



November 2010

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[**Environmental Research Team Develops Gas-Capture Recovery System**](#)

A CEE research team has developed a method to collect and recycle organic gases used in industrial processes that would otherwise be released into the air or burned, causing health and environmental problems. CEE Professor Mark Rood led a team of University of Illinois researchers, including CEE Ph.D. students Kaitlin Mallouk (MS 09) and David Johnsen (MS 09). They developed a technology to capture low concentration isobutane, a common industrial organic gas, from air streams. The system uses activated carbon fiber cloth to selectively remove the isobutane from the air and recovers it as a liquid using electrothermal desorption and post-desorption compression and cooling. [More on the gas-capture recovery system](#)



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[**NEES Site Wins Media Awards for Educational Earthquake Videos, Research Photo**](#)

The University of Illinois-based NEES equipment site won two awards in October: one for a series of educational videos for diverse audiences explaining the earthquake engineering performed at the site and the other for a photo depicting testing. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF), NEES is the George E. Brown Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation. The video project, produced with a \$60,000 grant from NSF, features 20 segments for five target audiences ranging from kindergarten through the level of an earthquake researcher. The award-winning photo, taken by Greg Pluta, Illinois NEES Operations Manager, won in the category Best Photo Depicting Research. [More on the NEES media awards](#)



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[**Scott Olson Chosen for NAE's Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium**](#)

Associate Professor Scott M. Olson has been selected to take part in the National Academy of Engineering's (NAE) second Frontiers of Engineering Education symposium. The three-day event will assemble 53 of the nation's most innovative young engineering educators to share ideas, learn from research and best practice in education, and leave with a charter to bring about improvement in their home institutions. This year's program will focus on ways to ensure that students learn the engineering fundamentals, the expanding knowledge base of new technology, and the skills necessary to be effective engineers or engineering researchers. [More on Olson and the NAE symposium](#)



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[**Two CEE Graduate Students Receive National Science Foundation Fellowships**](#)

Evgueni Filipov and Sofie Leon, CEE graduate students in structures, have been selected to receive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. NSF Fellows receive three years of graduate support, including a \$30,000 annual stipend, a \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance, access to the TeraGrid Supercomputers, and a \$1,000 one-time international travel allowance. Fellowship recipients are anticipated to become experts who can contribute significantly to research, teaching, and innovations in science and engineering. Among other criteria considered for the highly competitive NSF fellowships are the students' proposed plans and potential for graduate-level research. [More about Filipov and Leon](#)



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[**Professor Barbara Minsker Addresses Faculty Fulfillment in The Joyful Professor**](#)

In her new book, "The Joyful Professor: How to Shift From Surviving to Thriving in the Faculty Life," Barbara Minsker, CEE professor and Associate Provost Fellow, provides simple-to-follow guidelines for setting fellow academics up for success, rather than stress. "All around me, I see colleagues struggling to balance their work, their research, their projects, and their family life, and still attempting to find some time to relax and take care of themselves," says Minsker, who also recently founded a nonprofit organization, Joyful U Inc., whose mission is to help people define and achieve their life vision and legacy. [More on Minsker's book](#)



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[Alumni and Students Discuss Engineering Practice at 'CEE Life in the Real World'](#)

About 100 CEE students gathered in the Newmark Lab Crane Bay October 14 to hear alumni speak about their engineering careers during the department's second annual "CEE Life in the Real World." The event was introduced last year to give students more access to career information through exposure to practicing engineers. Attendees also got a chance to mingle with alumni informally over pizza and ask questions in breakout sessions. Several members of the CEE Alumni Association Board of Directors also participated in the event, which occurred the night before their fall meeting on campus. [More about CEE Life in the Real World](#)



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[ZEUS-NL Simulation Platform Released as Open Source by MAE Center](#)

ZEUS-NL, simulation platform of the Mid-America Earthquake Center for inelastic static and dynamic structural analysis, has been released as open source. [Access ZEUS-NL on Google Code.](#)



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