CM Works to Further International Collaboration

The CM program is no stranger to international collaboration, as evidenced by its previous work with Egypt and Tunisia, and so when department head Mostafa Khattab and faculty member Mehmet Ozbek were invited to Brazil to investigate potential partnership opportunities, they graciously accepted the opportunity to further develop the department’s international associations.

The construction management graduate program in the civil engineering department at the University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, invited Khattab and Ozbek to visit the campus and explore possible graduate student exchange programs, faculty exchange programs and research collaboration.

The mid-December trip included five days of meetings and tours hosted by the faculty of the program. Khattab and Ozbek presented information on CSU, the current research activities of the CM faculty and the CM graduate program to UPE civil engineering faculty members and university administration, and then attended similar presentations made by UPE’s faculty. The visit included a tour of a major high-rise construction project to illustrate the differences in construction practices between Brazil and the United States.

“The trip was very successful as an initial step to establish an international partnership between the two institutions,” said Ozbek. “It resulted in the signing of a memorandum of understanding to officially kick off the collaboration. We would like to thank Emilia Rabbani at UPE for organizing a very productive visit for the CSU team and for her hospitality.”

ABC Chapter ‘Adopts a Family’

The student chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors hosted a fundraising drive for the Salvation Army’s Adopt-a-Family program. Members encouraged students and staff, as well as other student organizations and industry companies, to participate and raise funds to help families in need provide clothing and toys for their children during the holiday season. “We raised approximately $500, which allowed us to adopt nine children, ranging in age from 3 to 16,” said Stephanie Beal, ABC student chapter president. “The ABC student chapter would like to give a huge thank you to those that donated. A special thank you goes to the ABC Rocky Mountain chapter, Greiner Electric, the CM Board of Directors and the Construction Management Association of America student chapter. Without your help, this wouldn’t have been possible!”
Faculty Serve as Conference Panelists

CM assistant professors Caroline Clevenger and Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez served as invited panelists at the Sciences Behind Sustainability Quantification for Building and Infrastructure Design, Engineering and Construction workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The workshop was held concurrently with the 2012 International Conference on Sustainable Design, Engineering, & Construction in Fort Worth, Texas, November 7-9. Participants addressed issues regarding metrics and quantification related to sustainable buildings, and all received a small grant for their work.

While there, Clevenger also presented the work of two CM graduate students: Jenifer Marley and Elliot Dale. Marley’s research highlights the need for and value of participatory post-occupancy evaluations in schools. Dale’s research is based on his successful implementation of community-based social marketing to increase recycling rates at Rocky Mountain National Park. Both students’ work has been published in the ASCE Proceedings for the Second International Conference for Sustainable Design, Engineering and Construction.

CM Faculty Present PDI Sessions

CM faculty Caroline Clevenger and Scott Glick presented a session on January 15 as part of CSU’s Professional Development Institute for faculty and staff hosted by The Institute for Learning and Teaching. The session, “Enhancing Student Learning Through 3D Visualization,” discussed the integration of 3D visualization techniques into the classroom to develop virtual learning environments that help students to assess real-world problems and develop applied critical problem-solving skills. Clevenger and Glick shared their efforts to develop modules to support and enhance spatial cognition within construction education.

Clevenger also co-presented a session with faculty member Mehmet Ozbek titled, “Service-Learning to Teach Leadership in Sustainable Construction.” They presented lessons learned, challenges encountered, and opportunities presented in their establishment and integration of the service-learning course in the CM program that engages at-risk youth in hands-on construction projects that benefit the local community.

Strong and Valdes-Vasquez Awarded CDOT Grant

Kelly Strong and Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez were awarded a grant by the Colorado Department of Transportation to investigate best practices for debris removal. This $44,000 fund will support research from 2013 to 2014. The aim of the project is to develop a set of recommendations and identity effective practices for debris removal for CDOT and to outline a training program for implementation of these best practices. The training program would be delivered through the CDOT Training Academy as Phase II of the research.
Students in the Driver's Seat

Faculty in the CM Department take hands-on learning very seriously and work hard to incorporate job site visits and other activities into regular classroom lectures. Cam McNair arranged for his Construction Equipment and Methods students to participate in an equipment orientation on December 4 to expose students to the function and maintenance of the various pieces of equipment they learn about in class. The City of Fort Collins Streets Department hosted the event at which students were allowed to operate heavy equipment in a controlled environment under the supervision of skilled operators.

“This was the best field trip I’ve been a part of,” said Robert Olson, a CM senior. “It’s great to talk with operators and pick their brains about how the equipment works and how projects are completed. The operators and management at the Fort Collins Streets facility are truly knowledgeable and hosted a great opportunity for us to see what they do.”

Students were allowed to operate a dump truck, road grader, backhoe, self-propelled steel-drum compactor, and a milling machine. “It was a lot of fun and extremely informative,” exclaimed CM senior Kayla Boos. “It was great to actually get to operate the machinery instead of just talking about it in class! The hands-on experience was really helpful.”

Students Selected to Attend Kiewit’s WCLS

Four female CM students were selected to attend the fifth annual Women’s Construction Leadership Conference hosted by Kiewit November 15-16. Kayla Boos, Jessica De Luca, Andi Lewis and Sara Podgorski, along with CM faculty member Angela Guggemos, travelled to Omaha, Neb., for the seminar that provided a program focused on discovering and developing leadership qualities in everyday work. “Over the course of two days,” said De Luca, “Kiewit employees provided an action-packed program lasting late into the evenings.”

Events included a Construction 101 speech by Lauren Evans followed by a presentation by Bridget Wallis about her experience in the construction industry as a single mother juggling work and family. Attendees also participated in a tour of Kiewit’s underground division equipment yard, which included crane, welding and computer design demonstrations. A highlight of the conference involved a team-building exercise in which 10 teams of five women each completed a series of tests to earn bicycle parts that they then used to build bicycles to donate to children from the Boys and Girls Club of Omaha.

“The seminar was an excellent experience,” said De Luca. “I met many strong, intelligent women in the construction industry and I was honored to be chosen to attend.

Student Organizations Host Social

In an effort to educate CM students on the various opportunities available to them to get involved in department programs and initiatives, the CM Student Board of Directors hosted a social event on January 30 in the asphalt laboratory in the Industrial Sciences building. Representative officers of each of the 11 student organizations were present to provide students with information on each club’s sponsoring organization, membership benefits, and yearly activities. Seniors in the Construction Leadership course were also on hand to provide information on CM Cares and this semester’s new projects. According to CMBoD staff advisor Anna Fontana the Social was well-attended and several students signed up for memberships while there.
Students: Apply Now for Scholarships!

CM students, did you know that there are more than 40 scholarships from industry donors available to you totaling more than $60,000? Take advantage of the opportunity to receive a little extra assistance paying for college! Simply fill out the University Scholarship Application available online at www.ramweb.colostate.edu by March 1 to be eligible.

CM Career Fair

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Fort Collins Hilton.** CM students, the Career Fair is coming up shortly, so make sure you are prepared with up-to-date resumes and business attire! For more information, contact the Phelps Placement Office at (970) 491-7129.

Spring PADB Meeting

**Thursday, March 28, 2013, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM in 221 Guggenheim Hall.** PADB members, the Spring Meeting is coming up quickly! A save-the-date notice has gone out and the agenda should be released by the end of February. Questions? Contact us at (970) 491-7353.

WIC Presents a Scholarship Seminar With Kristin Haller

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at 5:30 PM in 227 Guggenheim Hall.** CM students are invited to attend an information session presented by CM staff member Kristin Haller, a member of the CM Scholarship Committee. Kristin will share details of the scholarships available to students as well as tips for filling out the University Scholarship Application.

CCA Presents Paul Giroux of Kiewit

**Thursday, February 14, 2013, at 5:00 PM in 120 Engineering.** Giroux will present on the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, which recently turned 75 years old. Giroux, a member of Kiewit’s infrastructure group, travels the country speaking at special construction events and is excited to share this latest lecture with the students at CSU.

ABC Presents a Resume Workshop With Industry

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 6:00 PM in 122 Preconstruction Center.** CM students are invited to a special panel of industry members from Hensel Phelps Construction Company and LPR Construction who will present tips and tricks for resume writing, attending career fairs, and interview best practices. ABC members are invited to have their own resumes critiqued by the panel after the event.

CM Career Fair

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Fort Collins Hilton.** CM students, the Career Fair is coming up shortly, so make sure you are prepared with up-to-date resumes and business attire! For more information, contact the Phelps Placement Office at (970) 491-7129.

Spring PADB Meeting

**Thursday, March 28, 2013, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM in 221 Guggenheim Hall.** PADB members, the Spring Meeting is coming up quickly! A save-the-date notice has gone out and the agenda should be released by the end of February. Questions? Contact us at (970) 491-7353.

WIC Presents a Scholarship Seminar With Kristin Haller

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at 5:30 PM in 227 Guggenheim Hall.** CM students are invited to attend an information session presented by CM staff member Kristin Haller, a member of the CM Scholarship Committee. Kristin will share details of the scholarships available to students as well as tips for filling out the University Scholarship Application.

CCA Presents Paul Giroux of Kiewit

**Thursday, February 14, 2013, at 5:00 PM in 120 Engineering.** Giroux will present on the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, which recently turned 75 years old. Giroux, a member of Kiewit’s infrastructure group, travels the country speaking at special construction events and is excited to share this latest lecture with the students at CSU.

ABC Presents a Resume Workshop With Industry

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 6:00 PM in 122 Preconstruction Center.** CM students are invited to a special panel of industry members from Hensel Phelps Construction Company and LPR Construction who will present tips and tricks for resume writing, attending career fairs, and interview best practices. ABC members are invited to have their own resumes critiqued by the panel after the event.