

# CEE @ Illinois



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



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## [M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center in Newmark Laboratory Opens, Dedication Sept. 23](#)

Civil and Environmental Engineering students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are enjoying classes this fall in a brand new student center, which will be formally dedicated on Friday, September 23. The \$7 million M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Student Center is a 20,500-square-foot addition to Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory. Completed in July, the Yeh Center provides state-of-the-art classrooms, meeting rooms and informal gathering space for the department's 1,300 students. The project was funded entirely through private gifts, a particular accomplishment given the economic challenges of recent years, said Professor Amr S. Elnashai, CEE department head. [More about the Yeh Center](#)



## [Four New Faculty Members Join CEE at Illinois](#)

The department will welcome four new faculty members this year. All assistant professors, they are Jeremy S. Guest, Oscar Lopez-Pamies, Cassandra J. Rutherford and Daniel B. Work. "The department has been hiring professors with interest and track records in addressing problems at the intersection of traditional sub-disciplines, as well as linking CEE with other engineering and social sciences disciplines," said Amr S. Elnashai, Professor and Head. "We seek talent that is complementary to ours, in an adventurous and calculated manner, while assuring that the core curricula are further strengthened, while being modernized." [More about the new faculty](#)



## [Kumar Studies Water Requirements of Biofuel Crops](#)

Many energy researchers and environmental advocates are excited about the prospect of gaining more efficient large-scale biofuel production by using large grasses like miscanthus or switchgrass rather than corn. They have investigated yields, land use, economics and more, but one key factor of agriculture has been overlooked: water. Professor Praveen Kumar led a study, published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science Early Edition, detailing effects to the hydrologic cycle of large-scale land conversion, both now and as growing conditions change in the future. [More about Kumar's research](#)



## [Paulino Named a Fellow of U.S. Association for Computational Mechanics](#)

Professor Glaucio Paulino has been named a Fellow of the U.S. Association for Computational Mechanics in recognition of his contributions to the field. Paulino has research interests in structural analysis, computational mechanics, functionally graded materials, experimental methods, constitutive modeling of engineering materials, multiscale phenomena, high-order continuum, fracture and damage mechanics, structural dynamics, solution adaptive techniques, inverse problems in mechanics, sensitivity analysis and optimization, and topology design of structures. [More about Glaucio Paulino](#)



## [Sivapalan Wins 2011 Horton Medal from American Geophysical Union](#)

Professor Murugesu Sivapalan has been named the 2011 winner of the Robert E. Horton Medal of the American Geophysical Union "for fundamental contributions to the science of hydrologic predictions at the watershed scale." Sivapalan's research focuses on making predictions in ungauged basins. A basic aim of his research is to understand observed space-time variabilities of runoff processes at all scales, including their extremes, and to interpret these in terms of the underlying climate-soil-vegetation-topography interactions, including human impacts. [More about Murugesu Sivapalan](#)



### [Kumar Named Col. Harry F. and Frankie M. Lovell Endowed Professor](#)

Professor Praveen Kumar has been named the Colonel Harry F. and Frankie M. Lovell Endowed Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He was cited for national leadership in the area of hydrology and outstanding accomplishments in research, education and service. Kumar's research includes the study of complexity in hydrologic processes including hydroclimatology, ecohydrology, geomorphology, and hydroinformatics. The goal of his research is to improve the understanding of hydrologic processes over a range of space and time scales with particular emphasis on understanding and modeling multiple scale non-linear interactions among sub-processes. [More about Praveen Kumar](#)



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