

CEE CONNECTION

SPRING 2015, ISSUE 16

Your Link to the Department of Civil Engineering



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IN MEMORIAM

The Department would like to dedicate space normally reserved for the Department Chair's message to Dr. Kenneth Kerri as a tribute to his leadership and dedication to the Department of Civil Engineering and to Sacramento State.



Dr. Ken Kerri, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Civil Engineering and founder of the Office of Water Programs, passed on the morning of December 15, 2014. The academic community and the water industry were made better by his energetic contributions over the course of 50 years.

Professor Ken Kerri was a faculty member in the Department of Civil Engineering at Sacramento State for almost 40 years before retiring from teaching in 1997. During his teaching career, Ken mentored hundreds of civil engineering students.

In 1972, Professor Kerri was a pioneer in establishing the Office of Water Programs, which is now recognized as the leading national training program for operators and managers of drinking water and wastewater plants and facilities. Over 1 million operator and manager training manuals have been sold throughout the world and translated into many foreign languages.

Because of Dr. Kerri's tireless efforts, this unique training program brings special recognition to the university. As Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering, Dr. Kerri continued to be active with the Office of Water Programs, further developing the catalog of training materials and looking for opportunities to expand services.

Dr. Kerri also continued to be active in many professional organizations and received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding service to the profession. In August 2014, the Water Environment Federation inducted Dr. Kerri into the WEF Fellows Program in the category of Education/Research. He was also the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award by the Sacramento State Alumni Association. As part of his legacy to the Sacramento State community, he leaves the Ken Kerri Endowment Fund, which will continue to honor a lifetime of achievement and contribution to the field of civil engineering by a man who was deeply committed to and energetic about his lifelong professional endeavors.

Assistant City Manager to Speak at Ken Kerri Luncheon

Sacramento's Assistant City Manager, John Dangberg, will be joined by David Friedman, President of Fulcum Properties, to discuss work on Sacramento's Entertainment and Sports Complex at the seventh annual Ken Kerri Endowment Fund Luncheon on Wednesday, April 15.



Mr. Dangberg, who has 30 years of public-sector experience focusing on community and economic development, is the Project Director for the Entertainment and Sports Complex being built in downtown Sacramento. He has been Assistant City Manager since 2006.

This event is sure to be a timely and exciting discussion, so get your tickets now before the event is sold out!

On the cover...

Dr. Ken Kerri and his wife, Judy, at the 2nd Annual Ken Kerri Endowment Fund Luncheon in 2010.

In Memoriam: Professor Jim Post



Dr. Jim Post, Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering at Sacramento State, taught courses in geology and pavement design, as well as geotechnical engineering labs, for 28 years in the department. He passed on August 9, 2014 in Grass Valley, California.

James "Jim" Lewis Post was born on September 25, 1929, in South Bend, Indiana. He received his bachelor's degree in mining engineering from the Socorro School of Mines (now the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology). He then worked as a mining engineer throughout the western hemisphere, including Bolivia.

After a number of years, he decided to become a teacher and earned his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Dr. Post's area of expertise was clay mineralogy, and he published many papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Most recently, he published a paper titled "Uses of Near-infrared Spectra for the Identification of Clay Minerals" in the journal *Applied Clay Science* in April 2014.



Keynote Speaker **JOHN DANGBERG** Sacramento Assistant City Manager
with Project Developer **MARK FRIEDMAN**, President of Fulcrum Properties

KENNERRI

Endowment Fund

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING



Annual Luncheon



Courtesy of Sacramento Entertainment and Sports Center

Discussing
Sacramento's
Entertainment &
Sports Complex

Sponsors to date:

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- Mead & Hunt
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- SAGE Engineering
- Teichert Construction
- University Enterprises, Inc.
- Wood Rodgers

Wednesday
April 15, 2015

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Sac State Alumni Center

For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Neysa Bush at (916) 278-6982- nbush@csus.edu or visit our website at www.ecs.csus.edu/ce/

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The registration deadline will be Friday, May 1st

Proceeds support the Sacramento State Civil Engineering program.

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Evening with AN INDUSTRY

An Evening With Industry Highlights Sacramento's Transformation

With so many exciting projects underway in downtown Sacramento, Jerry Way was the perfect keynote speaker for the 11th annual An Evening With Industry on November 6. Mr. Way



is the Director of Public Works for the City of Sacramento, and his talk touched on the arena, the Railyards, the I Street Bridge, the streetcar and more. Attendance at this informative networking event was standing room only, with undergraduate and graduate students making up the vast majority of the crowd.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, who also worked on the Railyards many years ago, Mr. Way discussed Sacramento's ambitions to create "union stations" like those in L.A. or Washington, D.C. The vision is for all manner of transportation – buses, taxis, bikes, trains, streetcars – to serve the same location. As

for the I Street Bridge, Mr. Way said the existing bridge will remain for railroad use, and that the new bridge will be low profile, neighborhood friendly, and movable.

Discussion of the new downtown arena spurred questions from the audience about transportation and parking, which of course will be dramatically affected by the arena. While Americans are known for driving alone when commuting, research conducted for the City showed that two to three people per vehicle, on average, travel to a Kings game.

Streetcars have been widely discussed in Sacramento as a way to reduce this single occupancy vehicle trend, but "they are not a foregone conclusion," said Mr. Way, emphasizing his neutrality on the issue. "The finance plan has not yet been adopted. If elected officials want streetcars, they'll get them."

Parking is going to be a key issue as development continues. The streets of downtown have many metered parking spaces, but vehicles with disabled placards do not pay for parking.

"There is a subculture where you can easily get a blue placard," said Mr. Way. "It's an absolute tragedy that you can get in a single occupancy vehicle, come downtown and park for free. We're paralyzed by political correctness."

He also mentioned that drivers of electric vehicles (EVs), who don't pay gas taxes, don't contribute financially to the damage they cause to roadways, and that a way to exact fees from EV drivers should be pondered.

Summing up the myriad transportation challenges and opportunities facing Sacramento, Mr. Way acknowledged that Sacramento is not moving millions of people like New York, Chicago or San Francisco. "Here, you can move around well downtown," he said. "We want to stay ahead of things so we don't end up like those cities. We want to plan thoughtfully so our kids and grandkids can have it better."

Sound Bites: Panelists Offer Professional Advice to Students

The Evening With Industry is designed to give students a sneak peek – and a head start – into the professional world of engineering. The five panelists at the event offered candid advice from each of their unique vantage points:

Rob Burns, PE, Associate Bridge Engineer at Dokken Engineering, on whether a student should go for a master's degree before getting their Professional Engineering license:

"The greatest experience is working and also working on your MS. It's the best of both worlds: you get the theory and can apply it to your work experience."

Rob Burns on how to excel:

"Don't just ask questions about the task [at hand] but ask how this relates to the bigger picture. Knowing that gives you a sense of purpose and helps you catch mistakes and avoid assumptions."

Rebecca Neves, PE, City Engineer for the City of Placerville, on easing the transition from student to professional:

"Pay attention! Watch others, understand why people do things and never stop asking questions."

Rebecca Neves on day-to-day realities:

"Ninety percent of daily communication as an engineer is email. Be polite, professional and straightforward. Your company hired you as an engineer – above all else, be a good engineer."

Becky Money, PE, GE, CFM, Senior Geotechnical Engineer at Kleinfelder Engineering, on mistakes to avoid:

"Thinking you know what you should be doing and being too shy to ask. Don't be afraid to ask questions in front of your boss."

Becky Money on balancing work and family:

"I built relationships so that after having kids I could work part-time and work from home."

Helen Rocha, PE, Project Engineer at Forsgren Associates, on lessons learned:

"I can't emphasize enough how I wish I had taken technical writing classes. I highly suggest you take those classes."

Helen Rocha on finding internships:

"I tell mentees to get business cards from people they meet and write talking points on the back to remind you when and where you spoke with them."

Cesar Montes de Oca, PE, QSD, President and a Principal at UNICO Engineering, on avoiding surprises:

"Don't be afraid to ask about project expectations regarding budget. Be frank."



All five panelists are featured in Alumni News & Notes beginning on page 17.

ITE Student Leadership Summit Comes to Sacramento State

Valentine's Day weekend brought more than 100 engineering students from all over the western United States to the Sacramento State campus for the second annual Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Student Leadership Summit. Sacramento State hosted this event for the first time, and it was a smashing success.

Hailing from 16 universities including UC Berkeley, Oregon State University, University of Washington and Brigham Young University (and about 25 from Sacramento State), the students were all transportation-minded, and their attendance was rewarded with a rich variety of networking and



skill-building activities. "The main purpose of the event is for the future generation of transportation engineers to meet up, make connections and see where the industry is going in the near future," said Spencer Ord, who with Reaa Ali co-chaired the event planning committee.

The weekend kicked off with a Transportation Industry Fair, where more than a dozen firms hosted booths to inform students about their business and recruit interns. The keynote speaker for that evening's dinner – one of many accomplished professionals who gave presentations throughout the event – was Will Kempton, the Executive Director of the California



Transportation Commission and the former director of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Parallel breakout sessions on the second day focused on three main topics: leadership, transportation and career development. Attendees chose one of two offerings under each topic. "We're proud of the support we've gotten from the industry," said Reaa, acknowledging the impressive roster of speakers. "The nice thing is we're located in Sacramento so a lot of professionals are local or are willing to come here. That's unique to us."

Then, with a nod to Valentine's Day, the next activity was modeled after "speed dating," but was branded "speed interviews." Thirty-five engineering professionals armed with interview questions cycled through the student attendees, who had only three minutes to answer before jumping to the next table. "It's very high pressure and tough for students, but last year I took the most away from that event," said Spencer. "After you answer the question, they give you feedback so you see what you did and didn't do well. For many students, this is their first chance to talk to professionals."

The biggest assignment of the summit was the Public Service Announcement (PSA) competition, wherein groups of five or six students were given a sample roadway that needed some enhancements; for example, adjustments for pedestrians and bicyclists or creating eco-friendly elements. Groups had to come up with engineered solutions, create a PSA and present it on the last day of the summit.

“We didn’t allow technology, so they had to do flip charts,” said Reaa. “It was another way to take them out of their comfort zone. We were trying to pull in an engaging activity that ties in a lot of different leadership qualities and gets students to exercise them in a limited time.”

Summit attendees also enjoyed plenty of social pursuits, including an improvisational comedy hour, a mixer and a banquet. A remarkable amount of coordination and planning went into the summit, and planning committee members pulled from experiences they’d had at other events, but also innovated with some new ideas of their own. Social media, word-of-mouth and paper flyers contributed to the summit’s popularity, as it was a sold-out event.

After the summit, one of the professional presenters emailed Reaa saying a student told him, “We all came here with our own school colors, but we are going back as one.”

“We achieved our underlying goal of getting students to branch out and meet other people,” said Reaa. “The last day we had everybody wear the T-shirt we gave them, so they all did leave wearing the same color and felt like the same student body under the ITE umbrella.”

Spencer and Reaa would like to thank the faculty and students who helped in planning the Student Leadership Summit, especially Dr. Kevan Shafizadeh and Dr. Ghazan Khan. Summit student planning committee members were: Reaa Ali, Austin Allen, Patrick Calonia, Nicole Humphreys, Karen Kulesza, Mikey Lucas, Danny Nguyen, Spencer Ord, Sean Ornelas-Linter, Sahand Rastegarpour, Jeff Rud, Vian Somo and Matt Wicks.



“ The nice thing is we’re located in Sacramento so a lot of professionals are local or are willing to come here. That’s unique to us. ” — Reaa Ali

Students Present Project Posters for New Applied GIS Class

A new class offered in the fall 2014 semester introduced undergraduate and graduate students to applied Geographic Information Systems, or GIS, in civil engineering.

Taught by Dr. Ghazan Khan, the CE196H/296H class enrollment of 31 exceeded his expectations. "The students learned about various aspects of GIS related to data collection, mapping, spatial analyses, and map layouts using ArcGIS software," said Dr. Khan.

For their final project, students created posters that were presented to faculty and others on campus in December. "The final project was designed to research a GIS solution to a civil engineering-related problem," said Dr. Khan. The students had to secure instructor approval but were otherwise free to choose a topic for their final project. Undergraduate students worked in groups of two while graduate students worked independently.

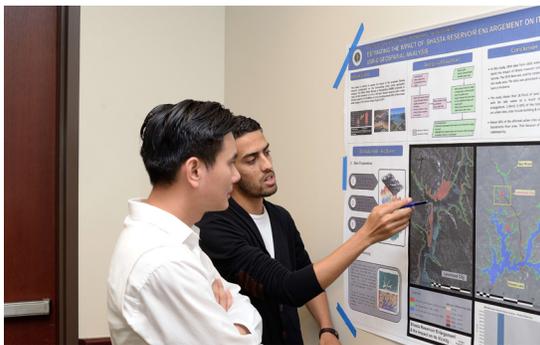
"Some of the projects looked at automobile collisions or at ground water contaminants in Sacramento or California," said Dr. Khan. "One group looked at improving pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Disneyland. Another group of undergraduate students looked at the best scenic



route for a graduation road trip. They used maps and GIS analysis to determine the most scenic route given weather, hilly areas, and other factors. This project is a classic problem in transportation engineering – route analysis – identifying the best route from point A to point B."

Other projects focused on the relationship between air quality and population density, industry and other factors in the Sacramento area. Students worked on their projects and posters for about three weeks, and then presented them in the University Union. The audience included civil engineering faculty, staff from the Office of Water Programs, and curious drop-ins from the general public. Dean Lorenzo Smith stopped by as well, taking time to chat with the students. Some of the posters were entered in the Student Research Symposium, held on campus on March 6.

"The purpose of the course was to give the students an added skill, and GIS is almost an essential skill for civil engineering," said Dr. Khan. "It made me proud to see them create something of their own using GIS and take pride in that. That was the best part. It was a fitting culmination of the entire course."



Civil Engineering Senior Design Project: Fall 2014 and Spring 2015

The fall 2014 semester Civil Engineering Seniors (CE 190) class project required student teams to produce a project design report for ingress and egress to the McKinley Village development in East Sacramento. Teams of five to six students first prepared an engineering services proposal to “win” the work, then produced preliminary design sketches of three alternative designs. These designs were presented to practicing professionals acting in the role of the Sacramento City Council on October 17 in the City Council Chambers, where students were informed of the preferred alternative. For that preferred alternative, each student team prepared a draft and final project design report, each devoted to a different access point. Included in the design reports were analysis of relevant technology, analysis of projected use, and geometric design. The geometric design included horizontal alignment, vertical profile and typical cross-sections.

The spring 2015 senior project requires student teams to produce a project design report for the replacement of a highway bridge in Calaveras County. Teams of four to five students, again, must first “win” the work with an engineering services proposal. Each team will then prepare a draft and final project design report, which will include sections such as pavement design and geometric approval drawings with horizontal alignment, vertical profile, typical sections, and superelevation diagrams. At the end of the semester, each student team will present its findings to their clients and invited guests in a final presentation to be held in the University Union on May 15, starting at 4 p.m. These student project presentations are free and open to the public.

An additional challenge and privilege for these student teams is working with local volunteer professional transportation engineers who act as their technical mentors and serve as



Left to right: Daniel Chaparro, Casey McEndree, Mike Jones, Julie Miner and Milen Karavan

“City of Sacramento” clients for a project in the city, or “Calaveras County” clients for a project in Calaveras County, for example. At the beginning of the semester, each student team is matched with a single technical mentor and two clients – all of whom are practicing, local civil engineers. The students are required to coordinate, meet, and record all meetings with their technical mentors who provide technical advice and counsel. The two clients grade all student team deliverables: proposal, draft and final project design reports, and the final presentation. The technical mentors and clients were from engineering firms and agencies such as: Caltrans, City of Elk Grove, Mark Thomas & Company, Quincy Engineering, Omni Means, AECOM/URS, Dokken Engineering, Bennett Engineering, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CH2M Hill, and Drake Haglan & Associates.

This course is constantly seeking potential projects, as well as “clients” and technical mentors for the upcoming semester. If you are interested in helping, please contact Department Chair Dr. Kevan Shafizadeh at shafizadeh@csus.edu or (916) 278-6982.



Spring 2015
Senior Design (CE 190)
Student Project Presentations

Calaveras County Highway Bridge Projects

Friday, May 15, 2015, 4–7 p.m.
University Union (Delta & Summit Rooms, 3rd Floor)

This event is free and open to the public.

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Support the Department

Looking for a way to support the Civil Engineering Department? We have four different funds that enhance our ability to educate students:

- ➡ The Ken Kerri Endowment Fund – Gifts to this fund support faculty and student enrichment activities.
- ➡ The CE Freshman Scholarship Fund – Scholarships are given to outstanding freshmen.
- ➡ The Graduate Environmental/Water Resources Scholarship Fund – Scholarships go to deserving graduate students in the environmental or water resources engineering areas.
- ➡ The Department Trust Fund – These resources support student attendance and participation at conferences and competitions, senior design project team expenses, and equipment for labs when other funds are not available.

To donate to any of these funds, go to www.ecs.csus.edu/ce/support.html and follow the directions for online donations. Or mail a check made out to the appropriate fund to the Department of Civil Engineering, Attn: Neysa Bush, California State University, 6000 J Street, Sacramento CA 95819-6029.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid-Pac Competitions at UC Davis

The heat of competition will be close to home this year, as the American Society of Civil Engineers brings its annual Mid-Pacific Student Conference (Mid-Pac) to UC Davis the weekend of April 2-4, 2015. There will be eight competitions, including Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, Water Treatment, GeoChallenge and Transportation Challenge, as well as the Mini Games. Fourteen schools will participate in this year's conference, and some of the events will be held in the Sacramento area, like the concrete canoe races, which will be hosted at Lake Natoma. Please consider attending Mid-Pac to enjoy the event and cheer for Sacramento State's civil engineering students! Event details can be found at www.ascemidpac.org.

April 2–4, 2015:

Mid-Pac Competitions at UC Davis

April 13–17, 2015:

Alumni Week

April 15, 2015:

[Seventh Annual Ken Kerri Endowment Fund Luncheon](#)

May 8, 2015:

[Fourth Annual Civil Engineering Golf Tournament](#)

May 15, 2015:

CE 190 Student Project Presentations

NEWS & NOTES

Faculty



Dr. Saad Merayyan was an invited keynote speaker at the International Conference on Engineering Technology and Science, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates this past November.

The conference focused on a variety of topics including environmental issues, technology, energy efficiency and mathematics. The well-attended event brought participants from all over the world but particularly from the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

"The title of my speech was California Water Resources Systems," says Dr. Merayyan. "I specialize in water resources engineering, hydraulics planning and computer modeling. We had a lengthy discussion after my presentation because many people were interested in how we manage our water resources in California and many of the regulations in such a large area."

Dr. Merayyan also recently received a prestigious award on campus. The Scholarly and Creative Activity Award is given once a year to one faculty member from each of the colleges at Sacramento State. This year, Dr. Merayyan was recognized in the College of Engineering and Computer Science for his research and creative activities.

"I was happy to receive the recognition I worked so hard for," says Dr. Merayyan. "Without my students it would've been hard because research takes more than one person to conduct."



Dr. Benjamin Fell, PE, returned to his alma mater, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), to give a seminar in November. Having published a paper with RPI professor Dr. Michael O'Rourke, PE, Dr. Fell was invited to the monthly seminar series at the Institute, which is located in Troy, New York.

"The topic was Seismic Performance of Buried Steel Pipelines," says Dr. Fell. "During earthquakes, these big steel pipes in the ground can buckle and fracture. We were trying to create a model that would predict when the pipeline would fatigue and fracture.

"I think it went really well," he continued. "There was a lot of discussion and it was nice to be invited back as a professional to give a talk to my former professors."

Envisioning California Conference

The Envisioning California Conference, an annual one-day forum focused on a single issue affecting California, invited Dr. Kevan Shafizadeh to join a panel of experts discussing transportation infrastructure at its October conference titled "Moving On: Transforming Transportation in California."

Presented by the Sacramento State Center for California Studies, the Envisioning California Conference has in past years centered on topics such as food trends, sustainability, the arts and immigration.

Dr. Shafizadeh was one of four members on the panel "Paved with Good Intentions: California's Transportation Infrastructure in the 21st Century." His fellow panelists included Brian Annis, Undersecretary of the California State Transportation Agency; Will Kempton, Executive Director of Transportation California (former Director of Caltrans); and Jessica Peters, a Transportation Analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office.

The panel discussed the current status of our state's infrastructure, and ways to fund and implement improvements to the existing transportation system.

"Participating on this panel was fun and exciting," said Dr. Shafizadeh. "It's interesting to take part in a public discussion with such a diverse panel of individuals on how the transportation system in this state will evolve to meet future demands."

Students

SEAOCC Design Competition Held at Sacramento State

Sacramento State played host to the 2014 Structural Engineers Association of Central California (SEAOCC) Student Design Competition in November, welcoming students from UC Davis, Chico State, and University of the Pacific to compete with Sacramento State students.

The annual competition, which took place in the campus structural lab, gives engineering students one day to build a particular structure and test it to failure. Dr. Benjamin Fell, PE, the advisor to the Sacramento State student chapter of SEAOCC, said that the students had to build a wood truss structure.

"They make it pretty difficult for the students," he said. "It's like a wood truss that would be in the roof of a house, but it's scaled down quite a bit. The students loaded it in the

middle until it failed. There was a new aspect this year: after initial loading they had a chance to go back, fix it, and test it again, so part of the score was how well it did the second time."

The final part of the competition was a presentation to a group of structural engineers. While Sacramento State broke its five-year winning streak at the SEAOCC competition this year, Dr. Fell said, "The students were very focused and I thought they put forward a lot of effort staying up Friday night when probably all their friends were out having fun. They did the best they could and had a lot of fun so if those two things happen, it's successful."



NEWS & NOTES

Students

Transportation Education Symposium Emphasizes Professional Networking



Sacramento State students Austin Allen and Patrick Calonia joined a few dozen other engineering students and professionals at the Transportation Education Symposium presented by the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) in November.

The event, in its 20th year, was held at the Chaminade Resort in Santa Cruz, which boasts spectacular scenery. But what impressed Austin and Patrick even more were the opportunities for interaction with professional engineers.

“We were each paired with professional mentors in the transportation engineering field,” said Patrick. “Your mentor gave you a sense of what the field is like after school. Mine told me about projects he’s worked on in the Sacramento region; things I could actually look at.”

Austin’s mentor was a pleasant surprise: “I was paired with the CEO of the company I am currently interning with,” he said. “This was by complete accident. It was rewarding to get tons of one-on-one time with the head of the company I work for.”

Student attendees were encouraged to network at every turn. A business card competition awarded a prize to the student who collected the most cards from professionals during the symposium.

“The event that stood out most for me was the request-for-proposal (RFP) competition between six different groups of students,” said Patrick. “We had less than 24 hours to explore a real-life transportation problem. It was nice to see how each person in our group had a strength, such as public speaking or environmental engineering.” Patrick’s team finished in second place.

Austin served as presenter for his group, providing experience he greatly valued. “I’ve done plenty of presentations,” he said. “But only to others in my class and one professor. This was different; I was presenting to

“Your mentor gave you a sense of what the field is like after school. Mine told me about projects he’s worked on in the Sacramento region; things I could actually look at.”

— Patrick Calonia

a room full of experienced professionals in my future career field. Talk about nerve wracking!”

Both students said the event was extremely rewarding and worth the time. “It was nice to attend a function like this,” said Austin. “Being able to meet professionals from all types of companies, hearing them explain their career paths to get the position they’re in now – most took different routes than one would expect.”

Gates Millennium Scholar Attends Leadership Conference



Rafael Ceja Ayala is a Gates Millennium Scholar (GMS) in his first year of the Civil Engineering Program at Sacramento State. Rafael is one of 1,000 U.S. students awarded with a scholarship that carries them through graduation at any accredited U.S. college or university of their choice. Rafael attended the GMS Leadership Conference in Virginia this past November.

“Attending this conference was an amazing privilege, because I learned more about why I got the scholarship,” said Rafael. “Additionally, I had the opportunity to interact with other scholars, and I understood that they also have gone through many things in life and they have not given up on anything. The guest speakers were fantastic. They encouraged me to continue fighting for my dreams and goals. Each one of them is just like me. They come from a low-income community and they have fought to be where they are now.”

Society of Women Engineers Conference Opens Doors for Attendees

Several Sacramento State Civil Engineering students represented their school at the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference in Los Angeles in October.

“I learned so much!” said Srishti Thakur, one of the CE students in attendance. “I really enjoyed going to the various workshops that were offered and got to meet many professional female engineers from all around the world in the structures and construction industry. It was one of those amazing and unforgettable times in my life. I can’t thank Sac State enough for having given me this opportunity.”



Alumni



2009... Helen Rocha, PE, landed her first job with Forsgren Associates in September 2010. Since then, her work experience has been concentrated in the fields of water resources engineering and construction management. Her work includes design, inspection, hydraulic modeling and planning of water infrastructure projects.

Helen became a registered Professional Engineer in May 2014, and she continues to advocate for students to pursue engineering degrees. For the past three years, she has worked closely with the MESA Engineering Program (MEP) at Sacramento State mentoring engineering students. Helen currently serves as the Secretary for the Sacramento section of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), and she hopes to obtain an MS in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in Engineering Management.

NEWS & NOTES

Alumni

"I find myself always coming back, whether it be for mentoring, panel participation, or further education," says Helen. "The College of Engineering at Sac State allows students to get a great foundation before entering the workforce."



2008... Stacey (Bennett) Lynch, PE (2008), and Steve Lynch, PE (2007), were married on May 31, 2014. They met in 2005 in John German's surveying class. Steve is a Project Manager at Granite Construction and

has been employed there since 2005, when he was an intern. Stacey is a Project Manager at Bennett Engineering Services and has been working for the family business since 2004. Steve and Stacey live in Folsom with their dog Reese.



Joe Anderson, PE, worked locally for Fehr & Peers as a transportation engineer for five years before getting back into the land development niche with MacKay & Soms in 2013, where he interned as a

student. He became a Professional Engineer in 2014, passing all three exams on the first attempt, and was married in October 2014. Joe is actively involved in the local engineering community and currently serves as President of the Northern California Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE).



Since graduating in 2008, Renato Espinoza Torres, PE, has been working as a Water Resources Engineer with HDR. He has worked on projects for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developing flood insurance studies, defining special flood hazard areas, and producing flood insurance rate maps for

various communities including the Counties of Los Angeles and San Diego. Renato has worked for the California High Speed Rail Authority developing hydrologic and hydraulic models for drainage crossings along the Pacheco Pass high speed rail alignment. And most recently he served as the lead modeler in developing a systemwide hydraulic model of the San Joaquin River and tributaries for the California Department of Water Resources. Renato received his PE in Civil Engineering in January 2015.



Robert Burns, PE (MS, '11), is currently working on completing an MBA at Sacramento State while working as an Associate Bridge Engineer at Dokken Engineering, where he has been for six years. Prior to Dokken, Rob spent one year working for Caltrans in the Structures Special Design Branch. He specializes in the

preparation of plans, specifications and estimates (PS&Es) for bridge, roadway and trail projects throughout California. Rob has had the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects ranging from Bid-Build to Design-Build contract formats. Rob has provided design services for Caltrans, private developers, the U.S. Forest Service, contractors, and various local agencies. This range of design experience has provided Rob with insight into the entire spectrum of infrastructure design, from planning to construction.

2006... Cesar Montes de Oca, PE, QSD, is the President and a Principal at UNICO Engineering responsible for stormwater services. His first civil engineering work experience came as an intern at Dokken Engineering while attending



school. After graduation he joined Carlton Engineering as an EIT before eventually becoming a Project Engineer. After four years at Carlton, he joined the City of Citrus Heights as an Associate Civil Engineer responsible for the stormwater program. In 2013, Cesar cofounded UNICO Engineering, where he enjoys developing relationships with clients and consultants. Cesar is also active with the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association's Young Professional Group. When not at work, Cesar enjoys spending time with his wife and three children and playing golf.



2004... Rebecca Neves, PE, has contributed to a wide variety of civil engineering projects. After graduation, she was hired by Morton & Pitalo as an Assistant Engineer. Ms. Neves received her professional engineering license in August 2007 and was promoted to Associate Engineer. Ms. Neves' work included a

variety of residential and commercial land development projects, for example: Ironworks at the Triangle in West Sacramento, SoCap Lofts in Sacramento, Camden Place in Citrus Heights, and Palladio Mall in Folsom. In March 2009, Ms. Neves moved to Dokken Engineering as a Project Engineer and worked on numerous public and transportation projects, including West Sacramento Transit Center, Western Placerville Interchange, PG&E utility station in Rocklin, and the Yucca Loma Bridge and Yates Road Project in the Town of Apple Valley in San Bernardino County.

Ms. Neves was hired as the City Engineer by the City of Placerville in November of 2014 and embraces the exciting challenges of being the City Engineer of one of the oldest cities in California, incorporated in 1854. In April 2005, Ms. Neves married Ryan Neves and together they have two beautiful daughters, ages 6 and 2.

2001... Becky Money, PE, GE, CFM (MS '06), began working at Kleinfelder while an undergraduate student and is celebrating 15 years with the firm this spring. She became a direct owner for Kleinfelder in 2007. Becky taught one of the soil mechanics labs at Sacramento State for five years.



While attending college, she was a member of the women's golf team and participated in the ASCE concrete canoe team which went to Nationals in Florida in 1999.

Becky's specialty is geotechnical engineering including evaluation, analysis, and remediation of levees.

She has worked on a variety of projects including metals testing during seismic retrofitting of numerous Bay Area toll bridges, evaluation of over 100 miles of levees in northern California, and foundation design of dozens of local retail and commercial buildings.

Becky is married with four children and loves being outdoors with her family. "My college years were some of the greatest years of my life," she says. "I traveled a lot with the golf team, learned how to manage my time between civil engineering classes and labs and my practices and tournaments, and was instructed by many fantastic professors whom I count as mentors and great professional examples. I'm proud of my education and time at Sac State."

Becky and her colleagues at Kleinfelder are staple participants in the annual Department of Civil Engineering Golf Tournament.



1996... After earning his master's degree in Civil Engineering from CSUS in 1996, Mike Harrison, PE, worked in the wastewater treatment field as a Consulting Engineer. He started with Carollo Engineers in 1995. Then, in 2001, Mike took a position in a small engineering consulting firm called

Eco:Logic Engineers where in 2006 he became part owner of the firm. Eco:Logic was acquired by Stantec in 2010 so Mike's ownership stake was also acquired. In 2012, he was hired by Brown and Caldwell to work as a Program Manager on the EchoWater Project. This \$2 billion capital improvement project includes major process upgrades to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located in Elk Grove.



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- **Recognized Sponsor of annual Graduate Student Welcome in Fall 2015 (\$300 value)**
 - Corporate recognition and signage
 - Verbal acknowledgment as event sponsor during opening remarks
- **Name and logo in one edition of the CE Connection alumni newsletter (\$200 Value)**

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 - Corporate recognition and signage
 - Verbal acknowledgment as event sponsor during opening remarks
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- Two tickets to attend An Evening with Industry in Fall 2015
- Individual or family name on Civil Engineering Department website during the 2015 calendar year (optional)

Visit <http://www.ecs.csus.edu/ce/sponsorship.pdf> for more information.

