



Welcome from the Department Head

Mississippi State's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department proactively uses teaching, research, and service to educate baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral students. We feel the first, best calling of our students is to become Professional Engineers by becoming competent, dynamic, and ethical engineers of the future. This E-newsletter is our effort to share a snippet of a few of the achievements we have made during this higher education journey.

End of the Year Award Round-Up

A number of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the Mississippi State University Civil and Environmental Engineering Department have recently been awarded a variety of awards and recognitions, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize their achievements.

Dr. Veera Gnaneswar Gude (center) was named Engineer of the Year by ASCE. The Engineer of the Year award recognizes his service to the engineering profession, professionalism, and ethics. This year, ASCE also awarded the Young Engineer of the Year Award to an MSU alumna, **Dr. Edith Martinez-Guerra** (left). According to the ASCE website, the Young Engineer of the Year Award is presented to someone "who has advanced the profession; exhibited technical competence, high character and integrity; developed improved member attitudes toward the profession; and contributed to public service outside their professional careers."



Dr. Isaac Howard (left) was elevated to the status of Fellow of ASCE. This signifies professional licensure, substantial contribution to the profession, and a record of responsibility in performance of the duties related to the responsible discharge of the duties of a civil engineer. ASCE notes that "Fellows have made celebrated contributions and developed creative solutions that change lives around the world. It is a prestigious honor held by 3% of ASCE members."

Within Mississippi State University, Dr. Howard was also awarded the Bagley College of Engineering Distance Teaching Award.

Ben Hunter Kennett (far left), an alum of MSU Civil and Environmental Engineering Department class of 2000, was named one of Bagley College of Engineering's Distinguished Fellows. This recognition is made each spring, and alumni are selected for this honor to recognize their accomplishments and commitment to the field of engineering and to acknowledge them as part of the best and brightest who have graduated from the Bagley College of Engineering.





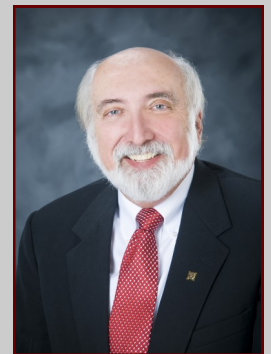
Dr. James Martin has received the title of Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE) from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. Also called the Diplomat of Environmental Engineering (DEE), this certification recognizes Dr. Martin's expertise of environmental engineering. The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department now has three BCEEs in the faculty, with Dr. Gude and Dr. Truax also having this certification.



Sandra Ortega-Archury (second from left), a Research Associate with the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, has been recognized for her work in the department. She was awarded the 2018 Research Support Award from the Office of Research and Economic Development and Bagley College of Engineering. This award honors her contribution to the University's mission of research.

In addition, Ms. Ortega-Archury was also selected as the Outstanding Alumnus, or Egresada destacada, from the agricultural engineering program by Universidad Surcolombiana in Colombia. This award, which recognizes her academic and professional achievements, will be officially presented at an Alumni Meeting in May.

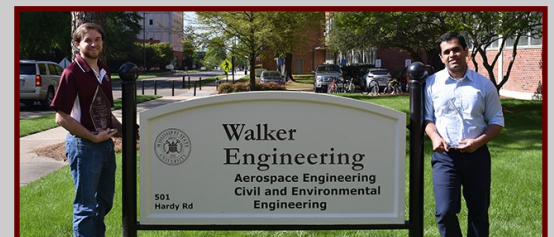
Dr. Dennis D. Truax was awarded the designation of Diplomat, Water Resources, Engineer (D.WRE) by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers Board of Trustees. The AAWRE website notes that "the D.WRE Board Certification is the highest level of advanced certification offered in the water resources engineering profession for professional engineers (P.E.) and is an accredited certification program by the Council of Engineering & Scientific Specialty Boards."



Two of our CEE students, **Bridget Abadie** (right) and **Daniel Wells** (left), were awarded the Bruce Tucker Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded to students interested in pursuing a career in the construction industry, and due to the high number of applicants, it is extremely notable that two of the recipients are MSU students.

Graduate students **Shahriar Shahrokhadi** (right) and **James Williams** (left) were selected by the Office of the Graduate School to receive the 2018 Graduate Research Assistant Awards; Shahriar as the PhD Candidate Award recipient and James as the MS Candidate Award recipient. These awards reflect their success and commitment to supporting the research of the university, and their scholarship during the time they have been at Mississippi State pursuing their degrees.



Phong Ly and **Jim Steele** (not pictured) were identified as two of the three finalists in the Undergraduate Division of the 2018 EWRI Student Technical Paper Competition. Phong Ly's paper was titled "Green Alternatives: Analysis of rain garden hydrology and water quality performance," and Jim Steele wrote a paper titled "Analyzing Suspended Sediment Transport in Catalpa Creek." Both students will be presenting their papers at the 2018 World Environmental and Water Resources Congress, from June 3-7, in Minneapolis, MN.



The Journal of Terramechanics recently named their 2016 Editor's Choice articles. One article, Improved sinkage algorithms for powered and unpowered wheeled vehicles operating on sand, was written by a number of MSU faculty, staff, and alumni. **George L. Mason**, the lead author, is a research professor with MSU's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems. **Dr. Farshid Vahedifard** and **Isaac L. Howard** are faculty members in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, and **Joe D. Robinson** is a former graduate student. The other two authors are both employed with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. The article is available free to download online until May 22, 2018.

The Mississippi State University Chapter of ASCE came in first place overall for the Concrete Canoe at the Deep South Student Conference, qualifying them to move on to compete in the 2018 ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition hosted by San Diego University in June. In addition to first place in the Concrete Canoe, the team also won first place in the Environmental Quiz Bowl, the Mystery Design Competition, and Runner-Up in the Co-Ed Sprint.



And finally, the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Mississippi State University was named 6th on the list of Best Online Master's degrees in Civil Engineering. The list was compiled by SR Education Group, and published on the "Guide to Online Schools" website.

An update on the proposed Richard A. Rula Civil Engineering Complex

The contract documents for the \$32 million CEE Complex will be out for bid soon with construction expected to start this summer. Fund raising for facility enhancements and laboratory equipment is now underway. Donations of books for the library and equipment for the laboratories are being accepted. These gifts can be coordinated through the department or the MSU Foundation. To add your name to the list of contributors, visit www.cee.msstate.edu/giving.



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