



CEE @ Illinois



News from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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[Researcher Works Toward Better Water Management, Food Security in Nile River Basin](#)

Ximing Cai has devoted his career to an interdisciplinary approach to water resources management, the idea that knowledge from multiple disciplines is essential to finding effective solutions to real-world problems. This summer the CEE associate professor and Ven Te Chow faculty scholar in water resources had a unique opportunity to apply that approach to a challenge in one of the most critically important river basins in the world, the Nile River Basin. Invited by the World Bank and the Nile Basin Initiative, a regional development agency sponsored by the World Bank and the United Nations, Cai planned and led two workshops in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June and October. [More on the Ethiopian workshops](#)



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[Forty Years of Concrete Canoe: 1971-2011](#)

Forty years ago, a professor and alumnus of civil engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign named Clyde E. Kesler (BS 43, MS 46) had an inspiration. Instead of giving his students in the concrete design class the usual term project of designing high-strength cylinders or reinforced beams, he challenged them to build a canoe out of concrete. They not only built that canoe but also raced it against a team from Purdue in May 1971, in the first-ever intercollegiate concrete canoe competition. What began 40 years ago as a civil engineering class project at the University of Illinois has today grown into an organized annual tradition for engineering students worldwide. A look at this singular learning experience. [More concrete canoe history](#)



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[Bassem Andrawes Wins National Science Foundation CAREER Award](#)

Bassem Andrawes, assistant professor of structures in CEE at Illinois, has won a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award. Andrawes will receive \$400,000 over the next five years to develop and study a new technology that uses smart materials to reinforce lifeline concrete structures with the aim of mitigating damage from strong earthquakes. Andrawes will study the use of an innovative type of transverse reinforcement made of Shape Memory Alloys, materials that remember their original shape and return to it after deformation. CAREER awards are the most prestigious form of support and recognition for junior faculty given by the NSF. [More on Andrawes' research](#)



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[CEE at Illinois Alumni Association Awards Announced](#)

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association is pleased to announce the 2011 recipients of its Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards and Young Alumnus/Alumna Achievement Award. The Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Award recognizes professional accomplishments or unique contributions to society by alumni of the department. The Young Alumnus/Alumna Achievement Award recognizes a recent graduate who has achieved distinction in his or her field and reached a level of accomplishment significantly greater than that of other recent graduates. The honorees will be recognized at the CEE at Illinois Alumni Dinner in Chicago on Feb. 9. [More about the CEEAA awards](#)



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[Chance to Work in a Developing Country Drives Demand for an Environmental Lab Class](#)

At registration time, the environmental lab course taught by Professor Benito Mariñas fills up with lightning speed. Ever since he redesigned CEE449 Environmental Engineering Laboratory to include a design project related to water treatment in Mexico, complete with an optional trip there, students have flocked to the course. Their enthusiasm is evidence of the strong desire of students to work internationally and use their engineering degrees to make a difference in the world, says Mariñas. "It used to be that undergrads just wanted to become practicing engineers, get a good job, and make money," Mariñas says. "Now all of our top students want to be involved in solving the problems of the world." [More on CEE449](#)



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[New Faculty: Assistant Professor Daniel B. Work](#)

The newest member of the civil and environmental engineering faculty is Assistant Professor Daniel B. Work, who joined the department this winter after completing his Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He will teach courses in transportation engineering and systems engineering. Work has research interests in control, estimation, and optimization of cyber physical systems, mobile sensing, and inverse modeling and data assimilation, applied to problems in civil and environmental engineering. [More about Assistant Professor Dan Work](#)



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[CEE Job Fair Registration Now Open](#)

Company registration is open for the spring 2011 CEE Job Fair on Friday, Feb. 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the crane bay of Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory. Hundreds of CEE students attend this fair, which features 50-70 company booths, an informal lunch, and opportunities for interviews with students. For more information, and to register, visit the CEE Job Fair registration site. [More on the CEE Job Fair](#)



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