CSU Chapter Receives Excellence Grant

The students of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America chapter at CSU have earned a Chapter of Excellence grant from the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation. In 2013, twelve student chapters across the country received the $7,500 awards, $5,000 of each to be used for student scholarships and the remaining $2,500 for chapter operations and activities.

MCAA represents the needs of firms involved in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing, piping, and mechanical services. MCERF supports educational programs that attract young professionals to the mechanical industry. The foundation awards scholarships and grants to companies as well as institutions with a goal to increase interest and awareness of mechanical industry careers.

Checking In On Interns...

Anna Fontana and Khristy Preston of the Phelps Placement Office spent the summer months checking in with interns and their companies across Colorado. Site tours included the St. Joseph hospital (left) and DIA (right) improvement projects, both under the direction of Mortenson Construction.
Research to Reduce Construction Carbon Footprint

CM faculty member Angela Guggemos is a contributor on the CSU research team awarded a $600,000 grant over the summer to develop measurement and assessment tools that work with existing architectural design methods for monitoring real-time carbon footprint metrics in construction. The group, directed by Keith Paustian of the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and made up of faculty from several departments on campus, will conduct a series of Life Cycle Assessments from design through construction of three buildings across the country: a modern modular residential building in Los Angeles, a CSU classroom and laboratory building, and the New Belgium Brewery in Asheville, N.C.

Throughout the process of constructing a building, emissions sources include the production and transportation of building materials, construction equipment, building operation and maintenance, and demolition. The goal for this new measurement system is to allow those working in architecture, engineering and construction to create an integrated design for a “net zero” greenhouse-gas built environment. The system will be easy to understand and use and conform to existing measurement systems.

American Institute of Architects, the U.S. Green Building Council, the National Institute for Building Science, the Rocky Mountain institute, and Architecture 2030 all endorse the project. The grant funding comes from the National Science Foundation, and the concept for the research was developed as part of the Global Challenges Research Team in the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at CSU. More information on SoGES can be found at www.sustainability.colostate.edu.

Faculty Eager to ExCEEd in the Classroom

Mehmet Ozbek was selected as a 2013 American Society of Civil Engineers Excellence in Civil Engineering Education Fellow. As a part of this recognition, he earned the opportunity to participate in the 2013 ASCE ExCEEd Teaching Workshop at Florida Gulf Coast University July 21-26. This well-known teaching workshop includes thirteen seminars and three demonstration classes taught by veteran professors and required attendees to teach three practice classes at the end of which they received a comprehensive formative assessment by the program instructors and attendees alike.

“The workshop was truly like a boot camp for teaching with our time spent from 7:30 am to 11:00 pm (or until done),” said Ozbek. “The sessions presented many unique ideas that I will try implementing in the classes that I teach right away. It was truly a reinvigorating experience that reminded me of the importance of what we do as college educators.”

CM Hosts Faculty Member From Brazil

As part of the memorandum of understanding signed by CM and the University of Pernambuco in Brazil in 2012, the department hosted Emilia Rabbani, a professor in the Civil Engineering Department at Pernambuco, as a visiting scientist from July 17 through August 9. During her very productive visit, Rabbani worked with CM faculty members and graduate students on existing research projects as well as the development of potential new ones.

The initial signing of the MOU established a relationship between CSU and Pernambuco for partnership opportunities between faculty and students from both institutions. Research cooperation, exchange programs, and other projects are being investigated as beneficial options for boosting each university’s research production.

Rabbani (center) poses with Bolivar Senior (left) and Scott Glick (right)
Faculty Looks to Integrate New Certification Into Curriculum

Away from the office in the summer months, faculty member Cam McNair did not spend his time playing or relaxing during the long, warm days. Instead, he found himself in the classroom with the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure working on a certificate to become an Envision™ Sustainability Professional. Similar to the LEED system, Envision™ provides a framework for evaluating and rating community, environmental, and economic benefits of various infrastructure projects.

With his new certification, McNair is able to work with project teams to help projects achieve a recognized status for sustainability. “More important to me is the ability to integrate some portion of this into the CON 366 course,” he said. CON 366, or Construction Equipment and Methods, provides a basic understanding of general equipment and methods employed in sectors of industry including commercial, heavy highway, and utility construction. “My goal is to make students aware of Envision™ and its role in promoting sustainability in heavy-civil projects. I also hope to promote the framework’s principles in other courses as appropriate.

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization created to develop and maintain a sustainability rating system for United States infrastructure. It was founded by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Public Works Association, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. Envision™ is a collaboration between ISI in Washington, D.C., and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

Companies Upgrade Classrooms While Students Away

TIC sponsors room 227 in Guggenheim Hall. The old individual desks have been removed in favor of creating a more collaborative working environment for students. The new tables and chairs are all on wheels to allow for easier rearranging of the room depending on a class’ needs, and the chairs include storage space between the legs to keep students’ belongings out of the way. TIC also repainted the room and updated their displays on the walls for a fresh look. The blinds on the windows were replaced to more effectively darken the room when needed and reduce the heat of the room during warmer months.

As mentioned in previous editions of Ram Built News, room 118 of Guggenheim Hall has been converted into the Mortenson Center for Virtual Design and Construction. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 11 to commemorate the official opening of the space to student use. The new lab features mobile furniture on wheels for easy rearranging of the space as well as new laptop computers featuring the latest building information modeling software. The new CM Boot Camp courses are already utilizing the new lab and students will soon be able to use the technology available in the space for their CM coursework.

JE Dunn sponsors room 221 in Guggenheim Hall. New upgrades for the room include brighter paint, new carpet, and new furniture. The combination of wall color and carpet give the room a more open feel and the new tables and chairs are all on wheels to allow for easier mobility when breaking up a lecture style layout into small groups. Future upgrades are in the works, including new blinds and upgraded technology for instructors to utilize during classes.
Upcoming Events

**2013 Fall Career Fair**
CM’s Fall 2013 Career Fair will take place on Tuesday, September 24, at the Hilton in Fort Collins (425 W. Prospect Road). Between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, students and alumni have the opportunity to network with 85 companies seeking interns and full- or part-time positions. All sectors of industry will be represented and this is an excellent opportunity for all students to begin building their connections with industry members.

Information on the Career Fair can be found on the CM website:  
[www.cm.colostate.edu/careers-internships/index.aspx](http://www.cm.colostate.edu/careers-internships/index.aspx)

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**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.

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)

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**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](https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/cmopenhouse/).

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