MAE Center researchers examine Illinois’ earthquake vulnerability

New Environmental Engineering and Science fellowships target under-represented groups

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Your letters, comments and editorial contributions are always welcome. Please direct them to:
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Visit CEE on the web at http://cee.uiuc.edu
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Don’t miss an issue!
The CEE alumni newsletter is your best connection to your home department at the University of Illinois. When you join the U of I Alumni Association, you automatically become a member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association. As a member, you’ll receive every issue of the CEE newsletter and stay up-to-date on the activities of the department and your fellow CEE alumni. To join, fill out the membership form on page 43 or sign up online at http://www.uiuaa.org/urbana/.

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The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) has begun a campaign to raise funds for a building addition to Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory.

The addition will function as a CEE student center, providing critically needed classroom space and many other features that will enhance the educational experience of the department’s students.

Numerous naming opportunities exist to recognize contributions to this project.

For more information, please contact:
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It's a great time to be a CEE

by Robert H. Dodds Jr., Professor and Head
M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Endowed Chair of Civil Engineering

One of the great pleasures of being the Head of this accomplished and respected department is the opportunity to travel across the U.S. to visit with our many alumni, friends and supporters. These travels over the past two years and meetings with many of you on campus at our conferences, workshops and alumni events have reinforced a widespread observation—it's a great time to be a CEE practitioner, faculty member or student. All indicators point to CEE as a thriving profession across the U.S. and worldwide.

Over the past few years our nation has experienced a convergence of events which, whether positive or tragic, have underscored the critical importance of civil and environmental engineering and created an unprecedented level of demand for CEE services. Four major hurricanes ravaged Florida in 2004, followed by the devastating hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Federal legislation has provided for massive transportation funding, and the U.S. economy has experienced steady growth. At the same time, the work force is facing the effects of both the rapidly increasing retirements of baby boomers and years of reduced university enrollments in CEE programs.

It sometimes seems the entire state of Illinois is under construction. The Dan Ryan project is well underway, the 10-year effort to modernize O'Hare International Airport is in the early stage of construction, and the six-year project to streamline railroad corridors through Chicago (CREATE) is in progress—to name just a few of the largest Illinois-based projects. These and other national infrastructure projects are occurring at a time when CEEs are being called upon for creative approaches to sustain the environment and to plan for the longer-term effects of climate change on the civil infrastructure.

All of these developments have not gone unnoticed by young people. Enrollments in CEE departments are increasing nationwide. Thanks possibly to the incredibly inspiring and informative programs on the Discovery Channel and the NOVA series on public television, both co-sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), many young people have come to realize that CEE is an exciting and fulfilling profession that makes a positive and readily understandable impact on the quality of daily life for people everywhere. The popular media now regularly list civil and environmental engineering among the “hottest” areas for technology employment over the next 10-15 years, often ahead of computer science and other areas of engineering. They also show significant increases in starting salaries for new B.S. and M.S. students nationwide—trends that our students confirm.

At Illinois our undergraduate program has jumped to 530 students in CEE this year, up from 420 only two years ago. Enrollment in the graduate program remains steady for now at about 400, although we expect this number to grow as even more students seek a professional master's degree in response to the increased education requirements for licensure under ASCE Policy 465. We are especially pleased to welcome a larger number of women (30 percent) and students from under-represented groups (15 percent) in our CEE freshman class. More than 90 percent of our undergraduates are from Illinois and represent the very brightest, passionate and energetic young people anywhere to study civil and environmental engineering.

The increased demands for greater numbers of talented CEEs will require an even stronger partnership between education, practice and our alumni. We provide the best CEE education available, develop and lead innovative and relevant research efforts, support continuing education through annual conferences on campus and continually engage with the profession on many fronts. As students prepare to graduate and enter the work force, we assist with the initial match-making between employers and

Continued on the next page
The popular media now regularly list civil and environmental engineering among the “hottest” areas for technology employment over the next 10-15 years.

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students. Our annual CEE Professional Development Fair, held each February in Newmark Lab, continues to grow and now overflows the crane bay. We have requests from more than 80 CEE companies to participate this year and will work to accommodate our longtime supporters and new friends as well. This CEE-only career fair is a unique event, much anticipated by our students and employers alike.

The re-organized Engineering Career Services office (www.engr.uiuc.edu/ecs), now located in renovated space in DCL across the street from Newmark Lab, understands the differing needs of CEE firms both large and small. John Kelley, our CEE Director of Development and Alumni Relations, and I work closely to connect CEE firms with the new ECS organization. If you would be interested in meeting with us, either on a corporate level or individually, please feel free to contact John to arrange for a visit (jkelley@uiuc.edu). We look forward to visiting with you to form new and creative partnerships between education, practice, corporations and alumni to insure the future health of our profession.

Illinois and other major public research universities have the primary responsibility to recruit and graduate a sufficient number of CEEs to meet the essential needs of our nation’s growing economy and infrastructure challenges. Yet, public education everywhere bears increasing financial stress with dwindling support from state governments. This trend shows no signs of reversing, and we must rely increasingly on private support. With this issue of the newsletter, we are pleased to recognize our recent supporters including alumni, friends and corporations. For the first time, we also list the current projects funded by government agencies, industry and foundations, which illustrates the great diversity of research conducted by our faculty and students, and the extraordinary support they receive for their work.

It has been my honor to serve as an educator of young people and future engineers for nearly 30 years, and this era of promise for our profession is unequalled in my memory. It truly is a great time to be a CEE!

Your thoughts, suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please feel free to contact me any time at rdodds@uiuc.edu or (217) 333-3276. Go Illini!

Who are you looking for?

Whether you’re looking for a job or trying to fill one,
Engineering Career Services makes it easier than ever.

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Greetings from your newly installed Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association (CEEAA) Board of Directors. We are looking forward to working with our exceptional department head, Robert Dodds, our distinguished faculty, our talented staff and students, and our fellow alumni for the next two years. Personally, I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as president of the board. I have had the pleasure of serving on this board for the past eight years. During that time, under the direction of several talented leaders, the board has evolved into a very active organization with several committees that encourage and foster interaction among alumni, faculty and students. As your new board we intend to continue this evolution during our tenure.

I would like to thank several members of the previous board. The first is Greg Cargill, who did an excellent job serving as president for the last two years. He will continue his service to the board as immediate Past President. Special thanks go to Katie Zimmerman, who served on the board for many years, most recently as immediate Past President. Under Katie’s direction we developed a board handbook, which has been a very valuable tool for managing our activities. Finally, thanks to Bill Baker, Lou Bowman, Pedro Cevallos-Candau, and Dan Dietzler for their dedicated service as directors.

We are very excited to welcome several new directors to the board this fall who will be serving two-year terms. They are Stanley Herrin of Crawford Murphy & Tilly Inc., Deron Huck of CH2M HILL, Wilbur Millhouse of Millhouse Engineering & Construction, Alan Hollenbeck of RJN Group Inc., and John Kos of the DuPage County Department of Transportation. They are all great additions. We have a very diverse board in terms of both occupation and geographical location. We have directors living in Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Missouri, in addition to Illinois. We also have most of the disciplines within the civil engineering and environmental engineering fields represented. We are always looking for alumni who would like to get involved with CEEAA activities or serve on the board. Please feel free to contact me at jcarrato@benesch.com if you are interested in getting involved.

In addition to supporting the department by involvement with the CEEAA, we ask that you consider supporting the department financially. As I’m sure you are aware, we have the highest ranked department in the country. However, this doesn’t come without cost. As Associate Head David Lange stated in the spring/summer issue of this newsletter, “…the very best large public universities—including UIUC—are becoming more and more like private universities. Decreasing state support has led to ever-increasing reliance on student tuition and private gifts from friends and supporters to fund the education mission of the University and the CEE department.” One of the simplest ways to do this is by filling out the form on the inside of the back cover of this newsletter and sending it in with your contribution. These contributions go directly to the CEE department.

You will also find a membership application for the alumni association on the inside of the back cover. Roughly one-third of our alumni are members. Although this measures well against other departments, we would really like to see our membership grow. If you are not a member, please consider joining. If you are a member, as I’m sure most of you reading this are, please consider convincing one of your colleagues, friends or a family member to join. If each of us could get one of our fellow alumni to join each year, imagine the support we could provide to the department so that they can maintain their number one ranking and continue to provide the opportunities to students that we received. Thank you for your consideration.
Curiosity finds its calling

A student organization and a civil engineer get their start at Illinois

BY SEAN POUST

Science and engineering have always fascinated me. When I was a kid, I loved when my father took me to Engineering Open House on the University of Illinois campus, where I could shoot metal rings off magnetic cannons, see parts created instantly before my eyes and watch robots effortlessly navigate the halls of Everitt Lab to guide me to an exhibit. As a child, I asked my father questions about all manner of subjects: the space program, airplanes, trains, why were things made this way, why not that way, and so on. Thankfully, my father had enough patience to answer my seemingly never-ending questions. It was this early base that brought me back to this University to learn. I wanted to sate my curiosity and also effect some change for the better in the world, and civil engineering at U of I seemed like a great place to do that. The curiosity that I had as a kid is still with me—it has changed some, but the foundation is still there. My areas of interest have shifted, but that longing to probe the unknown and learn is still intact and is what ultimately drives me.

From this interest, I became involved in Engineers Without Borders (EWB), a student organization that implements engineering projects to help communities in the developing world. The scope of these endeavors ranges from water to electrical projects, with everything in between. The projects are usually small in scale with price tags under $100,000, but generally they have huge impacts on the communities in which we work. The official mission is “to implement environmentally and economically sustainable engineering projects, while developing internationally responsible engineering students.”

This captivated my curiosity, and I felt that my skills would be useful for the organization and its mission. Where better to apply engineering skills than in designing and implementing for the people in the world who most needed them? What better way to sate my curiosity about technologies and the world than by working in developing countries and implementing projects? I saw a plethora of opportunities ahead of me, all of which would be linked to that driving part of me, that curiosity and desire to change things for the better. I leapt into the organization from my first semester at the University.

I had arrived on campus in the fall semester of 2003 and stumbled across the EWB booth at Quad Day, the exhibition of student activities on campus. That semester, I believe I went to every single event the organization held. The following semester, spring 2004, I became EWB’s information officer and helped to create some of the base informational resources the organization uses. I also worked on several of the international projects that
EWB had begun to work. The following academic year, in fall 2004, I was elected president of EWB, and that’s when I really feel I left my mark on the organization.

EWB had been founded only a year earlier, and there was a great deal of organization-building that needed to be done: a constitution needed to be written, officer positions and responsibilities needed to be defined, committees had to be created, and project management schedules had to be generated. Although this may not have fallen under the category of satisfying my curiosity, it was certainly very necessary. I learned a great deal of management and leadership skills during this process: how to run effective meetings, make people feel part of an organization to achieve a common goal, and ensure the completion of tasks. These methods and techniques, though important, have never been my primary focus. They are a means to an end, but they are not what drove me as a child. My father always tells me, “You don’t stop playing ’cause you get old, you get old because you stop playing.”

The trick—for me at least—has been to use those “adult” methods of management and scheduling to accomplish things that are really important to us, like bettering the quality of life for people in developing countries.

To that end, EWB had undertaken a biodiesel energy development project in Orissa, India, in January 2004, in which I became heavily involved as president. The scenario was the following: a remote village working with an Indian non-governmental organization called AID-India (Association for India’s Development) requested assistance in electrification. According to the State of Orissa’s records, the village is electrified, but the contractors built the infrastructure for electrification and then simply stole the valuable copper wire and sold it on the black market. Accordingly, there are lines of concrete electrical poles across the countryside in Orissa that serve no purpose, other than decoration.

Our project entailed modifying a diesel generator to run off vegetable oil, which the villagers can make independently. Around the village there are several types of seeds that the villagers can easily collect—karanj, neem and sal—that all can be pressed to extract vegetable oil. With the energy that the village generates, they can process their rice on their own, saving them from paying a middleman. They also can light their homes.

In the summer of 2005, five other students and I flew to India, armed with our plans, our ingenuity, drawings, the money we had raised, and a grant we had won from Daimler-Chrysler and UNESCO. This was rather poor preparation for what we were going to encounter, to put it mildly. We learned to work despite poor translators, partner organizations that didn’t do what they said either very poorly or very slowly, malaria-bearing mosquitoes, being arrested for errors in paperwork, and unrelenting heat. However, after several group meetings with the village committee on electrification, a few large truck deliveries, a couple weeks and many mosquito bites, we hammered out a working biodiesel generator. I learned a great deal about real project management and getting things done. I also satisfied—perhaps more than I ever knew I wanted to—my curiosity about doing projects in the developing world and extending my consciousness overseas, something I wish to continue in the future.

Now that I am no longer the president but still involved, I get to see the ways in which EWB has grown and matured. The organization no longer needs the continual pushes it once did. It has come into its own, and I can watch as a new generation of students tackles new problems and builds on what my compatriots and I did. The U of I chapter is currently working on a water supply project for an area of Enugu State, Nigeria, that will provide water for about 10,000 people. The organization’s many committees host events on campus, fundraise and work on local projects. The organization is not without its problems, but it seems as though it is here to stay. These observations are immensely satisfying for me, as future engineering students will have the opportunity to do what I did, and communities around the world will benefit.

After studying for a time, students realize that engineering is not just nifty displays at Engineering Open House put up once a year for little kids to enjoy. It requires study and determination, as well as some sort of end that one wishes to achieve. I learned about that study and determination through the projects I worked on and the time I spent in EWB. I also learned about the curiosity I spoke of earlier, about not losing that child-like wonder. Doing a development project in India was a wondrous experience, one that I will repeat. That wonder is what drives us to do great things, and I hope to sustain it for years to come.

Sean Poust is a CEE senior with a primary in environmental engineering and a GPA of 3.96. After graduation in May 2007, he plans to work in the environmental engineering field and later return for a Ph.D. He is the son of John Poust, a computer engineer in Evanston, Ill., and Kathleen McGill, who holds a master’s degree in education and lives in Kalamazoo, Mich.
Earthquake researchers examine Illinois’ vulnerability

Seeking more in-depth information about how a major earthquake would affect homes, businesses and people in Illinois, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) awarded a $250,000 grant to the Mid-America Earthquake (MAE) Center for a comprehensive seismic risk and vulnerability study.

“The more information we have about the type and extent of damage a major earthquake would cause in Illinois, the better able we are to address those issues in our preparedness, response, and mitigation planning,” said William C. Burke, IEMA director. “The all-hazards approach to emergency response that we employ enables us to respond to any disaster, including an earthquake, but because an earthquake creates unique challenges, the information from this study will enable us to identify and address those challenges both before and after an earthquake.”

The study is addressing several issues, including the probabilities of a damaging earthquake occurring in Illinois, what types of structures are likely to be damaged, how transportation and utility infrastructures would be affected, and the short- and long-term economic impacts to the region and the state.

“We are very excited about this opportunity to put our experience and expertise to use on behalf of the citizens of Illinois and the Midwest,” said Professor Amr Elnashai, MAE Center director and leader of the IEMA project.

As one of three national earthquake engineering research centers established by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and its partner institutions, the MAE Center, headquartered in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is a consortium of nine core institutions. It is funded by NSF and each core university, as well as through joint collaborative projects with industry and other affiliations. Several weeks after the earthquake in Pakistan last fall, the MAE Center at Illinois and Rice University dispatched an earthquake field reconnaissance team to assess the damage, collect data, and derive lessons from the damaging earthquake. The MAE Center is also working with the government of Indonesia following field investigations carried out in July 2006.

“Seeing the devastation in lesser-developed countries like Pakistan and Indonesia was not surprising,” said Elnashai, who has been on field missions to 17 earthquake sites around the world. “If you can imagine a city like Memphis or St. Louis leveled—and all of the bridges and interstate highways impassable—it would bear a striking resemblance to a third-world country.”

The MAE Center is currently analyzing the Pakistan data to project the effects of an earthquake caused by the New Madrid fault, which traverses the middle portion of the United States. Three of the strongest United States earthquakes ever recorded were in the Midwest, ranging between 7.5 and 8 in magnitude. The ones occurring in 1811 and 1812 were felt as far away as New York, but the population at that time was sparse and infrastructural integrity was not an issue.

Three scenarios are being examined by the study: magnitude 7.7 earthquakes on the northern part of the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which would affect the southern third of the state; magnitude 6.3 earthquakes in the same area; and an earthquake in the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone in southeastern Illinois based on magnitudes from historical data or current scientific predictions. Using these scenarios, the MAE Center is developing a report by county on the effects of the earthquakes, including estimates on casualties, people requiring medical assistance, uninhabitable homes and commercial and public buildings, debris, economic impact and recovery timeline.

The report will also examine functional loss of critical facilities and services, including hospitals, schools, emergency response facilities; transportation networks such as highways, airports and railroads; communications networks such as telephone and radio; and utilities such as electrical power, natural gas, water supply, and wastewater treatment facilities. In addition, an earthquake could cause secondary disasters that could affect response and recovery efforts, including dam failures, fires and hazardous materials releases and spills. The study is also examining these possibilities, as well as showing potential short- and long-term economic impacts to the region from a catastrophic earthquake.

A final report on the study is expected in late 2007. The grant will fund all but $45,000 of the $295,000 study, with the MAE Center contributing the difference. IEMA, in cooperation with the MAE Center, applied for the earthquake study grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, a nationwide competitive grant program.
Undergrad takes top prize at international conference

CEE senior Cameron Talischi’s first professional conference was bracketed by two extraordinary events. On the first day, he was awakened by an earthquake. On the last day, there was another surprise for the 21-year-old, who had presented his research for the first time in an international poster competition at the conference: He won first prize.

Despite being the only undergraduate student among 27 competitors up to age 35 from all over the world, Talischi received the best poster award at the 2006 Multi-Scale and Functionally Graded Materials Conference, held October 15-18 in Ko Olina, Hawaii. His poster was entitled, “Topology Optimization of Functionally Graded Structures Using Polyhedral Finite Element Interpolants.”

“At first when I found out about it, I couldn’t believe it,” Talischi says. “Why me, of all people?”

Professor Glaucio H. Paulino, the conference chairman and Talischi’s adviser, can answer that question.

“I have only one word to define Cam: brilliant. The work that he is doing as an undergrad is at the very highest level,” Paulino says. “This is a very prestigious international award. I told Cam that in general a student first wins a local award, then a regional award, then national, then international. So Cam skipped a few layers. It’s highly unusual.”

Also unusual was the magnitude 6.7 earthquake that struck Hawaii around 7 a.m. on October 15, the first day of the conference.

“It woke me up,” Talischi says. “The windows started shaking, and at first I thought it was the wind, but then I realized my bed was moving, and then I realized the TV was rolling. I thought, this has to be an earthquake. So I just got up and pushed the TV back in and went back to sleep. The aftershocks woke me up again, and then I realized the power was out.”

Soon power was restored and the conference proceeded as planned. No deaths or serious injuries were reported as a result of the earthquake.

The poster competition Talischi entered was a new feature of the conference. It was sponsored by the Japan Functionally Graded Materials Forum and judged by the International Advisory Committee on Functionally Graded Materials. The purpose of the competition was to highlight the work of young researchers, motivate them to continue in the field, and strengthen their ties to the scientific community, Paulino says. Those presenting posters gave brief explanations of their work and answered questions. Talischi’s research focuses on topology optimization, a numerical technique used in the design of material and structural systems.

“I had a great time talking to a lot of professors there,” Talischi says. “A lot of people came up to me and encouraged me to continue my studies.”

A graduate of Glenbrook South High School from Evanston, Ill., Talischi is working on a double major in civil engineering and mathematics and plans to graduate in the summer of 2007. His trip to the conference was funded by the department’s Richard Jaccoud Fund, named for a 1937 alumnus and established to benefit undergraduate students. Talischi was first encouraged to gain research experience as a freshman by his adviser at the time, former Professor and Head Nick Jones.

“He said, ‘You seem like you have plenty of time on your hands. Get involved in research,’ Talischi says.

Continued on the next page
As a child growing up in Chicago, Richard Lanyon (BS 60, MS 61) lived just one house away from the north branch of the Chicago River and frequently played by its banks. The name of his school in the city’s Ravenswood neighborhood was Waters Elementary. So it may be fitting that Lanyon grew up to become a water quality engineer who this summer took the helm of the agency charged with protecting the quality of the water supply for the city of Chicago and 125 suburban Cook County municipalities.

As General Superintendent of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Lanyon oversees the activities of the agency’s 2,100 employees and an annual budget of $1 billion. The organization’s 117-year history boasts such accomplishments as reversing the flow of the Chicago River in 1900 and being named a civil engineering wonder of the world in 1955. The District’s biggest current undertaking, the ambitious Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP), is one of the country’s largest public works projects for pollution and flood control. Lanyon has spent 43 years of his career at the District, starting as an associate civil engineer and holding positions in three departments—Operations, Engineering, and Research and Development—before being named General Superintendent this June. His most recent position was Director of Research and Development, which he had held since 1999. When asked what he enjoys about his field, Lanyon is quick to mention the agency at which he has spent all but 18 months of his professional life.

“I have what they call a work ethic; I just enjoy my job,” he says. “I’ve enjoyed the role I’ve played over the years in improving the quality of the waterways here in Chicago and seeing the District’s projects go through to the fulfillment stage.”

The most extensive of those projects is TARP, for which planning began in the 1960s when Lanyon was just beginning his career at the District. The project involves the construction of a system of deep tunnels and reservoirs to capture and contain sewage and storm water that otherwise would end up in the area’s waterways. Phase one of that project was wrapped up this spring, with the completion of 109 miles of tunnels and pumping stations. Phase two will involve completion of the reservoirs. All captured water is given full secondary treatment in District plants. Projects like TARP have contributed to much cleaner rivers in and around Chicago, the Calumet, Chicago and Des Plaines River systems,
Lanyon says.

“A good indicator is that back in the early ‘70s, we had about 10 species of fish in our waterway system, and currently we have about 70,” he says.

Lanyon first realized he had “a fascination with water,” he says, when as a student at Illinois he took a course in fluid mechanics taught by Professor Melvin Clark in the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (TAM) and worked part-time for Wallace Lansford in the TAM fluid mechanics laboratory. Later, he took a part-time position working in CEE’s Hydraulics (now Hydrosystems) Laboratory and switched his concentration to water resources. His adviser in CEE was Associate Professor John Guillou.

Lanyon’s connection with the department continues to this day. He considers one of his greatest accomplishments to be his development of a program through which the District regularly funds needed research at the University. Here in the department, CEE researchers have built physical models of the Calumet pumping station and the Chicago River for the District and are currently developing a real-time computational model (hydrology and hydraulics) of TARP, a computational fluid dynamics model of primary settling tanks, and a 3-D environmental hydrodynamic model of the Chicago waterways system.

“We have a master agreement with the University, so we can utilize the services of any department,” he says. “It helps us understand our waterway better. … It’ll help us operate the TARP system better, will give us information about future needs to supplement TARP and improve the design of hydraulic structures.”

Funding and utilizing the latest research is consistent with Lanyon’s goal of keeping the District at the forefront. Other progressive practices include the District’s active energy conservation program and the use of native prairie landscaping at its treatment plant sites. The District also is exploring the use of wetlands to remove nutrients from wastewater and rivers and how District operations impact climate change.

“We know wetlands work, but we’re looking at major sites along the Illinois river where we can take water out of the river, pass it through wetlands and remove nutrients. That’ll help reduce the problem of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as improve the quality of Illinois rivers,” he says. “We’re considered a leader in the field, and leaders have to maintain their position of leadership by moving forward and doing progressive things. So we’re always looking for opportunities to do things better. We need to provide leadership by example.”

Lanyon lives in Evanston with his wife, Marsha Richman, an early childhood program director at the North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Ill. Together, they have two children: Michael, 22, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, and Emily, 21, a junior at DePaul University in Chicago. Lanyon also has another grown son, Mark, and three grandchildren. His oldest son, Steven, died in 1996.

Lanyon’s civic and professional involvements have included serving on the Evanston City Council from 1989-1993 and on the Evanston Public Library Board of Directors from 1984-1989. He is a past president of the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). His awards include being named the ASCE National Government Civil Engineer of the Year in 1999 and a 2003 Distinguished Alumnus of CEE. He is active in ASCE and the Water Environment Federation, and he serves on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. He is also a diplomate of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and the American Academy of Water Resource Engineers.

For recreation, Lanyon and his wife enjoy biking, sometimes along the Chicago River, on whose banks he played as a child and whose waters are cleaner today because of his work.
Grant allows new EES fellowships for women, minorities

The Environmental Engineering and Science (EES) program has begun an initiative to encourage women and minority students to pursue Ph.D. degrees and ultimately become professors of environmental engineering, thanks to a half-million-dollar grant from the Department of Education (DoE). The DoE grant program, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN), provides fellowships to domestic graduate students with excellent records who demonstrate financial need and plan to pursue the highest degree available in their course of study in a field designated as an area of national need. As a result of the grant, at least five new fellowships will be available in the department for environmental engineering graduate students.

Environmental engineering is an area of national need, because the job outlook is growing while the number of students pursuing advanced degrees has been stagnant for years, says Associate Professor Charles J. Werth, who wrote the grant proposal and is establishing the program in the department, along with Professor and Associate Head Albert J. Valocchi and Assistant Research Professor Julie L. Zilles. The U.S. Department of Labor has projected a 54 percent increase in environmental engineering jobs over the next 10 years, he says.

Also significant is the fact that the number of foreign students earning environmental engineering degrees has increased, while the number of domestic students has declined. This trend is troubling because after earning their degrees, many foreign students return to their countries of origin to teach or practice engineering. To ensure the nation has enough qualified environmental engineers to fill the projected need, domestic students must be encouraged to pursue doctoral degrees.

“Turning out more domestic Ph.D. students in environmental engineering who are headed for careers in academe will boost the reputation of the EES program, Werth says, because program rankings are affected in part on the number of alumni who achieve teaching positions at peer institutions.

While the main goal of the initiative is to produce more university-level educators, Werth says the EES faculty also would be pleased to see an increase in alumni with doctoral degrees who go on to high-level consulting positions. Women and minorities have been targeted in the EES initiative because both groups are under-represented in environmental engineering and so offer an untapped pool of potential, Werth says.

The GAANN grant of $507,000, plus additional funds from CEE, the College of Engineering and the EES program’s Ivan Racheff Endowment will provide for the five new fellowships. The fellowships will offer a stipend of up to $30,000, significantly more than the average stipend of $20,000. This should help attract the most talented students—those with good grades, high test scores and, in some cases, undergraduate experience doing research, publishing or presenting at professional conferences, Werth says.

“One of the reasons, we argue, that we don’t have very many domestic women and minority PhD students is that we aren’t reaching out to them, and they aren’t aware of the opportunities.”

In order to recruit qualified applicants, environmental faculty members are visiting colleges with large percentages of women and minorities to talk about the University of Illinois and make students aware of the opportunities that are available in the department.

“One of the reasons, we argue, that we don’t have very many domestic women and minority PhD students is that we aren’t reaching out to them, and they aren’t aware of the opportunities,” Werth says.

Because women and minorities have a higher dropout rate than other students, the EES program also will include peer support and mentoring, he says.

The first GAANN fellowship recipients likely will arrive on campus in the fall of 2007.

Charlie Werth

Al Valocchi

Julie Zilles

A student works in the environmental laboratory. For more information about the Environmental Engineering and Science Program, visit http://cee.uiuc.edu/environmental/.
Future faces of engineering

The 2006 GAMES camp in August brought 7th-, 8th- and 9th-grade girls to campus to learn about structural engineering and computer science. Girls’ Adventures in Math, Engineering and Science, a week-long residential camp run by the College of Engineering’s Women in Engineering Program gives academically talented girls an opportunity to explore math, engineering, and science through demonstrations, classroom presentations, hands-on activities and contact with engineers. There are separate structures and computer science programs.

Girls in the structures camp formed teams to build bridges (top photo), which they later load-tested in the Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory crane bay. During a session on the properties of materials (pictured at right), Professor and Associate Head David A. Lange, at the chalkboard, and Ph.D. student Yi-Shi Liu of the Center of Excellence for Airport Technology, conducted a demonstration on the absorbency of various materials. In other photos, girls attempt to float various objects in colored water in a demonstration of how the addition of detergent affected surface tension.

For more information about GAMES, visit http://www.engr.uiuc.edu/wie/games/.
Lewis funds: solid support for the structures program

Alumnus Burton A. Lewis, P.E., (MS 50) established five new endowed funds in the department this spring in support of the structural engineering program, its faculty and students. A longtime benefactor of the department, Lewis is a retired structural engineer living in Chicago.

“With the establishment of these funds, Burt Lewis continues his extraordinary support for the structural engineering program and for the entire department,” says Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds, Jr. “Some of these newest gifts will provide critically needed support to increase the engagement of practicing engineers in the structures program by endowing our first ‘Visiting Professor of Practice.’ This person will teach senior level, design-oriented courses and specialty courses for master’s degree students, for example, a course on the design of long-span bridges. We are very grateful to Burt for his gifts and for his frequent interactions with the faculty and students in the department.”

A Chicago native, Lewis earned a B.S.C.E. from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in 1948 and a master’s degree from CEE at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 1950. While at IIT, he was elected a member of Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi. His adviser at UIUC was Professor Thomas Shedd.

“The professors at that time were really well-known names—professors Shedd, [Nathan M.] Newmark, [Chester P.] Siess, [Ralph] Peck, Whitney Huntington,” Lewis recalls. “After taking Peck’s course, I almost became a soils engineer. He was a relatively young man at the time, but his lectures were just so interesting.”

Lewis spent most of his career with DeLeuw, Cather & Co. (now Parsons Co.) as Chief Structural Engineer and Project Manager in San Francisco and office manager in various offices. He served as Project Manager for the Port Access Highway in Anchorage, Alaska, and the Second Level Roadway System at the Los Angeles International Airport. For a time he lived in Kuwait, working as Project Director of a planning study for the completion of Kuwait’s highway system. Prior to retirement, he was vice president in Phoenix and project manager on the 55-mile Outer Loop. He spent two years in the Army Corps of Engineers at the end of World War II, including time in the European Theater. He spent another 21 years in the Reserves and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

Lewis’ professional activities have included serving on the committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers that formed the Technical Council on Lifeline Earthquake Engineering (TCLEE) and serving on TCLEE’s Executive Committee for eight years. For nearly 20 years, he has been a member of the Structural Committee of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), preparing and grading the national Structural Engineering registration exam. This commitment takes him on about six trips each year. In 1983, Lewis received the department’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Lewis’ late wife of 36 years, Erma Angeline Page Lewis, for which the funds are also named, was born in Plainville, Ill. She attended St. Luke’s School of Nursing in Chicago (subsequently Rush University Medical Center), graduating in 1944. Her career included two years as Head Nurse in Obstetrics at St. Luke’s Hospital in Chicago and seven years as a Stewardess-Nurse with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. She worked on the train The Shenandoah, which traveled between Chicago and Washington, D.C. After moving to San Francisco, she worked in the Nursing Department at San Francisco State College as a secretary for 12 years. She died in 1991.

During their marriage, the Lewises traveled extensively. Their first trip
abroad was a three-month trip to Europe in 1963, traveling on the S.S. France. Over the years, they also took numerous voyages on freighters, a unique method of travel that Lewis says appealed to his nonconformist streak. Freighters by law may carry no more than 12 passengers, and passengers must remain flexible, because the voyages are often of unpredictable duration. One of the Lewises' trips was scheduled to last 56 days and instead lasted 75. But freighter travel offers passengers the rare opportunity to visit out-of-the-way ports that traditional cruise ship passengers never see, Lewis says. The 75-day trip took the couple from Europe to Southern Africa, Madagascar, Reunion Island and Mauritius, among other locales, and they were the only passengers on the trip out. Over the years, Lewis took about a dozen such trips, a number of them after Erma's death.

Today Lewis still travels frequently. He has taken a number of walking trips through various areas of the world, including the Italian lake district last year. "About eight years ago, I walked across England," he says. That 192-mile hike took two weeks to complete.

Lewis is also an avid player of Duplicate Bridge, for which he travels to participate in tournaments. He achieved Life Master status at the recent North American Tournament in Chicago.

In addition to his work for the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, Lewis continues to make contributions to the field of structural engineering through his charitable giving.

"I strongly believe that one should give back to society what has been made available to you, to the extent that you can," Lewis says. "My education contributed to, in my opinion, a most interesting and rewarding career in civil and structural engineering, and therefore support of civil and structural engineering education is one of my primary charitable interests. And why UIUC? 'Well, it's one of the best in the world.'"

The funds established through Lewis' gift to CEE are as follows:

The Burton and Erma Lewis Engineer of Practice Fund is intended to provide a link between practical knowledge and the classroom. Examples of such links include teaching design-oriented courses, offering specialized graduate seminars and workshops, and mentoring students about careers and the professional practice of structural engineering.

The Burton and Erma Lewis Graduate Fellowships Fund will provide graduate fellowships based on academic, research, leadership and achievement, as well as a demonstrated interest in structural engineering.

The Burton and Erma Lewis Faculty Awards Fund will provide promising young structural engineering faculty members with funds for faculty and student travel, the purchase of equipment and supplies, the support of graduate and undergraduate students, and other activities that will enhance the faculty recipient's research and teaching program.

The Burton and Erma Lewis Structural Engineering Fund will provide unrestricted support to the structural engineering program.

The Burton and Erma Lewis Undergraduate Scholarship Fund will assist undergraduate students of academic merit with a demonstrated interest in structural engineering.
Amr Elnashai invested as first Hall Professor of CEE

Calling the namesake of his endowed professorship “a living legend in the earthquake engineering world,” Professor Amr S. Elnashai was invested Nov. 7 as the first William J. and Elaine F. Hall Endowed Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering. The Hall professorship was made possible with a gift by the Halls in 2005, which elevated to the level of a professorship an endowed fund they had established previously, to which friends and colleagues also donated over the years.

Professor Emeritus William J. Hall and his wife, Elaine F. Hall, attended and spoke at the investiture ceremony. Other honored guests included Professor Linda Katehi, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Professor Keith Hjelmstad, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering; Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds Jr.; Professor Bill Spencer, Elnashai’s friend, academic partner, and colleague, who spoke at the event; Professor Emeritus John D. Haltiwanger, Professor Emeritus Marshall Thompson, and Elnashai’s wife, Noha Elnashai, and their daughter Gemma, 2.

A renowned earthquake engineer and member of the CEE faculty since 2001, Elnashai has worked in the field and reported on most of the damaging earthquakes around the world since the mid-1980s. He is the Director of the Mid-America Earthquake Center and Director of the U of I simulation facility for the National Science Foundation-sponsored Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation. His technical interests are experimental, analytical and field investigations of the response of buildings and bridges to earthquakes, on which he has more than 200 research publications. He holds a B.Sc. degree in civil engineering from Cairo University, an M.Sc. degree in reinforced concrete structures from Imperial College in London, and a Ph.D. in structural engineering from Imperial College. He is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the UK Institution of Structural Engineers. He is founder and co-editor of the Journal of Earthquake Engineering.

“My first thought when Bob Dodds told me that I might be the first holder of the Hall professorship was a lot of concern about being worthy of the title,” Elnashai said. “Bill Hall is a living legend in the earthquake engineering world. … I have grown accustomed to the idea, and bearing the title is making me work harder. “Since I am lucky to have a very well-funded research portfolio, I intend to use the generous support provided by Bill and Elaine to work on new areas.”

At left, Professor Emeritus Hall demonstrates an earthquake in a can, which he presented to Professor Elnashai at the investiture. At right, Professor Amr S. Elnashai, left, with his wife, Noha, and their daughter Gemma, 2.
Oppenheim Fund to support construction education

The CEE alumnus who served as principal-in-charge during the construction of the John Hancock Building in Chicago has established an endowed fund in the department. The Myron E. Oppenheim and Ruth P. Oppenheim Endowed Fund will provide support for the construction management program.

Over the course of his 45-year career, Oppenheim (BS 50) directed the construction of a number of notable projects, many of them in Chicago, including the $79 million Hancock building, the $247 million Olympia Center, and the $160 million AT&T Corporate Center. He was the builder for a number of widely acclaimed designs of Mies van der Rohe, including One Charles Center and Highfield House in Baltimore, and 900 Lake Shore Drive and 2400 Lakeview in Chicago. Among his biggest projects was La Cite in Montreal, Canada, for which Oppenheim served as general contractor in the mid-1970s. The $115 million complex included a 27-story office building, 530-room hotel, three 32-story apartment towers with 1,352 apartments, and a 300,000-square-foot commercial mall, all constructed over an underground 1,200-car parking structure.

“As a young man, I was a seaman in the Merchant Marine during the war,” he says, “and every job is like a voyage—different people, different problems, different personalities. But if you work hard enough you can get them all singing the same song until it’s done.”

Ruth Oppenheim earned her bachelor of science degree in education with a K-9 emphasis from the University of Illinois in 1948. She worked as a librarian/audio/visual specialist at Northeastern and U of I, and as a reading specialist at the National College of Education. Additionally, she worked at the Veterans Nursery School in Urbana, Ill., and as a teacher for the Chicago Board of Education from 1950-1958. In the mid-1970s she was a librarian and learning center coordinator for District 107 in Highland Park, Ill.

Oppenheim retired in 1995 as president of Mike Oppenheim Associates Inc., and the couple now resides in Highland Park, Ill. A desire to give back to the University inspired their gift.

“I have always considered myself a good civil engineer, and I attribute it to the training I got at the University of Illinois,” Oppenheim says. “I wanted to bring the training I got at the University inspired their gift.

The gift provides unrestricted funds, which the department can utilize at its discretion for the benefit of the construction management program.

“I gave the authority to do whatever is deemed necessary to the civil engineering department, and I assume they will wisely put the money in the best place possible for the students,” he says. “I’m going to leave it to the experts. My clients always left it to me, and I’ll leave it to them.”

“Our department is very grateful to Mike and Ruth Oppenheim for their generous gift to support education in the construction area,” says Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds Jr. “Their agreement to make the gift unrestricted provides great flexibility for the future optimal use of the endowment proceeds as education needs and specific construction programs evolve going forward.”

Looking back on a long and illustrious career, Oppenheim says he always enjoyed the sense of accomplishment it provided and the satisfaction of completing a project.

“For about 45 years, I always wanted to go to work,” he says.

Mike and Ruth Oppenheim
John Kelley joins the department as new director of development and alumni relations

John Kelley joined the department this summer as the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

Before coming to CEE, Kelley served for five years as a member of the advancement team of the College of Engineering, most recently as a major gift officer for the college with responsibility for the departments of General Engineering and Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering. He also assisted in public relations and communications efforts in the college and spent time on several campus-level scholarship committees and initiatives.

“I’m thrilled to join the only department in the U of I system that can claim a number one ranking at both the undergraduate and graduate level,” Kelley says. “It is an honor to serve the students and faculty, and I look forward to meeting and working with our past graduates to help guide the future of CEE.”

Kelley’s career has included positions with the National Council of Teachers of English in Urbana and the Construction Specifications Institute in Alexandria, Va.

“We are very fortunate to have an experienced professional in development and advancement join our department,” says Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds Jr. “In the coming years, our academic and research programs will become ever more financially dependent on private gifts.”

Kelley lives in Champaign with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, Colin, 10, and Nora, 2. He can be reached at jekelley@uiuc.edu or (217) 333-5120.

CEE students awarded ACEC scholarships

Five out of the 12 named scholarships awarded this spring by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois went to civil engineering students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.


The scholarships were awarded during the ACEC-Illinois Annual Meeting June 15.

Associate Professor Bill Buttlar, P.E., won the Best Technical Paper, Runner-Up, at the 10th International Conference on Asphalt Pavements. The paper was co-authored with Anshu Manik. It is titled, “Monte Carlo Based Simulation for Managing Risk in End-Result Construction Specifications.”

Assistant Professor C. Armando Duarte has been named a National Center for Supercomputing Applications/UIUC Fellow for the 2006-2007 academic year. Funded by the NCSA and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, the program extends opportunities in advanced computing and information technology to University faculty members. Duarte’s project is entitled, “PAGFEM: Parallel Adaptive Generalized Finite Element Methods for Large-Scale Fractures.”

Nancy Gavlin, S.E., (BS 76), a Visiting Lecturer in the structural engineering group, received the 2006 Distinguished Service Award from the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) for her dedicated service to the engineering profession. In her service to NCEES, Gavlin has served on structural engineering exam committees and graded the Structural II exam, chaired the Fire Protection/Design Build Task Force in 2004, served on the Structural Engineering Examination/Recognition Task Force, participated on the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers, the Committee on Examination Audit, the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines, and the Advisory Committee on Council Activities. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Illinois Structural Engineering Board, a past president of the Structural Engineers Association of Illinois and continues to chair its structural examination committee.

Praveen Kumar of the Environmental Hydrology and Hydraulic Engineering program has been promoted to Professor.

Carlos Lopez (MS 02), a CEE Ph.D. student, was the Academic Excellence award winner in the environmental held for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at the recent Central States Water Environment Association annual meeting held in St. Charles, Ill. Lopez received his award from Scott Trattler (BS 90), P.E., D.E.E., president of the Central States Water Environment Association.

Associate Professor Arif Masud was elected a Fellow of the International Association of Computational Me-
Global Leaders grad students gain international experience

Future leaders in construction are gaining a worldly perspective on this increasingly global industry as part of the Global Leaders in Construction Management program, established in 2005. In their final year of the five-year program, students travel abroad for a faculty-accompanied tour of world-renowned construction companies and significant projects. They graduate with both bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

The objective behind including international experience in the program is to cultivate graduates prepared to take on leadership roles in construction management, equipped with an understanding of how construction practices vary around the world and the ability to work effectively in various cultural environments. Other features of the program include an internship, management classes, and independent study. For the inaugural trip in 2005, nine students traveled to Japan with Professor Feniosky Peña-Mora. The 2006 trip took students Alejandro Bonfil, Luke DeTolve, Greg Feiereisel, Eric Kerestes, Monica Lim and Numan Velioglu to Bovis Lend Lease in London, and Eiffage and Vinci Construction in Paris, accompanied by Associate Professor Liang Liu. In early 2007, Global Leaders students will travel to Dubai with Peña-Mora and Assistant Professor Khaled El-Rayes.

Tutumluer is Paul Fraser Kent faculty scholar

Associate Professor Erol Tutumluer of the transportation engineering group was appointed the Paul Fraser Kent Faculty Scholar October 1.

The namesake of this honor is deceased alumnus Paul Fraser Kent (BS 20), who was president of General Paving of Champaign. Kent was the founder and first president of the Civil Engineering Alumni Association. He was the recipient of the UI Loyalty Award and a 1963 Chapter Honor Member of Chi Epsilon Alpha Chapter. He died in 1980. The Paul Fraser Kent Memorial Fund was established in 1977 to provide support for the transportation engineering area. The Kent Faculty Fellow is a new designation for these funds.

Tutumluer joined the department as a postdoctoral research associate in 1996 and became an assistant professor later that year. He was promoted to associate professor in 2002. His research interests lie between geotechnical engineering and pavement engineering with specialization in analytical modeling and testing of soil response, granular pavement materials, and concrete-based runways.
William Hay Railroad Engineering Collection dedicated at Grainger

By Rick Kubetz

In January 2001, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign received a unique gift collection from the Transportation Technology Center Inc. (TTCI), a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The collection contains more than 5,500 technical reports, books, and journal issues in the areas of railroad engineering, technology, and history that were originally part of several AAR technical libraries, and approximately 1,500 items originally owned by the FRA.

TTCI is an internationally renowned railroad engineering research facility based in Pueblo, Colo., that supports and conducts research with U of I. Its gift is now part of the William W. Hay Railway Engineering Collection, officially dedicated September 29 at the Grainger Engineering Library Information Center.

“Combining these resources will make this, in fact, the nation’s railroad engineering library,” said Don Plotkin (MS 77), one of Hay’s former students and an FRA engineer.

The William W. Hay Railroad Engineering web site, http://g118.grainger.uiuc.edu/whay/, provides access to a wealth of railroad engineering materials. The Grainger Engineering Library also is the designated repository for the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association.

An esteemed educator and railroader, William Hay was the academic leader in railroad engineering for more than a quarter century. He served on the U of I faculty from 1947 until his retirement in 1978. He died in 1998. He is credited with maintaining the railroad in its vital place in the world’s economy, and bringing distinction to himself, his students and the institutions he served.

Professor Sam Carpenter retires after 30 years in transportation group

Professor Samuel H. Carpenter retired this summer, after a 30-year career with the department. He was the transportation area’s most senior faculty member and the first Paul Fraser Kent Faculty Fellow.

Carpenter has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in pavement rehabilitation, pavement management, pavement design, and bituminous materials and mix design. He is recognized for his research and teaching contributions in hot mix asphalt healing and in the development of flexible pavement endurance limits. Carpenter was instrumental in helping establish the Illinois Center for Transportation (ICT), a research center headquartered in CEE and funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation that opened in September 2005.

Since he joined the department in 1976, Carpenter witnessed many changes, while the quality of the department has remained high.

“The production of and achievement of education over the years has changed dramatically,” he says. “This is true for the CEE faculty, as well as for the students. I have been amazed at the resiliency of both parties in continually adjusting to the outside pressures of change to continue the premiere ranking of the CEE program over the past 30 years. This program has continually produced the finest CEE graduates, both graduate and undergraduate, and I see nothing that would change that ability or the outcome.”

Carpenter will remain active in the department and with ICT, conducting research and working with graduate students, he says.
Pete Lenzini, P.E., (MS 71), Undergraduate Adviser and Lecturer, retired from full-time employment this summer after a 25-year career in the department. He will continue to work part-time in the department as an adviser and will teach Advanced Soil Mechanics this spring.

In addition to being an alumnus of CEE, Lenzini has been a lecturer since 1981 and the department’s undergraduate adviser since 1999. His campus involvements have included serving as the department’s representative on the College of Engineering Design Council and as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Women in Engineering program. He has also maintained an active consulting practice.

Lenzini’s plans for his retirement include activities both professional and personal.

“I’m looking forward to having more time to watch my grandsons grow up,” he says. “The three older boys—Alec, 16; Anthony, 14; and Cam, 10—all live in Carterville, and are all active in sports, and the youngest, Lucas, 2, who lives in Mahomet, soon will be. I plan to continue geotechnical consulting, mostly in the area of failure investigations and construction problems involving soil, rock and water. I intend to get back to work on the third edition of Foundation Engineering with German Gurfinkel, Ralph Peck and Walt Hanson. Cross-country motorcycle trips are also someplace in my plans, and I am going to begin restoring my first Harley, a 1959, which I have had for over 30 years. I saw my first Final Four this year, and I hope to be able to see a few more with the Illini as one of the teams, of course.”

Lenzini will remain active in the department on a limited basis, but he says he will miss the daily interactions with colleagues across campus.

“T have enjoyed working with our students and cherish the opportunities I have had to know and work with some of the top civil engineers in the profession. But I don’t live far from campus, and I am sure I’ll continue to attend seminars. All in all, I’ve felt privileged to have been associated with this department, college, and University. I’m an Illini to the core and always will be!”

new • faculty

Diego Klabjan, transportation

Diego Klabjan joined the transportation faculty in August as an associate professor. A transfer from the University’s former Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (M&IE), Klabjan currently teaches Introduction to Operations Research, an industrial engineering course. Within CEE, he plans to teach courses in asset management and system network optimization.

Klabjan earned his bachelor of science degree in Applied Mathematics at the University of Ljubljana, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He was a member of the M&IE faculty from 1999 to 2006, before that department was reorganized. Last year he was a visiting professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Klabjan’s research interests are in the areas of transportation systems, supply chain management, radio frequency identification, and large-scale optimization. His awards have included receiving a first prize 2000 Transportation Science Dissertation Award and, jointly with a graduate student, the Anna Valicek award from the Airline Group of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies. He serves as the president of the Institute of Operations Research and the Management Sciences Aviation Applications Section. He is an associate editor for Naval Research Logistics, and the Optimization and Transportation areas in Operations Research.

Klabjan lives in Champaign with his wife, Mojca, and their children, Tim, 10; Nick, 8; and Ana, 6.
new • faculty

Arif Masud, structures

Arif Masud joined the faculty this summer as an associate professor in the structures area. He will teach graduate and undergraduate courses on nonlinear finite element methods, structural analysis, structural mechanics and computational inelasticity.

Masud holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan; and a master of science degree in structural engineering and Ph.D. in computational mechanics, both from Stanford University.

Before joining the department, Masud served on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where he held joint appointments in the departments of Civil and Materials Engineering, and Bioengineering. During his 11 years at UIC, he received several teaching awards, including the Teaching Recognition Award 1999 by the Council for Excellence in Teaching and the Edward M. Burke Teaching Award 2003 from the Department of Civil and Materials Engineering.

Masud’s research interests span multi-scale and stabilized finite element methods for solids and fluids, fluid-structure interaction, computational micro- and nano-mechanics, and computational biomechanics. He has delivered several keynote lectures at international conferences and organized more than 10 international symposia on stabilized and multiscale finite element methods. He served as co-chair for the first Sino-U.S. joint symposium, Multiscale Analysis in Material Science & Engineering, held in Beijing, China, in 2002. He is co-editor of the book The Finite Element Method: 1970s and Beyond (CIMNE, Barcelona, Spain, 2004).

His professional involvements include serving as Chair of the Computational Mechanics Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and Vice Chair of the Fluid Mechanics Committee of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). Masud also serves on the editorial boards of a number of international journals. He is Associate Editor of the ASCE Journal of Engineering Mechanics, Associate Editor of the ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics, and a Fellow of the International Association of Computational Mechanics.

Masud and his wife, Komal, have a daughter, Mariam, 8.

Ilinca Stanciulescu, structures

Ilinca Stanciulescu joined the structures faculty this summer as an assistant professor. She will teach the department’s most advanced undergraduate class in structural analysis and will develop a new graduate class in the nonlinear discrete finite element method. Before joining the department, Stanciulescu was a post-doctoral research associate at Duke University.

Stanciulescu holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Technical University of Civil Engineering (TUCE), Bucharest; a bachelor of science degree in Applied Mathematics from Bucharest University; and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Duke University. While working toward her master’s degree at TUCE, she studied in Paris, at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées.

Stanciulescu has research interests in computational mechanics, specifically formulations for non-linear problems, nonlinear dynamics and nonlinear solid mechanics.

Her honors include a National Merit Fellowship from TUCE, 1990-95; a French Government Scholarship, 1994; and a National Merit Fellowship for Graduate Studies from TUCE, 1995-96. Her publications include a textbook, co-authored with Liviu Crainic, Post-Elas tic Analysis of Structures (Matrix Rom, Bucharest, 2000).

Stanciulescu is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the United States Association for Computational Mechanics, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, the American Mathematical Society, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
new ● faculty

Bassem Andrawes, structures

Bassem Andrawes joined the faculty this fall as an assistant professor in the structures group. He will teach CEE 463 Reinforced Concrete II and CEE 465 Structural Systems Design.

Andrawes holds a B.Sc. in civil engineering with honors from Ain Shams University, Cairo; an M.Sc. in civil engineering (structures) from Iowa State University, Ames; and a Ph.D. in civil engineering (structures) from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta. His doctoral thesis was entitled, “Seismic Response and Analysis of Multiple Frame Bridges Using Superelastic Shape Memory Alloys.” His awards included the Graduate Student Pace Award at Iowa State University and the Distinction Award at Ain Shams University.

Andrawes’ professional experience as a structural engineer has included working for Englekirk Partners Consulting Structural Engineers Inc. in Santa Ana, Calif., one of the largest firms in Southern California. He also worked as a bridge engineer with Sabri Samaan Inc. in Cairo, Egypt, one of the most prestigious firms in Cairo.

Andrawes’ research focuses on the use of smart materials to enhance the ability of structures to resist human-made and natural hazards, such as earthquakes and blasts. These advanced materials, which are new to civil engineering applications, have unique mechanical properties that may make structures more resilient in the case of potentially damaging events. An example is a “shape memory alloy” made of nickel and titanium, which has both the strength of metal and the ability of rubber to resume its shape when heat or an electrical current is applied. Andrawes’ research is exploring how structures will behave if these materials are incorporated and how to design these materials to achieve the desired properties.

Andrawes and his wife, Marguerite, have a son, David, 1.

Carlos Arboleda joined the faculty this fall as a visiting assistant professor in the construction management group. He will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in construction engineering and construction conflict resolution.

He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the National University of Colombia-Facultad de Minas, Medellin, Colombia; an M.S. in civil engineering from Los Andes University, Bogota, Colombia; and an M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering with emphasis in construction engineering and management, both from Purdue University. His awards have included the Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship at Purdue University in 2005, a Scholastic Merit Award from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in 2006 and the Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award from the School of Mines at the National University of Colombia in 1994 for his thesis entitled, “Panels in Pre-Cast Architectural Concrete.”

Arboleda’s professional experience has included seven years at ConConcrete S.A., a major construction company in Colombia, as a resident engineer and later as a financial analyst for construction and Build/Operate/Transfer (BOT) projects. He is a registered professional engineer in Colombia.

He has research interests in vulnerability assessment of civil infrastructure systems, engineering applications in the health care industry, construction safety, the application of econometric methods in construction, and financial risk analysis of BOT projects.

Arboleda lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Andrea, a geriatrician, and their daughters Isabel, 3; and Amalia, 1.
Louis Bowman, P.E., (BS 51) was named Civil Engineer of the Year by the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers at this year’s Annual Dinner Meeting on October 18. A Fellow and Life Member of ASCE, Bowman is co-founder and Chairman of the engineering firm Bowman, Barrett & Associates Inc. He has served as Chairman for ASCE’s Airfield Pavement Committee and for the Illinois Transportation Builders Association’s (IRTBA) Planning and Design Division. Bowman has also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, the University of Illinois’ Civil Engineering Alumni Association and the IRTBA’s Planning and Design Division. He is a longstanding member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois.

W. Gene Corley, P.E., S.E., (BS 58, MS 60, PhD 61) is president-elect of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). He was commissioned with the rest of the 2006-2007 NCEES Board of Directors at the organization’s annual meeting in September. NCEES develops licensing examinations for the engineering and surveying professions. Corley was named a CEE Distinguished Alumnus in 1995.

Iowa State University and the College of Engineering and the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering dedicated the Wallace W. and Julie B. Sanders Structural Engineering Laboratory on April 20, in honor of the major donors to the renovation of the facility. The laboratory, formerly an aerospace engineering wind-tunnel facility, was renovated to add a structural test floor and new equipment. Wallace W. Sanders Jr., (MS 57, PhD 60) served on the faculty of this department from 1959 to 1964, when he joined the faculty at Iowa State. He taught there, as well as a college and university administrator, until his retirement in 1998. He and his family live in Ames, Iowa.

Bruce R. Ellingwood, P.E., (BS 68, MS 69, PhD 72), College of Engineering Distinguished Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, was presented with the Nathan M. Newmark Medal by the American Society of Civil Engineers at its recent ASCE/SEI 2006 Structures Congress in St. Louis, Mo. Ellingwood was honored for his contributions to enhancing and incorporating probabilistic mechanics and structural reliability tools in code development and engineering practice. Ellingwood was named a CEE Distinguished Alumnus in 2002.

Daniel W. Halpin (MS 69, PhD 73) in 2006 was named an Honorary Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. He also received the Carroll H. Dunn Award of Excellence from the Construction Industry Institute. The Dunn award is the Institute’s highest honor. Halpin retired in January as a professor of civil engineering at Purdue University, where he also had headed the construction engineering and management division.

Robert M. Jones (BS 60, MS 61), Emeritus Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, was elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He published “Buckling of Bars, Plates, and Shells” this summer.

The Construction Writers Association has presented its highest honor, the Silver Hard Hat Award, to Ward R. Malisch (BS 61, MS 63, PhD 66), P.E., senior managing director for American Concrete Institute, Farmington Hills, Mich. The award, which recognizes outstanding service to the construction industry, was presented at CWA’s recent annual meeting and awards dinner in Washington, D.C. He joined the American Concrete Institute staff in 2001 and now leads the engineering, education, and marketing departments and is publisher of AIC’s magazine, Concrete International.

Shamsher Prakash (MS 61, PhD 62) is honorary editor of the International Journal of Case Histories in Geomechanics and a member of the International Commission on Case Histories of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. A frequent lecturer on geomechanics and foundation engineering, he is chairman of the Sixth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering, to be held in Washington, D.C., in August 2008. He was also honored in November 2005 at the International Conference on Yoga and Natural Therapy in Lucknow, India, for his contributions to healing through yoga and worldwide lectures on yoga philosophy. Prakash was named a CEE Distinguished Alumnus in 2005.

Nominations invited for CEE Alumni awards

If you know of a deserving colleague who graduated from CEE, please request a nomination form for the Distinguished Alumnus Award or the Young Alumnus Achievement Award from Carla Blue, Program Coordinator, 1117 Newmark Lab, 205 N. Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801; fax 217-333-9464, blue1@uiuc.edu. You must fill out the nomination form, but we will assist you as needed. Nominations are due no later than May 1 for consideration for the following year’s awards.

Please make sure you make a clear case for the professional achievements and contributions of your nominee. A nominee will be considered for the award when the nomination form is completed and returned by the nominator. Criteria for the awards are as follows:

Distinguished Alumnus Award

This award recognizes professional accomplishments or unique contributions to society of civil engineering graduates. Recipient will have distinguished themselves by outstanding leadership in the planning and direction of engineering work, by administration of major engineering work, by contributing to knowledge in the field of civil engineering, by fostering the development of young engineers, or by uniquely contributing to society. They should be dedicated to the ideals of the profession as evidenced by their contributions to the recognition and promotion of civil engineering activities and professional organizations. CEEAA board members are ineligible until at least two years after their terms have ended. UIUC faculty members are ineligible for at least two years after ending their faculty status.

Young Alumnus Achievement Award

This award recognizes a graduate who has received his or her most recent degree from the University within the past 10 years, with special consideration for those candidates who are 35 or younger. Recipients shall have distinguished themselves in their fields of endeavor and achieved a level of accomplishment significantly greater than that of other recent graduates. Recipients shall have demonstrated one or more of the following: outstanding technical advancement or achievement; design innovation and excellence; enhancement of civil and environmental engineering education; outstanding leadership resulting in significant accomplishments; exemplary service to the profession. Consideration is given to volunteer activities in civic, religious or charitable groups and organizations.
Engineers. The honor is given for significant achievement.

Freudenthal Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers at Berkeley, received the 2005 Alfred M. Taisei Chair in Civil Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, gained the department's second-highest membership grade, exceeded only by Honorary Members.

David Darwin, P.E., (PhD 74) has been nominated to serve as president of the American Concrete Institute for 2007. He is the Dean E. Ackers Distinguished Professor of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering and Director of the Structural Engineering and Materials Laboratory at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, where he has served on the faculty since 1974. He was a 2003 Distinguished Alumnus of CEE.

Armen der Kiureghian, P.E., (PhD 76), who holds the Taisei Chair in Civil Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, received the 2005 Alfred M. Freudenthal Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers. The honor is given for significant contributions in safety and reliability studies applicable to any discipline of engineering. In 2006, der Kiureghian received the department's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Barth F. Smets (PhD 93) has received a Marie Curie Excellence Grant under the European Commission’s 6th Framework Program. Smets is a Professor of Environmental Microbiology at the Technical University of Denmark’s Institute of Environment & Resources. The Curie award, totaling approximately €2 million, will allow him to launch a European research team around the theme of microbial ecology with ramifications for environmental and public health. Marie Curie Excellence Grants provide support for the creation and development of European research teams considered to have the potential to reach a high level of excellence, particularly in leading-edge or interdisciplinary research activities. These teams must be built up around a researcher who has demonstrated great potential early in his or her career. Smets is married to U of I alumna Chalida M. Svastiasea, a researcher and doctoral candidate at the University of Copenhagen. They have two children, Ansel, 6, and Sophia, 3.

Clyde A. Wilber III (BS 74, MS 77), vice president and director of business development for Parsons Brinckerhoff’s southeast construction services division, has been elected a 2006-2008 Director-at-Large by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). An NSPE Fellow, Wilber has 32 years of consulting engineering experience serving in a variety of principal engineering, quality control management, operations management and business development positions. He has participated on numerous significant projects in Florida, including major transportation and building facilities.

Mehdi Saiidi, P.E., (MS 77, PhD 79) has been elevated to the rank of Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). ASCE Fellows occupy the Society’s second-highest membership grade, exceeded only by Honorary Members. Saiidi is a professor in the civil engineering department at the University of Nevada at Reno, as well as vice president for research there and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. Saiidi was named a CEE Distinguished Alumnus in 2003.

Brian R. Whiston, P.E., (BS 71), president and chief executive officer of Crawford, Murphy & Tilly Consulting Engineers, celebrated his 35th anniversary with the company. He is the fourth president to lead the firm in its 60-year history. Whiston specializes in environmental and hydraulic/hydrology engineering.

Iktor Adiguzel (PhD 83) is the new Director of the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL). In this position, Adiguzel leads a staff of some 350 professionals who conduct a $90 million annual research program addressing environmental quality and infrastructure for military installations. Prior to being named director, he served as the lab’s acting director, having been appointed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 2005. He had been CERL’s deputy director since 2001. CERL is one of seven laboratories comprising the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss.

Mark J. Carlson, P.E., (MS 89) is senior vice president of Professional Service Industries Inc. in charge of Ohio operations. He has more than 20 years of experience in the engineering consulting field.

Richard F. Cavenough (BS 82) is president and principal of Fifield Companies. He is responsible for the execution and oversight of the existing pipeline of Fifield projects and directly oversees expansion into new markets such as south Florida, where a new 283-unit residential high-rise on the Intracoastal is currently under construction. Throughout his career, Cavenough has been involved in the development and construction of more than 17,000 residential units and several commercial properties nationwide.

Andrew Leung (MS 82), a partner of Yu & Associates of Elmwood Park, N.J., was honored as one of the “2006 Outstanding 50 Asian Americans in Business” by the Asian American Business Development Center (AABDC). The AABDC recognizes individuals who have built successful businesses or who have distinguished accomplishments in their communities. Leung has been instrumental in establishing Yu as one of the leading SBE/MBE firms in geotechnical, environmental, and site civil engineering services in the tri-state area. Representative projects include the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit, Newark Liberty International Airport Terminal C Parking Garage, Newark Bear Stadium, New York 2nd Avenue Subway, East Side Access and Fulton Street Transit Center.

1990s

Barth F. Smets

The American Academy of Environmental Engineers’ Class of 2005 includes the following alumni, now designated as Board Certified Environmental Engineers:

- Christopher M. Martel (BS 94, MS 96)
- Daniel B. Oerther (MS 98, PhD 02)
- Jeffrey B. Stillman (BS 95)
- Clyde A. Wilber III (BS 74, MS 75)

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Alumni News

2000s

Omer O. Erbay (PhD 04) was awarded the Best PhD Thesis Award by the Masonry Society at their annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., on Oct. 14. Erbay’s thesis, entitled “A Methodology to Assess Seismic Risk for Populations of Unreinforced Masonry Buildings,” focused on developing simple procedures to be used by non-technical decision-makers for assessing seismic damage and risk across wide groups of masonry buildings. Erbay’s research was funded in part by the Hanson Professorship, the Mid-America Earthquake Center, and the UIUC College of Engineering International Program. The award was made for the best doctoral thesis on a masonry research topic anywhere in the world for the calendar year. Erbay’s thesis adviser was Professor Daniel P. Abrams. Erbay is now a Senior Engineer at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger in Waltham, Mass.

Ryan P. Flanagan (BS 03) married Emily C. Cyr in early 2006 at Old St. Pat’s Church in Chicago. Flanagan is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Medical School in Bethesda, Md., and a third-year medical student at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Evan Michael Lewis was born June 16 to Michelle (Berger) Lewis (BS 99, MS 01) and Jonathan E. Lewis (BS 99, MS 01).

Alex W. Pence (BS 04, MS 05) married Kirsten B. Poore on January 21. Pence is employed by KJWW Engineering Consultants in Madison, Wis.

Sara R. Quandt (BS 06) married Tyler J. Prichard on May 27 at Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Ill. Quandt is a geotechnical engineer for Wisconsin Testing Laboratories in Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Baker W. Tee (BS 03, MS 06) is a project designer for O’Donnell, Naccarato & Machtlesh, a structural engineering firm in Washington, D.C. His current projects include The Renaissance Center, Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution, the Radnor Township Municipal Building, and the Manheim Central new middle school.

In Memoriam

1930s

Frank Fisher Jr. (BS 33) died Dec. 21, 2005. He was 94.

Edwin Chalmer “Fritz” Franzen (BS 31) died March 4 in Port Townsend, Wash., at age 98. After graduating from UIUC, Franzen joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and served until 1965. After retirement, he lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, serving as chief engineer for the construction of the Bernardo Mascarenhas Dam. Franzen’s awards included a citation from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Karl E. Grohne (BS 37), 92, of Decatur, Ill., died May 28. He was owner/operator and president of Grohne Concrete Products Co. in Decatur from 1948 until his retirement in 1979. He served as board member and president of the Midwest Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

Frank B. Henderson (BS 37) died Oct. 14 in Charlotte, N.C. Henderson spent 43 years with the Bell Telephone System, where he began as a lineman’s assistant for Illinois Bell Telephone Company in Chicago.

Hal Pierce Kibbey (BS 36) of Naples, Fla., died March 2 at age 92. He served on the board of the U of I foundation in the 1960s. As a Navy officer during WWII, he served aboard a submarine chaser in the European Theater. At the time of the invasion of Southern France at St. Tropez, he led 17 teams of men in the underwater demolition of mines. He spent his civilian career in the steel business.

George Pagels Jr. (BS 34) died Nov. 23, 2005, in Kansas City, Mo., at age 92.

Ariel A. Thomas (MS 38) died June 3 at age 92. His environmental engineering career included working for the State of Illinois and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as Water Pollution Control and Metcalf & Eddy, both in Boston. He was a major in the U.S. Army during WWII.

1940s

Oliver H. Briggs Jr. (BS 47) of Phoenix, Ariz., died April 7 at age 79. He worked for Arizona Public Service Company for 35 years, retiring in 1988.

Edward A. Cousins (BS 48) died Sept. 12 in Champaign.

Douglas E. Droier (MS 42) died April 7 in Aurora, Ill., at age 86. Droier was one of five engineers who founded the Aurora-based Walker Processing Co., which manufactured wastewater and sewage treatment equipment.

Robert H. Gillespie (BS 45, MS 48) of Oak Ridge, Tenn., died Aug. 10 at age 82. He served in the U.S. Navy building prisoner-of-war camps in Guam. He spent most of his career in Champaign, building apartment buildings and managing owner-operated

Alumni visits CEE, donates vintage instruments

Alumnus Richard L. Siegle (BS 56), P.E., F.A.S.C.E., visited Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory April 21 to renew friendships and give to the department a slide rule and three vintage drafting instrument sets, one used by his father-in-law here in the 1920s. The items will be retained and displayed as appropriate. Siegle is a private consultant who specializes in engineering projects for museums, both nationally and internationally.

After graduating from Illinois in 1956, Siegle entered the Navy Civil Engineer Corps as an officer and headed up design and construction work all over the Pacific until 1978. His military career also included teaching stints at Port Hueneme, Calif., and the Navy Post Graduate School at Monterey, Calif. From 1978 through 1986, Siegle had various senior posts with the State of Washington, including construction and maintenance of state facilities. In 1986 he became Director of Facilities for the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., where he managed construction and maintenance of museums and research facilities. In 1995 Siegle returned to the State of Washington to oversee development of the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma, Wash. Since the year 2000 he has been a private consultant on numerous museum projects here in the U.S. and internationally.

He lives in Tacoma, Wash. His wife, Virginia, is also a University of Illinois alumna. The couple has two grown children, a son, Christopher, and a daughter, Jennifer.
rental units. He was a member of the University of Illinois Foundation President’s Council, the U of I Alumni Association and a longtime supporter of the Fighting Illini.

Robert E. Hamilton (BS 47, MS 49) died Jan. 15 in Juliet, Ill. He founded Robert E. Hamilton Consulting Engineers PC.

Jack Hamm (BS 41, MS 49), 87, of Kankakee, Ill., and formerly of Sheldon, Ill., died March 20. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy in Florida, California and in the Pacific Theatre during WWII at Guadalcanal. He managed the E.M. Sipe Lumber Co. for 20 years and designed and built homes. He taught at Kankakee Community College for 10 years. He was a volunteer fireman in Sheldon, served on the school and library boards, and coached Little League.

Herman Kaplan (BS 49) died March 7 at age 87. After serving as a second lieutenant in the Pacific theater in WWII, he worked for the American Joint Distribution Committee as an engineer in camps for displaced persons and Holocaust survivors in Europe. He was employed for many years in the essential oils industry as a chemical engineer. He was a volunteer in many developing nations including Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Haiti and India.

John R. Leek (BS 47, MS 53) of Springfield, Ill., died Aug. 22. In addition to his degrees from Illinois, Leek earned a graduate degree from Yale University. He taught transportation planning at the University of Illinois and retired from the Illinois Department of Transportation after holding various positions in transportation planning.

William G. Murphy (BS 43, MS 48) died April 20. He was Professor Emeritus at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis., where he taught civil engineering classes from 1949 to 1987, when he retired. He was Engineer of the Year in 1985 and was a Fellow and Honorary Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Robert A. Sroat (BS 44, MS 51) died July 3. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII at Bryan Field, Texas. His career included employment at Amoco and Texaco oil companies and at the University of Illinois.


Raymond A. Wente (BS 48), 82, Effingham, Illinois Department of Transportation engineer, died Saturday June 17.

Thomas A. Wiley (MS 48) died Feb. 12. In WWII, he served in England, Wales, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Germany. As a professional engineer, he worked on superhighways, bridges and interchanges in seven states and Canada. His projects included the Bay Area Rapid Transit system and the Titan and Minuteman missile sites.

Charles U. Kring (BS 32, MS 39, PhD 48) died Oct. 6 at age 96. A construction engineer on the West Coast, Kring worked on the Bay and Golden Gate bridges early in his career. During WWII, he distinguished himself as an adviser to the Eighth Air Force in England on bomb loads, target vulnerability and weapons effectiveness. As a consultant in San Francisco after the war, he advised the military on protective structures, the security of overseas bases, and the vulnerability of structures to nuclear weapons.

In the field of structural engineering, Kring’s primary contributions were in the area of construction technology. He helped develop the erection method for the 540-foot tied arch of the St. Georges Bridge over the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal that eliminated the need for falsework. He designed and built many schools, shopping centers and commercial buildings.

Kring’s honors include the Medal of Freedom, awarded for his work during WWII. In 1998 he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the department.

Henry Marek (BS 50), of Arlington Heights, Ill., formerly of Niles, Ill., died at age 83. He was a Marine Corps Veteran of WWII who served as a pilot/pilot instructor. Marek was a structural engineer for Smartano and Co. for 42 years.

Arthur V. Woodward (BS 53) died June 23 at the age of 80. Woodward worked as a civil engineer until he earned his law degree from Illinois in 1962. Among the clients of his Springfield-based law practice was the Illinois Association of General Contractors. In 1968, Woodward moved to Marco Island, Fla., and became that community’s first attorney. He retired in 1986 and became manager of First Title and Abstract.

Edward P. Cook (BS 60) died May 30 in Scottsdale, Ariz. He earned an MBA from Harvard University. In 1986, Cook retired from a 30-year career with the Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service.

James R. Hettick (BS 60) died Aug. 31. He served with the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps in the Philippines; Cape Hatteras, N.C.; and Norfolk, Va. He retired as a construction manager from General Growth Properties.

James N. Somers (BS 67) died Dec. 26 in Ellenton, Fla.

Patrick J. Yonikas (BS 63) died March 3 in Oklahoma City, Okla. At the time of his death, he was the Engineering Manager of the Water and Wastewater Department for Oklahoma City. In 2005 he received the George Warren Fuller Award from the Southwest Section of the American Water Works Association.

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1970s

Gerald C. Brown (BS 70) died July 28 at age 63. An Army officer and former commander of the Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, Brown achieved the rank of Brigadier General. His military career included two combat tours in Vietnam and two tours of duty in Germany.

Ashish P. Choudry (MS 77) died Aug. 25 in Springfield, Ill.

Phillip M. Clinnin (BS 76) died in March. Clinnin spent 30 years with his first employer, the Inland Steel Company (now Mittal Industries).


Gregory P. Slamp (BS 70) died Feb. 4 in Houston, Texas. He was the structural engineering manager at OFD Engineering.
My generation talked a lot about “changing the world.”
Our skills as civil engineers would provide us with the tools to do just that.

By Alan J. Hollenbeck, P.E. (BS 75, MS 77)
President/CEO, RJN Group Inc.
ASCE Student Chapter President 1974-1975

Way back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, my generation talked a lot about “changing the world.” What I didn't realize in 1975 was how much our education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and our skills as civil engineers would provide us with the tools to do just that—change the world.

During my term as president of the American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter, we developed the first Undergraduate Student Handbook and started the Outstanding Instructor Award for undergraduate teaching.

I also had the privilege of working with Professor Jon Liebman in developing the first self-study course offered by the department—CE 241 Air and Water Quality. I served as the first Teaching Assistant for this course and also was Chairman of Engineering Open House for Environmental Engineering. It was a trip to Engineering Open House during my senior year in high school that had cemented my decision to attend the U of I. Dr. Liebman showed me that it was possible to work very hard, accomplish professional goals, and also have fun and a passion for everything you do. These are lessons I have never forgotten.

After getting my master's degree in 1977 and taking a short detour through one semester of law school, I joined Greeley and Hansen's Chicago office. After nine months, I left to become the fifth employee of a small start-up company in Wheaton, Ill., RJN Environmental Associates. Over the last 30 years, the company has grown to nearly 200 employees in seven states, all east of the Rockies. RJN Group is an employee-owned (ESOP) consulting engineering firm. I am proud of the ways that our company founder, Richard Nogaj, has changed the world since we bought the company from him in 1995. Dick formed the Dupage County Illinois Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and then relocated to Florida to develop Harvest for Humanity and Jubilation, an affordable work force housing development. Both of these projects have made a difference in the lives of farm workers in Immokalee, Fla.

During my career at RJN Group, I have had the opportunity to participate in the rehabilitation of sewer systems and the reduction of combined sewer and separate sewer overflows in Boston; Washington, D.C.; Baltimore; Miami; St. Louis; Houston; Dallas; Fort Worth; Kansas City; San Antonio; Indianapolis; and Cook County. I have also had the opportunity to author more than 100 technical articles related to sewer system rehabilitation. I was a charter member of the Illinois Water Environment Association in 1980 and currently serve as Chairman of the Wastewater Collection Facilities Committee. I was honored to receive the Water Environment Federation National Collection Systems award in 2003.

Since passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (PL92-500), our profession has made tremendous progress in cleaning up streams, rivers and lakes throughout the nation. As civil engineers, we have a lot to be proud of as we have seen streams right here in Illinois come back from years of degradation—yet another way that we have changed the world.

My wife of 26 years, Karen Schoder Hollenbeck, who earned her bachelor's degree from U of I's College of Liberal Arts in 1976, and my daughter, Shannon, have been very patient as business travel has taken me through more airports than I can remember. Karen insists that the only time the sump pump fails or the raccoons get in the attic is when I am out of town. Karen and I met in a disco in 1978. For those of you born after 1965, the entire country had a “brain cramp” in the late 1970s. We wore some really dumb clothes, and every bar was converted to a disco. Not until 1979, when Steve Dahl held Disco Demolition night at Comiskey Park, did we come back to our senses.

After a life of frustration as a third generation White Sox fan, I was able to attend Game 2 of the 2005 World Series at Comiskey Park (I still can't get used to the name U.S. Cellular field) with my wife, Karen, and their daughter, Shannon.
father. When Podsednik hit the walk off home run in the ninth inning, we knew it was our year.

My education at the U of I, and the skills I have developed as a civil engineer have also allowed me to “make a difference” in our local parish, St. John the Baptist in Winfield, Ill. I have served as Facilities Improvement Committee Chairman during a major capital improvement program for the aging buildings and infrastructure at the parish. I have also been a member of the Joliet Diocese Council of Administration for Buildings, which helps all parishes within the Joliet Diocese plan and implement capital improvements.

We need to encourage more young people to pursue careers in civil engineering, especially girls. Last year I did a Career Fair for 8th graders at my daughter’s school. After a 30-minute Power-Point presentation on how exciting a career in civil engineering can be, I got only three questions from the students:

- Do you have to take a lot of math?
- Do you have to work outside?
- Do you make more money than lawyers?

Oh well, we just have to keep getting the message out.

I was recently elected to the CEE Alumni Association Board of Directors. I look forward to giving something back to the University to which I owe so much.

Where are YOU now? If you were a leader in any student organization during your time at Illinois, we’d like to hear from you. Contact the editor to submit an article for this space. Please see the inside front cover for contact information.

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**Student Organizations**

As the Alpha chapter of Chi Epsilon enters the fall 2006 semester, new and interesting events are underway. Initiatives will be completing their requirements for membership in a very special process which has been occurring here since 1922. It is quite an honor to be involved with Chi Epsilon at both the place of its birth and the top civil and environmental engineering program in the nation. Our officers are planning various social events and general meetings for Chi Epsilon initiates, members, professors, and any alumni who wish to get involved. There is always a demand for speakers, alumni sponsorship, mentoring, and employment resource presentation. Email our president, Jeffrey Dolan (dolan@uiuc.edu), to get involved!

—Brett Zitny, Chi Epsilon Secretary

The UIUC student chapter of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) encourages student interest and involvement in concrete materials, structures and construction. Each year we host meetings and seminars with invited speakers from the industry or research fields. Each semester we send students to the ACI International Conventions to participate in student competitions and become involved in committees and technical presentations. This year our chapter placed third in both strength and aesthetics in the concrete egg protection device competition. At Engineering Open House in March we will host a high-strength concrete cylinder competition and help visitors create a personalized mortar coaster. We encourage alumni to speak at our meetings or suggest field trip ideas.

Check out our website at www.cee.uiuc.edu/groups/aci/.

—Amanda Bardenan, President

The student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will offer many events for UIUC civil engineering students, faculty, staff and alumni during the 2006-2007 school year. ASCE events include the Steel Bridge Competition, the Concrete Canoe Competition, and Engineering Open House. Smaller scale events include general meetings, intramural sports, Crane Bay Cinema, various social activities, and held trips. This fall ASCE is planning a field trip to the Trump Tower in Chicago. The ASCE officer board also has assumed responsibility for publishing The Benchmark newsletter and will be sending a large delegation to the ASCE national conference in Chicago in October. We are always interested in collaborating with alumni who wish to help us organize held trips or speak at general meetings and other events. Please visit our website at www.uiuc.edu/~asce to view photos of past events and contact our officers. —Peter Larson, President

**Engineers Without Borders** at U of I continues to expand into the community and the international scene. In May we sent five students to Usalama, Kenya, where they implemented a sanitation project. This summer another team of students executed a site assessment for our water project in the village of Adu-Achi, Nigeria, which will supply water to 10,000 Nigerians. We have adopted a new local project to run the fleet of UIUC diesel vehicles on biodiesel fuel made from used vegetable oil. We continue to work on our two international research projects, a power electronics project in Maharashtra, India, and our stove monitoring devices in Central America. Our fundraising teams are working hard to ensure our financial stability. We welcome involvement from alumni and faculty. Visit our website at www.ewb-uiuc.org or contact me at therce2@uiuc.edu. —Laura Fierce, President

The student chapter of the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR) gathers to share experiences, do special projects, and takes part in IAHR activities such as the biennial congress. Student Chapter activities include research seminars, discussions or workshops; field trips to local hydraulic works; group research projects; trips to IAHR symposia, workshops and congresses; informal collaborative activities with neighboring student chapters; and fundraising efforts. Visit IAHR on the web at www.iahr.org. —Octavio Sequeiros, President

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has planned multiple activities including our meetings, the ITE golf outing, held trips, and participation at Engineering Open House. At our general meetings, leaders in engineering and transportation will share their experiences with the students. Last year’s trip to one of the premium BNSF Intermodal facilities in Willow Springs, Ill., was very exciting, and this year we are again committed to plan first-class held trips to make the ITE experience even more attractive to all students. Visit our website at www.cee.uiuc.edu/groups/ite/ or email iteuiuc@yahoo.com. —Juan Medina, President

The student chapter of the Structural Engineers Association provides an environment for students to gain a better understanding of structural engineering outside of the classroom. At our meetings, engineers speak about projects and experiences throughout their careers. These meetings are invaluable in conveying a sense of meaning and purpose to the material we learn in the classroom. Project topics range from structural failure and forensic engineering to more traditional design-based engineering. We strive to attain speakers who have worked on unique projects in order to expose our members to aspects of structural engineering they may have never considered. For more information, please send an email to gnault@uiuc.edu. —Gregory Nault, President

Photo: American Concrete Institute-UIUC members on a trip to the Spring 2006 ACI Convention in Charlotte, NC.
Hanson Inc. gift will help expand, improve rail program

Hanson Professional Services Inc. has pledged $150,000 over five years in support of the Railroad Engineering Program. The gift will be pooled with other funds to support the expansion of the railroad program and will help fund a new, non-tenured position in Railroad Engineering. Along with several Class One railway companies, Hanson also will work with the department on research and development projects, present guest lectures, and mentor students.

The company's continuing commitment to the University and a desire to advance the field of railroad engineering prompted the gift, says Sergio "Satch" Pecori (BS 73, MS 74), P.E., president and chief executive officer of Hanson Professional Services Inc. "Our founder, Walter Hanson, has close ties to the U of I and many of our employees are alumni," Pecori says. "We have built our employee-owned company around our hardworking, intelligent engineers and scientists, many of whom have attended U of I."

Hanson Professional Services Inc. is a full-service, national, employee-owned consulting firm with more than 375 employees in 14 offices nationwide and annual revenues of about $60 million. The firm's founder, department alumnus and former faculty member Walter Hanson (MS 47), founded the company in 1954 as Walter E. Hanson & Associates, a small bridge design engineering firm based in Springfield, Ill. Hanson had spent nine years on the faculty in the geotechnical area.

The company hopes this gift in support of railroad engineering education will meet a need for the industry and serve to educate the company's future employees, Pecori says.

"Another significant factor is that the company is very involved in railroad projects around the country, including Alaska," says Pecori. "We believe this will encourage education in railroad engineering and therefore advance the field. Our goal is to promote educational opportunities in this field, mentor students and support the railroad engineering profession."

"This generous support from Hanson represents a new type of partnership between the profession and academia," says Professor and Head Robert H. Dodds Jr. "We applaud this innovative thinking at Hanson which will lead to more students pursuing careers in the rail engineering industry."

For more information about Hanson, visit http://www.hanson-inc.com. For more information about the Railroad Engineering Program, visit http://sftp.cee.uiuc.edu/research/railroad/.

Alumnus Walter E. Hanson inducted into newly created Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame

The founder and chairman emeritus of Hanson Professional Services Inc., Walter E. Hanson (MS 47), P.E., S.E., in October was inducted into the Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Illinois Engineering Council.

The newly created Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame honors outstanding engineers in various fields of engineering who have worked as a manager or practitioner, established ties in Illinois, demonstrated significant engineering achievements, and served the engineering profession and community.

In addition to his master's degree from U of I, Hanson holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University. He served on the civil engineering faculty at U of I in the late 1940s and early 1950s. At that time, he co-authored "Foundation Engineering," a textbook that has been translated into numerous languages and dialects. Hanson continues to write articles, sponsor engineering scholarships, speak at University events and encourage engineer participation in educational forums.

The firm Hanson founded in 1954, now Hanson Professional Services Inc., has completed award-winning projects around the world. Hanson has maintained active memberships in 15 professional and technical societies, serving in numerous leadership positions.

His honors have included the American Society of Civil Engineers Honorary Member Award. In 1982 he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the department.
Corporate and Foundation Donors

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is proud of its strong ties to industry and practicing engineers. We gratefully acknowledge the corporations, foundations and professional associations that contributed to CEE from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006. This list includes organizations that made gifts to the department, as well as those who matched gifts made by their employees.

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Donors to any fund in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006, are listed below. We strive to make these lists as accurate as possible. If your name is listed incorrectly or omitted, please accept our apologies. For corrections or further information about making a gift, please contact John E. Kelley, jekelley@uiuc.edu, (217) 333-5120. Gifts made at the College of Engineering level will be recognized in the College of Engineering annual donor report.

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Research is an important part of the mission of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The many and varied projects of our faculty contribute to knowledge, enhance the education of our students, and improve the practice of civil and environmental engineering. On this page we acknowledge companies and organizations that are currently providing research funding in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Listed on these pages are the sponsoring agencies, the faculty members who are conducting the research and project names.
Harold Eaton Babbitt (1888-1970)  
Educator, researcher, early leader in environmental engineering

By William J. Hall and John D. Haltiwanger 
Emeritus Professors of Civil Engineering

Harold Eaton Babbitt was born in East Orange, N.J., on January 7, 1888. He received the S.B. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1911. Following engineering employment with the Long Island Railroad, he joined the staff of the Sanitary District of Chicago and later the Ohio State Board of Health.

In 1913 he joined the staff of the Department of Municipal and Sanitary Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as an Instructor. In 1917 he obtained the M.S. degree from Illinois. Babbitt became Professor of Sanitary Engineering in 1925, just one year prior to the discontinuance of the Department of Municipal and Sanitary Engineering on September 1, 1926. On this date Professor Arthur Newell Talbot, long-time head of that department, retired and the program in sanitary engineering was transferred to the Department of Civil Engineering with Babbitt in charge of the area.

Choosing early retirement in 1954, Babbitt attained the rank of Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering. He then engaged in a variety of consulting and educational assignments both in the U.S. and abroad, significantly influencing the development of municipal and sanitary engineering in the nation as a whole.

Babbitt was a pacesetter in American sanitary engineering education over more than four decades. The clarity of his exposition in the classroom and the effectiveness of his investigations in the laboratory very early identified him as a conspicuously successful teacher and a proficient researcher. Two of his textbooks, “Sewerage and Sewage Treatment” and “Water Supply Engineering” (with J.J. Doland), dominated this area of engineering textbook literature for many years and mirrored his constant search for excellence in education.

Upon retiring, Babbitt thrived on the opportunities and challenges awaiting him. He launched into a period of intensive writing that continued unabated for 30 years. His “Sewerage and Sewage Treatment” (John Wiley & Sons) first was published in 1922, went through eight editions, and by 1958 was co-authored by a former student, Professor E. Robert Baumann of Iowa State University. “Water Supply Engineering” (McGraw-Hill) first appeared in 1929 and by 1962 was in its sixth edition with the collaboration of Professor John L. Cleasby of Iowa State University. Other definitive works of Babbitt’s include “Plumbing” (McGraw-Hill), released in 1928 and reissued in its third edition in 1960, and “Engineering in Public Health” (McGraw-Hill), published in 1952. Babbitt wrote for a wide variety of technical periodicals and prepared the section on Water Supply and Purification of the widely-used reference volume Civil Engineering Handbook (McGraw-Hill), edited by Urquhart.

His research activities continued apace and included investigations of garbage disposal with sewage, diatomite water filtration, the hydraulics of wells and open channel flow of sludge, removal of radioactive phosphorous from water, effect of radioactivity on sludge digestion, disposal of radioactive wastes, and corrosion of copper pipe.

Babbitt’s professional activities included vigorous participation in numerous technical organizations and societies. These included the Water Pollution Control Federation, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Society of Professional Engineers (as well as the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers of which he was President in 1923, and secretary-treasurer from 1925 to 1950), American Public Health Association, Central States Water Pollution Control Association and others. He was an honorary member of the Water Pollution Control Federation and the recipient of the prestigious Fuller Award of AWWA.

From 1955 until 1957 Babbitt was an educational consultant in sanitary engineering in Brazil. In 1960 he traveled to Korea to act as an adviser to the dean of engineering at the University of Seoul. The following year he was at the University of Roorkee in India participating in a program of the International Cooperation Administration. Between these assignments he was a consultant to the Seattle Metropolitan District, the University of Missouri, and the State University of Iowa. These are but examples of the activities of this amazing engineer.

The influence of Babbitt in University and professional circles was all-pervasive. His service to this department was long and of extraordinary quality. His industry, technical competence and classroom skills provided ample evidence that the good teacher is still a priceless ingredient of the first-class university.

He died on October 10, 1970, in Seattle, Wash., where he and his wife had made their home since 1962.
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