

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering Newsletter

End of Year BBQ and Graduate Celebration Noon - June 8, 2004

A BBQ to celebrate our graduating seniors and graduate students will be held at the southwest corner of SB2 at noon on June 8. All of our students are cordially invited to attend and our graduating students will be recognized with a small going-away gift from the Department. You may even catch one of the faculty members behind the grill. We hope to see you there!

Grants – Faculty to Look at Soil Metals

Dr. Bill Fish and **Dr. Gwynn Johnson** received a grant of \$212,945 from the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Titled, "Dynamic Model of Fertilizer-Derived Metals in Soil," their project will help the ODA better understand the fate of metals in fertilizer, lime and other agricultural amendments. ODA's goal is to determine if the standards set in Oregon are adequate to protect human health and the environment. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Fish will be sampling and testing soil from several sites around the state.



Faculty Focus



Dr. Gwynn Johnson joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in the Fall 2002 as a professor of environmental engineering. Dr. Johnson's research interests focus on the mechanistic study of processes that govern environmental systems, specifically those contributing and pertaining to

subsurface flow and contaminant transport/fate and remediation. She is teaching Water Resources Engineering and Groundwater Contamination Transport this term. Dr. Johnson's dedication, energy and enthusiasm are great assets to the Department.

Faculty research grants Winter 2004

Faculty	Title (shortened)	Sponsor	Amount
W. Mueller	Seismic Qualification of Electronic Equip	Underwriters Laboratory	\$13,200
S. Wells	CE-QUAL-W2 Model	Corps of Eng	\$47,801

Message from the Chair

The past few months have been an exceptional time for the Department. An [\\$8 million donation from Dr. Fariborz Maseeh](#) to the College assures us of starting (and completing) the new Engineering Building. We are fortunate to have a new faculty member in Transportation Engineering, Dr. Chris Monsere.



Carol Hasenberg, Instructor in CEE, has taken on the role of coordinating an exciting new College initiative - an Engineering Design Freshman Inquiry sequence that will debut Fall 2004. To make space for laboratories in SB2, the University is planning temporary trailers on the greenspace behind SB1. The Department may be moving some of its research staff and classroom space there until the new Engineering Building is constructed. We appreciate your support; please come by and visit next time you are on campus!

Faculty/Staff News

The CEE Department welcomes new faculty member, **Dr. Christopher Monsere**. Dr. Monsere joined the Department as a Research Assistant Professor in April. His research expertise includes highway safety, traffic engineering, freight transportation and planning, economic analysis of transportation systems, and intelligent transportation systems. He received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 2001, and was the Highway Safety Engineer at ODOT before joining our faculty. Dr. Monsere is teaching a new seminar this spring called, "Cost-Benefit Analysis of Transportation Engineering," and is co-teaching a new course, "Freight Transportation and Logistics."



Dr. Franz Rad is offering a new seminar this spring called "Forensic Structural Engineering." Held Fridays at noon, it covers the application of engineering principles in investigating failures and performance problems of structures. Art James, author of a forensic engineering book, is a featured guest speaker.

PSU was recently awarded \$2.3 million for seismic upgrades to the Ondine Building and Montgomery Court. The specific construction plans are not yet final, but will rely on recommendations from **Carol Hasenberg**, who surveyed the buildings with STAR Lab CEE students for the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Resources.

Other recent faculty news:

- * **Rob Annear** was selected to receive an outstanding student paper award for his presentation and paper titled, "Modeling Streambed Heating in Shallow Streams." The award decision was made by the AGU Hydrology Student Award Committee at the 2004 AGU Conference in San Francisco.
- * **Chik Erzurumlu** was elected as the national chair of Professional Engineers in Education (PEE), one of five practice divisions of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). As chair of PEE, he also serves as vice president on the NSPE Board of Directors.
- * **Robert Bertini** has published two manuscripts written with graduate student Ahmed El-Geneidy. One was published in the Journal of the Transportation Research Board and the other was published in the Journal of Transportation Engineering, American Society of Civil Engineers.
- * **Scott Wells** visited Dave Evans and Associates' Portland campus on February 27th and presented an invited lecture on the research, faculty, and curriculum in the Department.
- * **Robert Bertini** chaired a session on "Freeway Bottlenecks and Ramp Metering" and presented three papers with graduate students at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C. in January.
- * **Robert Doneker** was invited by University of Sao Paulo and the Sao Paulo State environmental protection agency (CETESB) to a workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil in December 2003.
- * **Scott Wells, Robert Annear, and Chris Berger** presented their co-authored paper at National TMDL Science and Policy Conference in Chicago, IL in November 2003.



As always, the **ASCE Student Chapter** has been very active under the leadership of Kate Elliott. In April, twenty-two members and Dr. Bertini traveled to Klamath Falls, OR for the annual NW Regional Conference and Concrete Canoe/Steel Bridge competitions. The canoe did well in the races and took fifth place for overall paddling. The steel bridge placed fourth in both stiffness and aesthetics. For the first time in many years, PSU also competed in the Survey and concrete frisbee events. The students had a great time, got sunburned and gained valuable design experience.



ASCE Highlights from Winter term 2004 include:

- The Chapter hosted several presentations and technical lunches, including one in January by Larry Swenson from NOAA about fish passage design.
- The ASCE Student Chapter participated in National Engineering Week in February by hosting the truss event for the PSU design competitions, an event for grade school and high school kids who have an interest and aptitude for engineering.
- The Student Chapter held a Career Fair at PSU on March 1st. Over twenty employers attended, and students from PSU and OSU found this a great opportunity to network with professionals in the community.

To keep up on the ASCE events until the end of the school year, visit their website: www.asce.pdx.edu.

CEE Advisory Council

The CEE Department is advised by a group of professional engineers that make up an Advisory Council. In February, the Council adopted new by-laws and elected a Chair (Dr. Leon Kempner) and Vice Chair (Dale Richwine). The Council meets three times a year to give input to the Department about curriculum, employer's needs, strategic planning, etc.



DONORS WINTER 2004

Donors to CEE for January through March 2004 include David Lee & Associates, Mr. B. Craig Keller, Kenneth and Noreen Robbins, and Mr. Jan Wick. Thank you for your support!

HOW TO DONATE TO CEE

A check payable to "PSU Foundation-CEE" can be mailed to: Portland State University Foundation, P.O. Box 243, Portland, OR 97207-0243. If specified for CEE, money will be used to directly support CEE students, labs, etc. You can also visit the [PSU Foundation Web site](http://www.psu.edu/foundation).

Photo on left: CEE Advisory Council l to r: Scott Wells, Wesley Spang, Dale Richwine, David Evans, Jory Abrams, Leon Kempner, Mort Anshouravani, Wayne Kittelson, Arlan Rippe. Not pictured: Ken Husby.