

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Wins “Final Four” Student Chapter Competition

The Northern California MCA Student Chapter at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo took first place in MCAA’s **2006 – 2007 Student Chapter Competition**. The “final four,” the culmination of MCAA’s annual competition, took place on February 26 during **MCAA ’07** in Orlando, FL.

The MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech took second place

in the competition. The other two finalists were the Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Specialty Contracting at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and the Oregon State University Student Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America.

All finalists received trophies and cash awards. The first place winner received \$5,000, the second place winner received \$2,500 and the

other finalists each received \$1,000.

Judges of the “final four” competition are members of the MCAA Career Development Committee. They were Troy Aichele of Stirrett-Johnsen, Inc. (Silverdale, WA), Brett Christiansen of Palmer-Christiansen Company, Inc. (Salt Lake City, UT), and Bob Armistead, P.E., of Armistead Mechanical, Inc. (Waldwick, NJ).

The project involved the mechanical systems renovation and conversion of the Dallas Power & Light Building into condominiums and retail stores. Each team had 20 minutes to deliver their presentation; 15 minutes for their formal presentation and 5 minutes of questions from the judges. The judges evaluated the presentations on their overall quality (30%); feasibility of project management, organization, and schedule (30%); accuracy and completeness of project costs (30%); and answers to the questions (10%).

Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi announced the competition results at the **Awards of Excellence Ceremony** on February 28.

Congratulations to Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo and all the finalists. Thanks again to the 20 chapters that participated in this year’s competition. ☺



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CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

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U of WI – Stout is 2006 Student Chapter of the Year; OSU Chapter’s Greg Baker is Educator of the Year

The MCAA Student Chapter at University of Wisconsin – Stout was the 2006 Student Chapter of the Year and Professor Greg Baker of Oregon State University is the 2006 Educator of the Year. Both award winners were announced on February 28 at **MCAA’s Awards of Excellence Ceremony at MCAA ’07** in Orlando, FL.

Student chapter members submit nominations for both awards, and members of the Career Development Committee judge the nomination packages according to several criteria.

The MCAA Student Chapter at University of Wisconsin – Stout excelled in many areas, especially in membership and career development. The chapter is well organized and coordinates closely with its local association sponsor, the Twin Cities Piping Industry Association. Chapter members visited several jobsites and participated in several community service projects that raised funds for causes such as the American Cancer Society and the Wisconsin Special Olympics. Most important, the chapter reported that several members went to work with MCAA member contractors in the Minneapolis area

and in Wisconsin as interns and full-time professionals.

Professor Greg Baker’s efforts to organize and help develop the MCAA student chapter at Oregon State University won him the Educator of the Year Award for 2006. He inspired students to form a chapter in 2004 and to participate in the *Student Chapter Competition*, which they won at the MCAA 2005 convention in Scottsdale, AZ. The chapter also succeeded in making the competition finals this year. Professor Baker has also helped students find full-time jobs and internships, arranged field trips, and guided members in their various membership, community service and fundraising projects.

Congratulations to our 2006 award winners! ☺

Two New Student Chapters Chartered at MCAA ’07

Two new student chapters received their charters at **MCAA ’07** on February 28. Chapters at the University of Maryland – College Park and at Chico State University became the 37th and 38th MCAA student chapters. Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi presented the charters at the **Awards of Excellence Ceremony**.

The University of Maryland student chapter is the second student chapter sponsored by the MCA of Metropolitan Washington, Inc.; its other chapter is at Virginia Tech. The chapter is sanctioned by the university’s mechanical engineering department under the direction

of Dr. Sami Ainane. More than a dozen students joined the chapter when it formed, and the chapter plans to participate in the **2007 – 2008 Student Chapter Competition**.

The Chico State University chapter is the second chapter sponsored by the Northern California MCA; its other chapter is at the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. The Chico State University chapter’s faculty advisor is Lori A. Brown, department chair.

Both chapters have requested changes in their names. The University of Maryland chapter—originally chartered under the name *MCAA Student*

Chapter at the University of Maryland – College Park—will be renamed the *MCA of Metro Washington Student Chapter at the University of Maryland – College Park*. The Chico State University chapter—originally chartered under the name *ConstructionPOD – Chico State University Affiliate Student Chapter*—is not affiliated with the Construction Management Department at Chico State University. The new MCAA student chapter at California State University, Chico—now named Northern California MCA – Construction Management Student Chapter at Chico State—received its new charter on April 17.

For more information about MCAA’s student chapter program or starting a student chapter, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. ☺

Student Chapter Members, Faculty, Sponsors Honor Jack Wilhelmi

At the **Annual Student Chapter Luncheon and Meeting** during **MCAA '07**, student chapter members, faculty advisors and sponsors paid tribute to Jack Wilhelmi, who stepped down as chairman of the MCAA Career Development Committee, which oversees the association's student chapter program. Jack has chaired the committee for the past seven years and will become president of MCAA in 2008.

During Jack's term, the program grew from 11 chapters in 2001 to 38. He and the Committee created the annual **Student Chapter Summit**, a unique conference that's for and about the students and their career plans to become mechanical construction professionals, and the annual **Student Chapter Competition**.

Although the competition is not a unique concept, MCAA bases its competition on real projects and a proposal development and judging process that mirrors actual bidding procedures.

From the outset, the Committee wanted the competition to be a true educational experience for students, an opportunity for them to become acquainted with one of the most important aspects of mechanical contracting. For example, the competition announcement is issued in the form of a Request for Proposals (RFP) at the **Student Chapter Summit**. Students are allowed to submit questions in the form of Requests for Information (RFI). A team of judges, represented as the owner, the construction manager and/or the general contractor, review the proposal submissions. Jack aided the competition

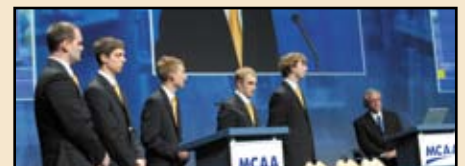
process by adding elements that made the projects more interesting and challenging and relevant to mechanical construction.

He also helped plan the annual **Student Chapter Summit**, a two-day conference that includes knowledge- and skills-building sessions, a tour of a facility with interesting mechanical systems, and a game that challenges teams of students from different chapters to develop and present a solution to a mechanical system problem in less than 12 hours. The **Summit** is the most popular element of the student chapter program at MCAA.

Jack also made the case for the Career Development program to receive funding from the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation under its Funding Educational Excellence Initiative (FEE). Those funds have made possible the annual chapter grants, internship grants to contractors, the Educator of the Year Award and the Faculty Boot Camp, a three-day conference that provides faculty with basic information about the science and functions of mechanical systems.

For his many contributions to the student chapter program, students and faculty honored Jack with a photo collage of key events that took place during his seven-year term, bordered by logos from all 38 MCAA student chapter schools. Brett Christiansen, the incoming chairman of the Career Development Committee, presented the collage with applause and cheers from all present and a thank you for "just doing it." ©

MCAA MEMORIES





MCAA Teams with ACE Mentor to Help Teens Learn About Careers in Construction

MCAA and the ACE Mentor Program, Inc. (Stamford, CT) recently joined forces to reach and better serve high school students interested in a career with the construction industry. MCAA became a member of ACE and joined its board of directors, and ACE attended and participated in MCAA's 2007 convention in Orlando.

ACE Mentor Program Executive Director Pamela Mullender talked about the program during an educational session, *Finding, Hiring and Managing New Professionals and Interns*, and at the *Annual Student Chapter Luncheon and Meeting*. She wanted to educate MCAA contractor members and student chapter members and faculty advisors about the potential of this new MCAA-ACE relationship to interest high school age students in the construction industry.

ACE Mentor Program was created in 1995 by Charles Thornton, a world-renowned structural engineer based in New York City. His idea was to educate teens in high school about pursuing a career in the construction industry by pairing them with "mentors" from the architecture, construction, and engineering fields; hence, the name ACE. The mentors work with teams of 15 – 20 students in high schools that are part of the ACE system. The program covers a school year and involves weekly meetings, field trips, guest speakers and a competition. Sound familiar?

The program has grown to involve more than 5,000 students and 1,500 mentors in 80 cities and it continues to grow. Since its inception, more than 20,000 students have participated in ACE and more than 90 percent have gone on to college.

An MCAA local affiliate, the MCA of New Jersey, Inc., has been involved with ACE since 2000. Bob Armistead, P.E., of Armistead Mechanical, Inc. (Waldwick, NJ) is representing MCAA on ACE's Board of Directors. Bob is a member of the MCA of New Jersey, MCAA's Career Development Committee, the MCAA Board of Directors, and the MCAA Executive Committee.

ACE's involvement with the students stops when they graduate from high school. That's where MCAA comes in. With our network of 38 student chapters across the U.S., our program can take over where ACE leaves off. College mentors from MCAA student chapters could team up with students in nearby high schools to share their experiences in taking those important first steps to developing a career in mechanical construction. College mentors may attract more interested teens because they are closer in age and can relate more effectively to each other.

MCAA and ACE are working on developing a model that teams an MCAA student chapter with a nearby high school. Expectations are that the model will be ready to start this coming fall. ©

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 Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.

Colorado State University Rocky Mountain MCAA Student Chapter

This year, the CSU MCAA Chapter has participated in several activities.

Fundraising—Our chapter took a different approach to fundraising this year. We have made contacts with companies, promoted our club and our events to them and, in turn, they have sponsored our chapter, enabling us to participate in and put on all of our different events.

Community Service—Annually, the CSU MCAA chapter participates in CSUnity, a campus-wide community service project. Different orga-

nizations are assigned different service projects around the community. For the homecoming parade, our club members helped design and build the CM float and rode the float during the parade. Finally, we are currently helping build a playhouse for a daycare center.

Tours/Guest Speakers—This year our tours and guest speakers have included:

- **MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions**, Seattle, WA—presentation on mechanical contracting
- **New Belgium Brewery**—tour of a LEED® certified brewery
- **Budweiser Event Center**—mechanical tour of a multi-purpose events center

- **Murphy Mechanical**—tour of an industrial construction site, presentation on industrial construction

Scholarships—Annual MCAA-sponsored scholarships for active members, newly established industry-sponsored scholarships for MCAA members, newly established MCAA-Alumni Scholarship sponsored by past CSU MCAA members

Competitions/Conventions—1st place, Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) National Mechanical Competitions, Reno, NV; six members participated in and submitted material for the MCAA Student Chapter Competition; six members attended the MCAA convention in Orlando.

Student Chapter of Specialty Contracting at Southern Polytechnic State University

The specialty construction students from Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) visited Seasons 4, a custom air conditioning manufacturer. Several large units were in various stages of construction from the frame being built to testing. The typical unit was 9' x 9' x 36'. Special features include enthalpy wheels and other ventilation heat recovery systems.

SPSU Faculty Advisor John Mench (center) and MCAA chapter members saw large AC units being assembled at Seasons 4 recently.



MCAA Career Development Committee Changes Leaders, Welcomes New Members

MCAA's Career Development Committee, which oversees the student chapter program, is starting the year with new leaders and new members.

Brett Christiansen, president of Palmer-Christiansen Company, Inc. (Salt Lake City, UT) is the committee's new chairman. Brett has been a very active member of the committee since 2002. He has judged the mini competition at the **Student Chapter Summit**, moderated sessions at that conference, and judged the "final four" segment of the **Student Chapter Competition** at **MCAA '07** in Orlando.

Troy Aichele of Stirrett-Johnsen, Inc. (Silverdale, WA) is the committee's vice chairman. Troy joined the committee in 2003. He spearheaded the planning for the **2005 Student Chapter Summit** in Seattle, WA, judged the mini competition at the Summit and has judged the final four competition for the past two years.

Joining the committee this year are four contractors from different areas of the country. Salvatore Barbera of A.D. Winston Corporation is from Long Island City, NY, and Keith

Atteberry of Marelich Mechanical Company, Inc. is from Hayward, CA. Two members are from Illinois: Michael Temple of Mechanical, Inc. (Fox Lake, IL) and Kathleen McCauley of McCauley Mechanical Construction, Inc. (Bridgeview, IL).

The committee will hold its next meeting in Kansas City, MO, on May 21. Key agenda items include consideration of chapter and internship grant requests, planning the new competition, and finalizing plans for the **2007 Student Chapter Summit** in Cleveland, OH. ☺

MCAA Student Chapter at Oregon State University

The Oregon State University MCAA Student Chapter is finishing up our third year as a student chapter. Six students and Chapter Advisor Greg Baker traveled to Orlando in March to attend the MCAA Convention. Our trip was funded by our local affiliate, the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association (PMCA) of Oregon. We were pleased to have been selected (for the second time in three years) as one of the MCAA **Student Chapter Competition** Final Four teams. We were rooted on by PMCA Executive Director Frank Wall and representatives from local contractors Temp Control Mechanical and Kinetics. Professor Greg Baker was honored at the convention with the MCAA 2006 Educator of the Year Award. ☺

Need a Summer Internship? How About the "Big Easy?"

If you are looking for a great place to spend the summer learning about mechanical contracting, consider New Orleans, LA. The MCA Central Gulf Coast is offering members of any chartered MCAA student chapter an internship opportunity with one of the contractors in its jurisdiction.

Henry Heier, executive director of the association, is coordinating this program for the association's members. Up to six students will be placed with contractors in the New Orleans area for the summer months. Students will receive a salary and complimentary housing. Heier is planning to rent a three-bedroom apartment for the students in a safe area, near public transportation, and with a secure parking facility.

Those interested should contact Heier at 504-822-3232 or at hheier@hotmail.com.