Located on Congress Avenue, the Frost Bank Tower is Austin’s tallest building. At the top of this 515-foot structure is a translucent glass crown. The project was completed in January 2004.
Welcome to the first edition of UT CAEE! Our newsletter has changed to reflect our new name: Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. This name was chosen to more accurately reflect the breadth of degree programs offered by our department. For many years, we have offered degrees in Architectural and Environmental Engineering, in addition to Civil Engineering. Hence, the new name better highlights our longstanding programs in Architectural and Environmental Engineering to students, the profession, and the public. The name change also brings us into concert with other universities across the country that have similar programs. Over the past few years, our alumni and External Advisory Committee have recommended a name change, so I am pleased to see this effort come to fruition.

The Department was again recognized this academic year by U.S. News & World Report. The graduate programs in Civil Engineering and Environmental and Water Resources Engineering were ranked 3rd and 5th in the nation, respectively. Our undergraduate program in Civil Engineering was also ranked 3rd. These rankings are the cumulative result of the pursuit of excellence by our faculty, students, and alumni over many years. It is a pleasure to highlight some of their accomplishments in this edition of the newsletter.

Excellence is sustained by providing the resources to recruit and retain the best faculty and students. We rely on our alumni and friends to provide the resources that make the difference in this regard. Thus, I am pleased to provide you with a report on the progress of our Centennial Campaign. The response from our alumni has been terrific, and we are on target to reach our goal.

Gerald E. Speitel Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
John J. McKetta Professor in Engineering and Chairman

Academy of Distinguished Alumni Charter Member
Named President of UT Dallas

David E. Daniel, Ph.D., Gutsgell Professor of Civil Engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was named president of the University of Texas at Dallas on February 10, 2005 by the UT System Board of Regents. Daniel will succeed President Franklyn Jenifer who will retire this year.

Dr. Daniel earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He served on the engineering faculty of UT Austin with increasing responsibilities from 1980 until 1996 when he moved to the University of Illinois. Daniel’s research expertise has focused on engineered containment systems for waste disposal and cleanup of contaminated waste disposal sites. He has won the American Society of Civil Engineers highest award for papers published in its journals and in 2000 was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He was named Engineering Dean at Illinois in 2001. In 2003, he became a charter member of the University of Texas at Austin’s Department of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering’s Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

Read more about David Daniel at http://www.ce.utexas.edu/distAlumni.cfm
Spring Banquet: 
Student Awards and Engineering Humor

Each spring, the “Annual CAEE Student Banquet” is held and hosted by the students. It serves as the one time we come together in a social atmosphere as a whole to recognize students and faculty. We were also entertained by skits from the student organizations ASCE, AEI, Chi Epsilon and Phi Alpha Epsilon. The following awards were presented at the Banquet on March 31, 2005:

- Oguzhan Bayrak, Hudson Matlock Centennial Teaching Award
- Howard M. Liljestrand, Ervin S. Perry Student Appreciation Award
- Jeremy Semrau, CAEE Young Distinguished Alumni Award
- Jeffrey Andrew Dahm, CE Student Leadership Award
- Angela Marie Yohe, ARE Student Leadership Award
- Jacob Jerome Setterbo, John A. Focht Academic Excellence in CE
- Natalie Jean Fowler, Werner W. Dornberger Academic Excellence Award in CE
- Lindsay Paige Estes, Robert S. Braden Technical Communication Award
- Joseph J. Fradella, Outstanding Teaching Assistant/Assistant Instructor

Geo-Frontier Conference 
Student Competition 2005

UT-Austin Team Members
Laton Carr, Chris Buono, Keith Gilligan, and Rodrigo Arreas stand in front of their final design. The student teams were challenged to design and build a miniature reinforced-soil retaining wall inside a plywood box.

ASCE Texas-Mexico Region’s 
Steel Bridge Contest

UT-Austin hosted students of the ASCE Texas-Mexico Region to compete in the annual steel bridge contest. Teams from 11 universities designed, fabricated and constructed steel bridges in a simulated terrain. The goal of the student team is to optimize the bridge’s performance in aesthetics, stiffness, efficiency and economy.

Recognition: Student Accolades

• Dr. Jessica Guo received the 2004 Charley Wootan Award for best doctoral dissertation in transportation policy or planning in the U.S.
• Zach Piepmeyer was recognized as 2004 Outstanding Student of the Year to represent the Southwest Region University Transportation Center.
• Mandy Lai won the AWWA Thomas R. Camp Scholarship and was awarded first prize at the Texas Water 2005 Student Paper Competition.
• Efren Enrique Dominguez, civil engineering senior, won 3rd place in the Engineering Education Service Center’s 2004 Poster Contest.
• Brady Cox, PhD student, was selected for a 2004-2005 University Co-Op/George H. Mitchell Award for Excellence in Graduate Research.
• Eight structural engineering graduate students earned 2nd place in the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute’s National Big Team competition.
• Austin Payne and Andy Creel were awarded scholarships by the Austin Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers for their leadership in the student chapter.
• The 2005 ASCE Concrete Canoe Team finished 5th at the annual Texas-Mexico regional competition in April. This year’s team was led by Josh Verastique and Andy Creel.
Recent Faculty Achievements

Dr. Richard W. Furlong has been awarded the American Concrete Institute’s (ACI) Educational Activities Committee (EAC) 2004 Speaker of the Year Award. The award is in recognition of his efforts in establishing one of the most successful ACI seminar series, Reinforced Concrete Design, and for his many years as an instructor in cities across the United States.

Dr. G. Edward Gibson Jr., a professor in the construction engineering and project management area, was selected for a Fulbright Senior Specialist grant in business administration at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Tronheim, Norway. The Fulbright Senior Specialist grant is part of an international academic exchange program founded in 1946 by the U.S. government.

Dr. Joseph F. Malina received 2005 Civil Engineer of the Year Award from the Austin chapter of the ASCE. Malina holds the C.W. Cook Professorship in Environmental Engineering and has been a faculty member since 1961. He was honored by the ASCE for his distinguished professional service to the Austin chapter, to engineering and to society.

Update: Centennial Campaign

To date, alumni, friends and corporate partners have pledged and donated nearly $2M to the Centennial Campaign. The campaign, which began in Fall 2003 and concludes in August 2007, is the first of its kind for the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering. The $5M campaign includes a goal to raise $2M for the Civil Engineering Centennial Endowment, which will distribute annual funds for the department to use for its most pressing needs. “Never before has the department had the opportunity to raise unrestricted endowment funds. An endowment of this size will distribute about $100,000 annually. This will greatly affect our ability to recruit outstanding faculty, offer scholarships to students and generally enhance our programs,” states Department Chair Gerald Speitel.

In addition to the Centennial Endowment, which is already funded at $1M, three new endowed scholarships have been established to support students. They include the Larry A. Fuess Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Architectural Engineering, established by his widow, Temple Wynne, friends, family and Larry’s (BSARE ’67, MSARE ’69) company in Dallas, L.A. Fuess Partners, Inc; the Harris Berry Grubbs Endowed Scholarship in Civil Engineering, established by Berry R. Grubbs (MSCE ’65) in honor of his father; and the Dr. Carl Erving Adams, Jr. Endowed Presidential Scholarship in CAEE, established by Dr. Carl Adams (Ph.D. CE ’69), a newly elected Academy of Distinguished Alumni member. Alumni and friends have also designated their donations to one of the six academic areas within the department - Structural, Geotechnical, Environmental and Water Resources, Transportation, Construction Engineering and Project Management and Architectural Engineering. To date, with the support of the faculty, the Structural Engineering group has brought in over $67,886 to support Ferguson Laboratory, scholarships and fellowships, and general program expenses.

“There is much to celebrate within this department,” says Joe Blandford (BSCE ’72), Chair of the Engineering Foundation Advisory Council. “CE’s are a focused group - once they set their mind on a goal, they reach it! This campaign will succeed if all alumni jump in and help.”

For more information on making a gift to the Centennial Campaign, please visit www.ce.utexas.edu/centennial or call (512) 471-6151.

Dr. Michael Walton receives the 2005 Lifetime Opal Award in Education.

Dr. Danny Reible was recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering.
Established in 2003, the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award recognizes an alumnus of the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering under the age of 40 who has distinguished him or herself with outstanding service and contributions to the engineering profession.

Jeremy Semrau is a 1988 BSCE graduate who started out strong at the gates and continues to keep the pace as a distinguished environmental engineer. After graduating with highest honors at UT, Semrau went on to complete his PhD at Caltech and spent a year as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Warwick, England. He is currently an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He also has a joint appointment in the School of Natural Resources and Environment, to help develop their program on sustainability and is the Graduate Advisor for Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The bulk of Semrau’s work has been to apply fundamental, cutting-edge molecular biology techniques to environmental engineering applications such as environmental remediation and the understanding of the bio-availability of metals. About three years ago, he took a sabbatical from the University of Michigan to do some novel work at a California-based company called Nanostream that specializes in microfluidics. This gave Semrau the opportunity to apply what he had learned in university lab settings. He was excited to be able to create and test devices that could become potential products.

While at the University of Michigan, Semrau has received three different teaching awards and was the ASCE Michigan Student Chapter Professor of the Year in 2000. Nowadays, Semrau is facing new challenges in the classroom as he teaches hundreds of freshman Intro to Engineering. He is preparing the field’s new leaders to preserve the environment through innovative engineering. He says he has “never worked harder”.

He met his wife, Caroline Gonzalez Semrau while on the Caltech track and recently became a father. Gabriel James Gonzalez Semrau was born earlier this spring.

Rebecca Petersen Luman earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. While on campus, she helped lead the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. She also played intramural sports, volunteered for the Texas Relays and was an avid Longhorn fan. Her senior year was capped off by receiving the Student Leadership Award in Civil Engineering.

Becky’s career has taken her from California to New York, and back to Texas. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in all of these states. Since 2000, she has been the Director of Environmental Management Technology for Specialty Technical Consultants, Inc (STC) in Houston. This management consulting firm enhances the environmental, health and safety performance of industry clients.

Her experience in environmental regulatory consulting and project management has included the remedial investigation of groundwater contamination and subsurface assessments for petroleum and manufacturing facilities. She has also overseen investigations and removal actions at state Superfund sites, and performed compliance audits and assessments within the aerospace, food and manufacturing industries. At present, Becky is concentrating on technology use in regulatory compliance and environmental management systems assessment, and coordinates STC’s regulatory information and publications activities.

Becky remains connected to the College of Engineering as the “unofficial class agent” for civil engineering classmates nationally and was on the Steering Committee for the Civil Engineering Centennial Campaign. She has also been instrumental in alumni community building efforts in Houston.

She met husband John Luman, a UT mechanical engineering graduate, while an undergraduate. The dedicated Longhorn fans are raising a future engineer, Ariana Elyse Luman, and Becky is expecting another child in September 2005.
Born on January 28, 1914 in Yorktown, Texas, Charles Edwin Kolodzey knew early on that he would become a Texas Longhorn. However, before he became a UT engineer, he attended St. Edward’s University and graduated in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Charles enrolled at UT to pursue his master’s degree in civil engineering. It was during this time that he met and courted his future wife, Claire Swenson, a UT home economics student. Claire graduated during the summer of 1939 and the two were married in Austin on July 8, 1940. Charles studied under CE legends such as TU Taylor, John Focht and Phil Ferguson. He was one course shy of completing his degree when he was drafted and shipped overseas. Upon returning to the U.S. in late 1945, Charles re-enrolled in civil engineering and completed his degree work in Spring 1946.

Charles worked for Humble Oil (now ExxonMobil) for 30 years in offshore design, construction and production operations, including the development of the initial deep water operation in the Gulf of Mexico. His family spent more than 25 years in Louisiana before returning to Austin after his retirement in the late 1970’s. Claire was diagnosed with cancer in 1999 but treasured every minute of her life until her passing in 2001. Since then, Charles has remained active in the community, his church, at St. Edward’s and of course, UT Austin. In the early 1990’s, Charles and Claire donated funds to create the Charles Edwin Kolodzey Endowed Presidential Scholarship. He hasn’t missed a Scholarship banquet in the 13+ years that he has been donor. In addition, he regularly attends CAEE alumni functions, and at the young age of 91, is always the life of the party and inspires current students and fellow alumni.

Charles is a longtime Friend of Alec and knew that he wanted to do something special for this department. After much consideration, Charles established a $1.5M gift annuity with shares of his ExxonMobil stock in April 2005. Interest generated from his gift annuity will pay him a fixed income for the remainder is his life and upon his passing, the principal will come to UT Austin and will create three very special endowments: The Charles E. Kolodzey Civil Engineering Centennial Endowment, the Charles E. Kolodzey Dean’s Endowment in Engineering and the Claire Swenson Kolodzey Excellence Endowment in the Department of Human Ecology (formerly Home Economics).

When thanked for his incredible generosity, Charles surprises us all and says, “No, it’s UT that should be thanked. Because of the education I received here, my career and my life were so enriched.” His eyes twinkle when he says this. Charles Edwin Kolodzey is a man who has lived life to the fullest and has given back in a profound way. On behalf of UT Engineering, we thank you for your generosity of spirit and unwavering smile.

The Keeper of The Gates

Micah Florea, a graduate student in civil engineering, provided technical and logistical support on The Gates project, a larger-than-life environmental art installation. The Gates was envisioned by famed artists, Christo and Jeanne-Claude and consisted of 7,503 gates or archways, decorated with saffron-colored cloth and placed along 23 miles of footpath in Central Park.

Behind Florea are detailed maps that he created which include the location and dimension of each gate. He used aerial photos to develop these maps and created computer simulations to verify that this project could withstand windy conditions. With more than 400 changes throughout the project, Florea estimates he has printed over 2,000 feet of maps.

He also created complex drawings and spreadsheets calculating the cost of materials for this multi-million dollar installation. In fact, five of his technical drawings were on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art along with Christo’s exhibition which documented the project. When asked to help plan The Gates, Florea had just finished his undergraduate degree from Tulane University.

Originally conceived in 1979, the $20 million-plus project funded by the artists was unveiled on February 12, 2005. At ground level, the colorful gates rippled from the wind and created warm shadows. When seen from above, they looked like a river, highlighting the shape of the park’s footpaths.

An opportunity to continue learning hands-on applications drew Florea to the university last fall and he looks forward to expanding upon the knowledge he gained on The Gates project. For images of the project, please visit www.christojeanneclaude.net/tg.html.

Read more about Micah Florea at: www.engr.utexas.edu/news/articles/20050207752/index.cfm
Alumni Updates

CE/ARE alumni go on to varied professions and interesting careers, and faculty, current students, and fellow alumni are always interested in learning about where a UT degree can take a person, and the lives alumni lead after they leave. If you have an update you’d like to share - a career change, promotion, retirement, marriage or baby, please email Laura Klopfenstein at klopfenstein@mail.utexas.edu, or visit our website at www.ce.utexas.edu/alumni

60’s
Raymond Christian, BSCE ’61, served with the USAF for 23 years as a Health Facilities Officer. Later, he was part of the project management team that helped design and construct the Zale Lipshy University Hospital in Dallas. He retired from the hospital in December 2004.

Davis Ford, MSEE ’63, PhD ’67 was appointed to the Board of Directors of an oil/gas exploration, drilling and production firm named Clayton Williams Energy, Inc. Last semester, he enjoyed teaching a graduate course as an adjunct professor here at UT.

70’s
Let us know what you’re doing!

80’s
Jeffrey L. Ward, BSARE ’88, MSCE ’91 has been promoted to Senior Staff Engineer at the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency in Heidelberg, Germany. He will be responsible for all engineering disciplines with regard to design, construction and policy for the U.S. Army’s European Housing Program.

Manuela (Nellie) Gomez Shannon, P.E., BSCE ’84, is happy to have rejoined TxDot as the District Hydraulics Engineer for the San Antonio District.

90’s
Matt Otto, BSCE ’91, recently married Lisesa Wallace of New Zealand. He is currently the Operations Manager of the United Nations International School of Hanoi in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Murphy H. Parks, P.E., BSCE ’99 and his wife, Amanda, proudly welcomed their son, Benjamin Hilburn Parks, on December 20, 2004.

Brian Falconer, MSCE ’90, is an Associate Principal with Severud Associates in New York City. He is also the Structural Engineering Manager for the Downtown Design Partnership’s World Trade Center Transportation Hub with Santiago Calatrava.

Michael Matula, BSARE ’96, and his wife, Kelly Matula (a UT graduate in Interior Design), are the proud parents of Macy (2 years old) and Margo (2 months old). Michael is the Project Manager for the Gilbane Building Company in Houston, TX.

Molly (formerly McLarty, BSCE ’98) Pierson was pleased to announce the birth of her first child, Jackson Kenneth Pierson. Jackson, an 8lb.15 oz. boy, arrived on February 9, 2005.

Blake E. Cotton, P.E., BSARE ’89, MSCE ’92, moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2004 to open a new office for Fugro Consultants, LP, where he is the Branch Manager.

Scott Lubarsky, P.E., BSCE ’96 received the 2005 Young Engineer of the Year Award for the ASCE North Jersey Branch. He is currently the Project Engineer for the HNTB Corporation in Wayne, New Jersey.

Tarek Bashandy, MSCE ’95, PhD ’96 welcomed his first child, Farida, on October 14, 2004. The family currently lives in Giza, Egypt.

00’s
Brian Tinkey, MSCE’00, and Yajai (formerly Promboon) Tinkey, PhD ’00, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Austin Doyle Tinkey. He was born on November 6, 2004.

Martin F. Tower, MSEE ’01, recently obtained his Texas Professional Engineers License and moved to Sydney, Australia.
Save the Date!

CAEE Alumni Banquet & Academy of Distinguished Alumni Induction Ceremony

October 21st, 2005

Dr. Randall Poston, BS ’78, MS ’80 & Ph.D. ’84 with his wife Bonnie.

Alumni Banquet 2004 at Campus Club

Andrew Creel, Angie Yohe, Simon Leung and Austin Payne.

Photos by Sasha Haagensen