



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

NEWS FROM CEE AT ILLINOIS.....MARCH 2015

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## Developing Track Components for Rail Transit

Researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will work to develop better track components for rail transit systems, thanks to a \$2.4 million, two-year grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The Rail Transportation and Engineering Center in U of I's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering will develop new designs for concrete cross-ties and fastening systems used in light rail, heavy rail and commuter rail infrastructure that take into account their unique loading conditions. [More about the grant](#)

## Mariñas Named Department Head

Professor Benito J. Mariñas has been named the new Head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Mariñas has been serving as Interim Head of the department since the departure of former Head Amr. S. Elnashai in January 2014. [More about Mariñas](#)



## García Invested as Yeh Chair

Professor Marcelo H. García was invested December 9, 2014, as the second holder of the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Endowed Chair in Civil



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Engineering. CEE alumnus Yeh (BS 53) established the chair in 1998. Yeh is a philanthropist and the retired chairman of Hsin Chong International Holdings Ltd. [More about the investiture](#)



## Rutherford Wins CAREER award

CEE Assistant Professor Cassandra J. Rutherford has been awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER award to study foundation systems for undersea tidal current turbines. The turbines generate energy when they rotate in response to tidal flows, similar to the way windmills generate electricity from wind. [More about Rutherford's research](#)



## Autonomous Aerial Robots to Monitor Construction

Imagine a construction site in which small, computer-controlled aerial robots autonomously navigate the job site indoors and outdoors, conduct visual inspection with onboard cameras and more. These robots can measure construction progress and provide detailed and continuous performance data on workers and equipment. This futuristic scene is probably a lot closer than you think. [More about aerial robots](#)



## Register Now for the 2015 CEE Alumni Awards Dinner

On March 11, 2015, the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association will host the annual CEE Alumni Dinner at the Union League Club in Chicago. The dinner provides an opportunity for alumni, faculty and students to gather for networking and reminiscing as well as honoring this year's alumni award winners. [More information and registration](#)



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