

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

Seattle Summit Was Awesome!

From every possible angle (and we saw them all), MCAA's 2005 Student Chapter Summit was a smash hit! More than 150 attendees converged on Seattle, WA, September 23–24 for learning, exploring, networking, and some friendly competition. Attendees heard about the exciting new student chapter competition, saw fascinating buildings with even more interesting mechanical installations, visited Boeing's renowned Museum of Flight, and exchanged chapter development ideas with students and faculty from 21 MCAA student chapters.

The two-day annual conference is designed to expose students in construction management and engineering academic programs to the career development opportunities offered by the mechanical construction industry. The Summit pro-



Students and faculty from 21 MCAA chapters converged in Seattle, WA, for the 2005 Student Chapter Summit.

gram typically includes skill development sessions to augment the students' classroom education, but also features a tour of equipment manufacturing facilities or mechanical systems installations.

This year, the tour covered three buildings—the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum (EMP), Fisher Plaza, and the Central Utilities Plant—and McKinstry Company's office. Members of the MCA of Western Washington's Academic Relations Committee organized the tour, which gave attendees a look at a wide range of buildings and mechanical systems.

EMP is an architectural marvel designed by world renowned architect Frank Gehry. The idea for the building came from Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen as a tribute to American popular music. With no right angles in its walls and soaring ceilings, EMP's mechanical contractor, McKinstry Company, was challenged to install mechanical systems that would meet the structure's heating and cooling needs without obscuring its exhibits or compromising its unusual special effects. Imagine a ceiling curved like a wave with sprinkler pipes that follow the curve! EMP's HVAC system was also specially



Summit attendees gather outside the gleaming sheet metal walls of the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum.

equipped to minimize its noise and vibration.

Fisher Plaza, another McKinstry project, was conceived as a 21st century building. It was built to be the most seismically stable building in the Pacific Northwest because it serves as a communications hub for the area and is Seattle's emergency preparedness center. A fuel tank farm beneath the building will keep it functioning for several days following a natural disaster. A specially designed under-the-floor HVAC system and movable walls allow office space to be easily reconfigured to meet tenants' requirements.

The Central Utilities Plant, designed by ACCO Engineered Systems (Kent, WA), supplies heat, cool air,

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

and electricity to several buildings in the Seattle Center area. Summit attendees saw centrifugal chillers and air handlers supplied by Trane that they watched being assembled in La Crosse, WI, during the 2004 Summit.

The next stop on the tour was McKinstry Company. McKinstry's services include installation, service, design-build, pipe fabrication, and facilities management. Considered one of the nation's top 10 best companies to work for, McKinstry provides its employees with a full-service cafeteria, a fully-equipped exercise room, and a spacious open area for casual meetings and relaxation time. Attendees heard from McKinstry's leaders, CEO and President Dean Allen and Vice President of Business Development David Allen, about the company's history and approach to business.



Dave Allen, vice president of McKinstry Company, explains the company's history and approach to business.

The tour ended at the Museum of Flight where attendees relaxed and wandered through the collection of vintage aircrafts before sitting down to a wonderful dinner sponsored by the MCA of Western Washington.



Students from Washington State University relax for a moment while visiting the Museum of Flight.

MCAA leaders were on hand to enjoy the Summit experience either as part of the program or as a participant. MCAA President Stanley Berger presented an opening message about the value of education and its continuing importance to an individual's professional development. Jack Wilhelmi, MCAA vice president/assistant treasurer and chairman of the Career Development Committee, served as conference emcee and announced the details of the 2005–2006 Student Chapter Competition. MCAA President-Elect Mike Cullinane attended the Summit for the third time as a participant and avid supporter of the student chapter program.

Other featured events included an outstanding presentation on jobsite safety led by MCAA Safety and Health Director Pete Chaney. Students learned that a comprehensive safety program not only keeps employees safe from workplace hazards and injuries, but it's also good for business. Geoff Lewis, president of the MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN), spoke about his chapter's accomplishments that earned it the honor of MCAA Student Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row. University of Washington Professor



Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi introduces the 2004 Student Chapter of the Year, MCA of Indiana's Student Chapter at Purdue University.

John Schaufelberger and Tony Stewart, vice president of Skanska USA Building, Inc., gave an excellent session on the basics of preparing and delivering an oral presentation. They also supplied handouts outlining all the tips and information presented.

Other sessions gave the students a chance to learn from each other and compete for extra cash. The chapters' annual reports offered a variety of ideas for recruiting members; raising funds for field trips and travel to the Summit and MCAA's annual convention; and volunteer projects. This year's mini competition, developed and presented by Professor Tim Wentz of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (Lincoln, NE), challenged teams of students from different chapters to come up with an approach for renovating a historic mid-city church in Lincoln, NE. Teams four and three came up with the first and second place presentations respectively for prizes of \$100 each and \$50 each.

The 2006 Summit will be in Atlanta, GA, at the Sheraton Hotel—Buckhead. Stay tuned for more information! ☺

MCAA Announces 2005–2006 Student Chapter Competition

Once again, MCAA has presented its student chapters with a unique and challenging project for its 2005–2006 Student Chapter Competition—the mechanical systems renovation of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.

The project, which was performed by an MCAA contractor member in the Washington, D.C., area, involves replacement and installation of pipe, ducts, and the replacement and installation of air handlers.

All chapters were provided the bid requirements on a CD-ROM either at the Summit or by mail. The CAD

drawings were provided to all chapters separately on another CD-ROM. If any chapter or to-be-chartered chapter did not receive either disk, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.

The deadline for RFIs (Request for Information) is November 15, 2005. Please submit all RFIs in writing to Ann Mattheis via e-mail (see above address). Questions and answers will be posted on MCAA's Careers website at www.mcaa.org/careers. Look for the link to the page.

Written proposals are due December 16. Each team must

submit an original and six copies of their proposal. A team of judges will evaluate all entries in early January. The four top scoring teams will be invited to deliver oral presentations of their proposals at the 2006 MCAA convention in Maui on March 20. All participants will be notified of the results of the first round of judging by January 20. Finalists must submit PowerPoint presentations of their proposals by February 17.

Prizes for the competition are the same as in past years: \$5,000 for the winning team; \$2,500 for the second place team; and \$1,000 for the other two finalists. Prizes are to be shared by the chapter and their college/university according to the requirements of the institution. ©

Purdue's Daryl Orth Moves to Northern Kentucky University

Assistant Professor Daryl Orth, faculty advisor to the MCA of Indiana's Student Chapter at Purdue University for five years, has taken a faculty position with Northern Kentucky University's Department of Technology (Highland Heights, KY).

Orth, who became the Purdue chapter's faculty advisor in 2000, has positively influenced its growth and development. The chapter has been a finalist in all the MCAA student chapter competitions since its inception in 2001; in 2003, the chapter team took second place. In 2003 and 2004, the chapter was

honored with the MCAA Chapter of the Year Award.

Orth won MCAA's Educator of the Year Award in 2003, an honor bestowed on chapter faculty advisors by student members.

In addition to his accomplishments as an MCAA faculty advisor, Orth has also made his mark as co-chairman of the Mechanical-Electrical Academic Consortium (MEAC). He was primarily responsible for organizing that organization's first and very successful Faculty Training Camp earlier this year. The unique program, which

was funded by the Mechanical Contracting Education & Research Foundation (MCERF), provided faculty who teach mechanical systems courses, but who have little academic grounding in the subject matter, with essential information about those systems. Orth designed the curricula for the training program, recruited the instructors, and made all the conference arrangements.

Purdue's loss may be MCAA's gain, however. Orth said that one of his priorities in his new position is to organize an MCAA student chapter at Northern Kentucky University. Negotiations are already underway with a potential local association sponsor, the MCA of Kentucky.

Orth may be contacted at orthd1@nku.edu. ©

MCA of Hamilton Organizes Canada's First Student Chapter

The MCA of Canada recently reported in its weekly newsletter, *Just the Fax*, that the MCA of Hamilton (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) had hosted its first student chapter kick-off meeting in late September at nearby Mohawk College. This is the first student chapter organized in Canada for mechanical construction students.

The presentation was a tremendous success, thanks largely in part to the encouragement of

Professor Tim Wentz of the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, a pioneer and spokesperson for the endeavor. Tim Austen from Aecon Industrial (Cambridge, Ontario, Canada) and Lazo Di Sibio from BML Multitrade Group (Brantford, Ontario, Canada), both project managers, gave brief overviews of their involvement.

Out of the 75 students who attended, 30 indicated strong interest in the student chapter. ☺

Start Planning Now for Maui

If your chapter is planning to send a delegation to MCAA 2006 in Maui, make your travel and hotel arrangements now while rooms are available and air fares are still affordable.

MCAA has reserved a block of rooms for students and faculty at the Wailea Resort Marriott, which is next door and a short walk to the main convention hotel, the Grand Wailea. The room rate is \$225 per night, but the rooms are spacious and can sleep four comfortably. All the rooms will be renovated by the time of the convention and each is equipped with high-speed Internet access, web TV, data ports, safes, refrigerators, and private lanais.

The recent increase in fuel costs is causing air fares to rise to new heights, and prices are expected to continue rising. Don't risk being priced out of the trip by delaying making your reservations. Find the best deal you can, and lock it in now!

The convention program is more exceptional than ever. Featured speakers include John Cleese (*Monty Python, A Fish Called Wanda*), former NFL football great Joe Theismann, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge, and renowned environmental activist Erin Brockovich. Papa Doo Run Run will be back to entertain you at the annual Dessert Party and the gala evening will feature the incomparable Kenny Loggins (*Your Mama Don't Dance and Your Daddy Don't Rock n' Roll*) in concert. For more information about the program, visit www.mcaa.org/mcaa2006. ☺

MCAA Chapters Keep Growing and Growing...

MCAA's Student Chapter program is experiencing another growth spurt. At least eight new chapters are in the process of forming at colleges and universities around the country. Charters will be presented to representatives of those organizations that are established at the 2006 MCAA convention in Maui.

Chapters have formed at Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ, Professor Kraig Knutson, faculty advisor), sponsored by the PACC Association of Arizona, Inc., and at the University of Nebraska—Omaha (Omaha, NE, Professor Stuart Bernstein, faculty advisor), sponsored by the MCA of Omaha.

Efforts are also underway to develop new chapters at Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights, KY), Brigham Young University (Provo, UT), Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI), The Catholic University of America (Washington, DC), Pennsylvania State University (State College, PA), Manhattan College (New York, NY), East Carolina University (Greenville, NC), California State University, Chico (Chico, CA), and Notre Dame University (South Bend, IN).

Information about starting a new MCAA student chapter is available online at www.mcaa.org/careers and in hard copy. Please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org) with questions. ☺

Chapter ROUND-UP

Here's all the news from MCAA chapters around the country. If you have a special event or activity you would like to share, just send the item and any photos to amattheis@mcaa.org.

MCAA's Student Chapter at Georgia Tech

Geaux to the Gulf

More than 500 Georgia Tech students and staff mobilized to the Gulf Coast for their Fall Break in a massive Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The manpower provided for cleanup was welcomed by the companies in the area that are trying to rebuild homes, businesses, schools, and hope. It was a road trip that changed the lives of the students and meant so much to those living in the Gulf Coast area. The objective was to restore a sense of normalcy to an area that is known for being both laid back and festive at the same time. Despite limited creature comforts, the trip proved to

be a fun community of friends bringing some good times, echoing the unofficial state motto of Louisiana: "laissez les bons temps rouler," or "Let the Good Times Roll!"

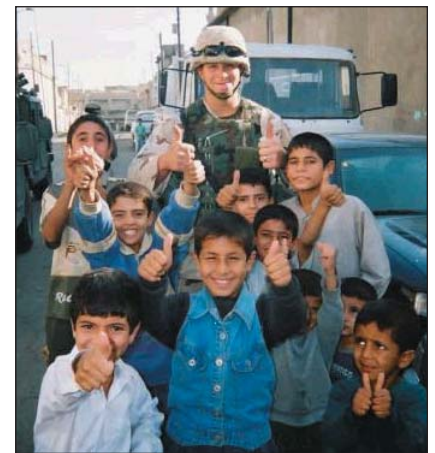
Georgia Tech Students Believe in Safety First!

Georgia Tech students will complete the first of many courses, offered through the Building Construction Program's Safety Lab, made possible by a grant from MCAA and MCERF. Nine students will receive their OSHA 30-hour safety training cards next month. The course covers OSHA policies, procedures, and standards for the construction industry, as well as safety and health principles. Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Select the appropriate OSHA standards that apply to a hazard;
- Identify elements of a successful construction safety program;
- Identify the more frequently cited OSHA standards; and,
- Implement an effective record keeping procedures.

Students Helping Students *Operation Iraqi Children*

Georgia Tech construction students are helping to build schools with pencils and paper. Many American soldiers have taken it upon themselves to reconstruct schools and gather learning tools for the children of Iraq. Their efforts have been met with immense gratitude from the local Iraqis and their children. "Operation Iraqi Children" is a grassroots program that aims to provide concerned Americans with the means to reach out to the Iraqi people and help support our soldiers' attempts to assist them.



MCAA Student Chapter at the University of Nebraska—Omaha

The University of Nebraska—Omaha has been working to create a new MCAA student chapter since May of 2005, when MCAA Career Development

Chairman Jack Wilhelmi (Waldinger Corporation—Omaha) spoke to over 50 students about its benefits. Jack made it very obvious how much MCAA was interested in attracting young professionals to its organization through its involvement with students.

In September, Brian Iversen and Zack Houser attended the Student Chapter Summit in Seattle and came back to school all pumped up about putting together a competition team to go to Maui. Since then, the excitement the students have been generating has been extremely gratifying to watch.

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Four students and one professor worked with the local MCAA affiliate and the plumbers and pipe fitters local on an event known as *Heat's On*, which is a community service project to check and service the heating units of many of our older citizens.

Their first official meeting took place October 19, with Marsha Babcock, the executive director of MCA of Omaha, NE, as the guest speaker. They are looking forward to receiving their charter next year in Maui and becoming official members of MCAA.

Oregon State University Student Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America

The OSU CEM Chapter kicked off the 2005–2006 year by attending the Student Chapter Summit in Seattle. A new scholarship program is in the works for this fall using their Emerging Chapter Grant and potential matching funds from their local mechanical contractors. The student chapter is also helping support an all-day field trip from Corvallis to Portland later this month to visit Temp Control Mechanical's (Portland, OR) duct and pipe fabrication shop and a local jobsite to see mechanical rough-in and equipment. The student chapter is working with PMCA of Oregon Executive Director Bill Sikora to coordinate an on-campus intern and new-hire mechanical interview day during Q1 of 2006.

Illinois State University Mechanical and Electrical Contractors Association

Illinois State University's MCAA student chapter is on the right track for success and develop-

ment. The chapter has a current membership of about 20 students and continues to grow. The MCAA chapter at ISU has proven to be one of the university's most active construction management student organizations. It is the only branch of the Construction Management Student Association to hold its own monthly meetings. "The main goal of our MCAA student chapter is to have more students employed with mechanical contractors," said Scott Blons, vice president of Illinois State University's MCAA student chapter team. Mechanical contractors in the Chicago area have hired three students from ISU, and two more students have had internships in the mechanical field.

MCAA Student Chapter at the University of Wisconsin–Stout

The 2005–2006 school year will mark their fourth year as an affiliate of the Minnesota Mechanical Contractor's Association (MMCA) and a fourth-year participant in the MCAA Student Chapter Competition. At UW–Stout, the MCAA competition falls under the umbrella of a much larger organization, the Student Construction Association (SCA). The SCA is proud that they have over 150 members in a program of over 400 students that continues to grow every year.

Throughout the year, the SCA creates revenue by taking on remodeling projects and additions that provide members with the opportunity to learn outside the classroom with hands-on experience. This revenue helps the SCA to donate time and money to charitable events and causes such as

Relay for Life, Toys for Tots, Heffer International, and their annual Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. Annual social events such as their fall brat feed, winter holiday party, spring hog roast, and member appreciation night give their members the opportunity to interact and get to know other SCA members old and new, professors, and visiting graduates in the industry.

Weekly meetings are held to keep members up to date on the status of current projects and events. These meetings also provide the opportunity for members to meet visiting contractors and broaden their knowledge by listening to the contractors speak on industry-related topics.

This year, their six-man MCAA competition team is looking forward to the challenge of learning from previous teams' competition experiences and raising their standards once more.

Their team kicked off the effort by sending two team members to join other MCAA student chapters in Seattle, WA, for this year's Student Chapter Summit. Some of the highlights of the trip included the opportunity to tour and learn about the mechanical systems at the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Museum, the chance to visit and learn about McKinstry Company, and the opportunity to meet their peers from other programs at the Museum of Flight. Since then, their team has been hard at work on their competition proposal and is looking forward to seeing everyone in Maui this coming March for the annual convention. ☺