



**March 2011**

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CEE

### [Youssef Hashash to Study Massive Dig for San Francisco Transbay Transit Center](#)

CEE Professor Youssef Hashash has long been at the forefront of the development of advanced computational and monitoring tools that help construction professionals avoid damage to surrounding structures during urban digs. Now an extensive project in downtown San Francisco has presented a unique opportunity for a team of researchers led by Hashash and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study an urban excavation of unprecedented scale. The NSF this month announced a grant of nearly \$780,000 to fund Hashash's project, "GOALI: Performance of deep and wide excavations in congested urban areas." [More on Hashash's research](#)



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### [CEE Master's Degree, Graduate Courses Now Available Online](#)

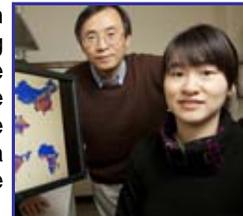
CEE at Illinois will begin offering the master of science degree program online beginning in fall 2011. The M.S. degree in Civil Engineering offered online is available for specialization in Construction Management and Transportation Engineering. Students can also develop cross-disciplinary programs in consultation with their advisers. Courses will be available online in the following areas of concentration to complement the student's specialty: Construction Materials, Environmental Engineering and Science, Environmental Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Information Technology, and Structural Engineering. Courses count for professional development hours and may be combined for a certificate. [More about CEEonline](#)



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### [Study Estimates Land Available for Biofuel Crops Worldwide](#)

Using detailed land analysis, Illinois researchers have found that biofuel crops cultivated on available land could produce up to half of the world's current fuel consumption—without affecting food crops or pastureland. Published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology, the study led by civil and environmental engineering professor Ximing Cai identified land around the globe available to produce grass crops for biofuels, with minimal impact on agriculture or the environment. Many studies on biofuel crop viability focus on biomass yield, or how productive a crop can be regionally. There has been relatively little research on land availability, one of the key constraints of biofuel development. [More about Cai's research](#)



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### [New Primary and Secondaries Increase Students' Multi-Disciplinary Exposure](#)

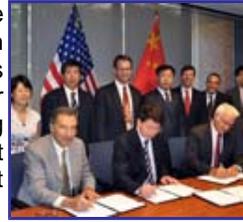
Undergraduate students in CEE now have a new primary area of study and three new secondary areas to choose from, thanks to a recent change in the curriculum. The new courses of study are part of an ongoing process to ensure that students receive a more multi-disciplinary education. The primary area in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure Systems and secondary areas in Sustainability, CEE Multidisciplinary, and Global Context will accompany the seven primary areas and seven secondary areas already available to students. The new areas of study allow students to take advanced classes outside of the CEE department as part of the area's advanced technical course requirements without having to request approval. [More on the new concentrations](#)



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### [International Agreements Increase Student Exchange, Research Collaborations](#)

A number of new agreements between CEE at Illinois and overseas universities will increase the department's global engagement, facilitating student exchange and collaborations in research and education. The new agreements will allow international students to spend their senior years at Illinois, obtain bachelor of science degrees from their home institutions, and continue their education to earn master of science degrees from CEE at Illinois. The objectives of forging strong international ties include attracting the world's brightest students to graduate school at Illinois and promoting institution-to-institution collaborations that foster faculty and student exchange and global engagement in teaching and research. [More on international collaborations](#)



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### [Charles Werth Named Fellow of Department of Energy Laboratory](#)

Professor Charles J. Werth was selected as a Wiley Research Fellow by the Department of Energy's William R. Wiley Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) in recognition of his strong contributions to the user facility. The program recognizes scientists who make significant contributions to EMSL outside of their individual research efforts. Fellows are scientists who actively participate in developing plans and strategies to guide EMSL's instrument and capability investments, science themes and user activities. They also are consultants for EMSL users and advocates for the user program. [More on Werth](#)



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### [Chile Earthquake Report Now Available](#)

The Mid-America Earthquake Center report, "Maule (Chile) Earthquake of February 27, 2010: Consequence Assessment and Case Studies," is now available for download on IDEALS, the Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship. [Download the report](#)



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