

Student Chapter News

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Georgia Tech Takes First Prize in 2003 Student Competition

MCAA's Student Chapter at Georgia Tech won first prize in MCAA's 2003 Student Chapter Competition which concluded at **MCAA 2004** in Walt Disney World, FL on March 1. The six-person team representing one of MCAA's newest student chapters accepted its \$5,000 prize and trophy at the association's **Annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony** on March 3.



Members of the MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech 2003 Student Competition team accept their first place prize and trophy at **MCAA 2004**. MCAA President Tom Williams is at far right, Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi is at far left, and Prof. Maureen Weidner, the chapter's faculty advisor, is third from the right.

Second prize (\$2,500) went to the **MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at**

Purdue University. Honorable mention prizes (\$1,000 each) and trophies went to the **Illinois State University Mechanical and Electrical Contractors Association** and to the MCAA Student Chapter at **California State Polytechnic University at Pomona**.

The annual competition took place on March 1 in the Grand Harbor Ballroom at the Disney Yacht & Beach Convention Center. Each team presented their proposal to a supportive audience of about 200 and a panel of three judges and then answered questions from the judges.

Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi presided over the "Final Four" competition. The judges were Bob Armistead of Armistead Mechanical (Waldwick, N.J.), Ken Durr of Durr Mechanical Construction (New York, N.Y.), and Dan Liscinsky of John J. Kirlin, (Linthicum, MD).

MCAA President Tom Williams, a Georgia Tech alumnus, and Wilhelmi presented the competition prizes and trophies.

For the second year, MCAA and the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) collaborated on the competition. ASHRAE supplied the project and MCAA added the mechanical system requirements. Stay tuned for information about the 2003

Student Chapter Competition which begins this fall.

Purdue University Chapter Sweeps 2003 Awards

The **MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University** and the chapter's faculty advisor Assistant Professor Daryl Orth took the top prizes for 2003 **MCAA Chapter of the Year** and 2003 **Educator of the Year**, respectively.



Paul Lokia, president of the MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University, accepts the 2003 Student Chapter of the Year Award from MCAA President Tom Williams (right) and Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi.

The results of the competitions for these awards were announced on March 3 at the **Annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony at MCAA 2004** at the Walt Disney World Resort, Walt Disney World, FL. MCAA President Tom Williams and Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi presented the awards.

The **Chapter of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding achievement in governance, communication, community service, fundraising, membership development, career development, and participation in the MCAA **Student Chapter Competition**. The winning chapter receives a handsome trophy and the opportunity to make a presentation at the **Student Chapter Summit** about the chapter's program. Six chapters submitted nominations for this award.



Asst. Prof. Daryl Orth (center), faculty advisor to the MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University, accepts the 2003 Educator of the Year Award from MCAA President Tom Williams (left) and Jack Wilhelmi.

The **Educator of the Year Award** recognizes a faculty advisor's contributions to the chapter's development during the year as a mentor and educator in the areas of governance, fundraising, membership recruitment, project development, and career development. A \$3,000 prize accompanies the award. Three chapters nominated faculty advisors for the award.

Congratulations to the Purdue University chapter and Prof. Orth on your achievement!

MCAA Officially Welcomes 4 New Student Chapters

On March 3, four MCAA student chapters received their charters at the **Annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony** at Walt Disney World Resort, Walt Disney World, FL raising the number of MCAA's official student groups to 28.

Chapters that received charters were: **Construction Management Society of Minnesota State University Moorhead; Western Carolina University Construction Management Student Organization; MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University; and MCA**

Groundbreakers Chapter of the University of the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Officially chartered chapters also receive colorful banners and are eligible to apply for either Emerging Chapter Grants or Chapter of Excellence Grants.

Again, congratulations and welcome!

MCAA Student Chapters Bust Attendance Records Again at MCAA 2004

The largest group of students and faculty to ever attend an MCAA convention – 130 – came to Walt Disney World, FL in early March to learn, network, compete, and enjoy.

Students and faculty from 20 chapters attended the convention this year, a reflection of the program’s rapid growth over the past four years and the students’ increasing interest in the industry for full-time professional career opportunities.

Everyone found something to engage their interest. The general sessions featuring former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former U.S. Senator Robert Dole, and Frank Abagnale each offered fascinating stories of their lives and experiences that captured the interest and attention of students and faculty. In between the general sessions, educational sessions, led by experts in their fields, gave students and faculty new insights about leadership, project management, and business development.

Students with an interest in sports and recreation got their fill at the convention too. University of Nebraska – Lincoln chapter members competed in the *5K Fun Run*, and two took home trophies. Miranda Mueller took first place in her age category for women, and Mike Delaney

won his age category for men and the overall race. Congratulations!



Fun Run participants from the Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Specialty Contracting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Clockwise from center are: Mike Delaney, Miranda Mueller, Anne Barry and Dan Kopecky (chapter president).

The highlight of the convention for students and faculty was the **Student Chapter Competition**. When the winner was announced – the MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech – at the **Awards of Excellence Ceremony**, the Grand Harbor Ballroom exploded with cheers, applause, and *The Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech*, the school’s fight song.

Students even had some free time to network in their own way. Several chapters got together one afternoon for an impromptu volley ball game. No one kept score, but lots of e-mail addresses were exchanged.

Thanks to all who attended . . . and to your MCA sponsors who helped get you all to the convention and make the chapter program possible every day. And, another special thank you for all the nice notes of appreciation (I keep them all).

If you think **MCAA 2004** was amazing, wait until you see what we’re planning for next year in Scottsdale, AZ. Wow! It will be even more fantastic than this year, so start making your plans now.

Come to La Crosse, WI for 2004 Student Summit

All roads lead to La Crosse, WI September 28 – 29 for MCAA's **2004 Student Chapter Summit**. The meeting will take place at the Radisson Hotel La Crosse.

The program will feature a tour of Trane's manufacturing facility, laboratory and "clean room" where scroll compressors are built. Trane is also taking the entire group on a river boat dinner cruise.

Favorite Summit program elements will be back, including an opening presentation by an MCAA officer, chapter reports, the mini competition, the roundtable discussion, career development sessions, and the launch of this year's **Student Chapter Competition**. We're also planning a session on tips for making your student competition proposal stand out.

Faculty advisors, watch your e-mail for the program brochure and reservation form.

MCERF Bolsters Support of MCAA Student Chapter Program

MCAA's foundation, the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation (MCERF), is making available to MCAA student chapters grants and awards to enhance students' educational experience and their interest in developing careers with the mechanical contracting industry.

Grants that benefit chapters are the **Emerging Chapter Grants** for new chapters or those that are working to become established and **Chapter of Excellence Grants** for chapters that have

demonstrated exceptional growth in membership, fundraising, career opportunities for students, and that have participated in the student chapter competition.

This year, there are eight grants for each category at a minimum of \$3,000 each. **The faculty advisor applies for the grant**; half the funds benefit the chapter and half the funds are allocated by the advisor for student scholarships (MCAA chapter members only).

Other grants and awards are also available that benefit chapter members and their advisors in other ways. For example, a **Laboratory Grant** is available to help fund the purchase of equipment for classroom demonstrations. Other grants are for contractors who hire student interns or graduate student/faculty interns. Faculty advisors for all chartered MCAA student chapters receive licenses for software that allows for "chats," the exchange of information and more. The **Educator of the Year Award**, which was presented to Asst. Prof. Daryl Orth of Purdue University, is also part of this program.

All the applications for the grants are due to MCAA by April 15, 2004. For more information, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org or call 800-556-3653.

Two New Student Chapters Form at Oregon State, University of Toledo

Two new MCAA student chapters are forming at Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR and at the University of Toledo in Toledo, OH.

The Oregon State chapter will be sponsored by the PMCA of Oregon in Wilsonville, OR; executive director is Bill

Sikora. The chapter's faculty advisor will be Asst. Prof. Greg Baker.

The OSU chapter has already completed its constitution and appointed an interim president, Justin Esperance. Justin led OSU's team at the Associated Schools of Construction's national competition held in Reno, NV in February. The team placed second. Justin's goal for the coming year is to lead OSU's team into the final four of MCAA's student competition.

The University of Toledo group is being sponsored by the MCA of Northwestern Ohio in Holland, OH. Richard Hodges is the executive vice president.

With the addition of these new chapters, the total number of MCAA student chapters rises to 31. Both chapters will be chartered at **MCAA 2005**.

Check MCAA's Website for a Summer Internship?

If you're still looking for a summer internship, check MCAA's website for listings. Once again, MCAA member companies are posting their summer internship opportunities in the **Careers** section of the association's website at www.mcaa.org/careers.

We promote the service in MCAA's weekly newsletter, the **National Update**. Members access the page, complete a simple form, and the listing is posted.

The more **you** use the service, the more listings we'll receive. So, be sure to look regularly and follow up on any leads that meet your criteria.

Chapter News Roundup

Here's a quick run-down of recent chapter developments. If your chapter has news items for sharing with other chapters, send the items to amattheis@mcaa.org and you'll see it in the next issue of **Student Chapter News**.

University of Nebraska – Lincoln Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Special Contracting

The new officers for the 2004-2005 school year are:

Anne Barry, President
Brandon Limoges, Vice-President/
Treasurer
Adam Hoebelheinrich, Secretary/Historian

In other news, Marsha Babcock of the MCA of Omaha and Ruth Chermok of the National Electrical Contractors Association have been elected to the national construction management honorary society, Sigma Lambda Chi. This is a distinct honor bestowed by the students through a very demanding election process. These women are very deserving of this high honor.

MCAA Student Chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering

MSOE students hosted the PMC meeting on January 26 at the Alumni Partnership Center.

They attended a presentation before the meeting regarding resolving and avoiding OSHA citations. Students presented key findings of their National Competition project and had resumes available for potential employers.

Members were impressed with their presentation skills and the fact that five of the students were heading to MCAA's national convention at Walt Disney World, FL.



Members of the MCAA Student Chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering during the PMC meeting

Mechanical Contractors of Virginia Tech

The Mechanical Contractors of Virginia Tech will hold their fourth Project Management Competition on April 5 in the Washington, D.C. area.

The project is a modern high-rise structure, the Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay located in Virginia Beach, VA. Chapter members from the Virginia Tech junior class will present their project proposals to the MCA membership.

In addition to the competition, the students will also tour the Poole and Kent Company's Dulles Airport project.