln redevelopment project to see a design-build approach to construction in action. Milender White, a company based in Arvada, Colo., is the leader of the design-build team for the 97,000 square foot senior living housing development and graciously conducted the tour for the benefit of the students.

The new construction is designed for LEED certification, particularly in pursuit of a platinum certification, and the new units in the building will focus on delivering exceptional energy efficiency and performance. The students observed each phase of the 100-unit project, floor by floor, to see how the design-build concept is applied. Zachary Belsey, president of the CSU DBIA student chapter, said, “It was great getting to see all the sustainability practices that Milender White chose to use on this project. The owner asked them to build a LEED certified building and Milender White went far and above what they asked, giving the owner the highest rating possible for the same budget. We will take their example of outperforming expectations to our own experiences at both school and work.”

Vico VP Demonstrates Software for CM Students

Olli Seppanan, Vice President of Services at Vico Software, visited CSU on October 1 to give a custom workshop on Vico’s management and scheduling software. The package demonstrated, Vico Office, is a complete management package that incorporates Vico’s modeling, scheduling, and estimating applications to create a comprehensive and auto live updating managing component.

Seppanan also went into detail about the unique management philosophy, Location Based Management System (LBMS), which Vico encourages its client companies to utilize. LBMS is based on managing tasks based on location rather than critical path so that the entire worksite can be optimized consistently, saving time and money throughout the course of a project. He used examples to demonstrate how LBMS has been used successfully to reduce and optimize projects’ schedules. The students were then provided with a small sample project to test in the software so they could get a feel for how it ties cost estimates and schedules together to better manage a project.

Seppanan has written several books and research papers on the LBMS method and shared those with the students for further exploration of the topic. Students were very pleased with the opportunity to learn a new software approach from an industry expert. “This was an excellent learning experience,” said Paul Nauss, “because it gave me some knowledge of what to expect in my career after graduation.” Zach James, impressed with Seppanan himself, said, “It is amazing that someone of such high caliber in the industry would take the time to teach a handful of college students how to use his software.”

Upcoming Events

Second Annual Industry-Academia Research Symposium

The second annual Industry-Academia Research Symposium is coming Thursday, November 3, 2011! The event will take place from 8:30 AM until 12:00 PM at AGC Denver, and the theme involves Building Communities of the Future. More information and registration can be found here: http://www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu/students/professional/symposium.aspx