

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

Student Chapter Competition Finalist Teams Announced

The four MCAA student chapter teams that will compete for cash and honors at **MCAA 2008** are the:

- MCAA Student Chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering;
- MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University;
- Rocky Mountain Chapter of MCAA at Colorado State University; and
- University of Washington Mechanical Contractors Student Chapter.

Each of the teams will deliver an oral presentation of its entry during MCAA's **2007-2008 Student Chapter Competition** on March 3 in Palm Desert, CA.

The competition project involved the design, pre-construction and

construction/renovation services necessary to complete a 58,000 square foot expansion of J.F. Ahern's office in Fond du Lac, WI. The design-build project also required that competitors' designs achieve the highest possible number of sustainability features and LEED points.

On January 10, a panel of judges met at MCAA's office in Rockville, MD, to evaluate and score the submissions. The judges were:

- Adam E. Snavely, president/CEO of The Poole and Kent Corporation (Baltimore, MD);
- Richard U. Perosa, president of H.T. Lyons, Inc. (Allentown, PA); and
- Patrick E. Pottichen of Collins & Collins Mechanical, Inc. (Bristol, PA).

Submissions were judged on the overall quality of the written proposal (20 percent); project management and organization (25 percent); feasibility of construction and program schedules (20 percent); quality of conceptual design (15 percent) and accuracy and feasibility of conceptual costs (20 percent).

In addition to the four finalists, the following MCAA student chapters submitted entries to this year's competition:

- MCAA Student Chapter at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona;
- Northern California Mechanical Contractors Student Chapter at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo;
- MCAA Student Chapter at Fairleigh Dickinson University;
- MCAA's Student Chapter at Georgia Tech;
- Illinois State University Mechanical and Electrical Contractors Association;
- MCA of Cleveland Student Chapter at Kent State University;
- Mechanical Specialty Contracting Student Chapter at Iowa State University;
- Oregon State University Student Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America;
- MCA of Kentucky Student Chapter at Northern Kentucky University;

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University logos for the four finalists in MCAA's 2007-2008 Student Chapter Competition. Clockwise: Milwaukee School of Engineering, Colorado State University, University of Washington and Northeastern University.

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CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

- MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University;
- Student Chapter of Specialty Contracting (Mechanical/Electrical) at Southern Polytechnic State University;
- MCA of Metro Washington Student Chapter at University of Maryland – College Park;
- Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Specialty Contracting at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln;
- Student Consortium of Specialty Contractors at the University of

- Nebraska – Omaha;
- MCAA Student Chapter at University of Wisconsin – Stout; and
- Washington State University MCA Student Chapter.

The final 90-minute oral competition will be judged by three different MCAA contractor members. Each team will have 15 minutes to make its presentation followed by five minutes of questions from the judges. The results of the competition will

be announced during the MCAA AwardsCenter March 5. The first place team will receive \$5,000, the second place team will be awarded \$2,500 and the other two finalists will each receive \$1,000. All teams will receive trophies commemorating their achievements.

For more information about the MCAA student chapter program or competition, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. ☺

MCAA 2008—Learn and Network in an Environment of Success

The MCAA annual convention—**MCAA 2008** (March 2–6 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, CA) will offer an opportunity for association members, MCAA student chapters members and their faculty advisors to learn, network, and enjoy the experience in an environment of success.

Major session speakers will include former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; former Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey; one-handed former Major League baseball pitcher Jim Abbott; world-famous thief turned security and fraud consultant Frank Abagnale; and college basketball analyst Dick Vitale. Education sessions that address business management, planning and development issues, and personal development will begin on Monday morning and end Wednesday afternoon. Students and faculty are welcome to attend all sessions.

MCAA's annual convention is also known for its exceptional social and recreational events. Sports tournaments (golf, tennis, Fun Run/Walk) will take place Sunday and social events will take place throughout the convention. Students and faculty are welcome to participate in any of the sports tournaments; however attendance at some social events is limited due to space limitations. Special student social events are planned during these times.

As always, the program planned for faculty and students combines learning and lots of fun. On Sunday, faculty advisors are invited to a luncheon and a lively discussion of key issues concerning chapter development. The Student Chapter Orientation will take place from 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. and will cover convention program details and what to expect from your participation. Locations of these events will be announced soon.



That evening, faculty and students will board buses for a trip into California's past—a replica of an old gold mining camp like those that sprang up around the state during the Gold Rush to support the prospectors' search for gold. The Mining Camp features a gold mine, telegraph office, stage coach office, mercantile, assay office, hotel, saloon, bank, livery stable, sheriff's office and town jail. Activities will include panning for gold, jeep tours, straw-cow roping, a shooting gallery, darts and horseshoes. The evening will also include a barbecue featuring hamburgers and sausages and lots of sides. It'll be an evening to remember, thanks to Viega for making it possible.

On Monday afternoon, the four finalist teams will take center

stage to compete for cash and glory in the **2007–2008 Student Chapter Competition**. This special event will take place from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the main stage in the Desert Ballroom. Don't miss this opportunity to see these exceptional future professionals demonstrate their knowledge and skills before a critical audience of judges and MCAA contractor members. You might pick up some helpful tips for your future competition proposals!

Tuesday morning (7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.), students will have an opportunity to meet MCAA contractor members at the Student Chapter Exhibit, which will be set up in the foyer of the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa. Exhibits must be set up and ready prior to the opening at 7:00 a.m., so plan your Monday evening events accordingly.

From noon to 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, faculty and students

will meet for the annual Student Chapter Luncheon & Meeting, sponsored by Carrier Corporation. Apart from a delicious lunch, you will have an opportunity to discuss issues related to the student chapter program, the competition, the annual Student Chapter Summit, and any other matters that come up.

Wednesday will begin with MCAA AwardsCenter (7:00 a.m.–8:45 a.m.) in the Desert Ballroom. New student chapters will receive their charters, the 2007 Educator of the Year and 2007 Student Chapter of the Year will be recognized, and the results of the 2007–2008 Student Chapter Competition will be revealed.

From 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. that evening, students and faculty will gather at the Courtyard Marriott for a pool party and dinner that will celebrate the week, the winners of the awards and the competition results. A disc jockey will be on hand to play your favorite



Rock n' Roll tunes that will have you dancing off all those calories from dinner. What a great way to end a great week!

If you haven't registered and reserved your hotel rooms, please do so as soon as possible. Room blocks have been arranged at two hotels for students and faculty, and limited **shuttle service to and from the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa will be available form March 2-6**. If you need registration/reservation forms, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. For more information about the convention program, visit www.mcaa.org/mcaa2008.

See you in Palm Desert! ☺

2008 Student Chapter Summit Will Be Held in Omaha, NE

Mark your calendars for MCAA's **2008 Student Chapter Summit**, which will take place October 10–11 in Omaha, NE. Hosted by the MCA of Omaha with assistance from its student chapters at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and at the University of Nebraska – Omaha, the main conference activities will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the city's colorful and vibrant downtown area.

The program is still evolving, and sessions will include: a welcome

and opening remarks by Jack Wilhelmi, former chairman of the MCAA Career Development Committee who will be president of MCAA at that time; announcement of the 2008–2009 Student Chapter Competition; a presentation by the 2007 Student Chapter of the Year; chapter reports; the annual mini competition; and a roundtable discussion. The tour and the dinner will both take place at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Arrangements are being made for Summit attendees to tour the aquarium's

mechanical systems during the afternoon of October 10. That evening, the annual dinner will take pace in the Great Ape Pavilion in the zoo. The full program, complete with topical sessions, will be available this spring.

Members of MCAA's student chapters, faculty advisors, chapters' local association sponsors and interested contractors are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. ☺

MCERF Offers Grants for Student Chapters, Interns, Faculty

The Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation (MCERF) offers grants to assist MCAA members that hire college student interns, as well as grants to help defray student chapter expenses. In addition, grants are available for the first time to MCAA contractors that hire MCAA student chapter faculty advisors for summer internships. The MCAA Career Development Committee, which administers the grants program, will review the applications and decide who will receive the grants.

MCAA Student Chapter Grants

Two types of grants are available to MCAA student chapters. Student chapters that have just formed and are expecting to receive their charters at MCAA 2008, those that were established within the last three years, and those that are struggling to stay viable may apply for a 2008 Emerging Chapter Grant.

A Chapter of Excellence Grant assists MCAA student chapters that are well-established and thriving with funds for a special project or to help members with their transportation expenses to the MCAA convention or to the 2008 Student Chapter Summit.

Each grant is \$3,000, and a chapter's faculty advisor may apply for only one.

Applications, which are due to MCAA by April 15, must address all of the criteria listed in the grants information at www.mcaa.org/careers.

All applicants will be notified by June 15 whether they will be awarded a grant.

Chapters that receive grants must adhere to a strict rule regarding the allocation of the funds. The MCERF Board of Trustees requires that 50 percent of the funds be awarded to deserving student chapter members in the form of scholarships. The faculty advisor decides who will receive the scholarship(s) and the amount of each, if more than one is awarded.

Student Internship Grants

Grants are available to MCAA members who hire college student interns to help out with projects, office operations and other professional positions. Each grant is \$2,000 and only one will be awarded to a company. Priority will be given to applicants who hire interns who are members of MCAA student chapters.

Student Internship Grants are intended to encourage MCAA contractor members and Manufacturer/Supplier Council members to hire promising, well-qualified college students. The internship helps the student gain valuable professional experience and knowledge about the industry, and the contractor or manufacturer/supplier may

benefit from the intern's new ideas and perspectives. The internship is a win-win for all parties involved.

Applications are due to MCAA by May 15, and applicants will be notified by June 15 whether they have been awarded a grant. For grant information, please visit www.mcaa.org/careers.

Faculty Internship Grants

For the first time, grants are available to contractors who hire MCAA student chapter faculty advisors for summer internships. The intent is to give faculty members industry exposure and experience with the systems, equipment and processes that will be part of the curriculum taught in construction management, mechanical engineering, architectural engineering and other related programs. Each grant is for \$5,000 and two grants are available.

For more information about MCAA's grants program, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. ☺



For grant information and criteria, please visit www.mcaa.org/careers.

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.

Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo Chapter Plans Full Schedule of Activities

Derrick Fellows

Gearing up for the 2007–2008 MCAA Competition was an exciting experience for the Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo team. We added many new faces amongst the few returning members for a well-rounded and experienced team of 13.

This past fall, Dave Kruse, LEED AP, president/CEO of L.J. Kruse Company (Berkeley, CA) and president of MCAA, visited Cal Poly and spoke to MCAA's team and other interested students about the history and function of MCAA as well as the integration of LEED into mechanical

systems. In November, three members of our MCAA team went to the Greenbuild Conference in Chicago, IL, to grow their understanding of LEED and bring that knowledge back to other students.

In the remaining months of the year, we plan on visiting the L.J. Kruse Company to gain insight into day-to-day activities and real world experiences. Another visit we are currently planning is an engineer-guided tour of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. After the Palm Desert convention, the chapter board will focus on recruiting new members for the following year through industry involvement at meetings, barbeques and department activities. During our college's Open House in April,

MCAA's student chapter plans to again team up with the Associated Students of Construction Management (ASCM) and the International Construction Honor Society – Sigma Lambda Chi (SLC) to promote the Construction Management Department and its clubs to prospective students.

Finally, the Cal Poly student chapter team put many strenuous hours into this year's student competition and we would like to pass that work ethic and experience on to next year's club by holding a competition review and planning meetings before the year is up.

All of us in the MCAA – Cal Poly Student Chapter have learned a lot and we look forward to learning more! ☺



From left to right, Brandon Silveria, Rourke Benson and Randy Ayers take a break from student competition proposal preparations.

Four New Student Chapters to Receive Charters at MCAA 2008

The number of MCAA student chapters will increase by four on March 5, 2008, when charters will be presented to new student organizations during MCAA AwardsCenter at MCAA's annual convention, which will be held at the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, CA. As a result, MCAA will have 42 student chapters at as many colleges and universities across the U.S.

The MCA of Chicago is sponsoring its second student chapter. The MCA of Cleveland, MCA of Greater Kansas City and MCA of Central Pennsylvania are all first-time student chapter sponsors.



Representatives of the MCA of Metro Washington Student Chapter at University of Maryland – College Park accepted the chapter's charter during MCAA's 2007 convention. Pictured are MCAA Immediate Past President Mike Cullinane, Kate Turner (chapter secretary), Carl Diaz (chapter vice president), Matt Selvocki (chapter president), Matt Hahr (VP, John J. Kirlin, LLC), and MCAA President-Elect Jack Wilhelmi.

A listing of all MCAA student chapters, including contacts, is available online at www.mcaa.org/careers. If you are interested

in learning more about the MCAA student chapter program, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org. ©

Introducing MCAA's Newest Student Chapters

| Chapter Name | Location | Sponsor | Faculty Advisor |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  Illinois Valley MCA Student Chapter at Bradley University | Peoria, IL | MCA of Chicago | Dr. Amir W. Al-Khafaji |
|  MCA of Cleveland Student Chapter at Kent State University | Kent, OH | MCA of Cleveland | Professor Joe Karpinski |
|  Pittsburg State University MCA Student Chapter | Pittsburg, KS | MCA of Greater Kansas City | Assistant Professor Shannon Nicklaus |
|  Penn State Student Chapter of Mechanical Contractors Association of America | State College, PA | MCA of Central Pennsylvania | Dr. David Riley |