It is hard to read the paper, listen to the radio, or watch TV and not be reminded that we are facing a period of uncertainty and economic challenge ahead. Such times are nothing new in the construction industry, however, each peak and valley brings with it a unique set of challenges and opportunities. As we assess strategies to pursue, an important motto to follow is that smart investments in the people in our organizations almost always pay dividends.

As such, a key point of focus this year in PACE will be an assessment of how we can improve the development of current students and future leaders by improving and expanding professional development programs. For example, this year we will assess ways to implement a mentoring program for students, how to improve internship experiences, and how to advance the assessment of and feedback we provide to student teams. We will also begin experiments with expanded hands-on learning and service learning for our students through the initiation of new student chapter activities.

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We look forward to obtaining feedback on these efforts from both industry partners and peers at other institutions. Through working together, we can help each other maintain momentum and retool our organizations to embrace the challenges ahead.

MorningStar Solar Home at PSU Visitors Center

The MorningStar Solar Home built for the 2007 Solar Decathlon Competition, has been reassembled at the Penn State & Centre County Visitors Center located across the street from Beaver Stadium. PACE companies were instrumental to the Penn State team through their donations and technical support. The home will be open for tours weekly, and for special events including the PACE Research Seminar and the AE Career Fair.

For more information please visit: www.cfs.psu.edu

The MorningStar serves as a model for the most advanced technologies in sustainable living.
S:PACE Adopts MCA and NECA Student Chapters

In the last year, two new student chapters have been established to provide expanded learning opportunities for AE students. Last Fall, under the leadership of Alyssa Adams, a Student Chapter for the Mechanical Contracting Association (MCA) was established. A major incentive for universities to create MCA Student Chapters is the chance to participate in an annual competition that challenges students to develop a competitive proposal.

Last year the Penn State team entered for the first time. This year, lead by new MCA Chapter President Brittany Muth, a new and larger team has been formed. Four students traveled to Omaha Nebraska October 9-10 for the MCA student summit meeting where they were oriented to the 2008 competition problem: the greening of healthcare facility. The team will develop a solution, and submit it to an industry jury. Three top teams will receive a free trip to the MCA Convention in March, and will have the chance to make a professional presentation to live judges. The winning team receives a plaque and a check for $1000.

Last Fall, under the leadership of Sarah Klinetob, a Student Chapter of the National Electrical Contracting Association (NECA) was formed. In addition to a visit with the Penn-Del-Jersey Chapter of NECA in September, four student members of the new chapter attended the NECA Convention in Chicago where new chapter initiatives were discussed. At the convention, Penn State students shared plans to pilot a service program in which NECA student chapters will travel to Central America during spring break to install solar systems in communities in need. If successful, the program will be expanded to other NECA student chapters in the U.S.

Both the MCA and NECA chapters are considered to be housed under the S:PACE umbrella to minimize administration and ensure these new learning opportunities are well coordinated and accessible to as many students as possible. Both Chapters will also pursue relationships with local MCA and NECA Chapters to help expand internship and career options for AE students in the construction, electrical/lighting, and mechanical options.

For more information, visit www.engr.psu.edu/PACE

DBIA Designated Professional Certification. This course also satisfies the continuing education credit requirements for AIA. Sixteen people enrolled in the 2008 course, ranging from large industry members to small business owners.

One of the more unique experiences of the week was the “Green Tour” of Penn State’s campus. Tour stops included the Stuckeman Family Center (SALA Building), The Dickinson School of Law construction site and finished with a presentation by Dr. John Messner in the Immersive Construction Lab.

Penn State is pleased to offer another Design-Build Boot Camp August 3-7, 2009.

For more information about the 2009 Boot Camp visit, www.dbia.org or e-mail mhenderson@dbia.org
S:PACE Plans Busy Year of Activities

The fall semester has begun and S:PACE is already very active. Some events that have already occurred include the first General Meeting, AE Major Night, and numerous PACE company events. Events still to come include the Fall S:PACE Trip, Balfour Beatty/SPACE Tailgate, and more PACE company information sessions.

The semester kicked off the second week of classes with the first SPACE General Meeting. This meeting was an informational meeting highlighting some of the events SPACE participates in throughout the year. It was a great success with over 75 students in attendance. S:PACE currently has over 50 members, including a number of first year students. One of S:PACE’s primary goals for the 2008-2009 school year was to get more 1st and 2nd year AE students involved in S:PACE and the general meeting was a great indication that the club is on “pace” to meet this goal.

S:PACE also participated in the AE Major Night. This event introduced S:PACE to freshmen engineering students. Officers had the opportunity to answer AE and Construction related questions for the students.

S:PACE hosted company information sessions for Barton Malow, Balfour Beatty, Davis Construction, and Clark Construction. Additionally Forrester Construction did a presentation on Careers in Construction and Grunley Construction did a presentation on Construction Safety. We have information sessions planned for Hensel Phelps Construction and Southland Industries.

S:PACE is working hard to finalizing details for the Fall 2008 S:PACE Trip. The current itinerary includes stops at job sites in Lancaster, Baltimore, and Washington DC. We hope to take between 30 and 40 students on this trip. There has already been a great interest shown in the trip.

In preparation for the career fair later this month, S:PACE will be hosting an internship mixer. For this event, PACE companies will be coming to Penn State to give students tips on topics such as resumes and interviewing skills.

We are looking forward to the first annual S:PACE Tailgate hosted by Balfour Beatty Construction which will take place at the Penn State vs. Michigan football game!

SPACE is very excited about the upcoming year and we look forward to being more active and introducing the construction industry to more students then ever before!

MorningStar Research Team Formed

A new research team has been formed in the Architectural Engineering Department to focus on the deployment of renewable energy in commercial and residential markets. The MorningStar research team, led by Professor David Riley, is investigating research topics ranging from energy efficiency technologies to contracting strategies for solar energy systems. The team has a particular focus on the affordability of renewable energy systems, and how the integration of systems combined with prefabrication strategies can. Key partners include the Electri International Foundation and the Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing.

Another key focus topic of the team are the advancements in the engineering and skilled labor workforce that will be needed to deploy solar on a large scale. The team is currently helping to design an integrated course in solar PV system design and construction as a part of this effort. Learn more at www.cfs.psu.edu/MorningStar.
Upcoming S:PACE Activities

S:PACE Field Trip — November 7-8, 2008
Trip will include stops at job sites in Lancaster, Baltimore and Washington, DC.

S:PACE Tailgate — October 18, 2008
The first annual tailgate, sponsored by Balfour Beatty, will take place at the MorningStar solar home before the Penn State vs. Michigan football game!

Upcoming PACE Events

Research Seminar — April 21-22, 2009
Held each spring, the research seminar combines presentations of research results and timely industry speakers for a diverse audience of building industry professional and university students.

Advisory Board Meeting — June 4, 2009
Representatives from PACE Member companies meet to discuss key issues facing the building industry, and establish a research agenda for the next year.

We would like to thank the following companies for their support of PACE

We are pleased to announce a new level of membership to PACE: Thank you PACE Leaders!

Leaders
Balfour Beatty        Penn State Office of Physical Plant        Southland Industries

Associates
Alexander Building Company
Buch Construction
Gilbane Building Company
Haskell Company
Hensel Phelps
Holder Construction Company
Skanska USA
Tishman Speyer
Trammell Crow Company

Partners
Barton Malow Company
Benchmark Construction Company
Clark Construction Group
Forrester Construction Company
James G. Davis Construction Corporation
Truland Systems

Donors
BPGS Construction
Brent Darnell International
Design-Build Institute of America
EDiS Company
Foreman Program & Construction Managers
McClure Company
ONCORE Construction
Parsons
The Quandel Group
Reynolds Construction Management
STV
Turner Construction Co.