

Turf Teams Rev it Up in Daytona Beach Student Challenge



The Ninth Annual Student Challenge took place in Daytona Beach, Florida, at the Sports Turf Managers Association's 24th Annual Conference and Exhibition. The conference was held January 15-19, 2013. Mt. SAC enrolled two teams into the competition. For the second consecutive year there were

females competing on teams. In fact, for the first time, the women outnumbered the men. There were five females and three males competing this year. We were still the only school that entered a team composed entirely of females in the Student Challenge. I am proud to report that both teams had outstanding finishes. Team 203 finished

second and team 207 finished 4th in the nation in the Two Year College category. The first place team was Horry Georgetown Technical College. Third place belonged to Penn State University. Team 203 members are **Kevin Marsh, Kay Hoevel, Joel Balsiger and Freddy Gonzalez**. Team 207 members are

Fleur Nooyen, Kelly De La Peza, Danielle Booth and Raquel Zepeda. The team coaches are **Brian Scott**, Professor of Horticulture and **Chaz Perea**, Adjunct Professor of Horticulture and Landscape Manager for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Sports Turf Managers

pertaining to real life sports turf management scenarios.

This year there were 34 teams from across the country, 9 of which were two year colleges.

A few interesting facts about our test scores this year are:

Mt. SAC 207 had the **second highest score of all teams,**

Only 4 1/2 points separated the top four teams! Mt. SAC 203 had the **highest score in the short answer category amongst all two year schools**. Way to go Mt. SAC!

As I watched our second place team go up to the stage to get their medals, I began to reflect on the past several years and realized that Mt. SAC Turf Teams have been more consistent than any other school in placing teams in the top three year in and year out. Since 2007, we have had three first place finishes, two second place finishes and three third place finishes. There was only one year we did not have a team finish in the top three, and that was 2010 when we finished fourth. I believe this consistency is a testimony to the quality of students that come through our program every year, and their commitment to excellence.



L to R: Chaz Perea, Raquel Zepeda, Fleur Nooyen, Freddy Gonzalez, Kevin Marsh, Kay Hoevel, Joel Balsiger, Dani Booth, Brian Scott, Kelly De La Peza

Association (STMA) Student Challenge consists of several parts. Included in the test are Turfgrass Identification, Selection and Morphology, Soil Management, Soil Fertility, Water Management, Drainage, Turfgrass Mathematics, Pest Identification and Management, Sports Field Management (both turf and non-turf areas), and essay questions

two and four year combined on the Pest and Turfgrass Identification section! Their score was 32 and the top score was 33 by University of Maryland who won the four year competition. Mt. SAC 207 finished merely 1/2 point behind Penn State.

The 2013 Mt. Sac Turf Team would like to thank the following sponsors for making it possible for them to compete this year: **West Coast Turf and the Mt. SAC Associated Students**. The donations of these organizations and private individuals fully funded the team's trip this year. We truly could not have done it without their support. Thank you all!