

OHIO CONTRACTOR

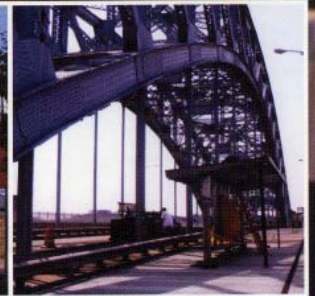
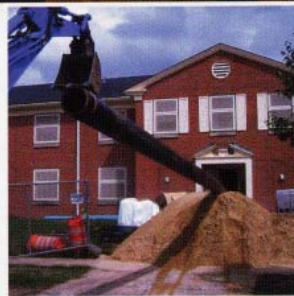


January/
February
2005

22nd OCA Winter Conference: Outlooks, Updates, Recaps and Strategies



**Also In
This Issue:
2004
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OCA HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIPS:

AN INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW

OCA is entering its third decade of promoting the heavy-highway construction industry and assisting tomorrow's leaders through its OCA Hall of Fame Scholarship program.

Since the 1980s, OCA has been offering \$10,000 in scholarship awards annually to students enrolled in either two-year or four-year Civil Engineering, Construction Management or a related career field program at an Ohio college. Scholarship recipients, as well as demonstrating scholastic ability and extra-curricular participation, had to successfully complete an application process which entails an essay and recommendations from instructors/professors.

OCA proudly honors its 2005 Hall of Fame Scholarship recipients. It is believed that through continuing education, mentoring and employment with an OCA-member company these students will become accomplished industry employees. Below are excerpts from the students' essays, which provide a glimpse of why they've gotten involved in the heavy-highway construction industry as well as their future professional goals:



Matthew V. Comber
University of Toledo

"Since childhood, I have aspired to the idea of one day practicing as an Engineer. I've always had the ability to figure out how devices work and the desire to know why they work. ..."

"I enrolled at the University of Toledo with the intention of taking a broad spectrum of engineering courses so that I may get a feel for as much of the engineering subfields as possible. My first semester as a mechanical student placed me in an Engineering Statistics class. I immediately became enthralled with the ideas and theories that were being applied. ... I became very excited about the possibilities that could be available to me as a Civil Engineer. That same semester I switched my major to Civil Engineering with the intent to use my degree to pursue a career in bridge design and construction. I have maintained that vision ever since.

"... Upon graduating from the University of Toledo, I plan to continue my education by pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Structural Engineering. Upon attainment of a master's degree, I would like to work towards a Ph.D. ..."



Matthew Dolezal
The Ohio State University

"For as long as I can remember, I have always had an interest in the heavy-highway construction industry. As a child my father would bring me to such jobsites as often as possible. ... After graduating high school, I began to take a more serious approach in furthering my education in the civil engineering field; more particularly, the heavy-highway construction industry. In the years to follow I interned for an engineering consultant firm and quickly realized that a career in the field environment, as opposed to the