

Student Chapter News

Editor: Ann H. Mattheis amattheis@mcaa.org Ph: (800) 556-3653, Fax (301) 990-9690
Volume 3, Issue 3 Fall 2003



Student Chapter Competition Finalists will Take Center Stage at MCAA 2004

It's true! The MCAA 2003 Student Competition finals will be a general session at **MCAA 2004**. The event will take place on Monday, March 1, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in a ballroom with large screens. No "standing room only" this year.

The biggest news yet is that the competing teams' PowerPoint presentations will become part of a post-convention CD-Rom that will be provided to all attendees.

The Student Chapter Competition finals is just one of several special events at **MCAA 2004** that you won't want to miss. MCAA's 2004 convention is at Walt Disney World, FL, February 29 – March 4.

Featured speakers include: former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani; U.S. Senator Bob Dole; Frank Abignale, whose life was the inspiration for the hit 2002 movie, *Catch Me if You Can*; Ret. General

Barry R. McCaffrey; NBC News' Dr. Bob Arnot; and Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss.

Social events include the Opening Party, the Annual Dessert Party, and the Sensational Finale at Epcot®.

Educational sessions on a variety of industry topics are also planned that will enrich and expand your management knowledge and technical skills.

In addition to the Student Chapter Competition finals, special student program features include the student orientation on Sunday afternoon, the annual student chapter luncheon and meeting on Tuesday following the Student Chapter Exhibit. This year, the exhibit will be at the entrance to the Manufacturer/Supplier Exhibit so that contractors will pass by all the chapters' tables.

And, this year, students are invited to enjoy the Sensational Finale at Epcot® on Wednesday evening.

The best news is that the price is right! All registration fees for students and one faculty member are waived. You are responsible for covering your own transportation and hotels costs, however.

If your chapter is planning to send representatives to **MCAA 2004**, you may want to start planning now. The convention hotels are the Yacht Club and Beach Club. MCAA has also

set aside a small block of rooms at the Coronado Springs Hotel, a Walt Disney World property, that has a room rate of \$135. Additional hotels are available in and around the Walt Disney World resort with even lower room rates. Expedia.com lists several excellent hotels. Search the site for Walt Disney World, FL hotels.

If you choose a hotel within the World Disney World resort, you will be within walking distance of the convention facility. If you choose a facility outside the resort area, plan on renting a vehicle for the duration of the convention.

If you have any questions about the program or need assistance with your travel plans and hotel arrangements, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org or call 800-556-3653.

2003 Student Chapter Summit was a Winner!

Representatives from 16 MCAA student chapters, their faculty advisors, sponsors, Career Development Committee members and interested contractors gathered in Milwaukee, WI at the Wyndham Milwaukee Center Hotel on September 25 and 26 for the MCAA 2003 Student Chapter Summit.

Attendees heard from MCAA Vice President and Assistant Treasurer Mike Cullinane about the benefits of developing a career with the mechanical contracting industry and becoming involved in MCAA.

Jack Wilhelmi, chairman of the MCAA Career Development Committee and master of ceremonies for the Summit, announced the project and rules for the 2003 Student

Chapter Competition. Once again, MCAA and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers are collaborating on the competition which involves the construction of an educational building for a college located in Miami, FL.

Chapters presented their reports on the past year's activities and accomplishments and plans for the coming year.

An excellent presentation by Andrew Lemanczyk, president of the Greater Michigan MSCA Student Chapter at Ferris State University, revealed how that chapter won the Student Chapter of the Year honor twice (2000 and 2002).

A panel discussion on what goes into a winning project bid proposal gave students some excellent insights and ideas for their chapters' competition submission. Panelists Tripp Ahern (J.F. Ahern Company, Fond du Lac, WI), Troy Aichele (W.A. Botting Company, Clackamas, OR), and Don Giarratano (D/K Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Anaheim, CA) talked about the "do's and don'ts" of preparing the proposal and also offered some useful tips on making an effective oral presentation to the client.



A team of students take their turn at proposing an approach to the mini-competition project at the 2003 Student Chapter Summit.

The tour of Kohler Company's manufacturing complex in Kohler, WI was a fascinating look at how the company makes its many bathroom and kitchen plumbing products and accessories. From pouring the molds, shaping the steel, to coating and drying the products, each step of the production process demonstrated the care and attention to quality that Kohler incorporates into its products. The Design Center presented the finished products in a variety of beautiful, decorative settings.

As in past years, the mini-competition proved to be fun and challenging for everyone. The project was the renovation of the top story of a two-story building for a homeless shelter. The winners took home prizes of \$100 for each member of the first place team, and \$50 for each member of the second place team.



Students from the Ferris State University MSCA chapter enjoy the Summit dinner at Turner's in Milwaukee after a long day.

Dinner at Turner's Restaurant in Milwaukee was a delicious treat. Sponsored by Ferguson Enterprises and Delta Faucet Company, the meal offered something to suit everyone's palate. And, Abby Dickmann, a corporate recruiter for Ferguson, offered the students some valuable tips on job hunting and interviewing.

The Career Development Committee, which sponsors and plans the Summit, relies on attendees' comments and criticisms to improve the Summit program for the following year. If you haven't sent in your completed evaluation form, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a form, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org or call 800-556-3653.

The 2004 Student Chapter Summit takes place in La Crosse, WI September 27 – 28. Stay tuned for more details.

Thanks!

Putting on a conference for 100+ people like the Student Chapter Summit wasn't easy, but it was made much easier with the help of good friends.

First, the Career Development Committee thanks Kohler Company for sponsoring a wonderful tour of their manufacturing facilities in Kohler, WI. The guides were excellent and helped everyone appreciate the products, the quality and care that goes into their manufacture, and the culture of a company that has been in business for almost 130 years.

Another round of thanks goes to Ferguson Enterprises and Delta Faucet Company, the sponsors of the Summit dinner at Turner's Restaurant. Thanks to their generosity, everyone had a terrific meal in a relaxed, casual setting.

Special thanks go to Tripp Ahern, president of the J.F. Ahern Co, who drove from La Crosse, WI to participate in a panel discussion about project bid preparations.

More thanks go to speakers and moderators: MCAA Vice President

and Assistant Treasurer Mike Cullinane (Bert C. Young & Sons Corporation of Bellwood, IL); Andrew Lemanczyk, president of the Greater Michigan MSCA Student Chapter at Ferris State University; Troy Aichele of W.A. Botting Company, Clackamas, OR; Ken Durr of Durr Mechanical, New York, N.Y.; Don Giarratano of D/K Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Anaheim, CA; Allen Stone of Braconier Plumbing & Heating Company, Englewood, CO; and Brett Christiansen of Palmer-Christiansen Company, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT.



Jack Wilhelmi (l) and Gary Fowler of the MCA of Georgia catch up during dinner at Turner's.

Special thanks go to Jack Wilhelmi (Waldinger Corporation – Omaha Division, Omaha, NE), chairman of the Career Development Committee, for doing such a great job of hosting the entire event.

Many, many thanks go to the MCA of Wisconsin – Jeff Beiriger, executive director, and Tracy Peplinski – for their help in arranging the logistics.

Special thanks go to Jonathan Baxter of the Milwaukee School of Engineering who graciously provided shuttle services to and from the airport to the Wyndham for attendees.

Most important of all, our thanks go to local affiliated association sponsors whose help and support

made possible the attendance of students and faculty from all over the U.S.

It was a great Summit, but it will be even better next year!

MCAA Launches 2003 Student Chapter Competition

Students who attended the 2003 Student Chapter Summit in Milwaukee, WI September 25 – 26 got a first look at the 2003 Student Chapter Competition, the mechanical construction of a 14,000 gross square foot educational facility at Southern State College in Miami, FL. Jack Wilhelmi, chairman of MCAA's Career Development Committee, presented the project and competition rules.

As in 2002, the MCAA competition is a collaboration with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). ASHRAE presented the winning design for the System Selection Category. MCAA added additional information to enhance the project's challenges.

The deadline for RFI's is November 15, and the deadline for written submissions is December 16. There is no limit on the number of pages for a submission, but remember, the judges are interested in quality, not quantity.

As in past years, a panel of three judges – all contractors – will review all the submissions in early January 2004 and select the top four for the final oral presentation at the MCAA 2004 convention at Walt Disney World, FL. The "final four" will be a general session at the convention in a ballroom, on stage, with large screens.

The next issue of this newsletter will provide more information about the oral competition.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the competition, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.

MCAA Student Chapters Forming at Western Carolina University, U of LA - Monroe

MCAA student chapters are taking shape at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C. and at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in Monroe, LA.

The Western Carolina Chapter is being sponsored by the MCA of the Carolinas in Winston-Salem, N.C. Prof. Brad Sims is the chapter's faculty advisor.

The chapter at the University of Louisiana at Monroe is being sponsored by the MCA of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. Prof. David Manry is the chapter's faculty advisor.

Both chapters will receive their MCAA charters at the 2004 convention in Walt Disney World, FL. The presentation will be part of the Awards of Excellence Ceremony on March 3.

MCAA congratulates both chapters and welcomes them to the association's growing network of student organizations.

Whatever Happened to Jason Dempsey?

Jason Dempsey, graduate of Ferris State University Class of 2002, 2002 president of the Greater Michigan MSCA Student Chapter at Ferris State, and leader of the

chapter's 2002 Student Chapter Competition team, is working as a commercial sales engineer for Carrier Corporation in New York City.

Jason recently completed a 14-week training program at Carrier's Bynum Training Center in Syracuse, N.Y., along with 18 other trainees. To qualify for this program, trainees had to have a four-year engineering degree; excellent interpersonal skills; and a "tenacious, ambitious, and enthusiastic attitude."

The training course covered a wide range of subject matter from a history of Carrier, basic principles of air conditioning and refrigeration, management techniques, product offerings and their features, presentation and selling skills, and much more. A five-day boot camp helped the students learn the tricks of competing for a real commercial job.

Jason is now living in the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City, just a few minutes from Times Square and only a 10-minute walk to his office.

2003 Matching Funds Requests Due

If your chapter has not yet requested matching funds for 2003, the deadline for the paperwork is December 31.

MCAA matches funds raised by a chartered student chapter during a calendar year (January 1 – December 31) up to \$1,000. Documentation needed would be a bank statement showing deposits and a letter from the faculty advisor or local sponsor certifying the funds were raised.

Matching funds help chapters cover member travel costs to the MCAA convention, the Student

Chapter Summit and local field trips. Funds may also be used to cover special projects.

For more information, please call Ann Mattheis at 800-556-3653 or contact her at amattheis@mcaa.org.

Student Chapter Round-Up

This section is reserved for MCAA student chapters to report their news. Share with other student chapters successes, challenges, new ideas, projects. Photos are also welcome and appreciated.

MCAA Student Chapter at Colorado State University

The 2003 officers of the MCAA Student Chapter at Colorado State University are President Deacon Taylor, Vice President Corey Smith, Elected Vice President David Eads, Secretary/Treasurer Mary Jill Turner, and Elected Secretary Matthew Powell.

New members are Aaron Gatti and Matt Klinger.

2003 – 2004 Competitions:

CSU Chapter Members were part of the team that won first prize at the **MCAA 2003 Student Chapter Summit**.

Chapter members are also working on the **MCAA 2003 Student Chapter Competition** project. They're also practicing for the 2004 AGC-ASC national student competition in Reno, NV, scheduled to take place next February.

Field Trips: The chapter is planning a visit to AMGEN Pharmaceutical Company.

Getting to Know Industry: Ken Thompson will speak to the chapter on "Market Trends and Surety." The chapter hosted a wine tasting event in Denver, which was attended by several local industry contractors.

Fundraisers: The chapter sells donuts and coffee every Monday and Wednesday morning.

University of Wisconsin - Stout

Our student chapter at UW-Stout is in its second year being affiliated with the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association. We feel very fortunate to be a part of MCAA and the events we have been able to send members to. We would like to share some of the experiences we have already had being involved with MCAA.

Our first major MCAA event that we sent students to participate in was



UW-Stout MCAA chapter members

the national convention last March. Four students attended and learned more in four days than any of them expected to. It was a great experience and it really opened our organization up to the opportunities in mechanical construction. We were especially

impressed with the student competition, and we have made it a priority to compete this year.



UW-Stout members enjoy some free time.

This year's competition is challenging our five participants to the maximum of their abilities. Our program is more construction management focused than it is engineering, and we are finding the design-build competition to be quite time consuming. It is certainly proving to be a very valuable learning experience for those involved. We remain optimistic, confident, and committed to submitting an excellent proposal.

Lastly, we want to say a little something about this year Student Chapter Summit, in Milwaukee. We sent 12 students, and all of them thought it was a great time and well worth a few days of missed classes. We thought the Kohler tour and the mini-competition were highlights of the event. We were very impressed with MCAA's effort to put together an event solely centered on the students. It is very nice to see MCAA's effort to enhancing education through their commitment to their student chapters. Stout would like to thank all those involved with putting the Summit together and we look forward to seeing

everyone again at the national convention in Florida.

Southern Polytechnic State University

The Southern Polytechnic State University Mechanical Student Chapter recently visited Seasons 4, a manufacturer of custom air conditioning units in the Atlanta area. We saw several interesting items such as desiccant wheels, enthalpy wheels, and evaporative condensers. We had a great tour and socialized afterwards.

California Polytechnic State University at Pomona

The Fall season has been a busy one for the Cal Poly Pomona chapter.

Chapter President Rob Fryan, Vice President Mike Bauer, and President Elect Ervin Perez attended the MCAA Student Chapter Summit in



Ervin Perez, Mike Bauer, and Rob Fryan take a moment to chat with other students at the MCAA 2003 Student Chapter Summit.

Milwaukee on September 25 – 26. The students toured Kohler Company's manufacturing facilities in Kohler, WI, got a first look at this year's Student Chapter Competition,

and learned more about the mechanical contracting industry.

University Marelich Mechanical hosted the student chapter in October. Vice President Don Ellis lectured on presentation skills, estimating and new LEED's (Leadership in Energy, Environment Design) requirements for buildings. The students were able to ask questions and see first hand how a winning proposal is developed. Vice President Scott Baker talked about operations in the field, and stressed the importance of good communication skills and how to resolve differences and still be professional. Senior Vice President Jay McEntire hosted the students' lunch and talked about changes and opportunities in the industry.

During a recent visit to Kinetics Systems in Oceanside, CA, Harold Bray, vice president, talked about the pharmaceutical construction business. He emphasized the need for quality and getting it correct the first time.

Project Manager Jason Beck made an excellent presentation on the challenges and rewards of that position. Jennifer Ornelas, a chapter alum, stopped by to say "hello" and encourage the group. Jennifer works for Kinetics in Irvine.

The students toured the site and learned the importance of construction safety.