

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering Newsletter

Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science

Message from the Chair



“Change is Good” could be the motto for the start of the 2004-2005 academic year at PSU with all the exciting changes on campus this Fall. The construction crane is up over the site of the new Engineering building (see our [web page](#) for live video), and the Computer Science Department just welcomed 12 new faculty members (10 of which are

from OHSU/OGI). There are also changes within CEE, including a new faculty member and demolition of the old concrete laboratory. We are initiating two significant design experiences for PSU students - a new Freshman Inquiry sequence called “Design and Society,” where students work all year on multiple design projects, and our newly reformatted senior capstone project management and design sequence that starts this Winter. Carol Hasenberg has been instrumental in both of these initiatives. Please come to campus this Fall to visit us while we are still in Science Building 2!

Faculty Focus



Dr. Peter Dusicka joined the CEE faculty as an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering this fall. He completed his Doctorate at the University of Nevada in Reno where his research activities ranged from investigating the performance of steel bridge assemblies to testing non-structural equipment with a

shake table. His academic interests are in large-scale experimentation, shake table testing and application of new materials in bridges and buildings. He embraces the green Pacific Northwest having grown up in Vancouver, Canada and spending half of his mater's degree time in Auckland, New Zealand. He enjoys outdoor activities and looks forward to socially playing more tennis, in which he used to compete as part of the varsity team at the University of British Columbia. Please join us in welcoming him, eh!

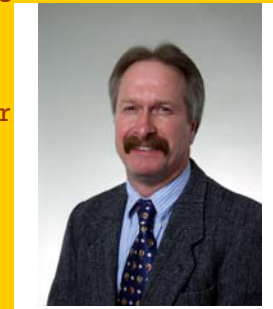
Research Grants Spring-Summer 2004

Faculty	Title (shortened)	Sponsor	Amount
T. Smith	Rockfall Catchment Guide	FHWA	\$94,834 & \$40,000
W. Mueller	Jumper Insulator Tests	BPA	\$33,228
C. Monsere/R. Bertini	Impacts/Issues of Speed Limit Change	ODOT	\$41,000
C. Monsere/R. Bertini	Community Traffic Safety	City of Portland	\$41,000
S. Wells	Lake Whatcom TMDL	State of WA	\$33,000
W. Mueller	Seismic Test of Transformer	BPA	\$36,125
W. Mueller	Test Bridge Panels	Multnomah Co.	\$91,350

Grants – Digital Resources for Geotechs

During the past few years, Dr. Trevor Smith has begun developing exciting multi-media library resources for geotechnical engineers. “Introduction to the Inspection of Ground Anchors and Soil Nails” and “Inspection of Ground Anchors” are CDs for anyone requiring an introduction to drilled soil nail and ground anchor

technology, especially those involved in installation, testing and inspection. “ESA-Build Smart” is an overview of the ESA implications for highway construction. Richard Barrows, the FHWA sponsor, commended Dr. Smith’s work on this digital resource as a national first! Recently, Dr. Smith secured an additional \$94,000 from FHWA



for a three-phase digital implementation of the Oregon Department of Transportation's recent Rockfall Catchment Design Guide. CD info can be found at:

http://www.ocate.edu/civil_cd/civil.htm.

Faculty/Staff News

- Congratulations to Dr. Robert Bertini who was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure last spring. He joined the CEE faculty in Fall 2000 and has been a valuable addition to the university. His many accomplishments include collaboration with the School of Urban Studies and Planning as faculty member and Director for the Center for Transportation Studies, numerous publications and research grants, and development of an Intelligent Transportation Lab that supports a team of students and faculty. He has also created new courses and been chosen “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” in the College.
- Dr. Gwynn Johnson’s paper, “The Effect of Local-Scale Physical Heterogeneity and Non-linear, Rate-limited Sorption/Desorption on Contaminant Transport in Porous Media,” was the tenth most downloaded article of the year in the “Journal of Contaminant Hydrology.” This journal is one of the major publications in the field of subsurface contaminants. This article by Johnson, et al., was published in 2003.
- Dr. Chris Monsere was invited to serve on the study review team for Oregon’s Highway Cost Allocation Study. He also received his P.E. license in July 2004.
- The CEE department hosted a high school student researcher, Trevor Deluca, during the summer of 2004. ASE (Apprenticeships in Science and Engineering) sponsored a student to work with the department’s Water Quality Research Group.

The photo below is from Waldo Lake where Dr. Scott Wells and Trevor examined the wind field.



- Dr. Robert Bertini made a presentation at the Transportation and Livability Summit, organized by Congressman Earl Blumenauer in Gresham, Oregon.

Fundraising Dinner (October 30th). Check the ASCE calendar of events at www.asce.pdx.edu for more details about this dinner and other upcoming activities.

- The Campus & Grounds Building behind Science Building 2, which had been the concrete laboratory for many years, has been demolished (see photo below). The concrete canoe lab found a new home in the basement of the Art building on campus. This new location is close to the site of the new Engineering building.



Goodbye old concrete canoe lab!

Student News

- Congratulations to the CE students who took the FE exam in April 2004. There was a 92% passing rate for those who took the "civil" exam and 100% passing rate for those who took the "general" exam.
- ASCE has another active year planned for 2004-2005. Coming up soon is their first Annual

Alumni Profile



Dale Richwine has worked as a consulting engineer with CH2M HILL and MWH Americas, Inc. for 14 of his 24-year career since graduating from PSU. He left consulting and served a four-year period as the Operations Manager for Clean Water Services where he was responsible for the operations of their four treatment plants during a \$200M expansion and upgrade. He is currently the NW Regional Wastewater Director with MWH Americas, Inc. following a six-year period where he had his own firm of Richwine Environmental, Inc. Dale now provides project management and technical assistance on projects throughout the Western United States for MWH. Dale has taught courses for the Department, and is one of the charter members of the CEE Advisory Council. *We want to hear from you. What have you been doing since you graduated?* Contact us at ceedept@cecs.pdx.edu.

Spring 2004 BBQ and Graduation Photos



Donors

David Evans and Associates, Inc. has again made scholarships available to students in our program. In addition, DEA recently donated a Topcon 802A total survey station. Our students will now have experience with more current survey technology. Thank you for your ongoing 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. Please specify that your donation is for the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering; this ensures that your entire donation will be directly available for our Department to use to support the ASCE Student Chapter, upgrade student labs and equipment, etc.