

The Ninth Annual Golden Pen Award - 2015



Excellence in communication is a very important learning outcome for Bachelor of Applied Science students. This annual Construction Management event awards the coveted Golden Pen to a winning team of students from Peter Hilger's class *CMgt 4041W- Specifications and Technical Writing for Construction Professionals* ("Spec and Tech"). This year it took place on May 7. The event is the culmination of the class competition for the right to design and build the Gizmo Distribution Facility in the mythical town of Middleberg, Minnesota. Each two-member team submits a written proposal in response to an RFP, the four most responsive of which advance to this Final Four oral presentation round before a panel of judges, a "building committee" consisting of captains of the local CM industry, along with several laypersons who might appear on such a committee in the real world. This year our panel of judges included David Andersen, Bill Bartolic, Mary McNellis, David Bergstrom, Sonja Simonsen, Michelle McGuire, Paul Maenner, and Molly Grove, in consultation with the remaining students. Thanks to the judges' targeted, tough, often amusing questions, the teams were challenged on not only their public speaking skills, but their ability to think on their feet with questions not entirely planned for! We are always amazed at how competitive the students become. The consensus among judges was that this was by far the best-prepared group of students in recent memory, as demonstrated by the time it took to select a winner.



This year's winning duo, Paul Noll and Travis Dupre of "Noll-Dupre Contracting," took away the Award from three other teams: Prestige Construction (Tim Johnson and Josh Fossan), WeB Wise (Ross Giebel and Andrea Uecker), and K&M Construction (Kate Kamish and Michael Lehman). Congratulations to Paul and Travis, whose names will now permanently adorn our commemorative plaque, and many thanks to all the participants and judges!

