

StudentChapter NEWS

News for and about future mechanical contractors

2006 Student Chapter Summit Hits a Home Run

More than 160 students, faculty, contractors, local association executives, and guests descended on Atlanta, GA, September 28–29 for MCAA's 2006 Student Chapter Summit. Attendees enjoyed two days of exceptional educational sessions, interesting and exciting tours, an enjoyable evening of great food and major league baseball, and a generous helping of southern hospitality served by the MCA of Georgia, Inc., which hosted the conference.

In its sixth year, the MCAA Student Chapter Summit has become a

much anticipated annual event for students and faculty to network, hone their professional skills, and expand their knowledge of mechanical systems. This year's Summit program offered the students some valuable tips from seasoned industry contractors turned educators on how to get the most out of bid proposals and projects. Students also learned about a growing industry trend—green building—and toured a building that applied those technologies. Another tour showed how mechanical systems can meet and satisfy strict indoor environmental challenges.



Students listen to MCAA President Mike Cullinane's opening remarks at the 2006 Student Chapter Summit.

MCAA President Mike Cullinane opened the conference with a message about the value of education and the many offerings that MCAA makes available to its members to enhance their knowledge and skills. He described the Summit as an MCAA educational forum that gives students knowledge and skills to help them navigate through the many challenges presented by "this ever-interesting and volatile industry." He concluded by encouraging the students to include the mechanical contracting industry in their career plans and consider the employment options that the industry offers.

Jack Wilhelmi, MCAA vice president and treasurer and chairman of the Career Development Committee, emceed the conference and introduced the 2006–2007 Student Chapter



NEI Director John Koontz enlightens Summit attendees to the secrets behind a successful project.

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MCAreers

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AT MCAA

Competition. This year's project, courtesy of ASHRAE, involves the renovation of the Dallas Power & Light Building in Dallas, TX.

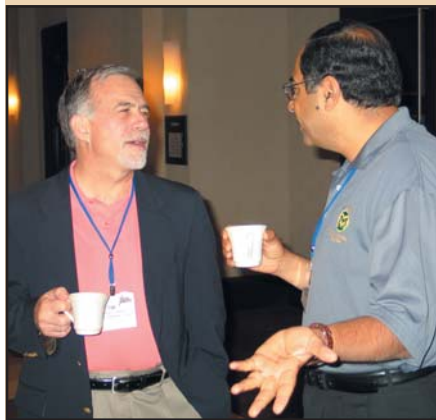
2003 MCAA President Tom Williams and Professor Tim Wentz of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln led a session on "The Secrets to a Successful Project Proposal: What Works, What Doesn't?" The two veteran contractors (Williams was CEO of McKenney's in Atlanta before retiring in 2004 and Wentz ran his family's plumbing business in Lincoln for 19 years) shared their secrets to planning, preparing, and presenting a winning project proposal.

Matt Hahr, vice president of John J. Kirlin, Inc. (Rockville, MD) explained what really happened with the 2005–2006 Student Chapter Competition project. The project, which Kirlin performed under Hahr's management in 2002, renovated the mechanical systems of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Hahr presented details about how his company overcame the challenges presented by performing a major mechanical systems renovation while the museum continued to function.

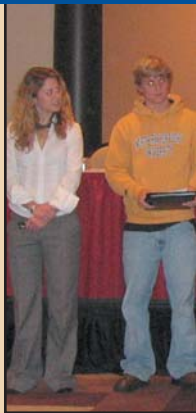
Many of those same challenges faced B&W Mechanical (Norcross, GA) when it took on the mechanical systems installation for the High Museum of Art's expansion. The project team had to complete the 177,000 square-foot addition of three new buildings—the Susan and John Wieland Pavilion, the Anne Cox Chamber Wing and an Administrative Center—within a fast-track construction schedule while maintaining precise, constant environmental controls necessary to preserving valuable, if not priceless, art collections.

Summit attendees who toured the facility (compliments of B&W Mechanical) saw new Trane chillers, including a 450-ton heat recovery centrifugal chiller and a 500-ton high efficiency chiller. They

also saw 16 Climate Changer™ air handlers, 101 VAV units, and a Tracer Summit™ building automation system that monitors and keeps the temperature at 72°F, plus or minus two degrees, and the rel-



2006 Student Chapter Summit Highlights



ative humidity at 50 percent, plus or minus five percent.

Brenda Morawa of BVM Engineering, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), a mechanical engineer and a certi-



fied LEED consultant, explained the principles of green building, which strive to conserve energy and natural resources, thereby minimizing a facility's environmental footprint.

Many of these principles were displayed at the just-completed Christopher W. Klaus Advanced Computing Building at Georgia Tech, another building toured by Summit attendees. Students kept track of the green technologies incorporated into the Klaus building with a score card—33 to 36 points are needed to earn a Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council—and the Klaus Building has 36 at the last count. Summit participants climbed to the building's roof and descended to its basement to see all of its mechanical systems, reclamation technologies, and energy-efficient conservation architectural features inside and out.

John Koontz, a veteran contractor who now directs MCAA's National Education Initiative, led a session on "Planning a Mechanical Construction Project—10 Secrets to Success." Students received valuable insights into project management at its best, beginning with careful pre-construction planning. Through diagrams and war stories, Koontz explained that even the most challenging project problems can be resolved if you catch them early. And, he advised students to listen and learn from the seasoned craft workers and supervisors on a project "who can teach you as much about this business as you'll ever learn in a classroom."

Students took the stage too. Geoff Lewis, president of the MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at

Purdue University, winner of the Chapter of the Year Award for the third straight year, talked about the fundraising, membership recruiting and job-recruiting strategies that continue to keep that chapter growing and thriving. All other chapters represented reported briefly on their activities, accomplishments, and challenges during the past year and plans for the coming year.

A roundtable discussion involving three recent graduates and alumni of MCAA student chapters proved especially enlightening for students and Career Development Committee members. Katherine Davis and Scott Garrett, both graduates of Georgia Tech, joined Mike Bjes, a graduate of Illinois State University, to relay their experiences in transitioning from college to career. Davis and Bjes both work for Holder Construction in Atlanta and Garrett works for Art Plumbing, also in Atlanta. In response to a question about the most significant difference between the two worlds, Davis said, "In school, my work reflected on me. In my job, my work reflects on my company. It completely changed my perspective."

The panelists strongly encouraged students to find internships with companies as, "a great way to gain experience in the field and learn about the company as a potential future employer." They also suggested students attend career fairs to look for internships and full-time positions.

One of the highlights of the conference was the annual mini competition, which challenges students to work with a group of six to eight students from other

chapters on a project beset with issues and challenges and prepare a presentation...within 12 hours. Judged by members of the Career Development Committee, the first and second best team presentations win cash prizes. This year's project, contributed by Tim Wentz, involved the renovation of a race track clubhouse. This year,

teams 2 and 3 took first and second place prizes, respectively.

Topping off the conference was an evening at Atlanta's Turner Stadium. Sporting colorful t-shirts (co-sponsored by Trane) attendees enjoyed a dinner of classic, delicious stadium "delicacies" (sponsored by Waldinger Corporation) and then a great

baseball game (MCA of Georgia, Inc. sponsored the tickets) pitting the New York Mets against the Atlanta Braves. The Mets won 7-4, but everyone enjoyed the game, especially when one of our students caught a fly ball.

Next year, the Summit heads to Cleveland, OH, on October 1-2 at the Marriott Hotel at Key Center. ☺

Sponsors and Friends Made a Great Summit!

The MCAA Student Chapter Summit is getting bigger and better every year, and making it happen is getting more complicated and expensive. That's why MCAA greatly appreciates the help it received (as in past years) from generous sponsors and friends.

Summit host, the **MCA of Georgia, Inc.** is directed by executive vice president Gary Fowler, which supports the MCAA student chapters at the Georgia Institute of Technology and at Southern Polytechnic State University. The MCA of Georgia planned and sponsored a memorable pre-conference reception and dinner at the Jimmy Carter Library & Museum for Career Development Committee members, sponsors, MCA of Georgia members, and special guests. The association also sponsored the tickets to the baseball game at Turner Field (Braves vs. Mets).

Other companies came forward with generous contributions. **Waldinger Corporation** sponsored the annual Summit dinner at Turner Field, just before the start

of the baseball game. **Trane** helped cover the cost of t-shirts for Summit attendees. **B&W Mechanical** sponsored and helped plan a tour of the High Museum of Art. The **American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers** (ASHRAE) provided the makings of a refreshment break and printed the LEED score cards. **Ferguson Enterprises** provided handsome portfolios.

Special friends also deserve recognition and thanks for planning the tours and other elements of the Summit.

Professor Maureen Weidner, faculty advisor to the MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech, member of the Career Development Committee and a faculty member of Georgia Tech's Building Construction Program, worked with Ron Le Roy, project manager with Georgia Tech's Facilities-Design & Construction Department, to plan the tour of the Christopher W. Klaus Advanced Computing Building. Others involved in planning and conducting that

tour include Don Alexander, director of Georgia Tech's Facilities-Design & Construction Department; Nathan Green, executive vice president of the MCAA student chapter; and Dr. Shariar Makarechi of Southern Polytechnic State University.

The High Museum Tour also involved a number of special friends. Doug Martin, CEO of B&W Mechanical, Inc. (Norcross, GA) and Danny Hanshew, senior project manager for B&W, sponsored and planned the tour and were on hand to help direct attendees. Heather Pedersen, Mike Parson, Larry McMullen and Conrad Bishop from Trane also helped plan the tour and explain the equipment that maintains the museum's environment.

As in past years, Career Development Committee Chairman Jack Wilhelmi and committee members helped plan the Summit program and brought all the pieces together. Wilhelmi directed the proceedings and committee members took turns moderating sessions and judging the mini competition.

Again, thanks to all who helped make this Summit one of our best ever! ☺

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 amattheis@mcaa.org

Three Chapters Welcome New Faculty Advisors

With the beginning of the Fall 2006 term, three MCAA student chapters welcomed new faculty advisors.

Daphene Cyr Koch is now the faculty advisor to the MCA of Indiana Student Chapter at Purdue University. She fills an opening left by Professor Daryl Orth who left the Department of Building Construction Management at Purdue for a faculty appointment at Northern Kentucky University in the summer of 2005. Professor Koch attended the Atlanta Summit with nine chapter members, helped them organize the membership organization and recruitment meeting and is helping plan the chapter's annual golf outing, a fundraising event.

Dr. Benedict D. Ilozor is now the faculty advisor to the Eastern Constructors Student Chapter at Eastern Michigan University, sponsored by the Greater Michigan MSCA association. He is taking on the faculty advisor assignment from Dr. James Stein. They are both on the faculty of the Construction Management Program, School of Engineering Technology at Eastern Michigan University.

Assistant Professor Ronald Miers is taking on the faculty advisor assignment from Dr. Brad Sims for the Western Carolina University Construction Management Student

Organization, sponsored by the Allied/MCA of the Carolina, Inc. Prof. Miers received a thorough grounding in the MCAA student chapter program from his colleagues at the Student Chapter Summit in Atlanta. He attended the conference with chapter member W.D. Reed, Jr.

For a complete listing of all MCAA faculty advisors and local association sponsors, visit www.mcaa.org/careers/tools/sccontact.pdf.

Student Consortium of Specialty Contractors at the University of Nebraska – Omaha

Alex Ryan, chapter member

The beginning of our 2006 year has been very eventful for the SCSC student chapter at UNO. Building our knowledge as professionals, we have contributed to the community through service work as well as participated in many educational tours throughout the Omaha area.

In one of the first service opportunities, we helped our local steamfitters union with a program called Heat's On. Heat's On is an event where we work along with the steamfitters as they inspect furnaces for the elderly and low income families. This was a great opportunity to see and do some hands-on work with small mechanical systems.

Volunteering is not our only activity this year. We have also taken many informative tours.



Students view the mechanical systems at the Henry Doorly Zoo's heating and chilling plant.

Our chapter had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. We saw the mechanical system for the entire zoo, including the Leid Jungle and the Scott Aquarium. Another tour we took part in was of a local mechanical company, The Waldinger Corporation. We learned about the history of the company and also had a tour of the sheet metal shop. Both of these tours helped show us what we can expect we will be involved with once we graduate.

We have a group of eight students who have been meeting every week since the Student Summit, working on the solution to the competition. We have started working with our local contractors and association to create fundraising events so that we can raise the money to go to Orlando in the Spring when we are invited to compete.

With the 2006 year off to such a great start, we are looking forward to what our spring semester has in store for us.

Oregon State University Student Chapter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of America

Professor Greg Baker, faculty advisor

After a great trip with three students and our faculty advisor, we are diving into the student competition problem for the third year. All of our key officers had internships with MCAA member contractors last summer. This fall, we will be awarding our first joint scholarships with the local Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association. The student chapter is also sponsoring our Fall Mechanical Construction field trip for all Construction Engineering Management students to visit the Temp Control Mechanical office and a jobsite. Our Mechanical Team is also

starting preparations for the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) National Mechanical Competition sponsored by Kinetics which will be held in Reno, NV, on February 7–10, 2007.

MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech

The MCAA Student Chapter at Georgia Tech is planning its annual membership program on November 7. Representatives of McKenney's, an Atlanta-based mechanical contractor, Johnson Controls, Trane, and Ferguson Enterprises will participate in the program, providing information about their companies, coops, and career opportunities. Johnson Controls is sponsoring a box lunch for all participants.

MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University

The MCAA Student Chapter at Northeastern University got a generous boost for its treasury from its sponsor, the New England MCA. The local association held a golf tournament recently that drew more than 50 New England MCA member companies and UA Local members. The funds were used for merit scholarships and helped defray the costs of their travel to the Student Chapter Summit in Atlanta, GA, in late September.

MCAA President Mike Cullinane participated in the event and offered remarks highlighting the upcoming MCAA 2007 Convention in Orlando, FL. ☺

Join Us in Orlando for MCAA '07

MCAA '07 is coming at us fast! Planned around the theme *Meeting the Challenge of Change*, MCAA's extraordinary annual convention will take place at the Grande Lakes Orlando in Orlando, FL, February 25–March 1.

The program will feature great speakers, excellent educational sessions, fabulous social events, and delightful entertainment set in one of the most beautiful resorts in Florida. Featured speakers include former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, ABC Sports analyst and commentator Terry Bowden, celebrity Chef Tony Bourdain, who will share his *Leadership Lessons from the Kitchen*, and Mireille Guilliano, author of the runaway

best-seller *French Women Don't Get Fat: The Secret of Eating for Pleasure*. Educational sessions will touch on some of the hottest topics affecting our personal and professional lives today and into the future. The Opening Party, the Dessert Party, fun and enjoyable recreational events, and the close proximity of Orlando's world-famous attractions make this convention one not to miss.

Of course, the student chapter program will be better than ever. The Student Chapter Competition, the annual Student Chapter Exhibit, the Luncheon Meeting and a special night out—just for students and faculty—are waiting for you to enjoy.

If your chapter is planning to send a delegation to MCAA'07, make your travel and hotel arrangements now while rooms are available and airfares are affordable. MCAA has reserved a block of rooms for students and faculty at the Springhill Suites at Marriott Village in Lake Buena Vista, about six miles from the main convention hotel. The room rate is \$139 per night.

Questions? Check our website at www.mcaa.org/mcaa2007 for convention planning details and the special registration form marked for students and faculty. Still need help? Contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org or call 800-556-3653. See you in Orlando!