

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

University of Maryland-College Park Chapter Leads Student Competition Final Four

The **MCA of Metro Washington Student Chapter at University of Maryland-College Park** took first place in the first round of judging of MCAA's **2013-2014 Student Chapter Competition**, the first time the chapter has made the competition finals. The judging took place at MCAA's Rockville, MD office on January 9, 2014.



The other three finalists are: **MCAA Student Chapter at the Milwaukee School of Engineering**; the **Student Chapter of Specialty Contracting (Mechanical/Electrical) at Southern Polytechnic State University**; and **Sacramento State Chapter**

of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America. Congratulations to all the finalists!

The competition finals will take place during **MCAA 2014** at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, AZ on March 11 at 1:30 p.m. The results will be announced during the *Awards of Excellence Ceremony* on March 12, also during **MCAA 2014**. The finalists will compete for First Prize (\$5,000). Second place is for \$2,500 and the other two finalists will receive \$1,000 each.

The first round judges were Kenneth A. Durr of Durr Mechanical Construction, Inc. (New York, N.Y.), John Powell of Lawson Mechanical Contractors (San Leandro, CA) and JL Williams of Ryan & Associates, Inc. (Davenport, IA).

The project, hosted by Kathleen McCauley of McCauley Mechanical Construction, Inc. (Bridgeview, IL), involved the build-out of a food testing facility within an existing food plant. The Request for Proposal required that the mechanical contractor perform as the prime contractor. Specifications called for the installation of pipe and accessories for various purposes

and a service maintenance contract with specifications.

For more information about MCAA's Student Chapter Competition, please contact Ann Mattheis (amattheis@mcaa.org).

2014 MCAA Student Chapter Grants Announced

MCAA student chapter grants are now available to chartered or soon to be chartered MCAA student chapters.

The Mechanical Contracting Education & Research Foundation (MCERF) has made available funding for Chapter of Excellence Grants and Emerging Chapter Grants. Winners of the Chapter of Excellence Grants receive \$5,000 for student scholarships and \$2,500 for chapter operations. Winners of the Emerging Chapters Grants receive \$3,000 for chapter operations and/or scholarships.

Chapter of Excellence Grants go to chapters that are active and thriving. Emerging Chapter Grants go to chapters that are newly established or regrouping; chapters may apply for up to three consecutive years for Emerging Chapter Grants.

MCAreers

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

Inside

Final Four Teams Announced	1
2014 Grants Announced	1-2
Chapter Awards Announced	2
MCAA 2014	2
2013 Summit Goes to Memphis.....	2-4
Faculty Advisor Changes.....	4
Chapter Activities	5



Student Chapter faculty advisors apply for both grants. Requests are due by April 15. Questions? Contact Ann Mattheis (amatteis@mcaa.org).

Who's the Best?

MCAA is now accepting nominations for 2013 **Student Chapter of the Year**, 2013 **Educator of the Year** and the 2013 **Foster McCarl, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**.

Each of these awards recognizes the best in student chapters, faculty advisors and student academics as reflected in the criteria for each. Go to www.mcaa.org/careers for awards information.

Student chapter members submit nominations for the Chapter of the Year and Educator of the Year Awards. Faculty advisors nominate candidates for the McCarl Scholarship.

Nominations are due February 7, 2014. Winners will be announced during **MCAA 2014** (Scottsdale, AZ) at the *Awards of Excellence Ceremony* on March 12.

Register NOW for MCAA 2014!

If your chapter is planning to attend **MCAA 2014** (March 9-13, 2014, JW Marriott Desert Ridge Hotel & Spa, Scottsdale, AZ), register by January 31, the deadline for hotel reservations.

Major speakers include the *Morning Joe* talk show team—Joe

Scarborough and Mika Brzezinski; Erik Weihenmayer, world-class mountain climber and adventurer who is totally blind; former FBI Director Robert S. Mueller; and award-winning actress and author Jamie Lee Curtis.

The program also includes featured speakers Jordan Belfort (the real “Wolf of Wall Street”) and journalist and author John Heilemann. A varied line-up of business speakers covering a wide variety of topics complete an over-the-top educational experience.

As always, MCAA provides opportunities for relaxation and enjoyment: the golf, tennis, and Fun/Run Walk; the social events, including a concert by **Train**.

Student events include: the Orientation, an evening at *Dave & Busters*, the 2013-2014 *Student Chapter Competition*, the *Annual Student Chapter Exhibit*, and the *Annual Student Chapter Luncheon & Meeting*.

As always, MCAA waives the registration fee for up to four students and one faculty advisor. Final Four chapters may bring up to seven students and one faculty advisor at no charge. If chapters choose to bring more than students or guests, the additional attendees will be charged a spouse registration fee.

Registration forms have been sent to all student chapter advisors. However, if you need a form or have questions, please contact Ann Mattheis (amatteis@mcaa.org).

Memphis was Marvelous! 2013 Student Chapter Summit Scores Another Hit

Over 200 attendees of MCAA's 2013 **Student Chapter Summit** enjoyed learning, networking, touring and skills-building against the backdrop of a city known for its great music, fabulous food and southern hospitality—Memphis, TN. Hosted by Mueller Industries, Inc., a member of MCAA's Manufacturer/Supplier Council, the Summit brought together members of 26 MCAA student chapters and two MCA of Canada chapters, their faculty advisors, local association sponsors, interested contractors and manufacturer/supplier representatives during the first week of October.

Chuck Fell (CFI Mechanical, Inc., Houston, TX) started off the conference with welcome remarks and a reminder to students that their education doesn't end with a college diploma. MCAA's extensive offering of workshops, seminars, and courses help keep MCAA members learning and their businesses growing.

“If we don't keep learning and changing, we'll be left behind, and we'll all be working for your little brother or sister,” he cautioned.

Roscoe Bufkin, director of marketing for Mueller Industries, took a few minutes to welcome attendees to Memphis, the home of blues, Rock n' Roll, and some of the best barbecued (dry rub) ribs anywhere.



MCAA President-Elect Chuck Fell (r) and Roscoe Bufkin of Mueller Industries

The highlight of this year's student conference was the tour of the world-famous St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The 50-year old facility, built by late actor and comedian Danny Thomas, is a medical care and research complex dedicated to treating critically ill children and finding cures for childhood catastrophic diseases. Unlike most public tours of St. Jude's, this inside look was of the facility's mechanical systems, featuring the housing for a new \$65 million proton accelerator, one of 10 such machines in the U.S. Many of the systems and infrastructure were especially designed for this facility, including an interstitial space—just under eight feet high—over the patient rooms where technicians can service the HVAC cabling, ducts, and piping without disturbing the patients. Tour teams were greeted at each “stop” by facility engineers and technical experts who explained the specifics of the equipment that support the complex's operations. Students' reaction to the tour? “Awesome!”

Summit attendees were also presented with a full buffet of

educational sessions that cut deep into the meat of the mechanical contracting and service business. 2008 MCAA President Jack Wilhelmi, who was also chairman of the Career Development Committee for seven years, gave a two-hour presentation on estimating basics. His expertise with the subject matter coupled with real world stories drawn from many years estimating projects for Waldinger Corporation (Omaha, NE) kept the students engaged, the discussion lively and the questions challenging. Most important, he shared valuable lessons learned about how to keep estimates accurate and avoid costly mistakes.

Arnold “Woody” Woodall (Sauer Group, Ashburn, VA), former chairman of the MSCA Board of Managers and a current member of the Career Development Committee, led a very interesting and instructive presentation on the differences between a Preventative Maintenance Agreement (PMA) and an Energy Savings Agreement (ESA) in evaluating a building's energy usage. He demonstrated how an ESA adds value to a PMA and keeps you and your company in touch with the customer and the building to continuously assess ways to improve the facility's energy efficiency.

John Koontz, National Director of Project Management Education for MCAA and the godfather of the association's Student Chapter Program, took President Chuck Fell's message to the next level with a presentation about

Learning and Growing After School. He and Dennis Langley, executive director of the

Mechanical Contracting Education & Research Foundation (MCERF), explained that continuing education is critical to the success of mechanical contractors because technology and industry practices are constantly changing. Building Information Modeling, Integrated Project Delivery, LEED and the onslaught of new communications and data management devices are forcing contractors to stay on top of it all...or get left behind. MCAA's education programs help MCAA members learn about all the emerging trends, but they also cover the basics about project management, service management and selling, leadership and strategic planning in a myriad of learning formats. It was an eye-opener for the students.

Kathy McCauley of McCauley Mechanical Construction, Inc. (Bridgeview, IL), a member of the Career Development Committee, presented the project for the ***2013-2014 Student Chapter Competition.*** It's a build-out of a warehouse area within a food processing facility that will be used to test new products. McCauley briefed students on the requirements for bid packages, but she augmented the presentation with a video of a look-alike facility that included some important details about the project. As in past years, the submissions will be evaluated by a team of judges from the Career Development Committee, and the best four will make oral



presentations of their proposals at **MCAA 2014** in Scottsdale, AZ on March 11. The results will be announced at the **Annual Awards of Excellence Ceremony** on March 12.

Making buildings cleaner from an emissions standpoint, more energy-efficient, less wasteful and less costly to operate was the subject of another session led by Professors Tim Wentz of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Lincoln, NE) and Blake Wentz of the Milwaukee School of Engineering (Milwaukee, WI).

Students learned the basics about the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED program and how the various ratings are achieved. The Wentzes also shared insights and strategies about how to achieve LEED points when designing a building with careful equipment specifications and purchases and installation options to reduce energy and water use and costs.

Students paid close attention to Prof. Maureen Weidner of Southern Polytechnic State University (Marietta, GA) who led a session about how to make oral presentations pop and, most important, convey the speaker's message to the intended audience. She covered the gamut from construction of an effective PowerPoint; use of humor to enhance the message; effective ways to relate to the audience; how to handle difficult or uncomfortable questions; closing out the presentation; and much, much more.

The 2012 Student Chapter of the Year—the MCA of Indiana

Student Chapter at Purdue University—was also onstage and featured Brandon Burdick, president of the chapter. The five-time winner of the award demonstrated once again that they have the right stuff to win high honors—an aggressive membership recruiting program, an energetic and successful fundraising initiative, and an enviable record of career development successes. The Purdue chapter, MCAA's first, is a true model for others to emulate.

Other featured events including the annual mini competition—always a favorite with students—a tour of Memphis' **Rock N Soul Museum**, followed by dinner at the Hard Rock Café Memphis completed a full and exciting conference.

Our thanks to **Mueller Industries** for hosting the Summit and sponsoring a pre-conference dinner for conference sponsors, representatives of local association Student Chapter sponsors, speakers and guests at B.B. King's Itta Bena Restaurant. Also, thanks to **MMC Contractors National, Inc.** (Kansas City, MO) for hosting a pre-conference dinner and entertainment at the Rendezvous Restaurant, a Memphis landmark, for students and faculty attending the Summit.

And, many thanks to sponsors of the Summit—**NIBCO** (backpacks), **Pipe Fabrication Institute** (signs), **Victaulic** (water bottles), **Viega** (t-shirts), **Zurn Industries** (Subway gift cards) and **CNA**. All of our sponsors made possible a more enjoyable and memorable Summit experience.

Go to page 6 for memorable photos of the Summit.

The **2014 Student Chapter Summit** will take place in the New York City/Northern New Jersey area at the Hyatt Regency Jersey City in Jersey City, NJ, October 9-11. Hosts MCA of New York and the MCA of New Jersey are already planning a truly memorable program. Stay tuned for details...

MCAA Student Chapter Faculty Advisor Changes Announced

Several MCAA student chapters have welcomed new advisors to advise and guide them. All these changes became effective in the Fall of 2013.

Dr. Omar Thomas has taken over the advisor role for the MCAA Student Chapter at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He took over for Prof. Stanley Bielewicz.

Tony Giampapa is now the advisor for the MCA of Metro Washington Student Chapter at University of Maryland—College Park. He took over for Arnold "Woody" Woodall. Tony is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland. He also works for Kirlin Mid-Atlantic LLC in Rockville, MD.

Florida International University Student Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America is now advised by **Andres Tremante**. He took over for Prof. Yiding Cao.

Welcome to all our new MCAA student chapter faculty advisors.

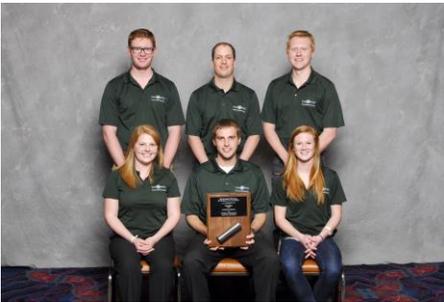


Colorado State University Chapter Celebrates a Great 2013!

Submitted by Dr. Mostafa
Khattab

The year 2013 was a great one for the Rocky Mountain Chapter of MCAA at Colorado State University.

In February, the MCAA team participated in the Associated Schools of Construction national competition. After weeks of preparation, juggling homework and study time with the extra work necessary for success in the competition arena, the six-student team received the first place trophy. "Every student who participated worked very hard for our team's success and we are very proud of their commitment and achievements," said department head Mostafa Khattab.



CSU mechanical team takes first place in ASC competition.

In March, the CSU MCAA team attended the MCAA National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. While there the students attended information sessions on the latest innovations in the mechanical industry and heard speeches by featured speakers including former Disney CEO

Michael Eisner, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, and women's health advocate Dr. Nancy Snyderman.

The team also received a certificate of merit for placing sixth in the student competition that took place earlier this year. The competition problem involved submitting proposals on a project that included the installation of



CSU Chapter received a Certificate of Merit for its team's submission to the 2012-2013 Student Chapter Competition

HVAC and plumbing systems in the Space Exploration Center building at the NASA Research Park in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Twenty-five chapters competed and were encouraged to propose design features that exceed LEED Platinum requirements as well as a post-construction service component.

In October, Scott Clancy and Hayden Rice, officers of the CSU-MCAA student chapter, travelled to Memphis, Tenn., to attend the MCAA Student Chapter Summit. This event exposes students to the mechanical, plumbing and service industries and allows them to exchange chapter development ideas while attending sessions on various topics related to the mechanical industry. "It was really cool to get to know some fellow



CSU chapter members and Dr. Khattab (r) at MCAA Student Summit in Memphis, TN.

MCAA chapter leaders and learn how they conduct business at their universities," said Rice. Also during the event, student attendees split up and formed teams with members of other chapters from around the country to compete in a mini-competition that consisted of creating a construction plan for a library remodel. The team on which Clancy participated received second place.

With all of these achievements and excitement in 2013, the MCAA chapter at CSU is eagerly looking forward to 2014 and working harder for even greater success.

Central Washington Students Awarded Scholarships

Submitted by David Halseth

Two members of the Central Washington University MCA Student Chapter were awarded scholarships from the MCA of Western Washington. They were Randy Mcleod, Safety & Health Management (class of 2014) and Same Holt, Mechanical Engineering (class of 2014). Congratulations to both!



The following are highlights from the 2013 **Student Chapter Summit in Memphis, TN**

