



September 2009

[Subscribe](#) [Read online](#)

## CEE and KAUST Researchers to Collaborate

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the Water CAMPWS at the University of Illinois have signed a three-year collaborative research agreement with the newly established King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia. Under the agreement, KAUST will provide \$5 million in funds to be shared by researchers at both U of I and KAUST for research of mutual interest in the areas of environmental sciences and engineering and water desalination and reuse. [More about the KAUST collaboration](#)



## Elnashai Named 14th Head of CEE



Professor Amr S. Elnashai was named the new Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) on June 15. Elnashai replaces Professor Robert H. Dodds Jr., who stepped down to return to research and teaching. Elnashai is the William J. and Elaine F. Hall Endowed Professor at Illinois. His technical interest is in earthquake engineering, and he has published on analytical, experimental and field assessment of buildings and bridges subjected to earthquake action. Elnashai is a fellow of the UK Royal Academy of Engineering, the American Society of Civil Engineering and the Institution of Structural Engineers. [More about CEE's new Head](#)

## New structural system tested at E-Defense



A group of researchers led by CEE Professor Jerry Hajjar and colleagues from Stanford University, the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Hokkaido University, and E-Defense in Japan have successfully tested a new structural system that will make steel-framed buildings more resilient in earthquakes. The "controlled rocking" system enables buildings to sway during earthquakes and return to their original positions without sustaining irreversible damage. The system focuses the damage into structural 'fuses' that may be replaced after the earthquake. [More about the "controlled rocking" system](#)

## CEE Hosts Smart Structures Summer School

The opportunity for intensive instruction in the emerging field of smart structures technology drew 45 students from 30 universities representing 15 nationalities to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign this summer for the second annual Asia-Pacific Summer School on Smart Structures Technology, hosted by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The program provided the students with a unique educational experience in the field through coursework, lectures and labs, as well as an enriching cultural experience. [More about Smart Structures Summer School](#)



## Record Number of Women in CEE Freshman Class



The CEE department's freshman class boasts a record number of women for academic year 2009-2010. An unprecedented 32 percent of matriculating civil and environmental engineering freshmen, 52 out of 164, are women, according to Professor and Associate Head David A. Lange. Civil engineering is increasingly attractive to the current generation of high school students who value service-oriented career paths, and young women value the opportunity to help build our neighborhoods and cities and contribute to public safety and health, Lange says. [More on CEE's record class of freshman women](#)

## Yeh Student Center Campaign Needs Final Funding Boost



Less than \$1 million is needed to fully fund the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center, a planned 20,500-square-foot addition to Nathan M. Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory that will be entirely student-focused. CEE at Illinois is calling on all alumni to meet the challenge posed by alumnus M.T. Geoffrey Yeh (BS 53), who promised a \$4 million naming gift if fellow CEE alumni would contribute \$3 million in additional funds. New classrooms, a conference room, meeting rooms for student groups, and a spacious atrium lobby with seating for informal gathering are all part of the design, which was finalized this summer. [More about the Yeh Student Center project](#)

## Links

[CEE website](#)

[CEE Research Reports on IDEALS](#)

Rankings:

[Undergraduate](#)

[Graduate](#)

[Environmental](#)