



PRESIDENT'S Update

By: Jim Lambert

The Sacramento Construction Management Education Foundation (SCMEF) continues to thrive under the visionary leadership of our executive committee and board members. Through their past and ongoing efforts, the Sacramento State Construction Management Program has grown to become one of the most prominent CM Programs in the State.

The past few months have been a time of transition for the CM Program at Sacramento State as Professor Keith Bisharat, Coordinator of the CM program for the past eighteen years, has taken on a different role and Professor Mikael Anderson has stepped into the CM Coordinator position.

Professor Bisharat worked diligently to elevate the CM program, including the daunting task of preparing and meeting the requirements to achieve and maintain accreditation for the CM Program from the American Council of Construction Accreditation.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of SCMEF, we would like to personally acknowledge and thank Keith for his dedication and leadership of the CM Program at Sacramento State.

It is also my privilege to welcome Professor Mikael Anderson as the new CM Coordinator. Mikael has demonstrated leadership with his teaching skills and working with the students completing many projects, not to mention his work on the Reno Competition.

We can all look forward to his leadership as he builds on the foundation that has been laid for the CM Program at Sacramento State.

CM PROGRAM COORDINATOR Update

By: Professor Mikael Anderson



After 18 years of service to Sacramento State as the construction management (CM) program coordinator, Professor Keith Bisharat turned the reins over to me in January 2010.

Within a few months of beginning his teaching career at Sacramento State in 1992, Professor Bisharat was elected to serve as the CM program coordinator. He has remained dedicated to this key role for all of these years as is evident by the accomplishments he has achieved in meeting the goals of the CM program. Professor Bisharat maintained the original vision of the construction management curriculum established by the founding faculty members, Ajit Virdee and Richard Nickles in the late 1970's, and he shaped this curriculum into the professional program of today. Representatives of the construction industry compared our CM program with other comparable CM programs, and they concluded that our rigorous curriculum is one of the highest quality construction management educations for undergraduate students. Professor Bisharat is also responsible for establishing the two day per week course schedule for the junior and senior students, as he recognized the importance of supplementing an education with internship opportunities. Professor Bisharat worked towards keeping the business minor in the construction management degree, understanding the competitive edge this business minor gives to the graduates of our program.

Professor Bisharat worked diligently to establish a strong relationship between the university and the construction industry, helping to shape a regular industry advisory committee into the very active Sacramento Construction Management Education Foundation (SCMEF) of today.

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CM COORDINATOR - continued

Professor Bisharat continues to teach full-time in the construction management program, and he will remain my biggest resource in terms of coordinator responsibilities as I begin this next chapter in my career at Sacramento State.

My plans as the new CM program coordinator are to build upon the foundation set by Professor Bisharat by remaining committed to providing a quality construction management education for our students. My primary responsibility as coordinator is to meet the requirements of the American Council for Construction Accreditation (ACCE).

In terms of staying current with our curriculum, I am working with my CM colleagues and the construction industry in providing the latest tools and technology for our undergraduate students.

Turner Construction and ACCO Engineered Systems have agreed to provide in-house training of the CM faculty in Building Information Modeling (BIM) techniques in the summer 2010. The CM faculty are developing plans for integrating BIM across the CM curriculum, without adding additional units to the current curriculum. Professor Bisharat and I have worked towards securing the support of the Northern California Mechanical Contractor's Association (NCMCA) and the National Electrical Contractors' Association (NECA), which has resulted in more student interest into specialty contracting and national wins in the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Mechanical and Electrical problem competitions. As the student interest into specialty contracting continues to grow, the CM faculty are evaluating changes in the curriculum that would give these students an option to specialize their undergraduate degree in mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) project management to meet the growing demands of this specialty contractor industry. In an effort to continue to provide a practically orientated construction management education, I will demand the best in recruiting new faculty with relevant higher education, related construction experience, and a dedicated interest in teaching as the enrollment grows in the years ahead.

I plan to uphold the integrity of the faculty and students, proven by our faculty's commitment to education and the record wins of our students at the ASC student competitions in recent years.

We will face many new challenges in the years ahead, as we deal with budget shortfalls in the California State University system. Student tuition continues to rise, class

sizes are growing at record numbers for construction management, and our resources are limited. I will work hard with the CM faculty and the college administration to establish a plan for dealing with these current issues. I have begun to prioritize my responsibilities, as I balance my time as the CM program coordinator and as a professor teaching three courses each semester. I will continue to build upon the relationship established by Professor Bisharat with SCMEF board members and local industry as our program grows. I will continue to seek and maintain current student scholarship opportunities to aid those students with financial need. As we honor the scholarship recipients this year at our annual construction management scholarship banquet, I am very excited to report we have a record number of students receiving awards from the university itself, from the local construction industry, and through national construction and engineering associations.

Lastly, I want to encourage the alumni of the Sacramento State Construction Management Program to stay connected with the faculty, students, and the university. There are many opportunities to stay involved and give back to the CM program. Most of the coaches for the annual ASC student competition are graduates of the CM program, who volunteer many hours preparing the student teams by teaching the necessary skills to win the competition. Alumni often return to the university to teach an undergraduate course as part-time instructors or as guest lecturers.

The CM curriculum requires students to perform project site visits in three undergraduate courses, thus the need for alumni to provide projects for the students to tour.

Alumni can promote employment of student interns in their companies, and may offer job shadowing opportunities for students. Fundraising opportunities are always a good way to give back to the university, such as the annual student golf tournament, online auctions through SCMEF, and direct donations to the university.

Some of our alumni serve as board members on SCMEF, including mentoring roles for the student body.

If you wish to be more involved, please feel free to contact me at (916) 278-5990 or email anderson@ecs.csus.edu

RENO COMPETITION UPDATE

by: Henry Meier

The 2010 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Student Competition was held February 10th – 13th at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, NV and concluded with CSUS Team's capturing a **school record 5 wins!** SCMEF sponsored 7 CSUS Teams to compete in this year's competition. Highlights for CSUS included:

- Commercial Team captured 1st place for Region 7 – this is the second time in 3 years the Commercial Team has captured first place!
- Mechanical Team captured 1st place in the National Division—the winning tradition continues for the Mechanical Team after capturing 2nd place last year and 1st place in 2008. Mechanical Teams have captured wins in each of the three years they have competed in the completion!
- Electrical Team captured 1st place in the National Division. This was the first year a Team from CSUS has competed in the Electrical Competition and, like the Mechanical Team in 2008, they captured 1st place their first time competing in the category!
- Multi-Family Team captured 2nd place for Region 7. This years Multi-Family Team worked harder than ever—the hard work and persistence paid off!
- Design-Build Team captured 2nd place for Region 7. This is the 5th year in a row the Design-Build Team has captured a win!
- Heavy Civil Team captured “closest to the pin” for Region 7 and gave an excellent presentation.
- Pre-Construction Team competed for the first time in this National category against the most competition of any category in the competition.
- Each Team raised 5k in donations to cover costs related with competing in the competition.

Capturing a win at the ASC student competition is a very difficult feat. CSUS students and coaches start meeting/working 5 months in advance of the competition. Other schools have classes specifically designed to prepare them for the ASC Student Competition. These schools are almost always larger than CSUS and require students to compete for the opportunity to participate in the competition with participant selections made by faculty. To these students, the competition or “Reno” as it's nicknamed, is the most import thing of their education (I have personally been told this on several occasions when interviewing prospective employees from other colleges).

To a certain degree, Reno is a reflection on the University and a student's abilities--thus, the intense desire by students and faculty to perform well at Reno. Every year, the competition get's better and the bar is raised—in order to place in the competition, Teams must continually improve and stay current with methods and materials of construction.

The competition allows students to showcase their estimating, scheduling, planning, design, teamwork, organization, critical thinking, document preparation and presentation skills. CSUS Teams are coached by local industry leaders and facility with the added benefit of a high (almost 2:1) ratio of students to coaches. The one on one tutoring is a large advantage for CSUS Teams and one of the reasons CSUS teams excel in the competition. The coaches who teach the students have built or know how to build the types of projects the students are being assigned because the problems given to the students are based on actual completed projects. The coaches donate their time to help the students because it is an opportunity to give back to the local community and they know the importance of educating our young professionals entering the construction industry.

It is widely known throughout the construction industry that students who participate in the ASC Student Competition acquire knowledge and skills that give them a greater advantage entering the job market. A common statement from others in the industry is “you can tell which students competed in the Reno Competition—they have more knowledge, greater skills and are better prepared than most of their counterparts.”

CSUS Teams are building a name for themselves. In 2008, the Commercial and Design-Build Teams won the Regional 7 competition in Reno then went on to compete in the National Competition sponsored by the ASC-AGC in Las Vegas Nevada. Upon arriving in Las Vegas, several of the sponsors made comments that they didn't know who Sac State was or that they didn't know Sac State had a CM program.

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RENO COMPETITION UPDATE – continued

To make sure they remembered Sac State, both the Commercial and Design-Build Teams captured 1st place National wins that year over powerhouse colleges Purdue, Florida, Clemson, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Colorado and Arizona State to name a few. Nowadays, it is standing room only to watch a CSUS Team presentation in Reno—other schools now consider Sac State to be the leader from whom they want to watch and learn!

The amazing success by CSUS Teams in the competition is a reflection on the quality of education being taught at Sacramento State, the quality of the CSUS Construction Management (CM) and Engineering programs, the quality of teachers at CSUS, the quality of students and the involvement of SCMEF. Our local community is very proud of the student's achievements and to quote Hall of Famer Dizzy Dean "it ain't braggin' if you done it."

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION
THANK YOU TO:**

C.C. MYERS INC.

For sponsoring the printing
of this edition of SCMEF NEWS!

CMSA Update by Ryan Henry

As we close out yet another great year, Sacramento State Construction Management Students Association (CMSA) is pleased to announce the following elected officers for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Paul MacClanahan – President
- Kurt Frandrup – Vice President
- Paul Sieberg – Event Coordinator
- Stacy Wilson – Secretary
- Brian Lonquist – Treasurer
- Jake White – Volunteer Coordinator

Congratulations to all elected!

Recently, 74 golfers hit the greens to compete for this year's title in the annual Sacramento State CMSA golf tournament. The tournament was held at Woodcreek Golf Club in Roseville, Calif., where various Northern California construction companies enjoyed a day of great weather, camaraderie and some competitive fun. A BIG thanks goes out to all participants and sponsors of the event.

You can look forward to more great news from Sacramento State CMSA next year.

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Our Mission: To increase the number of graduates of the Sacramento State Construction Management Program, enhance the student's experience, and provide support to the faculty.

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