



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

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Hydro Lab to be expanded, modernized

The Hydrosystems Laboratory will be expanded and modernized over the next two years in a \$12 million project supported by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the College of Engineering and the campus. The expansion of the Hydro Lab is phase one of the larger Civil and Environmental Engineering Infrastructure Modernization Plan, which will include developing resources and support for the renovation and expansion of Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory as well, over the next three to five years. [More about the expansion](#)

RailTEC's new research center is unique in North America

Rail safety and innovation is enjoying even greater emphasis at the federal level these days. The Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC), based in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is at the heart of cutting edge research sponsored by the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and other public and private sponsors. [More about RailTEC](#)

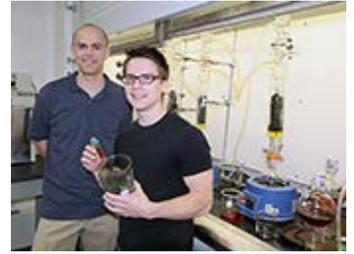




[View video about CEE's cross-disciplinary programs](#)

New process helps overcome obstacles to produce renewable fuels and chemicals

The second-most abundant organic polymer in nature may soon be useful for the production of biofuels and renewable chemicals, thanks to a project involving CEE researchers that demonstrated a new method for processing it. Lignin is an energy-dense polymer present in plants. It is the second most abundant biopolymer on Earth, after cellulose, making it a potentially valuable resource in the manufacture of biofuels. [More about lignin](#)



Project will broaden access to geoscience data

Each day, millions of researchers across the geoscience field and around the world are busy collecting data for unique research projects. These collections are called “long-tail” data and models, and represent a potential goldmine for the scientific community, but for one problem: they are too different. A team led by CEE Professor Praveen Kumar is developing a semantic framework for integrating these collections. [More about the framework](#)



Espinosa-Marzal, Work named NCSA Faculty Fellows

Two members of the CEE faculty have been named 2014-2015 Faculty Fellows by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). Associate Professor Rosa Espinosa-Marzal and Assistant Professor Dan Work join seven other University of Illinois faculty members in receiving fellowships. [More about the fellowships](#)



CEEAA board, officers announced

Five alumni were elected to the board of directors of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association (CEEAA) this summer, to serve four-year terms spanning 2014-2018. The election also ratified the appointment of a new slate of officers who will serve two-year terms. [More about the board and officers](#)



Traffic and Engineering Safety Conference

Register now for the 63rd Annual Illinois Traffic Engineering and Safety Conference to be held October 15-16th, 2014 at the I Hotel and Conference Center. [More information](#)



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