



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

NEWS FROM CEE AT ILLINOIS.....NOVEMBER 2014

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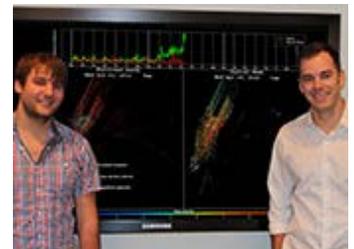
Photo courtesy of the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

## Bond wins MacArthur 'Genius' Grant

CEE Professor Tami Bond has been awarded a 2014 MacArthur Fellowship, commonly known as a “genius grant,” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The fellowship carries an unrestricted \$625,000 stipend to be used as the researcher sees best. According to a statement from the MacArthur Foundation, the fellows are chosen according to three criteria: “Exceptional creativity, promise for important future advances based on a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate subsequent creative work.” [More about the fellowship](#)

## Taxi GPS data shows hurricane's effect on NYC traffic

Dan Work, an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and Brian Donovan, an M.S. student in CEE's Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure Systems program, analyzed GPS data from nearly 700 million taxi trips—representing four years of taxi travel in New York City—to determine the city's normal traffic pattern and study the variations during extreme events like the hurricane and snowstorms. [More about the project](#)

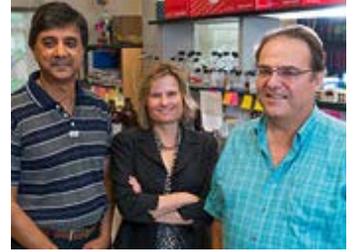


## Sustainability Institute Funds Projects Involving CEE Profs



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

The first three research projects funded by the University of Illinois' Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment (iSEE) involve three CEE professors. Two projects — an innovative water disinfection system, and an approach to agriculture that involves woody plants as an alternative to conventional crops — will each receive more than \$400,000 from iSEE over the next three years. The third project, the development of stoves that use stored solar energy, will receive \$140,000 over two years. [More about iSEE projects](#)



## Sketch-Based Learning Becoming a Reality Thanks to CEE Professors

Thanks in part to advances in technology, much has changed and continues to evolve in educational methods during the 21st century. A group of University of Illinois civil and environmental engineering professors believe their use of sketch-based learning will be one of those advances that could help revolutionize learning in coming years. [More about sketch-based learning](#)



## Self-healing organisms inspire CEE research team

Sea urchins, mollusk shells and many other organisms in nature share a useful trait: they are able to regrow and regenerate when damaged. Amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC) plays an important role in the self-healing process. Associate Professor Rosa Espinosa-Marzal and Assistant Professor Ahmed Elbanna have received a three-year, \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to explore the properties of ACC-based composites and quantify its mechanical properties. [More about the research](#)



## CEE Ranked Number One by US News

U.S. News & World Report named the civil engineering undergraduate program at Illinois number one in their Best Colleges rankings in the category, Undergraduate Engineering Specialties: Civil. The University of Illinois ranked fifth in the category, Undergraduate Engineering Specialties: Environmental/Environmental Health. [More about the rankings](#)



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