Ozbek and CM Receive CII Recognitions

The Department of Construction Management was awarded the Construction Industry Institute (CII) Curriculum Partner Program Award in August. This award recognizes higher education programs that incorporate published CII research findings in their curriculum during the previous calendar year. Previous recipients include Vanderbilt University and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

In the award announcement, which was presented at CII’s Annual Conference before a large crowd of construction professionals, CII stated that “In the fall semester of 2009, the Department of Construction Management at CSU added the CII Best Practices course to its curriculum…This course promoted interaction between undergraduate and graduate students as well as cross-departmental interaction…Students responded positively to this first offering of this course…They also expressed appreciation for the insight it offers into the real-life projects of the best companies. They particularly value the interaction they have with both faculty and industry leaders…”

Along with this award, CM faculty member Dr. Mehmet E. Ozbek has been appointed to the Construction Industry Institute (CII) Academic Committee. The purpose of this committee is to serve as the primary forum for the academic community within CII, contributing process expertise to the CII research program. Duties include designating subject matter experts, providing input to the research process, identifying and grooming new academics to serve as effective CII researchers, integrating CII research and products into the undergraduate and graduate curriculums, and offering insights for new directions for CII. This appointment is for a period of three years.

CII was established in 1983 to improve the construction industry. Today, CII is renowned for creating and implementing research-based knowledge that measurably improves the delivery of capital facilities.

Dr. Mehmet Ozbek accepts the CII Curriculum Partner Program Award on behalf of CSU’s CM department.

Bohren to be New President of NAPA

CM staff member Lenora Bohren was elected to be President of the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA), a section of the American Anthropological Association. This national organization was founded in 1983 to promote the practice of anthropology. There are approximately 1,000 members working in both the private and public sectors. Bohren’s term as President-elect begins in November 2010.
CM Student One of Ten Nationwide Selected for Conference

Ben Farrow, CM student and President of the CM Student Board of Directors (CMBoD), is one of only 10 students nationwide selected by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to receive a $1000 travel grant to attend the Construction Engineering Conference. The conference will take place September 30 – October 2 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Students interested in pursuing construction engineering careers in industry or in academia submitted applications and were nominated by their faculty for this opportunity. Those selected and attending the conference will interact with industry leaders and academic researchers to explore new advancements in the field of construction engineering. The symposium and workshops available will allow all attendees to focus on ways to promote collaboration between industry and construction educators and researchers.

Farrow’s interest in attending the conference includes the opportunity to share valuable information with other attendees. “While in the field I asked my coworkers their thoughts on the skills and qualities they felt are essential to good superintendents, project managers, architects and owners,” he said. “I appreciate the opportunity this conference will provide to share this valuable knowledge with my fellow construction academics.”

CMAA Student Chapter Recognized in CMAA Publication

The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Student Chapter at CSU was featured in CMAA’s May/June newsletter, “CMAdvisor,” in two separate articles. One article, on page 33 of the newsletter, acknowledged the successful site visit to the Vestas Blade Manufacturing Facility in Brighton that the chapter organized during the spring semester (for more information, see the CM Highlights March 2010 issue). The other article, on page 7 of the newsletter, highlighted the student chapter to present it as an example for colleges considering the establishment of a CMAA Student Chapter.

This is a great recognition for the student chapter and CSU because the newsletter is delivered to more than 5,000 professionals and companies in the construction industry across the nation, and the newsletter showcased the successful events that the recently established student chapter organized.

Former CM Student Receives CMAA National Scholarship

Recent CM graduate Maria Delgado received the 2010 Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) National Scholarship. Delgado will use the $3,000 award for her graduate studies at the University of Colorado. To win this award, Delgado was evaluated on her academic objectives as they relate to construction management, her academic performance and recommendations from faculty.

Delgado also joined two current CSU CM students, Evan Cicchinelli and Reese Lasley, in receiving scholarships from the Colorado chapter of CMAA. These students were recognized along with all other scholarship winners at the CM Awards Banquet on September 9th.
Funk Helps Build Orphanage in Zambia

CM Assistant Professor Loren Funk spent the past summer in a small village 18 kilometers north of Chongwe, Zambia. He and his wife helped teach construction techniques to a crew of 24 resident Africans and assist in construction projects for an orphanage owned and operated by the Rafiki Foundation. The project involved the construction of a cottage for future orphans, a staff duplex, a junior secondary school, and a basketball court.

According to Funk, “Most of the village construction workers came from the surrounding areas where subsistence farming was the primary occupation. However, the workers were extremely polite, seemed to appreciate learning other ways of building and were very hard working.” The absence of machines required that all of the hoisting, hauling, cutting, mixing, and assembly be done by hand. Aggregates are crushed by hand, sand came from the creek beds and, thanks to LaFarge Corporation, the crew had Portland cement in 50 kg bags. Mixing concrete was done by hand, and the crews were able to mix as much as 12 cubic meters a day which then had to be transported by wheelbarrows and finished by hand.

Funk also had the opportunity to use some recent research on pneumatic impacted structural earth (PISE), or soil cement construction, during the project. “In the staff duplex and cottage, we used the locally available clay and silt from creek beds and building sand mixed with 7 percent Portland cement to construct portions of the floor,” he said. “The material was not tested for compressive strength we estimated that the PISE achieved approximately 2,000 PSI.”

This project also provided Funk with the opportunity to indulge in the local cuisine. “Our diet while working in the village consisted of beans, rice and inshima, a field corn ground into a mealy meal,” said Funk. But that’s not all the locals ate. “One day, I walked by the lunch area and found the guys cooking up a really disgusting lunch… field rat. They like its fur, intestines, tail, everything except the teeth,” Funk recalled. Apparently, the crew thought it odd that Americans eat crab and lobster. “They couldn’t believe that we eat something so ‘disgusting’.”

New foods aside, Funk truly enjoyed and cherished the experience. “This was my third trip to sub-Saharan Africa and I always return home with a little less of my heart,” he said. “The kids and the relationships built are what I value and miss the most. But I come home appreciating what we Americans have and really loving the green grass and trees on the Oval, the tasty food (no more rat), my Toyota Tundra pick-up when hauling construction materials, and the comfort that reliable electricity and infrastructure give us.”
Using an Old Roof to Build a New Road

CM faculty member Scott Shuler coordinated the construction of an experimental pavement in Boulder with what may be the highest percentage of recycled asphalt pavement and recycled roofing shingles in an asphalt pavement to date. The pavemen was constructed by Asphalt Specialties, Inc. in cooperation with the Boulder County Roofs to Roads project and the City of Boulder.

The goals of the Roofs to Roads project include keeping 100% of Colorado’s waste shingles out of landfills, establishing an ongoing market for the use of Recycled Asphalt Shingles (RAF), and to avoid greenhouse gas emissions when paving roads. Funding for the project was provided through a $51,000 grant sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. This pavement is one of three that will be constructed as part of this grant. The second pavement is planned in Aurora and the third in Boulder County.

Senior Spends Summer Teaching in Mexico

CM faculty Bolivar Senior was invited once again to teach a course in construction scheduling for the Masters of Science program at the Universidad Panamericana in Guadalajara, Mexico. This program features a rotating roster of invited international faculty, and is one of the highest-ranked in Latin America. Senior travelled to Mexico in July and August to deliver the course, Planning and Scheduling of Construction Projects, in two parts to 22 students.

The Universidad Panamericana is a private university with an enrollment of just over 3,000 undergraduate and nearly 4,000 graduate students. It was ranked 5th by Forbes Magazine for non-USA MBA programs and 10th worldwide by the Financial Times in the area of Executive Education. When asked about the program and his travels to Mexico, Senior said that, “Guadalajara has a small-town mood, despite being the second largest city in Mexico, with a population of 5 million. I truly enjoyed the experience!”

Khattab Named Fulbright Specialist Candidate

The J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board has named CM Department Head Mostafa Khattab a Fulbright Specialists Candidate. This designation places Khattab on the Fulbright Specialists Roster, which is a list of approved candidates who are eligible to be matched with incoming program requests from overseas academic institutions for Fulbright Specialists. “I’m excited about receiving this designation and the opportunity it provides to strengthen the international dimension of our program,” says Khattab.
Ozbek Awarded Grant for IPD Study

Dr. Mehmet E. Ozbek was awarded the ELECTRI International Early Career Grant for his proposal entitled “Involvement of Electrical Contractors in Integrated Project Delivery (IPD).” The $14,000 project includes $7,000 provided by ELECTRI International and the balance as matching funds provided by Colorado State University. It will identify the issues in integrating electrical contractors to the IPD team and the risks for electrical contractors to participate in projects using IPD in an effort to provide recommendations to the electrical construction industry to address those issues and risks. An important component of the project is to promote interaction between the electrical construction industry and CSU’s Construction Management Department by engaging several undergraduate students, specifically the officers of the recently-established National Electrical Contractors Association Student Chapter at CSU, in this research.

Checking In On Interns

Summer fun for the CM Department’s Phelps Placement Office translates into intern site visits. In addition to coordinating the bi-annual career fairs and recruiting efforts, Anna Fontana and Khristy Preston of the Phelps Placement Office visit Construction Management interns during the summer. Interns invite the Placement Office Staff for jobsite tours highlighting the projects they are working on. It’s a great opportunity for the university to visit the field and reconnect education and learning.

One of this summer’s visits had the staff travelling to the molybdenum mine located in Climax, Colorado. Senior CM student Justin Lewis interned with Tezak Heavy Equipment Company, Inc., one of the companies contributing to the reopening of the mine, which is scheduled for next year. The visit highlighted the interconnectedness of the world and the impact of supply and demand of construction materials, specifically steel. The construction process and reopening of the mine demonstrates the demand for steel and the agents that strengthen it and increase corrosion resistance.

Top: Anna Fontana touring mine with Justin Lewis, a CM student on internship with Tezak.
Above: Anna Fontana, Justin Lewis, and Khristy Preston.
Right: View of Climax Mine site.
Upcoming Events

2010 AASHE Conference in Denver

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) is holding their annual conference at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver this October 10-12. Several members of the CSU family are presenting papers, and one of several tours after the conference will include the solar plant and some of the green buildings on CU Denver’s campus. There is a student summit on Sunday, October 10. Information about the conference can be found at http://conf2010.aashe.org/.

26th Annual Clean Air Conference in Breckenridge

The 26th Annual Clean Air Conference will be held at Beaver Run in Breckenridge, Colorado from September 27 to September 30, 2010. This year’s Conference will feature pre-conference workshops and sessions on the new Ozone standards, International Air Quality Issues, health & outreach issues (moderated by CSU’s Jennifer Peel), Clean Diesel Issues including emissions issues related to off-road vehicles, alternative fuel issues including presentations on biofuels and electric vehicles, and up-to-date testing and research results from hi-emitter vehicle and scrap program studies. The keynote speaker this year will be Andrew Spielman, Chairman of the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQ). Andrew is a partner in the environmental law department at the Denver office of the international law firm Hogan Lovells, LLP. Prior to private practice, he served in several senior positions at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including Acting Associate Director of the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities in the EPA Policy Office. He has over 10 years of experience in the public sector including environmental protection and public lands management.

1st Industry and Academia Research Symposium

The Department of Construction Management Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB) is pleased to organize the First Industry and Academia Research Symposium. This Symposium is sponsored by the Associated General Contractors of Colorado (AGC) and the Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors. Additional support is provided by Construction Mastery Institute.

The goal of the Symposium is to create a dialogue between the department faculty and industry professionals to advance construction education and practice.

For more information about this conference and to register, please visit: http://www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu/centers_institutes/symposium.aspx

PADB Meeting Oct. 21

The Fall Professional Advisory Development Board (PADB) meeting will take place on October 21, 2010 at 1:30 in room 122 Preconstruction Center.

The PADB was established in January 2000 to support and promote CSU’s Construction Management program.

For more information on the PADB, visit the CM website at www.cm.cahs.colostate.edu and click on the “Industry Outreach” link on the homepage.