

CEE @ Illinois



News from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



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[Illinois Center for Transportation Developing Sustainable Pavements Plan for FHWA](#)

Pavement experts at the Illinois Center for Transportation, led by Director Imad Al-Qadi, will conduct a \$10.4 million Federal Highway Administration-sponsored project to develop a national sustainable pavements program. The five-year project, which will begin during summer 2011, will "identify sustainability issues with regards to pavements and develop a roadmap and strategy for making our nation's pavements more sustainable," Al-Qadi said. The desired outcome is to increase the awareness, visibility, and body of knowledge of sustainability considerations in the design, construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of pavement systems.

[More on ICT's project](#)



[Professor Albert J. Valocchi Named Bliss Professor of Engineering](#)

Professor and Associate Head Albert J. Valocchi has been named a Bliss Professor of Engineering. "Chairs and named professorships recognize faculty members who have demonstrated leadership in their technical areas and contribute significantly to the reputation of the College and the University," said Ilesanmi Adesida, dean of the College of Engineering. A faculty member since 1981, Valocchi teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in water resources engineering, groundwater hydrology and contaminant transport, groundwater modeling and numerical methods, and stochastic analysis of porous media transport.

[More about the Bliss Professorships](#)



[Students Win \\$75,000 EPA Grant to Further Develop Water Filtration System](#)

A student team advised by CEE Professor Charlie Werth has won a \$75,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take their design for a sustainable water filtration system to the next level. The award was given at the National Sustainable Design Expo, April 16-17 in Washington, D.C., part of the EPA's 2011 Earth Day celebration, in the People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) award competition. The team is working on the "Oglala Lakota Water Project," for which it is designing a water filtration device that uses bone char as a filtration material to remove arsenic and uranium from groundwater at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The students are collaborating with Oglala Lakota College.

[More on the project](#)



[Systems Students Study China's Environmental Challenges First-Hand](#)

Thirteen CEE students and their professor traveled to China over spring break in March to get a first-hand look at environmental challenges in the country's Shiyang River Basin. The trip was part of a class project in Professor Barbara Minsker's newly redesigned Environmental Systems II course, for which she is collaborating with Tsinghua University Professor Jianshi Zhao, who is teaching a parallel class in China. Minsker redesigned the course this year as part of the department's initiative to give students more international and multi-disciplinary educational experiences.

[More on the China collaboration](#)



[Join Us in September to Dedicate the M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center](#)

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering invites you to celebrate with us in September as we dedicate the new M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center in Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory. Funded by gifts from CEE alumni and friends, the Yeh Center is a 20,500-square-foot addition to Newmark Lab that will be entirely student-focused, providing state-of-the-art classrooms, meeting rooms, and informal gathering space for CEE students. Please join us as we dedicate this space and initiate a new era for the CEE students of today and tomorrow. [More about the Yeh Center dedication](#)



[Application Now Open for CEE Online Master's Degree Program](#)

Application is now open for the department's online master's program. Classes begin in fall 2011. The new program allows students who can't come to campus to have the same high-quality educational experience as resident students. Online students will view the same lectures as on-campus students, delivered by the same CEE at Illinois professors, but they will access them online. Students may try online classes before applying to a degree program. Courses count for professional development hours and may be combined for a certificate. [More about CEE Online](#)



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