

# Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Note from the Department Head.....   | 3  |
| Signature Engineering Building:<br><i>CEE alumni instrumental in<br/>construction of new SEB building.....</i> | 4  |
| ASCE Distinguished Members<br><i>Chema M. de la Garza and Dennis Kamber.....</i>                               | 7  |
| Alumni Teaching Excellence Award<br><i>Vickie Mouras is 2014 recipient.....</i>                                | 8  |
| CEE Student Ambassadors .....  | 8  |
| International Programs .....   | 9  |
| Alumni Achievement Awards Program.....   | 10 |
| Equipping students for career success.....   | 11 |
| Alumni Board .....   | 12 |
| Loganathan Award Winner<br><i>John Taylor is 2014 recipient .....</i>  | 14 |
| Alumni Honored by COE .....  | 15 |
| Senior Spotlights.....   | 16 |
| Student Organization Updates .....   | 18 |



Via Department of Civil  
and Environmental Engineering  
Annual Newsletter  
Summer 2014

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# THE GROVE OF SHARING

We found a way for everyone to grow with us, and a way to recognize everyone who gives so generously...

Trees have a varying abundance of gifts. Like most any institute of higher learning, the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering largely depends on the gifts we receive from our alumni, students, faculty and friends. These gifts help us achieve our goals in the areas of undergraduate and graduate teaching, research, and public service.

We have found a way for everyone to grow with us and to recognize those who generously give through our "Grove of Sharing" expandable tree sculpture that is beautifully displayed on the lobby wall of Patton Hall for all to see.

Eventually, each leaf on the tree will recognize every annual gift of \$250 or more by engraving the name of individual donors. Every gift makes a difference and enables us to do more, be more and give more to our students, our nation and our world.

Gifts provide critical funding for:

- Teaching
- Student fellowships and scholarships
- A distinguished lecture series and professional seminars
- Faculty and student achievements and awards
- Recruitment support
- Student chapter leadership
- Cooperative education activities
- ...and so much more

## AS OUR GIFTS AND FAMILY OF ALUMNI GROW, OUR TREE WILL BECOME A GROVE.

Not only does the unique sculpture recognize our donors, but it becomes a part of the heritage of the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and will remain a centerpiece for many years to come.

Pledge to make an annual gift of \$250 or more and we will engrave the inscription of your choice on a leaf on the tree and you will become a part of the Grove of Sharing tree and the Department's heritage.

Contact Sam Easterling at [seaster@vt.edu](mailto:seaster@vt.edu) to make your pledge today.



## Note from the Department Head

Greetings from Blacksburg!! I hope that your summer is going well. Once again, I have the pleasure to share this message with you as part of our summer newsletter. The newsletter provides a great way for us to share highlights of student activities and projects from the recently completed academic year, as well as give you just a snapshot of some of the many wonderful things with which your fellow alumni are involved. We also like to take the opportunity to share a few of the awards and honors that have been bestowed upon some of our faculty and staff. As you'll appreciate when you read about these awards, our department is blessed with many dedicated and talented faculty members. Virginia Tech students, as well as members of the broader civil engineering profession, benefit from their talents and dedication on a daily basis. I hope you enjoy reading about some of their activities and successes.

I want to call your attention to the updates, awards and news of some of your colleagues – Alumni of our department. One of the great pleasures I have in my job is being able to interact on a regular basis with some of our over 10,000 living alumni. These interactions range from working closely with members of our Alumni Board, meeting folks at departmental and university events and having the pleasure each year of being part of recognition dinners for some of our distinguished and young alumni award recipients. I hope you enjoy reading about some of them as well!

As I described in last year's Summer Newsletter, our Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers had the honor and responsibility of hosting the 2014 Virginias Conference in March in Blacksburg. The conference was a resounding success and our students, faculty and staff did an exceptional job planning and managing the events associated with the conference. During the reception at the banquet on Friday night and as I wandered around the events on Saturday, several of the faculty advisors made it a point to tell me what a wonderful job that our team had done and was doing to make the conference a success and to make our nearly 400 student, faculty advisors and judges feel welcome. The success of the event was directly attributable to the outstanding support we had from our alumni and friends. The support of our generous sponsors let us put on a first class event and the support of the dozens of judges helped ensure that the events were professionally conducted. Thanks to all of you who made the effort to either support, judge or simply attend the 2014 ASCE Virginias Conference!

I want to take a few moments to pay tribute to two colleagues whom we lost in the past several months. Professor Richard Barker passed away on 19 December 2011 and Professor Don Garst passed away on 7 June 2014. Both of these gentlemen had a major influence on my professional development. If it were for only that reason, I would not be sharing this news with you. However, I have come to learn over the years that both Professors Barker and Garst had a profound influence on literally thousands of Hokies with whom they interacted. I have met many alumni in my professional travels through the years and I can tell you that almost without exception, folks ask about both current and former faculty. And I cannot recall a conversation of this type when Professors Barker and Garst were not mentioned with tremendous affinity and respect. They were exceptional educators, engineers and true gentlemen. We will certainly miss them but I know that their legacy and influence will endure for many years to come.

Finally, I want to thank Estela Moen for her work on the Summer Newsletter, as well as the many other alumni relations duties she has so adeptly overseen the past several years. I regret to have to tell you that Estela will be leaving Virginia Tech to pursue other opportunities. While I'll miss working with her and I know you'll miss her efforts on behalf of all our alumni, I hope you join me in wishing her the very best with her new endeavors.

I hope to see many of you on campus during the coming academic year. Please feel free to stop by the Departmental office when you're on campus or to contact me by phone (540-231-6635) or email (seaster@vt.edu). I welcome the opportunity to catch up with those I know as well as meet those of you I don't know.



**W. Samuel Easterling**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Easterling".

# Building the Future:

## *CEE alumni instrumental in the new SEB building*

The sound of construction can be heard in the distance, echoing off Hokie stone buildings that line the walk from Patton Hall to the new Signature Engineering Building. The SEB as it is called around campus, was a project long in the making. In the Virginia Tech magazine, an article recently published about President Steger, dubbed him the “architect of growth,” and highlighted the Signature Engineering Building as a feat in fundraising and a cornerstone for the north end of campus. Vice President for Administration Sherwood Wilson explained the symbolism of the entire north end’s redevelopment. “In the past, when you came to campus on Prices Fork your first impression was formed

by Derring Hall and a gravel parking lot. You were essentially coming in the back door where the power plant was the most iconic feature. The Signature Engineering Building and redevelopment of the north end provide a new front-door experience that reflects the university we are today. We are an internationally renowned research university, and it is important that the campus reflect that,” Wilson said. The images of the construction process show the beauty of the building while also reflecting on the project as a signature piece of architectural genius.

The Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was an integral part of the SEB image and construction. The department is proud to

have many alumni that were dedicated to the support and growth of the Signature Engineering Building, with generous donations and supporters. Two CEE alumni, David Childress ‘06 and Arthur McKinney ‘65, were able to have hands on experience with the building during the design and construction phase.

David Childress currently works for Gilbane Inc., a family-owned, national construction and real estate development company, that won the bid for the Signature Engineering Building project. When Childress heard that Gilbane was going after the SEB project he reached out to his supervisors and offered to be part of the presentation to help secure the job. Eager for the chance to return to





**Construction on the Signature Engineering Building began in June 2011 at the corner of Prices Fork Road and Stanger Street. It will be complete and open for use for the Fall 2014 semester.**

his alma mater, Childress began writing scopes of work and setting up contracts for the project. In May 2011, Virginia Tech awarded the contract to Gilbane.

Childress moved back to Blacksburg in July 2011 after being away since his graduation in 2006.

His passion for engineering began far before coming to campus as a student. As a child, Childress loved to build and his parents always noted his natural proclivities toward math and science. Throughout high school teachers often mentioned that he 'had an engineering mind' and should look into it further when attending college. He took their advice and, in 2002 when he came to Virginia Tech, it was no surprise that he enrolled with the College of Engineering, and then began his studies in civil engineering the following year.

Childress noted that while finishing his undergraduate work he learned that engineering was not just about design. He was seeking a hands-on career and

Gilbane has given him that opportunity. Childress started with Gilbane in 2005 and worked on two internships before starting work with them full-time after graduation.

After previously working on several major projects including hospitals and a lab building for a major pharmaceutical company, he got the chance to serve as a project manager for the SEB construction site and his office was a trailer on the site. The beep of the trucks could be heard in the background and the small window of the office trailer looked directly into the front of the building. David recalls taking time each day to marvel at what has been built.

"It's magnificent," Childress said. "It's a once in a career, once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to build something with your alma mater." You can hear the nostalgia in his voice as he tells about his journey from student to managing engineer. Childress states, "the Dean who signed my diploma is now my client,"

which fully signifies how far he has come.

His work on the SEB came to a close this spring. Childress will now go with Gilbane wherever the work may lead, but his legacy with Virginia Tech will stand on the corner of Prices Fork and Stanger Street for generations to come.

Another influential civil engineering graduate who worked with the construction of SEB was Arthur McKinney. McKinney, a 1965 graduate, entered the program as a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, to which he attributes his high regard for service. In 1979, he founded McKinney & Company, a professional services company providing planning, architecture, engineering, construction management and quality assurance. The firm currently employs 100 people and has offices in Ashland and Williamsburg, Va.

*"The building will serve to both attract students to engineering and to offer a source of validation for their chosen path."*

**~ Art McKinney, founder of McKinney & Company**

When asked about how his career path led to his involvement with the SEB, Art didn't hesitate. "Your career path should not be to just become very good at what you do, but to understand the contribute to the greater whole," he said.

Contributing to the greater whole, especially at Virginia Tech, is something that Art and his wife, Jerry, have been

*Continued on next page*

dedicated to for a long time. They are currently members of the Ut Prosim Society and the Committee of 100. He is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board, serving as chair in 2007 and 2008. He is also a past member of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department's Advisory Board and was a 2008 inductee into its Academy of Distinguished Alumni. It was no surprise that Virginia Tech called upon Art again when the SEB project came to realization.

Each year, representatives from the College of Engineering, along with accomplished alumni, meet with the General Assembly for "Hokie Day," Virginia Tech's annual lobbying day at the Virginia General Assembly. The goal is to discuss the college's upcoming

priorities. Art has served on the committee at Hokie Day for several years and has been an influential advocate for the SEB from the very beginning.

In addition to those efforts, Art is noted for the significant role he played in the planning and design of the SEB by helping to effectively reduce the cost of construction by more than 20 million dollars.

Art states, "from my perspective the SEB grew out of Dean Benson's vision to balance the College of Engineering relative to graduate studies and the caliber of research programs offered here. The building will serve to both attract students to engineering and to offer a source of validation for their chosen path."

As students enter the classrooms in the SEB for the first time next semester, they will get the chance to view the magnificent building that came to fruition with the help of two CEE graduates. Both mentioned that they are eager to see the innovative work that is produced by students that use the Signature Engineering Building. Art even gave some words of encouragement to those very students: "You are the pride of the Hokie Nation; show us what you can do."



# ASCE honors CEE faculty member and alumnus

The 2014 class of Distinguished Members of the American Society of Civil Engineers includes two members associated with the Via Department of Civil Engineering. The grade of Distinguished Member is the highest honor given by the society.

ASCE describes a Distinguished Member as a person who has attained acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or in the arts and sciences related thereto, including the fields of engineering education and construction. There are currently 649 distinguished members.



**de la Garza**

Dr. Jesus M. de la Garza, Ph.D., Dist.M.ASCE, NAC, is the Vecellio Professor and Program Area Coordinator for Construction Engineering and Management in the department. He also leads

the Center for Highway Asset Management Programs (CHAMPS).

ASCE described de la Garza's leadership as "an internationally acknowledged leader in construction education and research. As a member of the National Research Council's (NRC) Board of Infrastructure and the Constructed Environment, he advises the government on questions of technology, science and public policy applied to buildings, facilities and infrastructure systems."

de la Garza is continually honored with awards and recognition, including ASCE's Peurifoy Construction award in 2011 and Thomas Fitch Rowland Award in 1992. Just last year, he was honored with the Construction Industry Institute's Richard L. Tucker Leadership & Service Award.

With a specialty in construction engineering and highway infrastructure management, he has led directed efforts to identify innovative ways to measure cost efficiency and level-of-service effectiveness of performance-based road maintenance.

He has made valuable contributions in construction education and research to improve the infrastructure management and use of information technology in

construction.

Joining him in this honor is Virginia Tech alumnus, Dennis Kamber, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE and graduate of 1964.

Kamber is recognized by the association for "developing and implementing innovative design solutions and for effective management of the infrastructure of complex design-build program and construction management projects."

He serves as Senior Vice President of ARCADIS, U.S., Inc., a leading global natural and built asset design and consultancy firm. In this role, he recently led the USACE-funded concept development, design and construction oversight of the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System for New Orleans.

During his term as President of the Consulting Engineers Council of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., he initiated the SEE (Students Engaged in Engineering) program to expose middle school and intercity students to the

practice of engineering.

Other awards that Kamber has been honored



**Kamber**

with include the ARCADIS International Innovation Award, the George Scroepfer Medal from the Environment Federation and recognition as a Top 25 Newsmaker by *Engineering News-Record*.

These two outstanding civil engineers, along with nine others, will be formally inducted at the Global Engineering Conference 2014, in October in Panama City, Panama.



## ALUMNI TEACHING AWARD

# Mouras receives Alumni Teaching Excellence Award

Vickie Mouras, assistant professor of practice in civil and environmental engineering, is the 2014 recipient of the CEE Alumni

Teaching Excellence Award. The CEE Alumni Board selects the recipient of this award based solely upon nominations received from

CEE alumni who have graduated in the past five years.

Mouras has been affiliated with the department for over 30 years and is a proud Hokie. In addition to her teaching experience, she has vast experience in leadership and project management experience as a US Army engineer officer.

Since returning to the classroom

as a Professor, Mouras has made a difference in the lives of her students and prepared them for life after graduation. In fact, one student noted, “her design project assignment was one of the best experiences I had at Virginia Tech to prepare me for assignments in my career as a structural engineer.”

She is known for using her professional experience to guide lessons, making her a favorite instructor among students in the department. One student commended that teaching style by stating, “She always made teaching a priority and her passion for teaching was constantly evident.”

This isn’t the first award that Mouras has

received. Her impact on students has been noted through awards such as the Influential Women of Virginia award and G.V. Loganathan Faculty Achievement Award. This marks the second time that Mouras has received the Alumni Teaching Excellence award, the first time in 2005.

Mouras received a certificate and monetary award to be spent on classroom teaching improvements. The award was well-deserved as she is noted as a role model to her students. One stated, “She set a wonderful example for women in engineering and I can only aspire to be more like her as I enter the professional world.”



Mouras (left) was presented the award by CEE Alumni Board Chair Laura Morillo at the spring board meeting.

## CEE AMBASSADORS

# Student ambassadors help to promote department

Student ambassadors have played a vital role in the promotion of the civil engineering department. While advisors and faculty play an important role in a prospective student’s decision to attend, a current student can provide the first-hand experience of what it means to be a civil engineering student at Virginia Tech.

“The role of CEE ambassadors is to not only promote the Civil Engineering Department at functions and in their personal lives, but also to share their experiences

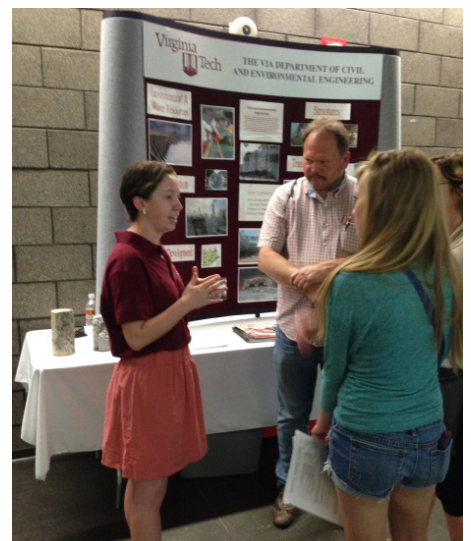
with prospective College of Engineering applicants,” said Academic and Career Advisor Kara Lattimer.

These students are selected through an application process and assist at various events throughout the school year, including the Admissions Open House events in the Fall, as well as Hokie Focus and the Engineering Open House during the spring semester. They are also frequently spotted stopping in to talk and share information during individual student visits.

With the success of

the CEE student ambassador program, future plans include having them create promotional videos, updating departmental PR material and assisting with alumni programs.

Applications for the 2014-2015 CEE Ambassadors were released in the spring to select another group of outstanding CEE representatives.



CEE Ambassador meets with prospective students and parents at Hokie Focus.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# Providing a global education through study abroad

Employers have noted that they like to speak with job candidates that have a global perspective. Whether that means working for an international firm in the United States, or gaining perspective by traveling and living abroad for a period of time, the CEE department has made it a priority to provide opportunities for students.

International programming for the department continues to grow. More students, both undergraduate and graduate level, are finding opportunities to do research or study abroad as part of their academic programs. Some recent highlights include:

- Christian Olivera, M.S.

student in the Geotechnical program area recently spent over a year in Iceland working on research with the University of Iceland.

- Three undergraduate students traveled to China during Spring Break 2014 to visit the University of Science and Technology Beijing and Tongji University in Shanghai.

- Francisco Flores, Ph.D. candidate in the Structural Engineering and Materials program area, is currently in Chile participating in a dual Ph.D. program with Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile.

- Luigi Tellatin, the first student in the dual M.S. program with the University of Trento in Italy, is studying in Blacksburg. He began



**Mark Hammert took data at the Punta Cana International Airport as part of his Airport Planning Class.**

his studies at Virginia Tech in January 2014. CEE is currently recruiting a Virginia Tech student to reciprocate in Trento.

The department continues to strive to build cultural competencies and create academic and professional opportunities abroad with upcoming events like:

- Eleven students and three faculty members will travel this summer to Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic for the fourth year in a unique hands-on study abroad learning experience.

- In fall 2014, a group of six to eight students will study in Panama as part of a hybrid online and in-country

study abroad program. The partnership for this program includes the America Society for Civil Engineers, Engineers without Borders and the University of Colorado-Boulder. Virginia Tech students will travel together to Panama as part of their learning, as well as for ASCE's annual Global Engineering Conference in October.

- Master's student Ross McCarthy, from the Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering program area, will travel to the United Kingdom in the fall of 2014 to conduct research with one of the international partner institutions, The University of Nottingham.



**Students traveled over Spring Break to China to visit the University of Science & Technology Beijing and Tongji University in Shanghai.**

# CEE Alumni Achievement Awards Program

In 1998, the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and the CEE Alumni Board formally initiated the CEE Alumni Achievement Awards Program to honor both younger alumni and those who have graduated from the department years ago. Two award categories were created within this program: the Academy of Distinguished Alumni and the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Alumni may be selected for induction into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni (CEE Academy) based upon a review of their overall career accomplishments and contributions to the profession, their community, and service to Virginia Tech. Younger alumni within 15 years of their undergraduate BS degree may be selected to receive an Outstanding Young Alumni Award. After this year's induction, there are a total of 102 members in the CEE Academy and 47 Outstanding Young Alumni.

## The Inductee Class of 2014 Academy of Distinguished Alumni

**Mr. Walter F. Bailey, P.E., BCEE,**  
WEF Fellow, Class of 1972

**Mr. Robert F. Jansen, P.E.**  
Class of 1980

**Mr. Jimmie D. Jenkins, P.E.**  
Class of 1970, M.S. 1974

**Mr. Anthony J. Moraco**  
Class of 1982, M.S. 1984

**Dr. Lindell E. Ormsbee**  
M.S. 1979

**Dr. Charles W. Steger, FAIA**  
Ph.D 1978

## Outstanding Young Alumni

**Dr. Kevin P. Heaslip, P.E.**  
Class of 2002, M.S. 2003

**Dr. Gunnar Lucko, A.M.ASCE**  
M.S. 1999, Ph.D. 2003

**Dr. Simoni Triantafyllidou**  
M.S. 2006, Ph.D. 2011



*Inductee Class of 2014, from left to right: Robert F. Jansen, Dr. Lindell E. Ormsbee, Anthony J. Moraco, Jimmie D. Jenkins, Walter F. Bailey, Dr. Charles W. Steger.*



*Outstanding Young Alumni of 2014, from left to right: Dr. Kevin P. Heaslip, Dr. Simoni Triantafyllidou and Dr. Gunnar Lucko.*

Each year, candidates for these awards come from nominations submitted directly to the CEE department by our alumni. If you are interested in nominating someone for the CEE Academy or the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, please follow this link to the nomination form: [http://www.cee.vt.edu/alumni/alumni\\_awards/distinguished\\_alumni\\_nomination.html](http://www.cee.vt.edu/alumni/alumni_awards/distinguished_alumni_nomination.html).

Forms can be completed electronically through the website, via email to [celong@vt.edu](mailto:celong@vt.edu) or printed and mailed with supporting documents to:

Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Virginia Tech

200 Patton Hall

Blacksburg, VA 24061

# Equipping students and alumni with opportunities for career success

The CEE department provides opportunities for students to network with employers to secure connections for their future. From career fairs to an online CEE Career Network, there are many ways for students to learn about potential positions, as well as for alumni to find excellent candidates for their company.

Each semester, the department hosts a Civil Engineering Career Fair for employers looking for entry level

and internship candidates for positions dealing with civil engineering design including:

- Environmental
- Geotechnical
- Land Development
- Structural
- Transportation
- Water Resources

Employers are also offered an optional interview day following the Career Fair, allowing for more time to interact and speak with potential employees.

In addition to career fairs, the CEE Job

board is updated daily to provide a list of employment opportunities that have been provided directly to the CEE department. Through this resource, the CEE Career Network, and the Virginia Tech Civil & Environmental Engineering LinkedIn group, students are given valuable avenues to search for employment.

The Hokie Network within Civil and Environmental Engineering is a strong one. The department works hard to continue this success among both students and alumni in their careers.



## Fall 2014 Civil Engineering Career Fair

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

The Inn at Virginia Tech

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Employer registration is open. Interviews will be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech on Wednesday, October 1. Firms interested in interviews must sign up during registration.

Contact Kara Lattimer at [karalatt@vt.edu](mailto:karalatt@vt.edu) or 540-239-2209 for more information. If there are any job/internship postings you would like us to advertise in advance, please email them to [vtceejobs@gmail.com](mailto:vtceejobs@gmail.com)

## Note from the Alumni Board Chair

By James N. Carter, Jr.

If you are reading this you are both a special and a fortunate person. Why? Because you are both special and fortunate to be an alumnus of the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. You are special because you were qualified to be admitted to Virginia Tech, the College of Engineering, and the CEE Department. You are fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to gain an engineering education at a great institution, to have had instruction from an outstanding faculty aided by a wonderful staff, and to have experienced university life in the idyllic setting that is the Virginia Tech campus in Southwest Virginia. I am both proud and humbled to be counted in your ranks.

A short biography of me is nearby, but let me give you a little insight about who I am. My father was a railroader who worked in the Engineering Departments of the Virginian and Norfolk and Western Railways. I was born in the Southern West Virginia Coal fields and raised in Tidewater and the Bluefield areas. I can't remember a time when I did not want to be a civil engineer and a railroader. I always knew I wanted to go to Virginia Tech.

Being a member of the Alumni Board has been a very special honor and a treat for me. Interacting with faculty, staff, students and the members of the Board is a truly wonderful experience. The Board is a diverse group from across the country, with folks working in nearly every aspect of the civil engineering profession and who have had very different life experiences. The common thread that ties all of the members of the Board together is a love of Virginia Tech and civil engineering. Every member wants to give something back to our alma mater and in some way help those students who now walk the same halls that we once did, and perhaps offer them some

insight that will enable them to be more successful in their careers. Being chosen to be the Chairman of the Board for the coming academic year is one of the greatest honors that I have been afforded.

I encourage all of you to get involved with the department. Speaking as a guest lecturer in your field of expertise is rewarding, and I assure you that you will be impressed with the quality of the students, their intelligence, work ethic and interest. I can assure you that they listen to you. Last year a student approached me at a Board/student interaction and wanted

to talk to me about something that I had said when giving a presentation to his class the previous semester. I was stunned that he remembered something that seemed incidental to me and had occurred that long ago, but had obviously made an impact on him. We had a great discussion that evening.

If you want to get involved in any way please feel free to contact me or Sam Easterling. We will welcome you and try our best to find something that you can do that will be enjoyable for you and important for the students and faculty. We hope to hear from you!

**Go Hokies!**



**James Carter, Jr.**

## NEW BOARD CHAIR

**James N. Carter, Jr., PE**, graduated with a BSCE in 1975 and began his career as a Management Trainee with Norfolk and Western Railway, which later merged to form Norfolk Southern.

He has spent his entire career with Norfolk Southern, holding several positions in its Engineering Department. These positions have taken him to Williamson, WV, Cleveland, OH, St. Louis, MO, Roanoke, VA, and Norfolk, VA. Currently, he resides outside of Atlanta, GA and is the Chief Engineer, Bridges and Structures for Norfolk Southern Corporation headquarters.

Jim is Past President of the

Board of Governors of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance Association (AREMA), and has also been a member of Committee 15 Steel Structures and was Director of the Structures Functional Group from 2007-2011. He is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As a member of the CEE Alumni Board since 2010, Jim particularly enjoys participating in the student interactions and has served on a wide variety of panel discussions with students. He is a proud supporter of the student AREMA Chapter, which was started at VT in 2012. In fact, he visited the group this year to visit and spend

time with the chapter members.

He is married to Lynn Marlin Carter, whom he met in 1972 when she attended Radford College. The couple has two children. Jimmy lives in Newark, DE with his wife Ashley and daughter Charlotte, while working for Microsoft. Jared works for Norfolk Southern in Portsmouth, OH and lives in Ashland, KY with his wife Chanel.

Jim is a proud Hokie, enjoying everything to do with Virginia Tech. He is an avid VT football fan and attends most games with friends and family. He also enjoys playing golf, cooking, traveling and spending time with family.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## ERIC LUNDBERG, KORD WISSMANN

**Eric Lundberg** (B.S. '86, M.S. '89) is the founder and currently CEO of Vesper, Inc. which provides a range of tooling and inspection services to the Wind Energy and Aerospace industries. Notable projects include: work on wind turbine blade production in the U.S., Europe, India and China, and production support on the tennis court-sized Sunshields for the upcoming James Webb Space Telescope (replacement to the Hubble).

Prior to Vesper, Eric was co-founder of Spatial Positioning Systems, Inc. (now part of Nikon) that created a laser-based Indoor GPS system which was based on his graduate CEE research. Eric led basic research, product development and marketing efforts. Notable commercial projects include systems for the manufacture of aircraft, hazardous-waste clean-up, and the creation of special effects for motion pictures.

In addition to his two CEE degrees, Eric also holds an MBA from George Washington University. He is an inventor on twenty-six U.S. and foreign patents, and two pending patents, for position tracking, automation, and green energy technologies. Eric currently lives and works in Reston, Virginia.

**Kord J. Wissmann**, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE (BSCE '87; Ph.D. '95) is President and Chief Engineer of Geopier Foundation Company, Inc., a design/build specialty contractor specializing in the engineering and construction of soil reinforcement solutions for commercial, industrial, and transportation structures. Kord joined Geopier in 1998 as Chief Engineer. In 2001, he became President and Chief Engineer, responsible for company operations, business planning, engineering, design approach development, and research/development.

Throughout his more than 25 year geo-professional career, Kord has held various positions across the country, specializing in geotechnical engineering and ground improvement. He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1987, an M.S. in Civil (Geotechnical) Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1988. He returned to Virginia Tech and achieved his Ph.D. in Civil (Geotechnical) Engineering in 1995. Kord received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the Virginia Tech Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2000. He has served and led multiple committees and task forces within ASCE, ASFE and the Geo-Institute. In



**Kord J. Wissmann**

## WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send your announcements such as marriage, births, career accomplishments, retirement, awards and recognitions, by email to **Courtney Long** at [celong@vt.edu](mailto:celong@vt.edu) or by mail to the address below:

**Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Virginia Tech, 200 Patton Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061**

Please be sure to include the following information: name (and maiden name, if applicable), address, phone number, and email address.

Mailing or email address updates should also be sent to [celong@vt.edu](mailto:celong@vt.edu).

## John Taylor selected for Loganathan Award



There are three principles that define Dr. John Taylor's research groups: diversity, a culture of achievement and humor. As an associate professor focusing in construction engineering and management, he implements these principles in the many research groups he advises.

Taylor is proud of the diverse group of research students he advises, hailing from a wide range of countries and disciplinary backgrounds. He feels that the diverse scope of backgrounds is the main contributing factor to the optimal outcomes and success they have achieved.

His second principle is to foster a culture of achievement. "I coach my students to achieve the highest level of rigor at every step in the research process," he said,

which explains the many achievements of these students over the past few years. Honors include three journal best paper awards, four conference best paper/poster awards, a \$75,000 Department of Energy Fellowship and 16 scholarships/fellowships.

His final principle is that a little humor goes a long way. Creating a fun and engaging lab environment is a priority as a way for group members to engage in their work and with their colleagues to deliver the best possible work. "My research group is very much like the 1980s television show, *The A-Team*, in which a diverse group excels at solving what appear to be insurmountable problems while maintaining a sense of humor through it all," he stated.

While you can learn

a lot about Taylor by listening to him speak about his students, his research has garnered several recognitions of its own, including the College of Engineering Dean's Faculty Fellow Award and the XCaliber Award for excellence as an individual involved in teaching with technology.

As a graduate of Tulane University, for both a bachelors and masters degree in civil engineering, he also earned a masters degree in logistical systems management from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. After working for Barriere Construction Company, International Road Union and USBuild Corporation in project manager roles, he served as CEO of AllStarFleet, Inc., before returning to the classroom to earn a PhD from Stanford

University. He has been with the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering since 2011.

Taylor specializes in the investigation of civil engineering network dynamics of industrial and societal importance, specifically, globalization dynamics, energy efficiency dynamics, workforce virtualization dynamics, and information system integration dynamics. He served as a co-principal investigator on an NSF IGERT grant on solving urbanization challenges by design. He is also the Director of the Civil Engineering Network Dynamics Lab.

In his free time, Taylor enjoys playing with his two daughters traveling and photographing the world, snowshoeing and running marathons.

# CEE alumni honored by College of Engineering

David Childress, '06 is building his career from the ground up. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he has since returned as an alumnus to play an instrumental role in the construction of the Signature Engineering Building as Project Manager with Gilbane, Inc. The contributions he made to that project earned him recognition as the 2014 Young Alumnus Award by the College of Engineering.

Since a young age, David always enjoyed building, from blocks as a young child to decks and houses in his part-time job in high school. That love for construction continues today. "It's a rewarding experience to be able to start from the ground and create something, and look at the end of every day and

watch your progress and watch it evolve," he said.

Consistently representing the CEE department well, David has been commended by Ed Nelson, associate dean and chief of staff for the College of Engineering, as well as CEE department head Dr. Sam Easterling, who noted David's motivation to not only oversee this phenomenal campus landmark, but also interact with students, faculty and staff throughout the process.

In just seven years since David was an undergraduate student, he has had the opportunity of a lifetime to plan a massive project on the same campus where he walked to class as a student.

Joining Childress in recognition from the College



**Dan Carson was inducted into the College of Engineering Academy of Engineering Excellence.**

of Engineering is a class of 1970 alumnus Dan Carson. Already recognized as a member of the Academy of Distinguished Alumni in the Via Department of Civil Engineering and a member of the College of Engineering's Distinguished Alumni, he continues to be recognized for his accomplishments.

After graduating in 1970, Dan went to work for Appalachian Power Company as one of the designers for the American Electric Power (AEP)'s 765,000-volt transmission system. As he moved his way up, he became the President of AEP for Virginia and Tennessee in 1996 and later served in a similar position with Appalachian Power in Roanoke.

With global warming

topics gaining increasing attention, Dan served for a time on Virginia Governor Tim Kaine's Commission on Climate Change. He continues to stay engaged with new information regarding the debate on global warming.

Other notable career highlights include his work on many projects including the orchestration of support for land conservation measures, assistance in the restoration of the American chesnut tree, and serving on numerous state, community and economic development organizations.

After a successful career of more than four decades, Dan retired in 2010. He continues to stay active philanthropic organizations in the area.



**David Childress was honored as College of Engineering's Outstanding Young Alumnus.**

# CEE Senior Spotlights 2014

## VIRGINIA ROACH

Morocco, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Haiti and Guatemala. Virginia Roach, originally from Richmond, Va., has traveled all around the world during her time at Virginia Tech.

"I started in CEE because I wanted to help people," she said. "I knew I wanted to build structures overseas."

As a freshman, Virginia was already thinking worldwide. She joined Bridges to Prosperity and traveled with the group to Haiti. "I am so fascinated with connectivity and all of the ways people travel to get from point A to point B," she said. "The differences in the way people travel, the signage, and all traffic-related topics abroad are so interesting to me."

This gave her a clear understanding of the research she wanted to focus on when she traveled to Morocco, Turkey and Sri Lanka on a six-week study abroad trip with her minor in 21st century studies. The research-based trip allowed students to do a study on their topic of choice. After a short time of witnessing the vast differences in international transportation, Virginia knew she wanted to focus her research on that. That focus continued throughout her four years, ending with her senior project on all aspects of roadway construction from scheduling to costs.

In addition to Virginia's involvement with Bridges to Prosperity, she also competed with three teammates in ASCE's Virginias Conference in Charlottesville, Va., winning first place in the Technical competition. Her father, a class of

1985 CEE alumnus, and mother got the chance to come cheer for her and the rest of the Virginia Tech competitors.

Next year, she will be leaving Blacksburg for Baltimore, Md. to start working as a traffic engineer with Parsons Brinckerhoff, a global consulting firm that assists public and private clients to plan, develop, design, construct, operate and maintain critical infrastructure projects around the world.



## HASEEB TAHIR

Haseeb Tahir has his sights set high; very high. After he graduates in December 2014, he hopes to find a job that will give him the opportunity to design high-rise buildings. While there aren't many high-rise buildings in Blacksburg, He has utilized his interest and skills through participation in ASCE and the Steel Bridge Design team.

Originally from Pakistan, Haseeb always had a clear vision that he wanted to be a civil engineer. He laughed



when he mentioned that people sometimes ask him why he didn't choose to be an electrical engineer like his father. "I studied many different aspects of engineering," he said. "Civil

engineering was the most interesting to me because I want the opportunity to do the hands-on work of the structural design and engineering."

After learning of Haseeb's interest in the structural design of large buildings, it was no surprise to find out that his favorite course while at Virginia Tech has been Structural Analysis with Dr. Roberto Leon.

"He impressed me with his keen understanding of subtle issues in structural mechanics," said Dr. Leon.

Haseeb's understanding of the subject led him to obtain a perfect score on the first exam in the class, which is a feat that no student has done in many years. In fact, Dr. Leon admitted that he had to make the second exam harder. However, despite the more difficult exam, Haseeb almost repeated his perfect score.

Dr. Leon wasn't the only professor with great things to say about Haseeb. "He has an impressive mixture of intellectual competence, attention to detail and a stellar work ethic," said Dr. Paulo Scardina. "I think those traits will make him extremely successful in his career as a structural engineer."

Following graduation, Haseeb is unsure if he will continue immediately to get his Masters degree at Virginia Tech or if he will seek job experience before returning for his degree. Either way, it is clear that the future is bright for Haseeb.

# CEE Senior Spotlights 2014

## ANDREW GARRISON

Although originally unsure between architecture and civil engineering, Andrew Garrison has always been interested in buildings. “I remember contemplating many options,” he recalled. “I chose civil because I think designing buildings is very cool. The large scale we build on is fascinating.”

His brother’s studies in architecture may have sparked Andrew’s interest in it as well, but he was more interested in the structural design. While he noted that his favorite class was Steel Design because it “was the first class where I learned the application and design of an entire building from



start to finish,” his most memorable experiences were found outside of the classroom.

As team leader of the steel bridge team, Andrew is involved in American Institute of Steel Construction and has competed with the steel bridge team in ASCE conferences. He is described by others as a born-leader who had great ability to delegate tasks and manage all aspects of the project. In fact, he has sometimes been mistaken for a graduate student because of his maturity and leadership abilities.

As if schoolwork, leading the steel bridge team and research don’t keep him busy enough, Andrew is also the tutoring coordinator for Chi Epsilon, offering assistance weekly to engineering students.

The choice proved to be a good fit for Andrew, as he has excelled in the classroom and beyond during his time at Virginia Tech. After graduation this May, Andrew will continue with VT CEE by assisting Dr. Matt Eatherton on a moment-connection test in the Structures Lab.

Andrew will soon be California-bound to pursue a Masters degree at The University of California, Berkeley. Following the one year program, he will seek a job in structural design of buildings, to fulfill his interest of both engineering and architecture.

“Andrew is one of our top students,” said Dr. Eatherton. “I think he is destined to become a leader in structural engineering.”

## VICTORIA HAMSHER

As a middle hitter for the Virginia Tech Volleyball team, Victoria Hamsher knows the hard work it takes to be successful. She applies that same work ethic in the classroom. Her interest lies in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, something she has been passionate about since high school.

During her time at Virginia Tech, Victoria had the opportunity to travel the country as a member of the Hokies volleyball team, but also got the chance to visit the Dominican Republic on a study abroad trip. In the Dominican Republic, she took two classes, one in transportation and one in water resources. Specifically, she worked on water purification systems in the communities. Her group tested water samples for E. Coli and other articulates. She plotted the findings on Google Earth to see where contamination was located and how it would flow.

Although the study abroad trip was for a short period of time, Tori admitted that she would love to make a career combining her skills and service. “My dream job would be to travel to underprivileged countries and design water distribution and purification systems,” she said.

Dr. Paulo Scardina has no doubt that Victoria will achieve all of her aspirations. He noted that her dedication and work ethic set her apart from many of her classmates. The upcoming semester will be an exciting one for Victoria, as she

predicts that her course schedule will be her favorite one yet, full of water resources classes. “Any class that is related to water or environmental topics are my favorites,” she said.



Victoria will live in Baltimore, MD this summer working as an intern for Dewberry before returning to Blacksburg in the fall for one final semester. After four years of balancing volleyball and academics, Victoria is looking forward to focusing solely on her studies, as well as making some time to attend football games, something she has rarely had the chance to do during volleyball season.

# CEE Student Organization Updates 2014

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)

With over 200 members, the Virginia Tech chapter of ASCE is one of the largest in the nation. This year, they continued their success, filling the calendar with new offerings, trips and competitions. To finish off the busy year, members traveled to Charlottesville, VA for the Virginias' Conference. Three teams placed first, including the Environmental Competition team, the Technical Problem: Transportation Engineering team and the Sustainable Land Development team.

The concrete canoe team's many hours in the Structures Lab paid off as it excelled in all engineering aspects of the competition. The team placed second overall. The Steel Bridge team was also highly praised by the judges, but unfortunately, failed the vertical loading test. In addition to performing well in the competitions, the students had the opportunity to network with their peers throughout the state.

This year, ASCE was very active hosting speakers and taking field trips. They hosted

eight professional speakers, three faculty lunches and a resume workshop. Additionally, members attended a Blacksburg Town Council meeting, a construction tour of Davidson Hall and a tour of the Little River Dam.

With a very full calendar, they still found time to volunteer with Concrete

for Kids at local elementary schools to provide interactive lessons about concrete. The experience is always a favorite activity for both elementary students and ASCE volunteers.



## AMERICAN RAILWAY ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE-OF-WAY ASSOCIATION (AREMA)

The Virginia Tech Chapter of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association, or AREMA at VT, continued during its second year of existence to educate engineering students about opportunities in the railroad industry.

The club hosted two speakers during the fall semester. Representatives of Norfolk Southern spent an evening talking about career opportunities at the company, and Mr. James Carter, Jr., a VT CEE alumnus, joined the club for breakfast prior to the

Engineering Expo. Career Fair.

Later in the semester, Mr. Phil Danner, a VT engineering alumnus and high-ranking officer at Union Pacific, talked to the club about his job and what it was like to pursue a career in the field, and specifically at Union Specific.

***The American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) is a North American railway industry group. It publishes recommended practices for the design, construction and maintenance of railway infrastructure, which are requirements in the United States and Canada.***

The club focused during the spring semester on transferring

responsibilities to a new leadership team. The three CEE students who have led the club since its inception are graduating in 2014 and significant time was spent ensuring that the new officers would be properly prepared for

running the club the following year.

In April, the new leaders had a chance to lead their own meeting when they hosted a member of Norfolk Southern's Research and Tests Department. The presentation included the basics of railroad track engineering and was beneficial for all in attendance.

In the upcoming year, that same group of leaders has set a goal to continue expanding membership and scheduling informative programming and networking events with leaders in the industry, many of which are Virginia Tech alumni.

## ALLIANCE OF TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING STUDENTS (ATES)

ATES is the umbrella organization housing the student chapters for the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association. It consists primarily of graduate students, a few undergraduate students, along with Industrial Systems Engineering and Urban Planning and Development

students.

ATES officer held a panel discussion about graduate school to present their research and inform undergraduates and fellow graduate students of their experience in graduate school. Lindy Cranwell and Leigh Ann Byrd, CEE Graduate Student Coordinators, also came to a meeting to share financial information.

ATES members play a vital role in CEE's Open House. Members serve as non-faculty contacts, campus tour guides and the face the Transportation Infrastructure and Systems Engineering program area.

Each year, the group invites prospective graduate students to Blacksburg to see campus and meet with current students and faculty. On the

visit, those students go to dinner with TISE faculty, students and families, followed by an evening of bowling and games at Squires Student Center. Other activities include tours of the Smart Road and facilities at the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. Finally, the visit concludes with ATES student research presentations and reasons they chose Virginia Tech.

## AMERICAN WATERWORKS ASSOCIATION (AWWA)

The AWWA/VWEA hosted a wide variety of activities this year, starting with a kick-off meeting in September to introduce students to the group and plan activities for the coming year. One of the first activities on the list was the viewing of the film, *Watershed*. After watching the film together, the group held a discussion.

In the fall, Dr. Donna Riley of Smith College came to speak about career opportunities for students seeking a Ph.D. Later that semester, Patty Raun, the Director of the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech ran a workshop for students on how to effectively communicate science with peers, governmental agencies, and those outside of the field. It was an exciting and unique event that participants enjoyed.

The spring brought a new wave of activities and speakers. Brown bag lunches were among those activities. The group held four of these during the spring semester as a way to enjoy lunch and listen

to students speak about their research. Speakers included Marcus Aguilar to speak on stormwater governance, Rachel Sallero to speak about respirable dust in coal mines, Stephanie Smallegen to speak about

coastal engineering and Matt Chan to speak on transport of nanoparticles in groundwater.

As graduation approached, the club invited professionals from Draper Aden to offer advice and hold mock interviews for club members.

Two Virginia Tech teams attended WaterJam in Virginia Beach and took home first and second place in the 10th Annual Student Water Challenge. Students also traveled to Richmond, VA to attend a career fair and compete in the Student Design Competition hosted by VWEA.

To finish off the year, the group participated in Virginia Tech's Big Event, a community-wide service project where 8,000 students gave back to the Blacksburg community.



**Members participated in The Big Event.**

## BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY VIRGINIA TECH (B2PVT)

This year, Bridges to Prosperity has made a big change as they transitioned their work from Haiti to Guatemala. After taking three trips to Las Violetas, Guatemala, the group successfully built a 15 meter footbridge. The first trip in August was for the group to survey the area to see if it was

feasible for building. Students returned over Thanksgiving break to check on the site and make additional preparations. Finally, in January, five students traveled to Guatemala again to build the bridge.

The timing of the bridge was important as the group finished on the same day that a school opened in the community.

As a result of the work of Bridges to Prosperity, in conjunction with the community members that helped, over 1,000 people are now able to cross from the nearby community of Nebau to Las Violetas. Many of those people

were crossing the bridge to take their children to the new school.

Bridges to Prosperity hopes to focus on picking up additional corporate sponsorships in order to help fund the projects in Guatemala. This includes an extensive amount of work to update and edit the current marketing materials and prepare information to



**Members of Bridges to Prosperity on a recent trip to Guatemala.**

potentially apply for grants.

Due to the success of the three bridges that Bridges to Prosperity has built in Haiti, along with the bridge built in Guatemala, members are eager to start working to find another feasible site. Some members recently took a trip to find where a footbridge may be needed and if it is feasible for construction.



**The team worked to build a foot bridge in Las Violetas.**

# CEE Student Organization Updates 2014

## CHI EPSILON

Chi Epsilon at Virginia Tech has had a year full of honors and events. The chapter continues to offer weekly free tutoring to all engineering students in introductory engineering classes to advanced CEE classes. This service is popular among students, particularly prior to exams.

In April, Chi Epsilon hosted a Research Day in

**Research Day**  
**Undergraduate winners:**  
**1. Adrian Santiago Tate**  
**2. Arjan Ahluwalia**  
**3. Thomas Dacanay**

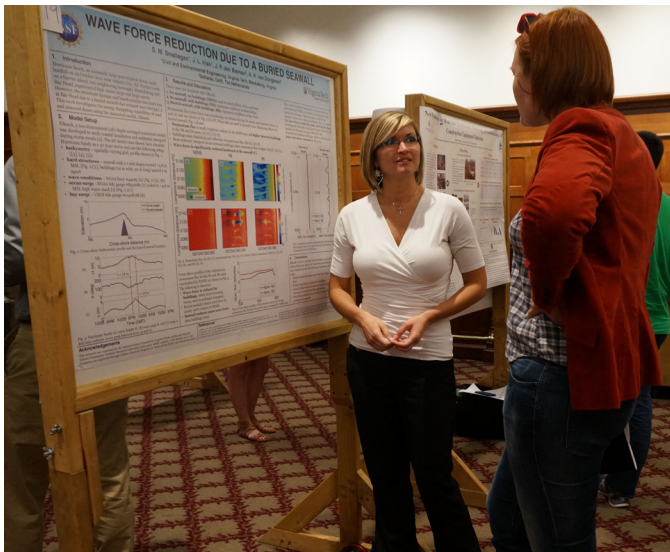
**Graduate winners:**  
**1. Jacob Metch**  
**2. Ray David**  
**3. Ardalan Khosrowpour**

Owens Dining Hall. Fifty undergraduate and graduate student research posters were presented for alumni, faculty and students to view. Judges awarded three undergraduate and three graduate students for their winning posters.

In April, Chi Epsilon organized a trip to Margaret Beeks Elementary School to teach fourth graders about civil engineering through a fun bridge building activity. The activity include groups designing bridges on paper, gathering building materials which included tape and straws, and constructing the bridges. Members guided the kids through the bridge construction before the bridges were tested to see how many metal washers each one could



**Chi Epsilon members teach fourth graders at Margaret Beeks Elementary about bridge design and construction.**



**Undergraduate and graduate students presented their research posters during the Research Day in April.**

hold. The activity was fun for both the children in the class and the Chi Epsilon members that volunteered.

Chapter members, both alumni and current students have received recognition this year. Brendon Woodruff was selected to receive the 2014 Cumberland District Scholarship, a prestigious honor in Chi Epsilon.

The chapter placed increased importance on recognizing alumni as chapter honor members. In this academic year, Kelso Baker and A. Ross Myers were given this title.

Kelso Baker, class of 1955, made it possible for CEE to host a premier facility for

hydraulics research, known as the Baker Hydraulics Lab.

A. Ross Myers, class of 1972 was also initiated as an honorary member of Chi Epsilon. Along with his fraternity brother John R. Lawson, II, he shared in a gift to start the Myers-Lawson School of Construction at Virginia Tech. Chi Epsilon recognized his continued contributions by making him an honorary member of the group.

Both individuals have been actively involved with Virginia Tech for many years serving in positions within the university, College of Engineering, and CEE department.

# CEE Student Organization Updates 2014

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (CMAA)

After seven years as a successful organization on campus, the Construction Management Association of America chapter at Virginia Tech continues to create meaningful partnerships and expand its membership.

The busy semester kicked off with a National Capital Chapter Visit, open to the entire VT community and local CMAA members. Attendees had the opportunity to network and learn about the industry's most recent projects and research.

Four members also

attended the Rising Construction Manager Conference in Las Vegas, NV in October. The conference included motivational and informative presentations and provided opportunities for students to network with peers and experienced industry professionals.

Throughout the semester, the chapter focused on preparing students for careers after graduation. It hosted an informational session with Bechtel Corporation, the world's largest construction company. Jim McCoy from



**VT CMAA student representatives and Dr. Jesus M. de la Garza traveled to Las Vegas, NV to attend the Rising Construction Manager Conference in October.**

Virginia Tech's Office of Design and Construction also stopped by for an educational project-based session. Members welcomed the opportunity to tour the new Human and Agricultural Sciences building with Skanska to learn about the

future construction plans of the university.

This year was busy for CMAA, full of activities preparing members to make an impact in the university and community.



## EWRI/COPRI

The EWRI/COPRI graduate student group is an organization focused on sharing ideas, networking and socializing within the department to

increase awareness of critical issues related to coastal, environmental and water resources engineering.

This year, the group

hosted lunches with visiting environmental and water resources seminar speakers as a way for students to meet and visit with seminar speakers from various institutions around the world. Guests included Don Resio, retired US Army Corps of Engineers Senior Scientist, now working at the University of North Florida. Other speakers this year were Dr. Ashu Jain from the Indian Institute of Technology, Ken Craig from Taylor Engineering and Dr. Dipanker Sen.

Beginning in the spring 2014 semester, EWRI/COPRI teamed up with AWWA/VWEA to host bi-weekly student-led seminars. During these seminars, graduate students from the EWR program gave presentations on their own research projects to fellow students in the department. This

has served as a great way for students to practice presenting their work in front of an audience to receive feedback on their research and presentation.

EWRI/COPRI also took time this semester to partake in community service activities in the community. They joined with AWWA/VWEA to participate in Virginia Tech's service day known as The Big Event. Both groups also plan to participate in Claytor Lake cleanup day later this summer, as well as a stream clean in the town of Blacksburg early next semester.

The group works hard to raise money throughout the year to provide two conference travel scholarships of at least \$500, allowing students to travel to technical conferences throughout the country presenting their research and networking with professionals in the field.



**EWRI/COPRI members took a trip to Falling Creek Reservoir near Richmond, Va. for a dam tour.**

# CEE Student Organization Updates 2014

## NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY

NASTT is an engineering society of individuals, public organizations and private companies with strong beliefs in the practical, social and environmental benefits of trenchless technology.

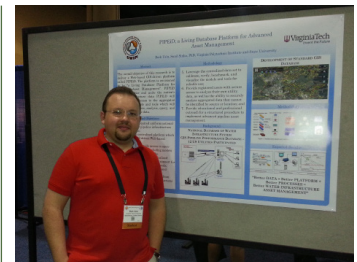
The Virginia Tech chapter recently returned from the 2014 No-Dig Show in April, held in Orlando, Florida. Three students

from VT had the opportunity to give poster presentations about their research during the conference.

The group also took a field trip to get hands-on experience installing a PVC fold and form pipe liner. This is just one of the many ways the chapter works directly with industry professionals. It prides itself on

staying involved with industry members that serve as advisors to the chapter.

To learn more about the chapter, you can visit its new website, [www.nastt.org.vt.edu](http://www.nastt.org.vt.edu). The website was recently reorganized with information about membership, activities, internships and contact information.



**Chapter President Berk Uslu at the No-Dig Show.**

## STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING INSTITUTE (SEI)

The SEI Graduate Student Chapter has been busy, working closely with ASCE and other graduate student chapters including the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Virginia Chapter and the Geotechnical Student Organization (GSO).

The chapter held a variety of invited speakers and webinars. Michael Gustafson of Tekla presented about the BIM software that his company produces. The seminar was

scheduled as a result of direct feedback from students and their interests. The chapter hopes to continue focusing on topics that will provide benefit to anyone entering the industry.

Larry Olsen, president and principal engineer at Olson Engineering Inc. gave a guest lecture on applications of NFT in forensic engineering. Another popular event was a webinar on the topic of Design Building Structures for Serviceability by Alexander Newman.

One goal of the chapter is to continue collaborations with the department to send students to technical conferences throughout the country. In March, the group organized a trip to the NASCC Steel Conference in Toronto, Canada. In April, they sent eight students to the Structures Congress in Boston, Mass. where four students presented papers.

As the graduate student chapter, they took up the initiative to conduct the AISC Night School webinar series on

“Fundamentals of Earthquake Engineering” taught by Rafael Sabelli from Walter P. Moore. The night school was an eight-series lecture. GSO and EERI chapters also teamed up to conduct the webinar series.

An exciting event this semester was the chapter's first outreach project, partnering with Christopher Consultants to provide the design recommendations for a school in rural Haiti. Construction is set to start by August.

## SUSTAINABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT CLUB (SLDC)

During the fall and spring semesters, the Sustainable Land Development Club had a calendar full of trips and events.

SLDC worked with LDDI to host “Land Development Career Night” on the eve of the fall and spring CEE Career Fairs. The mixer, held at Hokie House, intended to connect students with potential employers in a relaxed setting prior to the career fair. This is a popular event for both employers and students each year.

SLDC members also participated in multiple service projects, including developing site maps to assist with the routing of FloydFest vendors and patrons. FloydFest is an annual festival with food, shopping and music performances held in Floyd, Va.

They also worked with



**Cameron Palmore from Balzer & Associates, Inc. shows students a sediment trap in a residential area of Midlothian.**

the Virginia Tech College of Architecture Design Build Lab to develop site plans and a stormwater management plan for several Little League baseball fields in Clifton Forge, Va. In a project right on campus, they also worked with the

Design Build Lab to provide the stakeout of the track for Relay for Life at Virginia Tech, held on the Drillfield in April.

In addition to working on service projects, members participated in Design Charette and Competition. Engineers from

J2 Engineers visited campus and presented a design challenge to student teams. The teams had one hour to arrive at a design that met the objectives. A panel of local professionals judged the entries and prizes were awarded. This event was a great learning experience and was a lot of fun for all participants.

In April, faculty advisor Randy Dymond led a group of 10 students on an overnight field trip to Williamsburg and Richmond. On the trip, they toured seven land development construction sites that were in various stages of completion. The trip was sponsored by the Land Development Design Initiative with special thanks to AES Consulting Engineers, Draper Aden Associates, and Balzer & Associates, Inc.

# Congratulations to the Top 25 Graduates for the 2013-2014 Academic Year

Congratulations to the following students who finished in the Top 25 of all CEE graduates completing their undergraduate degree requirements between Summer I 2013 and Spring 2014.

Brandon Bowles  
Daniel Coleman  
Thomas Dacanay  
Gaoxi Dai  
Amanda Dritschel  
Andrew Garrison  
Kaitlin Geier  
Mark Herman  
Seehoon Lee

Dillon Lynch  
Kenneth Maben  
Corey Maxey  
Kathryn McCann  
John McCutcheon  
Gregory Pope  
Douglas Pudleiner  
Conor Reiling  
Edwin Soriano

Brandon Stinespring  
Mark Tilashalski  
Heather Todak  
Andrew Updike  
Jonathan Woodard  
Stuart Woodard  
Robin Willis



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and events on social media.*



<https://www.facebook.com/VTCEE>



@VirginiaTechCEE



Virginia Tech Civil & Environmental  
Engineering

# WILL YOU BE IN PANAMA CITY FOR ASCE'S GLOBAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE?



ASCE's Global Engineering Conference 2014 will be in Panama City, Panama to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal.

Let us know if you will be attending the conference in October so we can make plans to gather and celebrate our Hokie pride.

Email Sam Easterling at [seaster@vt.edu](mailto:seaster@vt.edu) if you will be attending the conference. We look forward to seeing you there!

## 6TH ANNUAL VT CEE HOMECOMING SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Come back to Blacksburg with your fellow CEE Alumni to watch the Hokies take on Georgia Tech. Save the date of September 20, 2014 for the sixth annual CEE Homecoming. Activities will include student project displays, refreshments and games. We will be located on the drillfield with the College of Engineering tents on the side closest to the Duck Pond.

There is no cost to attend but if you plan to stop by, RSVP to Courtney Long at [celong@vt.edu](mailto:celong@vt.edu) or (540)231-0981 so we can plan accordingly. We hope to see you in September.



# SHOW YOUR VIRGINIA TECH CEE PRIDE!

Looking for some new Virginia Tech apparel? Check out the newest polo shirts, sweatshirts and baseball caps embroidered with the "VT" logo and the department name. Polo shirts and baseball caps are available in both maroon and black, and sweatshirts are available in gray only. Shipping and handling are *included* in all costs. Complete the form below or call (540) 231-6635 to place your order.



*Pictured from left to right: Andy Rinella (BS '14), Liz St. Angelo (BS '16), Casie Venable (BS '15) and Maya Chehab (BS '14).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

| Item                       | Quantity | Size |   |   |    |     | Color  |       |
|----------------------------|----------|------|---|---|----|-----|--------|-------|
|                            |          | S    | M | L | XL | XXL | Maroon | Black |
| Baseball Cap (\$10 each)   |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| Polo Shirt (\$25 each)     |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| Sweatshirt (\$25 each)     |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| <b>TOTALS:</b>             |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| Baseball Caps at \$10 each |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| Polos at \$25 each         |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| Sweatshirts at \$25 each   |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |
| <b>ORDER TOTAL: \$</b>     |          |      |   |   |    |     |        |       |



If you need further information, please call Courtney Long or Val Dymond at (540) 231-6635. Checks should be made payable to "Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc." and mailed along with this form to the following address:

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