

## The Construction Student Association (CSA)

The Construction Student Association (CSA) is a CAECM undergraduate student organization that organizes and participates in various events related to construction, design, and engineering. CSA events include networking, jobsite tours, competitions, and volunteering, as well as events just for construction-related fun! The following is a sampling of recent and upcoming CSA activities.

### Construction Connections

Construction Connections is CSA's semi-annual "speed networking" event. Last fall's event attracted 20 companies and 75 students who were interested in co-ops, interviews, and networking. The next event is scheduled for March 6 at the Kingsgate Marriott across from UC's main campus. Many CAECM students have found co-op or full time positions through this event!



CAECM students speed-network with construction industry employers at a recent Construction Connections event

### Fall Competitions

CSA students participate in several construction and design-build competitions throughout the year. In Fall 2014, four teams of students traveled to Chicago for the ASC competition, a fast-paced competition where each team has only 16 hours to submit a design and/or bid proposal in the categories of commercial, heavy highway, design-build, and preconstruction. This year the heavy highway team won first place! CSA also sent six students to the ABC Construction Management Competition in Miami this fall, where they took home a first place trophy in the safety category!



UC's ABC Team took home a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Safety trophy

### Spring Competitions

This spring, CSAers are looking forward to the Ohio Contractor's Association Estimating Competition in February, the UC New Builders competition in March, and are hoping to enter a new competition starting this year--the DBIA (Design-Build Institute of America) competition.



UC's ASC teams in Chicago. The Heavy Highway team took home a large check for 1<sup>st</sup> Place

The New Builders (NewB) competition is a UC-hosted event which will be held at the Kingsgate Marriott on March 6th. This event is intended to provide freshman and sophomore students an introduction to construction competition work. This year's field of competitors includes teams from UC as well as OSU, Cincinnati State, NKU, and Kent State. A special thanks to Turner Construction, Jurgensen Construction, Messer

Construction for once again sponsoring and judging the commercial, highway, and interior fit-out competition tracks, respectively.

### **Community Service, Field Trips, & More!**

CSA regularly organizes field trips to construction sites, and this year students have visited the Ohio River Bridges projects in Louisville, KY, as well as the Proton Therapy Center at Cincinnati Children's.

CSA students also participate in several volunteer activities throughout the semester. This fall, several CSA students volunteered to assist with the silent auction at the Spirit of Construction Gala, where they had the opportunity to interact with construction professionals. CSA students also donate their time and work on their construction skills with regular volunteer days with Habitat4Humanity.

In the spring, CSA will again enter Cincinnati's CANstruction competition, in which participants including architectural firms and construction companies build a structure completely out of cans of food, which are later donated to the Freestore Food Bank. Last year's entry was giant rubber duck, which took home the Juror's Choice award. This year's CANstruction entry will be a variation on the famous Cincinnati flying pig, entitled "makin' bacon."



UC's "Duck Hunger" sculpture, which won the Juror's Choice award

CSA also recently hosted a holiday party to cap off a successful fall semester, complete with ugly sweaters, bowling, pizza, and prizes! During the holiday party we also announced the new officers for 2015: President - Mitch Hudepohl, VP - Matt Morgann, Treasurer - Trey Hemmer, and Secretary - Erin Ashley.

For more information on getting involved with any of these events or about speaking at a CSA meeting, please email [csa.cincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:csa.cincinnati@gmail.com) or contact our faculty advisor Mandy Albrecht at [amanda.albrecht@uc.edu](mailto:amanda.albrecht@uc.edu).



At the holiday party, CSAers show off their ugly sweaters and smiling faces