

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

Four Teams Make the Grade for Orals Competition in Scottsdale

On January 8, a panel of three judges chose the four teams that will deliver oral versions of their 2008–2009 Student Chapter Competition entries on March 2, at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ, during **MCAA 2009**. The teams are the:

- MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University;
- MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University;
- Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Specialty Contracting at the University of Nebraska

– Lincoln; and

- University of Washington Mechanical Contractors Student Chapter.

The judges who evaluated and selected the finalists were: Kenneth A. Durr of Durr Mechanical Construction, Inc. (New York, NY), Richard U. Perosa of H.T. Lyons, Inc. (Allentown, PA) and Bob Portman of Kinetics, Inc. (Durham, NC).

The finalists will make their presentations before another panel

of judges in a session expected to draw several hundred of the MCAA members attending **MCAA 2009**, MCAA's annual convention. Each team will have 15 minutes to deliver their oral presentation and then will answer questions from the judges for another five minutes. The judges will evaluate each team according to the following criteria: overall quality of the oral presentation (30 percent), feasibility of project management, organization and schedule (30 percent), accuracy and completeness of project costs (30 percent) and answers to the questions (10 percent).

The competition results will be announced at MCAA's annual awards program on March 4. First prize will be \$5,000; second prize will be \$2,500; and \$1,000 will go to each of the other two finalist teams.

The finalists competed in a field of 28 MCAA student chapters for the top spots. Among them was the first-ever Canadian competition team from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The chapter is sponsored by the MCA of Hamilton.

The project for this year's competition is a 73,000-square-foot, two-story hospital in Willits,

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Four finalists will deliver oral presentations during the final phase of the Student Chapter Competition.

MCAreers

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

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Four Teams Make the Grade
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CA, owned by the Howard Family, owners of the world-famous race house *Sea Biscuit*. The facility, which will replace an existing hospital, will include patient rooms, an operating suite, laboratories, offices and a physical therapy room. The new facility has not yet been built.

For more information about the competition and the upcoming orals presentation, please contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org or 800-556-3653.

The teams that competed for “final four” honors were from the following universities:

- California Polytechnic State University at Pomona
- California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo
- California State University at Chico
- California State University at Sacramento
- Central Washington University
- Colorado State University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Ferris State University
- Illinois State University
- Iowa State University
- Kent State University
- McMaster University
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Northern Kentucky University
- Oregon State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Pittsburg State University
- Southern Polytechnic State University
- University of Louisiana – Monroe
- University of Maryland – College Park
- University of Nebraska – Omaha
- University of Wisconsin – Stout
- Washington State University
- Wentworth Institute of Technology

Your Career Plans Come Alive at MCAA 2009

If you are looking for a full-time position or a summer internship, there's probably no better place to do your searching than at **MCAA 2009**. MCAA's annual convention, which will take place from March 1–5 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ, draws the association's contractor and manufacturer/supplier members from across the country for exceptional business education, fun, relaxation, and to recruit some well-educated and talented young professionals.

Faculty and students are welcome to attend all general sessions and educational events, which offer numerous opportunities to meet contractors, and special programs are planned to help students further their career plans. For example, on



Tuesday morning, March 3, students will be able to present their resumes, university and student chapter information at the **Annual Student Chapter Exhibit**. Contractors typically stop by to meet students and discuss their credentials and career interests during that event. The Student Chapter Competition typically draws hundreds of MCAA members who are looking for exceptional talent to hire. And, the Annual Dessert Party offers an opportunity to meet contractors in a relaxing, entertaining social setting.

Other student events will include the annual orientation session on Sunday afternoon (March 1), which will be followed by a social outing to Dave & Busters, a restaurant and entertainment venue. The Annual Student Chapter Luncheon & Meeting will give students and faculty the chance to ask questions about the convention, the competition, the upcoming Student Chapter Summit and other program activities. At the Annual Awards Program on Wednesday morning (March 4), MCAA members, students and faculty will welcome new student chapters and congratulate the 2008 Educator of the Year, the 2008 Student Chapter of the Year and the winner of the 2008–2009 Student Chapter Competition. A final party is planned for students on

Wednesday evening (March 4) at the JW Marriott.

Major speakers for this year's convention are especially noteworthy. They include former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (Opening Session), Gridiron Legend Rudy Ruettinger (Awards Program), sports broadcaster Bob Costas (Closing Session), actor and environmental activist Ed Begley, Jr., Senior Washington Correspondent

Howard Fineman and much, much more. Educational sessions will run the gamut of business topics, such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) and intelligent estimating, green and sustainable building, disaster recovery, retro-commissioning, and more.

Housing is available at the nearby and newly constructed Residence Inn. MCAA will provide shuttle service between that

hotel and the JW Marriott. As in past years, MCAA will waive the convention registration fee for students and faculty, so this is an extraordinary opportunity to learn, network and build your career at minimum cost. Be sure your chapter is represented at **MCAA 2009**; complete the special student and faculty registration form and fax it to 301-869-3520. If you need a form, please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org).

Excellence Deserves an Award... an Educator and a Student Chapter

Your student chapter and/or your faculty advisor deserve recognition for their hard work, accomplishments and contributions over the past year. So, why not nominate either one or both for an MCAA award? Nomination packages for the 2008 Educator of the Year Award and the 2008 Student Chapter of the Year Award are due to MCAA by February 2.

The Educator of the Year Award will be presented to a faculty advisor who dedicated his or her time and efforts to helping an MCAA student chapter grow and thrive into a well-organized, meaningful organization that helps students develop their careers in mechanical construction.

The Student Chapter of the Year will be honored for excellence in



Prof. Keith Rahn (l) accepted his award as the 2007 Educator of the Year from 2007 MCAA President Dave Kruse.



The MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University took home honors as the 2007 Student Chapter of the Year.

fundraising, membership development, and chapter projects, as well as career development successes (i.e., full-time professional positions, internships).

Nominations, which are prepared and submitted by students, will be reviewed by a panel of judges drawn from the MCAA Career Development Committee. Both award winners will be announced at the Annual Awards Program during **MCAA 2009** on March 4.

For more information about each award, please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org).

MCAA 2009 FEE Grants Announced

MCAA's Career Development Committee is accepting requests for 2009 grants from MCAA student chapters and association members who plan to hire student interns. The grants are funded by the Mechanical Contracting Education & Research Foundation (MCERF) under its Funding Educational Excellence (FEE) Initiative and are intended to encourage student interest in careers in mechanical construction.

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 a charter at the 2009 convention in Scottsdale; were established within the last three years; or are struggling to stay viable may apply for a 2009 **Emerging Chapter Grant**. A **Chapter of Excellence Grant** is for those MCAA student chapters that are well-established and thriving; funds may be needed for a special project or to help members with their transportation expenses to the convention or to the 2009 Student Chapter Summit. Each grant is \$3,000, and chapters may apply for only one.

Chapters' faculty advisors must request the grant by April 15 in order for the chapter to be considered. The application must address all of the criteria listed in the grants information at www.mcaa.org/careers.

All applicants will be notified of their grant status by June 15.

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 will decide who will receive the scholarship(s) and the amount of each, if more than one is awarded.

For information about the Emerging Chapter Grant and the Chapter of Excellence Grant, visit www.mcaa.org/careers.

Student Internship Grants

MCERF is also making available grants to MCAA members who hire college student interns to help out with projects, office operations and other professional positions. Each grant is for \$1,000 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.

The Student Internship Grants are intended to encourage MCAA contractor members and Manufacturer/Supplier Council members to hire promising, well-qualified college students. The internship will help 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.

Internship grant applications must be received by MCAA by May 15. Applicants will be notified by June 15 whether they have been awarded a grant.

For grant information, go to www.mcaa.org/careers. Please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org) with any questions.

The screenshot shows the MCAA website interface. At the top left is the MCAA logo (Mechanical Contractors Association of America). To the right is a search bar and navigation links for 'Member Log-in' and 'Home'. Below the logo is a horizontal menu with links: MSCA, PCA, NCPWB, Educational Events, News, Bookstore, Careers, Directory, Membership Benefits, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'Career Development at MCAA'. Under this heading, there is a sub-heading 'Finalists Announced for MCAA's 2008-2009 Student Chapters Competition'. The text below this sub-heading describes the competition results, mentioning the date (January 8), the panel of three MCAA contractor members, and the four finalist teams. It lists the finalist chapters: MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University, MCAA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University, Student Chapter for Mechanical/Electrical Special Contracting at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Washington Mechanical Contractors Student Chapter. It also mentions the judges: Kenneth A. Durr of Durr Mechanical Construction, Inc. (New York, N.Y.), Richard U. Perosa of H.T. Lyons, Inc. (Allentown, PA), and Bob Portman of Kinetics, Inc. (Durham, N.C.). The text states that the teams will each have a total of 20 minutes to make their best pitch to a panel of three different judges for a top prize of \$5,000, second prize \$2,500. The other two finalists each receive \$1,000. Contact information for Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org) is provided for information. Below the text is a section titled 'Documents Related to the Project' with a PDF icon and the text 'All documents are provided in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.' To the right of the main content area, there are two sidebars. The first sidebar is titled 'Student Chapters' and contains links for 'Annual Competition', 'Career Development Tools', 'Contacts', 'News', and 'Start Your Own'. The second sidebar is titled 'INTERNSHIPS' and contains links for 'Find an Internship' and 'Post an Internship'. At the bottom right, there is a section titled 'Start Your Own MCAA Student Chapter!' with a small image of a person and the text 'MCAA's student chapter program gives students the opportunity to learn about the industry by'.

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

OPUS Targets Faculty, Students

When MCAA student chapter teams prepare their entries for the 2009–2010 Student Chapter Competition, they will have access to a new resource that will help them choose the right materials and equipment for the project. The **Online Piping & Usage Specification (OPUS)** project is an online resource with the capability to make dynamic combinations of pipe types, materials, applications and joinings. The target audience for this resource is those who are new to the industry—faculty, college students and recent college graduates—who need to know the building blocks of our industry and the materials used.

OPUS was developed over the past three years by a task force that was charged with repackaging the venerable *Guideline to Quality Piping Installation* into a free, online resource on piping usage and specifications with direct links to manufacturers and



OPUS will be unveiled during the *MCAA 2009* convention. Targeted to those new to the industry, this resource allows for the dynamic combination of pipe types, materials, applications and joinings.

suppliers who provide the materials, making additional, product-specific information literally a click away.

A special presentation of the system is planned for the Annual Student Chapter Luncheon & Meeting at **MCAA 2009**. Task force representatives will demonstrate

how OPUS operates and how it can help users find the right materials and equipment for a project. And OPUS will be available to test drive at the Resource Center and CyberCafé.

For more information about OPUS, contact Dennis Langley (dlangley@mcaa.org).

MCAA Welcomes Two New Student Chapters

Two new student chapters will accept their charters at the Annual Awards Program on March 4, during **MCAA 2009** in Scottsdale, AZ. The Sacramento State Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America and the New England Mechanical Contractors Association Student Chapter at the Wentworth Institute of Technology will become the 44th and 45th MCAA student chapters.

The Sacramento State chapter, located in Sacramento, CA, is sponsored by the MCAA of Northern California, that association's third student chapter. Prof. Mikael Anderson is the chapter's faculty advisor.

The Wentworth Institute chapter is sponsored by the New England Mechanical Contractors Association, its third student

chapter. Prof. Ilie Talpazanui is the chapter's faculty advisor.

Both student chapters participated in the 2008–2009 Student Chapter Competition.

For more information about the MCAA student chapter program, please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org).

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.

MCAA Student Chapter at Fairleigh Dickinson University

Submitted by Conrad Odiase

This year, the student chapter at Fairleigh Dickinson University expanded our Student Chapter into the Engineering and Construction Club in order to encourage all engineering students, not just mechanicals, to take an interest in the MCAA. Our objectives for the chapter are to raise awareness about LEED® and high-efficiency engineering systems, and to provide career consulting for members looking to get into the industry.

This fall, the student chapter invited guest speakers to the university. The speakers spoke to students in estimating, construction practices and concrete design classes. Several students were also invited to tour local construction sites, such as Xanadu, where the first indoor ski slope in the United States is being constructed. We are actively soliciting local companies and jobsites for internships and site visits.

We conducted fundraising at two golf outings where students were able to meet and talk to corporate executives and local supplier representatives. Currently, we are raising funds through our ongoing and successful FDU Engineering sweatshirt and hat sales. We're looking to do some fundraising this spring and summer, as well as recruit new members who are interested in mechanical contracting.

We also plan to play an active role in making sure all new construction on our campus in Teaneck, NJ, will be as energy efficient as possible.

2008 was a great year, and we intend to do even better in 2009.

MCA of Cleveland Student Chapter at Kent State University

Submitted by Joe Karpinski

Nine MCAA student chapter members recently returned from a week in New Orleans working for Habitat for Humanity. The MCA of

Cleveland helped sponsor the trip with a donation of \$1,300. The rest of the money came from our chapter's fundraising activities—our golf outing in May, working the concessions at Cleveland Indians games, and building and selling corn hole games. We will continue to make the New Orleans trip between fall and spring semester an annual event. We are planning our first career fair, tentatively scheduled for March 13, to help students secure summer internships and jobs. We will be graduating our first four or five students in the program this May, after only two years of existence.



Nine Kent State student chapter members spent a week in New Orleans working for Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity New Orleans Relief Aid Trip January 6–10, 2009

Written by: Neal Konesky, Chapter President, and the chapter members who made the trip: Kevin Miazga, Tyler Wilhelm, Bob Fiala, Zach Durbin, Cory Bevis, Eric Marchetti, Kyle Cravin, and Jesse Acevedo

There are no words to describe the experience of working with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans. Hurricane Katrina was a life-changing event that cannot be fully understood until an individual witnesses the devastation for themselves. For the nine students who travelled to rebuild New Orleans, it will also be an experience we will remember for the rest of our lives.

We were lucky enough to work in the Upper Ninth Ward in the area called Musician's Village. Habitat for Humanity, with help from local Jazz musicians Harry Connick, Jr. and Branford Marsalis, created Musician's Village, 77 homes built to accommodate the families of

New Orleans musicians who lost their homes to Katrina. The street is full of color and life all day, every day. Some days, the musicians who already live there would come out to their front porches and play music while we had lunch, which was their way of saying "thank you." We found this very rewarding because in a way, the nine of us, along with the many other volunteers, had a chance to rebuild and preserve the very rich and diverse musical history that partially defines New Orleans.

All of the volunteers were very friendly, absolutely happy to be there, and all in all, just great people. We didn't hear one complaint, no matter how tedious or undesirable the assigned task. Everyone was just happy to be helping the people who had been affected by the devastation of Katrina. Just knowing that we were each doing our part, no matter how big or small, to help out was fulfillment enough.

All throughout the trip we were recognized and thanked for our

work. A cashier from a local gift shop was almost in tears when he told us, "It is the willingness of the volunteers and supporters that keep the spirit of New Orleans and its residents alive and strong." You could hear the sincerity in his voice and could tell either he or a family member was truly affected by the hurricane.

What this kind gentleman said to us is completely true. We saw the devastation Hurricane Katrina brought to this part of the country. We saw the homes and families on the streets, living in tents and under bridges. We saw the look in the peoples' eyes when they realized we came from across the country to help rebuild the city that they have called home for their entire lives. That is why the Kent State Construction Management team went down a second time to assist in rebuilding and also the reason why we will continue to make this trip until the day New Orleans is back on the map as the beautiful, culture-filled city everyone in this world knows and loves.

Fairleigh Dickinson Chapter Mourns Sudden Loss of Member

Members of the MCAA Student Chapter at Fairleigh Dickinson University are mourning the sudden loss of their colleague James J. "Jamie" Mabin, 45, who passed away suddenly on January 3. His funeral took place on January 10 in Morristown, NJ.

The very popular chapter member, who also served as a mentor to the younger students, was attending college while working full time as a pipe fitter from UA Local 274 at Binsky & Snyder (Piscataway, NJ). Jamie was highly regarded by his UA and industry colleagues as well as

his fellow students for his efforts and determination to earn a Bachelors Degree.

Jamie was also very involved in his community as a member of several clubs and civic organizations. He leaves a wife, Susan, and a daughter, Kelly Ann.



Mark Your Calendar for **The 2009 Student Chapter Summit**

October 1–3, 2009

Brown Palace Hotel/Comfort Inn, Denver, CO

- Find out about the mechanical construction, plumbing, and service industries;
- Exchange ideas on chapter development;
- Learn about career opportunities and how to find them;
- Test your problem-solving skills and mechanical knowledge in a mini competition;
- Hear the details of the next Student Chapter Competition;
- Tour facilities with interesting mechanical systems; and
- Enjoy numerous networking opportunities.

For more information, contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.