2013

2013 Civil and Environmental Engineering Department News

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Michigan Technological University

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Dear CEE Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to report that the CEE department is on a solid foundation and continues to maintain a strong academic community of excellent faculty, hard working staff, and a great student body. This could not be accomplished without the exceptional support we get from all of you. Thank you all very much for your support!

Many of you already know that our friend and colleague Dr. C. Robert Baillod passed away last Spring. Bob’s vision, hard work, and self sacrifice helped build the department into a nationally ranked program. I was lucky to take some water and wastewater classes from Bob back in the late 1970s and his lectures always excited my curiosity and made me interested in the subject matter. His memorial is described in the newsletter.

Thanks to all of your support and the hard work performed by the students, the concrete canoe and steel bridge teams continue their winning ways. The concrete canoe team placed first in the regional competition and third in the national competition this past year. The steel bridge team placed first in the regional competition and fourth in the national competition. Congratulations to both teams!

This past year we have added three new faculty members into the department: Dr. Qingli Dai, Dr. Pasi Lautala, and Dr. Jeffrey Lidicker. Dr. Lautala and Dr. Lidicker are a part of the Michigan Tech Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative (SFHI) which focused on transportation. In addition, we are in the midst of hiring four new faculty members who will begin this Fall, details of which will follow in the next newsletter.

In the Fall of 2011, we inducted eight new members into the Academy of Civil and Environmental Engineers. The 107 members in the Academy are some of the most successful of our over 8,000 graduates. The next induction ceremony is scheduled for September 2013 and we are looking forward to honoring the next induction class.

When I was an undergraduate at Michigan Tech from 1977 – 1980 the camaraderie among students was very strong. In fact, this was one of the qualities I enjoyed most about being at Tech and I am happy to report that many of our current students still experience this closeness with their fellow classmates. The only thing that I felt was missing at that time was more rapport and interaction with the department. Starting this next academic year, I will begin regular meetings with all the undergraduates in CEE to keep them informed of what the department is doing, provide professional advice, and hear from the students how we can improve the department as a whole. I will let you know how this goes in the next newsletter.

Sincerely yours,

David Hand
Class of 1980 Professor and CEE Department Chair
dwhand@mtu.edu
www.mtu.edu/cee
In Memory of Bob Baillod

A little over one year ago, the department lost a long-time colleague and friend, Charles Robert “Bob” Baillod. Bob was a faculty member at Michigan Tech from 1968 until his retirement in 2007 but was best known for his service to the department as chair from 1991-2005. During his time as chair, the department made a great deal of progress in building the environmental engineering program to become one of the top in the nation. Bob initiated a capital campaign that immensely improved the civil engineering laboratory facilities. He was also instrumental in the development of the building plans for the Dow Environmental Sciences and Engineering Building, which opened in 1998. Another aspect of his role at the University was the proposal for the Great Lakes Research Center, completed in 2012. Bob also took a personal interest in the student concrete canoe team, acting as team advisor and traveling with the group to regional and national competitions.

Bob was also a well-published researcher in the areas of water and wastewater engineering and was active in professional service with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP). During his 34 years of community service on the Portage Lake Water and Sewage Authority Board, he provided expertise in wastewater treatment, which included the design of the new treatment facility to benefit the local community.

. . . One thing in particular that stands out about Bob’s time in the department was his commitment to continuous improvement. We are surrounded by his legacy in so many ways and want to ensure that his dedication to the department lives on. We have initiated a fund in his honor to allow us to make improvements to our laboratory teaching equipment. Please help us continue Bob’s legacy by directing your next donation to the Bob Baillod Memorial Equipment Endowment.


Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative

The Department welcomed two new tenure-track faculty to the Department in August 2012. They were hired as part of the Strategic Faculty Hiring Initiative in transportation. The initiative was designed to strengthen particular research areas in the University.

Dr. Pasi Lautala, P.E. – was previously a Research Assistant Professor with the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute and Director of the Rail Transportation Program. Dr. Lautala received his PhD from Michigan Tech in 2007 and has built a very successful research and education program in railroad transportation and engineering. He is currently managing almost $1 million in sponsored research funding. His primary research interest is in rail transportation engineering, however he is also interested in multimodal transportation; planning, policy and economics; sustainability of transportation; transportation infrastructure asset management; and railway engineering education development. While working toward his PhD at Tech, Pasi developed a unique “Summer in Finland” railroad engineering international educational experience with Tampere University in Finland. Today, Michigan Tech is home to the first national student chapter of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA), offers four rail related courses, and hosts three graduate students working on rail specific topics.

Dr. Jeffrey Lidicker completed his PhD in Transportation Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. His primary research areas are in infrastructure management, life-cycle assessment (LCA), alternative energy, freight transportation, systems economics, ITS, and policy. He also has interests in sustainability engineering (transit, climate change, and air quality) and city regional planning. Some of his publications include pavement maintenance optimization for emissions, electric vehicle economics, hydrogen fuel vehicle behavioral response, and car-share’s impact on vehicle ownership. He has a background in mathematic education and statistics and teaches departmental courses in the field of transportation including Traffic Flow, Transportation Economics, Aviation Transportation, Infrastructure Management, Choice Modeling, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Public Transit Theory. He offers graduate courses in Sustainable Transportation and Lifecycle Assessment at Michigan Tech.

Dr. Qingli (Barbara) Dai joined the civil and environmental faculty as an Assistant Professor in August 2011. She completed her PhD in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics at the University of Rhode Island in 2004. Dr. Dai has been one of the principle investigators of research projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Michigan Department of Transportation. She has authored and co-authored more than forty peer-reviewed papers. Her research focuses on sustainable materials and structures for civil infrastructure applications and integrates computational analysis, experimental testing, and sensor measurement to investigate the properties and performance of asphalt mixtures, hydration microstructure, and frost damage of concrete. Through her research, she has been able to collaborate with other multidisciplinary areas, including micromechanics, finite element method, discrete element method, molecular dynamics, acoustic emission detection, rock mechanics, self-healing materials, active materials, and structural damping control. Dr. Dai teaches matrix structural analysis and finite element analysis.
Student Memorial Awards

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department developed two memorial awards in 2006: the Danielle Ladwig Award for Graduate Excellence and the Nicole Bloom Award for Environmental Sustainability. The awards are dedicated in honor of two outstanding civil and environmental engineering department graduates.

THE NICOLE BLOOM AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This award is given annually to an undergraduate civil or environmental engineering student who has demonstrated leadership, passion, and activism for affecting environmental sustainability at the local, national, or global level. This award is accompanied by the Pati Damoder and Soumitri Reddy $1,500 undergraduate scholarship.

The 2013 Nicole Bloom Award is shared by two outstanding environmental engineering students, Breanna Cornell and Christa Meingast. Breanna has striven for awareness about water related issues and participated in Impossible2Possible’s Expedition Africa 2012, which involved running ultramarathons across the Kalahari Desert. Christa has worked to advance concepts in sustainability through research and has been active in presenting and educating others about her findings.

Left photo above: Breanna Cornell with Dr. Judith Perlenger
Right photo above: Christa Meingast with Dr. Eric Seagren and Dr. Jennifer Becker

THE DANIELLE LADWIG AWARD FOR GRADUATE EXCELLENCE

This award is made annually to a graduate level civil or environmental engineering student in recognition of outstanding achievement in academics, research, and service, in memory of our friend and colleague, Danielle F. Ladwig. This award is accompanied by the Pati Damoder and Soumitri Reddy $1,500 Graduate Fellowship.

Hamed Pouryousef has been awarded the 2013 Danielle Ladwig Award for Graduate Excellence. Hamed is a PhD candidate working in the area of railroad engineering at Michigan Tech since 2010. He has served the department as a mentor with the undergraduate student chapter of the Rail Engineering and Activities Club (REAC) and has also presented at the Joint Rail Conference and Transportation Research Board (TRB) 2013.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT OF THE YEAR

Rachael Barlock was voted by the CEE students as the outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) of the Year. She is completing her master’s degree in civil engineering this summer and researched with Dr. Brian Barkdoll on the reduction of scour downstream of stilling basins.
NSF CAREER AWARD

Associate Professor Veronica W. Griffis was awarded a CAREER proposal, one of the most prestigious and sought after awards offered by the National Science Foundation. Her proposal is titled “Flood Risk Projections with Climatic Variation and Human-Induced Shifts in Hydrologic Response.”

A large portion of the US population live in flood-prone areas, many of which experience devastating flood problems with increased frequency. The current flood risk estimation method used by insurance and governmental agencies is based on static estimates and does not take into account the effects of urbanization and climate change. Dr. Griffis’ objective is to create a statistical method and framework to project flood risk into the future by accounting for the impacts of natural climatic variability, potential climate change, and impending land use changes. This research will result in the creation of a physical, causal-based statistical framework for flood risk projection. These research objectives will be achieved through a combination of statistical models based on observed data and physically-based hydrologic models used to simulate flood series under future scenarios.

This project offers a significant outreach component that will result in the increased interest of K-12 students in science and engineering and also build awareness of the consequences of human activities on hydrologic processes. In particular, this project will offer field trips for area ninth grade students, lesson plans and an interactive web module for high school teachers, and activities to further encourage STEM outreach led by graduate and undergraduate students. Finally, the project will help to develop research themes to integrate into undergraduate water resources coursework.

GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

Rosa Flores Rangel, an environmental engineering doctoral candidate, was recognized for her research in the area of atmospheric chemistry. Rosa will complete her degree in the summer of 2013. Her research involves development of novel analytical methods to improve the understanding of atmospheric particles. Her research crosses several disciplines and has regional and global implications.

Rosa Flores Rangel with advisor Dr. Paul Doskey

NSF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Daniel Cerminaro, a recent Michigan Tech civil engineering graduate, was awarded a highly competitive NSF Graduate Fellowship to study “Earthquake -Induced Object Change Detection Using Remote Sensing.” The award provides a $30,000 per year fellowship and tuition expenses for three years. He started his PhD program in civil engineering at Michigan Tech this summer.
Giving Back – 120+ Years of Engineering Experience

CEE students have learned from the 120 years of combined experience that our three Professors of Practice have to offer. Bill Leder, P.E. and past Principal with Lea+Elliot, has experience with transportation and airport design; Bill Baxandall is the past owner of a water treatment company in Alaska and designer of water treatment systems; and Mike Drewyor, P.E. and PS, is the past owner of a full-service civil engineering and surveying firm. The years of professional experience they bring to the table has been an integral part of the capstone senior design experience in CEE. The students have benefited immeasurably from their real-world, practical experience.

Bill Leder and Bill Baxandall have worked on projects that benefit the local communities and park systems, including a recent project titled “Complete Streets for the City of Hancock,” “Bicycle Network Plan for the City of Hancock,” and “Floating Dock System for Passage Island Cove - Isle Royale National Park.” The class for the Isle Royale project consisted of six civil and six environmental engineering students forming three multidisciplinary teams. The scope included environmental assessment, design, construction, and operation and maintenance. Funding and logistical support for a three-day field trip was provided by the Isle Royale Boaters Association, a major stakeholder. A presentation and final report was provided to the client, the National Park Service.

The scope of the Hancock project involved planning, preliminary design, and cost estimates for sidewalk and bicycle networks, as well as the preparation of the Complete Streets Planning and Design Handbook. The students worked with the City of Hancock Planning Commission throughout the semester and made a public presentation on their final work. Challenges students faced during the project included steep grades in the city and older neighborhoods that do not meet modern municipal engineering standards. The teams, advised by Mr. Leder and Mr. Baxandall, worked on a similar project, “Complete Streets for Calumet/Laurium,” during the 2013 spring semester.

Some of the projects advised by Mike Drewyor have been a collaborative effort with Kiewit, Inc. Project engineers from Kiewit have worked with Mr. Drewyor to provide students with insight into Kiewit’s past or current projects, ranging from hydropower turbine installations in northern Ontario to a bascule bridge in Miami, Florida. This corporate involvement adds significant value to the learning outcomes of the senior design projects, and we look forward to continuing this partnership. Kiewit project facilitators include Jim Morrison, Tim Wielert, AJ Booker, and Russ Lutch.

If you or your company is interested in developing a relationship with the department to assist with future senior design projects, please contact the CEE Department Chair, David Hand (dwhand@mtu.edu).
IDESIGN—PANAMA

The department continues to offer quality international experiences for students with a two-part International Senior Design (iDesign) class for a combined total of six credits. CE4915 International Senior Design Field Experience has been conducted for the past three years in Panama and is led by Associate Professor David Watkins and Mike Drewyor, Professor of Practice. While in Panama, students spend an intensive two-week period of the summer session performing project assessments, including topographical surveying, community interviews, and other hands-on data collection activities. Projects have ranged from structural design of pedestrian suspension bridges to the design of charcoal production kilns, water supply systems, and irrigation systems.

In the fall, the students return to campus to complete the design component with Part II, CE4916. The students fulfill all of the required components of a senior design project, including a final report with engineering design, analysis, cost estimates, and construction scheduling. They also present at the annual D80 Conference, a department-led conference that highlights the various international efforts across Michigan Tech’s campus.

NAVIGATING THE CURRENTS OF ACADEMIA

Brian Barkdoll, Associate Professor, has integrated his research on open-channel flow with the undergraduate hydrodynamics laboratory. In 2010, Dr. Barkdoll installed a thirty-foot channel in the Dillman Hall Hydrodynamics Laboratory. This channel, which holds over 2,000 gallons of water, can simulate water flow experiments on erosion, sediment transport, compound-channel flow, and any issues related to rivers, sewers, or culverts. Undergraduate students conducted experiments and collected research data for the South Florida Water Management District project on scour reduction through air entrainment. Students were excited to participate in a real project and even volunteered to work on the project outside of class.

In 2011, Dr. Barkdoll’s teaching achievements were recognized with the University Distinguished Teaching Award and also with the 2011 CEE student-voted Howard E. Hill Faculty of the Year Award.

FACULTY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Tess Ahlborn, Associate Professor of Civil Engineering, was voted the 2013 Howard E. Hill Outstanding Faculty of the Year in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The award, which recognizes excellence and passion for teaching, was established in 1994 and is determined annually by the CEE students. Ahlborn teaches in the area of structural engineering, specifically concrete building and bridge design, and uses Dillman Hall (a reinforced concrete building) as a living classroom. Ahlborn was also awarded the Prestressed Concrete Institute Distinguished Educator Award in 2010.
Many of you remember Dr. Neil Hutzler from your years at Michigan Tech. Neil was a faculty member in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department for over thirty-five years and was instrumental in building the environmental engineering program. Neil retired from Michigan Tech in May 2012 and is enjoying other interests including golf and spending time with his grandchildren. During his thirty-five years of faculty service, he was responsible for over $6,000,000 in research funding, sixty refereed publications, and $1,000,000 in engineering education outreach funding. He was the major advisor for twenty-four master’s students and five PhD graduates. We miss Neil’s presence on a daily basis – but we are lucky that he continues to visit frequently.

UPPER PENINSULA ROAD BUILDERS SCHOLARSHIPS
The Upper Peninsula Road Builders is an association of the fifteen Upper Peninsula County Road Commissions. Since 1967 the Upper Peninsula Road Builders have been providing scholarships and other financial support exclusively to Michigan Tech civil engineering and surveying students.

This group of scholarships include: the UP Road Builders Endowed Memorial Scholarship, the Joseph H. Meager Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and the Richard C. Mertz Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The scholarships, ranging from $500-$1,000, are relatively unique in that they target upper class undergraduate students. Thank you to all of the alumni and friends that have donated to this scholarship fund. For information regarding the scholarships, contact Tim Colling, Director for the Center for Technology and Training, tkcollin@mtu.edu.

Pictured above, the Upper Peninsula Road Builders Scholarship board members with recent scholarship recipients and members of Michigan Tech’s administration. Front row, l-r: Doug Mills ’85, Dr. David Hand ’80, John Kaminski, Thomas Kilpela, Joshua Vander Hyden, Bruce Scuffham, President Glenn Mroz. Middle row, l-r: Jim Manderfield ’68, Jonathan Gerke, Kyle Marynik, Joel Ortman, Dr. Tim Colling ’93. Back row, l-r: Kevin Harju ’93 and Chair of the UP Road Builders Scholarship Board, Greg Patrick ’85, Dr. James Frendewey, Bill Roberts. Missing: James Davis.

NEIL J. HUTZLER, PHD, P.E., B.C.E.E.

Canadian National Railway Company (CN), announced it has donated $500,000 to Michigan Technological University’s Rail Transportation Program to create the CN Endowed Fellowship in Rail Transportation. This brings CN’s total funding for the program to $750,000.

Building on the CN Rail Transportation Education Center that opened in 2010, the endowment will support rail transportation-related projects and research, offer hardware and software resources for students, and provide student scholarships.

Learn more at: www.rail.mtu.edu

Above photo, l-r: Dr. Pasi Lautala, CEE Assistant Professor, Esmeralda Salinas (CN), Erik Czarnik ’06 (CN), Adam Johnson, Corporate Partnerships
Academy of Civil & Environmental Engineers Membership

Richard O. Anderson, P.E. ’71
F. William Baxandall, P.E. ’59
Ned W. Bechtold, Honorary Member
Philip R. Belisle, P.E. ’60
Lee E. Bernson, P.E. ’65, Deceased
William J. Bier, P.E. ’50
James R. Buck, PhD ’52, Deceased
Debra A. Campbell, P.E. ’76
Gerald J. Caspary ’43, Deceased
Harland Couillard ’75
Cletus L. Courchaine, P.E. ’52
Richard H. Crannell, P.E. ’65
Dale K. Deibel ’73
Paul J. DeKeyser ’78
George R. Ehler, P.E. ’77
James T. Emerson ’60
John A. Fortier, P.E. ’78
Herbert L. Fluhraty ’65
Paul B. Friar ’50
Phillip V. Fredericksen, P.E. ’60
Peter J. Grant ’68
William J. Grenney, PhD ’59
Russell A. Gronevelt, P.E. ’68
Herman Gundlach, Honorary Member, Deceased
David P. Gustafson, PhD, P.E. ’61
John Haro, F.A.I.A., Honorary Member
Thomas M. Healy, P.E. ’65
George H. Hermanson ’73
Burd Hikes ’49, Deceased
Robert D. Hitch, P.E. ’54, Deceased
Donald L. Holley, P.E. ’53
Thomas R. Irwin, P.E. ’63
James M. Jabara ’50
Harold S. Jensen, D.E. ’52
Thomas Kaderabek, P.E. ’73, Deceased
Christopher Kaempfer, P.E. ’71
Raymond C. Kestner ’55
Charles G. Kellogg ’66
John P. Kuts, P.E., PhD ’57, Deceased
James L. Krause ’51, Deceased
Kristine M. Krause ’76
Ronald M. Krump ’57
Debra Larson, PhD, P.E. ’78
William H. Leder, P.E. ’68
Paul R. Limatta, P.E. ’61
Roger W. Liska, EdD, P.E. ’65
Robert J. Luther ’61
Richard H. Lyon ’76
C. Thomas Maki, P.E. ’71
Roland A. Manucci ’58
John F. Marshall ’68
William F. Marshall ’69
Richard L. Masica, P.E. ’58
David I. Matson ’69
Gerald J. McCarthy, P.E. ’48

Academy of Civil & Environmental Engineers

The fourteenth Civil and Environmental Engineering Academy induction was held on September 30, 2011. The Academy was established in 1993 to recognize excellence and leadership in engineering and civic affairs of outstanding graduates and friends of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. Eight alumni were honored bringing the Academy membership to 107. For a complete list of members and biographies please visit www.mtu.edu/cee/department/alumni/academy.

HARLAND COUILLARD ’75
Harland Couillard completed his baccalaureate degree in civil engineering at Michigan Tech in 1975. Following graduation he joined Upper Peninsula Concrete Pipe Company as a production engineer. He presently serves there as Vice President and Senior Engineer. He has supervised the production of approximately eighty-seven arch bridges and 200 box culvert bridges along with storm and sanitary sewer systems for most of the municipalities and highway projects in the Upper Peninsula. He has also provided twenty-five years of technical support to the construction industry in the installation of underground piping.

JOHN HARO, F.A.I.A., HONORARY MEMBER
John Haro came to Michigan Tech in 1945 and spent two years in the civil engineering program before completing his Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Michigan in 1950. After serving in U.S. Navy during the Korean War, he went on to earn a Master of Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design in 1955. Mr. Haro worked in Detroit as an architect for thirty-eight years, thirty of them with Albert Kahn Associates, Inc. He retired as Senior Vice President in 1990.

THOMAS KADERABEK, P.E. ’73
Thomas Kaderabek completed his baccalaureate degree in civil engineering in 1973 and his master’s degree in civil engineering in 1974 with an emphasis in geotechnical engineering. In 1982 he co-founded Kaderabek & Barreiro Consultants, Inc. The company specializes in geotechnical and environmental consulting services in the state of Florida. In 2003 he founded Kaderabek Company of Doral, Florida and continued to provide his geotechnical and materials engineering expertise with a staff of twenty people. We are sorry to note that Tom passed away shortly after his induction to the Academy.

DEBRA LARSON, PHD, P.E. ’78
Debra Larson received her baccalaureate in civil engineering in 1978 and her master’s degree in 1981 at Michigan Tech. She went on to complete her PhD at Arizona State University in 1994. Dr. Larson’s academic career began in 1994, after an earlier career as a civil and structural engineer working in manufacturing, product development, and consulting. Currently, Dr. Larson serves as the Dean of Engineering for California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. Prior to this she was the associate vice provost at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.
WILLIAM MURCHIE, P.E. ’76
William Murchie received his baccalaureate degree in civil engineering from Michigan Tech in 1976. Following graduation, he worked as a design engineer, project engineer, and project manager for Edmands Engineering, Inc. (now part of Wade Trim Group) in Bay City, Michigan. In 1986 he co-founded AM Engineering, Inc. in Sarasota, Florida. In addition to serving as president and utility engineer for AM Engineering, Inc., he founded or co-founded several other companies in the leasing, utility operations, and document imaging industries.

BRENDA O’BRIEN, P.E. ’84
Brenda O’Brien completed her baccalaureate degree in civil engineering at Michigan Tech in 1984. Ms. O’Brien started her civil engineering career with MHM Associated, Inc., a structural engineering consulting firm in Indiana. She joined the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in 1988 as a transportation engineer. Currently she is the Engineer of Construction and Technology for MDOT with a staff of approximately 130 people. In this position, she is responsible for statewide operations of the construction, materials, and pavement/bridge management programs.

ERIC PETERSON, P.E. ’70
Eric Peterson completed his baccalaureate degree in civil engineering at Michigan Tech in 1970 and a master’s in business administration in 1971. Following graduation Mr. Peterson focused his career in the railroad industry, the majority of it with CSX Transportation. After joining the company in 1974 as an Assistant Division Engineer, he rose through the managerial levels including Manager of Engineering and General Manager of Signal Engineering and later to Assistant Chief Engineer of Public Projects before retiring in 2008.

RAYMOND ROUGHT, P.E. ’70
Raymond Rought completed his baccalaureate degree in civil engineering at Michigan Tech in 1970. Following graduation, he served in the US Army in Vietnam. Upon return to civilian life, Ray joined MDOT, as an Airport Development Engineer. In 1978 he completed his master’s in civil engineering from Michigan State. He stayed with MDOT until 1986 having attained the level of Division Director. He then moved on to Director of the Office of Aeronautics for the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
Michigan Technological University
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CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

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