



NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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CEE Alumnus leads restoration project for Wrigley Field

Bill Bennett has fond childhood memories of Wrigley Field – from his dad always telling him to stop and smell the grass when coming up the stairs to his seat to the time when Bennett was five years old and Hall of Famer Billy Williams tossed him a ball. Today, perhaps no one knows the intimate details of the 101-year old ballpark better than Bennett. That's because the University of Illinois alumnus is leading Pepper Construction's \$500 million renovation to the home of the Chicago Cubs. [More about Bennett and the restoration project](#)

Groundwater from aquifers important factor in food security

Thirsty cities, fields and livestock drink deeply from aquifers, natural sources of groundwater. But a study by Professors Ximing Cai and Megan Konar, along with their colleagues, shows that overdrawing from these resources could lead to difficult choices affecting not only domestic food security but also international markets. [More about the study](#)



Crop-roving robots will improve plant phenotyping

As part of a multi-disciplinary project led by researchers from the



[View video about CEE's cross-disciplinary programs](#)

University of Illinois, CEE Research Assistant Professor Joshua Peschel is developing all-terrain automated ground rovers that will travel between crop rows in fields, gathering data for phenotyping, the process of describing growth, appearance and other factors affecting yield. [More about the project](#)



Fahnestock chosen for NAE Frontiers of Engineering Symposium

Associate professor Larry Fahnestock has been selected to take part in the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) 21st annual U.S. Frontiers of Engineering symposium. Engineers ages 30 to 45 who are performing exceptional engineering research and technical work in a variety of disciplines will come together for the 2½ day event.

[More about the symposium](#)



Jon Khachaturian Named COE Distinguished Alumnus

When Hurricane Katrina ripped through the gulf coast in 2005, it not only flooded large parts of New Orleans, but it had a major impact on the offshore oil industry. Jon Khachaturian had an idea for a system capable of lifting up to 4,000 tons from the seafloor. Within 18 months he had transformed the sketch he made on the back of an envelope into a multimillion-dollar piece of equipment called the Bottom Feeder that helped salvage many topsides. [More about Khachaturian](#)



Valocchi, Rood Receive Campus Excellence in Instruction Awards

CEE at Illinois professors Albert J. Valocchi and Mark J. Rood were among those honored at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's recent Celebration of Teaching Excellence ceremony. The annual event is held to recognize faculty, staff members and graduate teaching assistants who have demonstrated excellence in teaching, advising and mentoring. [More about the awards](#)



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The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
205 North Mathews Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801-2352

P: (217) 333-8038
F: (217) 333-9464

